

## The Editor's Notes

Welcome to 2016! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and/or a happy holiday. Mine was good. I had some use or lose leave, and I was off the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. With the help of Jan Bröcker, I have some German passenger cars to go with my German steam engine. Therefore, I have a German passenger train.

I was in Mississippi before Thanksgiving, and I revisited a train watching site near Vicksburg. I first visited this site in 1978 or 1979. The site is along the Mississippi River, and the state of Mississippi has built a nice welcome center at the location. Two bridges span the river at this location. One carries Interstate 20 and the other carries a railroad and an old toll road. The toll road is closed to regular traffic, but I did see someone drive from Louisiana to the old toll building and park their car. Currently, the Kansas City Southern owns and the tracks. Back in 1978, it was the Illinois Central Gulf railroad. In

this issue I have some pictures from both visits. I realize that these are not model railroad pictures, but the photographs have some interesting equipment and examples of natural weathering. It's important to see weathering in real life in order to model weathering correctly.

The 2016 Lawrence Model Railroad Club Train Show and Swap Meet is coming up in a month and a half. I put in a request to have the workdays surrounding the weekend off, but Black & Veatch is busy right now. Thus, I can't make any guarantees. I'm sure that we will discuss the train show at the January meeting and it will be the entire focus of the February meeting. Jim Turner has a program for the January meeting. So, come and enjoy the video and see your fellow club members.

Because the December meeting lacked a business session, there are no minutes in this issue.

Gregory Ohlmacher  
Newsletter Editor

Next Meeting: January 12, 7:30 P.M. at Steve's Place, 1388 N 1293 Rd., Lawrence, Kansas. Entrance is on 31<sup>st</sup> Street.

## Railroad Bridge across the Mississippi River at Vicksburg, MS

Early in my career, I was sent to Vicksburg, Mississippi to take a course at the Waterways Experiment Station. Before Thanksgiving last year, I found myself back in Vicksburg working on a geotechnical investigation for a proposed transmission line from Vicksburg to Natchez. On my first visit, I stayed at a Holiday Inn that was near the Interstate 20 crossing of the Mississippi River. Next to the interstate bridge was the truss bridge that served both train and motor vehicle traffic. Before dinner one evening, I wandered over to where the tracks passed under the local highway and took some pictures. As it happened, an Illinois Central Gulf (ICG) freight passed over the bridge while I was waiting. It was led by an ICG Paducah rebuilt diesel locomotive (see photos). This is locomotive 8292 and is listed as a GP10 built in 1973. The GP10s were rebuilt by ICG in their Paducah, KY shops from ElectroMotive Division (EMD) GP7, GP9, and GP18 locomotives.

Last November, I had an afternoon off and I drove to the new visitor center at the same location. I took some new pictures with my cell phone camera. Again, while I was there, a freight train passed over the bridge. This time it was pulled by CSX and Kansas City Southern diesels. My 1990s US railroad map shows it to be Kansas City Southern track. Below I have some pictures taken from both visits.

### Vicksburg 1970s



Foreground: IGC Bridge with toll road  
Background: I-20 Bridge



Eastbound ICG freight being pulled by a lone ICG Paducah rebuilt locomotive



Close up of diesel – This photo shows a good example of a weather beaten diesel.



A weathered box car



A little cleaner box car with other box cars

### Vicksburg Today:





February 20 (9am-4pm) & 21 (9am-3pm)

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Admission: Adults \$6.00 donation & Children 12 and under free with paid adult

**Bring canned food donations and receive \$1 admission discount per person**

**Lawrence Model Railroad Club supports L.I.N.K. Inc. Food Pantry**

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**Douglas County Fair Grounds, Building 21  
2120 Harper Street, Lawrence, KS (2 blocks north of K-10)**

**More information at [www.lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org](http://www.lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org)**

Features: Layouts (HO scale and N scale), Model contest, vendor tables, silent auction, door prizes, concessions and more

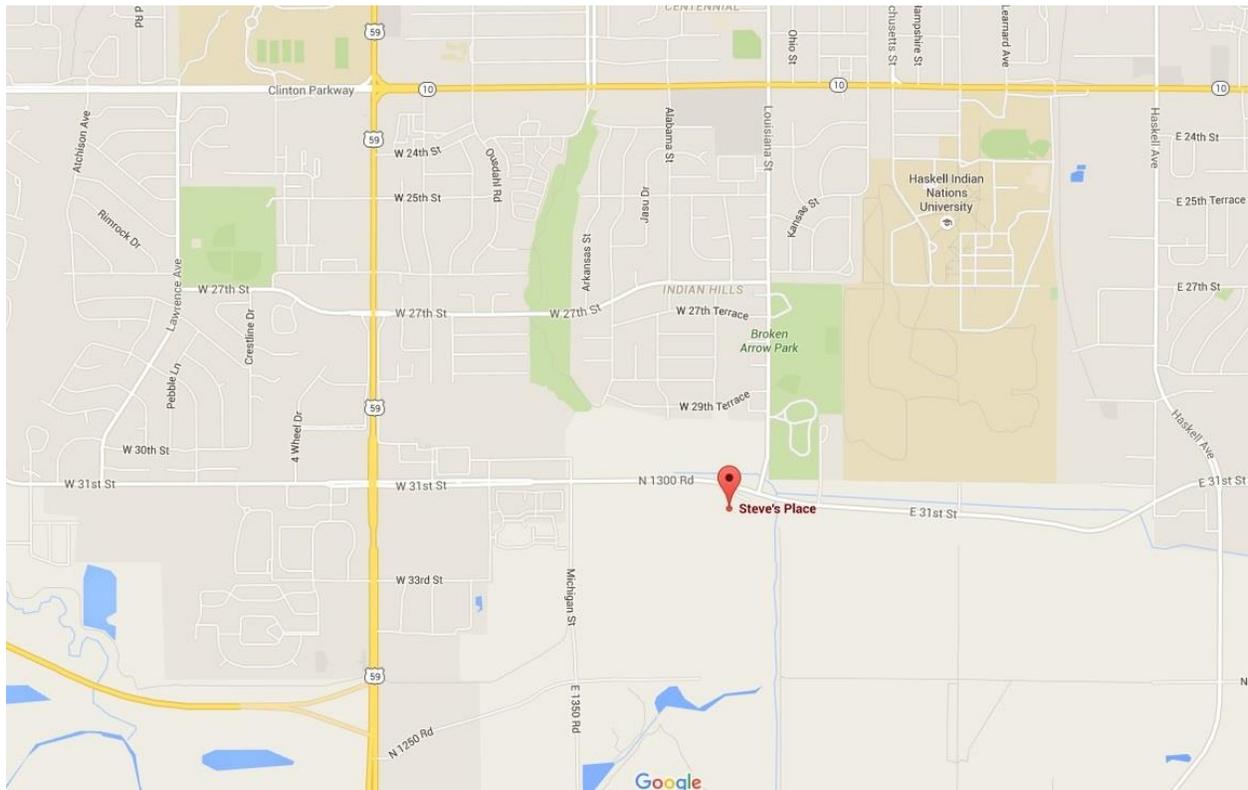
Model Contest Categories Include: Diesel Locomotive, Steam Locomotive, Rolling Stock, and Structures. More info and entry forms can be found on the LMRC website and accepted the first day of the show

## Program and Map

The January Lawrence Model Railroad Club Meeting will be at Steve's Place on January 12 at 7:30 PM. The program will be a video from Green Frog Productions on adding realism with finishing touches.

The February meeting is the meeting prior to the 2016 train show. It is our chance to put the finishing touches on the show.

All the roads are now open to Steve's Place.



## Lawrence Model Railroad Club



Sometimes when modeling, it helps to step back and refresh our memories of prototype railroads. Here we see the Kansas City Southern (nee Illinois Central Gulf) crossing the Mississippi River at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The railroad shares the bridge with a road. To the left of this bridge is the Interstate 20 crossing (not visible) of the Mississippi River. Items visible in the photo include silt fencing along the slopes, a stairwell and a pipe along the slope to the right, and guard rails that start just before the bridge abutment. Occasionally, the newsletter editor publishes pictures of prototype railroads. This photograph was taken by Newsletter Editor Gregory Ohlmacher.

Meetings are at 7:30 P.M. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

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