



The

# *Milepost*

**Volume 45, Number 9 — September 2025**

**The official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division**

**Rocky Mountain Region — National Model Railroad Association.**



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

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

### February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: MOW Program: Travelogue

### March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Rolling Stock Program: East Broad Top

### April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

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

### May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

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

### June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Railroad Structure Program: Layout Update

### July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Rolling Stock Program: Tourist Train Tour

### August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Diorama Program: Colorado Live Steamers

### September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Photos Proto Program: The McKeen Motor Car

### October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

Contest: Photo Model Program: More Microcontrollers

### November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

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

### December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Program: Christmas Party!



*The Milepost*, Volume 45, Number 9, September 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](mailto:dave@bristow-family.org). Thank you.

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[ Open ]

## Next Meeting on Friday, September 12

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>

## 2025 Schedule

- September Elizabeth Maline – The McKeen Motor Car
- October David Bristow – More Microcontrollers
- November Ken Rambo – Vintage HO, Athearn
- December Christmas Party!

## Editor's Thoughts

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) has long been the bedrock of the model railroad-ing hobby, primarily through its essential role in setting standards. For decades, these standards have ensured that a boxcar from one manufacturer can couple seamlessly with a locomotive from another, and that track sections of different brands can be joined without issue. This interoperability is not just a convenience; it is the very foundation of a hobby where enthusiasts build and operate large, complex layouts with components from a wide variety of sources.

While many traditional standards such as those for track gauge, wheelsets, and coupler height—have been firmly established for years, the modern era is presenting a new frontier for the NMRA. Just as with every other facet of modern life, technology is rapidly changing the hobby. The wide-spread adoption of **digital command control (DCC)**, for instance, necessitated a new set of stand-ards to ensure that decoders from one company could be controlled by throttles from another. This move into the digital realm was a major step for the NMRA and highlights its adaptability.

One of the most significant recent developments is the **Layout Command Control (LCC)** standard. Unlike DCC, which primarily focuses on controlling locomotives, LCC provides a way to standardize communication for an entire layout. It's a network protocol designed to manage everything from signals and turnouts to building lights and other layout accessories. LCC offers a more robust and flexible system for controlling complex layouts, as it allows components from various manufactur-ers to work together seamlessly. This shift from a locomotive-centric control system to a whole-layout network demonstrates the NMRA's commitment to creating new standards that keep pace with the hobby's evolving needs.

Looking ahead, the NMRA must continue to be proactive in addressing new technologies to main-tain its relevance. Concepts like "**power on board**," where locomotives run on batteries rather than track power, are gaining traction. This shift introduces questions about how to standardize battery chemistries, charging methods, and control systems to ensure that a battery-powered locomotive can still be operated on any layout. Similarly, the rise of **3D printing** as a viable and accessible method for creating models poses a different kind of challenge. While it offers incredible creative freedom, there's a need to explore standards for digital file formats, material properties, and scale accuracy to prevent fragmentation and to ensure that scratch-built 3D printed components are compatible with commercially available products.

The work of setting these new standards will require collaboration and foresight. By engaging with both hobbyists and manufacturers on these emerging technologies, the NMRA can continue its vital work of ensuring the hobby remains accessible, cohesive, and enjoyable for generations to come. The success of the recent NMRA convention in showcasing these discussions is a promising sign that the organization is ready to lead the hobby into the future.

David

# **Keepin' it on the Tracks**

**By Mark Fuerstenberger**

## **Pikes Peak Division Layout Tour – 3 Weekends in September**

We appreciate each host being generous with their time to open their home for us to see the layouts. Please try to attend if you are able.

- Saturday - Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>
  - 9am-12pm – Paul Petty – Woodland Park, CO
  - 1pm-5pm – Jeff Cahill – Rockrimmon – Colorado Springs, CO
- Saturday – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 11am-4pm – Bob Bandy – Glen Eagle - Monument, CO
- Sunday – Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>
  - 11am-4pm – Ken Rambo – Falcon, CO
- Saturday – Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>
  - 11am-4pm – Steve Jankowski – Monument, CO

## **Rails in the Rockies Train Show – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, Estes Park, CO**

The Rails in the Rockies Train Show is coming up in a couple weeks. It will be held at the Estes Park Event Center, 1150 Rooftop Way, Estes Park, CO. Hours for the show will be Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 9am-4pm. \$10. Per person or \$20 per family. 12 & under are free.

## **Colorado Rail Proto Meet – Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, Greeley, CO**

The Colorado Rail Proto Meet is sponsored and hosted by the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. It will be held at the Island Grove Event Center, 421 North 15th Avenue Greeley, CO 80631. Hours for the show will be Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 9am-4pm. \$25. For 1 day, \$40. For 2 days. Please register at <https://www.cmrm.org/product/colorado-rpm-registration-2025/>

## **New Mexico Railroad Days – Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, Albuquerque, NM**

The highlight of the event is the fully steamed up and operating Santa Fe 2926, the largest steam locomotive in New Mexico. There will be cab tours, blowing the whistle, and photo opportunities.

## **Intermountain Train Show – Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, Salt Lake City, UT**

The Intermountain Train Show is in November. It will be held at Stadler US Manufacturing Facility, 5880 W 150 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84104.

## **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/>

## **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.



# Drawing Prizes Preview

**By Tony Pawlicki**

“Teaser” preview of some prizes available at the drawing during intermission at the September 2025 Pikes Peak Division NMRA meeting. The idea is to entice more members to our meetings. **HEY – feel free - encouraged, even - to bring/donate surprise items! The more the merrier! (ALERT: We have exhausted ALL of the various donations from Wade Mountz, Alan Hutchins and Mr. Lugg.)**

**We need some more donations in the long run, so cast a critical eye on your cars, structures and catch-all drawers for orphans that you might finally decide to disown.**

**(SOME OF) THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OFFERINGS (*feel free to contribute more at the meeting; some more of Wade’s freebies will also be available, free to good homes*):**

Again, Andy Buco looked over his collectibles and found duplicates that he has kindly donated to the Division for use as drawing prizes. Some of them for this month’s drawing are among those described below.

BCOL 4049. From our friends North of the Border. HO scale Athearn Ready-to-Roll model of 40-foot modernized steel boxcar. Consolidated Stencil. Kadее semi-scale couplers. Kadее wheelsets with shined treads. Weathered trucks and wheelsets. Six-foot Youngstown Steel Door (YSD) doors. No roof walk but high-end ladders. Gift of Tony Pawlicki; this has been sitting in my “in” pile since 2009 (waiting for me to add uncoupling levers, if I recall correctly) so it’s time it got some exercise.



NMRA 1981. HO scale Model Die Casting (Roundhouse) kit model of 50-foot commemorative express reefer celebrating the 1981 meeting of the NMRA in San Mateo, California. UNASSEMBLED ORIGINAL KIT. Gift of Andy Buco.



UPRR. HO scale Bachmann model of old-time 30-foot gondola (stake sides on a flatcar style). Not numbered. Horn-hook couplers. Gift of Andy Bucu.



## September Wavy Rails

### Planning for UK Transportation Vacation in 2026

**By Joe Costa**

This Kristin's cousin who we did a Florida Disney World family and Caribbean cruise vacation is organizing a UK Land & Cruise vacation in the UK in 2026,



Welsh Train Ride Excursion from Liverpool at Llanfair...



**Before and after the cruise.**  
Harry Potter Studio Tour, London



One impressive place to visit is the Harry Potter Studio Tour in London. Kristin and her college friend have several museums they wish to visit in the city.



Portsmouth is where we board the cruise ship. Not rain related, but we might well visit Stonehenge from Inverness.

**"Harry Potter Train"**

Edinburgh is where the Jacobite train shown in the movie is located. Unfortunately, the train takes too long to work as an excursion:





The cruise stops in Liverpool where the Llanfair narrow gauge steam engine is available as an excursion.

When we get off the cruise in Southampton, we plan on going back to Edinburgh by plane or ride the Jacobite train. Probably, we will fly back to the US after the train ride.

### **Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum Visit**

When we did our Amtrak trip to Illinois and Michigan the train, we road between the two states was Wolverine. Recently, we flew in and out of Pensacola to attend birthday party in Gulf Shores Alabama. We visited Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola on the way back. There we learned about two "training" aircraft carriers. These were converted ships that never left the Great Lakes because the sea canal to the sea was too narrow. One carrier was Wolverine.

What was interesting is that over a hundred planes crashed into the lake. At least six aircraft were well and uniquely preserved by the cold, fresh water and are on display at the museum.

During the years of the carriers' operations, there were 128 losses and over 200 accidents. Although most losses resulted in only minor injuries, a total of eight pilots were killed.



U.S. Navy's two CQTU training carriers on Lake Michigan, docked at Chicago's Navy Pier following the war.



Goose ride at Colorado Railroad Museum. Image below was perspective straightened and merged from two photos.

### Devastating Recent Funicular Tragedy in Lisbon

At least 15 people have died after [Lisbon's Gloria](#) funicular railway [derailed and crashed](#) into a building, also leaving around 18 people injured, authorities said.

Footage on Wednesday evening showed the tram-like funicular, which carries people up and down a hillside in the Portuguese capital, practically destroyed and emergency workers pulling people out of the wreckage.

This image is of the funicular in better times. The system is over 100 years old. Second image is after the incident.



### After the accident



### Previously collected models:

On previous trips to Lisbon, I collected a magnet and a model of the trolley. Additionally, I submitted a Kleenex box sized trolley I decorated with rubber ducks as a contest entry in Durango.



Kristin and I have been on several funiculars in Southern Europe, in Montserrat, Santorini, Barcelona and the Isle of Capri.

### Durango Ducks Regional Entry (Shoebox Sized)





**Montserrat Funicular at Passing Track**



**Royal Gorge Incline before the fire.**





## Manitou Incline from Long Ago



## Pittsburgh Funiculars



# The Georgetown Loop Railroad History & Tour

**By Mark Fuerstenberger**

For our 2025 yearly outing, members of The Pikes Peak Division went up to Georgetown and got to ride on the Georgetown Loop Railroad.

**Quick History of the railroad:** The Colorado Central Railroad was built as a narrow-gauge railroad with the purpose of connecting Golden and Denver with the mining areas of Clear Creek Canyon, including Black Hawk, Central City, Idaho Springs, Georgetown, and Silver Plume. The Colorado Central Railroad was supported by the Union Pacific Railroad, and it served the gold and silver mines in that area.

Groundbreaking began in 1881, and the line was completed in 1884. The towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume are only two miles apart in Clear Creek Canyon, but they are separated by over 600 feet in elevation. To overcome the steep elevation in such a short distance, engineers employed a series of switchbacks, curves, and most notably, a massive spiral loop. The centerpiece of this engineering marvel was the Devil's Gate High Bridge, a towering 95-foot steel bridge that allows the train to loop back over itself to gain elevation.

Due to the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893, that led to a collapse in silver prices, devastating the local economy, and squeezing the railroad. Although it continued to operate for a few more decades, it was eventually abandoned in 1939 due to declining demand and increasing maintenance costs. For decades, the tracks were left to rust and the bridge dismantled, but the memory of the Georgetown Loop remained strong in Colorado's historical consciousness. In the 1970s, renewed interest in preserving Colorado's railroad heritage led to a restoration project spearheaded by the Colorado Historical Society. Reconstruction began in the early 1980s, and by 1984, exactly 100 years after its original completion, the Georgetown Loop Railroad was reopened as a heritage railway.







## Show and Tell: Anything Goes and Free-form

By Tony Pawlicki

This note lays out rules for the **Show and Tell** session/contest at the SEPTEMBER 2025 Pikes Peak Division NMRA meeting. Free-form show-and-tell really has no rules, just do a little presentation. Rules per se apply to the (normally) bi-monthly ***"salvage and resurrection"*** events. The event (sort of a second, less formal, contest) was inspired by our late beloved Division Superintendent's notion in his March 2023 Milepost Conductor's Corner column.



This event was announced a bit over two months in advance (in the MILEPOST just before the June meeting) to give folks enough time to prepare their entries. For SEPTEMBER, the salvage and resurrection topic is ANYTHING AT ALL, again continuing our effort to get more participation. (July had a number of presentations – thanks, folks!).

Starting with the June 2024 meeting, we now have two parts to the event:

- The **theme-specific** contest/presentation (for March it is ANYTHING AT ALL).
- NEW FEATURE: **Free form show-and-tell**, on any topic you choose. This feature is being added by popular request - folks have been suggesting this to our Superintendent.

**GENERAL IDEA for the theme-specific part (ANYTHING AT ALL this month):**

- Grab an old, failed project you couldn't bring yourself to discard (or a disaster picked up at a train show or store).
- *Plan a fix* (turning it into something good, though not necessarily creating what you originally planned), then *actually fix* it.
- Bring it, display it, then after regular model contest, stand up and tell us about your adventures.
- **The show-and-tell aspect is the main thing.** Given enough entries (3), there'll be a contest aspect too, but main goals are having fun salvaging something and entertaining the rest of us with the way you had fun.

**THIS SESSION'S THEME:** ANYTHING AT ALL, trying to encourage broader participation.

**EXAMPLES:**

- An example and the rules were provided in the April 2023 Milepost.
- To remind us that the salvage and resurrection project need not be a huge effort, **the January 2025 Milepost provided an example (SALVAGING INTERNATIONAL HOBBY CORPORATION (IHC) DTI 10175) where just one major change was needed to "save" the model.**
- This was also an example of **a model that needed saving right out of the box.** A model doesn't always need saving just due to having lived a rough life post-purchase.



## August 2025 Minutes

**Secretary, John Emmot**

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Superintendent, Mark **Fuerstenberger**, at 7:00 in the community room of the Sand Creek Police Station. There were 25 members present and no visitors.

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the July meeting were modified to correct the spelling of David Solly's name in the Announcements section. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

### **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.

### **Announcements**

Joe and Kristin were asked about the NMRA National Convention in Novi, MI. Their trip was delayed, and they missed the convention but enjoyed the fabulous National Train Show that followed.

Mark related his experiences at the Big Boy visit to Greely on July 17<sup>th</sup>. They arrived early and he got to operate a train on the Colorado Model Railroad Museum layout while waiting for the arrival of the 4014. When the train arrived, he and Amber were drafted to assist with crowd control along the track and then went back to run trains after the train departed. He noted that the Museum hosted their 250,000<sup>th</sup> visitor during the event, but it was so busy that no one noticed until after.

The PPD layout tour was discussed. David Solly said the final schedule included 5 layouts and covered three weekends in September. Sept 13, Sept 20&21 and Sept 27. There are two on the 13<sup>th</sup>, one 9AM-12PM in Woodland Park and one 1PM-5PM in Rockrimmon. One 11AM-4PM on the 20<sup>th</sup> in Monument. One 11AM-4PM on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Falcon. One 11AM-4PM on the 27<sup>th</sup> in Monument. A sheet with the addresses and telephone numbers was available at the meeting. If you would like to attend, you may get a copy at the regular meeting on 12 September or contact David Bristow at "[dave@bristow-family.org](mailto:dave@bristow-family.org)" to verify your NMRA membership.

Mark noted the Boreas Pass Railroad Day in Como, CO on August 16.

Mark reminded everyone that the Pikes Peak Division is scheduled to ride the Georgetown Loop train on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:25. Mark and Amber arranged for tickets to be picked up before the ride. Tickets are \$38 each. David was to provide directions for everyone prior to the date.

There was significant discussion about the PPD modules setting up for the first weekend of the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo. That will be set up on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>, and will be run on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with move out Monday morning. Operations would be from 11AM to about 9PM each day. Chris Fox talked about Fair access and parking. Signup sheets were passed around to get gate passes, parking passes and grounds access. Module owners and members should contact Mark to confirm participation. You do not need to stay all day. Just let Mark know when you can be there. You do not need to have a module to come run trains.

The Scenic Line Modelers, Inc, the Lockheed Martin train club in Littleton, CO is having an open house and potluck lunch on August 30<sup>th</sup>. They have invited members of the Front Range NMRA Divisions to attend if able. They will provide KFC and ask for side dishes if you can. You may operate their equipment on the layout, but no outside equipment is allowed. Location will be available.

Mark mentioned the Rail Pro Meet at the Island Grove Event Center in Greely on Sept 27-28. It will feature: Model Displays - Clinics - Hands on Stations - Vendor Room – Layouts. The PikeMasters Freemo layout will be there.

**New Mexico Railroad Days** will happen September 27-28, 2025 at the Albuquerque South Rail Yards, Second St. SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Santa Fe 4-8-4 2926 will be steamed up and on display and available for cab tours. Enjoy speeder rides and equipment displays, live music, vendors, and more. Saturday night photo shoot (tickets required). See website for details. Presented by New Mexico Heritage Rail.

It was mentioned that Bob Bandy will have a layout open house on Aug 23, 2025.

Roy Thompson was at the meeting and announced that he has some new collections at his house with many new models to pick from. Call Roy to arrange a search. He also said that he is associated with an individual who is building a new Railroad venue in the Springs east of Marksheffel. There will be room for layouts and meeting rooms as well as workshop space. More information is coming as it is available.

The August contest of dioramas had no entries and so no voting.

### **Program**

Chris Thistlethwaite presented a program on the Colorado Live Steamers group in Byers, Colorado. He described the history of the group and their facilities at the venue where they have been for over 25 years. They have about 3 actual miles of 7 ½" gauge track and a smaller loop of 4 ¾" gauge track. The run includes trestles and tunnels created to add interest to the route. He had many pic-

tures and videos to describe the equipment. He also displayed a gondola car and several pieces of model hardware. He recounted events and activities available for anyone who would like to participate.

The door prize drawing was held following the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42.







## **Notes from the Siding**

**By John Emmot**

A lot has happened since the last Notes. The PPD rode the Georgetown Loop RR, we did a three-day module run at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, and I got to visit the Lockheed Martin employees layout in Waterton.

The Georgetown trip happened on August 17, a perfect Colorado bluebird sky day. Even the drive up I-25 and I-70 was not too bad. Everyone got there on time and David had a cake to share before the departure time. The #40 steam engine was the power of the day. Mark got the tickets and distributed them. Everyone was accounted for. The train left on time at 11:30 and went to Silver Plume. It was a short layover and most stayed on the train to await their return. The locomotive runs around

the train and backs down for the return. The obligatory train robbery took place on the way down. I thought I might get to keep the funny money, but the second wave of crooks lifted it from me too. Most folks headed for home when the ride was over. It was about time to eat a late lunch, but most eateries were full of tourists. The drive down I-70 wasn't fun as there was an accident that had closed most lanes. My wife and I got off in Idaho Springs and found a good Mom&Pop lunch. The road was still backed up when we got on again. It took a while to get home, but it was uneventful. It was a good trip for 17 members of the Division, and a good time was had by all.

Before the week was over, the module group was in Pueblo on Thursday, setting up for a three-day run for the opening of the State Fair. We started at about 8am and left the grounds promptly at 4pm. The layout was up and tested with only skirts and a few details to complete before the opening. The venue was great, and the weather wasn't bad. Mark had planned a good layout, and it ran very well for the most part. A few glitches were corrected as they appeared. We had good trains running nearly all the time. Everyone got to run, some got to run a lot. I was able to run my MoPac PA with the Colorado Eagle after I reassembled it from hitting the floor at a TECO show :-). It was back to normal. (Does anyone have any extra brass bushings for the drive line from a Proto 2000 or Athearn diesel?)) I had to cannibalize one to put the PA back together. Lots of people got to see our display before we moved it out on Monday morning. Everyone was packed up and ready to leave by 12:10PM. Again, everyone had a good time, but three days was enough in a distant city.

By the next weekend I had an offer for a ride to the Lockheed Martin open house near Denver. To her credit, my wife did not object, so I got go. I went with a local resident who is a member of the club and knew how to get there. I think even my GPS might get lost finding it. They have a wonderful multi-layer layout based on the Denver & Rio Grande Western. Much of it is 'finished', but even the rest is populated by very believable stand-ins. There was a very complete roster of locos and cars running on the layout. The day included a potluck lunch with chicken provided by the RMR.

I have been working on a couple of Moffat cabooses for Dave at the Granby Museum so he will have a 'real' one to go with the expanding roster of 'real locomotives'. They are almost ready, only needing decals and grab irons installed.

Don't forget that September is layout tour month. Dave has arranged for a sequence of open houses so you can choose to visit without having to miss some for lack of time. Don't forget to pick up the sheet with the times and locations at the meeting.

This is also Show and Tell month about any projects you are working on. Any topic is welcome.

Hope to see lots of folks 'round the roundhouse on Friday.













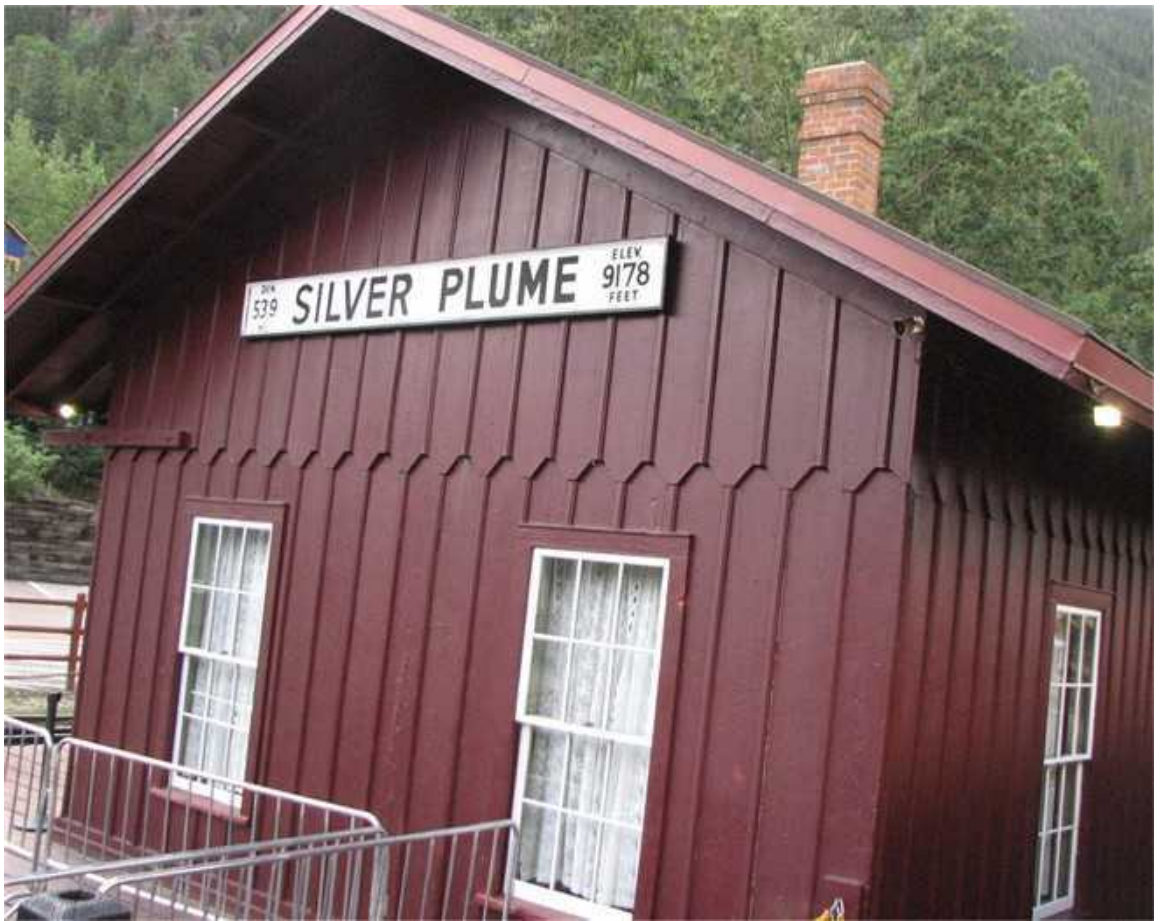




















## **PIKES PEAK "N"GINEERS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**

**By Mike Peck**



UP 3977 Challenger in Cody Park

### **Club Picnic**

The club picnic will be held at the Palmer Lake Pavilion on Sunday 14, 11 am to 3 pm or longer. We'll have burgers, brats and dogs, buns, condiments, and tomato and lettuce. We can use some side dishes, salads and desserts to share. Let Mike know what meats you want so we have enough.

### **Royal Gorge Route**

The club will have our annual train trip on Saturday September 6. This year we will ride on the Royal Gorge Route. We plan to go on the 3:30 pm ride, then go someplace for dinner afterwards. Prices for the trip are Vista Dome - \$129.00 each, Deluxe Class - \$119.00 each, and Coach - \$99.00 each. Club members will pay for their own tickets when we arrive, also we don't know which of the cars you want to ride in.

### **Rocky Mountain Pace Event**

Those members attending this event be at the Pikes Peak location, (across from the old Montgomery Wards building), at 8 am on Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>. We'll unload there and enter through the side doors and setup will probably be on 3- six-foot tables, so just a small layout. I have turned in the head count for lunch. I'll send out more details when we get closer to event time.

## Superintendent's Corner

By Glenn Hobbs

It's September and summer is just about over, and we can see signs that fall is just about here. The kids are returning to school and the leaves on the aspens are starting to turn yellow.

In August we had the North Platte Rail Days show in North Platte, Nebraska. As always, this was a fun show. We get to tour Union Pacific's Golden Spike Tower and the Bailey Yard. A lot of our meals were provided by the show. We got VIP access to some of historical sites of railroading in the area. I was also able to go on one of the layout tours. There were six of us that attended. Later in August there was the club field trip to the Colorado Railroad Museum. As I write this, the trip has not yet occurred. On August 30th, we have another open house with pizza at the club.

In September, we have our train trip on the Royal Gorge Train. I sent out an email to everyone with details about the trip. The trip will be on Saturday, September 6th. About a week later, on the 14th, we will have our club picnic in Palmer Lake. Please look for details about the picnic in this issue of the Railhead or in a separate email.

I have a couple of articles for this issue of the Railhead. The first is an article about trains in Kenya and the second is my fifth installment of my series on DCC. I also created a video of our trip to Kenya. If you like to see our visits to some of the schools and churches as well as learn about the people and the culture; I have included the link.

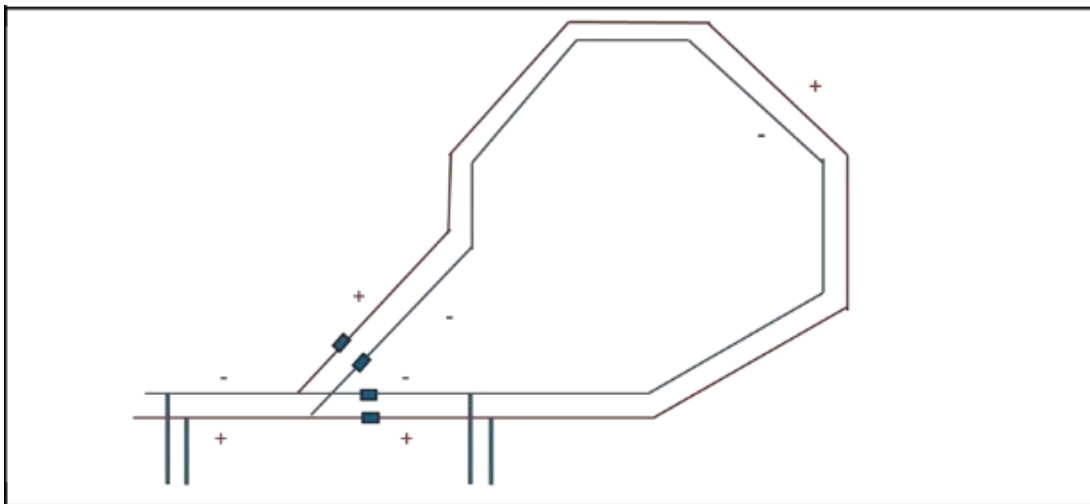
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JPJkZedYWwPgWQwCrBDsoiAPdzHkkSO1/view?usp=sharing>

### DCC Primer V

By Glenn Hobbs

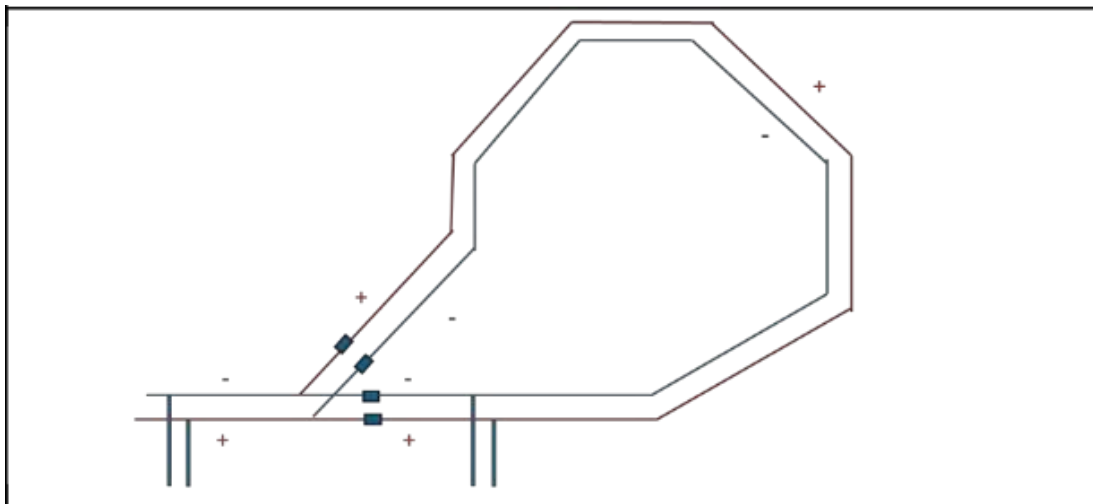
This is the fifth in a series of articles to help you get started using DCC to run trains. By now you should have a basic understanding of how to use DCC and add it to your layout.

In this article, I am going to discuss reversing loops. A reversing loop is when you have track reverse back onto itself. In the figure below, you can see an example of a reversing loop and why we need to add additional wiring to address the polarity issue. Notice that the polarity of the track is different when it comes back to the turnout, thus causing a short circuit.



To address this issue, we add insulating rail joiners at both ends of the loop where it connects to the turnout. Next, we need to add additional connections to both rails in the loop. Now, as a train enters the loop, we will reverse the polarity or direction on the rest of the layout. This is accomplished by adding a DPDT toggle switch to each of the connections to the layout. Each switch will reverse the polarity to the track. Also, don't forget to change the direction of turnout. The train can now return to

the main line without causing a short. In the figure below, you can see the additional wiring and the insulated rail joiners.



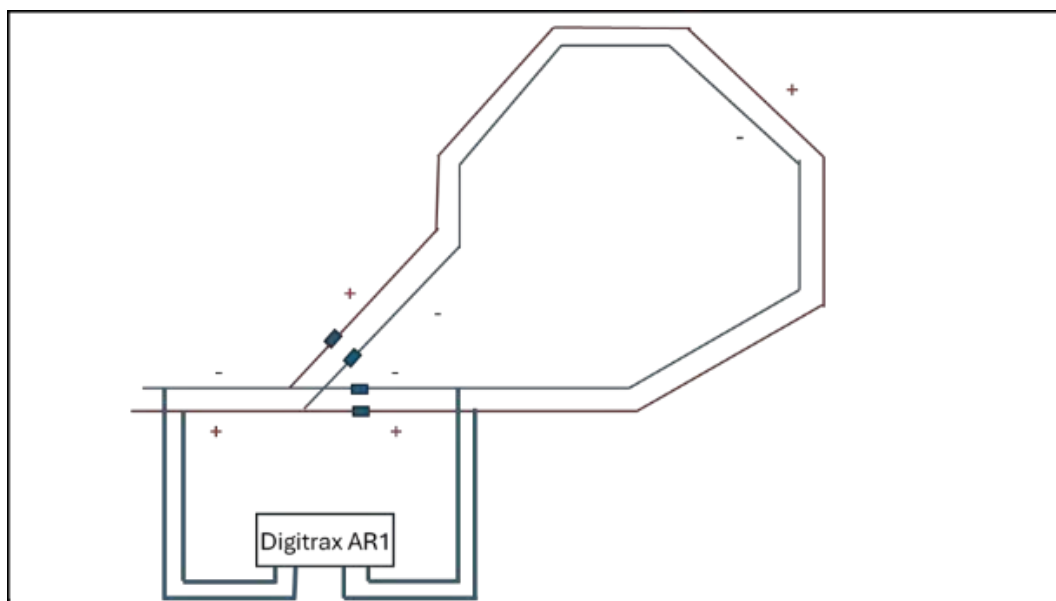
However, in a prototype railroad, we don't have to worry about this. Even one that is electrified. The catenary or a third rail provides the positive side and the rails the negative. The big idea about DCC is that we control the train and not the track. So, can we run a train through a reversing loop without having to throw any switches to reverse the polarity of the track?

The answer is yes. However, like the prototype, we still need to make sure the turnouts are aligned correctly. In order to accomplish this, we need to add two components to our layout. First, we need to add train detection and second, we need to add a relay to respond to the train detector and change the polarity.

Fortunately, Digitrax has an easy and inexpensive solution. It's called the AR1, and it includes both train detection and circuitry that acts like a relay to change the polarity of the track. The MSRP is \$33, and I saw it on Amazon for \$29.99. The link for Amazon is below:

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=digitrax+ar1&crd=2EJ6IDBYQNAL0&prefix=Digitrax+%2Caps%2C129&ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_p13n-pd-dplr-ranker\\_8\\_9](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=digitrax+ar1&crd=2EJ6IDBYQNAL0&prefix=Digitrax+%2Caps%2C129&ref=nb_sb_ss_p13n-pd-dplr-ranker_8_9)

In the diagram below, you see how the AR1 is added to the reversing loop. It only requires four wire connections. 2 for inside the loop and 2 for outside the loop.





The AR1 also has an adjustment screw to regulate the amount current that is needed to trip the circuit as a train enters the loop. You may have to adjust the screw after your install the AR1. This screw will adjust the sensitivity of the AR1 so that it will trip before the circuit breaker on your power supply. This is all explained in the instructions that come with the AR1.

As you can see, reverse loop wiring for DCC is not all that difficult. You still control the train and not the track. My next article will be the last of this series. I will cover some of the more advanced features of DCC and some of the amazing things you can do to make your layout run like a real a proto-typical railroad. I will cover a software program called JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface). This program allows you to use a computer to control your layout and opens the door to some exciting possibilities.

## Golden Spike Days

Chris, Mary and I left with the trailer on Thursday and arrived in North Platte around 3:30 pm their time. Glenn met us and we unloaded the trailer and proceeded to set up our display. It was over 90 degrees in the building with lots of humidity, so we were slow in getting set up. Had to take a few water breaks, at least I did. We were up and running by 5. We were provided sandwiches, chips and drinks, so we ate before going to the hotel.

Friday morning, we headed over to the facility to clean and level track to start running trains. Mary's sister and husband joined us as temporary members of the club to see what we do at a show. I dangled the bait, now it's time to set the hook! Hah! Hah!



Overview of our layout

There were several vendors at this years show, three were N scale, so some good deals were to be had. We took turns going to the Golden Spike Tower, so everyone had a chance to go. Lots of action going on in the yard as usual. As usual there were so many activities going on we missed a few of them but hit some we didn't get to the first time we were there.



Diesel facility at Bailey yard to the left.



NS Locos working the Bailey Yard.

### Clubroom Views

Once in a great while we may get some special freight trains go by with items we never see. Some of the graffiti is getting better, at least not just gang tags.







Loads of utility poles, I think there were at least 8 cars in all.



These were just some of the art that went by, I did like the MOBBN\_RAIL\_LINES.

### **"N"GINEERS Editor's notes**

Looks like I'll be sending out an addendum to the September Railhead later. I'm missing some photos from other club members, so I will be collecting those.

I'm also looking for train stories, real or fictional to put in the Railhead. I may have to write about the assignment my brother Richard gave me to work on once we got back from Bismarck ND, so be looking for a progress report.

# The Lighter Rail

By Kristin Phillips

## A Visit to the Colorado Railroad Museum

The turntable was operating on human power.



Some of the engines and trains







**The Machine Shop**







**The Best Part**

The Galloping Goose!



A great ride!





*Do you  
like trains  
and enjoy  
history?*

## **THEN WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!!**

We are recruiting volunteers to help us build a Railroad Heritage Center in Calhan, CO honoring those who operated the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad in El Paso and Elbert Counties from 1887-1968.

### **GET INVOLVED • HAVE FUN • LEARN HISTORY • MEET NEW PEOPLE!**

Volunteers wanted regardless of age or skillset. Painters, Electricians, Plumbers, Woodworkers, Writers, Photographers, Researchers etc.  
Anyone & Everyone is welcome!

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL 303.961.5929 OR EMAIL [denverzephyr64@yahoo.com](mailto:denverzephyr64@yahoo.com)**

Artwork By Thomas B. Jordan