

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 32

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FREE

CORNERED!



Adam Pratts has been busy with his new module construction. Since finishing his "fire" module recently, he has since been able to finish up these two super elevated corners. His skill and meticulous attention to detail are evident in the excellent realism displayed on his modules. These new modules are a welcome addition to *FUNTRAK*'s arsenal of available models to design a show stopping layout for the general public to enjoy. *FUNTRAK*'s next show is scheduled for this month in Durhamville and these modules are expected to participate in that layout. There are two more of the super elevated corners under construction under the supervision of Lorenzo Franchi. If they are available for the upcoming show, they will also be incorporated into the layout. This is proving to be one of *FUNTRAK*'s busiest construction periods in a long time. The club now has nearly one hundred and fifty modules available for layout design and assembly. This allows the club to efficiently fill nearly any amount of space in almost any shape. *FUNTRAK* looks excitedly to future shows. See you there!

From the Desk:

John Colliver is a retired Project Manager / Mechanical Engineer (Mining), who has a lifelong love of trains and model railroads. A large part of the layout was originally housed by a fellow modeler in Wantirna. However, with the sale of the residential property, it meant that the 'Santa Fe' layout was to be disassembled for sale or disposal. John, realizing a rare opportunity, purchased the layout to be rehomed in the upper level of his residential home in Heathmont. Some remodeling was undertaken to the property for the placement of the layout in residence. After the original layout sections were lifted to the upper level area, they were reassembled to a modified plan. Additional sections were added for the Santa Fe engine servicing area, Flynn and Newton Staging Yards, MoPac Wichita Yard, Belle Plaine and Arkansas City. Separate areas were also developed for the CTC panels, computers and dispatchers.

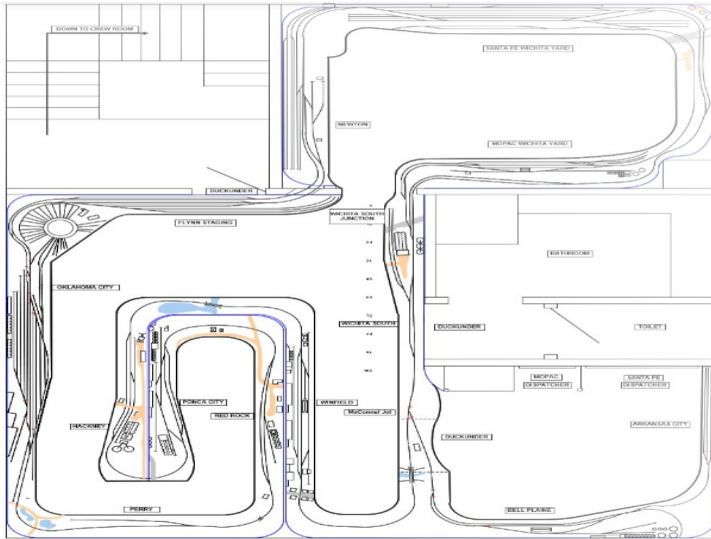
The Layout

The Santa Fe Railroad Middle Division & MoPac layout era is set at around the time of the late 1980s in the mid-western area of the USA. On the layout, the Santa Fe Railroad Middle Division starts in Kansas at Newton and then tracks in a generally southerly direction to Flynn in Oklahoma. Two separate staging track areas with multiple tracks, represent Newton in the north and Flynn in the south. The two major yards on the layout are the Santa Fe Wichita Yard in Wichita Kansas and the Oklahoma City Yard in Oklahoma. Traveling in a southerly direction from the Santa Fe Wichita Yard, smaller towns are located at Wichita South, Winfield, Hackney, Ponca, Red Rock and Perry. The Missouri Pacific Railroad (MoPac) also had a yard located in Wichita, which subsequently became a Union Pacific (UP)

yard when UP purchased the MoPac in the late 1980s. The MoPac Yard is modeled just at the time of takeover, so with modeler's license, locomotives in both MoPac and UP livery are seen in operation. As was done on the prototypes, interchange operation also occurs between the Santa Fe Wichita Yard and the MoPac Wichita Yard on the interchange track linking these two yards. Railroad south of the MoPac Yard, MoPac and UP trains share trackage rights with the Santa Fe Railroad from Wichita South to McConnell Junction. At this junction, the MoPac resumes operation on its own tracks to the small town of Belle Plaine, and then onto Arkansas City represented by four staging tracks. KATO, Atlas, IMR, Athearn, and BLI locomotives on the layout are all DCC with the majority having sound decoders. Freight cars are a mixture of weathered and unweathered Micro Trains, Atlas, IMR, BLI, Fox Valley Models, Bluford, Roundhouse, Bachmann and several other brand names. Passenger cars are from KATO, IMR (Centralia) and Micro Trains. Micro Engineering Code 55 track and turnouts are installed on the layout. Turnouts are fitted with either Tortoise or MP5 Switch Machines. Turnouts can be directly controlled via toggle switches on local control panels housed in the fascia. Track on the layout is broken up into blocks to enable Digitrax BDL168 LocoNet Occupancy Detectors to provide input to the computer-controlled CTC Panels. Under CTC operation, Digitrax SE8c Signal Decoders provide turnout position input/output, and control outputs to the various signals located on the layout. The Santa Fe CTC panels are in the area opposite the town of Belle Plaine. The MoPac Dispatcher's CTC panel is yet to be installed and will be located near the existing Santa Fe panels. Additional signals are also currently being installed.

Thanks Mark!

JOHN COLLIVER



EVENTS

Kingston Model Train and Railroad Hobby Show

Murphy Midtown Center

467 Broadway, Kingston, NY

March 24, 2024 @ 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

ADMISSION: Adults: \$8.00 Under 12 \$2.00

Information: (845) 616-0931, or by email at
kingstonmts@aol.com

Albany Train Show

Polish Community Center

225 Washington Ave Ext

Albany, NY 12205

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00am to 3:00pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00

Children under 12 – FREE

Information: Doug Bafaro

(518) 879-6341 dblionel@hotmail.com

Jeff Stedge

(518) 852-7725 jstedge@nycap.rr.com

The 20th Binghamton Regional Train Show

American Legion

177 Robison Street

Binghamton, New York

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:00am to 3:00pm

Information: 607-343-5184

FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

Treasurer: Brian F. King (315)292-7066

Schedules

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	Durhamville
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Spring Ahead Model Train Meet

Camillus Fire Department

5801 Newport Road

Camillus, New York 13031

Sunday, March 10, 2024

10:00am to 4:00pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00

Children under 15 – FREE

Information: (315) 451-6551

MONTHLY QUIZ

What term originated during construction of the transcontinental railroad?

During construction of the transcontinental railroad, laborers lived in makeshift settlements that could be easily packed up and moved to follow the railroad's progress. These portable settlements were referred to as "Hell on Wheels" towns. The term survives today, though in many different modern contexts.