



**November 2010**

# Callboard

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

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to November and National Model Railroaders Month! Around America people, clubs, divisions, regions and the NMRA are showcasing model Railroading. We all need to be on our toes and ready to answer questions from anyone when they arise about our hobby. Take the lead and share your hobby with someone else, invite them to you club meeting or ask them to a show in your area, whether it is a big show as The Great Train Expo at the National Western Complex in Denver November 6 -7 2010 or an open house at your club invite them and show them what your hobby is about. Salt Lake City has a very large well put on show 12-14 Nov 2010 at the State Fair Grounds. I recommend all to try to attend, next year our Region Convention will be at this venue, and I am to tell you it is a great show. I will be there, stop by and say hello.

At the Region Board meeting I passed out a rough draft of a Handbook on how our region and other regions operate, please ask your Division Super to look at it. As I said it is a very rough draft and in 2 years it will be looked over for updates and changes. All the region presidents have been working on this since March, remember it is just a guide not mandated and all the Region Presidents are in concert with this National is not to mandate any of it to us. It is also available on the National pages at

<http://www.nmra.org/regions/> it is in the second paragraph click and see what it is all about.

Divisions be aware that Division 7, Road Runner Division, has started a Yahoo Group for its members to stay in contact with each other. It appears to be working well and Division 14 Northern Wyoming is working on the same thing. This may be a way for you to keep everyone informed.

The Region Board Meeting went well with no earth shaking news or events, just the everyday business of the region. The next board meeting is in Pueblo CO May 21, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the Country Buffet. Please plan to attend and see what goes on.

I'm sure all of you are starting to settle into modeling after a summer of lawns, and other hobbies. Do not forget the 144 square inch mini module contest at the Region convention in Salt Lake at the State Fair Grounds 11 -13 November 2011. This gives all of us extra time to complete the module and other models for the contest.

Harold Huber  
Region President

## NMRA NEWS

### Scanning of the KML photos begins - By Gerry Leone, MMR - NMRA Communications Director

If you're a subscriber to NMRA Magazine (formerly Scale Rails) you've seen the "Timeframes" series of photographs printed on the magazine's last page. Those are all shots taken from the Kalmbach Memorial Library (KML) archives. The fact is, our NMRA Library has over 100,000 images, negatives, slides, plans and drawings, and only a handful have ever been seen by NMRA members because it would have entailed making a personal trip to Headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to flip through the files.

Soon that will all change, thanks to the NMRA's Diamond Club. The Diamond Club is a fundraiser specifically designed to support adding enhanced content to our website at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). The first item on the list of is scanning those 100,000 images and making them available for download.

The good news is that scanning of the photographs has begun! In August of 2010, Historical Archives Services (HAS), the firm the NMRA Board of Directors hired to do the scans and design the photo website, began receiving and cataloging shipments of photographs from KML. HAS estimates that the first batch of photographs will be available for viewing online sometime in the first quarter of 2011, after a short period of beta testing late this year.

Putting the entire library online will be a costly, time consuming task, since each photo's listing will also contain highly detailed, searchable metadata, which is being added by the railroad experts at HAS. This detailed metadata will make it easier and faster for users to find exactly the photograph they're looking for. Current plans are to make the low-resolution thumbnails of the photographs available to everyone via the website around the clock. Users will be able to download high-resolution files, and NMRA members will receive a substantial discount. Proceeds from the scans will help fund the remainder of the project and future Diamond Club web projects.

As promising as this sounds, it's important to remember that the Diamond Club still hasn't reached its projected goal of \$75,000. If you haven't contributed to this worthy cause, please send your donation now to The Diamond Club, NMRA, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 376421, or do it online at [www.nmra.org/diamondclub](http://www.nmra.org/diamondclub).

Cutlines for photographs:

NMRA scanning -1: Railroading experts at HAS begun the daunting task of scanning the Kalmbach Library's massive collection of photographs, drawings, slides, and plans. The first photos should be available online in early 2011.

NMRA scanning – 2: Each of the 100,000 photos in the Kalmbach Library must be digitized, and important metadata added to each scan to aid in fast, efficient user searches. It's a time consuming process that will be an invaluable resource to members.

## **CONTEST CHAIRMAN**

By Bill Tulley

### **THE DREADED SEVENTH AP CERTIFICATE**

Thou shall cease thy procrastinating.  
Thou shall finish thy seventh AP.  
Thou shall submit the required application.  
Then thou shall become a Master Model Railroader.

Instead of thinking of the many reasons for you to begin building models for next year's convention in Salt Lake City, I thought that I will try something different. Therefore, you will now find information on how to build a track test car.

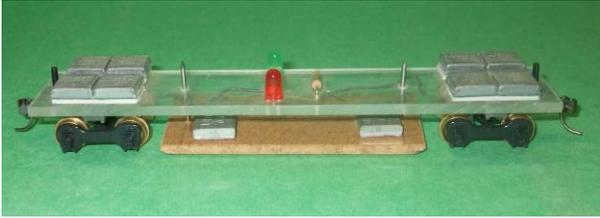
### **EVOLUTION OF A TRACK INSPECTION CAR**

By "Railroad Bill" Tulley

In the beginning there was the Micro-Mark track inspection car. This is a very useful device except for the fact that it spent most of the time on a shelf or in a drawer.



Evolution #1 was the addition of a Masonite slider and couplers so that this car could be useful as a track cleaner. Removal of the slider allows the car to perform its original function.



Evolution #2 occurred when two colored LEDs (one green and one red) and a resistor were added to make a circuit test car. In analog DC power the LED over the positive rail will light. Reversing the DC power will light the second LED. With DCC power, both LEDs will light.



Evolution #3 began with the inspiration to add a bull's eye level to the basic car. However this addition did not prove to be very practical. The bolster screws for the trucks have to be loose for the trucks to pivot easily. This makes the car body unstable, which results in inaccurate level readings. It is best to put slight finger pressure on the car if you want a reasonable accurate level indication at a particular location.



Evolution #4 is the present form of the Track Inspection Car. A copy of the NMRA standards gage was made from 0.040-in plastic and attached to the basic car. This improved car was very useful anywhere new construction was occurring on the layout. But a problem developed when the test car was included in a train and run around the layout. It was very good at finding several locations where clearances were not up to standards and produced spectacular accidents. Presently it is used a very low speeds, under close

observation and by its self. Just like those all-in-one tools advertised on television, this car can do everything that it was built to do, but it does not do everything as good as was expected.

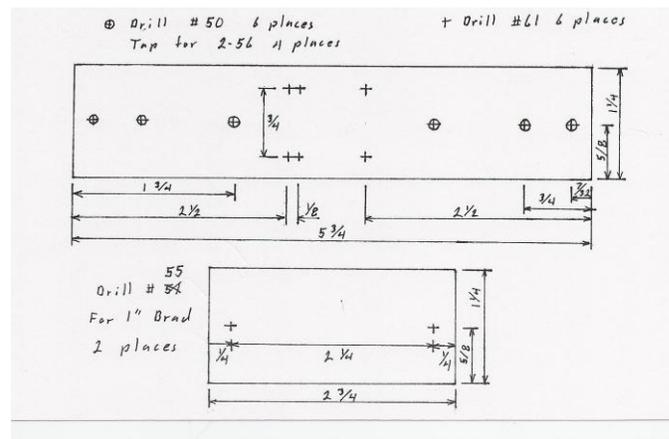
Construction of the improved Track Inspection Car is not difficult. If you are making the car body from a piece of scrap clear plastic, use the dimensions for your standard freight car for the length and width. Drill and tap, if required, all holes to fit those components you are using. The electrical circuit only has two requirements. First, when soldering the two LEDs together, be sure the positive lead for one is connected to the negative lead of the other one. Second, make sure that the trucks pick up power from opposite rails.



The material list is for an HO gauge test car running on track carrying 15 volts AC or DC. Adjust the resistor if your voltage is different. The pictures show the construction process far better than I can describe them. Build a test car and have fun.

#### Material List for Test Car

1. CAR BODY - 1/8-in plexi-glass or Micro-Mark Track Inspection Car (HO #82414, N #82120)
2. TRACK SLIDER - 1/8-in Masonite hard board
3. BOLSTERS - 1/4-in Plastruct channel
4. LED - Radio Shack - Green #266-022, Red #276-041
5. RESISTOR - Radio Shack 1000 ohm #271-1118
6. WIRE - Left over from decoder installation
7. TRUCKS & COUPLERS - Your choice



# Division and Club Doings

## **ROAD RUNNER DIVISION - Superintendent: Mike Weiss**

New officers were elected at our September meeting: Mike Weiss – Superintendent, Bob Zolto-Secretary, Lynn Daugherty-Treasurer.

Meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. On even months we meet at the El Paso, TX, Rail and Transportation Museum, and in odd months we meet at the Las Cruces, NM, Railroad Museum. For information, please contact Mike Weiss 575-532-1051 or Bob Zolto 575-525-8396.

At our September meeting, Mike Weiss presented a clinic on making deciduous trees using a bottlebrush technique. A write-up of this clinic is on our Yahoo group, [RMR-Div7@yahoogroups.com](mailto:RMR-Div7@yahoogroups.com).

Roger Bodwell and Bill Welsh brought in narrow gauge models (HOn3 and Fn3) at our August and October meetings.

The division is having a square foot contest, build anything that fits a 144 square inch footprint, with the results to be displayed at the February, 2011, meeting.

## **ESTES VALLEY DIVISION – Superintendent: Bob Trump**

The Estes Valley Division will sponsor a Model Railroad Show, Rails to the Rockies 2011, in Estes Park. The dates will be February 19 & 20, 2011. Saturday: 9-5 • Sunday 9-4. Adults \$5.00 Kids 12 and under Free with an adult. The location is the Estes Park Conference Center, Rocky Mountain Inn-Holiday Inn at Highway 36 and Highway 7.

Experience Model Railroad Layouts in Many Scales - Over 16,000 Square Feet of Excellent Model Railroading - Shop Model Railroad and Railroad Related Vendors - Enjoy Interactive Children's Activities.

For information contact: Laura Trump 970.577.0343 [coloradotrump@yahoo.com](mailto:coloradotrump@yahoo.com)

## **SILVER SAN JUAN DIVISION – Acting Superintendent, Martin Pirnat**

Two new Board members joined the Board of Directors team of the Silver San Juan Division at our annual business meeting held in Durango on October 16th 2010. Chris Kilgore and Ron Nott were unanimously elected to join the BOD.

As no one volunteered to run for the position of Division Superintendent to replace the retiring Ray Schmutde, the Assistant Superintendent, Martin Pirnat, will act in this capacity as per the division bylaws. Ray Schmutde did an outstanding job as Superintendent, and newsletter editor. Ray has decided to continue as a division BOD member. Ray's accomplishments as Superintendent and previously as assistant Superintendent have been the major force in the growth and development of the Silver San Juan Division. His leadership will be missed.

## **NORTHERN WYOMING DIVISION - Superintendent: Harry Buhler**

October 2, 2010 was this division's twenty-second meeting. Bill Tulley retired as superintendent after serving for six years in that position. Harry Buhler will now serve as the new superintendent. With luck, he may be able to find a replacement in a few years.

Two clinics were presented after the business meeting. Bob Charles and Harold Huber had a lively discussion on the use of jigs for model construction so that nearly identical parts can be produced without much difficulty. Bill Tulley discussed using shoe dye and alcohol to make a stain for use in coloring wood prior to model construction. Examples using both black and brown dyes were shown.

After lunch, everyone went to Ranchester to view Bob Charles' Deerfeathers Garden Railway. It must have been an enjoyable afternoon because Bob finally had to chase us off before it got dark.

The club train shows this fall are as follows:

Sheridan Model Railroad Association  
1030 N. Main in Sheridan, WY  
November 20, 2010 from 10am to 3 pm

Central Wyoming Model Railroad Association  
1356 N. Center in Casper, WY  
November 26, 27, & 28, 2010 from 10am to 3pm

Location and time for the 2011 division meetings.

Casper – May 14, 2011

Sheridan – October 1, 2011

## **FLATIRONS DIVISION - Superintendent: Roy Johnson**

Boulder Model Railroad Club of the Flatiron Division would like to announce their 33rd Annual Model Train Show held this year Dec. 11, 12 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont. For details including vendor information contact Roy Johnson: roy@4dv.net 303 349.7006.

## **SUNRISE DIVISION – Superintendent: Gary Myers**

We continue to maintain excellent attendance at our meeting place at Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 S. Chambers Rd, Aurora, CO 80014. (See our website <http://www.trainweb.org/SunriseDivision> for directions.) We meet every first Thursday of the month, 7:15 - 9:15 PM, unless otherwise noted on the website. Our Show N' Tell portions have gained popularity, and participants are entered into a random drawing for a Caboose Hobbies gift certificate. After the "meeting", we adjourn for those interested to a local eatery for dessert and more socializing.

In September we took a break from the routine monthly meeting and had a Saturday layout tour followed by a Saturday train ride excursion on the Georgetown Loop a couple of weeks later.



Former Argentine Central #12 (converted to oil) at Devil's Gate station.

We had a record crowd of 30 people for our October meeting, with our Show & Tell theme of beer reefers and Mike O'Neill's clinic on his Engineer Training on the Cumbres & Toltec. For November, we host Pat Lana, MMR with his Modeling Agriculture clinic. December will be our Holiday festivities fun and no "business"!

### **ARKANSAS VALLEY DIVISION – Superintendent; Bill Shanaman**

4 Arkansas Valley layouts along with 2 Pikes Peak Division layouts were open for RockyOps 2010. The layouts were Fred Carlson's Gladstone & North Houghton, Greg Long's D&RGW Montrose Division, John Denny's ATSF Raton Pass, and Bill Shanaman's New Haven. The Pikes Peak layouts were Eric Lundberg's Sandric and Lake Superior and Bob Foltz's ATSF Glorieta Pass. 32 boomers from all parts of the country showed up to operate, and all had a good time.



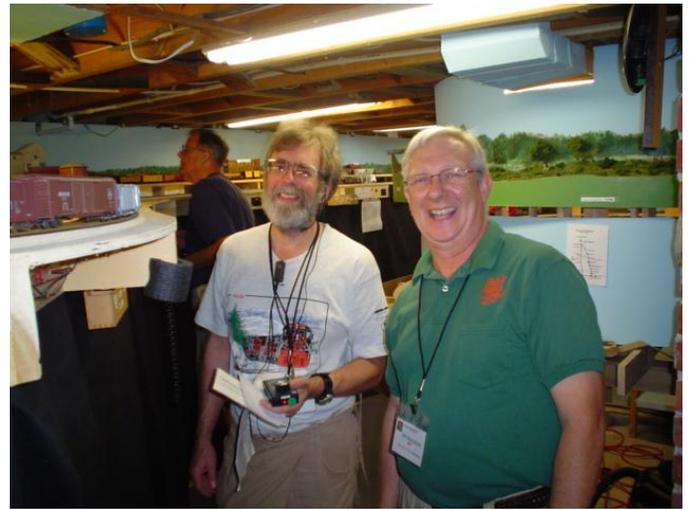
Operators gather around the ore dock on Fred Carlson's Gladstone & North Houghton



John Parker adds a coach to train #333 on Greg Long's D&RGW Montrose Division



Bruce Morden switches Buena Vista on Eric Lundberg's Sandric and Lake Superior



Doug Geiger and Bill Shanaman at Bill's New Haven layout

## MODELING PROTOTYPE OPERATIONS ON YOUR RAILROAD - By Bill Shanaman

Why is that reefer on the front of the steam engine on that train? That is a question I get from everyone new that comes to my HO scale New Haven Railroad. My answer: "Because that's the way the real railroad did it." After the surprised looks turn into inquisitiveness, and I explain that was how the train on the real New Haven was operated, you can see the 'Ah-Ha moment' as it turns to logic in how the train is operated.

You see one of my favorite things to do besides building models is operating them. Part of the fun of operations is research. Modeling groups like the Rocky Mountain Region, local Divisions, historical societies and the Internet are a treasure trove of information about the railroad you have interest in or model.

I belong to the New Haven Historical & Technical Association ([www.nhrhta.org](http://www.nhrhta.org)). This is a great source of valuable information specific to the railroad you model if you model a prototype. As I began to gain knowledge about my railroad and get past all the technical data available I wanted develop an operating scheme for it. The best way to do this is to ask questions. Not only about a specific prototype car or engine but how and why the train was operated like it did. Forums are a good way to share this information and make new friends. I have gained a lot of knowledge on how, why and what specific trains did. The research is just as much fun as modeling. It becomes part of the reason why you model a certain area of the country, a specific region



New Haven Railroad J-1 class 2-8-2 Mikado #3022 runs south from the Hartford Yard up the .83% grade to Wethersfield, CT, pushing a wood ice bunker reefer across Beaver Brook to its destination at the Ballantine Beer Warehouse.

or even a specific railroad line of the railroad you model.

The information available on line and off line can glean those missing 'nuggets of information' you need to run your model train like the real train or as close as possible. Correspondence between some of the folks I met and befriended that actually worked on the railroad and me culled these 'nuggets' for my railroad. It was incorporated into the design, building and operations of my railroad and let me develop a plan for each train that runs on it. These folks give the reason why the railroads did what they

did. The stories and characters involved are just plain fun to find out about and add interest to your modeling.

Let's get back to the reefer in front of the train. It seems on the line that I model the 'beer' reefer was the first spot of the morning and was a facing point move. The crew would drop the train at a certain place, drop the car on the siding for the customer, go back and pick up the rest of the train and finish the rest of the work for the day. On the way back they

would pick the car up, as this was now the last stop of the day before returning to the home yard and calling it a day. There is more to the story but you will have to ask me to tell you about it sometime.

My New Haven Railroad is open for visitation and operating session dates. You can set up a visitation or find out about ops sessions by contacting me at [Billy44@centurytel.net](mailto:Billy44@centurytel.net), by phone at 719-267-4660 or via the Rocky Rails Web site at: [www.rockyrail.org](http://www.rockyrail.org)



The guy with the s—t eating grin is Keith Hawthorne of the Arkansas Valley division running his 1-1/2in scale shay. Disgusting isn't it?

## **People People People**

Do you have items sitting on your bench you would like to get rid of but do not want to buy a table at a local swap meet? Then contact your Region Company Store, Jack Sousa Tel# 719-576-7017, and he will try and sell items for a small consignment fee. Company Stores next show will be in December so let him know.

**If your division or local club has future events planned, send the information to the editor.**

## **Rocky Mountain Region -NMRA**

### **OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT	Harold Huber	sarge9@bresnan.net	(307) 672-8471
VICE PRES.	Bill Johnson	william.h.johnson@comcast.net	(303) 750-9230
SECRETARY	Greg Long	greglong62@msn.com	(719) 547-9641
TREASURER	Don Francis	dbyrone08@aol.com	(303) 377-3403

### **DIRECTORS:**

2009-2011	Fred Carlson MMR	fredgcarlson@msn.com	(719) 251-9172
	Robert Charles	deerfeathers@wbaccess.net	(307) 655-3128
	Bill Tulley	railroadbill@vcn.com	(307)674-4885
2010-2012	Nate Bryant	bryant_nate@msn.com	
	Jim Laird	lairds@alascoinvestments.com	
	Martin Pirnat	martin@rmi.net	(970) 247-5349

### **DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS**

02	Sunrise	Gary Myers	garymyers06@comcast.net
03	South Suburban	Evan Williams	sewhappy123@comcast.net
04	Pikes Peak	Bill Poley	wpoley@aol.com
05	Estes Valley	Bob Trump	coloradotrump@yahoo.com
06	Rio Grande	Bill Sedivec	jsedivec@comcast.net
07	Road Runner	Mike Weiss	mikeweiss65@gmail.com
08	Flatirons	Roy Johnson	roy@4dvision.net
09	Northern Colorado	Don Allender	superchiefatsf@gmail.com
10	Silver San Juan	Martin Pirnat	martin@rmi.net
12	Southern Wyoming	Ted Ericson	eltd2002@yahoo.com
13	Colorado Western	Wayne Kennedy	waynek3154@bresnan.net
14	Northern Wyoming	Harry Buhler	wyoharry@bresnan.com
15	Wasatch	Robert Shearer	wdgandydancer@aol.com
16	Front Range	Paul Brennecke	pb80403@yahoo.com
17	Arkansas Valley	Bill Shanaman	billy44@centurytel.net
19	Roaring Fork	Jay Buchanan	buchanan218@msn.com
20	Southern Utah	James Moore	james@mooreway.com

### **APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

AP Chairman:	Mark Evans	omearssr@yahoo.com	(801) 254-1312
Contest Chairman:	Bill Tulley	railroadbill@vcn.com	(307) 674-4885
Company Store Dept:	Jack Sousa	jackfrw@pcisys.net	(719) 576-7017
Communications and Promotions Department			
Promotions:	Rich Flammini	rmflammini@msn.com	
Web Site: RMR-NMRA.ORG – Send input to Fred Carlson or Jack Sousa			
Web Master for Region Web Site:		webmaster@rmr-nmra.org	
Electronic Mailing of CALLBOARD:	Chris Fallis	chrisfallis@yahoo.com	
USPS Mailing of CALLBOARD:	Bob Charles	deerfeathers@wbaccess.net	
Boy Scout Coordinators	Blaine Bachmann	blbachman@aol.com	
Sunrise BSA Coordinator for RR merit badge - Louis Surles,		louandrewx@juno.com	

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Editor - Fred Carlson MMR, 7

71 S.Avenida Del Oro W., Pueblo West, CO – Phone 719-251-9172 – fredgcarlson@msn.com