



# Ties and Rails

Official newsletter of the Crossville Model Railroad Club  
and Div. 16, Southeast Region, NMRA

October 2022

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

## **The Prez. Sez:**

Welcome to Fall in Tennessee. Cool nights and warm days.

I am asking members to step up and help with two things happening in November. We have the Swap Meet on the 5th and 6th of November. We still need volunteers on those days. The sign-up sheet is on the back bulletin board.

We also have the Steam event on Friday, the 18th of November, at North Cumberland Elementary School. It starts at 5 PM and runs to 7:30 PM. If you can help, please contact Ann by Email or phone. This should be a great contact between the Club and the local community. It is also a great contact to future Railroaders.

We still have not heard any updates on the mall situation. This could be a good thing or bad, but we still need to carry on as a Club and Museum.

Hang in there; things tend to get better.

One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.

## *CMRC Treats . . . .*

### **Clam Chowder - Great Northern Style**

1 lb. onions	1 gal. clam juice
1/2 lb. salt pork	1 gal. beef stock
8 lbs. fresh clams	1 qt. tomatoes
1/4 lb. lard	2 lbs. potatoes

Braise the onions and salt pork in the lard. When well cooked, add enough flour to absorb the moisture. Combine all in stock pot and bring slowly to boiling point. Simmer one hour.

*From: recipes of the Great Northern Railway*

## **Marketing Committee    Ralph Watson**

Fall is in the air, football season is well underway, pumpkins are everywhere.

This column is being interrupted for a **Special Bulletin** from CMRC News:

Any of you that have pictures of our picnic, recent handiwork on a layout, or an award presentation, please send them to me pronto so I can add them to the Web Site.

We now return you to our regular column:

The next big event on the CMRC calendar is our Swap Meet to be

*Cont. on page 2*

## Visitor's Log

Tom Shallcross

Now that school is back in session, our visitor count is dropping back somewhat.

During the month of September, we had 1,461 visitors to our displays. Of those visitors, 270 signed our guest registry, representing 28 states and foreign countries. The states represented were AL, AR, CA, CT, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NV, OH, OK, PA, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA and WY. We also had visitors from Canada and Scotland.

Of the 91 families/groups that signed the registry, 15 were referred by friends while 20 learned about us from our website. 41 were just "walk-ins".

Some of the interesting comments were:

"This is the best thing in Crossville"

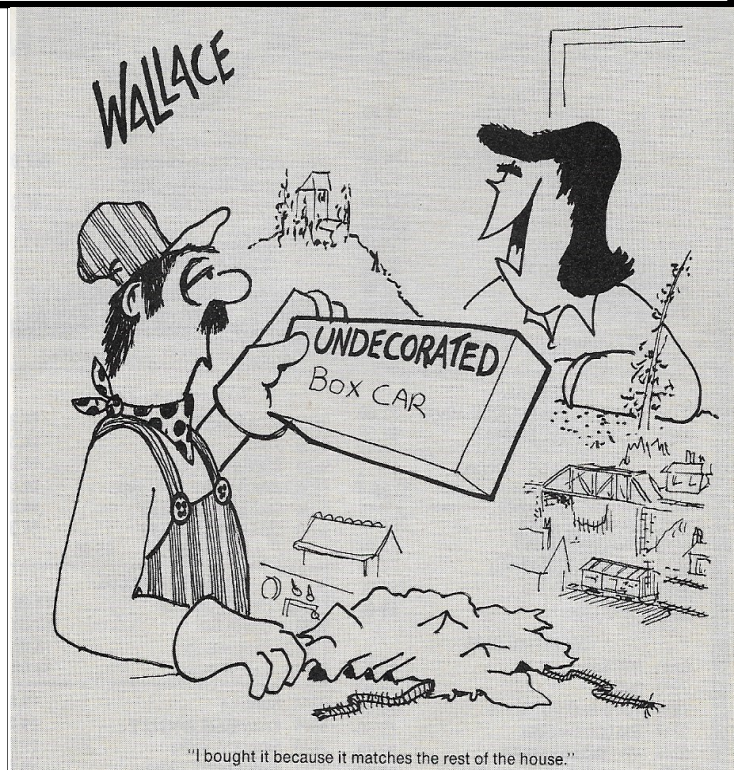
"Great, loved Army and lumber"

"Best I've seen!"

"Loved this so much, can't wait to come back"

## Train Show

**October 8 & 9** - 31st Annual Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show; Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO; Hours: Saturday 10 am—4 pm; Sunday 10 am—3 pm; Admission: \$7 adults, 12 and under are free; For more information, visit [www.mvns.railfan.net](http://www.mvns.railfan.net) and [www.seetrains.com](http://www.seetrains.com)

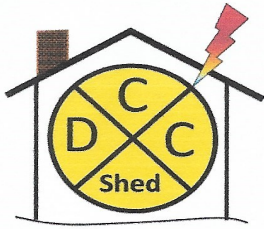


*Marketing cont. from page 1*

held November 5 & 6 at the Mall in Suite 121 directly across from the Ice Cream store. Tables are being reserved, helpers are signing up and things are looking pretty good. Still have not heard back from Scale Trains if they can make it, that would be great!

Next after the Swap Meet, things are moving toward a repeat of the Lights Out evening event in CMRC on Friday and Saturday, December 16 and 17. Lets get those layouts decorated and tuned up to host an after-hours extravaganza.

As always, more hands make the work easier so please consider stepping up to help Marketing and Public Relations plan and get the work out about "The World's Best Hobby".



## The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome to the Shed. Step in, have a seat and chat about DCC with special attention to our new members. Back to basics.

Let's start with what is DCC? According to the NMRA (<http://www.nmra.org/standards/DCC/DCCHome.html>) DCC is an acronym for Digital Command Control. DCC is a standard to operate model railways with a digital system. With DCC equipped locomotives on the same section of track, each can be independently controlled via a digital system. The NMRA published their first DCC standard in 1994, nearly 30 years ago. Other electrical devices can be DCC equipped to provide control as well. Anything that one previously controlled with a switch or rheostat can also be DCC managed.

Like any topic, DCC, has its share of jargon. Some are familiar terms but with DCC the meanings are revised a bit. Let's just start with a few. Throttle, power supply, command station, mobile decoder, stationary decoders and addressing.

The throttle like our new UT6Ds or your cell phone is the piece you interact with to tell the system what locomotive you want to run and what the locomotive is to do. Direction and speed are the basics, but can also include lighting and sound effects.

Power supplies for DCC are constant voltage types, unlike the variable voltage types used in DC operations.

Command stations contain a microprocessor that interprets your throttle commands and then is-

sues digital signals (information packets) that are transmitted along with the power supplied to the track.

Mobile decoders reside in the loco or its tender and respond to the digital signals sent by the command station. The electrical parts of the locomotive are connected to and are provided power from the decoder. So when the decoder is told to turn on the forward light, it powers that light.

Stationary decoders are (guess what?) not mobile. They are used to, maybe activate turnouts or signals from digital signals containing information packets sent from the command station.

Addressing is the way that each decoder is identified in the system. Let's take two locomotives on the same track that have decoders with two different addresses. Each decoder will only react to commands that are addressed to it, and ignore all other commands it sees. It is in this way two locomotives on the same track can be independently controlled (Speed, direction, etc.).

Lots more to learn and enjoy. For example, check out the HO update this month. Next month DIY?

Remember, one on one training & help is always available. If you experience any unexplained issues with the current DCC installations, HO or N, please document what you have encountered in an E-mail, or a note to Paul and/or Art. We welcome your interest and comments. Feel free to contact either Paul Falk ([pfalk1@gmail.com](mailto:pfalk1@gmail.com)) or Art Landrigan ([arcy22tn@gmail.com](mailto:arcy22tn@gmail.com)) with questions, comments or ideas.

It is against the law to sneeze on a train in West Virginia.

## ANOTHER FANTASTIC SWAP MEET

CMRC is holding another swap meet for members and the general public to buy, sell and trade EVERYTHING railroad. This will be a **2** day event on November 5th and 6th, Saturday and Sunday, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The location is the friendly confines of Lander's Crossroads (Outlet Center) in a larger space than previously used and with no limit on tables. Tables will be \$15. per 8 foot space. Bring your own if you want, but the price is the same so why haul that heavy thing around? The round tables will NOT be used.

Publicity will be done in local media, Facebook, CMRC web site, Hobby shops, other clubs and NMRA Southeastern Region magazine. We are inviting Scale Trains to set up a booth, putting a notice on Model Railroad Hobbyist forums, and sending a copy of our flyer to other RR clubs.

This event is open to the public and admission is FREE. At that point, there will be only 50 more days until Christmas.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED-VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED-VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

Now the bad news. To make this happen, there will be a need for many people to:

1. distribute flyers and posters
2. Set up the room with tables and chairs
3. Staff the CMRC suite for members who are involved as sellers or helpers
4. Greeters, Ambassadors and Security (bouncers)
5. Housekeeping
6. Selling popcorn and drinks
7. Gophers for anything and everything

The first to sign up for tables (and pay) or for a job gets to pick the location or job. There will be a sign up sheet on the front desk in suite #109 for tables and for tasks starting on 9/1. More details will be on the sign up sheets. Money for tables can be left in the club cash box. PLEASE include your name and what date and time you put it in there.

For questions, details and suggestions, contact RALPH WATSON 931-248-4263 [RXALPH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RXALPH@GMAIL.COM) OR [CROSSVILLETRAINS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CROSSVILLETRAINS@GMAIL.COM)

## HO Scale News - Paul Falk

The first phase of HO tower improvements have been completed. The improvements have been undertaken to both simplify the DCC portion of the layout to be more reliable and robust.

Two new generation UT6D throttles have been purchased and can be found in the top drawer in the tower. These are very easy to operate and are very capable for single handed throttle work. These have AA batteries installed and will last for many hours. Please use the supplied lanyard to keep the UT6D safe from meeting the floor. The UT6D even provides for MU (consisting locomotives). See attached Quick Reference sheet and take a moment to read the full manual located under the tower.

The Digitrax DCS51 Zephyr has been relocated from the speed-match table to the tower and configured as a stationary throttle. Think of it like a power pack for DCC. Addi-

tionally the Zephyr provides an easily accessed track power on/off control. See the Quick Reference sheet and take a moment to read the full manual located under the tower.

Only one UT4 utility throttle is still available. The UT4 is a simple tethered throttle. See Quick Reference Sheet.

The three Quick Reference sheets above are available on the tower as hard copies.

The LNWI wifi remains available if you still want to use your own tablet or smart phone as a throttle.

The BLI address changer is now kept in the tower. This unit is unparalleled for its ease in setting the cab number on most decoders. Loco resets are also easy. See instructions on the back of the unit or in the wooden box. Programming beyond address changes will be reestablished soon on the soon to be updated speedmatch table.

Please remember the

*cont. on page 6*

## HO Scale News - Paul Falk

*Cont. from page 5*

default mode for the HO layout DC. So always assure the layout is return to DC mode when shutting down.

## STEAM

Some of you may have heard of the program STEAM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The principal of North Cumberland Elementary School asked us to participate in their first STEAM night — where the parents and children will have a chance to see some on this first hand. The focus on this night, Friday, Nov. 18, will be land transportation.

We had our first meeting to discuss what we can do and this is what we came up with, so far. If you have any suggestions or can volunteer, please let Ann or Bobbi know.

Paul is going to cover electronics for the older children.

Jim G. is going to display different freight cars and their cargo.

Sam will do a progression of engines from steam and up.

Bruce is going to run a Lionel train along with Sam's circus train.

Terry is going to run the N scale travel-

ing layout.

Bobbi is going to talk about the different railroads that ran in Tennessee.

Russ Childs is going to bring his Promontory Point display and talk about the 2 railroads that were involved.

We need some volunteers to help:

1. Someone with a van or truck with covered bed to transport the N scale layout from museum to school and back again.
2. Someone to pass out stickers.
3. A few more people to help out in general.

The date is Friday, November 18 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at North Cumberland Elementary School.

Any questions, call Ann 931-337-4831.



"This house was previously owned by a model railroader."

## Digitrax UT6D

## Quick Reference

Sept 29 2022

See Reverse for Diagrams, Button Definitions & Notes

### Power Up

1. Power up the layout as normal. The UT6D should have its 3 AA batteries installed. Push the power button to turn on. Test connectivity with the bottom of power button then TRK OFF (8) TRK ON (9) Soft Keys. If not connected, briefly use loconet cable to any fascia loconet port to assign the UT6D to the CMRCHO channel.
2. The UT6 will beep and flash-up a start screen that includes the text "Welcome to UT6" and other information, and then reverts to a normal Home screen. The STATUS BAR will show the text "LN" to indicate connection via a LocoNet, and green "Trk" letters if the track power is ON.

### Loco Selection

Remember to set loop to DCC

1. Press the loco key, then the key in the cab numbers & press loco key again. The Cab number will turn **bold** on the screen.
2. The direction switch on the top sets Reverse(Left) Brake (Center) Forward (Right) Current direction is also shown to the left of the loco number.
3. The Throttle Knob increases speed when turned clockwise & decreases counter-clockwise. This knob is defined by Digitrax as balastic knob as the faster it is turned the quicker the rate of change.
4. Centering the Direction Switch (Brake) will gradually stop the loco.
5. Hold the down X button for one second to issue an "Emergency STOP"

Please Note in normal operation the display will blank to conserve battery. This does not affect the use of direction switch or the Throttle Knob

If a loco is used by another throttle (or has not been properly dispatched) the UT6D will display "adr-busy" and instruct you to steal or not with the two lower soft keys. Yes/No

### Loco Dispatching

When done with the cab number press loco key followed by the menu key. Soft key 7 will offer Dispch, press it one time.

### Multiple Unit Loco Selection (*Consisting*)

Please refer to the full manual listed below, pages 12 -14. Section 4.9.1 is critical to run locos back to back. Follow it carefully.

### The Function Keys

There are 10 physical keys assigned for functions F0-F9. All the UT6D functions work like other Digitrax throttles. The function keys toggle on and off with *each press*, except for F2, which is ON only when held down, and OFF when released. The 0 thru 9 numbers on the display will light show which functions are active. Note the Fn0+ notation next to the F key. Each press of the F key increments this notation Fn0+, F10+, F20+. This is used to provide Function 10 thru 29. So F10+ followed by the 6 button is function sixteen. If you are pressing button 0 and not illuminating the headlight, remember to check for the Fn0+ notation. The Function keys are also soft keys when there is a notation in Upper & Lower softkey lines.

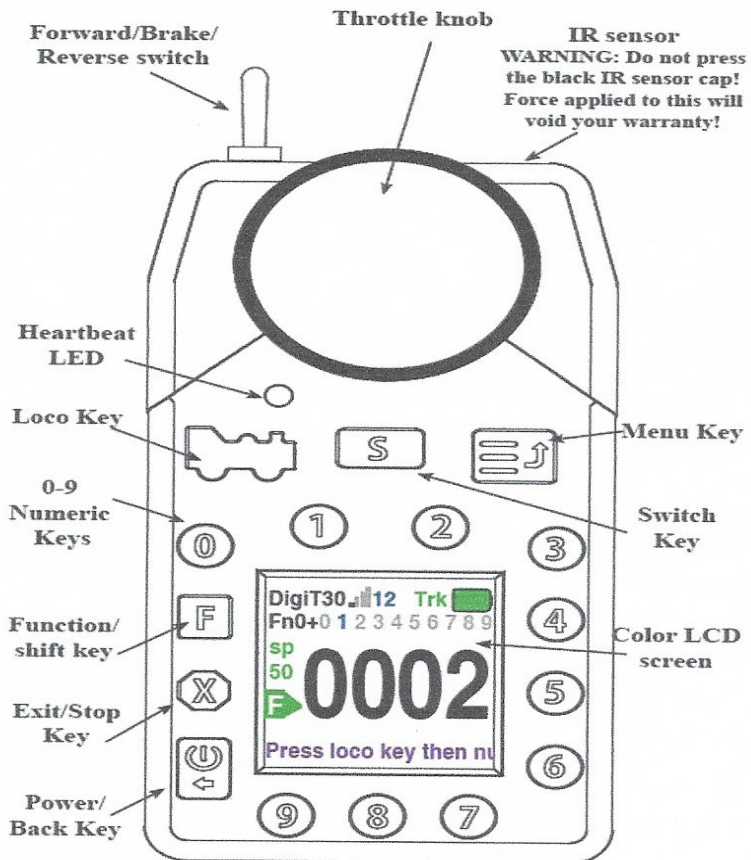
### Turnout Operation

To change the position of a turnout:

Press the S (switch key). The last switch address you selected will be displayed in the top area of the display. If switch number 0033 was the last you used and was thrown, the display will show "Switch:0033=Throw". Use the numeric keypad to enter the turnout address for the turnout or switch you want to change. Press F button to toggle between "Thrown" action, and "Close", to change the turnout. When you have finished your switch operations, press X button to return HOME to normal operation mode. Remember: The "Close" or "Throw" shown in the display may or may not match the physical position of the turnout selected.

NOTE: When you are in switch control mode, the throttle knob and the locomotive direction switch will continue to drive the loco address running on the throttle, but the numeric keys are used for switch address selection and not function control.

For Complete Instructions Please Refer to the UT6 Manual in the tower or online at  
<https://www.digitrax.com/products/throttles/ut6/>



Turn UT6D off when storing. Bottom of power button then soft key 7 to turn off. No need to remove batteries.

**IMPORTANT**

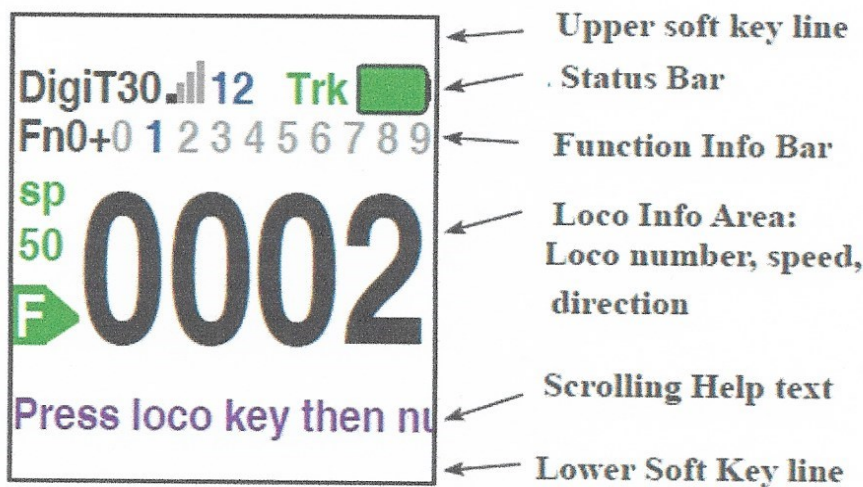
*Extreme Care is Required When Replacing AA batteries. Polarity Must Match the Label in the Battery Compartment*

**LANYARD**

Please use the attached lanyard to keep the throttle from finding the floor!

**Power/Back Key**

This a rocker button. Use bottom half to access soft keys. Trk Off | Trk On

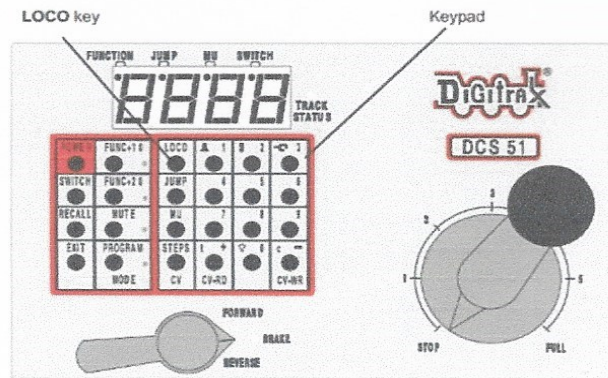
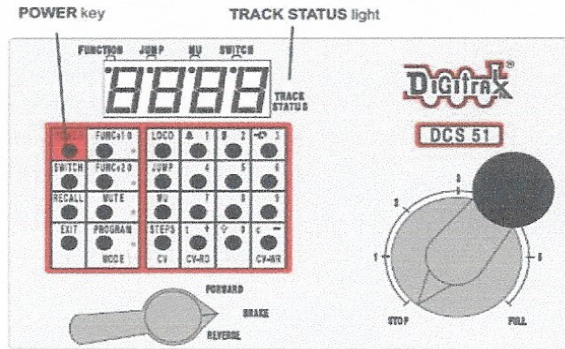




## Digitrax DCS51

CMRC Sept 9 2022

The DCS51 has been installed a stationary throttle for the HO layout. This means it is always available without any additional setup. A KEY feature is there is now a full time layout DCC Track Power Key. Pressing the power key will cycle between on and off. The track status light will illuminate when on. (as well as the RRMeter on the tower)



### Loco Selection

Turn throttle full counter-clockwise to Stop.

Set direction Knob to BRAKE

Press the **LOCO** key to begin the selection process. The Display will begin flashing either "LOCO" or the last address selected on the throttle.

Use the numeric keypad to enter the desired Cab Number

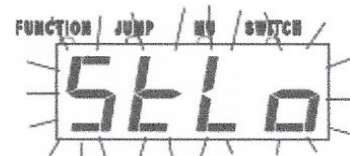
Press the **LOCO** key again to confirm your selection and set address. The display will stop blinking and you will have control of the selected locomotive.

Select direction and desired speed.

**To steal an address:** (that has not been properly dispatched)

Press the **LOCO** key, then enter the address for the loco and press **LOCO** to select the loco on your throttle. The display will first show the loco address then the following: StLo

Press the **LOCO** key to accept control of the loco.



### Forward/Brake/Reverse

Changing the Direction switch from 'Forward'(F) to the center 'Brake' position causes the loco to stop at the loco's programmed deceleration rate. Changing quickly from Forward to Reverse causes the loco to stop at the programmed deceleration rate, then reverse direction and accelerate at the loco's programmed acceleration rate.

### Dispatching **REMEMBER to Dispatch!**

Dispatching is the process of releasing a loco so that another user can take control of it. To release, or dispatch, a loco under current DCS51 control:

Press the **LOCO** key to begin.. The Display will begin flashing the current address.

Press the **EXIT** key. The Display will Change to LOCO

### The Function Keys

There are 10 physical keys assigned for functions F0-F9. For function 10 thru 19, first press FUNC+10 key to illuminate it. For function 20 thru 29, first press FUNC+20 key to illuminate it. Both the FUNC+ key must be off to return to F0-F9. All the DCS51 functions keys work like other Digitrax throttles. The function keys toggle on and off with *each press*, except for F2, which is ON only when held down, and OFF when released.

The DCS51 will turn on and off with the HO layout power main switch.  
This DCS51 is configured as a throttle ONLY and is not capable of programming.

More complete instructions are available in the DCS51 manual in the rack below. MU or Consisting locos starts on page 32 of the manual.



**Plateau Division**  
**Southeastern Region**  
**National Model Railroad Assoc.**



Congratulations to Bobbi Dean as she received her Certificate of Achievement as a Master Builder — Cars.

She is on her way to completing her Master Model Railroader certification!

## NMRA Elections

Just a brief reminder that our local Division will be holding elections at their November meeting.

Those positions up for election are the Superintendent (President), Chief Clerk (Secretary) and one Director.

If you are interested in running, please contact Vince D’Alessandro.

Our Division has received the following E-mail in part:

“Dear NMRA SER members:

The purpose of this email is to make you aware of a new, Limited-Edition, HO scale freight car that Cincinnati Division 7 is now offering for sale/purchase. It is a N&W HC-46 ACF 2-bay Covered Hopper in a unique repaint scheme with patched-out data.

The following link provides details about it as well as pricing, shipping and ordering information. <https://www.cincy-div7.org/projects.html>.

We thank you in advance for your support!”

## G Scale News - Ted Polczynski

If you take an engine off the track- - PLEASE let me know why. Was something wrong with it? There are repair tickets by the yellow box by the mountain or email me or write it on the white board but let me know!

## Railroad Names

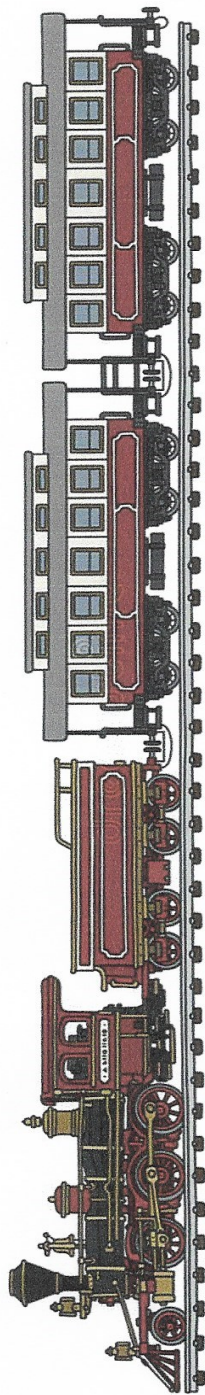
D	N	O	R	F	O	L	K	W	E	S	T	E	R
E	N	R	S	O	O	L	I	N	E	C	X	S	C
T	K	O	N	L	O	N	G	I	S	L	A	N	D
S	O	U	T	H	E	R	P	A	C	I	F	I	C
I	E	C	I	F	I	C	A	P	N	O	I	N	U
N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	C	E	N	T	R	A	L
A	D	N	A	L	S	I	K	C	O	R	O	O	R
A	W	E	N	N	S	E	A	B	O	A	R	D	A
I	R	E	I	O	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	A	T
S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	L	L	S	X	I	S
G	R	E	A	T	N	O	R	T	H	E	R	N	F
N	N	Y	C	H	I	C	S	T	L	O	U	I	S
O	I	H	O	E	R	O	M	I	T	L	A	B	S
N	O	T	G	N	I	L	R	U	B	T	K	C	F

NY CHIC STLOUIS  
 SOUTHER PACIFIC  
 SEABOARD  
 UNION PACIFIC  
 LONG ISLAND  
 SOO LINE  
 NEW YORK CENTRAL  
 BALTIMORE OHIO  
 NORFOLK WESTER  
 SOUTHERN  
 BURLINGTON  
 GREAT NORTHERN  
 ROCK ISLAND  
 READING  
 ATSF  
 CSX

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/4103782/>



Billboard in Springfield, Missouri.



# Model Train Swap Meet

**NOV. 5th & 6th 10am-4pm**  
Saturday Sunday Set-up Nov 4th 3-7pm

Located in **the Lander's Crossroads**

**Exit 320 off I-40 Behind BUC-EES  
Table Rental \$15 per 8'**

To Reserve Space Contact

Ralph Watson 931-248-4263 [crossvilletrains@gmail.com](mailto:crossvilletrains@gmail.com)

**FREE Admission**

**SPONSORED BY THE CROSSVILLE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**