



February 2010

Callboard

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

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again it is time for the Callboard and I have so much to share with you. 1st the 2010 convention is shaping up. You should have received an announcement by email or snail mail. More is in this Callboard. I want to thank Nate Bryant, Kurt Nielsen, Dick Hunter, Gary Myers and all involved (yes, I know there are many more so I apologize for leaving off any one) for stepping up to the plate on this convention. It appears to be another great convention.

2nd The 2011 Convention is starting to shape up and I applaud the Wasatch Division for taking the ball and running with it. I also want to thank Paul Thorum for starting the ball to roll and I appreciate his work prior to the Division stepping in and helping him. It will be in Salt Lake City and, heads up, it will be later in the year. I attended their Division meeting in November and if that is any indication of what the convention will be like we are all in for a real treat. I want everyone to keep an open mind about the timing of the convention. More on this later as dates are firmed up.

3rd I have been in a running battle over the insurance. I encourage all of you to keep track of when your membership expires and renew early. There seems to be a problem with renewal notices and after several hours of talking with the National Headquarters they are trying to fix it. Do not feel lonesome. I, the super, was not sent a notice and when I was completing some contest forms, noticed that I was in arrears two months. I do not know the answer so look at your card and renew early.

4th I encourage all of you to look at the monthly report that I send to your Division Super. Once a quarter I send out a list of those who have fallen to the way side. I know these have left for a reason and some are very valid. At the Narrow Gauge Convention I ran into a couple where the man traveled and the woman was treated badly by the Division while he was gone. I hope this does not happen again. We also lost a woman superb modeler out of the Rio Grande Division. No known reason. We need to be gender conscience and make all modelers feel welcome regardless of gender. When you see a new modeler at your meeting encourage her/him. Make them feel welcome. Give them something to do and don't let them stand around and watch. We are getting a lot of 6-month trial members. These gals/guys are looking for something. This program was probably the best thing that NMRA has done in years, but it is up to all of us to make them feel welcome and that we appreciate them considering us as a hobby. I can tell you we tend to stick with the familiar, but we need to help this hobby grow. It is up to each member to help the Club, Division, Region, and National grow.

In almost every volunteer group I belong to, the primary need is a strong program for retention of existing members and recruitment of new members. All other problems (for viable organizations) pale in comparison. NMRA does not have a viable recruiting and retention program although there are some tools available. Richard Flammini, our promotions chairman, is doing a great job at this and he deserves a pat on the back for his effort.

Any program worth its salt and to be effective, must answer questions that may never be asked but which are the key to success. "What's in it for me?", "Why do I need to put my time, money, and energy here?", and ""What do

you expect from me if I am a member?" To answer those questions we must have down pat, the story that tells the real benefits of the organization and membership. Unfortunately, when we speak of benefits, they have to be real and not just some line items on an organizational chart. The story has to convince the target that the benefit is immediate and continuing and it is available to them where they live or play. The benefits have to be anchored on core elements like Standards and Conformance. The benefits also have to be varied enough to interest a wider group than we may have appealed to in the past. There are a lot of people active in the hobby that just might join us if they really thought there was direct benefit to them in the part of the hobby they enjoy. The solid benefits are the key and the story is how we present ourselves within and without. Nothing like a really good elevator speech or, a short graphic display, that peaks interest to get the ball rolling. We really need to spend some time in this area.

The one thing I have noticed in that kind of area is that modelers tend to gravitate toward hobby shops. Once the association is developed they tend to gather at a common time. It is not uncommon for several modelers to have an informal get together on a Saturday morning (especially in the winter months) to bat the breeze and trade stories. Believe it or not, that is a meeting. All you need to do is get the word out and encourage more people to meet at the common time and then start funneling educational materials to them. Nothing like a group of touring clinicians, who are willing to go to that kind of gathering, to make things start to click. By the way, these little store groups are primary recruiting sites.

Over the span of 30 years that I have been dealing with organizational effectiveness, retention, and recruiting, the basics have not changed. We have a bunch of new tools and toys to help do the job but the principles are unchanged. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. We just need to put our collective shoulders to it.

Put your best foot forward to everyone you come in contact with about our Hobby.

Harold Huber
RMR President

CALLBOARD DISTRIBUTION

If you do not receive the Callboard it may be because you have the wrong address on file at the NMRA National Headquarters. We receive updates each month and this listing is what we use to distribute the Callboard. If you have an email address listed with the national headquarters we will email your Callboard to you. If there is no email address we will snail mail a smaller version of the Callboard to you. If you list both snail mail and email addresses we will email the Callboard to you. Should any of those addresses be incorrect at National it is your responsibility to change those addresses with National Headquarters. Your Division Superintendent receives the listing every month. Be sure you check your data and get it changed. To insure that the region receives this information in a timely manner, here are the addresses of people responsible for distributing the Callboard:

Snail Mail - Bob Charles - deerfeathers@wbaccess.net

Email - Chris Fallis - chrisfallis@yahoo.com

Harold Huber
RMR President

ELECTION TIME NEARS

This is a call for resumes for the election that is nearing. We have 7 Region positions open for the 2010 election: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 Board members for the time frame of 2010-2012.

If you are interested in volunteering to be elected to any of these positions send your resume to the election chairman William Tulley. His email is railroadbill@vcn.com.

Should you like to know what is involved in these positions contact the region president, Harold Huber at sarge9@bresnan.net or 307-672-8471.

All resumes must be received by April 1, 2010.

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	dbyron08@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
	Michael Weiss	mikeweiss65@gmail.com	(575) 532-1051
2008-2010	Chris Fallis	chrisfallis@yahoo.com	
	Martin Pirnat	martin@rmi.net	(970) 247-5349
	Gary Myers	garymyers06@comcast.net	(720) 837-4393

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS:

02	Sunrise	Gary Myers	garymyers06@comcast.net
03	South Suburban	Evan Williams	sewhappy123@comcast.net
04	Pikes Peak	Bob Haggart	kvrr@comcast.net
05	Estes Valley	Bob Trump	coloradotrump@yahoo.com
06	Rio Grande	Bill Sedivec	jsedivec@comcast.net
07	Road Runner	Bill Roberts	billstrains@warpdiveonline.com
08	Flatirons	Roy Johnson	roy@4dv.net
09	Northern Colorado	Don Allender	superchiefatsf@gmail.com
10	Silver San Juan	Ray Schmudde	schmudde@frontier.net
12	Southern Wyoming	Bob Sherwood	softmoods@vcn.com
13	Colorado Western	Wayne Kennedy	wayne3154@bresnan.net
14	Northern Wyoming	William Tulley	railroadbill@vcn.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@pcsisys.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

The Callboard is published quarterly, in February, May, August and November.

Editor: Fred Carlson MMR, 771 S. Avenida Del Oro W., Pueblo West, CO, 81007 fredgcarlson@msn.com
Phone – (719) 547-3142, cell – (719) 251-9172

As Fred is temporarily on the injured list, Dick Hunter is acting as assistant editor: 832 Geneva Street, Aurora CO 80010-3941 hunterrl@central.com Phone 303-364-4814

Division and Club Doings

Sunrise Division – Gary Myers - Superintendent

We have moved our meeting place to Aurora Fire Station #2, 12600 Hoffman Blvd, Aurora CO 80011. Please check our website www.trainweb.org/SunriseDivision for the latest since we may meet at other locations (such as at a home layout). Meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm.

Starting with the February 2010 meeting, it was decided to discontinue snail-mailing of the monthly meeting minutes to reduce annual expenditures.

Sunrise activities planned through the next few months include clinics on Resin Casting, Programming Decoders, Bridge Building, and Operations to name a few. We also plan on a couple of layout visits. We are actively planning the Tracks to Alamosa convention with South Suburban division. See elsewhere in this issue for more convention information.

This year we plan to expand on Chair positions, improve Division infrastructure, get more members input and involvement, and work on some open issues. Later in the year we plan to have additional layout visits, get together for an autumn Train ride, and join the Front Range Division for a picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Northern Wyoming Division – Bill Tulley - Superintendent

The members considered the Sheridan Model Railroad Association open house in November a success. One hundred and four people came to see what “The Boys in the Basement” were doing with their time. The attendance was not as good as the previous year, but much better than the year thirty-four people came, most of them relatives.



The Boys in the Basement – Front Row: Bill Tulley, Jim Perry, Kermit Ziler – Back row: Dick Lenzer, Bob Charles, Rod Reckard, Harold Huber.



**Sheridan Model Railroad Association
November 2009 – Open House**

Progress on the layout expansion (**LEFT**) towards the Black Hills has slowed. Consideration for what structures to use will be necessary before the scenery can be completed.



Division Meeting

The Northern Wyoming Division spring meeting will be on May 1, 2010, in Casper, Wyoming. Tentative plans are to hold a statewide meet in conjunction with the southern Wyoming Division and invite all Wyoming NMRA members.

Tracks to Alamosa

The 2010 RMR Convention

Thursday through Sunday

June 3 through 6, 2010

Includes an all day train ride from Alamosa to La Veta and return.

The price goes up April first
See the registration form



Convention headquarters is the Inn of the Rio Grande, 333 Santa Fe Ave., Alamosa, CO, 81101. This is along US 160, on the east end of Alamosa. We have a rate of \$84+ tax per room. Reservations received after May 4, 2010 will be at the group rate on an availability basis only. Their reservation line is 719-589-5833 or 1-800-669-1658.

Be sure to specify you are members of the Tracks to Alamosa Convention.

The depot is the location of our train departure on Saturday and the Hobo Breakfast on Sunday.

Visit the re-furbished depot, yard and shops on your own, Friday afternoon.



Be sure to visit this loco on display and enjoy “Somerset on the Rio”. Pick up maps and directions at registration for many photo and scenic spots.

**For a break from railroading,
try the pool or indoor water
park at the headquarters hotel.
Give the kids a bit of fun.**



Train and Breakfast Only

We have added a registration category of “**Adult Limited**”. This allows you to register yourself for the convention and to bring other adult family members who want to ride the train or attend the breakfast but **NOT** attend the regular convention activities. To use this, at least one person must have a primary registration. Everyone must be from the same family but the additional people do not have to reside in the same household. Children and grandchildren under 12 do not have to pay a registration fee nor live in the same household.

Railfanning Information:

Advance preparation is the key to getting the most out of your trip. Study, make plans, gather equipment, etc.

I highly recommend you purchase a copy of “**Sand & Smoke**” by Doris and Becky Osterwald. (Westernguideways.com) This book will provide “A Mile by Mile Guide” to what you will see along the San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad which we will be riding on Saturday. Several other great books on Colorado railroads are available from the same authors & publisher.

There will be maps and a flyer in the registration packet for some photo spots. While in Alamosa, be sure to visit the refurbished depot, historic loco in the park, and other sites.

While in the area, you might want to visit several other railroads: Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, and the route of the Rio Grande Southern. I published a set of shirt pocket guides for “Railfanning the Rio Grande Narrow Gauge” last year. (rgngfan@ecentral.com) or (neighborhoodlink.com/org/riograndefan)

Dick Hunter

Planned Schedule

Thursday evening – Registration.

Friday morning – Registration, clinics, contest entry.

Friday afternoon – Open time, yard and shop tours.

Friday evening - Registration, clinics, contest entry, Summerfest on the Rio (free, non-rail activity).

Saturday morning & afternoon – Train trip: Alamosa to La Veta and return (extra fare), Summerfest.

Saturday evening – Contest judging, videos, social center, Summerfest.

Sunday morning – Model pick up, Hobo breakfast (extra fare), contest awards, RMR-BOD meeting, Summerfest.

Sunday afternoon – Layout tours on the way home, Summerfest.

Thoughts from Your contest Chairman - Bill Tulley

The Region convention is only four months away. I hope everyone is well along towards completion of his or her modeling projects. This year, we will attempt a MINI DIORAMA contest where the only requirement is that the foot print of the diorama is 144 square inches or less. The only restriction on height or depth of this diorama is what you can transport to Alamosa. Let's see if we can fill the contest room with models this year.

We will also try a DISPLAY ONLY / SHOW AND TELL where your current project, either finished or unfinished, can be displayed. The modeler will then have the opportunity to discuss his/her work with any interested attendees.

The standard AP merit award judged contest will also be available. Remember that the NMRA contest categories now have a scratch built section and a kit built section, doubling the number of awards that are possible to be received.

Consider volunteering to be an AP Judge. The experience will help improve your modeling skills. No experience is necessary. If you volunteer, you will be paired with an experienced judge to show you the procedures. Check the box on the registration form.

Want More Information?

US Mail: Send SSAE to: Tracks to Alamosa, % Richard Hunter, 832 Geneva Street, Aurora CO 80010
 Web site: www.TracksToAlamosa.org E-mail: Tracksalamosa@ecentral.com

Tracks to Alamosa Convention – June 3–6, 2010

Registration Form

Primary Registrant must be at least 18 years old.
 Is primary a **current Member** of the NMRA?
 YES / NO _____ If yes, NMRA # _____
 If yes, the immediate family is considered to be members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Every registration must include at least one Primary Registrant. The Adult Limited allows family members, in or outside of the immediate household, to attend the breakfast and/or ride the train only.

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Names of other immediate family members (residing in the same household) on this registration. Include age if under 12 at the time of the convention. Grandchildren may be included on grandparents registration as immediate family.

Number	Item	Fare	Total
_____	Primary Registrant	\$ 35	\$ _____
_____	Spouse / Other Immediate Family Members	\$ 20	\$ _____
_____	Children under 12 (with registered adult)*	N/C	
_____	Adult Limited	\$ 10	\$ _____
_____	Train – Coach Seating **	\$ 40	\$ _____
_____	Train – Dome Seating **	\$ 55	\$ _____
_____	Sunday morning awards breakfast	\$ 15	\$ _____
_____	Non-NMRA member surcharge	\$10 per person, \$20 Family Maximum	\$ _____
_____	Late Fee (After March 31)	\$10 per person, \$20 Family Maximum	\$ _____

*Children under 12 must be with parent / guardian at all times.

Cancellation Policy: Full refund prior to April 16. Full refund less \$10/person, \$20/family after April 15 to May 15. No refunds after May 15.

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: Tracks to Alamosa. Mail to 832 Geneva Street, Aurora CO 80010-3941

For more info: www.TracksToAlamosa.org TracksAlamosa@ecentral.com or US mail as above.

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**** We may have a limit on the number of seats if the train fills up before we get enough registrations.**

I would like to serve as a contest judge: []