# The Screaming Eagle News

Spring 2026

Message from the President:  Dale Shipman

National Train Day, Saturday, May 9th, marks the 3rd anniversary for the museum and it has been 3 years of new adventures, growth and excitement. Volunteers continue to put in many hours working on a variety of different projects throughout the museum. The whole building has taken on such an impressive look and feel for everyone who is visiting. Each month our event calendar is listed with new and exciting activities for our members and visitors to take part in and enjoy. This summer we are expecting a big influx of visitors with the World Cup Soccer Tournaments taking place in and around the metro, especially in Independence and the Arrowhead Stadium.

The big news for the museum is we are hosting the 2026 National Brass Convention, Friday & Saturday, September 18th & 19th. Much has already gone into preparing for this event and we are looking forward to September.

Our museum staff and volunteers eagerly wait to see many new and returning faces to view the results of 3 years of effort and learn of what the future will bring.

**New Displays** - Volunteers are working on writing and designing new displays including the story behind the Tulsa Oiler drumhead and labeling of all the different model displays the museum has collected.

**Backdrops, Scenery and Landscaping** - From east of Rock Creek to Sedalia scenery has been started and is in several different stages along this area.

Impressive scratch built structures are being displayed in this area along with the completion of two different Missouri River areas. With the resin to make the river in place, scenery really comes to life.

The first phase of backdrops has been completed from Rock Creek Junction to just past Sedalia, Mo. on the HO exhibit. We are hoping to have the next phase of the backdrops completed from Sedalia through Jefferson City and then East along the line to St. Louis.

**The Screaming Eagle Caboose**

With Mother Nature finally cooperating, the final touches have been added to the Caboose sides. The Eagle now has the Missouri Pacific logo and numbers.

**Volunteers**

The Missouri Model Railroad Museum is seeking volunteers to enhance our team. Various opportunities are available: scenery development, wiring, assisting with the Kids Depot, landscaping and light housekeeping. I'm sure you can find just the right place for you to  enjoy helping at the MMRM.

**Birthday Parties**

All aboard for an unforgettable birthday bash at the Missouri Model Railroad Museum!  Our private parties in the theater include a special train video, a bubble-blowing "G" scale train, and a visit from Conductor Sparky! Kids can also enjoy a scavenger hunt, engineer the Van Delsem Lionel trains, and get creative with birthday coloring sheets.

**Kids Depot**

Assemble your own Little 'Zippy' wooden train with our DIY assembly kit. Should you need help with assembly, volunteer assistance is available. All required building materials are provided. A total of 4 wooden pieces is available; Engine, Passenger, Tanker & Caboose. Cost $25 per piece.
Material is soft Maple or Ash with Birch wheels- all solid wood. L 5 1/4" x W 3 1/2" x H 4"

Kids Depot area continues to grow by adding more train cars & track, enough for everyone to share. Conductor Kathy has added another Train/Track Organizer with plastic bins and a new train table to fit the smallest train conductors.

**Railroad Construction Progress**

**HO Layout**
The first phase of the backdrop panels has been completed from Rock Creek Junction to just east of Sedalia, MO. A collection of photo ideas and designs for the scenery east of Sedalia through Jefferson City, Herman, Washington, Kirkwood and ending in St. Louis is in progress. The museum is hoping to have this completed by the end of this year.

**Washington Coal Mine Revision**
After a thorough review of the present Washington Coal Mine trackage and a new run through track requirement linkage from the staging yard to the Coal Tipple to the Saint Louis freight yard , it was determined that the existing track plan was not sufficient to meet the new run- through plan. Existing tracks were pulled up to implement the new design. In addition, a small coal car holding yard and new locomotive storage track were added to the plan. This will allow room to add some office/work buildings to the area.

David Gerdel has an idea for creating the background Bluff scenery for the area which is very exciting.

In addition, the single mainline crossover was redesigned to implement a more functional double crossover.

**Kansas City Union Station**

Lester and Wayne have spent uncountable hours crafting and creating a showcase model of the iconic KC Union Station. Wayne is nearing completion of the Grand Hall and the two office wings. He expects to have this section completed by the end of May. Construction of the exterior walls of the Grand Plaza waiting area is Lester's project. He does most of his work at home. This structure will sit over the passenger track below. Lack of actual plans and changes made to the main structure are slowing the process. With work on the Grand Hall nearing completion, the Grand Plaza should move at a faster pace.

**"G" Scale layout update**

Scenery is progressing at the Courthouse and the park.

Added to the park is a small pond with a dock, horseshoe pits, and a soccer field. Many people are wandering about shopping, reading the paper, watching a soccer game and generally enjoying the area. A couple just got married at the Courthouse. Train activated, grade crossing lights are working. Thank you, Chris.

Behind the park, the area of Englewood is now complete with several structures highlighted by the Englewood theater and café.

Work is progressing on businesses on and near Independence Square. Polly's Pop, Dave's Deli and the Courthouse Exchange restaurant with courtyard are complete.

Three more buildings on the square are coming soon. Chris is way ahead of me with all lights wired.

Liberty Erectors storage box car is complete as well as the adjacent scenery, including a chain link fence.

The haunted house adjacent to the Little Blue River is improved with a raised base, entry steps, parking area and Baxter at his dog house. John D. donated a very used pick-up truck to complete the scene.

Be sure to look for the pigeons scattered about.

**Electrical Department**

The electrical team continues to work on the HO display. They have begun installing occupancy detectors along the river sub. To date, 27 sensors have been added from Kansas City at the swing gate around the first peninsula to "The Hill". The detectors are used for both showing where a train is on the dispatcher's computer and for signaling. As occupancy detectors are added, "Blocks" * are created in the software which are then added to the exhibit diagram in dispatch which allows one to see a train moving along the route.

Signals are currently being installed in the same area as the detectors have been installed. At this time none of them have been wired to the control hardware system (C/MRI) **. Once this is done, the programming of the software system (JMRI)*** will begin. This will be a lengthy process to get all the signals working with each other.

A decision was made to remove all the infrared sensors from under the exhibit and , if needed in the future for animation, they will be added for those situations. The removal process has begun and should be completed within a few days.

It was also decided to move the power switch that turns the entire exhibit on from "The Hole" behind Kansas City to the dispatch office. This will facilitate easier powering on and off the exhibit along with less traffic through the swing gate. All main lines, sidings, and different yard and industrial sidings have been completed with automatic switches and are in full operation. Work has started on the wiring of blocks and signals on the exhibit. Work is progressing from the swing bridge on mainline #1 & #2, past Rock Creek Junction heading east along the River Sub to Jefferson City. Visitors can now see the movement of trains along the exhibit from the dispatcher's control panel.

**C/MRI – Computer Model Railroad interface. The hardware portion of the exhibit controls turnouts, occupancy detectors, signals and other input and output functions associated to the exhibit. See https://JLC Enterprises.net for additional information.

***JMRI – Java Model Railroad interface. The software portion of the project that feeds information to and from the exhibit such as train control, turnout control and signal logic. Visit https://jmri.org for more information.

**Lionel Layout**

During the successful MMRM train show in March, the Lionel section was able to meet and greet many new patrons visiting the museum. Returning patrons were happy to see the new changes that were made to

Lionel-land. The most talked about changes were the new operating accessories activated by the patrons themselves, whether it was the log dump car, a box conveyor loading a semi-trailer or the Nesquik bunny

unloading chocolate milk by rabbit power; all ages enjoyed operating some of their favorite accessories by push button.

We invite you to participate in our new Lionel "Engineer in Training" program, located on the VanDalsem Lionel exhibit. Upon completion of 5 training sessions, a prize will be awarded.

These enthusiastic young people are learning safe train operations while having lots of fun. This hands-on program benefits the soon-to-be engineers in skills such as communication, judgment and working with others.

The Lionel area has some new wall art to show our visitors. The History of Lionel wall hanging is a comprehensive telling of the Lionel train story. The story is told through vivid pictures, interesting stories and historical information

on model railroading. The wall hanging is a perfect photo backdrop for that model railroader in the family. The Lionel area has received several new donations that date back to the early 40's. These items have been cleaned and put back into operating condition to be run on the exhibit or displayed

Work has begun on the summer diorama for the train table. There's a lot happening in the neighborhood green space. What will be displayed for everyone to see? I think our big "goal" will make everyone want to "play' along.

Stay on track..... to the MMRM.

**Train Show 2026**

Our 2026 Spring Train Show was a HUGE success. We sold out every booth space plus a few extras. Our Vendors this year were Doc's Caboose, Inc. Reds Train Repair, Dan Munson, Terry Lynch, Andy Erlichman, Michael Connelly, David Rush, Model Railroad Stuff, Stone Creations, Jim Goodin, Randy Hobbs, Turkey Creek and Midwest Model

Railroad. We were also excited to have Uce Kitchen food truck with us. That was a great hit with all the visitors. We were so pleased to host 134 visitors to this year's show. We also had great raffle prizes donated to use from many of our vendors. Some items were an HO Engine, Books, $50.00 Gift Card, Models and more.

We are looking forward to our 3rd Annual 2027 Spring Train Show where I have a feeling it will be even larger than this year's! Don't forget that your MMRM Membership gets you in for FREE!

**Brass 2026**

The MMRM is pleased to present Brass 2026, September 18 and 19, 2026 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. We are featuring Brass Vendors from around the country. There will be clinics, round table discussions, and presentations during this event. The Museum will be closed to the public during this event. Tickets are available and are $95.00 for a two-day pass, $60.00 for a single day pass. MMRM current members will Receive a discount of 10% on a single or two-day pass. Tickets are available on the website at http://showmerails.org/2026-train-shows/2026-brass-train-show/.

**Board of Directors**

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**Admission**

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| Age Ages 12 and up | $10.00 |
| Age 2 to 11 | $4.00 |
| Under age 2 | Free |
| Museum Members | Free |
| Seniors | $5.00 |
| Military, 1st Responders | $5.00 |

**New Membership Structure**

We are very excited to announce our new Annual Membership structure.

$40.00 Switchman - Single Membership for Seniors 65+ / Military / First Responders
$50.00 Brakeman - Single Regular Membership
$85.00 Conductor - Duo Membership (for two)
$125.00 Engineer - Group Membership for 4 (add a child 2 to 11 yrs for $20.00)

This gives you a year's access to the Museum, most events, yearly Train Show, Holiday events and more!

**Volunteer Hours**

January - 1029
February - 1191
March - 1355
April - 1269

**Visitors**

January - 171
February - 190
March- 289
April- 257

**In Memoriam**

The Missouri Model Railroad Museum sadly announces the passing of Roseann Swofford on April 17, 2026. Roseann served as a volunteer and Secretary on the MMRM Board of Directors. She will be missed.