



The

Milepost

Volume 41, Number 11 – November 2021

The official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division

Rocky Mountain Region – National Model Railroad Association.



NEXT MEETING:

Friday, November 12th, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Chapel Hills Mall Event Center

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Calendar of Events

January 8th, 2021 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom.

February 12th, 2021 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom.

March 12th, 2021 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom.

April 9th, 2021 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom.

May 14th, 2021 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom.

June 11th, 2021 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom.

July 9th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

August 13th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

September 9th, 2021 (Thursday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Freight cars

Program: {to be determined}

October 8th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: RR Structures

Program: {to be determined}

November 12th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Anything Xmas RR

Program: {to be determined}

December 12th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Program: Xmas Party

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The Milepost, Volume 41, Number 11, November 2021, 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 Classic Homes Corporate Office, 2138 Flying Horse Club Drive, Colorado Springs, 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, etcetera, without explicit case-by-case permission. The editor of *The Milepost* is Mr. David Bristow. He can be contacted at the e-mail address of: dave@bristow-family.org Thank you.

Editor's Thoughts

The other day I received a note from Elizabeth reminding me that I had agreed to give a presentation on Arduinos and other microcontrollers. It sort of caught me off guard as I had forgotten, but at least she had the grace to remind me with lots of time! Well, I got to thinking about computers and computing devices in general. I started my Information Technology career pathway back between my first and second semester at college when the air provided a Fortran programming course. In those days I never saw the IBM mainframe as we simply printed on a card punch form in our classroom. The form disappeared and the next day we would receive a printout usually with a significant number of error codes and a punch card deck. After subsequent tries, we'd get a clean run and output the instructor was looking for. I enjoyed programming so much that when I went back to college, I arraigned through the math department to get an account on a timeshare computer miles away using a teletype terminal. After several significant programming jobs, I ended up attending grad school where I was first introduced to my first microcontroller, a Motorola 6801 8-bit processor, just the chip, we had to assemble the rest of the components on a board using wire-wrap technology, this was in the early 1980s. At the time, I had given thoughts of using them for model railroading but abandoned the idea for the cost and the complexity of building the microcontrollers myself. When I graduated, I ended up in an air force headquarters job and purchased my first computer, a Unix based system using an Intel 80186 processor, 512K bytes of memory, 10M byte disk drive, a 5.25-inch floppy, and a CRT terminal, all for the small sum of \$5k (today that would be \$12,500). Fast forward to 2005 and the first Arduinos hit the market. I don't think it caught on in a big way for Model Railroaders until 2015 but boy has it caught on. Articles are abundant, sketches (code), and projects on the WWW. Not are there only Arduinos but a myriad of similar devices. The computer I purchased in 1985 for \$5k had nowhere near the compute power of many if not most of the microcontroller and single-board computers all costing less than \$150! While much has changed from the first class I took in the summer of 1969, programming is still pretty much the same... solving bugs you create for yourself!

With the continued emphasis on climate change, railroads are far less polluting today than just a few years ago but they are still using fossil fuels. I am sure there are research programs by all of the major locomotive manufacturers to provide alternatives to using fossil fuels. Electrification works well in corridors that have high traffic, which can support the higher costs of setting up the systems needed. The other day in one of my email feeds about CN activities in Canada I saw an interesting link about CN's recent purchase of a battery-electric locomotive. Progressive Railroading reported on [CN Purchases Wabtec's locomotive](#). Wabtec's FLXdrive battery-electric freight locomotive is the first 100% battery heavy-haul locomotive. CN officials said in a press release that the new technology is a key component in achieving an effective transition to a lower-carbon future. The unit will be CN's first battery-electric freight locomotive. It has 4 powered axles and can produce 4400 HP and can reach speeds of 75 MPH. However, as the lithium-ion battery pack has only a storage capacity of 2.4 Megawatt-hours the locomotive has a limited range. It uses regenerative braking to recharge as well as trackside recharge stations. When used in consists with regular diesel-electric locomotives it can help reduce carbon emissions by as much as 30%.





The first picture above is the locomotive CN purchased from Wabtec and the second one is an artist's depiction of the FLXdrive in CN colors.

David

PS John reported that the excellent presentation on the Sierra Railroad was made by Tom Malin, but the correct spelling of presenter's last name is Milam. I apologize for not catching the misspelling.

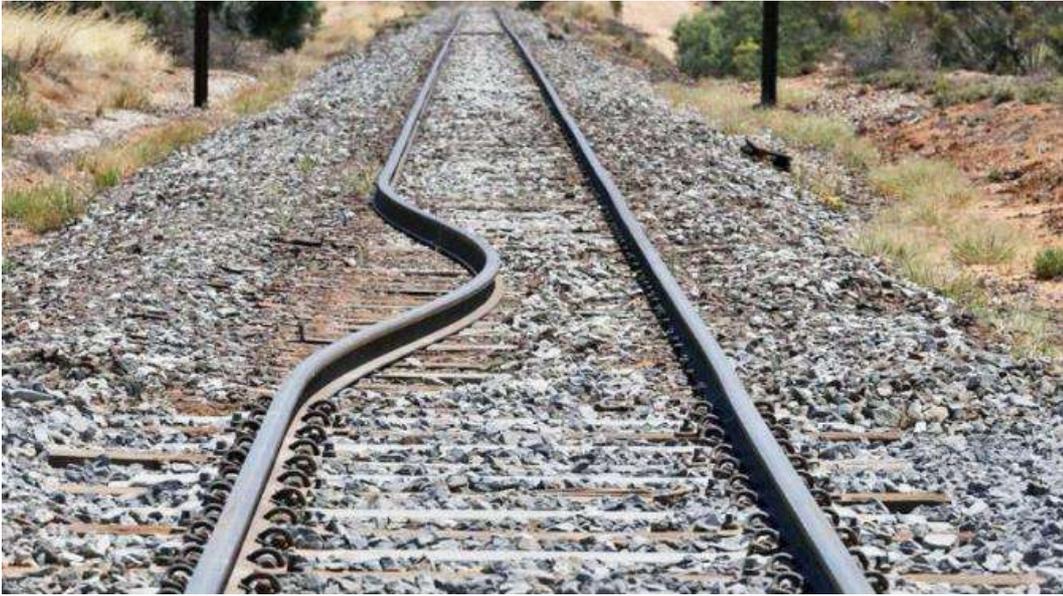
November Superintendent Notes



**NATIONAL MODEL
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
REGION**

November “Wavy Rails”



Next Mini-Meeting on Friday, November 12

Normally, at our division meetings, we have a drawing, show and tell, and a presentation. Friday’s meeting will be at Chapel Hills Mall Event Center and we will be setting up for the show.

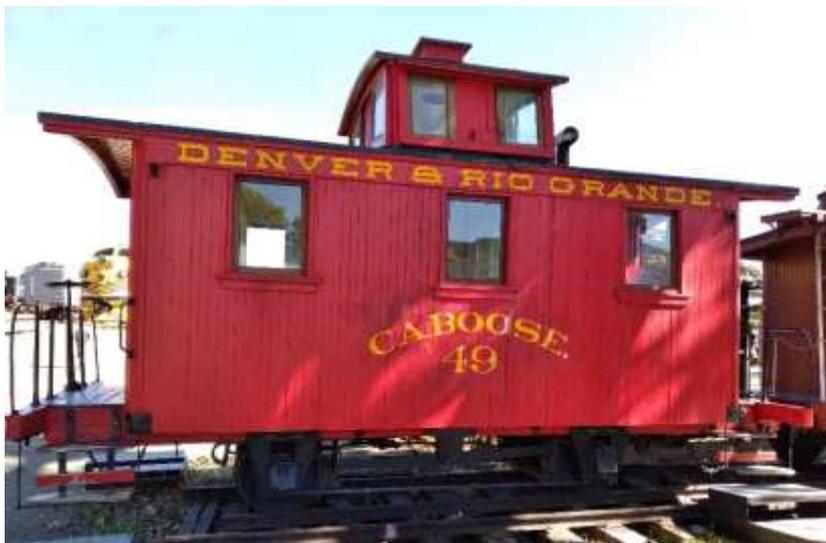
Barstow McTrain Station on Bucket List





Scout Day at the Colorado Railroad Museum

Sorry, but I could not resist snapping a picture of the bobber.



The storied little diesel provided motive power for the train riders.



Larry Vogt, another volunteer, "manned" the Operation Lifesaver Booth with us.

It was asphalt paving day outside the Museum. Our garden cart had to haul all our stuff from across the street. By the end of the day, we were able to drive into the onsite parking lot to load up for the getaway.



Dusty came by the booth. You can tell he's been "working out" in the Roundhouse. He and Kasey are alive and well.



Scout Day 2021

at the Colorado Railroad Museum

Saturday, October 16 from 10 am - 2 pm

Join Us! Activities Include:

- Meet historic railroad workers like an **engineer** or **telegrapher**!
- See our exhibits featuring **different types of railroad cars**.
- Learn about **scale** and visit the museum's two **model railroads**.
- Explore some of the **tools** used on the railroad and how we **lay track**!
- Hear railroad stories** and **send a message** in Morse code.
- Learn about **railroad signaling** using lanterns, whistles & horns!
- Identify the types of **rocks and minerals** used on the railroad.
- Try your hand at **geocaching/letterboxing**.
- And of course, take a **historic train ride**!

\$14 per participant (uniforms encouraged)
Participants reserving by Monday, Oct 11th will receive a badge & certificate
Register at www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org/Scout-Day

Colorado Railroad Museum
17155 W. 44th Avenue
Golden, CO 80403
303-279-4591

Lionel Collector Visit

Along with Larry and his wife after the event, we had the opportunity to visit the home of a model railroader who had an incredible Lionel layout and collection, Ken Cook. Frankly, for security purposes, I did not even ask to be allowed to take pictures which would have taken hours anyway. One of many sets he had was the "girly train":

It was similar to the official Lionel image shown below -- on a wall with many other complete train sets.



At the time it was released it was a marketing fiasco for Lionel.

Ken has a layout room with two continuous running trains, one mountain and one urban, as well as an incredible switching layout with over a dozen working accessories.

Will a Paint Scheme Impress the Lady Railroaders?

<https://www.queeky.com/gallery/image/girly-train>

Now, Kristin wants you to Cast Your Vote:

Which image represents a man's brain and which is the woman's brain? Choose wisely.



Nuclear Train to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CW6KvjCCAQ>

Ken had an atomic car a little like this in his collection. What looks like what's happening is that a couple of empty nuclear waste cars are being transported to a sub at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard after being shipped across the country. (CSX is in process of buying Pan AM Railways — same logo as an airline.)





Here is an M-140 "beauty shot":





New transport cars are in the pipeline.



Fortis is an eight-axle, flat-deck railcar that will be able to transport large containers of used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, with high-tech sensors and monitoring systems that will report 11 different performance features back to the operators in real-time. The railcar design was completed earlier this year, with technical support from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

DOE may now begin fabricating and testing the prototype in compliance with rail industry standards for railcars transporting used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.



The DOE's 12-axle railcar to transport larger containers of high-level radioactive material, Atlas, is currently undergoing single-car prototype testing in Pueblo, Colorado. Together, Atlas and Fortis will provide more flexibility when transporting used fuel and high-level radioactive waste to disposal and storage facilities, DOE said.

For those who need their very own scale cars, Shapeways has designs available for download.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CW6KvjCCAQ>

1984 British Test of Their System



The depleted nuclear transport capsule successfully maintained its pressure and integrity. The diesel engine did not do so well. The transport car was deliberately derailed before the test to make things more realistic.

Going Ballistic

A mobile nuke train was tested during the Reagan administration but never deployed:



So don't snicker when you see the Lionel version though the real ones were designed to blend in:



Russian version:



Amarillo, Texas has a railroad museum where a "white train" from the cold war is on display:

<https://www.newschannel10.com/2019/08/09/pantex-white-train-display-amarillo-railroad-museum-be-restored/>

Salt Lake Train Shoppe Added to Bucket List

In the past, Toy Man Television has shown Salt Lake City's unusual Train Shop... Well, it has moved into an UNUSUAL shopping center, Gardner Village. So now, two times unusual?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GZ9qoU68Q8&t=135s>

One Last Look at the Escalante Model at Ash Fork

<http://www.jcstudiosinc.com/OGaugeEscalanteHarveyHouse>

Couldn't help myself. This is the opposite side of the museum model I showed in a previous issue. The model is on an eight-foot-long table (which means it could probably fit on a four-foot-long HO module). The Grand Canyon and Verde Canyon tourist railroads are nearby. I see a road trip in the future.



When the railroad was moved northward to get a better grade and with the general decline in passenger service, the hotel (Escalante Hotel in Ash fork) was eventually torn down in the 60s.

Rancho de Taos --- \$600 in Plaster



Now, I still plan on 3D printing this, but some "Mystery Artist" did it in plaster on a wood base and was selling this on eBay — dimensions are 7" by 10" by 17" which would be HO scale. It is a fairly realistic rendition and about 8 pounds. In reality, the railroad was way off to the west.

Joe and Kristin on their "Train" in the Aegean:

Sorry, Elizabeth but we scheduled our cruise before TECO scheduled their November train show. The itinerary has changed somewhat but not the start and stop dates.



Upcoming Division & Local Events

Information on Colorado and neighboring state events is posted on TECOshow.org.

Any events scheduled for 2021 are subject to cancellation.

- November 13-14: TECO at Chapel Hills Mall Event Center, Colorado Springs
- November 27, 28: Rocky Mountain Train Show, Ranch Events Complex, Loveland
 - Sat 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Sun 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

5280 Arena Circle -- Exhibit Areas: Center, North, South Exhibition Halls

- January 28-29: TECO at Chapel Hills Mall Event Center, Colorado Springs
- April 23-24: TECO #41 at Chapel Hills

Information on Colorado and neighboring state events is posted on TECOshow.org.

Check out the Rocky Mountain NMRA Callboard: <https://www.rmr-nmra.org/callboard.htm>



Notes from The Siding

By John Emmot

This one has got me behind the power curve. TECO is getting ready to go and I spent the whole day Sunday at Calhan, so that is what you get.

The TECO board will be at the Mall on Thursday to set up the tables and plan the show configuration. Rented tables will be delivered and placed in their designated areas. Power will be checked. Preliminary staging will take place. We may have some 'young paid labor', but in case that doesn't materialize, we would appreciate any help anyone is willing to provide. Call me (719 325 9226) or Elizabeth (915 491 4819) by midafternoon Thursday to see if we need help. The general setup for layouts will begin at 10 AM on Friday. The easiest access is at the doors west of Dick's Sporting Goods, but the Sears deconstruction has reduced the space near there. If you unload there, please move your vehicles as soon as possible so that others may have their turn. The alternatives are the service 15 and 17 entrances on the north side of the Mall. The signs are visible from the parking lot. There are large freight elevators at both to take you to the lower level with direct access to the show site. You may compete with UPS and FEDEX in the morning. The vendor setup is set to begin at noon on Friday. Access will be available for both until the Mall closes at 8 PM. Many of our members will be attending the NMRA Division meeting at the site starting at 6:30 PM Friday. We will resume any remaining setup at 8 AM on Saturday. Everyone should be finished by the 10 AM show opening. Contact your organization officials if you have questions.

One of the things that have put me behind was spending the day at Calhan. It was lovely weather and a great opportunity to complete (or at least advance) the installation of one of the caboose doors. Others were present to paint handholds and safety rails on the wooden caboose. Some new stencils were also added to the car side. The door frame was sized and the antique door lock and knobs were installed. The old guys who used to do that have my respect as getting everything aligned proved challenging. Perseverance eventually won out. A little paint, glue, and weather stripping will finish the job. It's a pretty good replica of the one installed in 1938.



From the inside



from the outside



My Best Aspens!

Better put this to bed, Dave is waiting.

Hope to see many folks at the Division meeting and the TECO show.



October 2021 Minutes

Secretary, John Emmot

The regular monthly meeting was called to order live by Superintendent, Joe Costa at 7:03 in the community room of the Classic Homes offices at Flying Horse. There were 16 folks present. There was no ZOOM link for this meeting.

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

Treasurers Report

Tony Pawlicki had provided a digital update on activity in the PPD bank account to the officers before the meeting time and on handouts at the meeting. The statement was accepted as submitted.

Old Business

Kristin said the new PPD banners will be ready in time for the November TECO show.

A motion was made and passed to cancel the Division picnic for this year. A retry for spring/early summer 2022 was discussed.

Chairman Reports

Elizabeth confirmed that the TECO show was on for November 13-14. The scheduled sing-along won't happen. There will be several presentations about 'Railroad People'. She asked for volunteers to conduct show admissions and other administrative functions. Admission will be \$7.00 per adult with a \$1.00 discount for military/first responders. 12 and under enter free with an adult. She said there was a good turnout of vendors and that 110 tables would be needed for the show. Early setup will begin about mid-morning on Friday the 12th. The lower-level entrance west of Dick's is suggested. The freight elevators from the upper-level north entrance may not be working. The regular monthly meeting of the PPD will be held at 6 PM Friday in the Chapel Hills Event Center.

New Business

It was decided that the Christmas party would be a pot luck meal with the money not spent on the picnic used to buy fried chicken for the main course. A signup sheet was passed around for preliminary food offerings. After much discussion, it was agreed that there would be two separate gift exchanges (one exchange for ladies/non-railroad hobby gifts and another general exchange for railroad-related gifts). Everyone is welcome to participate in either or both exchanges. You must contribute an appropriate gift to be included. The Division's giveaway will come from any money from the monthly drawings plus an amount up to 15% of the October treasury balance. You must have participated in the monthly drawings to be eligible for this one. Charlotte Mountz and Kristin Philips volunteered to help Tony wrap the Division gifts.

Mark showed a picture of the Union Pacific loco 7400 decorated for Breast Cancer Awareness. A model of it is on display in his office.

The break was followed by the contest and drawing for donated items.

Contest

Tom Milam's G scale water tower was first, Wade Mountz' loaded HO flatcar was second and Tony Pawlicki's HO engine facility was third.





Program

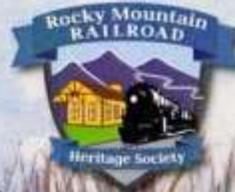
Mike Maline had a short presentation on the history of the 4-4-0 Reno loco and its return to the Virginia & Truckee in August of this year. Mike and Elizabeth had attended the V&T convention in Virginia City, Nevada last week.

Joe Costa presented an interesting slideshow of vintage railroad safety posters from the early to mid-1900s that the North Carolina Operation Lifesaver had resurrected.

Mark Fuerstenberger showed the contents of a large 3'X5' crate that he received recently. It was a picture of the K-36 #480 on the turntable in front of the Durango roundhouse printed on metal by Vivid Metal Works. He still isn't sure who sent it to him?????

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.





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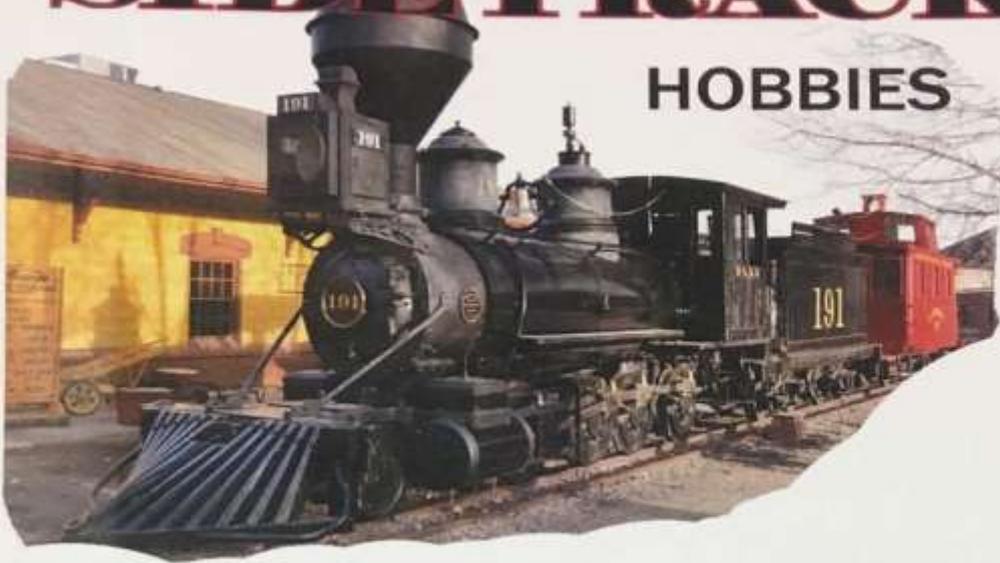
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Watch for monthly Swap Meets



SIDETRACK

HOBBIES



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

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July 1, 2017

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