

**MINUTES OF THE LONE STAR REGION BOARD MEETING
Houston, Texas – June 7, 2017**

President **Steve Barkley** called the Annual Board meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:

Voting Board Members:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Elected Rep</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
Division 1	– Mike Mackey	– Marc LaChey
Division 3	– Jerry Hoverson	– Donna Orr
Division 4	– Peter Kazmir	– Riley Triggs
Division 7	– Don Kimmell	– Marc LaChey

Non-voting Board Members:

Events – Bill Dryden

Open Chairs:

Membership –

Guests in attendance:

Ronald Burns
Nathan Oxhandler
Gil Freitag
Don Winn
David Grein
Tom Marsh
Mike Barrett

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Secretary **Jeff Palmer** provided a motion and **Donna Orr** seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the January 21, 2017 Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting published in the 2017 Winter issue of *The Marker Lamp* - designated as 2017-06-07 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports

President Steve Barkley

My second term as President is coming to an end. I am limited to serving no more than two terms so will be stepping down. I will become the LSR Board Advisor which is a voting position.

I have enjoyed working with the very talented and motivated modelers who have served as officers and in other positions in the LSR leadership. Much has been accomplished. Annual conventions were held each year in various cities, including, for the first time, Beaumont, Texas.

The LSR is now an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. This has already saved the LSR thousands of dollars and will continue to reap savings. As an IRS 501(c)(3) corporation the LSR is exempt from paying Texas sales taxes on its purchases including convention expenses. This may also apply to purchases in other states as we explore holding future conventions in Louisiana.

The Achievement Program is alive and well. LSR members continue to earn certificates and MMR's. Al Boos, MMR, oversaw the program for LSR members for many, many years. Duane Richardson, MMR, has now taken over for Al. Mike Mackey, MMR #573, and Jerry Wilson, MMR #577, are the LSR's two newest MMR's. Looking at the NMRA web site, the LSR now has 39 living MMR's.

2017 ELECTIONS

There were no contested elections in 2017. In recent years, it has been difficult for the Election chair to recruit candidates to actually run in a contested election. However, in 2017 the LSR elected the following highly qualified modelers to serve as officers:

President: Chuck Lind, MMR
Treasurer: Gert Muller
Division 1 Director: Mike Mackey, MMR
Division 3 Director: Donna Orr
Division 5 Director: Dave Lamberts
Division 7 Director: Don Kimmell (our resident "Elf")

Thank you again to Blake Bogs for serving as both the LSR Convention Chair and as an LSR Director at Large.

THE MARKER LAMP

Riley Triggs has done a superb job editing the Marker Lamp. Transition to on line publishing has enabled a longer, more colorful publication. Back issues can be found at the click of a mouse. (Why is it a mouse "click" and not a "squeak"?)

On line publication is also saving the LSR significant expense. This has helped the LSR to remain solvent without dipping into its reserves.

Remember, you earn Author points for photos and articles published in the Marker Lamp. Release your Muse and share your projects, photos, and thoughts with the rest of the LSR membership.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

Mike Mackey and others are floating the idea of forming a permanent convention committee. This committee would assume the task of selecting a host city for the yearly LSR Convention and then actually selecting the dates, hotels, and handling registration, finances, and the host of other tasks associated with running a convention. Local groups would be welcome to help. This would allow future conventions to realistically be held in cities without a large LSR membership. New Orleans, anyone?

IN CLOSING

Thank you all for your interest and support during my four years as President. I never expected to hold this position. The LSR has many, many interested and dedicated modelers who have served both in elected positions and appointed committees. I am honored to have served as President.

Vice-President Bob Barnett

LSR members in the Houston/Division 8 area have been busy this year planning for the upcoming 2017 Lone Star Region Convention. President-elect Chuck Lind has made several committee appointments recently including a new convention chairman, Marc LaChey. This comes at a critical time in our region. Planning for a convention has become increasingly more difficult with expenses increasing for most activities and an increased uncertainty regarding attendance. I understand one of the early items of business is to inquire exactly what type and size of convention the region member want. The last several conventions held in D-FW and Houston have worked very hard to increase attendance with the result being a fairly flat attendance for several years, and this is in our two largest regional markets. D-FW attempted to produce a block-buster convention last year (and they did), with attendance similar to the recent D-FW and Houston conventions. Houston is planning a standard full length convention this year and so far we are short on attendees. Small wonder that the smaller cities are reluctant to take on an LSR Convention. Having worked on the committees for eight LSR conventions (in three cities) in the areas of layout tours, auctions, clinics and general chairman, I can testify that a lot of work and sweat goes into each convention. And no committee wants to come up short, but we will need a more defined target in the future.

Having enjoyed a lot of LSR Conventions since I joined in 1981, I hope the membership and the board will work with Marc to “right-size” our conventions to the length, content, and cost that most members want (and are willing to pay for).

See you at the Convention in June.

Treasurer Donna Orr**For the Fiscal Year of 2016/2017****Beginning Balance 05/01/2016**

LSR Checking Account	\$ 6,143.18
Vanguard CD Fund	\$20,394.38
Vanguard Convention Fund	\$ 9,522.07
Acct Receivable for 2016 Convention_____	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
Total LSR Net Worth	\$38,059.63

*Not included in Total LSR Net Worth
Funds for the Bob Clark Award \$570*

LSR Proceeds

Vanguard CD Fund Interest	\$ 40.08
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	\$ 19.92
NMRA Region Rebate	\$ 1,919.00
Convention Advance DFW	\$ 2,000.00
Convention proceeds DFW	\$ 516.00
Dealer/Pike ads	<u>\$ 184.00</u>
Total Proceeds	\$ 4,679.00

LSR Disbursements

Website expense	\$ 269.60
Historian Expenses	\$ 15.16
BOD Meeting Expenses	\$ 174.68
NMRA rebate to divisions	\$ 954.25
Contest Expenses	\$ 228.50
Election printing and mailing	<u>\$ 57.36</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,509.71

Net Proceeds/ Disbursements **\$ 3,169.29**

Ending Balance 4/30/2017

LSR Checking Accounts Total	\$29,798.92
Morgan Stanley CD fund	\$ 9,875.17
Restricted funds for the Bob Clark Award	- \$ 570.00
Restricted funds for Division2	- \$ 154.50
Restricted funds for Division 5	- \$ 36.50
Restricted funds for Division 7	- <u>\$ 34.00</u>
Total LSR Net Worth	\$38,879.09

Secretary Jeff Palmer

Since our January 21, 2017 BOD meeting, the LSR Secretary has worked with the Nomination Chair, Blake Bogs, to aid him in running a very successful election. As of May 1, the secretary has been working with various LSR officers on their transition to their new positions.

Currently the secretary is trying to pull together the various reports from the other LSR Officers and Chairs in preparation of the June 7, 2017 BOD meeting in Houston. The cooperation of the officers and chairs would be greatly appreciated.

I had the privilege of working with Ken Kaiser, Chuck Lind, and Jim Lemmond at the Houston Train Show recruiting new NMRA member in Division 8. The event was successful.

Looking forward to the 2017 convention. Reviewing the 2017 website, I'm really looking forward to a number of clinics, and touring some of the fantastic layouts - <http://bayoucitylimited.org/>.

We still do not have a 2018 convention committee.

The Parliamentarian John Garfield has resigned.

The board still does not have a Youth Chair or a Convention Chair. It would be good if the various Directors would look around their division, and see if there is a qualified candidate in their division.

As covered in the Webchair Report, the LSR Website has been very stable.

One last note, please remember in your reporting that education is our prime directive and to hi-lite it where possible in your reporting.

Advisor Bill McPherson

No Report

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported that:

We had a successful convention in Arlington in 2016 even though it had only been 3 years since the previous convention in Irving. Mike, John and the entire committee should be commended for stepping up when the other divisions dropped the ball. I expect that it won't be long before only Houston and DFW host conventions every other year. We are fortunate to have a great working relationship with Division 3.

After the 2016 convention in Arlington I suspended division meetings because of poor attendance and nobody would help organize them. When meetings were held at the Texas Western, we had a good turnout of club members, but when they were held anywhere else, only a handful of people attended.

The Division continues to be active in the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. We continue to give at least four clinics at each show to promote the education of

the general public about the hobby. Also, this is a great way to reach out to new members. Division 3 has stepped up to run the booth and our division is happy to help supply manpower.

After 12 years on the board, I decided not to run for a 7th term and while I don't believe I ever saw him at a Division 1 meeting, Mike Mackey has stepped up to fill the role. Mike has a lot of support from the Texas Western club in Forrest Hill. Hopefully, the division will be able to retain its autonomy from the club.

With some reluctance, I have agreed to continue representing Division 1 in the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Mike assures me that others will be able to help organize clinics, etc., but I will continue to receive contracts from vendors and serve out my term as President of the Council.

Division 2 Director Rod Fredericks reported:

Two significant events dominated my activities this year in the Bayou Division; the disastrous floods in the Baton Rouge area, and total knee replacements of both of my knees.

As to the former, the record flooding in August effected many local model railroaders personally with home flooding, and flooding of the Mid-South Model Railroad Club building. The water in the club did not reach the layout but the 27" submerged everything underneath, including the DCC and signaling systems, storage cabinets containing supplies, tools and off layout engines and rolling stock as well as sheetrock and floor carpet. Since then, club members and a number of non-member model railroaders have pitched in ripping out the flood damaged material, cleaning up the mess and rebuilding the damage. Presently all recovery work has been done except for the signal system and the club hopes to be up and running again in July.

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club did not experience flooding, but a number of its members did have flooding of their homes. There was no flooding in the New Orleans area so the Crescent City Model Railroad Club was not damaged.

Personally, recovery from my two knee replacements has kept me from traveling the Bayou Division and visiting other Clubs and modelers as I have done in past years as Division 2 Director. Thankfully, my recovery is nearly complete and both new knees are working fine enough that I'll be at the Convention and back on the road thereafter traveling and visiting division clubs and member layouts.

As far as education in the Division, I did manage to give two clinics at the Crescent City Club. There was a good turnout and along with the members there, we intend to continue with more clinics. Also, I will be presenting a clinic at the Convention in Houston.

Division 3 Director Jerry Hoverson reported that:

Well, after 8 years this will be my last Marker Lamp directors report. Donna Orr will be taking over as the Division 3 Director. The current plans are that I will continue to “MC” the monthly meetings but Donna will now be taking over anything that has to do with the LSR directly.

So, we’re still having monthly get meetings at the church in Allen and having fun and learning from each other. For our educational clinics this past quarter;

January: Allan Gartner presented us with a “what went right and what went wrong” lessons learned over the years as he built his HO scale “High ‘N’ Xiety” and his G scale “Finchfield & Wrensylvanaia” railroads.

February: Making a Static Grass Applicator was presented by Craig Tribuzi. This was based on a clinic given several years ago at one of our meetings. The grass applicator is cheap and easy to build and is a very helpful tool for applying scenery.

March: One of the most requested topics is Weathering and Duane Richardson re-presented his “If it ain’t dirty it ain’t done” clinic demonstrating several techniques and the philosophies behind making your railroad look real instead of plastic.

While this is my last report there is still lot’s more to come in the division so “Keep rolling down the tracks”!

Division 4 Director Peter Kazmir reported:

As always, it has been an exciting and busy several months since our report for the 2017 mid-year meeting.

We had two Division meetups in March and May. At the March meetup, **Peter Bryan** gave an excellent presentation on the Comanche and Indian Gap railroad. Afterwards, we toured **John Hanne’s** HO Scale layout, Santa Fe Memories. At the May meetup, Peter Kazmir gave a clinic on Signals.

Pictures and detailed recaps from each meetup, as well as pictures and information about these and other layouts across our Division, are posted on our website, centexnmra.org. The site also hosts a discussion board open to the public.

Our next meeting will be **July 8** at the **Austin Northwest Recreation Center**. Details and directions are available at <http://centexnmra.org/meeting.html>. The highlight of this period, however, was the **Austin Area Train Show**, which was hosted by the Division on May 6 and 7. This was the first train show in Austin since 2015, and it was a great success. The show exceeded expectations in every aspect and received very positive feedback from exhibitors. There were five operating layouts at the show from all of the Austin area clubs and a home layout

tour. There were also several clinics on topics ranging from track laying to DCC to making trees. We also signed up several new NMRA members! Plans are already underway for the 2018 AATS. Full details will be available in the next *Marker Lamp*.

Next up for the Division will be our yearly **NMRA Meet** this fall. The format will change slightly with a greater emphasis on clinics and the contest, and the meet will be open to non-NMRA members as well. Details will be posted on our web site shortly.

We hope to see everyone at the LSR convention in Houston! Have a great summer!

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts reported:

Do to health issues and other extenuating circumstances, this report has been abbreviated to all is continuing well in Division 5.

Division 6 Kevin Bergeman reported:

South Texas Division (Division 6) assets are \$124 in cash held by the Division Director.

No Division events were held in the past 6 months

A Division Summer 2017 Meet and Fall 2017 Meet are in-planning.

News-worthy for the South Texas Division is the permanent loss of 2 Model Train Shows in the San Antonio Metro area:

- SAMRA's Annual Summer Family Train Show (usually held late in July) has been permanently canceled
- AMRE's Annual Fall Train Show (usually held in early October) has been permanently canceled

The San Antonio/New Braunfels metro areas is currently hosting just 3 model train shows

- SAMRA Annual Jamboree & Train Show (late January)
- NBHRMS Annual Train Show Jamboree (early April)
- NBHRMS Annual Fall Train Show (late October)

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported: Membership has held fairly steady.

It has been a quiet previous 5 months. With the demise of the Longview Show and the rescheduling of both the Jefferson and Tyler shows to late May there has been no major activity in the Division.

I have planned to share a booth, with Operation Lifesaver, at the Jefferson Show in late May. Due to scheduling issues-the Tyler Show is the same weekend, I will not be there in Tyler.

I have done two (2) Boy Scout presentations, one in Minden, the other in Junction City, Arkansas (which “straddles” the state line, but only has an Arkansas address). A Scout Master from West Monroe has contacted me to visit with them in mid-June.

Division 8 Director Jim Lemmond reported:

Monthly clinics

Division 8 began 2017, with clinics featuring tree building and track laying. Ray Byer and Jim Lemmond presented the clinic featuring tree making. Ray Byer in April gave a clinic on track laying and building turnouts. A new feature added this year to the Division 8 Clinic series is the donation of gift certificates by G and G Model Shop and Papa Ben’s Train Place. The Division is most appreciative of these two businesses’ generosity. A schedule of the 2017 Division 8 Clinics may be found at <http://texasgulfdivision.org/clinics.html> .

Division 8 Web Site

A new Events page has been added to our website. We are collecting events calendars from as many model railroad clubs in, around or near the LSR area to make available the many railroad activities throughout the year. If your club would like to be included, please email a copy of your events with date, time and location to: jimlem@comcast.net .

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Show

The SanJac Club held another successful train show this past February in Stafford, Texas. Many thanks to Steve Sandifer and his crew for producing a well-attended show. The Division 8 booth was by with Dallas area guests, Ken Kiser and Jeff Palmer. They were great in helping Division 8 acquire seventeen new members for the LSR and the NMRA. Many thanks to Ken and Jeff. The Division 8 booth was manned by local members Leslie Eaton, MMR, Loren Neufeld, MMR, Chuck Lind, MMR, Ray Byer, Laurie Lind, Janice Lemmond, and Jim Lemmond. Many thanks to Alan Perlman, owner of Papa Ben’s Train Place, for providing gift certificates to all new NMRA members.

Bayou City Limited, LSR Convention 2017

Planning is well underway for this event to be held in Houston, June 7 – 10, 2017. The website is fully operational for registration, special tours, and events. Go to: <http://bayoucitylimited.org/>

The event is chaired by Robert Ashcraft and Randal Wilson. The Convention Raffle will have many items (brass, models and railroad items) available. All items were donated by a closed hobby shop to the convention. The raffle will include an **Austin Steam Train Association \$200 Gift Certificate** for a ride on the Austin Steam Train at Cedar Park, Texas.

New Lone Star Region President

Congratulations to Chuck Lind, MMR on his recent election to the office of President of the Lone Star Region of the NMRA. Chuck is a member of the Division 8 Board and a member of the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club. Chuck will take office during the LSR Convention in June 2017. Thanks to Steve Barkley for his service as the outgoing President of the LSR.

Director-At-Large Marc LaChey reported:

In preparation for this report, I went back and reviewed what I had written for the Winter Board meeting. Clearly my report was more an editorial when compared to the activity reports submitted by the various Division leaders. It made me wonder, what activities can I report on. None really. So I will exercise my “at large” position to continue to write about what is on my mind.

Last time I wrote about the expectations and format of our past LSR Conventions. I also wrote asking if it was time to consider changes. So I want to pick up where I left off and continue my thoughts about changing our regional convention format.

First, I think it is time to change the duration of our convention. We are all busy and planning to arrive for a convention on Wednesday evening and staying through Sunday morning seems like a long time. Perhaps it is time we started our conventions on a Thursday evening?

Next, given that we have a duty to educate folks as a part of our 501C3 tax status, perhaps we need to emphasize clinics? Perhaps we should try to run clinics on Thursday evening and all day Friday? And I’m thinking that we try to produce at least six clinics on Thursday evening, and at least twelve if not fifteen clinics on Friday.

Notice, I said nothing about layout tours on Friday. So my plan is to schedule Saturday as “layout tour” day. I see this benefiting layout owners as they only have to be open one day of the convention. And it should benefit layout tourists by limiting their fight with traffic to a Saturday. So no clinics on Saturday, just layout tours!

Now, if the local host committee can arrange a visit to a local train attraction, that can be done on either Friday or Saturday.

Then, we have our banquet, a brief annual meeting and a brief awards presentation on Saturday evening. If it were me, I’d do away with the banquet. But, I know from my own negotiations with hotels that paying them with a food/beverage event makes the convention a more attractive and likely impacts our room rates. So I concede to have the banquet as it saves us costs elsewhere. Besides, we all have to eat don’t we?

So there you go.....a reduced schedule that is focused on “education”. And that facilitates time to visit with friends. And best of all, no fighting traffic on a normal workday! So what do you think? Is it time to make a change?

Director-At-Large Blake Bogs reported:

It has been a productive 6 months since last reporting.

Marker Lamp:

I wrote two editorials and one article. They were published in the last two issues. Please see the Marker Lamp for the articles.

Nomination Committee:

The election was conducted during March. The results and votes are listed in my Nomination Report. The next election will be held in 2018, unless a constitution change election is needed.

LSR Brochure:

Work continues on the LSR brochure. More changes have been made since I last presented them to the board. I hope to have them printed before the LSR Convention in June.

LSR Convention:

My layout along with my Dad’s layout will be open during the Layout Tours. I also plan to help run other layouts during the convention.

Director-At-Large Riley Triggs reported:

Members of the CenTex Division have formed a new 100% NMRA club, the Austin Model Railway Society with the intent on being a 501 (c) 3 organization with the mission to educate the public about railroad activities in general and specifically the history of the railroads in around Central Texas. Bylaws have been adopted, membership dues set and paid, and officers elected. I will be serving as President alongside Secretary George Zapalac, Treasurer Terry Nathan and Vice President of Operations Peter Kazmir.

Our first activity is to build a modular layout based on Austin, Round Rock and Taylor. We have created a module standard that is being produced by David Petersen of Masterpiece Modules in Austin that allows for prototype operations and train show display running.

<http://www.masterpiecemodules.com/contact.php>

The Austin Area Train Show was revived this year for the first weekend in May. It was well-attended and plans are already underway for next year’s show.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Duane Richardson reported:

Below are the AP Certificates Awarded since last year's convention:

Ken Mason - Golden Spike
Pete Leach - Prototype Modeler
Pete Leach - Cars

Roy Stockard - Scenery
Marc LaChey - Scenery
Jeff Palmer - Official
Joseph Sorensen - Structures
Steve Jackobs - Golden Spike
Mike Mackey - Structures

I have just gotten paperwork from Don Hand and I processing it now.

Contest Chair Loren Neufeld reported:

Since the Annual Convention is yet to happen, the contest report will be a short one.

Supplies for the upcoming convention have been purchased or ordered. The ribbons have been purchased as well as the wood for the plaques. Plastic for the plaques have been ordered from Casey and Cody and will be delivered to the convention. Since the Bob Clarke award was given out last year a new plaque has been ordered.

Special contest for this year will be "Outhouse" - any size, any scale, any category - structure, diorama. rolling stock, bridge (???), whatever.

The theme for Arts & Crafts is "Bayou".
Since I was elected President I will be giving up my duties as Contest Co-chair and Loren Neufeld will continue as Contest Chair. This doesn't mean that I will not be helping Loren in the contest room.

Convention Chair Marc LaChey was just appointed - No Report

Historian Chair Jim Long – No Report.

Nominating Chair Blake Bogs reported:

We had 124 votes. This was made up of 6 ballots via mail and 118 online votes. This is compared to the 2013 election (112 votes), 2014 election (around 120 votes), 2014 constitution change (141 votes), 2015 election (107 votes), 2015 constitution change election (91 votes) , and 2016 election (98 votes).

President: Winner- Chuck Lind
Treasurer: Winner- Gert 'Jim' Muller aka Speed
Division 1 Director: Mike Mackey
Division 3: Winner- Donna Orr
Division 5: Winner- David Lambert
Division 7: Winner- Don Kimmel

**Division 2, 4, 6, 8, Secretary, Vice President and Directors at Large---
Running on 2018 Ballot**

Nomination Period will close December 1, 2017.

Non-Rail Virginia Feritag not present – **No Report.**

Publications Chair Riley Triggs reported:

Report of year's activities

The emphasis continues to be on the regular column contributors providing a strong base of material. Gert "Speed" Muller, Blake Bogs, Peter Kazmir and Duane Richardson are doing a tremendous job at producing interesting, informative and educational material for our membership.

I would like to bring focus on featuring layouts of region members, as well as contest and AP recognition. The contest and AP recognition have had an increased presence in the ML, and the interest in layout features is growing. I will need to take a more active role in producing the layout content.

Metrics

Jeff Palmer has provided some metrics for the consumption of the Marker Lamp. He indicates that 65% of 1100 members download the Marker Lamp from the email he sends out at publication time. Of that total, 53.4% download during the initial announcement and another 10.7% over the balance of the month.

Areas to address

Advertising in Pike and Dealer ads still need attention. There has been some interest in upgrading ads to color, but no new pike nor dealers are participating. There has been no particular effort to acquire new ads this year, but this is an ongoing situation.

Long term projects update

Major projects are on hold to gather time and resources to accomplish them.

Website Chair Jeff Palmer reported that:

Since moving to the new website and hosting service along with using archive.org to maintain our downloadable material, the security for the website has been

maintained at a very high level. While the event logs shows a number of unauthorized attempts to logon to the site, none have succeeded.

The election was held on the www.geekwithtrains.com website; a website donated for LSR use by Chris Atkins. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for allowing the LSR to use the site. The election was held for the month of March and we had over 120 LSR members participate. I am hoping that Chris will allow us to use the site again for next year's election.

As to the Officer's Page, the security methodology has changed on how to secure site content, and I'm still in the process of learning how to work with the new approach. Not wanting to rock the boat so to speak, I have done very little to move this process forward. After all of the issues late last year, I just wanted stability. For those of you who want to view the Officer's Page, use the following URL - <http://www.lonestarregion.com/node/7>. Please remember, right now security is by obscurity or the general lack of availability of the material. No logon required. Don't share.

At present, I'm busy working with the 2017 Convention Committee pumping out MailChimp messages to the LSR membership, advertising the upcoming convention. Also busy making reports, motions and other information available online.

Youth Chair, Jim Lemmond was just appointed – No Report.

Education Chair, Bob Barnett reports:

So far 2017 has been a busy year for presentations around the LSR.

In the Gulf Coast area we have the following clinics (Presentations):

Planned for the upcoming Lone Star Region Convention:

1. **Forestry 101 -Tree Building Clinic – Steve Nelson:** Steve Nelson models the MKT in the Booneville, Missouri area. His layout includes some of the most realistic old oaks ever modeled. Steve has put together a comprehensive clinic on modeling trees using a variety of techniques and materials along with an excellent handout. Steve hails from Cedar Creek near Austin and is our western-most forestry expert presenting tree clinic at the 2017 LSR.
2. **Forestry 201 - Trees for the High Country – Rod Fredericks –** Rod models the narrow gauge in Colorado and has assembled an excellent presentation on modeling the spruce, firs and aspens common to that region. Rod hails from Baton Rouge and is our eastern-most tree expert (who models the trees of the West).
3. **Norma Brignac - Painting Backdrops: HANDS ON CLINIC.** Norma is a local artist with a gift for teaching. She has given these hands on clinics several times, with the results being some modelers leave the clinic

as talented painters. Each hands on participant will be given a small canvas (actually blue painted foam board) and loaned the brushes and paint to complete a small back drop painting during the clinic.

4. Pete Leach – Backdrop Painting: Pete will show you how some simple back drop additions can enhance the appearance of your railroad. With a series of before and after shots Pete will demonstrate how the depth and overall quality of a scene can be improved as demonstrated on his Maine 2-footer railroad.

5. George Werner – 70 Years of Rail-fanning around Houston: Noted Texas Rail Historian and Houstonian George Werner will present favorite shots from the Forties, Fifties and Sixties taken by George of the Houston and Gulf Coast rail scene. Many of George's photographs have found their way into railroad publication over the last several years. This is an opportunity to see vintage and rare photographs with commentary from the photographer.

6. Al Partlow – Houston Railroads – Post War to Present: This presentation includes a detailed look at the railroads that served Houston from the years following World War II to present times. Photos of railroad action in the Houston area from numerous photographers and collections include the Santa Fe, Burlington Northern, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Missouri Pacific, Missouri Kansas & Texas, Fort Worth & Denver, Rock Island, Texas & New Orleans/Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Kansas City Southern, Houston Belt & Terminal and the Port Terminal railroads.

7. David Currey – Operation on the Brownie in the late 1970's early 1980's: Dave was a brakemen running on the Brownie in the late MoPac/early UP era. He gives a first-hand account of operating on the line south of Houston where many of the nation's largest chemical plants are located. He will discuss interchange with the various lines that crossed the Brownie in the Corpus Christi/ Port Aransas area.

8. Steve Sandifer - T&P Steam in the 1940's: the Photography of William Davis Sandifer: Bill Sandifer was a T&P fan all of his life (1925-2005). His best childhood friend was Ed Robinson whose photos of the T&P have often been published, but Sandifer kept his photos for private use. Steve Sandifer, MMR, will show a collection of never-before-seen photos of T&P steam shot primarily around Marshall, Texarkana, Shreveport, and Bunkie.

9. Tom Marsh – A Railfan Flashback: Flashback to raifanning in the '70s, '80s and '90s with this old-fashioned, pre-digital age Kodak Carousel slide show. We'll see action and roster shots capturing the spirit of the Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, Katy, MoPac, Rock Island, early Amtrak and more. Experience it all: fading Ektachromes, brilliant Kodachromes, cheap camera lenses, off-brand processing and if we're lucky, a slide tray jam or two. Most of these slides have not seen a projector bulb for 25 years or more (some not ever), so hang on for a nostalgia rush!

10. Al Partlow - Modeling the T&NO Hearne Sub – An Update: The Texas & New Orleans Hearne Sub is a 20' x 38' HO scale model railroad that depicts operations on the T&NO Dallas and Austin Divisions in the

early 1950s. The railroad includes the major terminal at Houston, including Houston Grand Central Station, as well as the towns of Hockley, Hempstead, Navasota and Hearne. A major classification yard is featured at Hearne. The Austin Sub leaves the mainline at Hempstead for Austin and the Texas Hill Country. Equipment includes both steam and first generation diesels, typical passenger consists, and era specific freight cars and cabooses. Signature structures include the unique Hearne Passenger Depot, the Hempstead Depot and the large rice dryer at Hockley.

11. Chuck Lind, MMR - Logging and Sawmill Operations in East Texas and Louisiana - This will be a power point presentation showing logging and sawmill operations using prototype photos as a reference and then showing how to model these operations. It will start with the timber harvesting and the variety of ways the logs were loaded brought to the sawmill using both wagons and the railroads. Various types of mill operations will be covered using both husk and band saws. Planer mills and final shipping will complete the presentation. Will cover the period from 1900 to 1940's.

12. Phil Stewart –Louisiana Plantation Railroads 1895-1970 – Seventy Five Years along the Sugar Cane Route: Phil will present over 100 vintage photos of narrow gauge locomotives and rolling stock that operated on the 150 plantations that utilized railroads in the early 20th Century. He will discuss the history, operations, scenery, and structures of the Louisiana sugar country that extend from Lafayette to New Orleans along the Mississippi.

13. Greg Johnson – Modeling Industrial Parks and Districts of the Houston area: Greg will discuss the operation and modeling of Houston area industrial districts with particular emphasis on the Santa Fe Industrial District along Mykawa Road. Greg is meticulous in his research and planning and has built several excellent layouts. Come see the latest of his projects.

14. Steve Sandifer – Livestock Handling on the Santa Fe: Steve has done extensive research on the handling of livestock on the railroads in general and the Santa Fe in particular. He is currently in the process of writing a book on the subject and will share some of the knowledge gained in his quest to document this now-fading part of our southwestern railroad heritage.

15. Bob Barnett – Modeling the Cotton Industry in Texas: Houston was founded as the head of Navigation on Buffalo Bayou as a cotton port. Galveston was the second largest cotton port in the South. Before the Spindletop gusher, Cotton was Houston's game. Bob will discuss the cotton industry in Texas from planting, harvest, ginning, the gin building, compresses, shipping to the ports and overseas shipping.

16. Greg Johnson - Designing your own laser-engraved structures: Greg once built a large industrial layout featuring steel mills, foundries and heavy smoke stack industries. Come see his latest efforts at modeling industries more common in the industrial south west.

17. **Dane Richardson, MMR – Modeling Structures:** MMR Duane Richardson has presented dozens of clinics covering techniques for modeling structures. An expert modeler and popular clinician around the LSR and the Narrow Gauge Conventions, come learn from a veteran builder.

Presented at the 2017 Greater Houston Train Show Sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club:

1. **Steve Barkley- Model Railroad Signaling:** A presentation on model railroad signaling that covers the types of signaling used on the prototype, including ABS and CTC, as well as interlocking signals. He will show how you can simulate the prototype's signal systems on your model railroad to give it that extra touch of realism.
2. **Tom Palmer- A Houston Dirt Track Railroad:** A presentation on the Texas Western—a review of a Houston area short-lived railroad. Information presented is from city, county and state historical archives.
3. **Norma Brignac- “Hands On” Scenery Backdrop Painting:** A hands-on clinic where a number of participants from the audience will be able to learn and utilize the techniques necessary to create realistic backdrops. From fields to trees, and water to skies, Norma's clinic will cover it all.
4. **David A. Petersen - Modeling Railroads on Your Computer - An Introduction to Virtual Modeling”:** Virtual modeling allows you to create a complete railroad on your computer with highly detailed scenery, structures and rolling stock—everything you need to have a fully operational railroad including multi-user operating sessions. David will explore Trainz software and the possibilities this modeling medium offers the model railroader.
5. **Pete Leach - “Easy Backdrop Painting”:** Pete will demonstrate how he quickly paints visually effective backdrops using a minimum of colors on the palette. He explains how he uses various techniques and how it visually affects the viewer. His methods are great for creating background hills and mountains, as well as the fields in the valleys. The way he creates buildings and other structures on the backdrop is truly eye opening.
6. **Al Partlow - "Houston Railroads - Postwar to Present":** Al's presentation will include photos of Houston area railroading from the Post World War II Era to the present, and from a number of different photographers.

Lone Star Region Division 8 Meetings (To be added during the Calendar Year)

Lone Star Region Division 1 Meetings (To be added during the Calendar Year)

Lone Star Region Division 3 Meetings (To be added during the Calendar Year)

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reports:

We are gaining ground as more folks are sending in notices for up-coming events, though I am still getting some notices few days or so after I have submitted the

column. There have been several folks who have called, following up with e-mails with more details.

Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details:
bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all:

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Membership Chair, open position – No Report.

Photography, Dave Lamberts – No Report.

Parliamentarian, Ray Byer just appointed – No Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Donna Orr provided a budget report, **Ray Byer** provided a motion and seconded by **Duane Richardson** to approve the budget as submitted - **2017-06-07 LSR Motion 4, passed.**

Donna reported that the audit was done by **Bob Barnett** and **Gert Muller**. The LSR books balanced. **2017-06-07 LSR Motion 5, passed,** to accept the audit results.

Donna opened the discussion on “Division Treasurers” by stating that this was a recommendation, not a requirement. She then pointed out that several divisions chose to leave their distributed funds in the LSR account as noted in the Treasurer’s Report. There was a question about making the Division Treasurer an LSR position. It was pointed out that if the decision was made to do that, it would require a constitutional change and a membership vote. It was also noted that since the LSR is a 501(3) the accounts would have to be open to the public and to LSR supervision and reporting. The consensus of the discussion was to leave the Division Treasurer’s position at the division level and the position is a suggestion not a requirement.

During the discussion it was pointed out that some division were having difficulty opening bank accounts. It was pointed out that this is NOT an LSR account and the LSR should not be part of the account name. No LSR officers are authorized to open divisional accounts as that would require that the LSR Treasurer to oversee the account.

Donna also provided the BOD with the following about travel and other tax tips:

Tips for Taxpayers Who Travel for Charity Work

IRS Summertime Tax Tip 2013-05, July 12, 2013

Do you plan to travel while doing charity work this summer? Some travel expenses may help lower your taxes if you itemize deductions when you file next year. Here are five tax tips the IRS wants you to know about travel while serving a charity.

1. You must volunteer to work for a qualified organization. Ask the charity about its tax-exempt status. You can also visit IRS.gov and use the Select Check tool to see if the group is qualified.
2. You may be able to deduct unreimbursed travel expenses you pay while serving as a volunteer. You can't deduct the value of your time or services.
3. The deduction qualifies only if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the travel. However, the deduction will qualify even if you enjoy the trip.
4. You can deduct your travel expenses if your work is real and substantial throughout the trip. You can't deduct expenses if you only have nominal duties or do not have any duties for significant parts of the trip.
5. Deductible travel expenses may include:
 - Air, rail and bus transportation
 - Car expenses
 - Lodging costs
 - The cost of meals
 - Taxi fares or other transportation costs between the airport or station and your hotel

To learn more see Publication 526, Charitable Contributions. The booklet is available at IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Barkley opened the new business portion of the annual meeting with the Ratification of Election and Recognition of new Officers. With their presentation and acceptance, motion **designated as 2017-06-07 LSR Motion 2 passed. The new officers are:**

President: Chuck Lind
Treasurer: Gert 'Jim' Muller aka Speed
Division 1 Director: Mike Mackey
Division 3 Director: Donna Orr

Division 5 Director: David Lambert
Division 7 Director: Don Kimmel

Chuck Lind's first order of business was to ask for the ratification of the new chair positions (motion **designated as 2017-06-07 LSR Motion 6 passed**) for:

Convention Chair – Marc LaChey
Youth Chair – Jim Lemmond
Parliamentarian – Ray Byer
Loren Neufeld – Contest Chair

Marc LaChey made a presentation about the LSR co-sponsoring the **Sn3 Symposium** in Garland, TX. April 5 to April 7, 2018. **Rod Frederson** provided the motion and seconded by **Jim Lemmond**. **Motion 2017-06-07 LSR Motion 3** passed. Everyone in the LSR is encouraged to attend. To register go to: <http://2018sn3symposium.com/>

Jim Lemmond opened a brief discussion about Youth Awards and the need for the divisions to step up. The one Youth Award this year went to **Nathan Lind** of **Division 8**. Jim would like to see a Youth Award from each division in the future.

Blake Bogs reminded the BOD of the next election of Officer's – **Vice President, Secretary, Division 2, 4, 6, 8 Directors, and At-Large Directors 1, 2, 3**. The cut-off date for submitting profiles and getting on the ballot is December 1, 2017.

Marc LaChey opened a discussion on future conventions. He introduced some ideas about future conventions including those made to him by **Mike Mackey**, the Division 1 Director. A motion was made to form a convention committee to study some of the ideas and explore other opportunities as it relates to future conventions but the LSR By-Laws defines the Regional Convention Committee to consist of the LSR President, LSR Vice-President, Treasurer, and Regional Convention Chairman. There will be others added to this committee as needed (**Article V Section 5**).

Tom Marsh, the 2017 Convention Treasurer, updated the board on the financial status as of the start of the convention. He thought the convention was going to break even.

Riley Triggs, presented a presentation for the 2018 LSR Convention. The Convention will be held in Round Rock, TX. June 20-24, 2018. The motion to accept this proposal was made by Marc LaChey, and seconded by Jeff Palmer; **Motion 2017-06-07 LSR Motion 9**, and passed. Well done Riley. The presentation was a hit.

Jeff Palmer approached the board with an issue concerning **Joseph Sorenson** and entering a contest model. After discussing Joseph's handicap and physical situation, the BOD allowed Joseph to enter his model.

Chuck Lind closed the meeting thanking everyone for their participation and expressed how he was looking forward to working with everyone on the BOD.

Chuck Lind closed the meeting at 4:10 PM