



May 2003

# Callboard

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

## CONVENTION TIME

By Don Strait

Steel City Steamer, the theme for the 2003 RMR convention, will be in Pueblo, CO, on June 12-15. The site will be the beautiful and roomy Pueblo Convention Center and will offer a great opportunity for region members to greet old friends and meet new ones.

Convention Chairman Jerry Long is leading the host Arkansas Valley Division in providing a series of activities that promises to keep convention goers very busy. Helping out in the sponsorship is the nearby Pikes Peak Division from Colorado Springs.

It has been a long time since the RMR has been in southern Colorado and will provide a chance to participate in and see railroad related sites that are in abundance in the traditional railroad center, Pueblo. Also, every registrant will receive a Joint Line Railfan Guide by Mel McFarland.

The convention will open on Thursday evening with layout tours in the Pueblo area. Clinics will be offered on Friday (morning and evening) and on Saturday morning. Layout tours will also be on Friday and Saturday afternoon in Pueblo and in Pueblo and Colorado Springs on Sunday afternoon.

A highlight of the convention will be operating sessions on several Pueblo layouts on Friday evening. These are filling fast, so get signed up for some exciting operations, even if you have never tried it before. If there is sufficient demand, there may be some operating sessions in Pueblo at other times.

Traditional convention activities include the region banquet on Saturday night at the convention center and the Hobo Breakfast, taking place in camp cars housed at the Pueblo Union Station, on Sunday morning. The NMRA contest will have entries on Friday morning with judging on Saturday morning. This will give the convention participants a chance to view the entries on Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon.

Several extra fare events are offered including Friday's trip in a private car through the Royal Gorge and a bus trip to Walsenburg to view 1½" live steam operation on Saturday afternoon.

The traditional train show with a variety of modular layouts and vendors will be open to convention participants only on Friday afternoon and evening. It will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday.

Special hotel rates of \$89 (1 to 4 people) are available at the Pueblo Marriott (1-888-238-6507) located adjacent to the convention center. Be sure to ask for the special NMRA rate.

All in all, Jerry and Fred Carlson promise a good time and an excellent railroading experience. Keep updated on convention activities by going to the convention website at: [www.pcisys.net/~innocpts2](http://www.pcisys.net/~innocpts2).

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration	\$40/person
Youth Registration (18 and under)	\$25/person
(Complimentary train show pass for spouse)	
Banquet	\$30/person
Hobo Breakfast	\$8/person
Royal Gorge Trip	\$27/person
Live Steam in Walsenburg	\$10/person
Convention Shirts:	
S, M, L, XL	\$12 each
XXL	\$13.50, XXXL \$15 each

Make checks payable to:  
Steel City Steamer

MORE →

## ELECTION TIME

The By-Laws of the Rocky Mountain Region, NMRA, provide that if there are not more candidates for office than there are open positions, that ballots will not be sent out. The resumes of the three candidates for board member are provided here. These candidates will probably be approved by the RMR-BOD at the June meeting in Pueblo.

### Harold Huber

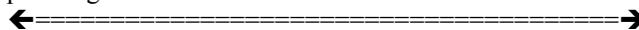
I am currently one of your regional board members. I started modeling in Great Falls MT in 1974. I joined the NMRA in 1982 and have been a member ever since. I am a retired Sergeant Major from the U.S. Army. While in the Army I belonged to the Slim Rails model group in Colorado Springs CO. I model the CB&Q in HO standard gauge, HOn3, HO trolley, and dabble in On30. After retiring I went to the University of Wyoming where I received two Bachelors degrees one in Mathematics and one in Natural Science. After college I went to work as a librarian at Sheridan College as a reference/government documents librarian. In 1999 I went to work for the Sheridan Research Institute as a research librarian. This March I went to work as the director of libraries at Dugway Proving Grounds, UT. I have assisted in starting the Greater Wyoming Division and served two terms as its superintendent, then as the division's achievement chairman. I am working on my Master Model Railroader award having finished Motive Power, Association Official, and Association Volunteer. I gave a clinic on railroad research at the RMR convention in 2001. That is all about me, I would like to run again as a board member for the Rocky Mountain Region. I will continue to vote for the modeler, the backbone of the NMRA. As many of you know the region leaders are going through discussions about the direction the region will take in the future. When I vote, I will vote for the modeler first, the region second, and NMRA last. I would appreciate your vote for region board member. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as a region board member. Harold Huber

### Vic Kuklin

I have been a member of the NMRA and RMR for over 20 years. I have previously served two terms on the RMR board. I live in Buena Vista, CO. Serving on the RMR board is a wonderful opportunity to give something back to the hobby from which I derive so much pleasure. I think of it as a chance to help my friends enjoy the hobby. Helping the Region members will also help the Region organization grow and prosper. I would appreciate your vote. Thanks.

### Richard Hunter

I have been a Life Member of both the NMRA and RMR for 26 years. I have been a division superintendent, contest chairman, membership chairman, treasurer, secretary, president and trustee within the Region. I have chaired three regional conventions, a special run on the C&TS, loaded busses at the 1977 National convention and was vice-chair of the 1991 national convention. Currently I am Editor of the Callboard, and active in both the Sunrise Division and the Sunrise Modular RR Club. Recently, I have been trying to help the BOD in the areas of publications and financial planning.



Send registration to: Don Strait  
1938 Payne Ct Aurora, CO 80011  
303-365-9317 [doncms@aol.com](mailto:doncms@aol.com)

# From the Cab

By Bruce Burbank, MMR  
Rocky Mountain Region President

The 2003 RMR Regional convention is almost upon us. It seems like only yesterday that the Board was voting on this Year's convention. How time flies!

Even as I write this letter, the Board is being polled by phone for approval for the South Suburban Division to host the 2004 convention.

At a Fall Board meeting the Board accepted the 2005 bid by the Sherman Hill Division.

Why devote this letter to upcoming conventions? Simple. These conventions are a tried and true method to get people together to not only share common interests, but also to gain new insight into phases of our hobby that may have been overlooked. I urge anyone who can to attend not only our Regional conventions but when ever possible the NMRA National conventions. You won't be disappointed.

Bruce

## RMR AP Program

Mark L. Evans - RMR AP and Contest Chairman

It's been quite some time since I've had an article about the RMR Achievement Program in the Callboard. I'm here to say the RMR AP is a live and well! We may even have a new MMR in our midst in the coming weeks. Our Region presents some challenges for me as Region AP Chairman. It's been tough to stay in touch with the geographical realities of our Region. As always, I'm here to help with anything AP related. You should also make use of your best AP resource, your local Division AP Chairman. If you need help with anything AP related, please feel free to call or email me. You can reach me by phone at 801-254-1312 or by email at MEvans@co.slc.ut.us

## Contests at the Convention

I also want to mention the upcoming Model and Photography contest that will be held in conjunction with the Region Convention mentioned elsewhere in this issue of the Callboard. I would love to see a great turn out this year. If you have any questions about the contest, please get in touch with me. I can answer your questions, and arrange for you to get the necessary paperwork to enter you model or photograph in this year's contest. I will try to have more information on the Convention website in the coming weeks. I'm also looking for help in the contest room when it comes time to judge the entries. Let's make this year's contest a real success!

## Interested in Special Run Cars?

The Rocky Mountain Region, it's divisions, and other organizations in our area, have produced many special run cars over the years. I will have a good many of these at the Pueblo convention train show. Dick Hunter.

## How to sell DCC!

My brother-in-law is a "model railroader". He refers to his layout as the train platform. I sent him a video of our club layout, including a 156 car train pulling the grade around the coal mine loop.

He and my sister came out for a visit. I took them to the club to see and run trains. I set him up with a 35-car string pulled by a locomotive with sound in it. My sister ran a 90-car train on the same track

When he got home, he promptly jumped into DCC and sound.

Maybe I deserve a commission?

# View from the left seat

By Kurt S. Kramke MMR  
Rocky Mountain Region Vice-President

I know it has been over a year since the last column and the Callboard has been published. The BOD apologizes for this but finding an editor has been a problem. Dick Hunter has agreed to be the editor, this does not mean that he comes up with all the content; you need to send him articles and happenings in your division. Remember this is your publication and one of your ways of communicating with the rest of the region. Use it.

In other news, many of you know that Ava Coleman has resigned as Trustee for the Rocky Mountain Region of the NMRA for personal reasons. Bruce has asked and I accepted the position for the remainder of her term. In order to keep things organized, I have set up a separate e-mail address for trustee business of [rmrtrustee@sfcn.org](mailto:rmrtrustee@sfcn.org). Please use this for correspondence that you have that relates to the trustee. My e-mail address for regular region business has also changed to [nmrammr@sfcn.org](mailto:nmrammr@sfcn.org), please use this address for all other correspondence.

The BOD is also looking at ways to reorganize to better serve you, the member. This is a continuing program which your Division superintendent should have information on. We hope to have preliminary results by the June Convention. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome by the BOD as we are here to serve you the member as best we can.

On the layout at home, as you may remember I was looking into DCC, I finally converted. What finally convinced me to convert was the Hudson locomotive from Broadway Limited, the sound was incredible in analog and I had to convert to DCC to take advantage of the enhanced capabilities. I went with the Digitrax system, not because it is any better then the other systems that are available but because my local hobby shop is an authorized dealer. Having used the system for a short period of time, I have found out that you are better off buying the automatic switching for your reverse sections (it will work using the switches you use in analog but not as well) and that your locomotives tend to run smoother then they did before. I did not run into any problems with my turnouts since mine are all handlaid, but I understand that you can run into problems with some of the commercial turnouts. As the summer progresses I will be going through my brass locomotives and reworking them to bring them up to current standards, installing decoders and repainting and decaling them.

My yard is now completed and I am now proceeding to plan out the engine facilities, I did notice an ad for precision turntables that can be made DCC ready in the NMRA Bulletin that will save me some time. I am also in the process of converting my cars over to Kadee #58 couplers from the #714's mainly to improve operation without having too large a coupler although the #58's are still a bit oversized for pre 1980 couplers. As the cars get converted and go into the yard, I am noticing that I have that modeler's problem of not enough yard space, and my hopper cars are all at the coal mine. It looks as though I need to get rid of some more cars or at least put them in storage. I just like certain cars that I have no use for mill gons, covered hoppers and tank cars. And then there are the foreign passenger trains that seem to drop in for no apparent reason.

## Conventions

I have yet to go to a convention that I did not learn something new, meet someone new, see something new, and have a good time doing it. I will be in the train show room at the Pueblo convention. Stop by and say hello. Dick Hunter, Editor.

# Rocky Mountain Region - NMRA

## WWW.RMR-NMRA.ORG

### NMRA TRUSTEE:

Kurt Kramke MMR (801)798-8623  
 mmrtrustee@sfcn.org

### OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT

Bruce Burbank (303)794-5776  
 francesburbank@prodigy.net

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Kurt Kramke MMR (801)798-8623  
 nmrammr@sfcn.org

#### SECRETARY

John Campbell MMR (719)481-2698  
 johnon3@earthlink.net

#### TREASURER

John Volp (Interim) (303)795-5305  
 Johnvolp@hotmail.com

### DIRECTORS:

#### 2001-2003

Fred Baney, Sr empireshops@aol.com (801)966-7395  
 Harold Huber sarge8usa@yahoo.com (307)672-3389  
 Jon Volp johnvolp@hotmail.com (303)795-5305

#### 2002-2004

Bob Foltz jrfoltz@market1.com (719)598-3007  
 Gerald Long jerrylong@pcisys.net (719)547-2243  
 Don Strait doncms@aol.com (303)365-9317

### FINANCIAL TRUSTEE:

Vacant

### DIVISIONS:

#2 Sunrise Aurora CO	Don Francis	(303)377-3403
#3 South Suburban Littleton CO	Mike Berg	(303)972-8748 mdberg@att.net
#4 Pikes Peak Colorado Springs CO	Bill Poley	(719) 266-8989 wpoley@aol.com
#5 Estes Valley Estes Park, CO	Allen Howard	(970)577-1588 arhoward@concentric.net
#6 Rio Grande Albuquerque, NM	Blaine Bachman	(505)899-6710 blbachman@aol.com
#7 Greater Wyoming Sheridan, WY	Paul Stout	(307)265-8686 aspennmtnmodelrr@yahoo.com
#8 Flatirons Boulder, CO	Roy Johnson	(303)443-8604 roy@4dvision.net
#9 Northern Colorado Ft Collins, Greeley, Loveland, CO	Gene Fusco	(970)226-4105 nh370@aol.com
#10 Silver San Juan Southwest CO, Northwest New Mexico	Lynn Daugherty	(970)382-9237 ldd@ercnet.net
#12 Sherman Hill Cheyenne, WY	Bob Sherwood	(307)638-8535 softmoods@vcn.com
#13 Colorado Western Grand Junction, CO	Wayne Kennedy	(970)523-5990 waynek9240@aol.com
#15 Wasatch (All Utah) Midvale UT	Cindy Meiser	(801)966-7411 hccmeise@ihc.com
#16 Front Range Golden CO	Debbie Huddleston	(303)936-1654 treelady51@msn.com
#17 Arkansas Valley Pueblo CO	Fred Carlson	(719)547-3142 fred_carlson@msn.com
#19 Roaring Fork Glenwood Springs, CO	Jay Buchanan	(970)625-3045 buchanan@sopris.net
#20 St. Vrain Valley Longmont, CO	Jim Moores	(303)775-9231 derailjim@msn.com

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

### Editor:

Richard Hunter  
 832 Geneva Street Aurora CO 80010-3941  
 email: rmrcallboard@ecentral.com

## Region Convention

Steel City Steamer, Pueblo Colorado, June 12-15  
 Web Site: <http://pcisys.net/~innocpts2>  
 Jerry Long 719-547-2243

## Flatirons Division

The Flatirons Division is alive and well! Formerly associated with the Boulder Model Railroad club, the Division is now a separate entity. I would like to invite all NMRA members who live in the Boulder area - those who are BMRC members, as well as those who are not club members to contact me with input on how you would like to see the Division operate. I know there are a lot of members out there that have not been very active in the Division for whatever reason. I would like to get members views on any aspect of the NMRA, the Region and the Flatirons Division to help chart a course for the future. I am in the process of setting up email lists of Division members to facilitate communications, so that meeting notification, etc., can be done electronically. To that end - send me your email address, even if you think I have it on the membership list - it can't hurt to have updated information!

I am also seeking input to relay to the Region on the ongoing Regional planning process. As you may know, this process started at the Fall Board meeting in Glenwood Springs and it is anticipated that there will be major revisions to the region bylaws to be voted on by the Regional Board of Directors at the Fall Board meeting if not before. I would like to have a better idea of the membership's interests, ideas and concerns to help in deliberations on revamping the Regional governing structure. There is plenty of opportunity for member input in this process - so if you have something you want to say - let me know!

The position of RMR treasurer will be open at the next election. I would like to thank Russ Boehm for the outstanding work he has done in an often thankless job. I hope this is not the last we see of you in Regional office Russ! (Russ Boehm recently resigned from the Treasurer's office. Ed.)

I hope to see many of you at the Pueblo Convention in June!!

Roy Johnson  
 Superintendent Flatirons Division

## Glenwood Springs Show

The Roaring Fork Valley Model Railroad Club has had their annual show the last weekend of October for 10 years. This year, due to hotel commitments and other train shows, we wont be able to have our show this fall.

We are looking to try and have it in the spring, possibly late March or early April.

If anyone has any comments on this please get in touch with Jay Buchanan at [buchanan@sopris.net](mailto:buchanan@sopris.net)

## U.P. Challenger #3985

## Steam Excursion

Cheyenne to S. Morrill & Return

Saturday, July 12

Ten hours, 250 miles over the Sidney and Yoder Subdivisions.

For more information:

[www.shermanhillmrrc.org/excursion](http://www.shermanhillmrrc.org/excursion)

Robert Sherwood - 307-638-8535

9am to 5pm – leave message

Scott Phillips – 307-638-6178

6pm to 8pm – leave message

# Broadway Limited Imports New York Central J1e Hudson

Kurt S Kramke MMR

First off I realize that this is not a Norfolk and Western locomotive, but there are several reasons I bought this locomotive. I have two of the Class A 2-6-6-4 Norfolk and Western versions on reserve, sound with and without DCC and finally the locomotive looks good and has a heft to it that belies a capacity for pulling cars. In checking the locomotive against the drawings in the locomotive cyclopedia of the earlier but almost identical version (you need to forgive an N&W modeler who is not as familiar with the NYC), it matches up very well. The big point is that the eccentric cranks are in the right position so that if this were a prototype locomotive, it would run. As for the tender, I could not find any drawings for this version although I know the tender was different (I do know that they made several changes from the preproduction to the final product). I purchased an undecorated version as I always do so I can not comment on the lettering or paint quality. The overall detail level is very good and is on par with the current level we expect to see with plastic locomotives in this price range. The selling point on this locomotive is of course the sound, when I first put the power to the locomotive boy was I impressed. Sound has sure come a long way since the noise makers in the 80's, the quality reminded me more of what you get out of much larger scales. This is accomplished by the placement of two speakers in the tender and their

sound decoder. In fact after hearing the sound of this locomotive, I have made the switch to DCC from analog after fighting it for two years.

As for pulling power, I have been doing an article for the NWHS magazine on pulling capacity of various locomotives and put this one in since there is get interest in the class A coming out. On my layout on level track using known weights of cars we have the following information on the Hudson: Weight of locomotive 1.1#'s, pounds pulled 12.2, number of 40 foot box cars 49, number of 85 passenger cars 23 this is of course cars meeting NMRA standard weighted cars. The cars are pulled through curves since this represents a more realistic view of the way we run our model trains.

Overall, I am very pleased with this locomotive and would recommend it to any NYC steam fan or freelancer. I have just started to play around with it using DCC and it is even more interesting to run, its' slow speed characteristics are just amazing and should improve as it gets broken in. I still have to program the decoder to customize the sound but it is quite loud in the default settings. I am also looking forward to the receipt of my two Class A locomotives and double heading them, although I will customize the sound before I do that, or wear ear plugs. Now I need to go out and get some NYC passenger cars to pull behind this little gem and some decals.

## Is your special event listed below?

### Upcoming Events

**Steel City Steamer – RMR Convention** - June 12-15 – Pueblo, Colorado  
<http://pcisys.net/~innpts2> 719-547-2243

**Steam Excursion – Sherman Hill Model RR Club** – July 12  
[www.shermanhillmrrc.org/excursion](http://www.shermanhillmrrc.org/excursion)

**Maple Leaf 2003 – NMRA Convention** – July 13-19 – Toronto, Canada  
[www.ml2003.com](http://www.ml2003.com)

**Slim Rail Model RR Show and Swap Meet** – October 11 – Colorado Springs  
Johnon3@earthlink.net

**Rocky Mountain Region Callboard**  
% Richard Hunter  
832 Geneva Street  
Aurora CO 80010-3941