

COWTOWN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

FORT WORTH TEXAS

CMRRC



Volume 12

-- March 2025

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Number 3

General Meeting

The March monthly meeting of the CMRRC will be on Monday night March 17th at 7:00 pm. The program for the evening is TBD for now. I hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Joe Pritchett



The North Texas Council has announced confirmed dates for the 2025/2026 show season. The Fall Show will be September 27th & 28th and January Show January 17th & 18th 2026. Both shows will be held at the Plano Event Center. The March meeting will set the admission and table prices along with approving the budget for the show season.

The cold weather should be behind us, so that means we have 3 or 4 months of reasonable temperatures in the room. We have had a couple of operating sessions, and the layout seems to be running pretty well. The plan is to mostly run with 1 Thursday night a month reserved for maintenance.

Be sure to check your phone next work/operating session. I encourage everyone to come out and participate.

George continues to make progress on Midway. Get with Dale or I if you would like to do program for one of the meetings, we are always looking for new topics.

Now that cars have been spotted on the layout make sure that if you need to move a car to work on something that you put it back where it was. When you are out working on the layout, please make sure that nothing is left on the rails and remove any leftover materials that could interfere with the testing. If you know someone that might be interested in joining the club, be sure to invite them out since we are open to having new members. I want to thank Dale for all the work it takes to put together the newsletter each month.

The normal schedule of Thursday night sessions is from 6:30 – 8:30pm, 1st & 3rd Saturdays but watch your phone for changes. Saturday sessions will start at 9:00am and run until 12:00pm.



Joe Pritchett
President - Cowtown Model RR
Club



www.cmrrc.net

We are on occasion getting some requests/feedback from our **cmrrc.net** website. We can thank the website for giving us a hand in getting donations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Dale Schmidtbleicher

Membership stands at 7 active members.

The HHDC (Handley Center) has waved the March rent because of the inconvenience to the Club of having the water shut off a half dozen times last month because of the cold temperatures. We ended up cancelling a few work sessions and the February monthly meeting because of having no rest room facilities available due to lack of water.

I have ordered and received a revised CMRRC business card. The order of 500 cards and shipping came to a cost of \$37.86. Cards are available in the layout room.

I will be sending in the Club's annual liability insurance premium around mid-March. It is due April 1st.

As always, a full treasurer's report will be made at the Club's monthly meeting.

2nd quarter dues will be due on April 1st for those members who will owe them. Please mail your dues to the following address:

CMRRC
4504 Quail Hollow Ct.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Make payable to: "Cowtown Model Railroad Club".



Operations

Operations are back and so far in the new year we have had a couple of running sessions and things have been going well.

Of course we are always trying to keep the track clean. As Joe mentioned we will be running more and in-between putting in a work session to clean, repair, or add to the layout.



Operating sessions will be announced to all members by text or e-mail. We hope to see more members attending in the future.

Update on Construction

by Dale Schmidtbleicher

What's new in the area of layout construction?

Work has been done on a couple of switches that have been acting up during run sessions.

Tom has been replacing and checking wiring of some switches in the Cimarron Yard area and now has them working again.



George is in the process of putting lighting in the buildings in the town of Midway and has temporarily removed the structures from the area.

We still have a lot to do cleaning out old unused items under the layout. And as always track cleaning is a major endeavor.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

General Meeting:

The monthly Railroad Club meeting is held at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month.



The meeting is held at the Handley Community Center in the first-floor room.

Normal Work/Operate Schedule:

The normal work schedule is as follows:
Thursday Nights 6:30 PM-9:00 PM **unless**, due to high temperatures and heat index, we switch to Thursday mornings. An email or text will be sent out prior to Thursdays to let members know if we are doing Thursday morning or evening.

1st & 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM-12 Noon.

Operating sessions will be announced by text and e-mail prior to the scheduled event.

5 MUST KNOW Model Railroading Construction Tips to Help Avoid Derailments, Erratic Stops and Costly Building Mistakes

You always want to make sure to cut your track length a bit longer than needed, so you can always trim it if it's too long. It's just like a haircut, if you cut too much off the first time, it's going to be more difficult fixing it. If the track is too short, you'll end up having to do some creative work to ensure your model train can run across the track smoothly. This usually costs time and money so avoiding this entirely is ideal for you.

Try to avoid combining several different pieces of the track into your overall trackwork. It may seem like a good idea but more times than not, you'll end up having to replace the entire network of track pieces and purchase one type of trackwork to ensure your trains run smoothly without derailments. When building a section of your layout, try your best to do it right the first time around. If you try

not to spend enough and just use random model train accessories that you've got laying around it most likely won't work and will end up costing you more in the long run. Spend a little bit extra time to save yourself time in the future.

One of the biggest mistakes most model railroaders make is not testing the track before securing it in place. To test it, try to hammer in a few track nails to secure it enough to ensure that the model trains run smoothly on the track. Once you've ensured it is running smoothly, then use either glue or track nails to finish the trackwork.

When starting a new layout, plan it out completely before constructing it. For example, when building a switching layout, try to use track software first to ensure everything fits nice and perfectly. If you don't plan it out the first time, you'll end up spending more time and money fixing problems and buying the same items over again due to messing it up the first time.

Any other helpful pieces of advice?

Make sure you have the right tools for the job, especially for locomotives, rolling stock and assembling things. A nice set of files and a small hand drill for insanely small drill bits.

You always want to have screwdrivers to prevent from you stripping screws due to lack of proper screwdrivers.

Try new things in small sections and if it looks good and works out in that small section of the layout then incorporate it into your entire layout.

If I had known about this in the first place, it would have prevented so much time, money and frustration in the long run.

Railroad Art
by Paul Winfield

