

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Winter 2022



The *WAYBILL*

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The *WAYBILL*

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, photographs and artwork are encouraged in either hardcopy or electronic form. The editor uses Quark 5.0 as his publishing software on a Mac. Word documents are also acceptable, but please send the photographs as an attachment. Copy is due by the 10th of February, May, August and November and should be sent to the editor at the above address. Submitted material will be returned upon request.

ADVERTISING

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Quarter page	50		20
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Editor's Column

Well, another year has managed to slip away. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

I sat in (via Zoom) on the last MWR board meeting. Some highlights:

There will be no 2023 regional convention. This is due to many factors, especially a lack of enthusiasm and volunteers.

A regional Advisory Committee is being formed to help any division who would like to host a convention with the mundane things such as registration, advertising etc. With some of the workload reduced, it was hoped that more divisions will step up and host a convention.

(Here in Florida, the board found a good venue for the convention, the local college in Plant City and a very reasonably priced hotel during an off-season week. It was so successful that 2023 will be the third time we are there. It is in a central part of the state, easily accessible to all, and once all the groundwork was laid the first year, it was easy to replicate. No division hosts it, it is all put together by the region.)

Back to the Zoom call. There was a discussion of which divisions held meetings on Saturday vs Sunday. It was in response to whether MWR board meeting should continue on Sunday or Saturday.

For the 2024 regional convention, they were seeking input as to whether any other divisions would be interested in a joint meet.

The spring MWR BOD meeting will be hosted by the Illinois Valley Division. It will be on May 20 in Peoria. The regular meeting will follow division meeting will follow.

In addition to Mad City (see page 10,) some other train shows to consider: Arctic Run in Stevens Point, WI January 21-22. Holiday Inn Convention Center Rock River Division Train Show will be March 25 and 26

Titletown Train Show will be April 1-2 at the KI Convention center in Green Bay Springfield Model railroad Society Train Fair, March 12, 2023 Orr Building.

Progress took a few steps backwards on my model railroad. Against my better judgement, I blocked my breaker panel with the backdrop.



I made a cutout to access the panel. As my layout is only three feet wide, it was not too difficult to reach it in emergencies. However, I learned later that every time you change homeowners insurance, they do an inspection of the house. I have already changed insurance carriers once. (I was grandfathered in the second time and did not need an inspection as it was less than a year.) But next time I would be in trouble. My only option was to relocate the panel. I thought it would have to go on another wall, and people told me to expect to pay from \$5,000-10,000. A lot of money.

Naturally all work on the layout stopped for about a year as I decided what to do.

I finally decided to take the plunge and called an electrician. He gave me a much less expensive option, putting the box outside, on the other side of the wall. The old box would serve as a large junction box, and could be covered. Best of all, I do not need to have the service wires changed. And best of all, it only will cost \$2,500 and I am upgrading to 200 amps. (Weatherproof outside breaker boxes are allowed in Florida.)

Work will start the week after Thanksgiving, so hopefully by next issue I will have some photos and progress.

COVER PHOTO

The cover photo is of a portion of Bob Rivard's massive collection of Soo Line diesels. You have seen his modeling articles on kit-bashing and weathering. I took the photo of his sand tower diorama at the Collinsville, IL RPM.

Midwest Region 2023 Mail-In Waybill Ballot

(This ballot is for use only by resident members of the Midwest Region)

Optionally vote on-line at the MWR website <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/> and save a stamp!

President *(Vote for/Check One)*

[] **Bob McGeever, South Central Wisconsin Division** *(Incumbent)*

[] **Write-In** _____

Vice President *(Vote for/Check One)*

[] **Michael David Roderick, Central Indiana Division**

[] **John Robert Coy, Central Indiana Division**

[] **Michael Hirvela, Fox Valley Division** *(Incumbent)*

[] **Write-In** _____

Director-At-Large *(Vote for/Check up to Three)*

[] **Dr. Robert J. Perry, Central Indiana Division** *(Incumbent)*

[] **Precilla Ann Roderick, Central Indiana Division**

[] **Write-In** _____

[] **Write-In** _____

[] **Write-In** _____

To validate your ballot, please print your:

Name _____

NMRA No.* _____

Division _____ **or Division Code* 28 /** _____

** From your membership card. Also, you can go to
<http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.divisionmap.html>
to look up your Division assignment based on your Zip code.*

“Midwest” is not your Division!!! It is your Region.

If you do not provide the above information, your ballot will not be counted.

*Return to Midwest Region Election Committee,
c/o Jim Osborn, 2202 Bay Oaks Dr. McHenry, IL 60051-3710. Your ballot must be received no later
than Tuesday, January 31, 2023.*

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2202 Bay Oaks Dr
McHenry, IL 60051-3710

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Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA – Winter 2022

President's Report

Bob McGeever President, MWR

Several small topics to cover this time around.

Trainfest Returns

Trainfest was held in Milwaukee this November. For those of you who live in the southern half of the Midwest Region, this may not be big news. But for those of us who live “up north”, it is a big deal. The show was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid epidemic. This year the show was produced by Kalmbach Media and Great American Train Shows under license from the WISE division. The WISE and SCWD divisions had booths at the show. While the show was smaller than in the past, there was a nice mix of layouts, vendors, and manufacturers on the show floor. Final numbers are not in at the time I am writing this, but the attendance seems to have been pretty good. Sunday attendance was reported to be very strong. I saw a nice mix of hobbyists and families in attendance. At this time, the plan for the 2023 show is for it to be produced by Kalmbach Media and Great American Train Shows under license from the WISE division.

NMRA Interchange

The Regional Advisory Committee met by video conference using Zoom on November 5th. One of the topics discussed was the soon to be released NMRA Interchange. It is being built on technology from an outfit called Discord.com. If you are really curious, you can check it out on the Discord web site. The NMRA Interchange is supposed to start coming online around Thanksgiving. I have high hopes for the Interchange. If it works as described, it will be an integrated communication tool for divisional, regional, and national activities.

Other Types of Modelers

For the past several years, I have been noticing other types of modelers. Folks who are military modelers, airplane modelers, automobile modelers and ship modelers. I have met a guy who models large, multi-story construction cranes in N scale. He builds all the truss work by hand. Last month I met a ship modeler at a maker-fest who models WW2 era destroyers and destroyer escorts. His destroyer hull is about five feet long. It is not supposed to flex. I have seen some outstanding diorama work at plastic modeler's conventions. The military modelers have developed an incredible array of weathering techniques and supplies that we can use in model railroading. My favorite static grass applicator is made by an outfit called War World Scenics. Not a big name in the model railroad world.

I'm starting to think us model railroaders have become a bit in-grown when it comes to modeling techniques. We should be spending more time with other kinds of modelers and learning how they solve some of the same modeling challenges we face. And we might attract some of them to model railroading.

Regional Membership

In my last report, I mentioned we were going to look into the listing of Life Members in the MWR. I was concerned that we were carrying a large number of Life Members on the roster that were no longer with us. This had come up at some sessions at the Gateway 2022 convention. Neither the regions nor the mothership seem to have a formal procedure for maintaining the Life Members lists. Based on my initial pass through the numbers, I said either model railroading has a positive effect on life expectancy, or we have a lot of passed members on the list. To my great surprise, it appears that model railroading has a positive impact on life expectancy. The division supers found that most of the members on the roster are still with us and in many cases active in their division.

FYI, the average member of the MWR is 72 years old and has been a member of the NMRA for 23.2 years. In 2021 we had 171 regional members who had been NMRA members for less than four years. In 2022, that number had grown to 189. Food for thought.

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report

by **Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager**

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

Jerold Wienandt	Chilton, WI	Golden Spike
Dennis Janssen	Waukesha, WI	Volunteer
David Mashino	Kokomo, IN	Electrical
David Mashino	Kokomo, IN	Scenery
Robert Perry	Avon, IN	Scenery

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Thanks, Jim

Election Biographies for 2022 Candidates

Yes, once again it is election time. Up for election are three nominees for Vice President and two for Director-at-Large. The ballot is on page 3.

President

Bob McGeever



I am a retired Manufacturing Engineer. I retired from Thermo Fisher Scientific about 7 years ago. Over my career I worked on Industrial Controls, Patient Monitors, Anesthesia Equipment, Scientific Instruments and Calibration Services. I specialized in new

product introductions, test engineering, and moving products from one production facility to another facility.

I have been married 46 years. My wife is also retired. We live in Stoughton Wisconsin. Besides being an active member of the NMRA, she has earned her Master Gardener Certificate.

I grew up interested in model railroading but as an adult I never had the time or space for a layout for many years. I returned to the hobby about 15 years ago. After several years of meaning to, I joined the NMRA in 2010 and became active in the South Central Wisconsin Division of the Midwest Region. I am currently the Paymaster and Past Superintendent.

I am also the chair of the Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale committee. I served as the Clerk of the Midwest Region for several years before becoming the region President.

It would be an honor to be the President of the Midwest Region for the next two years.

Vice President

Mike Hirvela, incumbent



I have been your MWR Vice-President for the last two years, and as such I have supported our Region President and the board in carrying out our duties for the benefit of our members. The last two years have seen some challenges from the impact of COVID health issues to reorganizing a division for their future, along

with the region participating in the successful Tri-Region Convention in early 2022 with our neighboring regions to the east. I have no doubt that the next two years will have their own challenges.

So, if you feel I have done an adequate job as MWR VP, I would appreciate your vote. And if you feel otherwise, make your choice known when the ballot comes around.

Midwest Region Annual Membership Meeting

**The Marriott Indianapolis East
7202 E 21st St Indianapolis, IN 46219
May 22, 10:00 a.m. ET**

**Vice President
Robert Coy**



Salutations!

I, John Robert Coy, am seeking the office of MWR Vice President. Thanks to all of you, I have been a Director at Large for closing in on 4 years. I was appointed to the Central Indiana Division Board in Nov. 2018; 3 months after joining. I have served the NMRA as a voting

Board Member continuously ever since. It has been my honor, pleasure and privilege to represent all of you as DAL and CID Assistant Superintendent. I am heavily involved and committed to serving the NMRA. I love the hobby which I've enjoyed for 50+ years!

I have been modeling railroading seemingly forever. I received my 1st train set when I was 4. These many years later I'm very close to earning my MMR. I hold 6 certificates, have four merit awards, and only need to scratch-build 4 cars to earn my MMR! Better than that is getting to know many of you who share a common passion for this hobby. My lone regret is not joining years ago; because I now understand how much I missed out on. I have a very strong desire to remain on the MWR Board and ask that you vote for me for MWR Vice President. Thank you.

**Vice President
Michael David Roderick**

I am running for the Vice President for the Midwest Region.

I am fifty-three (54) years old and have enjoyed trains most of my life. My father & grandfather's collected N-scale and HO trains when I was a child and I have some of their trains today. I currently model in HO scale trains. I enjoy working on my layout at home. I enjoy operation sessions and once my layout gets done, I will have some at my house.



I was a member of the

North Shore Model Railroad club in Boston and was chairman of operations for them. I am the former President of the Naptown Whiteriver Railroad club in Indianapolis and ran operations and train shows for them.

I decided to devote my time to CID as a Trainmaster. I enjoy organizing train shows and currently I am the Train Show Chairman for the Franklin Train Show which is held in August of each year. I am currently working toward my NMRA-MMR and have completed 2 of the 7 requirements and I almost have 3 more completed for the MMR.

I am one of several the model railroader merit badge counselors for Boy Scouts of America for CID. I am currently one of the Directors at Large. I will do whatever I can to help in this position as Vice President of the Midwest Region.

**Director-at-Large
Dr. Robert J. Perry**

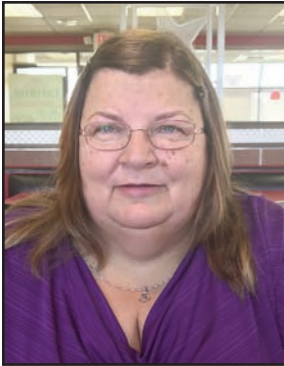


I am a lifelong model railroader in HO scale. Currently, I am an incumbent Director at Large for the MWR having been appointed after volunteering to fill a vacant post in the group. I have been a member of the NMRA in Massachusetts and Florida but was in very inactive divi-

sions. Since moving to Indiana four years ago and becoming part of the CID and MWR I have met and become close friends with many other members some of which live very close to me. It has been a tremendous benefit to me to have the camaraderie and mentorship of these fine gentlemen. I have learned a tremendous amount from them. They have encouraged me to become active in the NMRA Achievement Program and have already achieved several certificates.

My personal goal is to be able to help others improve their modeling especially through new technologies. I have given many lectures in electronics, Arduino programming, robotics and 3D design and printing. It is hoped that through my continued involvement in the MWR that I will be able to effectively fulfill this goal and be of assistance to many fellow model railroaders.

Director-at-Large Precilla Ann Roderick



I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region. I have enjoyed being the Chief Clerk for the past three years of the Central Indiana Division of NMRA. I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region.

I am sixty-three (64) years old and have enjoyed trains since I have been with my husband for over 7 years now. I enjoyed all the train shows we go to, and I support my husband in all the train events that we do together. We have a layout that we are working on at home so we can have operation session at our house and enjoy running trains ourselves.

I am a member American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 1919 in Greenwood. I work as the HR Recruitment Coordinator for Indianapolis EMS and do take minutes for different meetings. I have been with Indianapolis EMS for 17 years and I am an EMT also.

If I am elected as one of the Directors at Large I will do whatever I can to help in this position.

Frugal Modeler by David Nelson

"Build a better mousetrap," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "and the world will beat a path to your door." In an oversight, Emerson failed to mention that common mousetraps can supply free HO scale freight car sill steps.

Sill or "stirrup" steps show up in freight car photos going back well into the 19th century. Sill steps are perhaps the most fragile and easily broken detail on our model freight cars and broken or missing sill steps are common on swap meet rolling stock. Interestingly enough, 70 and more years ago, delicate-looking but sturdy stirrup steps made of stamped metal (an "L" shaped part that attached to the underframe) were available on Athearn's and Varney's HO metal kits, and many

decades later when Menzies reintroduced the old Athearn metal kits, those stirrup steps were still some of the most realistic yet durable you could buy, much finer than the sill steps of various widths -- actually, just a mixed bag of staples -- that Walthers sold for years.



Life-Like 2-bay plastic hopper car showing the grossly oversized sill steps.

When Athearn, Varney and others introduced injection molded plastic freight car kits in the 1950s, the sill steps were cast integral to the car body. While quite oversize (Life Like used old Varney tooling for the train set hopper shown in the photo) they still broke off far too regularly. Modelers that sought to replace them for appearance or durability had few choices; formed wire, or the Walthers staples, both only slightly closer to scale size than the plastic they replaced.

Today we have plastic rolling stock from such firms as Accurail, Intermountain and Athearn with much finer profile cast-on stirrup steps, but fussy modelers who want something closer to scale size replace even those with the excellent HO after-market steps in metal or plastic from A-Line, Tichy, Detail Associates, and others, brands that offer the various styles and shapes of sill steps: straight legs (the classic "U" stirrup) but also with angled or bent legs. In terms of scale accuracy and choice, as well as prototype information about what steps were found on what cars, we in HO are in something of a sill step Golden Age.



Two examples of sill steps on the prototype Above on MAX No. 304, a Bucyrus Erie shop flat. (Notice there is no airhose.)

Below on NWL refrigerator car No. 15080. This is the "B" end.



And still they break off so darn easily. "OK, just never touch the cars" say the super-detailers. Easier said than done if you have a working layout with operating sessions, particularly if the layout features another modern trend in model railroading: "active" (versus "passive") staging yards with car storage, where cars are constantly being taken off or put on the layout by a yard operator. No, touching the cars is never going to be totally eliminated.

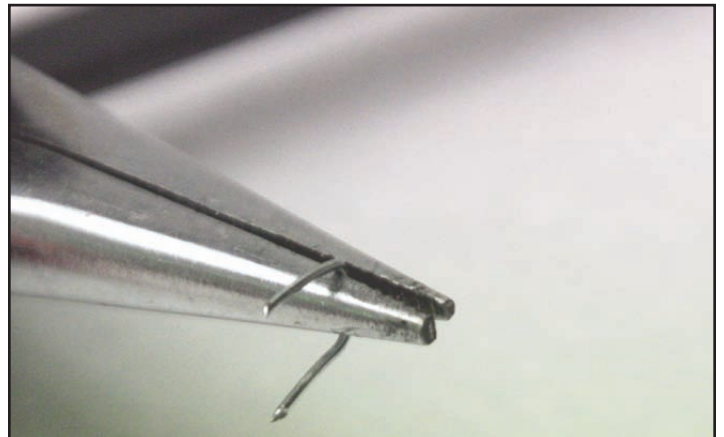
A popular brand of traditional mousetrap comes with a small metal staple securing the hold-down bar in the package. In HO these staples measure a scale 1/4" to 1/2" wide, and about a scale 1.5" thick. The "U" shape is more rounded than a sill step but is easily squared off on a needle nose pliers, as the photo shows, leaving a metal staple that is close to scale for a sill step. While for my best cars I myself do like the A-Line and Tichy steps, I fall low enough on the late Allen

McClelland's "good enough" spectrum that I retain older and less accurate, even trainset quality, cars, with plenty of broken and missing sill steps needing to be replaced.



Above: A look at the metal staple that holds the triggering bar in place.

Below: Using a needle nose pliers to straighten the staple.



Since I'm down to my last few Walthers staples, and since unfortunately we go through plenty of mousetraps each winter, I'm more than happy to use mousetrap staples. It is a simple matter to scrape or file off remaining portions of the former sill step, drill holes into the bottom edge of the car side, reinforced, if need be, with a cemented bit of styrene (start with a small starter hole then use a #75 bit) as a near force-fit for the mousetrap staple, the tips of which have a bit of CA on them.

If one "leg" is slightly shorter than the other it's easy to press both legs into the holes. The photo shows an example, this time an actual old



Above: The staple glued to the freight car. Notice how realistic it looks as opposed to the photo on page 8.

Varney hopper. The photo is not a close-up because, well, this is not the part you'd choose for close ups. It has the basic shape of a sill step and is sturdy. For plenty of cars on my roster, that's "good enough."

P.S. In the prior Frugal Modeler on airbrushing I showed an interesting window vent for my spray booth that has a gate on a bit of 4" tube that can be closed when the spray booth is not in use. I did not recall where I bought it. Dennis Janssen informs me that these plastic vents that mate with a 4" venting hose or tube are popular with woodworkers and can be found at stores and websites that cater to them, such as Woodcraft or Rockler.



Photo of the window vent.

Mad City
MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE
 February 18-19, 2023
 Saturday 9-5 • Sunday 9-4
 Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall
 Madison, Wisconsin
 A GREAT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT VALUE!

DISCOUNTED ONLINE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NMRA-SCWD.ORG
 *Family Pack includes: two adults (regular/senior) & two kids (5-15). Kids under 5 FREE.

Mad City MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SALE
 Sat. Feb. 18, 9AM-5 PM • Sun. Feb. 19, AM-4 PM
 Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison, WI

One of the Midwest's best model RR events showcasing beautiful model train layouts in Z, N, HO, S, O and G scale; classic toy trains; historical exhibits. **250+ vendor tables** of model train merchandise including tools, railroad collectibles, videos, books, clothing and artwork. Hourly door prizes for adults. Kids, age 5-15, can register to win an HO scale train set!

FOUR HO TRAIN SETS GIVEN AWAY EACH DAY!

Family Pack \$36: two adults (regular or senior) and two kids (5-15)
 Adults \$14 (16 & older), Seniors \$13 (65 & older)
 Children \$6 (age 5-15), Kids under 5 FREE
 Active duty military \$11. Two day pass \$18. Parking fee not included.
 All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance Sale Discount Tickets
 (available January 1, 2023 at nmra-scwd.org)
 Adults \$13 (16 & older), Children \$5 (age 5-15)
 Two Day Pass \$17

For more information:
www.nmra-scwd.org

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National News

From the November/December eBulletin

National is looking for volunteers for the following departments:

Manager for Meetings and Trade shows.

The person will work with local host committees to deliver the annual national convention and trade show. Ideally the person would have experience in hospitality industry, who is comfortable negotiating with vendors and advising host committees. This is for a person committed to attend the annual convention and NTS as well as visit the sites beforehand.

Marketing Department

The Marketing Department is looking for women who participate in any aspect of our hobby to please consider writing an article for the NMRA magazine. The Women in Model Railroading series was very popular and they would like to revive it. Articles should be one page long and please include a high-resolution photograph of your self. All submissions should be sent to marketing@nmra.org

Fundraising

The NMRA has recruited an experienced team of fundraising experts and now seeks a person to coordinate the efforts of this group. The role will ensure the efficient running of committee meetings and tracking the work that is being done by committee members. Close liaison with the national HQ team and CFO is essential. This role will work closely with eastern Division Director John Doehring.

NMRA Winter Board Meeting

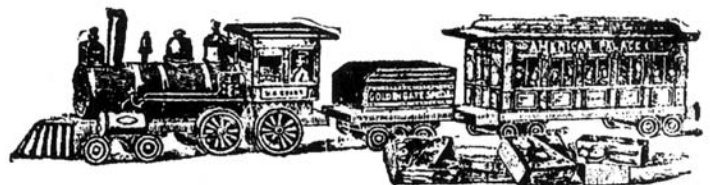
The NMRA BOD will hold its winter Board meeting at the Big E, the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield MA on January 27, 2023. The open meeting will start at 12:30. Members interested in attending can contact the Secretary.

The NMRA will have a booth at the show where you will be able to meet members of the national team.

Season's Greetings



Christmas Lite Display, Largo Florida



Wood Passenger Train, thirty-six inches long. Price 75c.

From a Christmas ad in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1893.



TEXAS EXPRESS
AUGUST 20-26
Dallas/Fort Worth
GAYLORD RESORT, GRAPEVINE
SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED - STREAMLINED



NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW

August 25-27

SPENCER CHRISTIAN

Banquet Speaker

GAYLORD RESORT

4-star Hotel and Water Park

BNSF HQ TOUR

Dispatching Center and Intermodal Yard

CLINICS

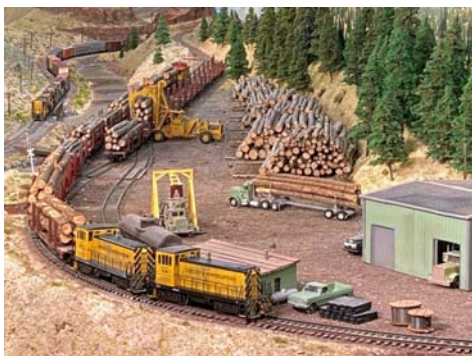
SIG ACTIVITIES

LAYOUT TOURS

OPERATION SESSIONS

CONTEST AND DISPLAY

FREEMO-N OPERATIONS



RAIL TOURS

- Texo Grain Mill
- Private Railcars
- TexRail Back Shop
- Texas State Railroad
- Trinity Rail Car Plant
- BNSF Intermodal Yard
- Six Flags Railroad Shop
- Grapevine Vintage Railroad
- McKinney Ave Trolley Shops
- Trinity Tank Car Cleaning Plant
- BNSF National Operations Center
- Museum of the American Railroad
- BNSF Private Western Art Collection
- T&P, Santa Fe, & Dallas Union Stations
- Fort Worth & Western Railroad Back Shop
- Union Pacific Dallas International Terminal
- Light Rail & Commuter Shops (DART & TRE)

GENERAL INTEREST

- George W Bush Library
- Fort Worth Stockyards
- Grapevine Wine Tour
- Sixth Floor Museum
- Fort Worth Modern
- Holocost Museum
- Kimbell Museum
- Globe Life Park
- AT&T Stadium
- Dealey Plaza

NMRA *National Convention*

2023 TEXASEXPRESS.COM