



The Milepost

August 2017
Volume 37
Issue #8

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 11th, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Sand Creek Police Station, 4125 Center Park Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy Boulevards).

Don't Forget:

If you have any model railroad cars, models, books, etcetera, that you don't want, consider donating them to the monthly meeting raffle to help raise money for the Division!

This Month's Presentation:

Irv Johnson will be presenting a program titled, "Summer: Time To Play Outdoors".

JULY 2017 MEETING MINUTES

July 14th, 2017 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Pikes Peak Division of the National Model Railroaders Association.

The meeting was brought to order by Joe Costa at 7:00 PM. There were 25 people in attendance and two new visitors: Ted Johnson and Joe Had-den. The minutes of last month's meeting were approved as written in *The Milepost*.

Frank Pareso gave the treasurer's report. Frank reported that all bills have been paid off. Please bring in any model railroad cars, models, books, etcetera that you don't want to help support the division.

Dusty reports that he hasn't had the time to develop a day for the fall swap meet.

Only two models entered for contest — three are needed. Contest cancelled. Next month's contest is *On-Line Structure* — a structure that has railroad track access.

Special thanks to Irv Johnson, J.B. Thislewaite, and Jerry Hanz for donating models for the door prizes.

Jack Sousa had a presentation on Micro Crystal Clear's liq-uid windows for model railroad cars.

John Emmot showed videos of his train on a layout that is modeling the Denver & Northwestern Railroad and video from the 1996 PPD-NMRA convention.

Charalee Topinka is looking for anyone who would like to put on a 20-30 minute clinic for the monthly meeting presentation for October 2017 and November 2017. Please contact her if you are interested (see her listing on Page #2).



Jack showing how to use Microscale's Micro Kristal Klear [sic] liquid windows product.

UPDATED NEWS

By Mike Peck, PPNG, TECO Chairman

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<http://www.tecoshow.org/>

On Sunday, August 20th, 2017, the PPNG will hold the annual club picnic at Palmer Lake, and hope we have trains go by. We will start about 11 AM and go till when ever. The membership usually brings a side dish for about 8 people to share. Look for more info on the picnic later.

The TECO board is actively looking for a new venue to hold the TECO shows. If you see or hear of a place please let a board member know so we can look into it.

INFORMATION

The Milepost is published monthly and is the official journal 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, at 7:00 PM. Please come to one of our meetings. We'd love to meet you. All scales are welcome. Besides our monthly meeting, we have swap meets, train shows, and other model railroad activities.

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CONTEST CORNER

At each monthly PPD-NMRA meeting, a contest is held. A contest must have at least three entries for voting. Below is the 2017 contest schedule.

August *On-Line Structure* — railroad track access.

September *Passenger Car*.

October *Judged & Open Contest*.

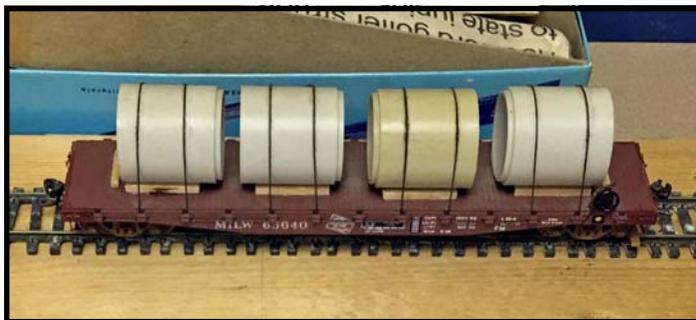
November *Kitbash Anything With Multiple Kits*.

December Christmas Party (no contest).

There were not enough models for July's contest (*Flat Car That Isn't Flat*). Here are the two models that were entered:



Jeff Cahill entered this N-scale logging water car. The flat car and water tank were purchased from eBay; scratch building and detailing with junk box stuff; added light weathering.



Tony Pawlicki entered in this Athearn "MILW 65640" HO-scale model (original price was \$1.69) with added weathering and details including blocking and cabling for concrete pipe load that came with kit.

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[OPEN]

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

By Joe Costa, Superintendent of PPD-NMRA

Our Last Colorado Tourist Railroad

On Sunday, August 16 we went for a ride on the Royal Gorge Railroad from the old Santa Fe Depot in Canon City up to Parkdale — this is the last tourist railroad I needed to check off my to-do-list. As a part of their narration they told us about the Rock and Rail Railroad which runs aggregate freight trains from the quarry west of Parkdale at night and early morning when the tourist train is not running. We had camped out Thursday night through Sunday Morning at Prospectors.

On Friday night I had driven back to Colorado Springs through a monsoon rain to attend the division meeting and drove back to Canon City afterwards. I had wondered why I seen flashing crossing lights east of the depot. Now I knew why,

Rock & Rail operates freight service on the former UP Tennessee Pass route between Parkdale, Colorado and a connection with UP at Canon City, Colorado (11.75 miles). Rock and Rail owns 50% of the RGX. The Royal Gorge Railroad owns the other 50%.

RRRR had also acquired the former BNSF operations between Pueblo and Canon City, which consists mainly of trackage rights over UP between those stations. This portion of the RRRR operations serves some intermediate stations. UP still owns the unused track off to the west.

RRRR bought the line in July 1998. Tourist passenger service through the Royal Gorge is provided by the Canon City & Royal Gorge Railroad. Colorado Materials acquired the line from the former bankrupt operator.

In 2015, Martin Marietta Materials bought the line. They also own other short lines like the Medina Railroad in Texas. They are in the aggregate business and having rail transport is and import part of their business setup.

Another mystery was wrapped up for me on the train board narration. I had wondered why the Royal Gorge was using a Santa Fe depot. They explained that the bank building next to the park on the east side of town that looked like a train depot was actually the Rio Grande depot.

Kristin and I participated in two Operation Lifesaver Events at the Colorado Railroad Museum, one for Thomas Day and another for Dinosaur Day. Our spot was in the open air pavilion.

Thomas ran around the Museum's loop pushed by a steam locomotive which did the actual work of pulling the coaches. Dinosaur Day had Mr. Bones in his Dino-skeleton suit and museum type folks who let kids dig up bones in sand boxes. Thomas The Tank Engine, of course, won the popularity contest.

It was windy on both days and we had to struggle to keep our banner from sailing away. On Thomas Day, poor miniature Thomas running around a track was blown off the table. Fortunately, no damage was done.

Things were much more sedate at Kids First Safety Day at Chapel Hills Mall where we were indoors.

Safety Day is on the same August weekend as the Pueblo Rail Fair. We did go down for a visit on Sunday. Slim Rails was down there, as was Roy, JB, Jack and Jerry, Rob and the Historical Society folks. The Rio Grande Scenic Railroad and Operation Lifesaver had tables. We were very happy to see lots of Boy Scouts down there, some working on the Railroad Merit Badge. Got to have more youth involved in the Model Railroad hobby.



In some ways, the mall train is more “dangerous” than a real train. Real trains only go on tracks --- “Tracks are for Trains” --- that’s the Operation Lifesaver motto. The mall train goes where the engineer steers it. At least it goes slow.



On the way out we save a BNSF train passing by. It's always fun to catch a “foreign” diesel in a coal train --- this time from CityRail.



Down At The Depot

By Dennis Snyder

I was prowling around the California Digital Library and found an interesting old 1870 book, “Railroad Structures and Estimates”, published in 1909. You can browse online, or download it free in a variety of formats, including Kindle and PDF:

<https://archive.org/details/railroadstructure00orroric>

This has everything from track work to privies to roundhouses. One of things I found interesting is the thickness of the wood they used. No wonder these old buildings lasted.



MODULAR MUSINGS

By John Emmot, Chairman of Module Group

The time for another meeting has rolled around. The long setup hiatus doesn't create much fodder for rumination. There is plenty of time to work on your modules. If everyone thinks back on the last time or two that we did setup, there are probably things that come to mind that would have made operations better. They might be track or scenery upgrades or work on your rolling stock. For those who notice details, you remember that the road on my modules didn't quite match the road on my backdrop. With the repaint of my house this spring, I had several samples of "earthy" colored flat paint. With a few brush strokes, I was able to realign the view into one smooth route.

I went out one day to the El Paso county fair to run on Chris Fox's layout. Things worked well and I got some time with some of my 'other' cars. When I got home, I spent a couple of hours repairing and replacing some faulty couplers I found in the travel box. A caboose needed a new ladder which wasn't in the box and I had to find one in my "parts drawer". Everyone has a parts drawer don't they? At any rate "playing with trains" doesn't have to be a huge project. A few minutes can accomplish a lot and adjust your attitude at the same time.

I have taken a break from rolling stock work following my second combine and started a model of the log depot that was built at Arrowhead in 1904 and lasted into the early 1930's, several years after the "Hill Line" was abandoned. It followed the same footprint as the clapboard versions further down the line, but it was constructed from the abundant, local material on the mountain. History has it that the station agent nearly died of pneumonia in the first winter as there wasn't time to chink the walls before the weather changed that year.

On another unhappy/happy subject, I would like to remind everyone who has a computer, either for fun or serious, **BACKUP YOUR FILES** and data. I was reminded recently that it is not a matter of if, but when something will fail. If you are like me, you have plenty of things in the computer you don't want to lose; I had railroad data from all my years of collecting and compiling, many years of e-mail threads and thousands of digital images. When the machine wouldn't boot, I knew I was in trouble. The primary hard-drive had failed. But I was lucky. The local technician was able to copy the contents of the old drive onto the new one. I still had to reinstall all of my programs that I had disks for. Not fun and there were a couple that was lost. Now, lest you think I'm a total nut, most of the pictures, but not all, some of the e-mail and railroad data had been copied on other media. It is still a very lost feeling when you think they are all gone. So, backup, backup, backup. Just for info, data recovery from a really damaged drive starts at \$700. Enough dark stuff. I am as close to back to normal as I will get after that.

One last item. Dusty has a tentative date for a Division swap meet at the church for Saturday, December 16, 2017. Think about it and we will discuss at the meeting.

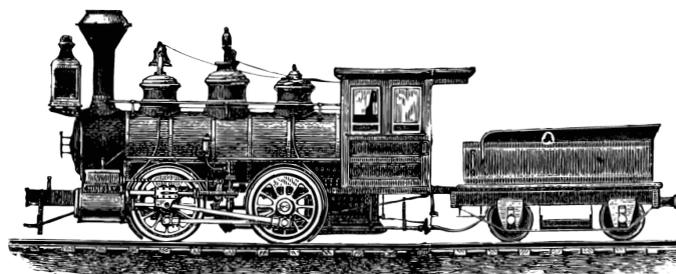
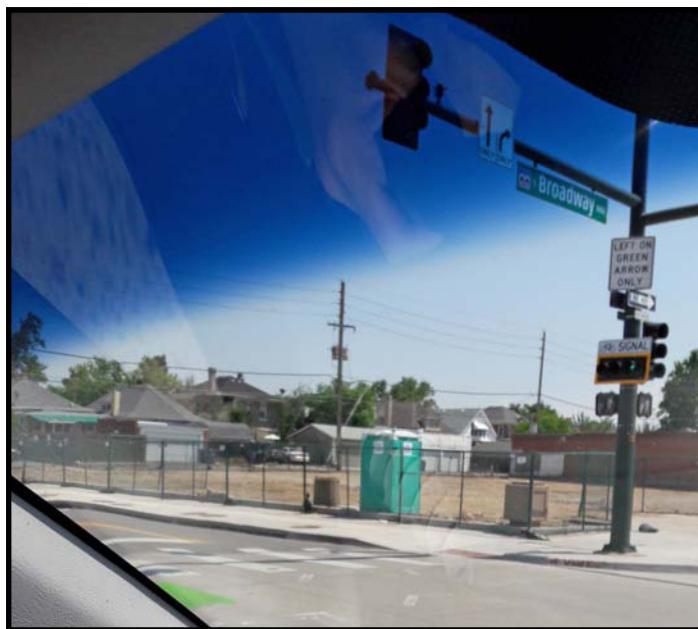
Hope to see everyone on Friday.

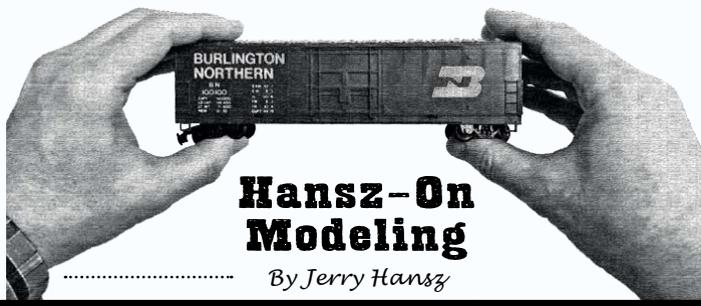


ORIGINAL CABOOSE HOBBIES BUILDING NOW GONE

By Jeff Cahill

I recently drove by the location of the old, original Caboose Hobbies building, in Denver recently. The building has been completely torn down — just an empty lot now. A sad day.





Hansz-On Modeling

By Jerry Hansz

Chestnut Hill Earthquake

I had to repair major damage to the Engine Terminal due to an earthquake (dropped a ceiling light screen on the thing). The coaling tower took a direct hit; the electric line was destroyed, and there was damage to the diesel servicing facility. With no electricity, the turntable was inoperable. All was repaired, except that the electric line had to be restrung.



Coaling tower and diesel service after repairs.

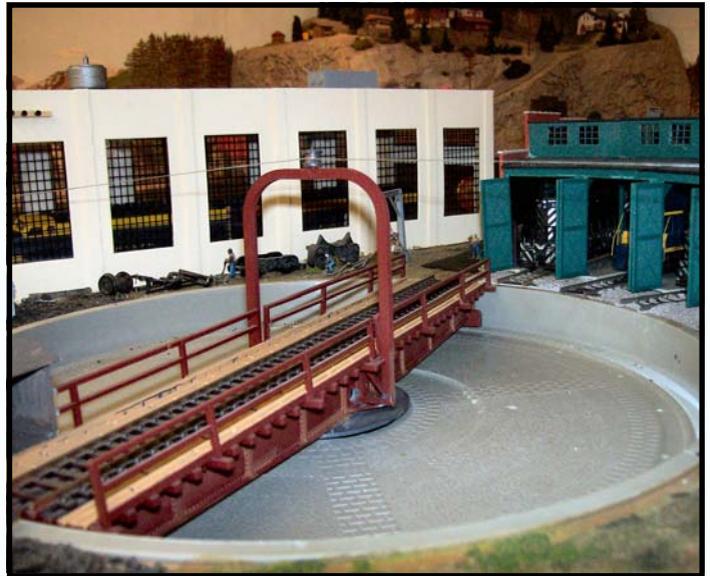


Restrunging the electric line.

This was a slow process. Strung a couple of poles, applied glue, and went away till it set. Then did another section!



After the main line was up...



...the turntable line was added.

Then we went back to Engine Terminal operations. The fluorescent lights have now been replaced with brand new LED tubes. No more earthquakes!

TRUCK VS. TRAIN

By Mike Weidner

Stop Look And Listen, People!

Truck verses train — who will win? Clue: the truck will lose *every* time. Sadly, a fatality resulted.

<http://www.polkcountytoday.com/acc072617.html>

[Please note, the linked article has very graphic photographs of a destroyed semi-truck vehicle.]



BSA Railroading Merit Badge



PIKES PEAK COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Old Rio Grande Depot (where Giuseppe's used to be, at Nginieers Club Layout)
32 South Sierra Madre
Colorado Springs

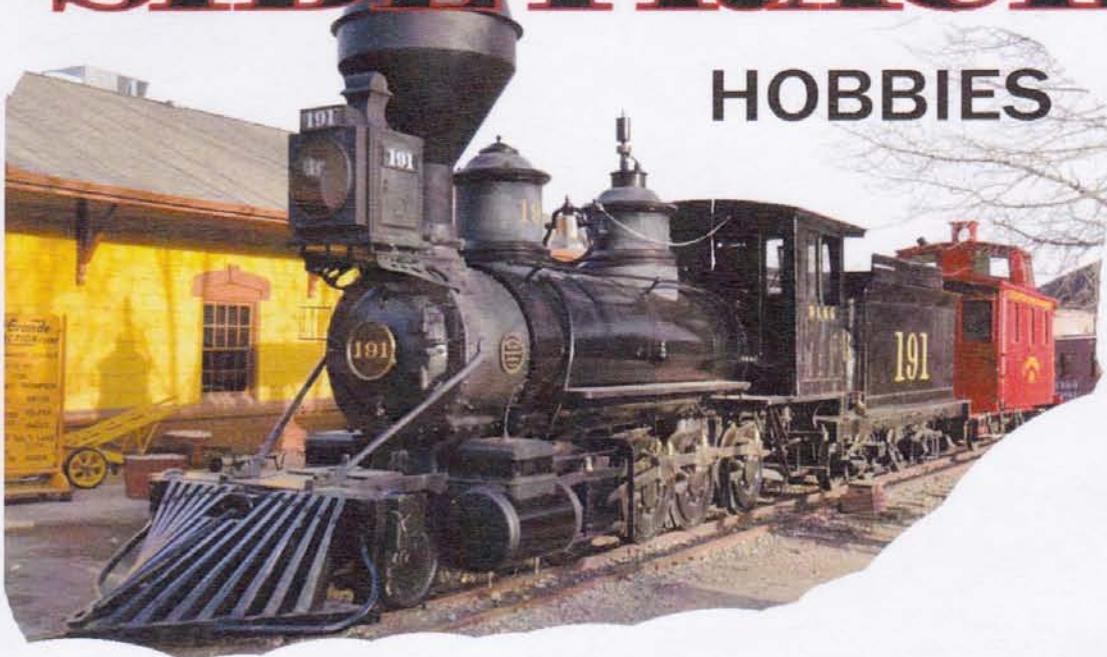
August 12: 10AM to 3 PM

Register online at www.pikespeakbsa.org (or come by on the 12th)



SIDETRACK

HOBBIES



GOT TRAINS?

N, HO.S.O, 1-1/2 "

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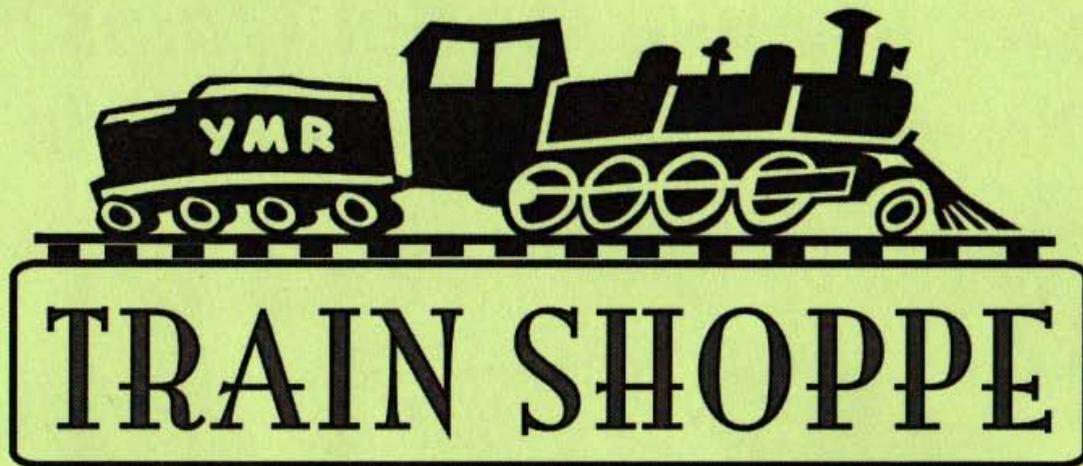
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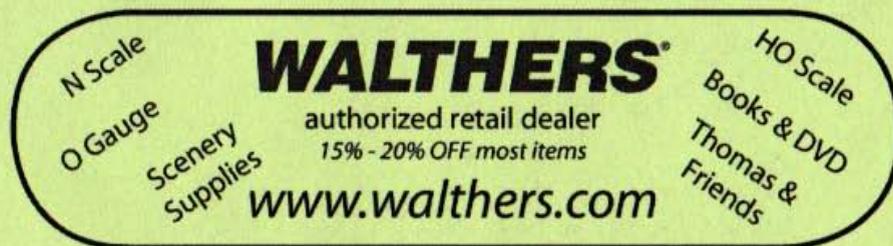
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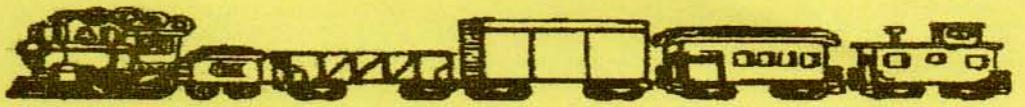
email: trainshoppe@gmail.com

phone: 720-397-3600

The YMR TRAIN SHOPPE is a project of Youth in Model Railroading.
Profits go to help YMR with programs for kids in the hobby
YMR is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Donations are always welcome.

Introducing...



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Pikes Peak Division meets at Immanuel Lutheran Church
846 East Pikes Peak Ave.

Colorado Springs

(On the corner of Pikes Peak Ave. & Institute

On the 3rd. Saturday of the month from 9:00-12:00)

PARK NORTH OF CHURCH AND ENTER THROUGH
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