



The

Milepost

Volume 45, Number 12 – December 2025

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



NEXT MEETING:

Friday, December 12th, 2025, 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 10th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Show & Tell Program: The Royal Gorge by Postcard

February 14th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: MOW Program: Travelogue

March 14th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Rolling Stock Program: East Broad Top

April 11th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Odd Ball Program: Virginia & Truckee, Ore Movement

May 9th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Offline Bldg Program: Colorado's Biggest Rail Preservation Tragedy

June 13th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Railroad Structure Program: Layout Update

July 11th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Rolling Stock Program: Tourist Train Tour

August 8th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Diorama Program: Colorado Live Steamers

September 12th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Photos Proto Program: The McKeen Motor Car

October 10th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Photo Model Program: More Microcontrollers

November 14th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Loco Steam/Diesel Program: Vintage HO, Athearn

December 12th, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Program: Christmas Party!



The Milepost, Volume 45, Number 12, December 2025, 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. Unless otherwise noted, all content in this journal is copyrighted to its respective owner. 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, December 12 ~ Christmas Party!

Our meeting will be 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 occasionally check the Rocky Mountain Region website for the latest events and happenings, as well as the current Callboard: <https://www.rmr-nmra.org/callboard.htm>

Editor's Thoughts



Well folks, it's that magical time of year again—the season when half our layouts suddenly sprout tiny Christmas trees, our locomotives mysteriously acquire festive antlers, and we all pretend we're going to finish that stalled project before New Year's. (We won't. But we believe. And that's what the season is all about.)

As December rolls in across Pike's Peak, many of us rediscover the true meaning of Christmas: finding the boxes where we swear, we stored last year's holiday rolling stock. Some of us are even brave enough to plug in lighting circuits we haven't touched in twelve months. Will the LEDs flicker joyfully? Will the booster trip? Will the smoke unit work this time? Suspense is part of the fun.

Of course, Christmas also reminds us of the moment many of us were first hooked on trains—when that shiny locomotive circled the tree and hypnotized us into a lifelong cycle of spending all our spare income on track work, coupler upgrades, and "just one more locomotive." If you're reading this, the spell clearly took hold.

This is also the season when our spouses and families pretend to be surprised at how many train-shaped boxes appear under the tree, even though we gave them the exact SKU numbers, scale, and DCC requirements weeks ago. And let's be honest: nothing says holiday cheer like explaining to relatives why this locomotive is completely different from the other twelve that look exactly the same.

As we roll toward a new year, may your turnouts not freeze, your decoders behave, and your bench work remain solid despite that one screw you keep meaning to tighten. And may all your Christmas trains run smoothly—even if the track is held together with seasonal optimism and a dab of hot glue.

From all of us in the Pike's Peak Division, may your holidays be merry, your rails be shiny, and your locomotives stay on the track at least until the guests go home.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

If you want it sillier, more sarcastic, shorter, or themed around a specific scale (HO, N, O, etc.), I can tweak it!

David

Keepin' it on the Tracks By Mark Fuerstenberger

48th Annual Model Train Expo – Dec. 12th - 14th, Longmont, CO

The 48th Annual Model Train Expo is coming up in December. It will be held at the Boulder County Fair Grounds, 9595 Nelson Road, Longmont, CO 80501. Hours are 10am to 5pm each day. Adults \$8, Seniors \$5, Kids 12 and under Free.

TECO Train Expo – Feb. 28th – Mar. 1st, Colorado Springs, CO

The TECO train show, will be held at the Norris Penrose Event Center, Feb. 28th – Mar. 1st.

In order to make the show a success, volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated. Please reach out to Elizabeth Maline if you are willing to help out.

TECO Model Train Show (\$10) – Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-3

2026 Rocky Mountain Region Annual Convention – May 13th – 16th - Rapid City, SD

The region website has been updated to show the activities, timelines, clinics, train rides, and all the fun stuff that will be happening. There will be two vendors with high end and unique inventory to sell. This is an added benefit this year.

Benefits of early registration:

- Early bird registration rates (until midnight on December 31st 2025)
- Reduced hotel rates until midnight December 31st 2025
- Seats on the 1880 Train from Hill City to Keystone (limited to 62)
- Entered in a drawing for a cab ride in the 2-6-6-2 Mallet

By using Signup Genius for registration, you will have the added benefits of the following:

- Clinics, Yard Tours, Operating Sessions

A YouTube video has been made with information for the convention by James Willmus.

<https://youtu.be/9Itcad0s04>

Be sure to check out the full itinerary on the website, and sign up at www.rmr-nmra.org

If you have any questions, contact Blaine Holbrook or Geoff Carter

Geoff Carter, gkc450219@gmail.com, 801-815-6028

Blaine Holbrook, bholbro1466@earthlink.net, 801-580-1459

Rocky Mountain Region Website

Be sure to periodically check out the Rocky Mountain Region website for the latest events and information from the region. [https://www.rmr-nmra.org/](http://www.rmr-nmra.org/)

NMRA Interchange

If you like to be online, you should check out the NMRA Interchange. You'll need to create a login on the Discord website. <https://discord.com/> From there you'll need your login information to the NMRA website, and once you're there check out the link to the Interchange.

<https://www.nmra.org/members/nmra-interchange> You'll find a few simple steps to get setup.

This setup process is only required the first time, and after that it's easy to jump online and see what others are doing. The site also allows for easy conversations, just like you might do on Zoom. I encourage you to check it out.

Christmas Presents Preview

By Tony Pawlicki

"Teaser" preview of some of the presents available to those who participated in at least one month's prize drawings during intermissions at the 2025 monthly Pikes Peak Division NMRA meetings. Each participant who attends the December 12, 2025 meeting gets one opportunity to select from the pile of prizes (no squeezing, please).

The presents, by the way, are a mix of member donations from the November 2025 meeting and purchases (at a substantial discount – thanks, Roy!) from Roy Thompson's inventory. Roy had just returned from a successful meet in Albuquerque, so I got to overhaul (i.e., cherry-pick) his entire, really extensive, inventory. My approach was to go for quality even if minor fixes might be needed, rather than complete models of lesser quality. (If minor fixes are not your thing, there will be plenty of opportunities that evening to do some swapping with folks who just love those little challenges.) Overall, this mix cost much less than last year's presents, so not as bruising to our slender Division bank balance.

(SOME OF) THE DECEMBER MEETING PRESENTS:

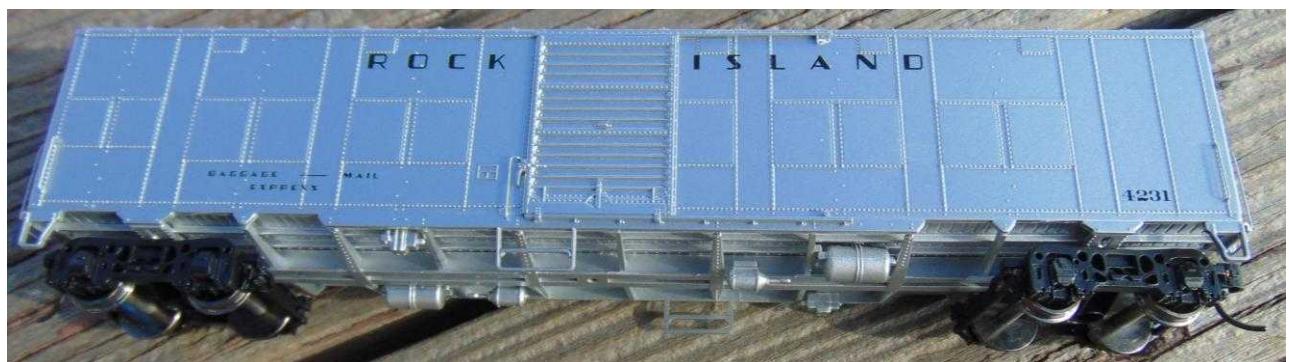
ARR 14855. HO scale Intermountain Alberta railroad 100-ton 5-bay pressure discharge cement covered hopper (ready-to-run).



DRGW 1612. HO scale Broadway limited express reefer, railway express agency (ready-to-run).



RI 4231. HO scale Walthers Proto express baggage-mail car (ready-to-run).



RI 148393. HO scale Athearn 40-foot "rocket freight" boxcar (ready-to-run).



December Wavy Rails

By Joe Costa Merci Serendipity

On a previous issue after the Cheyenne train show, Kristin and I showed a picture of Wyoming's Merci Car (shown at end of article). Unlike Colorado, they preserved their car which is on display.



Last summer, after dropping off my daughter and son-in-law at the Amtrak station in La Junta at O Dark Thirty, we stopped at a library and came across an incredible display.

Hidden and forgotten in a basement storage room was a collection of the gifts that were originally sent in the long lost Colorado car.



The 1947 U.S. Friendship Train collected foodstuffs from American donors for transport to the people of France and Italy. Contemporaneous with the Marshall Plan, it provided desperately needed assistance in the aftermath of World War II, but was primarily a token gesture of goodwill, with stops across the U.S. ending at New York City, where it was received with a ticker tape parade prior to shipment to Europe.

boxcars arrived in Europe, and the train rolled through the countries distributing relief aid.

In response, a French railroad worker, André Picard, initiated the Merci (or Gratitude) Train as a way of thanking American citizens for their generosity. The boxcars used for this response effort were called "40 and 8s." During World War I, they were used to transport troops and animals and were capable of carrying up to forty servicemen or eight horses.



The citizens of France filled forty-nine of these boxcars, one for each of the forty-eight states and one which was divided equally between the territory of Hawaii and Washington, D.C., with a wide array of gifts. These included books, ashtrays, vases, bridal gowns, dolls, children's drawings, pictures, original manuscripts and musical compositions, and other items. After landing in New York, the train made stops in each state leaving a boxcar of gifts. These

were then dispersed to libraries and other state facilities.

Mercitrain.org has additional detailed information.

Some states, like Texas and Arizona, did a great job of preservation.



Our plan is to create decals from the banners and shields shown above on the Texas car.

Georgia has a beautiful display.



Wyoming Merci Car Cheyenne



Our ultimate goal is to recreate two models in ho and n-scale.

The Ski Train

By Mark Fuerstenberger

Are you looking for any fun holiday plans this year? How about getting out and enjoying the nice and relaxing trip to Winter Park and back on the Ski Train. Even if you're not a skier or snowboarder, there are still plenty of things to do there. A few years ago, Amber and I took our family on the ski train and enjoyed festivities around the resort. Later that afternoon, we rode the train back to Denver's Union Station. So how did all that start? Let me tell you.

For most of the 20th century, the Rio Grande Ski Train was an excursion that carried skiers, day-trippers, and rail enthusiasts from Denver to the slopes of Winter Park. Over the years the Ski Train became a part of the culture, blending the Rocky Mountain scenery with the romance of classic passenger rail service.

The Ski Train began in 1940, when the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) started taking passengers between Denver and the newly developed Winter Park ski area. Since the railroad already operated the Moffat Tunnel route, which cut through the Continental Divide, it was able to provide direct access to the high-country and ski resort town of Winter Park. Recognizing an opportunity to promote both rail travel and recreation, the D&RGW introduced weekend ski excursions that dropped passengers at a platform just steps from the lifts.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, the Ski Train grew in popularity. In the beginning the D&RGW used heavyweight coaches pulled by steam locomotives. Then after steam was retired, the train was pulled by Rio Grande's distinctive black-and-gold diesel engines. During those days the train became known for its reliability, even during harsh winter conditions that frequently closed Colorado Interstate I-70.



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Copyright John Hill

D&RGW Heavyweight Coaches on the Ski Train at Union Station

Through the years the Ski Train retained a more relaxed, excursion-style atmosphere where passengers played cards, socialized, and watched the snow-capped mountains unfold through right outside the window.

In 1988, local businessman and philanthropist Philip Anschutz purchased the service and modernized the train with refurbished Tempo cars, sourced from the VIA railroad in Canada. Now under private ownership, the train continued to run most weekends each winter, and the train was even occasionally used for special occasions during the summer and fall.



Unfortunately, the original Ski Train ceased operations in 2009 due to rising costs of insurance, maintenance and logistical challenges. However, in 2017, Amtrak revived the concept with the "Winter Park Express". And whether you are or are not a fan of Amtrak, at least the line continues to operate, and a Colorado tradition continues.



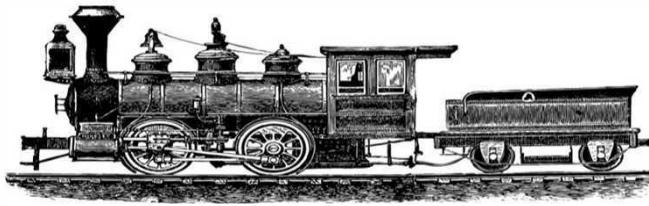
Show and Tell: What I Got For Christmas

By Tony Pawlicki

This note lays out rules for the **Show And Tell** session/contest at the JANUARY 2026 Pikes Peak Division NMRA meeting. Free-form show-and-tell really has no rules, just do a little presentation. The topic is **WHAT I GOT FOR CHRISTMAS**.

This event is announced a bit over a month in advance (in the MILEPOST just before the December meeting) in order to give folks enough time to prepare their entries. For JANU-

ARY, there is NOT a salvage and resurrection contest, just the Christmas presents presentations. **So show us how great your best (railroad-related) present was.**



November 2025 Minutes

Secretary, John Emmot

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Superintendent, Mark Fuerstenberger at 7:01 in the community room of the Sand Creek Police Station. There were 19 members present and two visitors. Bill Hime is looking to get back into the railroad model hobby and John Kenney, a long-time railroader who recently came to Colorado.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurers Report

Tony had hard copies of the treasurer report. The statement reflected the interest payment and drawing receipts. The statement was accepted as presented. Tony also reported that we had received some donations for the Division Christmas presents and hoped for more.

Announcements

Mark went over the plans for the Christmas party in December. There will be two separate exchanges. One for the traditional railroad themed gifts. And the other for less rail focused for ladies themed gifts. Everyone is free to participate in either or both of the exchanges. It was decided that the Division would *not* provide an extra cake for the potluck. Those who would like to are encouraged to bring a potluck or holiday treat items to share. Plates, service and drinks will be provided. Kristin and Charlotte agreed to again wrap the PPD gifts.

Mark also mentioned that everyone should check their membership to ensure it is still current. Many NMRA benefits depend on 100% membership.

Mark asked for nominations for officers in 2026. Tony indicated the willingness to continue as treasurer. John said he would welcome a volunteer for secretary or continue if no one steps up. Mark and Elizabeth would step aside or continue in their positions. Volunteers and nominations may be sent to Mark or brought up at the December meeting.

Elizabeth has an open schedule for members to volunteer to do a program based on their knowledge or expertise.

Mark noted that there are openings for the Rocky Mountain Region Board of directors. RMR vice president and secretary are also available.

Mark reminded everyone of:

- Rocky Mountain Train Show - Holiday 2025 November 29-30 at the Ranch Events Complex in Loveland.
- Rocks & Rails Mineral, Gem, & Model Train Show/Expo December 12-14 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont.

It was noted the next RMR convention is scheduled for South Dakota on May 13-16, 2026. Several members indicated the intent to attend.

New Business

Elizabeth announced that TECO is planning a show at the Norris Penrose Event Center for February 28-March 1, 2026. The newly acquired 501C3 status was key to getting an affordable rate for the venue. More details will be announced as they become available. Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs, from ticket sellers to Seek and Find managers. Presenters for informative talks and clinics are also needed. Please tell Elizabeth how you would like to help.

Show and Tell

Tony Pawlicki discussed the differences between two Athearn wreck cranes in his collection. One was from the early 1950s and was made of cast metal, weighing 17oz and having metal three axle sprung trucks. The other was from much later (perhaps 1960s/70s). It was made of cast plastic with solid three axle plastic trucks. It weighed 7oz. Both were models of the same prototype car.

Charles Marchbanks told of a Front Range kit for four container carriers he acquired, expecting to assemble them. He found that they had been assembled, but not very well. The trucks were tight and the wheels didn't roll well. He spent a lot of time disassembling them and tweaking the parts to significantly improve their performance.

Mike Murdock had a series of google images discussing the pending removal of the old ATSF railroad bridge over Costilla Street in Colorado Springs.

Program

Ken Rambo gave a review of his collection of vintage railroad models. He spoke of how he got involved in buying, selling and collecting trains. He discussed the history of the Athearn company which began in 1943 and lasted through the acquisition by Horizon Hobby's in 2004. They started by offering a metal O scale boxcar in 1943 and added HO models in 1947. He followed the addition of various car types of plastic as a modelling material. After 1963, they adhered to the NMRA standards for all new releases. He displayed many examples of Athearn products along with some Varney and other lesser-known vintage manufacturers. Mike Maline was the winner of a vintage metal boxcar.

Charles Marchbanks name was drawn for the right to buy the donated Norfolk & Western 2-8-8-2 locomotive from the Division.

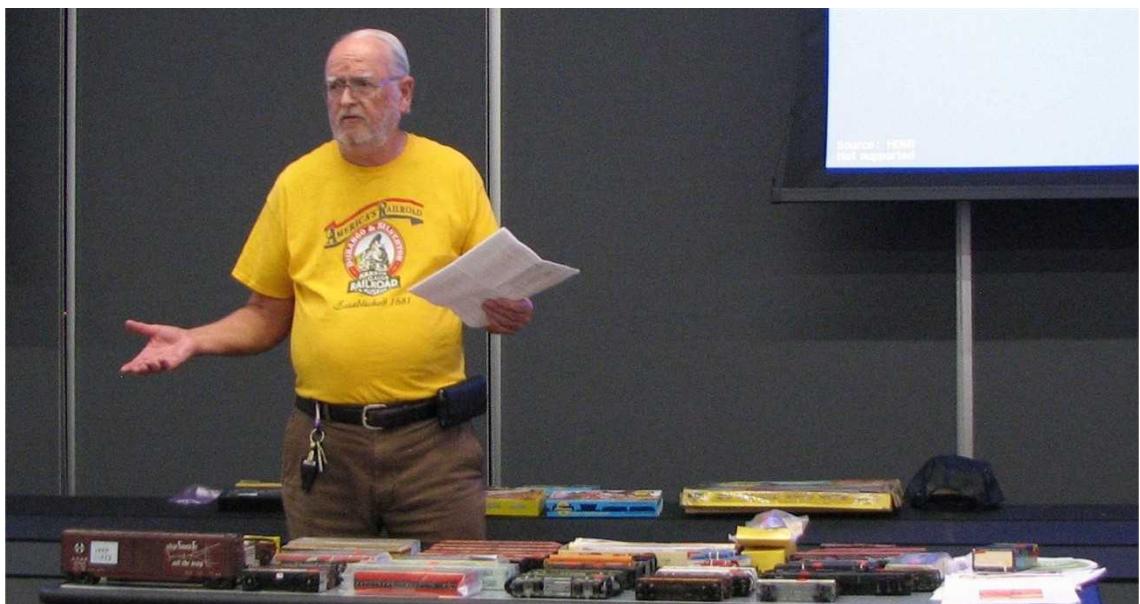
Contest

There was only one entry in the November model contest. Tony Pawlicki brought a very nice diesel locomotive.

The door prize drawing was held following the contest announcement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42.







A
ember 2025 12:30 PM GP38-2Contest.doc

HO SCALE GP38-2 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE

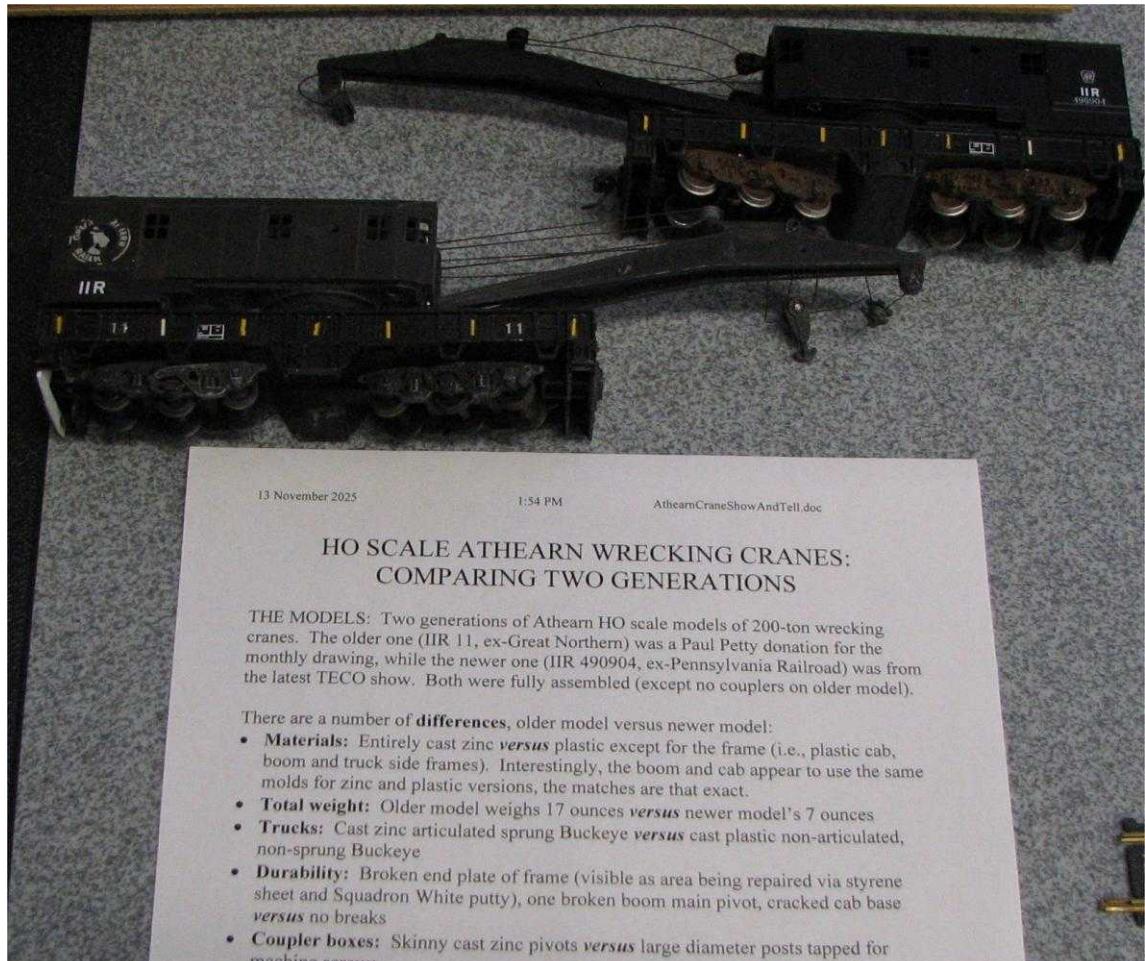
THE LOCOMOTIVE: A heavily modified Athearn HO scale model of GP38-2 diesel locomotive ATSF 3571. Significant changes (several major, many minor) were needed to match the prototype, an ex-TP&W locomotive (per Santa Fe Motive Power, by Joe McMillan, 1985, pages 18-21); visually, the most dramatic features are:

- **No dynamic brakes** (flat-land railroading on the Toledo, Peoria and Western had no need for dynamic brakes; stock model erroneously had dynamic brakes)
- **Angle-sided air filter box** (stock model erroneously had square-sided air filter box)
- **Snow plow** (stock model lacked snow plow)
- **Number of brake cylinders** (model had one per truck side, prototype had two)









Notes from the Siding

By John Emmot

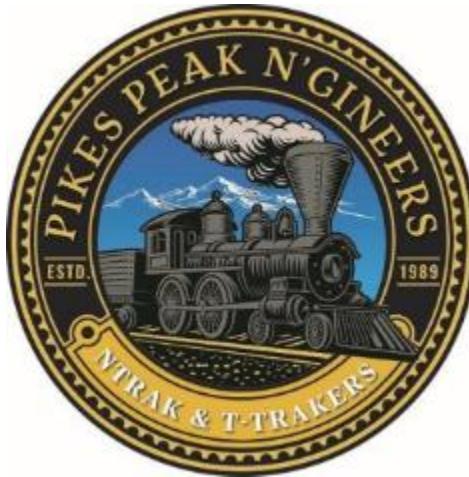
Not sure where I may go with this tonight. I have been the Secretary for a while now. While I think I am able to still do it, I would not feel bad if someone else wanted to try their hand at it. It does count for NMRA credit if you are pursuing a Master Model Railroader. Don't be afraid to step up.

Many of you have heard by now that TECO has scheduled a show for Feb28-Mar 1 in 2026. The new venue at Norris/Penrose is a wonderful site. It is large with drive-in access. WiFi access is included in the cost. The electric plug-ins are convenient on the floor. For those, like me, who are not familiar with the location, it is not too hard to find. Take 8th Street south of Highway 24 to Lower Gold Camp Road at the Walmart intersection. From there it is a short drive west and around a traffic circle. Once you know where it is, it is not difficult. For members of the Pikes Peak Division, this is more than just a train show. TECO depends on help from this organization to be able to provide the manning for the show. It can't happen if we don't help. Please consider what you can do, even if it is just a couple hours selling tickets or passing out prizes for the kids who looked for the Seek & Find details.

This meeting is our annual Christmas Party. It will have traditional potluck light snacks and holiday treats with gift exchanges and PPD giveaways. There are two exchanges, one for model railroad focused items and another for other than model hardware of a more domestic nature. To participate in one of the exchanges, you must bring an appropriate gift for it. You may participate in one or both

of the exchanges. The giveaways are selected from all who have participated in the monthly drawings. You must have a ticket in the drawing to be eligible for it.

I hope to see a large turnout for this meeting. If you get this newsletter, you are part of our group. We would like to see you and get to know you. See you 'round the roundhouse.



PIKES PEAK "N"GINEERS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

By Mike Peck



Veterans Day fly by



Group shot by John Grier

Superintendent's Corner

Here we are, almost at the end of another year at PPNG. I believe that 2025 was another successful year for us. We have added new members, our treasury has increased, and we have many new club and member modules to add to our growing T-Trak layout.

The first round of nominations, for the 2026 board, were held at the last business meeting. I have accepted the nomination for Paymaster next year. After many years of faithful service as Paymaster, Chris Dueker, has decided to step down. Therefore, I will no longer be your Superintendent next year. However, we have a club member who is willing to step forward for the nomination for Superintendent. We are still in need of a Stationmaster, as Dave Woosley is also stepping down. If you are interested in this position, please see Article III, Section D, Sub-Section 3 of the club constitution for the duties of the Stationmaster. Final nominations and the 2026 board election will be held during our corporate meeting on December 19.

On the following day, Saturday December 20, we will be going out to Calhan to set up a layout for the Calhan Lions Club Community Christmas Party. The event will run from Noon to 3pm in the Whittemore Building, which is part of the El Paso County Fairgrounds. We will be meeting sometime between 9 and 10am to set up. Please watch for further information on this event.

We will be having a TECO show this year! It will be from February 28th until March 1st. After several months trying to find a venue that would allow the show to remain profitable, the TECO board has secured the Norris Penrose Event Center for this year's event. So please mark your calendars for this one.

I would like to close by thanking you for the opportunity to serve this year as your Superintendent. I am looking forward to next year as your Paymaster and another exciting year for the club. I also anticipate continuing to write articles for future editions of The Railhead.

Colorado Country Christmas Show

Members of the club showed up by 12 noon to set up on Wednesday. We couldn't drive in, but we were able to open the big door to haul our modules, power equipment, and tables into the haul. We were all set up and running by 2:30 pm, so we didn't have to come back on Thursday.

Club members arrived by 9:30 am to clean track and check rail joints. We did have a few electrical glitches but got those taken care of. We had one DC loop and two DCC loops in operation all weekend.

We talked to several people about model trains. Some need info on where to get their trains repaired, where to purchase trains, and questions about our club. Who knows, maybe we'll get a new member down the road.



Set up finished and testing a loco. Friday has started



This is what we do when everything is running the way it's supposed to



We have Lee, Dave, John watching the trains.



Kristin, Mary, and Joe

Clubroom Action

The club-room has been busy on Saturdays.



Weathering clinic by Rick Shumpert. Glenn, Chris, Brian, Steve and John at club.

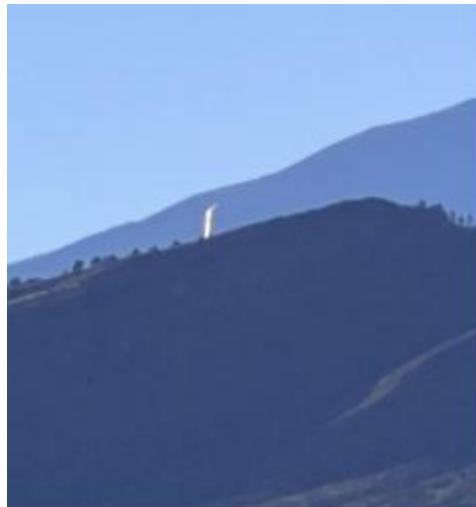


Members ran 5 of the Bachmann UP Centennial locomotives at the club

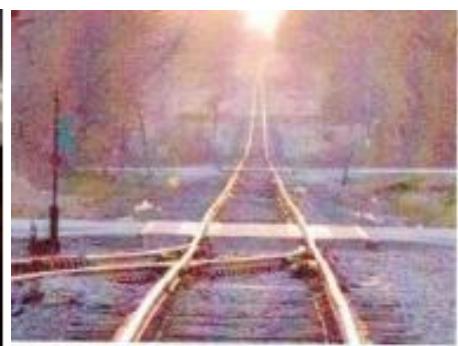


Mary at the door

Sun on the Rails



Sun shining off the Cog Railway by Chris Dueker



Sun on the rails, Emmetsburg, IA

Here we see the sun bouncing off the RGS at Dallas Divid by Richard Kindig 1947.

2026 Train Shows

February 28 and March 1st will be the TECO show. This event will be held at the Norris Penrose facility. More information will be published later.

The next show is the Garden City Boot Hill show March 14 & 15. I'll have more info on this show later.

April 11 & 12 will be the Rocky Mountain Show. This show will be at the Western Stock Complex as it hasn't been demolished yet. More info later.

Other shows the club likes to attend are the Sherman Hill Show in Cheyenne. The Dinosaur Resource Center Show in Woodland Park. One day set ups at two of the Pace facilities. I'll be working on getting a few more set ups at some of the senior centers around town for 2026.

Editor's Notes

Thanks to everyone that sent me photos and articles for the Railhead, please keep them coming. The short photo article about "Sun on the Rails" is one of curiosity and timing as these events only happen at certain times of the year and time of day, then they are gone till next season.

Articles about train trips, or short stories about projects are all of interest to the membership. Maybe some field trips can be reported with photos. The is continued work going on at the Calhan Depot. There is lots of work going on at the Como round house and area. Now that the grand palisades for the western portal of the Alpine Tunnel is repaired, work is progressing in that area.

T-TRAK Modules for Sale

The club has four of the 12" T-TRAK modules for sale. Blanks are \$25.00 each, if you want the track installed, the module price is \$40.00. There are four of the 12" modules in stock.

Steve has made another seven of the 24" T-TRAK modules to fill our stock inventory. These modules are \$40.00 for the blank, \$50.00 with the track installed, and \$60.00 with wiring and Anderson Power Supply installed. Contact Mike Peck to purchase your modules

A Bit of Humor



TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



Anyone notice the family resemblance?

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and be thankful for family and friends. You have Friday to recoup as we have open house on Saturday!

Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Kristin Phillips

(with apologies to Clement Moore and help from AI)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
But chaos reigned at the North Pole; the reindeer were on strike.
Dragging the sleigh with presents they just didn't like.
"No more speeding along, I can barely crawl." from Dasher
Going on the ground, I'd probably be a gate crasher.
Dancer and Prancer were tired from dancing all night.
"No way we can do it. We aren't up to the flight."
Comet and Cupid were hidden from sight
Already in bed for a long winter's night.
Donder, Vixen and Blixen, cried "our bones are too old."
"It's frigid out there.", they exclaimed, "We're just going to fold."
When what to their wondering eyes did appear
A loco, a tender, boxcars and more. The Big Boy is here.
It would hold all the presents and bring Christmas cheer.
The engine drew up and let off steam.
Cheers, many cheers came from the team.
Ed Dickens appeared all dressed in red
"I'm here for kids all snug in their beds."
Then the Big Boy surged forward, a great iron sleigh,
It's whistle a beacon to guide Big Boy's way.
Over rooftops and towns, the engine did proceed,
With the strength of ten reindeer and much greater speed.
And Santa beside Ed called out with delight,
As they raced through the snow in the glow of the night:
"You've saved Christmas Big Boy with your strength and your might."

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Advertisements

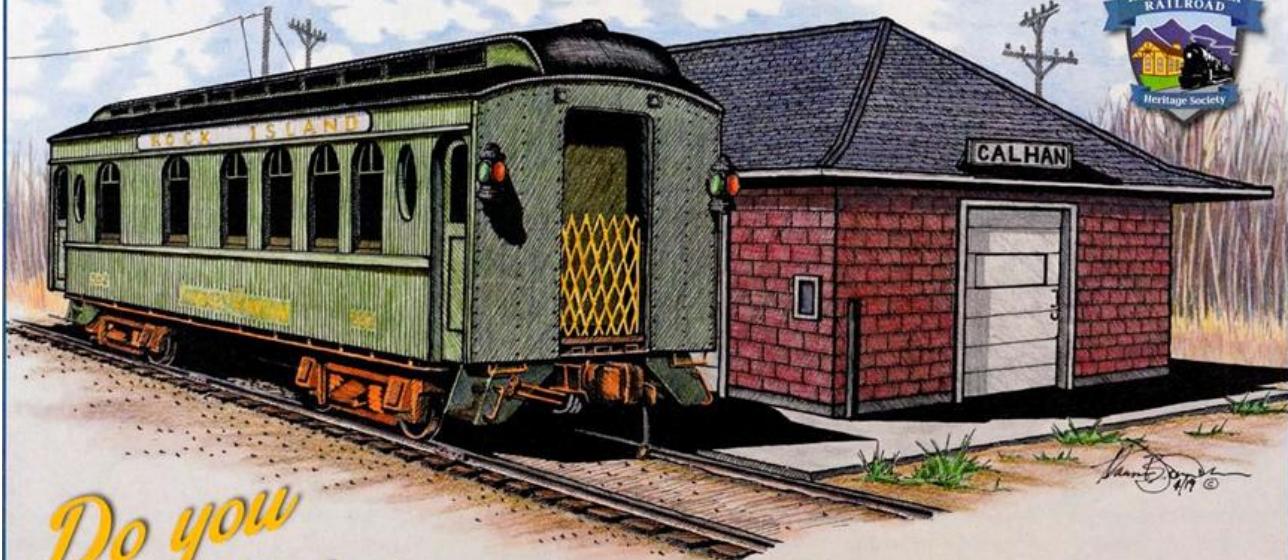
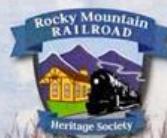
I have a Lionel O scale Polar Express train set #6-31960, never been used, still in the box, that I'm trying to figure out how to sell to someone who would enjoy it. These sets are \$350-\$400 on eBay, plus shipping. I'm looking for \$350 but will consider other offers. It's got all the original parts, including the smoke oil in the bottle, Santa's bell, the miniature figures, and spare light bulbs for the passenger cars. I would be happy to bring the set to a club meeting if someone is interested. I'd be able to deliver in town here, or up to Denver or down to Pueblo as well.. It was a Christmas gift for my son probably 16 or 17 years ago, but he never ran it and has no interest in it now, so he's ready to sell it. It's a shame to keep it in a closet!

Russ Maclean

(318) 658-7291

rpmaclean52@gmail.com





Shane B. Jordan ©

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Artwork By Thomas B. Jordan