

THERE WAS LIFE BACK THEN!

The Pikes Peak Division DID exist in the 1970s! Here are a few shreds of evidence.

## HOW WE ORGANIZED THE PIKE'S PEAK DIVISION

by Wallace E. Smith

For some time, a few of the active model railroaders in Colorado Springs had suspected that there were enough enthusiasts in the Pikes Peak area to form a reasonably large and active NMRA Division. Although their specific railroading interests varied from prototype to scale to tinplate, and their loyalties ranged from NRHS to TCA to NMRA, these potential Division members were bound by a common tie, the love of trains. Our task: to identify them and devise a program to bring them together.

Starting with a computer run of local NMRA members, furnished by the Rocky Mountain Region, we added names of hobbyists identified by local NRHS and TCA members, as well as those known to the proprietors of several large hobby shops in the area. Armed with this admittedly imperfect list, we devised a program to appeal to this broad spectrum of railfans, collectors and modelers, and invited their attendance.

Our program was the key, a mixture of model and prototype. Usually a prototype movie or slide show was followed by either a tape-slide clinic or a live "how to" modeling clinic. (The commercial hobby press has some excellent films you can borrow, as does your local library. NMRA has an extensive tape-slide clinic library. NRHS has an excel-

lent film library.) An intermission for coffee and cookies, allowing attendees to get acquainted and exchange experiences, also proved popular. As our programs proved successful, we added a theme to each meeting and invited attendees to bring models that were appropriate to the theme for a mini-contest (revenue car, station, mini-diorama, caboose, etc.) with popular judging determining the winners.

A meeting hall was no problem. Colorado Springs has two fine public-spirited banks, Security Savings and Loan and Capital Federal Savings, which maintain excellent public meeting rooms for use by non-profit groups, at no charge, five nights a week. We started out at Capital Federal, but our group soon expanded beyond the capacity of that room (50) and we moved to Security Savings, where the room will accommodate 125.

Second only to our program, in importance to our success, was our method of notification of meetings. A three man committee divided our roster of railroad enthusiasts and telephoned each one, personally, about one week before the scheduled meeting to advise them concerning the program and to urge their attendance. From a low of 18 attendees at our first meeting, we soon grew to 30, then 40, and we now pull 55 to 60 from a 90 name list. The list,

of course, has been purified and is constantly revised to add new names as we become aware of them, or to delete the names of those few who have so requested.

After a year and a half of informal, bi-monthly meetings, we found our attendance large and stable enough to officially form the Pikes Peak Division. A committee, a meeting, nomination of officers, voting, drafting of by-laws, and the Division was formed, with Region sanction following within 60 days.

We have never twisted arms for membership in either NMRA or the Rocky Mountain Region. Membership is offered, with the option of acceptance remaining solely with the Division meeting attendee. In the past eight months, with no pressure tactics, we have added two dozen members to our Region and about five or six members to the NMRA.

Forming a new Division is not a difficult task. All you need are three or four interested volunteers and a meeting place. Your Region stands ready to help you with advice and identification of potential members in your area. The rewards of getting a compatible group of people together on a regular basis, to enjoy the hobby of railroading, are well worth the effort involved. So, if there is no NMRA Division active where you live, get one started. A

PIKES PEAK DIV.

ROCKY MTN REG.



MON - CONVENTION

AUG: 4, 1979

LOCATION:

HOLIDAY INN  
125 & FILLMORE  
Colo. Sprgs., CO.

PROGRAM

COST

- |                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| • MOVIES       | \$ 4.00 FAMILY (PRE-REG) |
| • CLINICS      | \$ 6.50 BANQUET          |
| • CONTESTS     | \$ 2.00 ADULT (LATE-REG) |
| • BANQUET      | \$ 1.00 TEENAGER         |
| • LAYOUT-TOURS | CHILDREN FREE            |

SEE BACK FOR PRE-REG MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jay Queiser  
Members: Wally Smith  
Ron Edwards  
Len Kratz  
Ron Harris  
George Daman

All of the above members will be available to sell tickets for both the Pre-Registration & Banquet or

MAIL TO: PPD - RMR  
5143 Bitterweed Lane  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80917

Make checks to; Pikes Peak Division - RMR

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CONTEST

Entries close at 10AM. Models will be on display 10 AM.to 3 PM., for Popular Vote and Best of Show Awards. Winners announced and model pick-up at 4 PM. Winners attending banquet are asked to please bring model and award to banquet. Thanks.

CATAGORIES

1. Structure & Diorama (max. 18 in sq.)
2. Revenue Cars
3. Motive Power
4. Photo (8x10 min.) not eligible for best of show.

BEST of SHOW Award by POPULAR VOTE only catagories 1, 2, & 3.



PROGRAM

- Aug. 3 Pikes Peak Division regular meeting at  
7:00 pm. Security Savings & Loan, Union Blvd. &  
Platte Ave. (hwy 24)
- Aug. 4 Holiday Inn North, I-25 & Fillmore exit  
9:00 am Clinics:  
to Painting, weathering and air brushing --  
12:00 am starts 9 am by Ron Edwards  
Trackwork - starts 10:30 am by Dave Manion  
and Jim Payton  
Scenery - (from framework to finishing touches)  
starts 9 am by Jerry Hoverson
- 10:30 am Contest entry deadline - all models on display  
through 3 pm.
- 1:00 pm Layout Tours pick-up route from committee  
to members at sign in area.
- 4:00 pm Movies highlights include aerotrain, talgo  
train, northwest and eastern steam never  
before shown in public.
- Raillette Clinics arts and crafts, doll  
house decorating, interior decorating etc.
- 7:30 pm. BANQUET --- Cocktail Hour begins at 6:30 pm

