



The Milepost

Volume 35, Number 6 — June 2015

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



NEXT MEETING:

Friday, June 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Sand Creek Police Station

4125 Center Park Drive

(Southeast of the intersection of Fountain/Academy)

Colorado Springs, Colorado

INFORMATION

The Milepost is published monthly and is the official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division, of the 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, 4125 Center Park Drive (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), Colorado Springs, Colorado. Please come to one of our meetings. All scales are welcome. Besides our monthly meeting, we have swap meets, train shows, and many other model railroad activities.

JUNE'S PROGRAM

At the next meeting, the program will be by Joe Costa and Kristin Phillips on building the scenery on the inside corner modules.

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MAY 2015

MEETING MINUTES

The last meeting was on Friday, May 8th, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Superintendent, Wade Mountz. Total in attendance was 26. The meeting was held at the United Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado. No new visitors. Last month's meeting minutes were approved. Frank gave the treasurer's report.

Dusty gave final report on the Saturday, May 9th swap meet show. Did a paid "Spin Go" advertisement to get extra coverage for tomorrow's event. Runs 9:00am to 3:00pm. The next swap meet after this will be October 17, 2015.

Andy gave a final report on the last TECO show: 444 people came through the door and new posters made.

Roy discussed the RMR 2016 convention and about our group advertising the 2016 show at the RMR 2015 convention in Denver. Roy and Wade were looking for volunteers and gave other details about helping out.

Kristin gave an update on the Boy Scouts participating at the last TECO. 25 scouts completed their railroading merit badges with four others planning to complete very soon.

John Emmot gave an update on the modules for tomorrow's show — specifically, a sign up sheet for running trains.

Jim and Jennifer reviewed the division picnic that is scheduled for May 30th, 2015.

Wade reported that the 2015 regional convention in Denver, by the South Suburban Division will be the first weekend of June (see the Upcoming Events column).

Jeff gave an update on the layout tours this coming August. They are scheduled for August 15-16, 2015. This is the same weekend that the Pikes Peak "N" Gineers layout at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, Woodland Park — suggestion that people can incorporate going to Woodland Park as an additional layout location to visit.

Break and voting on modeling contest.

Wade presented the contest winners for the *Flatcar With Load contest*. Dusty is planning the next swap meet show which will be in October 2015 (see flier towards the end of this issue). The next TECO show is July 25-26, 2015. Next month's contest is *Diorama With Railroad Theme*. Next meeting is back at the police station on Friday, June 12, 2015. Joe Costa is looking for new photographs for the division's informational pamphlet.

Meeting ended at 8:28pm.



The gang getting the modules setup at the church swap meet.

MURDOCK'S SIDING

By Michael Murdock, Editor of The Milepost.

I apologize for this issue getting out a little late. I had several other things I wanted to include in this issue but simply ran out of time. I will try to include these other items in the next issue.

The resolution has been increased, for new photographs, from 150dpi to 200 dpi — hopefully this will help the photographs look better when zooming in on them — while not making the final *Milepost* PDF file too big to e-mail out to everyone.

I hope everyone at the picnic had fun — I know I did. This was the first one I attended. I thought the special auction went well. Special thanks to Jim, Jennifer, and everyone else to helped and showed up. I have included some photographs below.

Michael



Folks enjoying visiting and eating food.



Items at the silent auction.



Wade won the special prize of the picnic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following list are the events that were handed in, or known about, before *The Milepost* deadline. If you know of any events that should be on this list, please e-mail them to the editor. Please note that dates and times sometimes change, so please check this column each month for the latest information. Thanks!

JUNE 2015

- 12 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 20 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 21 Father's Day.
- 25 Pikemasters event; run your own train on their HO layout. See flyer towards the end of the newsletter for address and contact information.

JULY 2015

- 4 Independence Day.
- 4 Brunch And Train Rides at the Pueblo Railway Museum (<http://www.pueblorailway.org/>).
- 5-11 National Garden Railway Convention, Denver, Colorado. Please see the following website for more information: <http://www.ngrc2015.com/>.
- 10 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 18 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 23 Pikemasters event; run your own train on their HO layout. See flyer towards the end of the newsletter for address and contact information.
- 25-26 TECO Show (see the flyer towards the end of this newsletter for more info).

AUGUST 2015

- 1-2 2015 Colorado Rail Fair (Pueblo, Colorado; see this website for more information: <http://www.colorado.com/events/2015-colorado-rail-fair>
- 14 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 15 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 15-16 Pikes Peak "N" Gineers layout at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, Woodland Park.
- 15-16 NMRA, Pikes Peak Division Layout Tour.
- 27 Pikemasters event; run your own train on their HO layout. See flyer towards the end of the newsletter for address and contact information.

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 5-6 TECO Show (see the flyer towards the end of this newsletter for more info).
- 7 Labor Day.

- 11 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 19 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 24 Pikemasters event; run your own train on their HO layout. See flyer towards the end of the newsletter for address and contact information.

OCTOBER 2015

- 9 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 17 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 17 PPD-NMRA Swap Meet (Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th Street, Colorado Springs).
- 22 Pikemasters event; run your own train on their HO layout. See flyer towards the end of the newsletter for address and contact information.
- 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER 2015

- 13 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 21 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 26 Thanksgiving Day.
- 28-29 Rocky Mountain Train Show, Denver (Planned).

DECEMBER 2015

- 4-6 TECO Show (see the flyer towards the end of this newsletter).
- 11 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 19 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- 31 New Year's Eve..

JANUARY 2016

- 1 New Year's Day.
- 8 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 16 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>. Also see flier towards end of this issue.
- 28 Pikemasters event; run your own train on their HO layout. See flyer towards the end of the newsletter for address and contact information.

FEBRUARY 2015

- 12 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).

MAY 2015 CONTEST ENTRIES

May's contest was *Flatcar With Load*. We had three contest entries, which are detailed below.



Wade Mountz won 1st place with this Southern Pacific load.



Tony Pawlicki won 2nd place with this tractor load.



John Emmot won 3rd place with this large box load.



Robert Allen's entry with two John Deere tractors.

MODULAR MUSINGS

By John Emmot, Chairman of Module Group

We have another break between module setups with the next scheduled show at TECO the 25th-26th of July. If there are those who know they will not be available for that weekend, please let me know so I can adjust the layout. There has been another change in module ownership. James Patterson has transferred his eight foot module to Nicholas Valdez. James still plans to participate with the module group, but Nicholas will be storing and transporting the module. We look forward to adding Nicholas to our active roster.

Joe and Kristin are at it again. After completing the scenery for the inside corner, they are designing a new 4 foot module featuring a three track bridge over a deep canyon. I'm glad they have more space than I do. Completion dates to be determined.

The PPD held our annual picnic at Jim Vade Bon Coeur's house last month. I was pleasantly pleased with the turn out and participation in the event. I think I heard the number 28 mentioned. I'm not sure if that was members or members and spouses. Either way a good show. The weather held true to form this spring, but there was room for everyone inside. Jim had the PPD provided burgers and brats ready. There were plenty of good side dishes from the attendees. Thanks to all who brought the variety of offerings. Special thanks to Jennifer who planned and organized the eats. The silent auction generated over \$100.00 for the Division treasury. Thanks to Kristin for organizing that event.

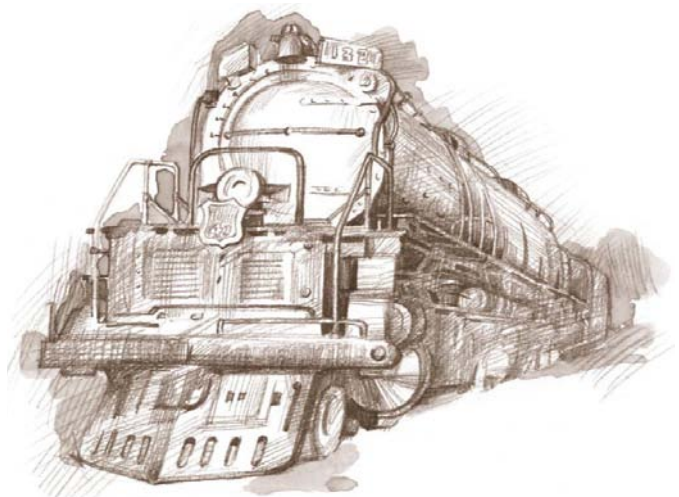
I have included a few thoughts on module setup in a separate item this month. For those who help with the modules, please have a look so we are all on the same page. If anyone has questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Hope to see everyone Friday evening.

John

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR- PERSON NEEDED

Bob Binder has resigned his position of Membership Chairman for the PPD. This position is open for anyone interested. Please see or contact Wade Mountz if you are interested.



MODULE SETUP

By John Emmot, Chairman of Module Group

Some notes on setup. It has been awhile since I visited this topic, so I will toss it out for what it is worth. Sometimes we get half-way done and find that the adjustment left in the legs isn't enough to compensate either way. As we all know, not every module is perfectly flat from end to end. However, the variations on each module are small in the overall scheme of things. Thus if we use the bascule gate module at the fixed 40 inch height to the top of the rail it becomes a benchmark. We can work both ways from the benchmark. Match the height of the adjacent module to the benchmark and then level the other end with it. Since we say the modules aren't flat, don't just set the level in the middle and use it. The best way is to have a four foot or longer level with a block on each end. The level will span the module so that the ends will be level without regard to the middle of the module. Using sight and feel, set the end of the next module even with the end of the previous and level it the same way. With due care, the two ends of the layout will be even when they come together. Obviously, the corners and eight foot modules would require longer straight edges to span the distance from end to end. The point is that we don't care about "level" except as it relates to the ends of each module. On the corners where scenery stands above the track, the level may require thicker shims. This is no problem as long as the shims are both the same thickness.

Another item is joiner tracks. Once the modules are setup and leveled, we need to install the joiner tracks between them. Each module owner is supposed to provide any tracks for their internal interfaces and three 9" tracks to connect their module to the next on the right. Owners' tracks should have their names on them. The module group has a box of joiner tracks and rerailers to use for the corners and bridges and in those cases where the track gap is not the prescribed 9". A module that doesn't have the prescribed 4.5" gap at each end needs to be modified or the owner needs to provide appropriate joiner tracks.

In order for the joiner tracks to slip easily into the gaps, the rail joiners must slide on far enough to be flush with the end of the rail on at least one end. The other end may slide flush or not. With the joiners extended on one end, it can be mated with the module rails. The track then drops in the gap and the joiners are extended on the other end. A rail gap up to 1/8", which can be split between each end of the joiner track, is generally acceptable. Any module which consistently won't accept a 9" joiner needs to be fixed. Make sure the rail joiners are snug on the rails. The power for the joiner tracks relies on these connections. Loose joiners may result in dead spots on the layout. (FYI: new rail joiners have a small tab on each end. These tabs should be removed before use to shorten the joiner and keep them from bending in the way of a good connection.) If a joiner doesn't slide easily, something is wrong. Don't force it. Take the track out and find the problem.

Our module setups can go smoothly if everyone is on the same page.

John



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CONTEST SCHEDULE

Contest entries are submitted and judged at each monthly meeting based on the schedule below:

June	Diorama With Railroad Theme.
July	Weathered Steam Engine.
August	Weathered Reefer Car.
September	Scratch-Built Structure.
October	Weathered Diesel Engine.
November	Kit-Built M.O.W. Equipment.
December	No contest.

Gunnison Division Notes

Chalk Creek

By Jeff Cahill

Hello Pikes Peak Division! Scenery work continues. It looks a lot nicer than plywood, and I like having scenery catch derailed rolling stock vs. having the floor break their fall! This time I describe my first major water project – Chalk Creek and the surrounding scenery. The real Chalk Creek meanders west of Nathrop (south of Buena Vista) through Chaffee County, CO, in the east end of the South Park Line's Gunnison District. My Chalk Creek is more on the west end of the district. The fishing and scenery is just as good!

Because I did not want to possibly have to rip out a crappy job, I followed along step-by-step using *Mastering Model Railroad Scenery – Volume 2, "Rivers, Rapids, & Rushing Water"* by Cameron Bryars. "The book" was a big help. The whole project took about a week and a half, with the majority of that being drying time between steps.

The first photo shows about 80% of the unfinished creek running down the middle of the photo, flowing from the sky-blue wall at the top to the photo bottom where the creek goes (can't see in the picture) under a future bridge, through a future fascia, and into the isle. The whole creek is about four feet long.



Photo 1

So far the creek bottom is brush painted per "the book," with charcoal and umbers in the middle and tans along the edges. After the paint dries the entire creek is brushed heavily with white glue as a sort-of sealer. The last thing you want is for your creek pour to find a small hole and end up on the floor, or worse – all over hidden track under the creek.

Next is to secure the scenery material to the creek banks, as shown in photo 2. This was mostly dirt and rock, but there's also deadfall, shrubs, weeds, and bodies (fly fisherman, of course).



Photo 2

"Aha!" moment step number one: I used larger rocks (and caulk) to create rapids that divide the creek into five sections (a sixth section flows under that future bridge and into the isle). Because the creek bottom is not perfectly level from end to end, pouring the entire thing at once would have been a pain. Divided, the water in each section can settle at a slightly different level that nobody notices. I wouldn't have thought of dividing the creek into more manageable sections without "the book."

Photo 3 shows the caulk rapids formed around the larger rocks dividing the creek and around other random rock/debris/bodies glued to the creek bed. The caulk is teased in the direction of water flow and left to dry. I did not make my caulk rapids high enough, and after pouring the epoxy resin, about 98% percent of my caulk work was "underwater" – kind of a waste of time and caulk. So I decided to just

wait until all of the epoxy is poured and hardened, see what is still sticking out above the surface, and then simply form the caulk on top to achieve the rapids effect.



Photo 3

The next photo (4) shows the creek after two “water” pours – one with no color added and the second with a few drops of light green paint mixed in to tint the epoxy. Tinting the epoxy is my second “aha!” moment step, adding to the realism significantly.



Photo 4

I used the two-part EnviroTex Lite epoxy resin with hardener found at Michaels and Hobby Lobby. “The book” recommends purchasing the gallon size – I looked hard for it and am glad I never found it. The epoxy is not inexpensive, and I could probably model a Great Lake in N scale with the smaller size I bought. Especially once I realized a creek does not need to be as deep as a real mountain creek, but just

has to appear like it is. Very thin layers can do the trick!

Shoreline trees, rip-rap, brush, and shrubs are shown in photo 5. My third “aha!” moment step is also shown in the picture: dry-brushing titanium white paint along the tails of the rapids, the banks, and in front of, over, and around other debris in the creek. The white paint really makes the direction of water flow “pop.” It was hard to not go crazy with it. Freshly hardened resin is like a mirror, so the water also got random Mod Podge streaks to knock-down the glare, clarity, and perfectly flat surface.



Photo 5

Photo 6 is another shot looking upstream from just where this water project ends. Two fishermen are “matching the hatch” and reeling in keepers. Now to work on that bridge and fascia to complete Chalk Creek.



Photo 6

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The pikemasters model railroad club is a group of hobbyists dedicated to representing American railroad history using 1:87 "ho" scale-model trains

Our layout encompasses 25x90 feet of space in the basement of the Colorado Springs city auditorium. We occupy the former CSPD pistol range on the western side of the basement. The layout features both standard gauge HO models and HO_n3 narrow gauge models that represent the 3 foot narrow gauge railroads that were common in Colorado during the late 19th century. Our layout uses both analog DC control, and Digital DCC control, with engines that have onboard processors that only respond to instructions sent directly to them.

In addition to our open houses, we have club meetings every Thursday night at 7pm. visitors are welcome to come to the auditorium on Thursday nights to view the layout.



We're located at the corner of Kiowa and Weber, entrances to the alley around the auditorium are available from both directions on Weber and Eastbound on Kiowa. Our parking lot is shared both with the auditorium upstairs, and the rock climbing place across the lot, so more than likely the alley parking will all be taken. After 6 PM, all the meters in downtown are free, and there is usually parking out on the street, if that fills up, there are almost always parking spots in front of the Century Link building at Pikes Peak and Weber. Our entrance is on the West side of the city auditorium next to the bike rack at the alley entrance. We will probably have these doors unlocked, however on the off chance that we cannot have them unlocked, a number to call to be let in is 719-217-1009. This is also a good number to call today if you need directions.

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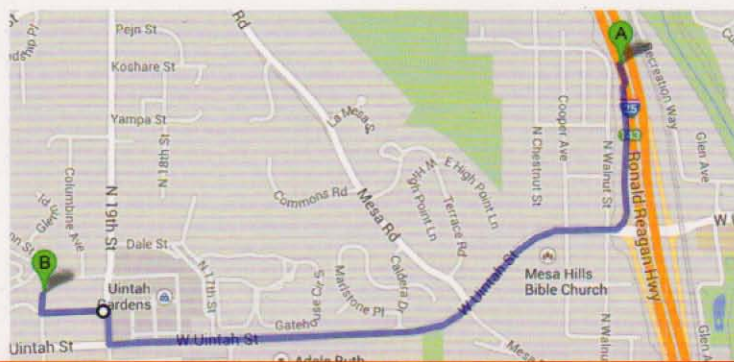


Name:

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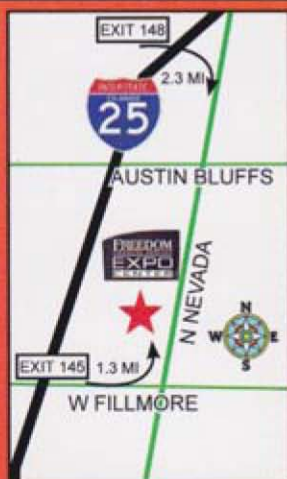
Colorado Springs 2015

July 25, 26 Missouri Pacific Theme

September 5, 6 Colorado & Southern Theme

December 4, 5, 6 Santa Fe Theme

Dates Subject To Change



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