



SPUR LINE



2024 Spring ISSUE

Next NMRA AZ Div. Meet:

Summer Meet will be on

June 29, 2024, in Prescott.

QuadCity Christian Church
501 South Senator Highway

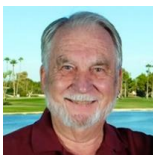
9:00am to 4:00pm

Doors open at 8:30am

Levity: (*Flat Cars*)

Favorite Train: (*Reefer cars*)

The contest room needs more contest entries. It has been very quiet the last few meets. Bring in your models to be judged or displayed for other members to admire. And please visit the contest room and fill out a ballot selecting your favorite entries and view the models in the judged contest



Editor: Charlie Nidever

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[Summer Meet - Arizona Division \(azdiv-nmra.org\)](http://azdiv-nmra.org)



Jim Spice's Sn3 Layout

2024 S^{N3} Symposium

May 2nd, 3rd, & 4th

Mesa ★ Arizona

<https://sn3symposium.com/>



NMRA Arizona Division / Chris Thompson / Director Report

The weather is warming up and soon we will be hiding from the heat and hopefully getting plenty of time to work on all of our model railroading projects. I know I have a lot waiting to be tackled, including figuring out some final track arrangements on my layout under construction.

We had a good meet in Scottsdale in March. One new thing we did is called a Bell-Ringer clinic. This was 5 mini clinics and each lasted 15-20 minutes. The bell would ring and you would move to the next station for the next clinic. I enjoyed it quite a bit and learned something in every clinic.

The PSR Board Meeting was also in March. Notable items from this meeting include an election this summer for the PSR President and Vice President positions. Both are term limited, so some new candidates are needed. If you would be interested in running for one of these positions and supporting the Region, you can contact the Regional Election Chair via the PSR website. It was announced that the Cajon Division will be hosting the 2025 PSR Convention. It will be at the same venue as in 2021 near the Orange County airport.

The Surfliner 2024 Convention is just a few months away now. This is an opportunity to attend a National Convention relatively close to home. Some of the tours are now available, and more are being added as the details are finalized. See the convention web site for more information.

We also have an election coming up later this year in the Arizona Division for Superintendent. I want to encourage anyone who might want to serve the Division but isn't sure what to do, contact myself or Bruce and we can include you in the Executive Advisory Committee. We meet by Zoom every month typically, and you can get a feel for what kind of help we need in the Division, and what areas you feel you can contribute your talents. As they say, many hands make for light work, and we actually have some fun along the way with it!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Prescott on June 29!

Chris Thompson (Arizona Division Director)

Just so you know, here are the meetings and events planned for 2024.

2024 AZ Division NMRA calendar				
Date	Time	Event	Location	Register?
05/10/24	11 AM - 2 PM	West Valley SubDivision Meet	Pheonix	No
05/18/24	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
06/29/24	9 AM - 4 PM	Division Summer meet	Prescott	At meet
07/20/24	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
08/4 -11/24	-	SurfLiner - National Convention	Long Beach, CA	Open now
08/17/24	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
09/21/24	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
09/28/24	9AM - 12 PM	Cactus Fall Train Swap meet	Phoenix	Sellers only
10/19/24	9 AM - 4 PM	Division Fall meet	Scottsdale	At meet
10/26/24	9 AM - 1 PM	Swap Meet	Adobe Mountain	Sellers only
11/16/24	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
12/21/24	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
01/18/25	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
02/15/25	10 AM - noon	3rd Saturday Zoom meet	OnLine	No
?	9 AM - 4 PM	Division Spring meet	Tucson	At meet

For more information on events see AZ Div website
<https://www.azdiv-nmra.org/index.php/calendar>

Train Tips by Peter Youngblood MMR coming in the fall edition

My Growth as a Model Railroader

Don Wilde, NMRA Arizona Div.



As a modeler, my nickname should be “Ten Thumbs.” I’ve been model railroading since I was about five, thanks to my dad. He was a BSEE engineer at RCA and collaborated with mechanical engineers to make tooling and machinery for the production of color tubes for early color TVs. I had a simple loop-and-a-siding layout with a die-cast Mantua Sharknose, an Athearn GP, and a dozen RTR cars. Half the basement in our Madison, NJ house was full of Dad’s HO, and the other half was his workshop and tools. I was occasionally allowed to run a train on his layout, and to my credit I never once mixed up my car driving imagination with any of the train operations!

More than that, though, Dad’s gift to me was two heavy file cabinets full of Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman magazines. It is safe to say that I learned to read so I could read those MRs! The TV set often went unwatched, and I filled thick notebooks with track plans carefully drawn with a dime store compass and ruler. By twelve, I had migrated from HO to N scale and was building an 8’ x 9’ N-scale layout with dual reversing loops (correctly wired) and two-train DC block control. My equipment roster was pretty eclectic, based on what was available from Con-Cor, Atlas and MRC. My pride and joy was an MRC Nickel Plate Berkshire, an exquisite model for the time, and I had an MRC Controlmaster V as my #1 control system. Dad, ever the engineer, built Linn Westcott’s TAT-III and TAT-IV throttles from individual parts, and built a larger twice-around HO system in a newer house he and Mom had custom-built in more-rural New Jersey.

My Mom was kind enough to regularly drive me to the Morris County Model Railroad Club, where I was able to test out my blooming knowledge of “operations.” I’m proud to say I never broke anything (there, at least), and they were happy to have me join in.

Scale and Gauge? Subject to change at any moment! Seriously, I donated almost all of my Ow5 stuff to the NMRA Convention committee as that was just too many adventures to deal with! I do have my limits and one of them is that I do still intend to have a life outside of model railroading... "Real Soon Now" as Jerry Pournelle, the Sci-Fi writer used to say.

I'm currently working on two layouts and have a third diorama firmly in mind. This first article will describe "THE CLISHAY KNOT & ORE COMPANY"

The CliShay is a logging and mining road set in California somewhere near King's Canyon in the early 1920s. It's built in On30, and has a Bachmann Climax and Shay. Both are currently DC, but will be DCC, and intend to equip my control PCs with Sound Blaster cards for realistic Shay and Climax sound effects piped under computerized mixer control to speakers recessed into the shelving under the layout sections.

The foundation of the layout is four shelves of a five-shelf 2' x 3' plastic shelf unit, with the fifth shelf separated and hung from the ceiling for a valance and lighting mounts. The base shelf at ground level is intended for storage, with three trackage levels above. Each level's scenery and railroad equipment is designed to be fabricated on wood and foam structures that can be removed separately for construction work on the bench. The eventual goal is to make all these structural pieces transportable for occasional show visits. Given that this is 1:48 scale, that's several trucks' worth of layout, scenery, structures, electronics and trains, but that's the intention and the plan!

Connecting the layers is a unique new invention of mine called the Turn-Table-Vator™, a prototype device that allows me to make use of my career's education to make something that can become a specialty product for model railroaders. It's a 36" train-length turntable on a chassis that can smoothly lift a train from the lowest to the highest level under computer control. Making it commercially available is not a priority for me but I expect that I can find somebody who makes model railroad products a priority to commercialize it. Certainly, it's worth an article, as more model railroaders have constrained spaces in which to work!

The theme of the railroad is a determined company working hard to succeed, but all the lumber seems to end up going into shoring up the ore mine, which never seems to come up with a single glittering anything to be worth selling!

I want to play with model railroading with this pike, but I want the fun to be subtle enough that it doesn't hit visitors over the head like a certain well-known early modeler's "Car Inspectors" on his narrow-gauge line. He could get away with that back then, but that was half a century earlier in model railroading!

I'm not going to worry about scratch building much of anything here; since On30 is not a very common prototypical scale I have no issues with rivet counting or ready-to-run and kit bashed equipment here. Pure fun is the objective!

*(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FALL 2024 SPURLINE)
BALTIMORE & PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY /
BROUSE EXCELLENT STEAM TRACTOR COMPANY*

I've modeled off and on through the years as I built my career, but for the most part my 'pikes' were imagineered, not built. After college I took a sharp detour from my parents' expectations and partnered with a Viet Nam-era Ranger vet to tackle Hollywood. We wrote five scripts, and I made the money to support us by teaching myself to code for good bucks, but my big bad Ranger buddy wasn't up for taking on the producers and actually selling the scripts, so we never were able to follow through on that venture.

So, what does that put me up to, today? I'm active in the leadership of the NMRA PSR/AZDIV, and I enjoy the gratification of contribution. For a number of years, when I worked at Intel, I mentored an after-school club of Native American middle school kids in finessing their LEGO Mindstorms robots for maximum performance, and one year I had the honor of being selected as the Head Robot Judge for the AZ State Championships.

Over the last several years, I've put a lot of thought and work into my company, seedThings LLC. I've been putting a lot of work over the last three years into two product lines: Real World Computing™ and the Enabler.AI™ AI-as-a-Service web system. The first is designed for endpoint systems and device control (making Things go "bump in the night," so to speak) for the Internet of Things, and the second will become both the core of an open source AI server system and the heart of my specific AI-as-a-Service server application.

Contest Results – NMRA Arizona Division Spring Meet

Scottsdale – 03/09/24

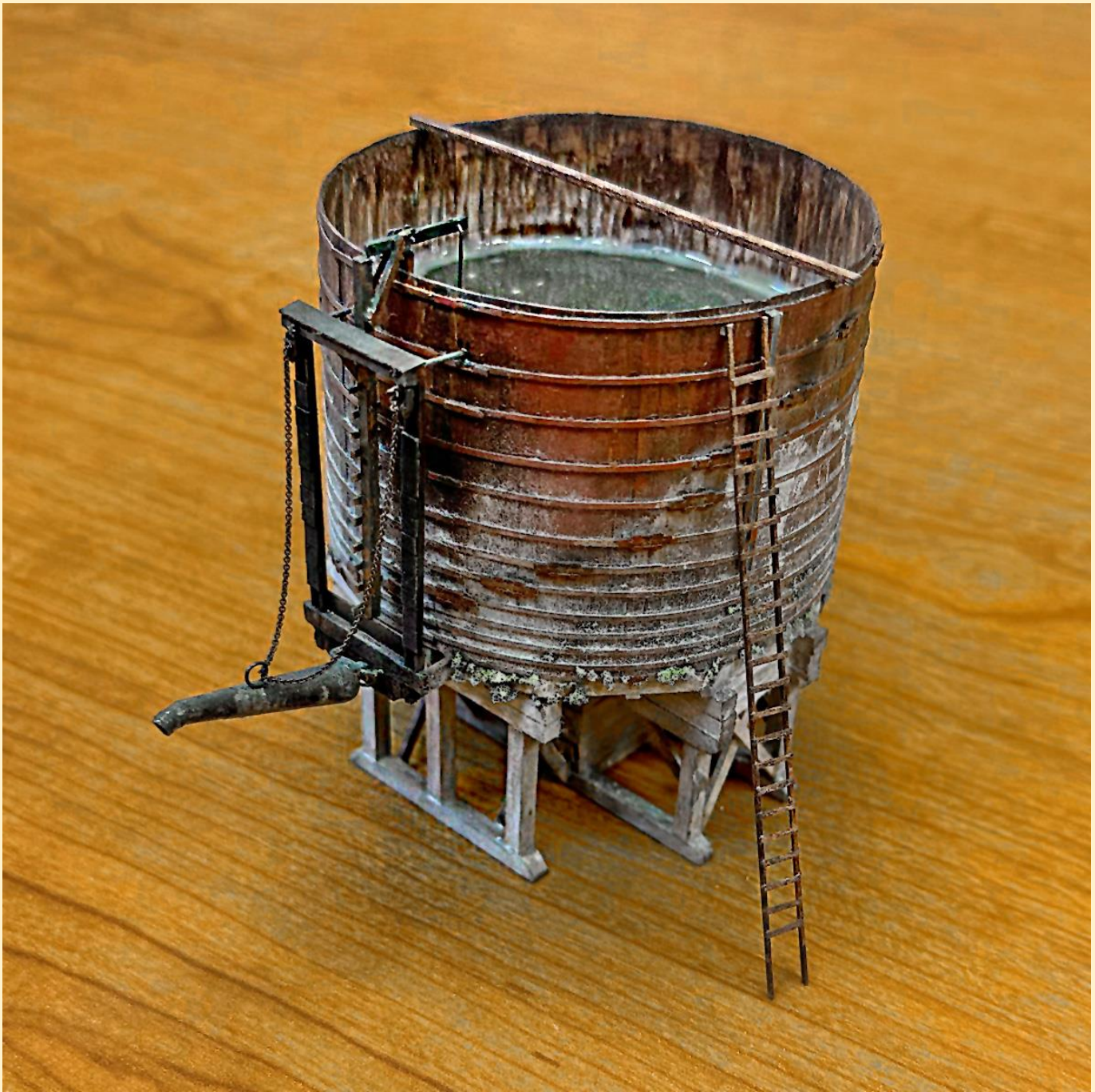


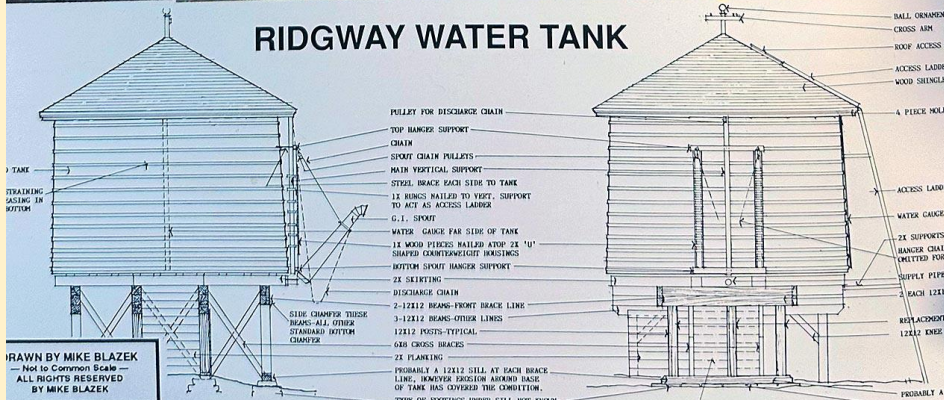
Best of Show 1st Place

Steve Hollenbach

Ridgway Water Tank

Scratch Built





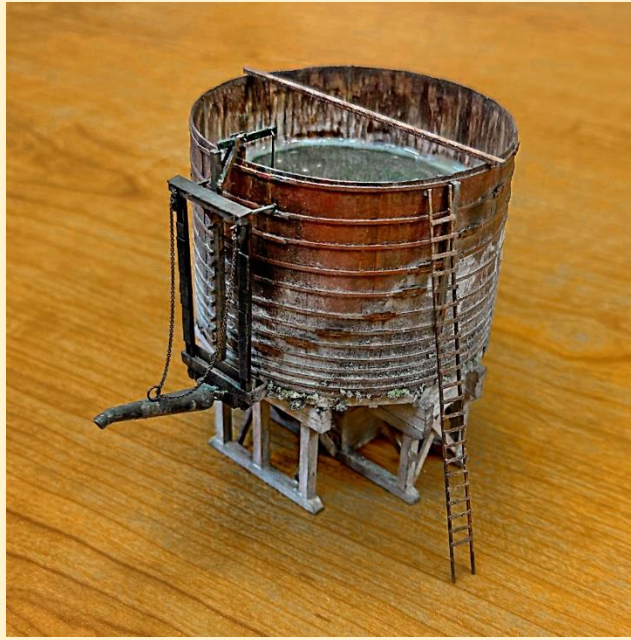
The model is a Durango Press Kit modified for a Rio Grande Southern Tank at Ridgway Colorado missing the roof after a fire in 1947. Weathering to match the prototype using photographs.

[Favorite Model](#)

1st Place

Steve Hollenbach

Ridgway Water Tank



[Levity \(Economy Passenger Travel\)](#)

1st Place

John Lovely

ST&LO Economy Train Travel



Favorite Train (Passenger Train)

1st Place

Dan Zintz

Santa Fe Streamliner





Favorite Photo (Color Prototype)

1st Place Ray Rumble

BNSF East of Flagstaff



2nd Place Ray Rumble

NS at Grain Elevator



Favorite Photo (Color Model)

1st Place Ray Rumble

**Forest Fire Scene at the
Colorado Railroad Museum
Greeley Colorado**



2nd Place Ray Rumble

Road Construction Scene



Contest Judges Dan Thompson, Rich Horna, Linda Petrarca, Dan Zintz,
John Lovely-MMR, Richard Petrina

"Thank you to all our judges, without them we would not have a contest room."





Volunteer to be a judge and you will find it rewarding and may even improve your modeling skills. Every time you are a contest judge you qualify for one point towards the Association Volunteer certificate.

Help Wanted lots of Volunteer points available:
contact any AZ Div. Officer for more INFORMATION!

Next AZ Division Meet

Location

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QuadCity Christian Church

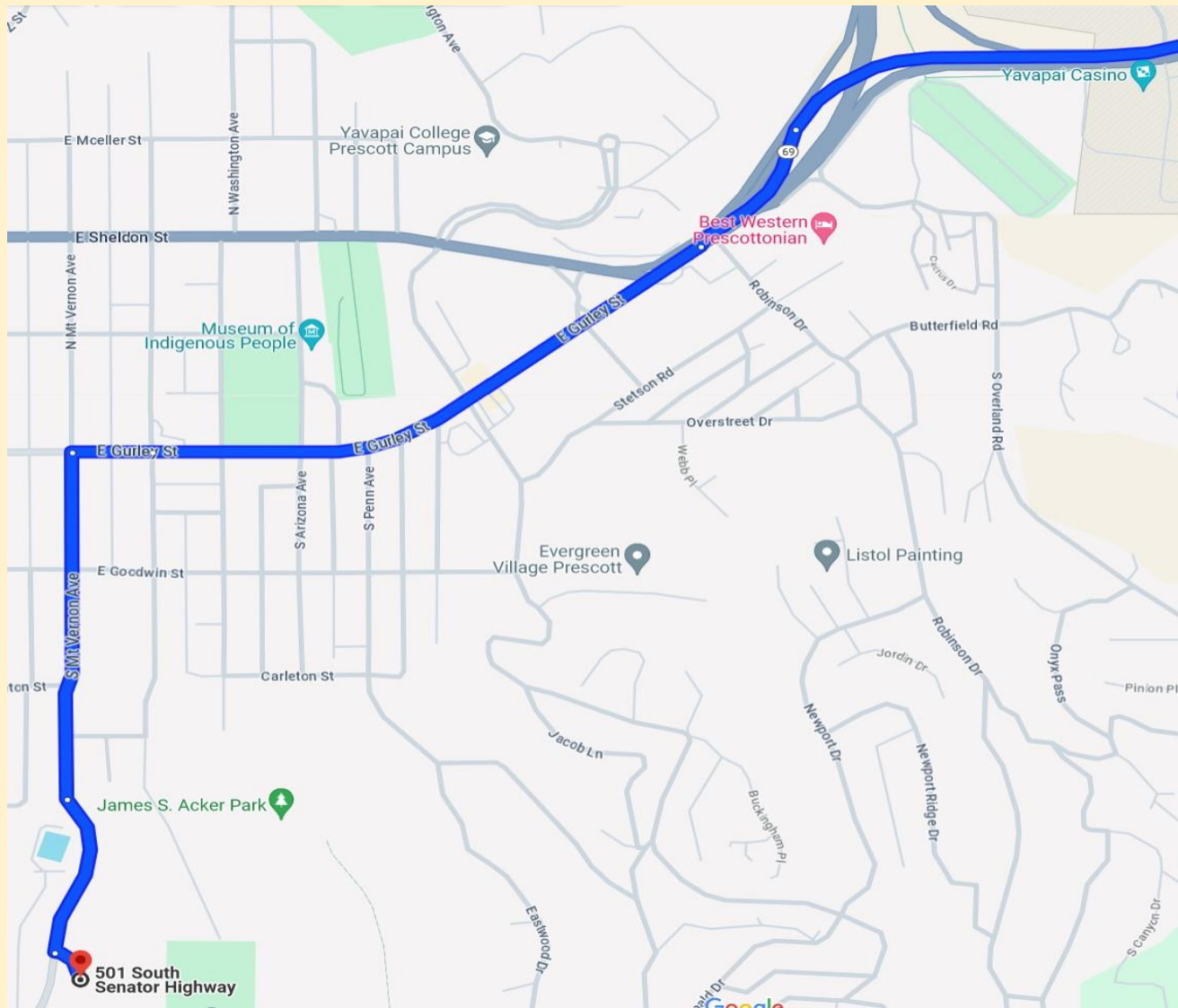
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Levity: (Flat Cars)

Favorite Train: (Reefer Cars)



“The “SPUR LINE” is the official publication of the Arizona Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), and is published three times a year in Scottsdale, Arizona. The “SPUR LINE’ is available to all members of the NMRA who live in Arizona.

RESPONSIBILITY: Except for official reports, all opinions are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Arizona Division or its parent organizations.

SUBMISSIONS: Contributions of articles on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to the members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the Spur Line editor with the submission attached as a word text document.
2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.
3. Submission deadlines for publication are: **December 1st., April 1st. and July 1st.”**