



August 2003

Callboard

The official publication of the Rocky Mountain Region, National Model Railroad Association

Actions of the RMR BOD

The Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors is working on a revised financial plan that will allow expanded use of the Region investment funds for special projects, events, and Region operations. We hope to approve a final plan at the fall board meeting.

The BOD is reviewing the division boundaries. Over the years, some boundary definitions have been lost.

The question of "who is an RMR member?" crops up every now and then. If you are a member of the NMRA and reside within the RMR boundaries, you are a **member of the RMR**. If you have paid current dues or subscription fees to the RMR, you are a **subscriber* to the RMR Callboard**. If you have paid life membership dues to the RMR, you will receive the Callboard for life. It is a matter of terminology, not status. (*We are currently sending out the Callboard without charge.)

Current plans allow us to send the Callboard, on a quarterly basis, to all NMRA members residing in the RMR. We have been working on improvements and timely updating of the official region web site at www.rmr-nmra.org. We have started a pilot program to provide "direct e-mail" delivery to all that desire to receive it that way. This is in the testing mode at this time. Right now, there are no plans to offer a paid subscription service for the Callboard. Future delivery will be through the web site, directed e-mail, or a paper copy. The long-term continuation of a free mailed copy may not be sustainable.

The Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors welcomes several new members. Jock Peters is our new treasurer. Vic Kuklin and Dick Hunter join the BOD, both having served the RMR in the past. Harold Huber continues on the BOD for his second elected term.

The RMR Historian maintains our historic records. We are transferring these from a former member to an active member. The most important documents will be copied and a second copy maintained at a separate location.

The 2004 convention will be in the south metro Denver area. The 2005 convention will be in Cheyenne. Watch the Callboard for more information on these.

RAILS & TIES '04 THE 2004 CONVENTION IS COMING!

Mike Berg, Co-Chair

The 2003 RMR convention is over and it is time to start thinking about the 2004 convention. The South Suburban Division will be hosting the Region Convention next year on June 3-6. The site of the convention will be the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel, 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, Colorado, 80111. This is on the south side of Denver near I-25.

Although plans are still in the early planning stage at this point, plans call for the convention to emphasize the real nuts and bolts of our hobby, with many layout tours and clinics planned. A large train show will also draw the interest of people attending the convention and the public as well.

Prototype activities are also in the planning stages. In addition to any activities that will be arranged, convention goers who would like to explore some of the other interesting railroad related sites in the area will have time to do so on their own.

To make information on the convention available, the first version of the convention flyers and registration forms were available at the Pueblo convention in early June and copies were given to division superintendents who were at the convention. A website outlining the convention and activities will be set up in the coming months and will be continually updated as the convention approaches. Individual contacts for the convention are as follows:

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Region Convention

Rails & Ties '04, Greenwood Village, CO, June 3-6

Web Site: TBA

John Volp johnvolp@hotmail.com

4925 W. Maplewood Pl

Littleton CO 80123

From the Left Seat

Kurt S. Kramke, MMR

In the interest of time and space, I am going to combine my two position columns. First I would like to thank the convention staff for a wonderful fun filled convention. I heard nothing but good comments the entire weekend. The only downside was in the number of contest entries, I know that there are a lot of modelers out there so let's remember to enter your models next year in Denver.

As most of you know the hype over the SARS virus forced the cancellation of the National Train Show when 80 percent of the manufacturers pulled out, however there will still be a train show just a smaller one. The convention is still on in Toronto, where the Board of Trustees will be voting on the Long Range Plan for the NMRA. This is the most significant set of changes that I have seen in the organizational structure in my twenty years of membership. To read the proposed changes and questions and answers go to the NMRA web site nmra.org and click on the link. The most significant changes are the change to a single dues structure and the elimination of trustees and the substitution of a fewer number of directors. Space does not allow for detailed explanations, but what it allows for is a lower cost to operate the organization. I believe that this will be voted on favorably by the BOT and then will be passed on to the membership for their vote. I urge you to read the document and ask questions to become an informed voter and to cast your ballot when the time comes. If you have questions, please contact me and I will try to answer your question or will get the answer for you.

On the home layout, this is my second summer with Homabed in the garage and I have found a problem with handlaid track. It seems with the temperature variations this year that my regauging in the spring did not hold, so I am trying spiking every tie to hold gauge. If this does not work, I may have to go to flex-track and keep my handlaid turnouts. Since switching to DCC, I have noticed that I need to open up the spacing between my switch points and the stock rail more than with analog, it seems at slow speeds the DCC tends to short out easier. However, with the arrival of my two N&W Class A 2-6-6-4 locomotive from BLI with sound I would not have any other control system (see product review).

Remember to keep yourself safe in your rail fanning activities this summer.

Jack Clark 1931 - 2003

Jack Clark was a long time member and supporter of the Rocky Mountain Region. He passed away on Tuesday, July 15, 2003. He will be remembered by many of the old Denver Division and Dinner Club folks. Jack was laid to rest on Saturday, July 19 with many of his model railroad friends in attendance.

RMR Pueblo Convention Report

Gerald Long, Convention Chairman

The Pueblo Convention of the NMRA Rocky Mountain Region was a success financially and from the compliments I received, a good Convention. The chairman cannot really gage this as he is too busy resolving problems to notice.

We did have a financial surplus which will help the RMR budget. Attendance was down from prior years. It would have been nice to have a couple hundred people there.

The thing that made this convention profitable was the heavy attendance at the public show. The Convention Center worked on the local paper until they sent a reporter over and we made the paper on Thursday and Saturday of the Convention week. Channel 13 showed up and I gave them an interview, which made the Friday news shows. In addition, our new RMR Treasurer tramped all over the city handing out 300 Train Show Flyers!

The inside activities of clinics, contest, banquet, etc went well with multiple activities available most of the time.

The outside activities went well, especially the Live Steam layout of Mark Seibert. We had 15 people scheduled to go there, not enough for a bus. When they found out you could just drive there, 50 – 60 of them went. The food that Mark put out for 15 people went very fast. I wondered where all the registrants were Saturday afternoon in the Convention Center.

The fabulous Denver, Greeley & Tahoe could not make its scheduled appearance. The Pikes Peak group responded magnificently and quickly expanded their layout to help fill the space. Many thanks, guys.

Well I think it is time to stop writing and wish the people putting on the next one all the good luck they can get and hope that you make some money for the RMR as well.

(I was at the show throughout the convention and heard many good comments about the convention. Thanks to the Arkansas Valley and Pikes Peak Divisions, the RMR again had a great time. Ed.)

Who made the shovel?

Did you ever see a line of track workers hand shoveling roadbed material or ballast? Or, lifting ties to be spiked by prying them up with a shovel.

In the early days of track laying the work was done by hand. Long lines of men with shovels did the work where now bulldozers or graders are used. This long line would look like a string of dancers. Ties were pried up with the shovels so spikers could drive and set spikes to hold the rails. The track worker “danced” on the shovel handle to do this. The handles on these shovels were 56 ½” long and often used as a gauge.

The shovels were made by the Gandy Shovel Co.

RMR Convention Model Contest

Mark L. Evans – RMR AP Chairman

The annual Region Model/Photo Contest was held in conjunction with the RMR Convention in Pueblo, Colorado. The turn out was very disappointing to say the least. Come on RMR! I know there is more talent per capita in this Region than any other in the NMRA. I want to encourage everyone to participate in the contest next year in Denver.

Those brave enough to bring entries were not disappointed at the awards ceremony. The winners are listed in detail below. The awards offered this year were extremely nice. Each 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entry received a beautiful hand made plaque with a photo of their entry on it. I want to thank John Atkinson for making these plaques. I also want to thank John for all of his hard work in managing the contest. Excellent work John! In addition to these awards, two other extremely nice plaques were awarded by Caboose Hobbies and Mizell’s Trains.

I want to thank Lynn D. Daugherty, Dick Wholf, John Volp, Rich Coleman, Kurt Kramke and Mark L. Evans who offered their time to judge the contest models! Thanks for taking the time away from the Convention activities to help out. Your help was very much appreciated.

Photo Contest

B&W Model 1st place John L. Widmar

B&W Prototype 1st place Michael Command
2nd place Michael Command

Color Model 1st place John L. Widmar
2nd place John L. Widmar

Color Prototype 1st place John Volp
2nd place John Volp
3rd place Sayre Hutchison

Model Contest

Structures–Off-line 1st place Lynn D Daugherty

Structures–On-line 1st place John Volp
2nd place John Volp

Cars 1st place Michael Command

Diesel & Other 1st place John W. Campbell
2nd place Chuck Hagemeister
3rd place Chuck Hagemeister

Mizell “Challenger Award” for Modeling Excellence
Michael Command

Caboose Hobbies Award for Best of Show
John W. Campbell

Congratulations to all entrants.

SOUTH SUBURBAN DIVISION - LAYOUT TOUR – 2003

The tour began the morning of May 10th with either breakfast at the Littleton I-Hop Restaurant or a continental breakfast at the home of John Volpe, our first stop on the tour. We had the misfortune to have a 6” snowstorm the night before with many folks being out of electricity. However, the snow melted fast and we were able to continue.

The tour was arranged by Harry Lindsay and had a time schedule designed to cover seven layouts with ample time to visit, observe and discuss each railroad.

The second stop was at Art Lort's home in Highland's Ranch with an extensive layout –in-progress – HO Gauge.

The third stop was at the home of Pete Doty whose Narrow Gauge layout filled the room to the extent that Railroad Passes (Playing Cards) which admitted no more than three bodies at a time. Beautifully landscaped I may add.

The fourth layout was at the home of Mel Claytor who exhibited a most unusual scene! He has a layout totally built just below the ceiling with Plexiglas as a base and a most impressive Control Console. He managed to run several trains at once without collisions.

Our fifth visit at the home of Ed Wilson was the only place whose electric power was out and not restored. Needless to say his layout remained immobile. Since the Wilson's were hosting the luncheon, this could have been a total disaster.. The Wilson's having a coal-fired cook stove, they were able to prepare and serve a wonderful repast.

After lunch we proceeded to the home of Bill Henry who had the smallest area available. He managed to build and operate a very detailed operation with much scenery.

The last layout visited was at the home of Dennis Hagan. An extensive railroad filling the space available and still in the process of building. All operational with some of the scenery yet to finish.

Photographs and Video coverage of the entire tour are available.

Upcoming Events

Slim Rail Model RR Show and Swap Meet – Saturday, October 11
Colorado Springs Johnon3@earthlink.net (719)481-2698
John Campbell, 18510 Augusta Dr, Monument CO 80132

South Suburban RR Show – Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19
Buckingham Square Mall - Aurora

RMR Convention - Rails & Ties '04 – June 3 – 6, 2004
Greenwood Village (South Denver) johnvolp@hotmail.com
John Volp – Registrar, 4925 W. Maplewood Pl, Littleton CO 80123

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