



The

Milepost

Volume 44, Number 4 – April 2024

**The official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division
Rocky Mountain Region – National Model Railroad Association.**



NEXT MEETING:

Friday, April 12th, 2024, at 7:00 PM

The New Sand Creek Police Station 950 Academy Park Loop

(Northeast of the intersection of Fountain/Academy)

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Calendar of Events

January 12th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Show and Tell Program: {to be determined}

February 9th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Offline Buildings Program: Lionel – HO Vintage Trains

March 8th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: MOW Program: Harvey Houses of the Southwest

April 12th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Odd Ball Program: The Delagua & Bethua Railway

May 10th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Diorama Program: {to be determined}

June 14th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Rolling Stock Program: Charles Marchbanks

July 12th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Locomotives/Steam Program: Circus Trains

August 9th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Photos Model/Layout Program: {to be determined}

September 13th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Photos Live Program: John Emmot

October 11th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Railroad Structure Program: Microcontroller Update

November 8th, 2024 (Friday)

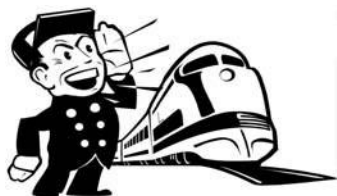
NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Locomotives/Diesel Program: {to be determined}

December 13th, 2024 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Program: Xmas Party



The Milepost, Volume 44, Number 4, April 2024, is published monthly, as an electronic document (Adobe PDF file), by, and under the authority of, the Pikes Peak Division (Rocky Mountain Region), of the National Model Railroad Association. Our meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month at the Sand Creek Police Station, 950 Academy Park Loop (northeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 7:00 PM. Please come to one of our meetings. We would love to meet you. All

scales are welcome. Besides our monthly meeting, we have swap meets, train shows, and other model railroads (and railroad) activities. All content in this journal is copyrighted to its respective owner unless otherwise noted. Please do not use content from this newsletter in other publications, newspapers, magazines, books, websites, etc., without explicit case-by-case permission. The editor of *The Milepost* is Mr. David Bristow. He can be contacted at the e-mail address: dave@bristow-family.org Thank you.

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Next Meeting on Friday, April 12

Our meeting will be held at: The Sand Creek Police Station, 950 Academy Park Loop (northeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Be sure to check out the Rocky Mountain NMRA Callboard:

<https://www.rmr-nmra.org/callboard.htm>

2024 Schedule

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| • Apr. 12 th | Mel McFarland | The Delagua & Bethua Railway |
| • May 10 th | Guest Speaker | Possible Guest Speaker - TBD |
| • Jun. 14 th | Charles Marchbanks | TBD |
| • Jul. 12 th | Mark Fuerstenberger | Circus Trains |
| • Aug. 9 th | TBD | |
| • Sept. 13 th | John Emmot | TBD |
| • Oct. 11 th | David Bristow | Microcontroller Update |
| • Nov. 8 th | TBD | |
| • Dec. 13 th | Christmas Party | |

Editor's Thoughts

Forgotten Hero: The Rise and Fall of KarTrak, the First Barcode System

In a world dominated by black and white stripes, a forgotten hero lies in the shadows. KarTrak, the first-ever barcode system, paved the way for the technology we use today in supermarkets, libraries, and countless other applications.

Developed in the late 1960s by the Slovenian Railways and later adopted in North America, KarTrak wasn't your typical barcode. Instead of the familiar stripes, it relied on horizontally arranged colored bars applied to the sides of railroad cars. These bars, read by optical scanners positioned along the tracks, automatically identified each car and its contents, revolutionizing the railroad industry.

Before KarTrak, identifying and tracking railroad cars was a tedious and error-prone manual process. Workers had to physically read and record car identification numbers, often leading to mistakes and delays. KarTrak offered a much-needed solution, streamlining the process and increasing efficiency.

Despite its groundbreaking nature, KarTrak faced some limitations. The colored bars were susceptible to weather conditions, particularly rain and snow, which could hinder their readability. Additionally, the cost of implementing the system was a significant hurdle for some railroad companies.

By the late 1970s, KarTrak was phased out in favor of more advanced and weatherproof technologies. However, its impact on the world of barcodes cannot be overstated. KarTrak laid the foundation for the development of the modern barcode systems we use today, proving the concept and paving the way for a future filled with efficient and automated identification solutions.

While its reign may have been short-lived, KarTrak serves as a reminder of the ingenuity and innovation that can sometimes be overshadowed by later advancements. It reminds us that even seemingly simple solutions can have a profound impact on our world and pave the way for the technologies we rely on today.

While KarTrak was the first attempt at automated railcar identification, it wasn't directly replaced by a single specific technology. Instead, its shortcomings led to the exploration and implementation of several different solutions:

- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID): This became the dominant technology for automatic railcar identification. RFID tags attached to the cars transmit a unique signal when they pass by readers installed along the tracks, offering greater reliability and all-weather functionality compared to KarTrak.

- Optical Character Recognition (OCR): This technology utilizes cameras to capture and read existing alphanumeric identification numbers painted on the sides of railcars. While not as efficient as RFID, it offered a more affordable alternative for some applications.
- Automatic Train Identification (ATI): This system relies on transponders installed on locomotives, which transmit information about the entire train composition, including individual car identification, to trackside readers. This provides a broader picture beyond just individual car identification.

These advancements, along with ongoing developments in areas like satellite tracking and wireless communication, have collectively addressed the limitations of KarTrak and continue to improve the efficiency and accuracy of railcar identification in the modern era.

David

Keepin' it on the Tracks

**By Mark Fuerstenberger
2024 RMR Elections**

I reached out to Gary Meyers to find out the results of the recent election, but at the time of writing this article, I still haven't heard any results. As soon as I hear the results, I'll be sure to let you know. Hopefully, I will have some answers by our upcoming April meeting.

Rocky Mountain Train Show

The Rocky Mountain Train show will be held April 6th & 7th. It will be held in Denver at the National Western Stock Show Complex. Address: 4655 N Humboldt St, Denver, CO 80216. We have several members participating in the show, so hopefully, most of us can get up there to say hi and enjoy a great show.

Also, at the show this year, Value Trains has designed a box car for sale. 10 of the cars will be donated to the show as prizes and the remaining cars will be sold for \$39.99 ea. If you're interested in this box car you may want to get one on Saturday as they are expecting to sell out of them.



Rocky Mountaineer Trip

Mike Peck is continuing to research the possibility of a trip on the Rocky Mountaineer. He will be doing a small presentation at our April meeting to get you excited. Then I believe he will have a presentation at our May meeting to see who is interested in going on this fantastic trip. If you have the time, check out the following links for more information.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHdfilGj7SI&ab_channel=RockyMountaineer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbXh_DbJ570&ab_channel=RockyMountaineer

PPD Trip to Leadville

At our March meeting, there was an overwhelming majority that said they would like to see our Division take a trip to Leadville and ride the Leadville Railroad. Amber Fuerstenberger has been researching this trip and will have details to present at the April meeting. For anyone interested who is unable to attend the April meeting, we will post details in the following month's Milepost so that everyone is aware.

Drawing Prizes Preview

By Tony Pawlicki

“Teaser” preview of some prizes available at the drawing during intermission at the April 2024 Pikes Peak Division NMRA meeting. The idea is to entice more members to our meetings. **HEY – feel free - encouraged, even - to bring/donate surprise items! The more the merrier! (Wade’s and Mr. Lugg’s and Alan Hutchins’s donations won’t last forever, folks – in fact, Mr. Lugg’s donations were exhausted with the February 2023 drawing.)**

(Some Of) The April Meeting Offerings (these were 2023 Christmas party presents that turned out to be inappropriate for my modeling era):

NSRX 254. HO scale 2-bay covered hopper, decorated for Jack Frost Cane Sugar. Model Die Casting kit, original inbox. Gift from Tony Pawlicki.

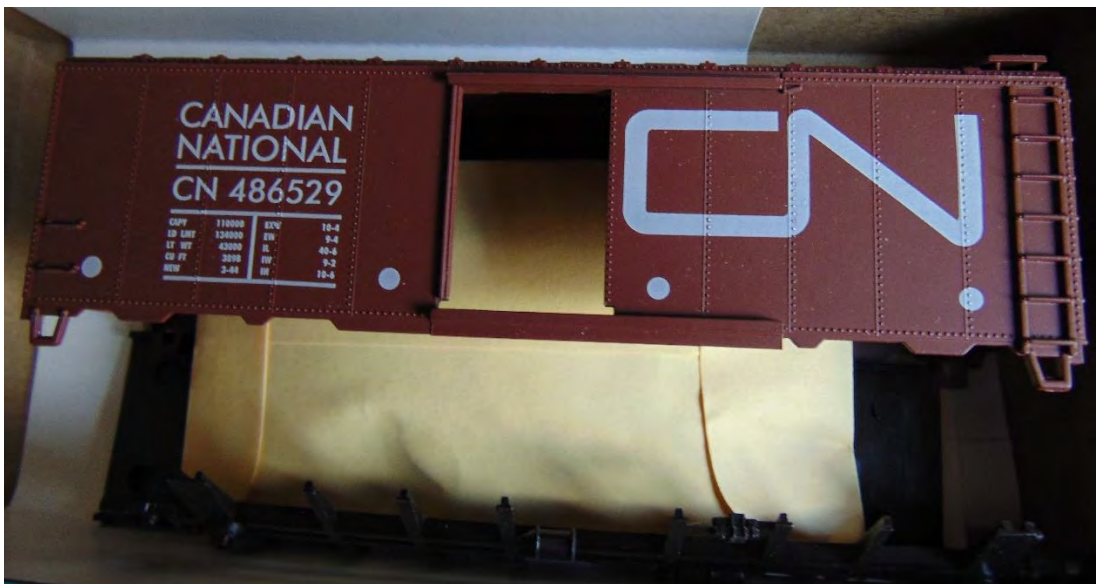


D&RGW 01503. HO scale caboose. Athearn “Ready to Roll” model, new in box. Gift of Tony Pawlicki.

- Metal wheelsets.
- Kadee #5 couplers.
- NO modern markings (no ACI plate, no Consolidated Stencils, no U1 wheel stickers)
- Marked as “RADIO EQUIPPED”. (I don’t think there is *actually* a radio inside.)



CN 486529. HO scale single-door 40-foot AAR boxcar. Athearn "Blue Box" model kit, new-in-box. Gift from Tony Pawlicki.



Switchers & TrackMobile's

By: Mark Fuerstenberger

How do industries move cars around their yards for loading and unloading??

For a small company that gets 1 car delivered per week, the railroad could simply spot the car where it is needed. This would be areas such as a loading dock or perhaps even under a hoist or crane. But what about companies that get a half dozen cars delivered per week and need to move them around for loading and unloading?

Part of this decision on how to move railcars also depended upon the size of the company. Some companies moved cars by hand or even with tractors and trucks. Although this probably wasn't the safest method.



As the need for safer and more reliable ways to move rail cars continued, many different switchers were developed and used. Below are a few examples.



Above: Amber in front of Atlantic Coast Line switcher 508 in Plant City, FL.

These locomotives were good for dealing with cars on the outside of a factory, but what about inside? How about companies that needed to roll the car inside to unload its contents out of the weather.

In 1948 an ex-Navy pilot named Marshall Hartelius was working for the Whiting Corporation and was assigned the task of finding a way to better move cars inside a factory. A traditional locomotive needed constant service and maintenance not to mention would constantly get "stuck" on dead

tracks behind cars and then would no longer be efficient. A solution was needed that could allow a small railcar mover to lift off the tracks and relocate to another track.

As Marshall worked on the problem it was quickly apparent that the weight of the rail car mover would need to be sufficient to push or pull the rail car but light enough to be able to move on wheels around the factory without tearing up the floor or roadways. After giving this some thought he came up with the idea of using the railcars weight for traction. Once the rail car mover was in place, the coupler would lift and slightly lift the railcar, thus using all its weight for traction on the rails. The idea worked, and the TrackMobile was born. By 1950 the Whiting Corporation decided that other companies could benefit from this, and so Marshall was sent around the country on a sales tour. Today over 11,000 TrackMobiles are in operation in more than 60 countries.



Early TrackMobiles



Modern Day TrackMobile



Mark's new TrackMobile to add to his roster. 😊

Show and Tell Reminder

By Tony Pawlicki

This note lays out the rules for the bi-monthly Show And Tell session/contest at the APRIL 2024 Pikes Peak Division NMRA meeting. These rules apply to the bi-monthly ***“salvage and resurrection”*** events. This event was originally announced a bit over a month in advance to give entrants enough time to prepare their entries. The event (sort of a second contest) was inspired by our late beloved Division Superintendent's notion in his March 2023 Milepost Conductor's Corner column.

You've had five weeks to get ready, so I'm hoping for a big turnout!

General Idea:

- Grab an old, failed project you couldn't bring yourself to discard (or a disaster picked up at a train show or store).
- Plan a fix (turning it into something good, though not necessarily creating what you originally planned).
- Actually fix it.
- Bring it to the meeting, display it, then after the regular model contest, stand up and tell us about your adventures.
- ***The show-and-tell aspect is the main thing.*** If there are enough entries (three), there will be a contest aspect as well, but the main goal is to have fun salvaging something and entertaining the rest of us with the way you had fun.

Example: An example and the rules were provided in the April 2023 Milepost.

This Session's Theme: Refrigerator Cars (“Reefers”):

- old ones and new ones (both as regards construction and as regards markings)
 - small plug doors
 - plug-and-sliding doors
 - iced
 - mechanical
 - billboard
 - plain
 - private owner
 - railroad-owned
- others I've not thought of.

Rocky Mountaineer

By Mike Peck

Born in the Canadian Rockies, Rocky Mountaineer expanded its horizons in 2021, bringing its signature brand of comfort and sightseeing to the American Southwest. The Denver to Moab route, aptly named "Rockies to the Red Rocks," showcases the dramatic beauty of the Colorado Rockies and the awe-inspiring canyons carved by the Colorado River.

Embark on a luxurious journey through breathtaking landscapes with the Rocky Mountaineer. This renowned train company whisks passengers on an unforgettable adventure from the vibrant city of Denver, Colorado, to the red rock wonderland of Moab, Utah.

Prepare to be captivated by majestic mountain ranges, sprawling valleys, and vibrant desert vistas as you travel in style aboard the Rocky Mountaineer. This is more than just transportation; it's an immersive experience, allowing you to truly appreciate the grandeur of the American West. While this is not a cheap trip, but a once in a lifetime adventure.

To see some of the exciting sights, cuisine, and world-class luxury check out these two videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHdfilGj7SI&ab_channel=RockyMountaineer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbXh_DbJ570&ab_channel=RockyMountaineer

The cost for the Denver to Moab Rocky Mountaineer trip is:

- Double Occupancy – SilverLeaf \$2,697.00 tax \$49.21 total net \$2,746.21
- Single Occupancy -SilverLeaf \$3,412.00 tax \$52.83 total net \$3,464.83

The proposed itinerary is as follows:

- **Day 1: Oct 15, 2024**
 - Denver Accommodation
- **Day 2: Oct 16, 2024**
 - **Coach Transfer Denver Hotel to Denver Train** Your accommodation may be within walking distance of the train station, but a motorcoach transfer will also be available. Your luggage will be delivered to your hotel.
 - **Denver to Glenwood Springs** Depart Denver and travel onboard Rocky Mountaineer. Cross the Continental Divide as you take in the spectacular views of rugged canyons and the Colorado River before arriving at the resort town of Glenwood Springs.
 - **Walk from Glenwood Springs Station to Glenwood Springs Accommodation** Your accommodation may be within walking distance of the train station, but a motorcoach transfer will also be available. Your luggage will be delivered to your hotel.
 - **Glenwood Springs Accommodation** Details of your accommodation in Glenwood Springs will be provided at the time of check-in. You will stay in moderate two- or three-star accommodation with essential amenities and great service. While these accommodations are clean and comfortable, they may not be as luxurious...
- **Day 3: Oct 17, 2024**
 - **Walk from Glenwood Springs Accommodation to Glenwood Springs Station** The train station may be within walking distance of your accommodation, but a motorcoach transfer will also be available. Please leave your luggage in your room and it will be transferred for you to your next destination.
 - **Glenwood Springs to Moab** Depart Glenwood Springs and travel onboard Rocky Mountaineer. Cross the Colorado-Utah border with stunning mountain views in the background. Red sandstone landscapes will emerge as you approach Moab, the gateway to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.
 - **Coach Transfer Moab Train to Moab Hotel** Upon arrival in Moab, you will be transferred by motorcoach from the train to your hotel.
 - **Group Moab Accommodation**
- **Day 4: Oct 18, 2024**

- **Group Tour - Red Rock Explorer** Enjoy a full-day guided sightseeing tour and experience the incredible red rock wonders of Utah. Start the day at Arches National Park and marvel at the gravity-defying arches and formations. A scenic drive along “The River Road” will take you to Red Cliffs Lodge for a delicious meal...

I will be at the Division meeting and will give a brief presentation on the trip. I'm working on how we get back from Moab so that will be another cost. At the May Division meeting a representative from the Rocky Mountaineer will give another presentation and start taking checks for any reservations from those who want to take this once-in-a-lifetime train trip.

April Wavy Rails

By Joe Costa



Schields --- Tourist Attraction?



Using paint, I have done surgery on pictures of buildings to clean things up. In the picture of the bear the top of the photo backdrop was lower than the bear's head which made the picture look lame. I copied and stretched the sagging backdrop to bring it up to the top of his head. I did similar stretching on the Garden of the Gods image.

Well, if you are cheap like me, it's a perfect place to visit — it has a bigger collection of wildlife than most natural history museums, cool aquariums and statuary, photo stops and a big collection of statuary. Besides, my sister needed a bigger suitcase to bring her icon back home to Philadelphia.

She came to town to create an icon in a class at Holy Theophany Orthodox Church.



Catalyst Visit

We played local tour guide for my visiting artiste sister.

Visiting the Old Santa Fe Railroad Station and Harvey House was on the agenda.

In driving around the building, near the old freight house, I caught sight of a couple railroad passenger cars hidden from normal view:



Now these EAS cars have been around a while and quite visible:



Junkyard South of Catalyst and KKTV

There are old hotel signs and a trackless crossbuck that is powered up!



Garden of the Gods Trading Post



Another obligatory place to bring tourists is the Garden on the Gods. I had never noticed these two passenger cars behind the store. I suspect they are from the COG.



Trainhopping the Pikes Peak Subdivision



Trainhopping the Pikes Peak Subdivision
- Pueblo to Denver

[Trainhopping the Pikes Peak Subdivision - Pueblo to Denver \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Not Recommended!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNvnHAKm5dk&t=4604s>

He is Certifiable:

<https://www.youtube.com/@RanOutOnARail>

Harry Potter Train Suspended



West Coast Railways has suspended its world-famous Jacobite steam train with immediate effect. The service has run for **30 years**, but with the ongoing exemption suspension, the decision has been taken to suspend the service. The train runs from [Fort William](#) to [Mallaig](#) and WCRC says it brings in an estimated £20m to the tourism sector.

WCRC has [submitted an application for a temporary exemption](#) from March 2024, however, as the exemption has not yet been granted, WCR has had to suspend the service until further notice.

Seriously, in 2025 I was thinking about a cruise around the British Isles in conjunction with a ride on this train.

Getting More than You Paid for



Well, that is what I ordered and the picture that came on the paperwork but this is what I got:



What was confusing is the two buildings with first and second stories and roof were tapped together incorrectly. I rearranged them to match up with the picture above and will paint them.

I had ordered a second Hacienda building and compound which both arrived. I'll have to get two bases and paint two compounds like the photo above. Both the hacienda and the compound should come with an extra half inch of railing to merit OSHA approval. I will look for a fix.

Bob from Guardian Hobbies is sending me an updated rail (they have two different versions) for Hacienda vs Compound versions.

Mini Dollhouses for Model Railroaders?

I came across this on an Asian website. It's way smaller than the convention scale of one-inch equals one foot but at 5 in X 2.12 in X 3.94 in this is pretty much ho scale. I ordered it for the home layout here.



Alaska Railroad Selling off the Crown Jewels?

Alaska Railroad is the only state-owned full-service railroad in America and the only one offering passenger service. This goes back to World War II when the Federal government created it and then turned it over to Alaska after the war.

Currently, Brightline is the only real private passenger line in America.

Now a bill has been introduced in the Alaska state legislature to privatize the Alaska railroad.

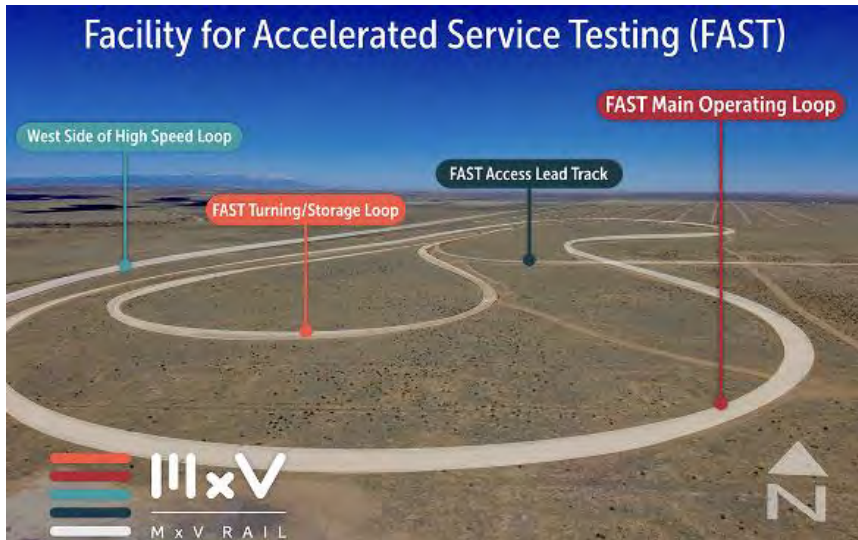
Privatizing anything usually results in the elimination of “less profitable service.”

High-end passenger cars (comparable to what the Rocky Mountaineer offers in Canada and Colorado and Utah) are privately owned, some by the cruise lines. Typically, they are at the end of regular Alaska Railroad passenger trains.

In Canada, the Rocky Mountaineer has their own engines, so after jumping through American bureaucratic hurdles something could be worked out if an Alaska Railroad turned private and dumped passenger service.



MxV Visit at old Army Chemical Storage Site



MxV Rail has a Facility for Accelerated Service Testing (FAST) and the Curving Performance and Suspension Resonance tracks at its new Pueblo Plex facility.

MxV Rail has a 2.8-mile-long track loop.

It does all kinds a rail car and track testing and incident training. There was also nuclear transport rail and security cars. No pictures allowed outdoors.

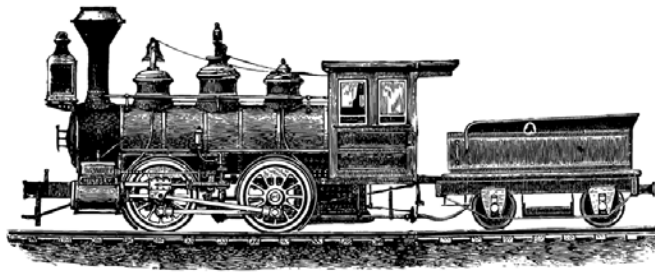
We are cruising across the Atlantic this month:





They do have trains in Morocco:





March 2024 Minutes

Secretary, John Emmot

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Superintendent, Mark Fuerstenberger at 7:06 in the community room of the Sand Creek Police Station. There were 12 members present and no visitors.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the Milepost.

Treasurers Report

Tony was present. There were hard copies of the report. The payment for website hosting was posted along with the interest on the bank account. It was noted that the receipts from the February drawing were not shown. Tony stated that they were included in the 'cash on hand'. The statement was accepted as corrected.

Announcements

Charles Marchbanks expressed his gratitude for the PPD support of his daughter's Girl Scout cookie sales over the years. She has now aged out of the program and will not provide them next year.

Mark reminded attendees of:

- The Rocky Mountain Region on-line elections. The link is live until March 15 for those who have not yet voted.
- The Rocky Mountain Train Show in Denver on April 6+7. The Rocky Mountain Region, NMRA will have HO scale, commemorative boxcars for sale only at the show. The cost is \$39.99. Proceeds support the Region activities. The Region is also seeking volunteers to present modeling themed clinics during the show. Interested parties should contact Gary Meyers on the RMR website.
- He resurfaced the question about interest in a summer trip for the Division. He listed several 'in-town' and other distant 'day trips' as possibilities. The Leadville train ride was again brought up and got support from the attendees. Mark said he would check their schedule.
- A representative of the Rocky Mountaineer is expected to give a presentation at the May Division meeting about possible Denver to Moab trips coming up.

John asked if there was any interest in a social, rail BS gathering outside of the scheduled meetings. Consensus was that lunch between Monday and Thursday might attract the most participants. He was assigned to find a place and time and send invitations.

Tony announced that the 'rehabilitation project' for April would be 'refers', the cold kind, not the ones you smoke.

Old Business

Concerning the PPD shirts with the logo on them. Thirty-three shirts were purchased from the vendor. The final price for the quantity purchased was \$32 each for a total cost of \$1056. 24 have been purchased by members for \$20 each (\$480). A bill for \$576 was presented to Tony for reimbursement from the treasury. \$180 will be paid to the treasury as the remaining 9 are sold.

Program

Kristin Philips discussed the Harvey Houses of Colorado and New Mexico. She covered the life and family of Fred Harvey and the background that led him to provide fine dining for several railroads and ultimately Santa Fe. The evolution of the early eating houses to the final Harvey Houses of

Santa Fe was included. She showed the architecture and design common to most of the restaurants and hotels.

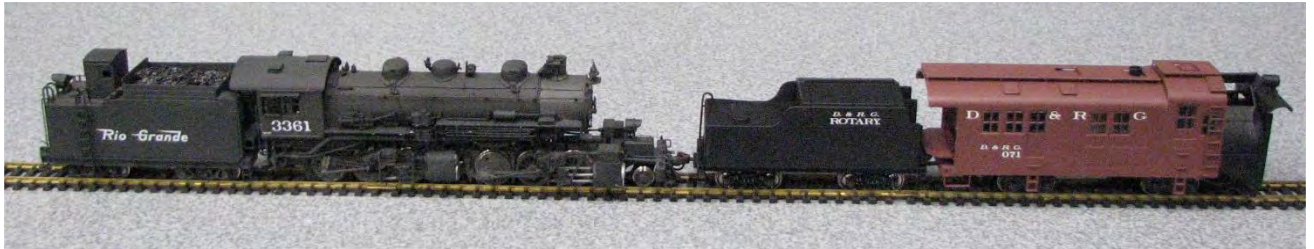
Drawing

The drawing was held with several happy winners.

Contest

There were three entries for the contest. John's rotary snowplow train was first, while Tony's Herzog gondola was second, and Tony's BN side dump was third. It might appear that the places were decided by size and not by effort.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:11.



Harvey Houses of Colorado and New Mexico

The land of desert and stars, modern and ancient cultures, forest green and rocky tan.

—Hospitality Magazine: A Magazine For and About the Men and Women of Fred Harvey

(Rosa Walston Latimer, Harvey Houses of New Mexico)







Lighter Rail By Kristin Phillips

April Fool's Day has just passed. Did you get pranked? Did you prank someone? Even in the railroad world, it played out. Here are some train sightings from different years for April Fool's Day. And an Easter sighting as well.

Believe It or Not—A Blast from the Past

April Fool's Day pranks extend to railroading world NEWSWIRE

By Angela Cotey| April 1, 2019

April Fool's Day did not pass unnoticed in the railroading world, as some organizations reported "news" in the spirit of the day. Among the highlights:

The San Antonio Zoo announced that its narrow-gauge zoo train, the Eagle Train in Brackenridge Park, would begin providing light rail service to Austin. Given that the trains operate at 5 mph on their current 2 ½ mile route, the more than 80 miles to Austin will be a "pleasant 17-hour trip" the zoo said, with the possibility of extending travel time to 24 hours by visiting notable sites enroute.

After revealing the April Fool's joke at the end of the article, the zoo noted that it seriously needs to raise funds to replace two trainsets that date back to the 1980s and offered a link for more information and donations.

West Virginia's Cass Railroad posted on its Facebook page that it would dieselize most operations. The Shay will take a back seat this season as we look to introduce diesel-only trips to Whittaker and Bald Knob.

The message is clear, and customers have spoken. By using more modern diesel locomotives, we will be able to cut down our travel times to Bald Knob, gaining access to the beautiful, picturesque overlook in only 30 minutes. By doing this we will be able to offer five round trips to Bald Knob daily, as opposed to one round trip excursion.

We appreciate your support as we welcome this new era for the Cass Scenic Railroad! Happy April Fool's Day as well.

Even **Amtrak** got in the spirit, to a degree, claiming it would hold karaoke competitions in its Quiet Cars today in a release announcing its "Unprank Sale" offering 30 percent discounts. That sale

continues until April 3rd. (That is an old sale. If you go to the Amtrak website, you will find that they have legitimate deals and discounts for 2024.)

Brightline/Virgin Trains USA



Florida's Brightline announced that, as part of its evolution to Virgin Trains USA, it would introduce "Convertible Class", a shiny happy upgrade...to the world's first-ever convertible train car. Along with an illustration of an open-topped coach, the announcement included a link confirming that this was a joke, but offering a genuine one-day-only 50 per cent fare sale.

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/01-april-fools-day-pranks-include-railroading-world/>



My prediction for April 1 was all the Amtrak trains would depart and arrive on time. I'm sure they did—not.





*Do you
like trains
and enjoy
history?*

THEN WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!!

We are recruiting volunteers to help us build a Railroad Heritage Center in Calhan, CO honoring those who operated the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad in El Paso and Elbert Counties from 1887-1968.

GET INVOLVED • HAVE FUN • LEARN HISTORY • MEET NEW PEOPLE!

Volunteers wanted regardless of age or skillset. Painters, Electricians, Plumbers, Woodworkers, Writers, Photographers, Researchers etc.
Anyone & Everyone is welcome!

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL 303.961.5929 OR EMAIL denverzephyr64@yahoo.com



**We Sell-Buy-Trade Model Trains all Scales
Be buy collections large & small**

New Address, New Expanded Store

Chapel Hills Mall

1710 Briargate Blvd Suite #500

Colorado Springs, CO 80920

2nd Floor - Follow the Signs

Hours of Operation

Tue-Fri 1-6pm Sat 1-5pm Sun 1-4pm

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