



Train	Crew	Depart	Train	Crew	Depart	Status
101 NB	Jones	9:00	102 SB	Grant	14:00	Delay
Coal Extra	Clement	9:20	Hot Shot	Smith	16:15	On Time
330 NB	15	11:15	331 S	15	11:30	On Time
01 Pass	Brad	11:15	02	11:30	On Time	On Time

CALLBOARD

Rocky Mountain Region

The Official Publication of the Rocky Mountain Region of the National Model Railroad Association

**FEBRUARY 2011
EDITION**

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**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
REGION
CONVENTION
AUGUST 25-27**

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION CONVENTION 2011 IS ON!

Our convention has moved locations and the guys from Northern Colorado Division 09 are cooking up something good for us and its not Chili Colorado. It's a convention! We're moving the date, too! The convention will be August 25-27 at the Embassy Suites Hotel on I-25 at the Greeley/Loveland exit. Rich Coleman says "stand by" for further information as he prepares information for the next Callboard. He's got a team of veterans who have put on other conventions before and wife Ava has already been drafted for Facilities Chair. So plan for warmer weather and save up your cash! The sign up sheet is just around the corner. Thank you Northern Colorado for stepping up to take on this event.

HELP WANTED!

Call for Candidates

There will be three openings on the Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors in 2011. Elections are traditionally held in the spring, so we are seeking candidates to fill these positions. The term is two years with at least two formal BOD meetings each year, cleverly attached to a model railroad event about which your coworkers need not know. Other business/discussion is completed via email so you don't need to live on the Front Range, unless you just choose to do so.

To be eligible you need to be a member in good standing in the NMRA, the Rocky Mountain Region, and your local division, the latter two pretty easy to do by meeting the first criteria. You also cannot serve in the same (director) position for more than 2 consecutive terms, though you can serve if there has been a break in time.

To run for these positions, please submit a statement to me, (martin@rmi.net) stating your interest, your background in the hobby, what you would like other members of the region to know about you and the ideas that you would bring to the Board.

- Martin Pirnat, Election Chairman

NEW EDITOR STEPS UP TO FILL BIG SHOES

I'd like to thank the Region for allowing me to be the new Editor of the long running Callboard. What better way to get acclimated to a new Region than by getting to work with all its fine people. For those that don't know me I'm new to the Region having just moved to Salt Lake City, Utah from Atlanta. I've been an active member of the NMRA for around 30 years and have held both Region and Division officer positions.

Nine years ago I took over as Editor of the Southeastern Region's *SouthErner* Magazine which was ailing and...

Ctd in Editor's Ink...



WE NEED PICTURES!

The Callboard is in dire need of pictures of people in the Region. Please send us pictures of your leaders, your group, your events, whatever! People make the magazine and we need to fill up our photo database. Please send jpg's to Scott Perry at scottgperry@comcast.net. Thanks!

Earn Author and Volunteer Certificates at the Same Time!



How would you like to work on your Achievement Program Author and Volunteer certificates at the same time? We can help! Just join the Callboard Production Committee. You'll earn one time unit per month as you satisfactorily serve in the Region as the Assistant Editor or Company Photographer and get two points for Author for each original page you assemble that is published. In only a short time you'll have a significant number of points toward both certificates! See Scott Perry, *Callboard* Editor for further details and contact him at the address below to sign up. We'll help you learn as you earn points!

scottgperry@comcast.net

Unconventional clinics...bus layout tours plus many self-guided layout tours...the California State Railroad Museum...

...and the Sierra Railroad
and Napa Valley Wine Train...

More information from **EXTRA 2011 WEST**
X2011 West, 530 Fig Tree Lane,
Martinez, CA 94553
www.X2011West.org



Model Railroad Show



Rails in the Rockies 2011 ©TM

Estes Park, Colorado
February 19 & 20, 2011

Saturday: 9-5 • Sunday 9-4
Adults \$5 Kids 12 and under Free w/Adult

ESTES PARK CONFERENCE CENTER
Rocky Mountain Inn-Holiday Inn
Highway 36 and Highway 7

www.estesvalleymodelrailroaders.org

For information contact:
Laura Trump coloradotrump@yahoo.com
970.577.0343

Sponsored by: Estes Valley Division, RMR, NMRA

RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I regret to inform you that the 2011 Region Convention in Salt Lake has been cancelled. They were unable to pull it off for several reasons. The new Wasatch Division leadership discovered inaccuracies in their organization when they took office that have to be dealt with. These issues directly affect their Train Show, which is critical to their fundraising.

Now for better news, Rich Coleman and the Northern Colorado Division has stepped up to the plate and will host the 2011 convention in the mid to end August time frame. They have stated that the site will not be Greeley. As soon as firm dates are locked up we will inform you. It may be just a flyer or a special *CallBoard* or just the next *CallBoard*, keep your eyes open for this announcement.

I have another announcement to make that will sadden many hearts; Fred Carlson, MMR is just not in the physical condition to continue the *CallBoard* Publication. I have appointed a new man to the region that has tons of experience of which I'm sure he will tell all of you about in this issue. His name is Scott Perry. We may run a little late as Scott assumed the position of editor the last day of Jan. but I have been told it will come out in February.

With all the snow I'm sure you have been shoveling, thank God for a snow blower! But many of you may have had more time to model. What have you been working on? The *CallBoard* is an excellent place for you to earn the Authors portion of your Achievement Program (AP). This is an easy way to accomplish author and get to work on your AP, plus we need articles for the *CallBoard*. Show us your work with photos and a write up. We take everything electronically so send the article to Scott Perry at scottgerry@comcast.net

To inspire you I am working on my Cars portion of the AP and have four left to go, all in different stages. I also am dabbling with Garden Narrow Gauge 1:20.3 and am building the Deadwood Central combines and passenger unit. Of course, I am also working on the one square foot diorama challenge for the contest, as I know several others of you are. Mine will be trolley and I will not say anything more, but I expect it to have a lot of pizzazz.

Well, until next time, have a great time modeling, ask questions, and most of all enjoy.

Harold Huber
President, RMR

...seldom on time if printed at all. Within a year my team had made it one of the best NMRA publications in the country. It is currently in full color on line and has been a big help in growing the Region. Now I'd like to provide the same service to the RMR. I love to write and have written hundreds of articles including a recent one in the NMRA magazine. When I'm not writing on one of my twelve blogs I edit kit instructions. My first Achievement Program certificate was Author.

My thought is that the Region should do everything it can to help the Divisions grow, so my efforts will be to bring you timely information on a National, Regional and Division level and to help you promote your Division and its activities. The Callboard is a great tool, so use it!

Over the next three editions you'll see some changes and upgrades to the Callboard. It's your magazine so we want your ideas! If you see something you'd like to add or change, write me by email at scottgerry@comcast.net.

EDITOR'S INK...

THANKS TO OUR PAST CALLBOARD EDITOR MR. FRED CARLSON, MMR

The Region would like to thank the very dedicated Editor of the Callboard Mr. Fred Carlson, MMR for his many years of devoted service. Fred is leaving the Callboard in order to deal with health issues and will be missed as Editor, but will continue to press on as a Region Board Member. Thanks for volunteering, Fred! We wish you the best!

NEXT EDITION OF THE CALLBOARD - MAY 2011

To be published after the Region Meeting

Deadline for submissions: May 15th

Publication date: May 30th

Please send in all submissions electronically to the *Callboard* staff at scottgerry@comcast.net

REGION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS

I hate winter as much as anyone. It's hard to get excited about the cold weather. Don't forget there is a bright side to this otherwise dismal time of year - no yard work! I hope the lack of distractions in the yard have helped you make more time for trains. Winter is a great time to work on your latest AP masterpiece, start a new layout or dust off that work bench and get started on something for the annual Region model contest.

A few of our ranks have been busy over the winter months. Four members of the Front Range Division satisfied the requirements to earn the Golden Spike awards. Rob Renner, Keevan Burnside, Don Strait, and Jon Bennett all have a Golden Spike certificate coming their way. The Golden Spike certificate is the entry level of the AP. The Golden Spike is just the ticket for those of you wanting to give the AP a try. If you want more information on the Golden Spike certificate or the AP see your Division AP Chair. If you don't have an AP Chair then check with your Division Super or give me a call.

In other news I hear the Sunrise Division is doing great things AP related. Superintendent Gary Myers and Program Chairman Jim Laird offered a great clinic explaining the judging process in the AP. Both Jim and Gary have acted as judges in Region contests. It should also be mentioned that Jim Laird has accepted and is currently serving as Deputy Region AP Chairman. Jim will take over the reins from me later in 2011. Way to go Gary and Jim!

You can obtain all of the information and paperwork to participate in the Achievement Program on the NMRA website at www.nmra.org or you can contact your Division AP Chair for that personal touch. As always, if you have AP questions or concerns, you can reach me by phone at 801-254-1312 or email at mevans@slco.org.



Mark Evans Teaching Weathering



The NMRA Magazine will soon be running a "help wanted" column each month. As you know, we're a volunteer organization and always in need of able bodies to lend a hand. Now that we're going to be putting more emphasis on our website, we especially need help in that area. Here are the positions we're looking for!

Electronics engineers with experience in setting up control systems needed to take part in discussions and development of NMRANET. Current bus is designed using CAN. Time commitment: several hours per week.

IT staff volunteer with experience in Content Management Systems. Able to program in PHP and PostgreSQL/MySQL, and good experience in HTML and CSS. IIS and VB experience a plus. Time commitment: ~3 hours per week.

"Members Only" content manager who can oversee our website's "Members Only" section by finding content (e.g. scanning articles from past issues of Scale Rails, uploading finished data sheets, etc). Time commitment: ~6 hours per month.

Data Sheet program manager with some technical and editorial background to identify new topics to cover as well as older Data Sheets that will benefit from updates and upgrades. Help locating subject-matter experts will be provided.

RAILS TO THE ROCKIES ESTES VAL- LEY DIVISION

The Estes Valley Division presents "Rails in the Rockies 2011". This is the 14th annual show and promises to be better than ever. Each year the show is on Saturday and Sunday of Presidents Day weekend. This year it will be February 19 and 20th. Attendance has grown steadily to almost 4,000 persons.

The theme of the show is modeling. Unique, museum quality models, using board on board construction techniques (just like real buildings) will be featured. Clinics will also be given showing special modeling techniques to make your models more realistic.

The show will also feature a special layout being built by The Estes Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association for educational purposes. The layout is sponsored by:

**The Rocky Mountain Region of the
National Model Railroad Association
The Estes Valley Division
DCC Hobby Supply**

The layout will be shown as it is being constructed. It will show the latest and most modern techniques that are currently being used in model railroading, as well as the materials being used in its construction.

Modelers will be standing by to explain each of the techniques being used as well as the features of the DCC (digital command control) system that operates the trains and many other features on the model railroad.

There will be two fun layouts that the younger children can actually run. There is a Seek and Search Game, face painter and many other activities for the younger crowd.

Each year we give away two complete Lionel Train sets valued at approximately \$500 each. These train sets are donated by Lionel Train Company specifically for this event. One of last years winners may be seen on our web-site www.estesvalleymodelrailroaders.org. The drawing will be on Sunday and the winner does not need to be present, although they must be 16 or younger.

This is not just an event for serious model railroaders but an event for kids of all ages. It is truly a show for the entire family. Kids 12 and under are admitted free (with adult supervision). Adults pay a \$5.00 entrance fee and there is a special family maximum rate to encourage larger families to attend. Special groups such as Partners Mentoring Youth of Estes and scouts in uniform are admitted free also. The Estes Park High School National Honor Society students help with the show as do Estes Park Partners Mentoring Youth as a community service. We encourage everyone to bring donations for Crossroads Ministry.

Bob Trump
Superintendent, Estes Valley Division

Laura Trump
Show Director, Rails in the Rockies 2011

NOTICE OF PENDING RETIREMENT

With the closing of the 2013 convention, Bill Tulley, Contest Chairman, will relinquish his duties as the RMR Contest Chairman. If someone would like to volunteer for this position, please contact him at one of the next three conventions so that he may impart his advice to you on the duties. Remember that this is an easy job and will earn you points towards an Association Volunteer AP certificate.

**VOLUNTEER
TODAY!**

RMR CONTEST CHAIRMAN

By Bill Tulley

WHAT IS A MINI DIORAMA?

A Mini Diorama is any modeled scene mounted on a base that has a footprint equal to or less than a specified area (144 sq-in). The requirements for the mini diorama are very simple.

THE DIORAMA MAY BE ON ANY SUBJECT THAT THE MODELER MAY CHOOSE.

A railroad related subject is preferred but a subject representing the theme of the current convention would be also be acceptable, although not required.

THE AREA COVERED BY THE DIORAMA CAN NOT BE LARGER THAN 144 SQUARE INCHES.

There is no restriction for length or width as long as these two dimensions when multiplied together equal 144 or less. There is also no restriction on the shape of this area. Square, rectangle, circle, kidney bean, etc. are all acceptable. As an extreme example: a diorama that is 1 inch wide and 144 inches long would qualify.

THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON EITHER HEIGHT OR DEPTH.

Those two dimensions are dependent on what the modeler can transport.

THAT IS IT! There are no other requirements.

If the modeler plans carefully, a mini diorama may be used to develop a larger scenic area on a home layout or on a larger module. An excellent example of this use may be found in the 2010 HOn3 Annual. On page 62, Sam Swanson shows how he used eight separate mini dioramas to assemble a large layout diorama. For those of you who do not have this annual, Sam wrote three articles on their construction in the Nov/Dec 2001 NG&SL Gazette, the Feb. 2002 Model Railroading and the Dec. 2002 Model Railroader.

Please note that your mini diorama will be entered in the Popular Vote Contest and may also receive AP Judging, if desired.

The following three photographs are of a Mini Diorama that is under construction.



HOW DOES THE RMR MODEL CONTEST WORK

BY POPULAR VOTE: First, second and third place certificates are presented in each category in which a model is entered. Placement is determined by the number of popular votes each model receives.

BY AP JUDGING: The Caboose Hobbies award is presented to the modeler with the highest over all AP score. The Mizell Hobbies award goes to the modeler with the second highest over all AP score.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS may be presented, if available. Requirements will be determined by the sponsoring convention.

(Want to learn some tips and tricks for building a diorama? See the article on the next page. Ed.)

Design and Build a Mini-Diorama

By Scott Perry

The Rocky Mountain Region Convention in Northern Colorado in August of 2011 will feature a new and intriguing kind of contest. It's a Mini-Diorama Contest. You are allowed up to 144 square inches of space to build a diorama of any kind. This is an excellent chance to improve your skills using a different scale, gauge or scenery type.

What is a diorama? To those of us that are model railroaders it is a three dimensional model of a scene. Usually a diorama is a static (non-moving) display. A mini-diorama is, in our case, a small one limited in size by total square inches. We can think of our layouts as grand-scale dioramas. For the contest these dioramas are limited to an area of one square foot which is about the size of a floor tile.

So what does it take to build a contest winning diorama? There are quite a few tricks and tips that can help you build your next contest winner. So get out your pencil and paper and let's review these ten tips for designing and building an award winning diorama.

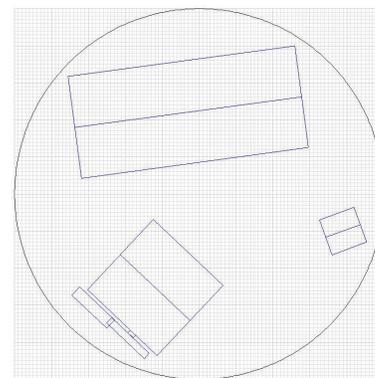
Tip #1: Plan, plan, plan. Many modelers start out by building something and then slapping it on a one foot square board only to find that it doesn't fit. Take the time to plan your design. Draw it. Sculpt it. Make a mock-up of the model (such as a barn) using foam board or clay. Decide what objects need to be on the display and what objects should be left off.



The crisp white road against the dark green fauna makes this barn shot very interesting to the eye. Notice the color of each plank on the barn and the white braces.

Tip #2: Tell a story. A diorama of a barn may look very nice. But it's just a barn. If you want to draw the viewer in, you have to tell a story. What is the purpose of the barn? What is going on there? Is there something going on BEHIND the barn (wink)? Maybe there is a farmer working on his tractor in the hot sun? How can you convey to the viewer that the farmer is hot? Is his hat off? Is his wife bringing him lemonade? Is the ground dry and dusty? Why is he working on the tractor? Answer these viewer questions by giving them hints and details that spell out the story. People are an absolute necessity on a diorama!

Tip #3: Use the elements of the diorama to draw the eye to where you want the viewer to look. If the farmer is the central figure, you'll want to place him in a prominent place on the diorama. If he is in the bright sun in front of the darkness of the interior of the barn, people will look at him and not the inside of the barn. A fence running along the side of the farm going toward the farmer will stop the eye of a viewer and redirect it to the farmer. Even three cows staring at the farmer will direct the focal point.



Using a CAD system to layout the pieces of the diorama is a quick and fast way to get a feel for the look and dimensions.

Tip #4: Fit the base to the diorama, not the other way around. Most people start with a one foot square flat block and start their construction. It is better to work on a large foam or cardboard surface and layout out the scenic elements and then form



Once you have laid out the scene on a large sheet of foam you can use a hot knife to cut out the base.

the base to the models. Then when you have the design you want, cut away the material you don't need on the base. This will often give you more rectangle or trapezoidal shapes for the base which adds interest to the diorama. Circles work, too!

Tip #5: Give your diorama a sense of place. Where is your diorama set? Maybe it's in the mid-west? What does the mid-west look like? What kind of plants would you see there, or rocks for that matter? Take the time to understand the environment of the diorama and give the viewer clues as to where they are. Billboards and signs that represent local establishments such as "Kansas City Chevrolet" or "Toledo Mudhens Baseball" give the viewer a precise sense of location.

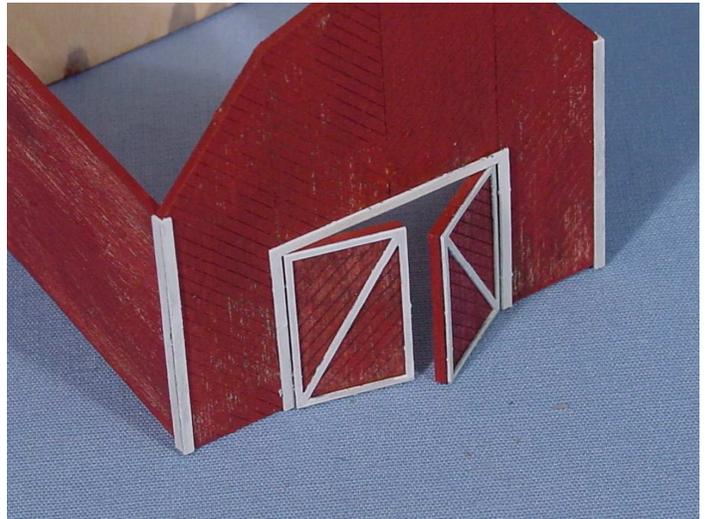
Tip #6: Give your diorama a sense of time. There are several important time elements. The first is time on the calendar. Is it the 1950's or 60's? Then there is time of year such as fall or spring. After that there is time of day which could be noon or even night. So maybe our farmer has a farm in the 1940's and has just started his spring plowing. It's near lunch so maybe his wife is bringing him a sandwich. Give the viewer context clues about time. If it is spring maybe new, yellow flowers are in bloom in the field and the oak tree has bright green leaves. A fall evening would require long shadows under the trees and behind the barn.

Tip #7: Control the use of color. While you will need to paint virtually everything on the diorama, by using shades and tints of color you can control the scene. A shade of red is red paint that has black paint added to it in order to darken it. A tint of red is when white is added to the red to lighten it up. You may hear your wife tell you that she "likes this shade of pink" but that is not possible as she can only like a



Here the light color of the spilled hay contrasts with the dark inside of the boxcar keeping your eye from wondering in to the undetailed car shed.

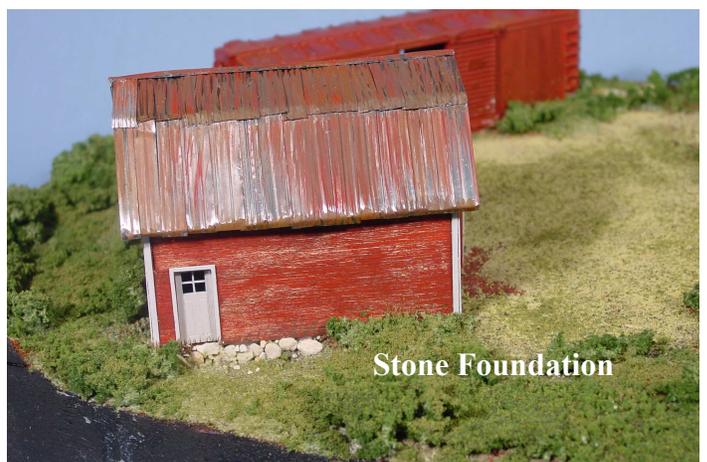
tint of pink. She'll hit you for saying that so just don't go there. For areas where you don't want the viewer's eyes to look, such as the very edge of the diorama, keep those colors shaded and dark. For focal areas, lighten up the colors. In our barn scene you may want to use very light colored soil under the farmer's tractor, and very dark soil in the floor of the barn. Darker plants should be in the background with lighter colors in the foreground.



The model had closed doors but I cut them out and just opened them enough that you get the feeling someone is or has been in there.

Tip #8: Show action. While a diorama is normally a static or fixed model you can still show action by inferring it to the viewer. If a child is on a rope swing hanging from the barn, he'll be hanging straight down. This doesn't look right to the eye to see a young boy not in a constant state of motion. To infer motion, put the boy up in the door of the hay loft with the rope looped up and in his hand. This tells the viewer that motion is about to happen as they see him swing out in their mind's eye.

Tip #9: Give your diorama a non-flat surface. One of the most common mistakes I've seen in dioramas is that they are built on a flat base. Short of a



Stone Foundation

concrete slab you almost never see any ground that is perfectly flat. Undulate the scenery and give it rise. When you build your barn, build it on an uneven surface and add a stone foundation to make it level.

Tip #10: Photograph and review your layout. Ok, let me warn you. This is a VERY painful step. By using digital photography you can print or view on the screen every little mistake you made. You'll find yourself scratching your head going "how did that fingerprint get on the side of the barn?" This is a great way to make your model as perfect as it can be.



The almost finished diorama still requires people, machines and trees but the camera shows the imperfections which we'll clean up as we go.

Using these basics you can take your modeling talents up to the level of artwork! Commit to a friend to have a diorama completed for the contest and you'll come out a winner no matter what your score. You'll always learn from doing!

THE CALLBOARD WANTS TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB OR EVENT

The NMRA is all about promoting the hobby. That means we want to put your club or Division activity in the *Callboard*! Hosting a train show? Send us your ad! We'll post any NMRA affiliated quarter page ad for up to three issues prior to the event as space is available. If you are hosting a Region event please work with the Editor so that we can provide all the promotion that you need. 100% NMRA Clubs are welcomed to submit promotional material as well in quarter page format. Contact Scott Perry the Editor at scottgperry@comcast.net to help you plan your

DIVISION ROUNDHOUSE

The Division Roundhouse gathers up all the fun happening in all the Rocky Mountain Region Divisions. There are 17 Divisions in the Region yet only a few of them report in each quarter. We need to change that! Please send in your reports, or the nasty old Editor might just make his own report for you!

02 SUNRISE DIVISION

Our regular Division meeting place is at Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 S. Chambers Rd, Aurora, CO 80014. We meet every first Thursday of the month, 7:15 - 9:15 PM, unless otherwise noted on the website. Our popular Show N' Tell segments have featured a variety of entries from our members, as well publicized in the acclaimed "Sunrise Herald" (which has been mentioned in NMRA Magazine's "Division Car"). After the "meeting" we adjourn for more socializing, coffee, pie, or late night snacks at the nearby Village Inn.

Several of us will be manning the NMRA booth at the Great Train Expo, at the National Western Complex, in Denver February 26-27th. We will be recruiting potential members and providing clinics on various topics from scenic-ing water to making aspen trees. If you are at the show, stop by and say hey!

Despite the late snow & ice we got during our February evening meeting, we still had very good attendance and a fun time. Some of the Denver snowstorm from the first week of February hasn't melted yet, on Gary Myers' D&RGW X-066, below.



We manage to get new faces checking out the meetings all the time, so don't be shy about

dropping in for a meeting - even if it is just occasionally, we welcome all. Our programs for the first half of 2011 are focused on the AP Program as well as a series of scenery clinics. Below are the guys enjoying yuletide treats during an airing of the Buster Keaton comedy, "Railrodder", at the December meeting.



We are fortunate to have Bob Hochstetter as one of our members, who also serves as President of the Missouri & Pacific Historical Society. One of Bob's LCL Eagle Merchandise Service cars is pictured below.



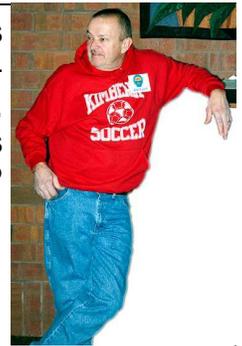
In work are some ideas for some things we'd like to do in late spring, early summer, so stay tuned to the website to see what is new: <http://www.trainweb.org/SunriseDivision>.



Above: A representation of an actual Union Pacific work train was Dillon Allison's HO-scale submission. Pictured here is two-thirds of that train which Dillon spotted about 10 miles outside of LaSalle, Colorado. The railcar models are by Athearn, but the imagination was Dillon's.

Our Program Chair Jim Laird, is now working as Deputy AP Chair with Mark Evans, and will be involved in the Model Contest at the next Regional Convention, with Mark and Bill Tulley. As

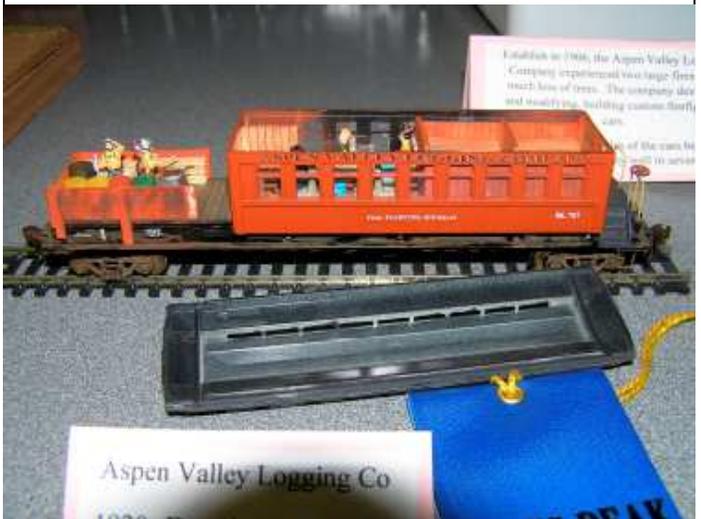
you know, Mark has worked as our Region's AP Chair for several much appreciated years, and is finally taking a break this fall, and is transitioning the AP Chair to Jim.



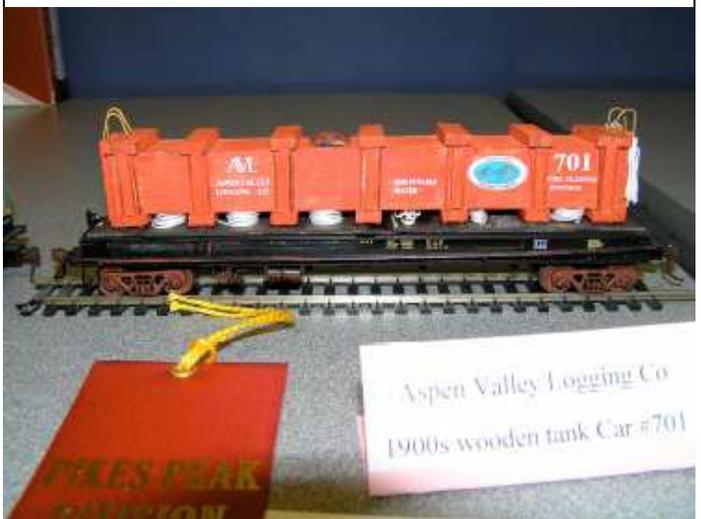
All photos accredited to Tom Frerichs.

04 PIKE'S PEAK DIVISION

Photos of Pike's Peak contest winners:
First Place, Roy Thompson



Second Place, Roy Thompson



**Everyone's going to the -
Great Train Expo Feb 26-27:
Sat & Sun 11AM-5PM
National Western Complex
4655 Humboldt St.
Denver, CO 80216**

10 SILVER SAN JUAN DIVISION

Ray kicked off the Annual meeting of the Silver San Juan Division. The first order of business was the reelection of Andy Saez and Joe Lemmo to the Board of Directors.

Two vacancies on the BOD were filled by the unanimous elections of Chris Killgore and Ron Nott. Ray asked for nominations for the position of Superintendent. The Super and BOD members must be NMRA members to qualify for the position. Dick Wholf nominated Jim Hawkins, who declined the nomination. Since no one stepped up to take the position, according to the bylaws the Assistant Super, Martin Pirnat, will fill this position.

Ray pointed out that Martin Pirnat, who is already very busy, would inherit the position unless someone else agreed to take on the role of Super. Since no one volunteered Martin became the Super by default. A change was made to the bylaws calling for 6 or fewer directors.

One change that was made is that the outgoing Super has the option to remain on the BOD for one year to ease the transition to a new Super. Ray agreed to remain on the BOD. Ray Schmudde did an outstanding job as Super, and *Flyer* newsletter editor.

I'm sure that the other BOD directors share my enthusiasm that Ray has decided to continue as a BOD member. Ray's accomplishments as Super and previously as assistant Super have been the major force in the growth and development of the Silver San Juan Division. His leadership will be missed. Ray did an outstanding job as editor of the SSJD newsletter. Big shoes to fill.



Ray begins the introductions of members and guests.
(Photo by Carole Schmudde)

12 SOUTHERN WYOMING DIV

The Southern Wyoming Division held its quarterly meeting on January 16th. The time was spent planning the assistance with the Sherman Hill Show and planning the meetings for the coming year. We will be meeting on the third Sunday of the month in January, April, July and October. The July meeting will be held in Laramie and the other three meetings will be in Cheyenne at the UP Steam Shop. The Sherman Hill Model RR Club recently voted to become a 100 % NMRA Club. This is pretty significant with a current membership of 34 of which only 13 were previously NMRA members.

The Sherman Hill club and the Southern Wyoming NMRA are holding their annual Model RR Show on May 21st and 22nd in Cheyenne at the Taco John Event Center. This event will be in conjunction with the Cheyenne Depot Days. The UP Roundhouse and Steam Shop will be open and giving tours as part of this combined event of the Sherman Hill Model RR Club, the Southern Wyoming Div. NMRA and the Cheyenne Depot. The Southern Wyoming Div. held its quarterly meeting on January 16th. The time was spent planning the assistance with the Sherman Hill Show, and planning the meetings for the coming year. We will be meeting on the Third Sunday of the month in January, April, July, and October. The July meeting will be held in Laramie and the other three meetings will be in Cheyenne at the UP Steam Shop.

Ted Erickson
Southern Wyoming Div. Supt.

14 NORTHERN WYOMING DIV

All is quiet up on the northern front here in Wyoming. Two snow storms and more than a week of very cold temperatures have driven all of the local modelers into hibernation. Nothing is stirring, not even my Large Gray Cat. He has appropriated my work desk as his winter nap area and will not let me use even six square inches of the top at present.



The Sheridan Model Railroad Association November Train Show may be considered a success. We were able to gain one new member for the NMRA and had 104 people come see the trains run. That is an improvement over the 18 who showed up four years ago. The theme train this year was covered hoppers. Thirty-four cars made up a train over twenty-five feet long which never had a derailment or a coupler let loose during the five hours that it ran. The club members still do not believe that our track work is that perfect! There must be a patron saint for model railroad shows and it is not Murphy.



The thirty four car covered hopper train climbing the 3% grade out of Rancheater on the SMRA Layout.

If you plan on coming up north this year, try to go to Hill City, SD and see the new South Dakota State Railroad Museum. For a schedule www.sdsrm.org will get any information that you may need for your trip.

Scheduled events this year in the Northern Wyoming area.

7 April – Helena Train Show, Helena, MT

14 May --Northern Wyoming Division Meeting, Casper, WY

1 October – Northern Wyoming Division Meeting, Sheridan, WY

MODEL BUILDER'S TIP...

Each evening when you finish working at your work bench take five minutes and clean up. Put things in their proper place, replace worn blades, clean brushes and move things off your main work space. You'll find that you are going to build cleaner and better models and that you'll like sitting down to work in a place where you can find everything you need and in its proper place.

16 FRONT RANGE DIVISION

The Front Range Division held the annual "Gathering of the Elves" Christmas party at Keevan Burnside's house. We had a good time talking railroading, eating goodies and running Keevan's railroad.

The January meeting featured a clinic by Gerry Glancy talking about Dual Gauge Trackage in Colorado. It piggybacked on an earlier clinic by Hal Zimbelman on D&RGW idler flat-cars.

The meeting in February will be a clinic on "The Royal Gorge War" by Gary Myers. March will be highlighted by a clinic on resistance soldering and April will have a clinic on modeling D&RGW water tanks. The FRD meets the third Monday of the month at the Colorado Railroad Museum at 7:00 pm in the Library. All are welcome.

Paul Brennecke
Superintendent

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DIVISION BUILDER

As a Region volunteer I believe that is the one and only goal of the Region to help build Divisions and to provide you with the tools to help you grow! So I'm starting a Division Builder column with ideas to help you increase the strength of your Division. Likewise, if there is something that worked for your Division and helped it grow, write and tell me about it and we'll publish it here.

The NMRA grows by offering features and benefits to its members which encourage and reward the member for being affiliated. To grow your group you need to offer as many benefits as you can. Here is an idea that will keep them coming back for more!

The DVD Lending Library. We all love railroad DVD's and there are so many of them out there! But the cost adds up when you are paying \$20-\$30 per DVD and sometimes you don't like it after you buy it. One thing the Division can do is to set up a DVD Lending Library. It allows the group to share DVD's which lets you see more of them for less money and allows a member to preview a video before buying.

You start by getting everyone in the Division to donate one DVD to the cause. Elect a person to the position of Librarian and have them get a large plastic tub with a lid so that you can protect and transport the collection easily. Use a simple Spreadsheet program to log in the title, author and donator's name along with a unique tracking number into the Library Database. Number each of the DVD's on the case and on the DVD itself using a Sharpie marker.

At your next Division meeting spread out the DVD's on the table and allow each member to check one out for the period of time to the next meeting. Make a simple sign out sheet that asks for the number and name of the DVD, the borrower's name and their phone number, along with that day's date. Keep track of the forms in a ring binder. When they bring the DVD back they need to put the return date on the check out form and then they may select another. You may want to allow the donor to take back his donated DVD if he chooses too but they must replace it with another. You can also take up a collection from the group to buy a particular DVD that all want to see.

What is good about this program is that folks love to check out DVD's, it doesn't consume Division funds and members save a ton of money by doing so. It's worth donating a \$20 DVD to get access to 12 more over the year! Access to such a library is a great benefit. If your group has surplus funds you might want to buy a subscription to *Allen Keller's Great Model Railroads* or buy the new *Trains Magazine Collection* of all their magazines. Either way the library generates one major benefit to the Division; it keeps people coming back to meetings to return and get more DVD's! Start one of these inexpensive programs today! Email me if you have questions about this program idea at scottgperry@comcast.net.

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The Callboard is the official publication of the Rocky Mountain Region of the National Model Railroad Association. The views and opinions expressed in the magazine are not intended to hurt feelings, piss people off or to cause pain in any way. If you take it that serious maybe toy trains aren't for you and you would be better off taking a hike or collecting rattle snakes. Still, if you are angry about something in the Callboard, contact Scott Perry at scottgperry@comcast.net and we'll try to help. Maybe. No, we will.



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