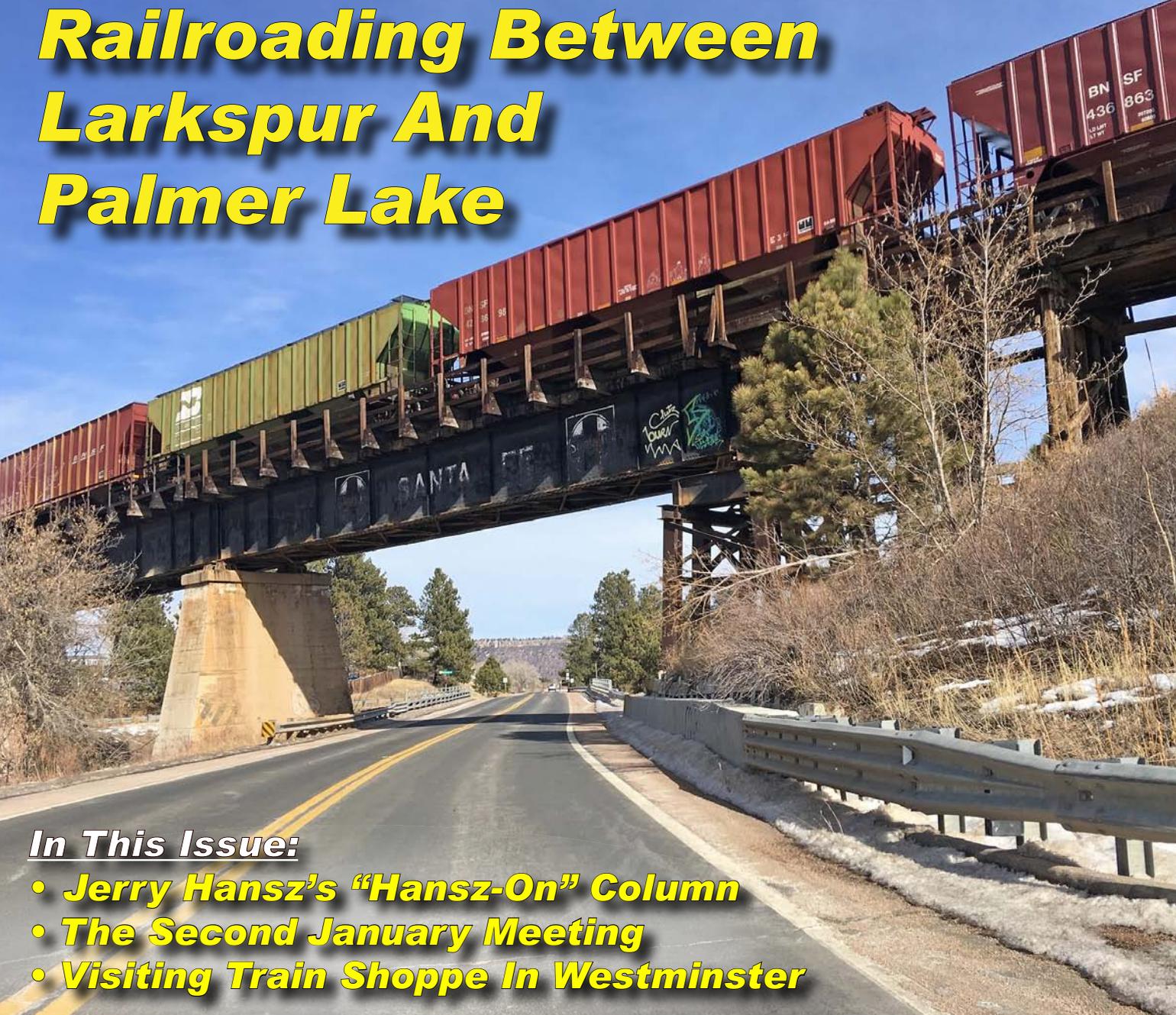




# *The* Milepost

February 2018  
Volume 38  
Issue #2

## ***Railroading Between Larkspur And Palmer Lake***



### ***In This Issue:***

- ***Jerry Hansz's "Hansz-On" Column***
- ***The Second January Meeting***
- ***Visiting Train Shoppe In Westminster***

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, February 9th, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Sand Creek Police Station, 4125 Center Park Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy Boulevards).

## INFORMATION

*The Milepost* is published monthly and is the official journal of the Pikes Peak Division, of the Rocky Mountain Region, of the National Model Railroad Association. Our meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month at the Sand Creek Police Station, 4125 Center Park Drive (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 7:00 PM. Please come to one of our meetings. We'd love to meet you. All scales are welcome. Besides our monthly meeting, we have swap meets, train shows, and other model railroad activities.

All content of this journal is copyrighted to its respective owner unless otherwise noted. Please do not use content from this newsletter without explicit, case-by-case permission.

**Cover Photograph:** A southbound grain train crosses the Santa Fe bridge on the southside of Larkspur, Colorado on Monday, January 29th, 2018. Photograph by Michael Murdock.

### **Don't Forget:**

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

### **This Month's Presentation:**

Jimmy Simmonds, of Monster Model Works, will have an introductory clinic and bring samples of his products.

<http://monstermodelworks.com/>

## PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

By Charalee Topinka

Everyone who is a model railroader, has a technique or a way of doing projects that is known only to him or her. A clinic can be anything that pertains to model railroading. It could be anything, maybe a material that no one but you have thought of. Have you made a special tool to make life easier to achieve what you want to accomplish? Everyone has different ideas on how to do things.

For Pikes Peak Division monthly meetings, a clinic or presentation of about 30 or more minutes would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me, Charalee Topinka, at (719) 646-2783, or at charaleetopinka@yahoo.com, and always give me a telephone number so that I can call you back.

I wish also to thank all the presenters for their time and efforts as presenters for the Pikes Peak Division.

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# SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

By Joe Costa, Superintendent of PPD-NMRA

## January Meeting Mix-up

We had a mix-up with the Sand Creek Police Department's meeting room being double booked. Frank believes he has things straightened out with the scheduler, and our February meeting will be at the police station at 7:00 PM. We will be having both the January and February contests at the February meeting.

We don't yet have numbers for the December 2017 Division swap meet but it sounds like we did quite well.

## TECO 31 Results

Despite Sunday's weather, we had over 976 visitors, breaking the record we set in October 2017. We expect that TECO 32, in April 2018, to be even more successful.

## Event Center Update

Chapel Hills Mall is turning the old Gordmans Store, on the upper level above where we had TECO, into another Event Center hall even larger than the lower level hall we have used for the past two TECO shows.



They plan to have it ready for a Home Show in April 2018. What is interesting about this space is that it has two entrances, a ground level entrance on the north side of the Mall and an upper level entrance inside the Mall. This would mean that module groups and vendors would have direct outside access for loading and unloading without having to use elevators or worry about interfering with Mall shoppers. Logistics has been the biggest aggravation we've had to deal with and this location would virtually eliminate it.

To be usable for TECO they would have to have power available for us which is something they are working on. It would be a little more expensive because of the larger space and easier access. The floor is cement, no carpet, and the ceiling is higher. It would be similar to the old Mortgage Solutions building on Nevada (except that no vehicles or trailers can go inside).

The door to the right of the entrance goes out to Service Area 15. We would use the outside entrance strictly for loading and unloading and use the inside entrance for guests.

We should have an update by the March 2018 Division Meeting if not earlier.

Another cool thing about being on the upper level of the Mall is the fact that the mall train passes by on its circuit.

{ Continued at "Superintendent" on the next page... }



# Down At The Depot

By Dennis Snyder

I have a number of short items that may interest you...

Train Station (<http://www.trainstationgame.com/>) is a free-to-play, online train game with 1.4 million (!) Facebook likes. If you like playing computer games, and if you like trains, you might like this one. To quote:

"TrainStation is a game where you can build and run your own train station. You can play the history of railroads from its very beginning to the supermodern trains of the future. From steam giants to modern locomotives. Buy trains, send them to various destinations, earn gold and materials, dispatch trains to your friends, visit your neighbors, do business with Contractors and build your own station with various buildings and decorations. Take on the challenge and have lots of fun with our TrainStation!"

## K-Cup Racks

Do these pics give you any ideas?



My first thought was Coffee — Amy's Donuts! Or how about ready-made paint racks? Available on eBay and Amazon.

## Tips

These are some ideas that I have gathered over the years, some original, some borrowed. Hopefully, I avoided the most hackneyed ones.

1. Know anybody that wears contacts? The little 'cups' that contain the contacts are ideal for mixing small amounts of paint or as a glue pot. Here's what is really neat. Almost nothing sticks to the plastic so you can pry off the old glue or paint with a fingernail and use them over and over.
2. Nylon dental toothpicks. Again, nothing sticks to them and they are great to dab glue on small areas.
3. If you have a lot of small parts to paint, place some florists foam on a lazy-susan and stick the parts in the foam. You can rotate the platter and reach all of the parts.
4. If you use large labels, ¼ to full page, don't throw away the backing sheet. The sheet makes a great surface to glue or paint on as it is coated with silicon and very little will stick to it after they dry.
5. Paint strippers: Everyone knows about brake fluid, Westley's Bleche-Wite whitewall cleaner (remember white-walls?), Purple Power, and Simple Green. Here's another one that...



{ Continued at "Depot" on Page #5. }

## Superintendent

{ Continued from "Superintendent's Notes" on the previous page... }

### Royal Gorge Cab Ride

As a Christmas present, I got a pair of tickets to ride in the cab of the F7 of the Royal Gorge Railroad.



And, yes, they made us climb up that ladder. This is a real railroad on the national network. The engineers and conductors are all trained and certified. The passenger train runs under real warrants. This was Mike, our engineer; we sat on the left side.



At the end of the outbound trip, the train stopped and we walked through the A and B units to the passenger cars. Inside, there is not a lot of room between the generators and diesel engines and the outside wall of the units.

It's a much shorter train with a lot fewer passengers in the winter versus summer and a lot different view. There was snow on the roadbed in the middle of the canyon and the river was much lower, had ice in spots and was crystal clear.



During summer tourist season, there is a diesel on each end of the train and the engineer just walks through the train to be in the front of the train for the return to the station. On our train, the open car was not in the middle but at the end of the train. The conductor's cab was at the end of the open car. So, on the return, the engineer stayed in the A unit and the conductor was his eyes.



The Royal Gorge tourist train shares the track with its sister company, Rock and Rail, which runs at night hauling aggregate out of the quarry at Parkdale. On the way home, driving back east, we glimpsed a view of one of those "nocturnal" engines.



### Midland Railroad Tragedies Presentation

Kristin and I found this advertisement in the *Life After 50* newspaper under "Happenings". It is a free presentation on Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 P.M. by the Pikes Peak Historical Society, at the Florissant Library, 334 Circle Drive, Florissant, Colorado.

The Midland Railroad was the first standard-gauge railway line into the Rockies and Eleven Mile Canyon. This area was the deadliest stretch of the railroad in El Paso and Teller Counties. Kristin and I will miss this presentation — we're up for the weekend in Estes Park, doing Operation Lifesaver at the *Rails In The Rockies* show.

## UP HELPS FUNERAL

By Jack Sousa

Here's a link to a news item I found on the Internet about how the Union Pacific Railroad helped out with a funeral: <http://trn.trains.com/news/news-wire/2018/01/26-up-gives-young-railfan-who-died-of-cancer-touching-farewell>.



{ Continued from "Down At The Depot" on Page #3. }

- ...I have only seen one time — Hot Shot floor stripper, available at cleaning supply or home-improvement stores. It's water soluble, environmentally friendly, and doesn't leave a residue. Another one that I have heard of but haven't used is Castrol Super Clean.
6. Need small dots of paint or glue? Try a fingernail "dotting tool or pen" which is like a pen or paintbrush with a small, round metal ball on end. Dip them into paint or glue and then apply. They will leave a small, round dot of paint. Available on eBay or probably Walmart beauty aisle. Typically available in a 5-pack of varying tip sizes.
  7. Check out Molotow markers (<https://www.molotow.com/>). Available in a large range of colors and sizes. Direct or at many arts-and-crafts stores. Or Copic markers. Great for coloring small areas. Lots of colors to choose from.
  8. Another paint holder to avoid spills. The little sauce cops at restaurants or Sam's food samples are great if you turn them upside down and cut a hole slightly smaller than the size of your paint bottle. Press fit the bottle in the hole. Cheap free and easy. Whether or not you clean the sauce out is up to you — it's your bench.
  9. Worry about someone getting cut with your old X-Acto #11 blades. Empty Tic Tac containers make a great "sharps" disposal box.
  10. Small clamps. You have probably heard or used alligator clips for clamps. To prevent teeth marks, put a small piece of shrink tube over the teeth and shrink it down. Gives a little extra cushion. Or, you could wrap them in masking tape. By the way, Harbor Freight (I call them China Direct — no middleman) sells alligator clips cheap.
  11. Want to highlight some raised details but they are just too small to paint with a brush? Try the eraser on the end of a pencil. Dab some paint on it, remove excess and lightly tap your details.
  12. Working on a model that slides on your bench? Try those silicon Stick Pads. You can get them in auto parts, RV stores, Walmart for shelves, etcetera. When it loses its adhesion, rinse it in water and let it dry.
  13. If you are like me, there is never enough open space on your bench lay the instructions. Try getting one of those hangars for hanging pants that comes with two clips. Instead of hanging the pants, hang your instructions. You just need to find something on the wall or in front of you on which to hang the hangar.
  14. Another solution that may work for you is to find an old keyboard drawer that slides under the table top. Mount it and slide your instructions in out as you need them. Try OEM Electronic Parts, north of Filmore and Hancock.
  15. If you know me, you know I am pretty cheap. All the little birds think I am their friend. Anyway, I use those X-Acto blades and I use them for a long, long time. I bought some of those diamond knife sharpeners at, you guessed it, Harbor Freight. A few strokes on the medium one makes the knife super sharp again. If you like #11 blades, try #2s. Big handle blades. I started using mine more and more lately.

16. This one may be well known but I will throw it in any way. To track the wires under the layout... you know that spaghetti bowl, try saving the plastic tabs from your bread products. One side is usually clear and you can mark the tab with the wire — like +12V, GND, etc. Then clip the tag on the wire(s). Also, those little tabs are about the right thickness to fit between your track gaps. Trim to the rail dimensions and a drop of Super Glue will them in place. Yeah, you will need to paint them unless you want little orange identifiers where your gaps are located.
17. I found this on the Crafter's Pick website and solved some problems for me. If your Aleene's Tacky Glue or Crafter's Pick glue gets thick in the bottle and doesn't flow easily. You can loosen it up after about 10 seconds in the microwave. I experimented and found that it also worked with Aleene's glue. By the way, Crafter's Pick is one of the best glues I found to glue laser cut pieces together. The laser cut wood doesn't soak up adhesive but Crafter's Pick will lock it better than anything I have tried. It is sold in Hobby Lobby. Don't forget your 40% discount coupon.

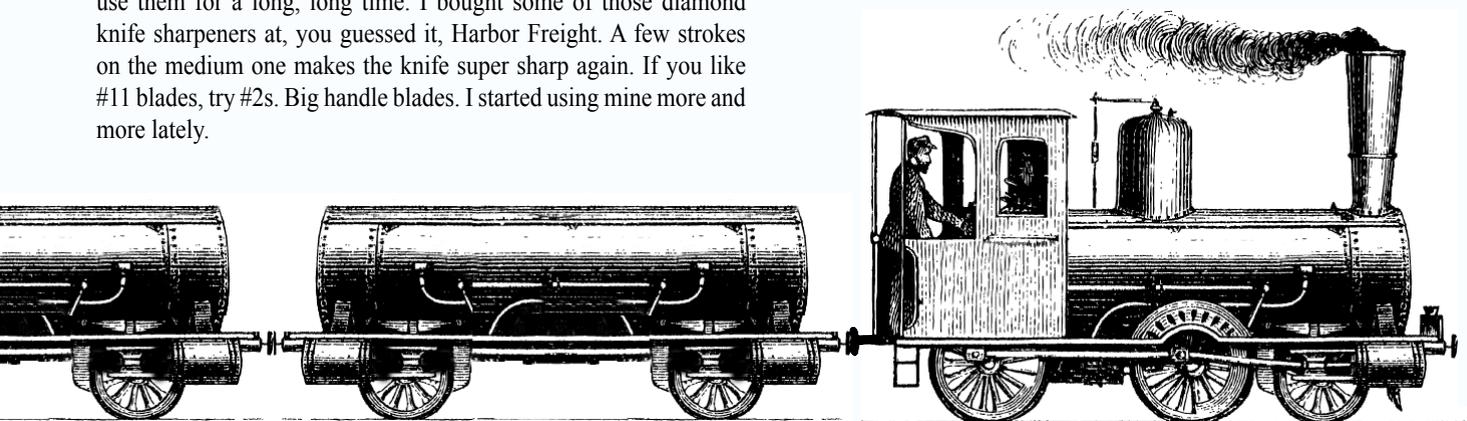
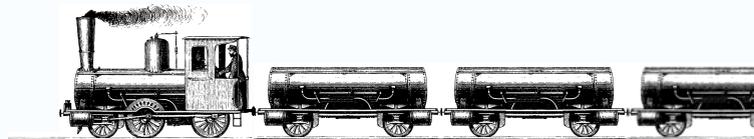
What do you call a train that eats too much? A Chew-Chew Train.

### Selling Models

I received an e-mail from Jimmy Simmons, of Monster Modelworks. He is selling off some of his personal collection. He is right here in town so there would be no shipping. Some of the club membership might be interested. Jimmy is going to give our clinic next week on using his Monster Modelworks products. These are kits he may never get a chance to build. He is looking for a reasonable price (these have nothing to do with Monster Modelworks products). Here is a list:

- Sierra West, Railroad Camp Kit (HO Scale).
- South River Modelworks, Robertson's Electric Kit (HO Scale).
- Laser Modeling 3, A.R. Gilmore Grain & Feed (HO Scale).
- Stoney Creek, Station Diner (O Scale).
- 2010 Craftsman Structure Show Kit, Elwell Feed & Grain (HO Scale). No Instructions came with the kit, Jimmy Deignan may have them as he produced the kit.

All of the kits are complete, opened and looked at, no packaging inside the kits were opened.



# MEETING MINUTES

*For Second January 2018 Monthly PPD Meeting*

The original (first) meeting was to be held at the Sand Creek Police Station on Friday, January 12th, 2018, at 7:00 PM. However, due to a scheduling problem, this meeting was cancelled.

The second meeting, or replacement meeting, was held in a conference room, off of the Chapel Hills Mall Event Center, on Saturday, January 20th, 2018, with a call to order by superintendent Joe Costa, at 5:09 PM. There were 18 people in attendance. No new visitors.

Discussion about the last PPD swap meet at the church and how to handle money related to that event.

Discussion about the original meeting being cancelled because of a mix up with the scheduling. We should be find for next month and each month thereafter. Because the original meeting for this month was cancelled, next month's meeting, to be held at the Sand Creek Police Station, will include the January *and* February contests together.

Mike Peck discussed things related to the TECO show. He reported that it looked like over 700 people came into the show today. Called this the best show ever for attendance. Mike awarded various certificates to folks that have been helping out with TECO: Mike Maline (tree making clinic); Joe Costa (TECO website); Kristin Phillips (TECO posters and flyers); Elizabeth Maline (TECO advertising); Mel McFarland (historical presentation); John Emmot (track laying clinic). Vendors were overall happy with the show.

Meeting ended at 5:53 PM.

## Member Hellos

Bob Binder wrote in to *The Milepost*. He looks forward to reading about how things are going with the PPD Division. He wrote, "We are in San Diego for the winter. I am running trains twice a week at the model railroad museum in Balboa Park. Tell everyone that I said Hi!"



Certificates handed out to volunteers helping with TECO.



Mike Peck updates the Division on how the TECO show is going.

# CONTEST CORNER

At each monthly PPD-NMRA meeting, a contest is held. A contest must have at least three entries for voting. Below is the 2018 contest schedule:

February . . . . . *Bulk Materials Car (cement, coal, ore, oil, etcetera) and Weathered Box Car.* Since January's original meeting was cancelled, the January contest will run alongside the planned February contest.

March . . . . . *Railroad Depot (freight and/or passenger)*

April . . . . . *Something Whimsical To Bring A Smile Or Chuckle (animal control chasing loose monkeys, mini-scene, car with a hot tub, engine with wings, etcetera)*

May . . . . . *Yard Structure*

June . . . . . *1 Square Foot Contest (anything that will fit within 144 square inches)*

July . . . . . *Refrigerated Boxcar*

August . . . . . *Structure (not railroad, not commercial — i.e. house, farm or ranch, church, shack, etcetera)*

September . . . . . *Ready-To-Run Railcar (Can be scratch-built, kit-bashed, and/or modified railcar — such as: critter, inspection car, motorcar, or other powered conveyance that runs on rails. The vehicle must run under its own power. Awards by popular vote with emphasis on most unique, cute, funky, broken down, falling apart, humorous, etcetera)*

October . . . . . *Judged & Open Contest*

November . . . . . *M.O.W. Equipment*

December . . . . . *Christmas party (no contest)*



TECO show advertisement on Chapel Hills Mall sign outside.

# MURDOCK'S SIDING

By Michael Murdock, Editor of *The Milepost*.

## Railroading Between Larkspur And Palmer Lake

On a recent, quiet afternoon, in late January, as we were driving between Palmer Lake and Larkspur, Colorado, I saw the usual orange, BNSF Railroad engine parked on a siding just north of Palmer Lake. I believe this engine is used on trains that need a little bit of extra help traveling between Denver and Colorado Springs. I found a video on YouTube that shows an all-engines train actually picking up a lone engine in Palmer Lake: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJwEaOabBbc&app=desktop>.

As we headed north, along the old state highway, we then came upon a small train parked on a siding as shown in Figure #1. It consisted of a semi-truck (with a flat bed and small crane) pulling two flatcars (with the last flatcar carrying a tractor for picking up ties.

Continuing north, we traveled under the Santa Fe bridge south of Larkspur — see Figure #2. And as you have seen, this scene became the cover photograph for this issue of *The Milepost*.

## The Old Caboose Hobbies

On that same trip, we drove over to where the old Caboose Hobbies used to be located on Broadway/Virginia, in Denver. Right now it is still an empty lot — however, as shown in in Figure #3, there are signs up that declare a new Starbucks will soon be built there.

## Visiting The Train Shoppe In Westminster

In past issues of *The Milepost*, there has been an advertisement for the Train Shoppe, in Westminster, Colorado — a model railroad shop run by the Youth In Model Railroading group in that area. In a recent trip to Denver, I decided we would stop by this model train store and see if they were still in business — and they are!

Located at 3975 West 73rd Avenue, in Westminster, Colorado, this tiny little shop was not too difficult to find — see Figure #4. The shop

has a lot of HO-scale, N-scale, and O-scale models — most of it in the last 10 to 30-year era of models. The prices were very reasonable and I picked up a few “collector” railcars there myself — see Figure #5.

[ Article continued on the next page. ]



Figure #5. Cars I purchased at the Train Shoppe.



Figure #4. The Train Shoppe in Westminster, Colorado.



Figure #1. A truck-train seen between Palmer Lake and Larkspur.



Figure #2. A grain-train crossing over the Santa Fe bridge.



Figure #3. The old Caboose Hobbies to become a Starbucks.

[ Continued from the previous page. ]

Figures #6 through #8 are some inside photographs of the store — it is very small, but I think it is worth a visit if you are in the area.



Figure #6. Inside the Train Shoppe.



Figure #7. Inside the Train Shoppe.



Figure #8. Inside the Train Shoppe.

Interestingly enough, we also stopped at a cute little gift shop next door to the train store — called Iddle Bits Of This & That — as shown in Figure #9. We met the owner and looked around her store. It is a great place for your spouse to visit if they don't enjoy looking around train stores. My wife likes trains *and* gift shops, so we went to both places! Figure #10 is an inside view of the gift shop — there are definitely some treasures there. Next door to the gift shop is a coffee shop — as shown in Figure #11 — in case one wants to finish their shopping with a drink.



Figure #9. The Iddle Bits Of This & That gift shop.



Figure #10. Inside Iddle Bits.



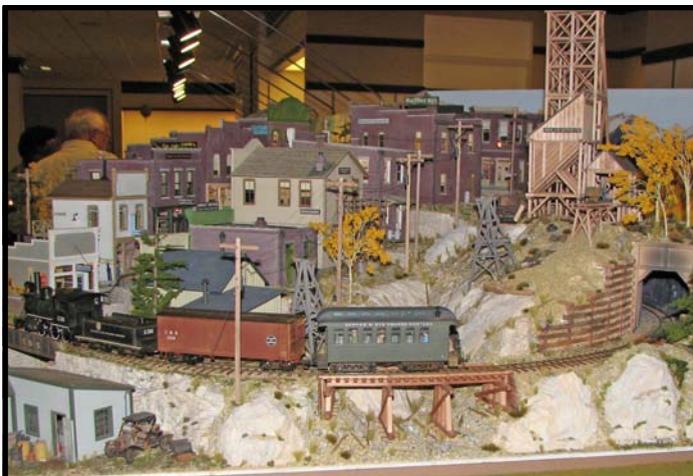
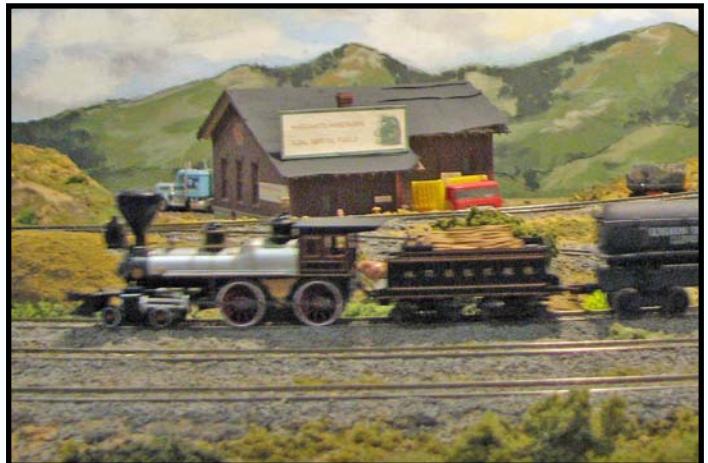
Figure #11. Coffee shop next door to gift shop.

# MODULAR MUSINGS

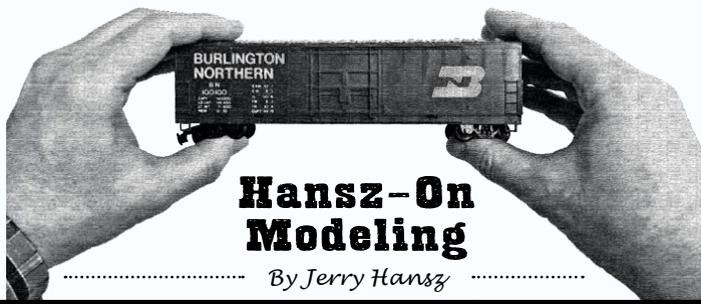
By John Emmot, Chairman of Module Group

The best laid plans of mice and men, the January meeting didn't happen. In spite of Frank's timely submission of our date reservation at the Police Station, a glitch resulted in a double booking for our January date. Thus, no place to hold the meeting as everyone arrived. Some adjourned to another venue for pie and coffee, but in general nothing happened. Kristin was able to hand out TECO flyers to those using "our" room. 😊 Things should be back on track for February. Along those lines, I believe that the plan is to have a double contest in February with both the January and February topics in separate contests. Bring them both.

The good news in January was TECO 31. This was the second show held in the Chapel Hills Mall and we again increased our attendance. Not quite 1,000 folks, but pretty close. The downside of the Mall is that we must get in before the 10 AM opening of the stores. All of our modules were there early Friday morning and we also helped other layouts and vendors get in place in time. The module owners, and not many others, spent much of the rest of the day setting up a 36' x 40' boomerang layout in the center of the room. Mark and Amber brought a pair of refurbished 4' modules to add to the mix. Marchbanks, Maline, Gelsing, Costa/Phillips and Emmot along with the PPD modules made up the rest. There were plenty of good trains running on the layout with all of the owners and a few other members operating at various times. The big layouts are fun to run, but there are always a couple little frustrating gremlins to deal with. No dead shorts, but the dead spots and low connector tracks that seem to crop up at new locations each time. Temporary fixes kept us going, but there are a few places where some more power drops and track work would lessen the possible problems. The other annoyance was the problems with the NCE radio cabs. The Pikes Peak & Southern module group has added an NCE radio set to their layout too. This doesn't have to be a show stopper, but it will REQUIRE that we coordinate radio cab addresses with them and maintain each command station to avoid conflicts. The Wi-Fi system, plugged in cabs, and the DC radios are not affected. We should be able to work it out before the April 2018 TECO show. As for the April show, the Mall is willing to make the upstairs space available to us, HOWEVER, at this time, there are not sufficient electric outlets in that location. It remains to be seen if that will be corrected before then. The Home And Garden show is scheduled to be held there before our dates. We are guaranteed to go back where we have been if nothing changes. That's it for now. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.



Slim Rails layout.



## Hansz-On Modeling

By Jerry Hansz

### On The Soapbox

While sitting on the throne, contemplating my navel, the following thoughts arose.

Our Division will thrive if we keep accumulating new, younger members. We old codgers will die off, and new blood will keep the model railroad community alive.

In past years we have chased off several new, vibrant prospects due to violent objections to change by some great old model railroaders. We also lost the old, good modelers.

We also resorted to "office politics" with acrid interactions. We forgot that best results are achieved by calm, reasonable discussions of problems (often merely perceived).

Also, some older members folded their tents, sold off their models, and disappeared into the sunset. Not this crusty one! I'll hang in like Wayne Lemle, even if I can't make all the activities! I'll still be around polluting the newsletter as long as Mike tolerates me, and hoping for some e-mail from time to time.

Fortunately, we have matured a great deal recently. Meetings are again fun! Let's keep it up.

Enough of my expounding. This was in lieu of vocals, since my cigarette-induced squeaky voice can barely be heard above the ambient noise level!

### Life-Like Axles Revisited

We earlier discussed the "cogging" problem experienced on Life-Like GP30 locomotives. I have also had the problem on Life-Like F3A #201C and F3B #201B.



Two of my old Athearn F7s had reached their service life, so I disassembled them and scrapped the unusable parts. Among the part I kept were the axles. They were soaked in 90% alcohol for several days, then washed in hot water and dried.



Axles soaking in alcohol.

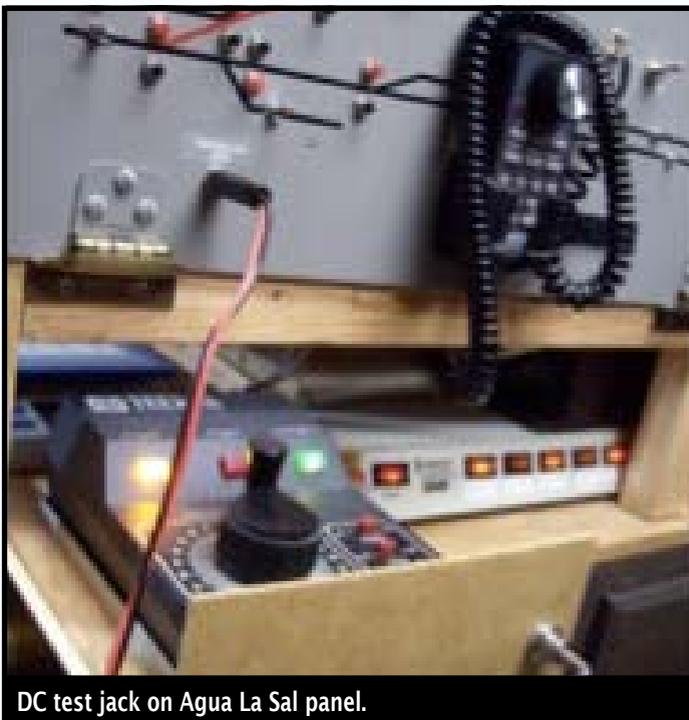
After the axles dried, I cleaned the wheels with a brass brush and checked them for shorts with a multimeter. I also checked wheel gauge while I was at it.

F3A #201C was upended in my foam service support. I used a X-Acto #17 blade to help remove the truck bottom covers, and the axles were removed.



New axles installed and lubricated.

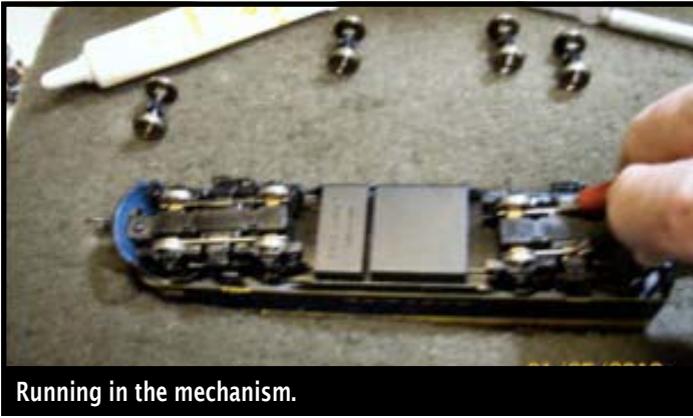
The F7 axles were installed, and gears were lubricated. After the bottom covers were replaced, I used DC from my test power to exercise the mechanism. (BE SURE YOUR DECODERS ARE SET UP FOR BOTH DCC AND DC OPERATION!)



DC test jack on Agua La Sal panel.

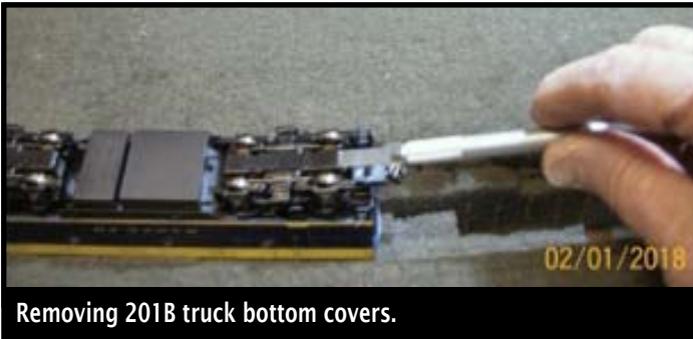
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Running in the mechanism.

#201C was placed on the main and ran smoothly! It is now parked on the Chestnut Hill steam storage tracks. #201B was next.



Removing 201B truck bottom covers.



Lubricating with Labelle #106 Teflon grease.



#201B on the programming track.

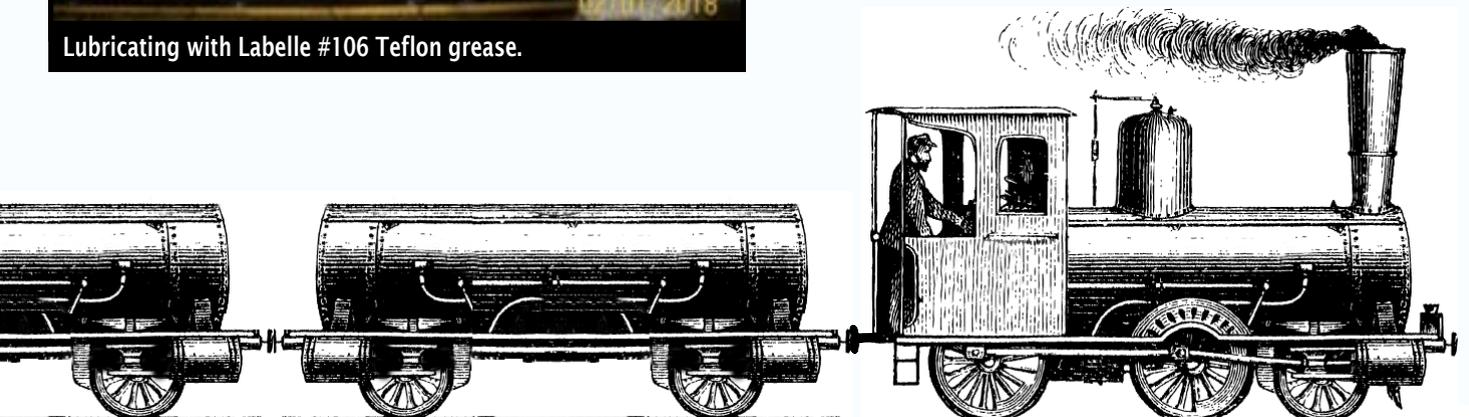


AT&T 201C and 201B together again!



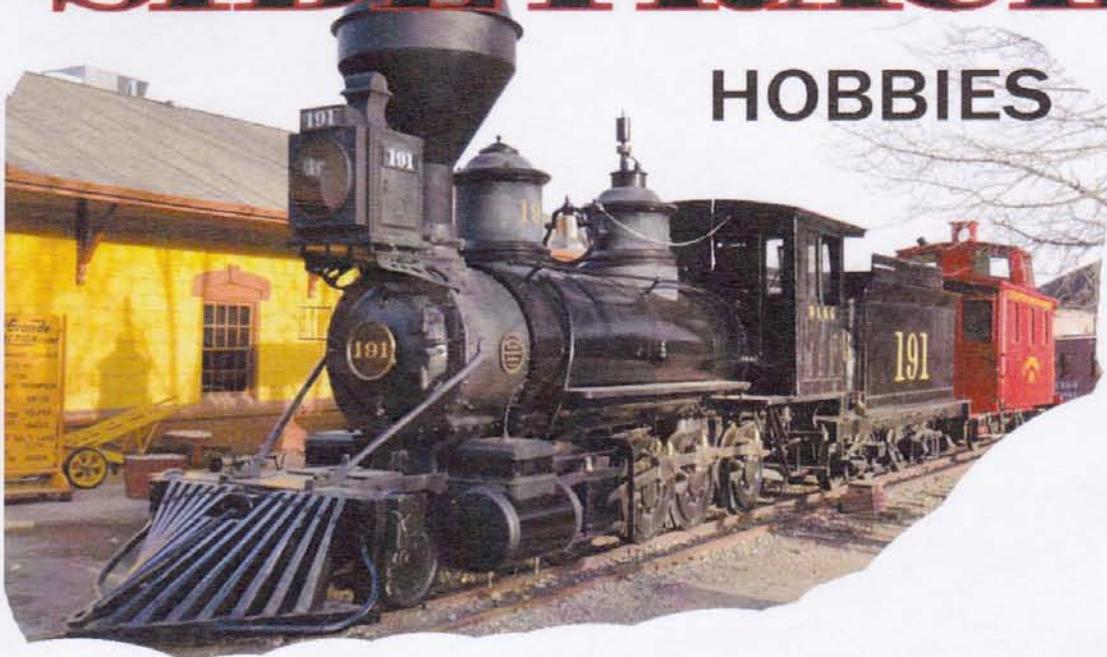
The pair is back at Chestnut Hill, ready for service.

The units were operated single on the layout, then re-united and operated with no cogging. Saving parts from obsolete "blue box" Athearn units can provide replacement axles for Proto 1000 units, at no cost, except some minimal man-hours. Soaking the removed axles in alcohol, rinsing under hot water, and checking them under magnification may allow you to use "super glue" to fix the bad axles. I have done that once with reasonable results.



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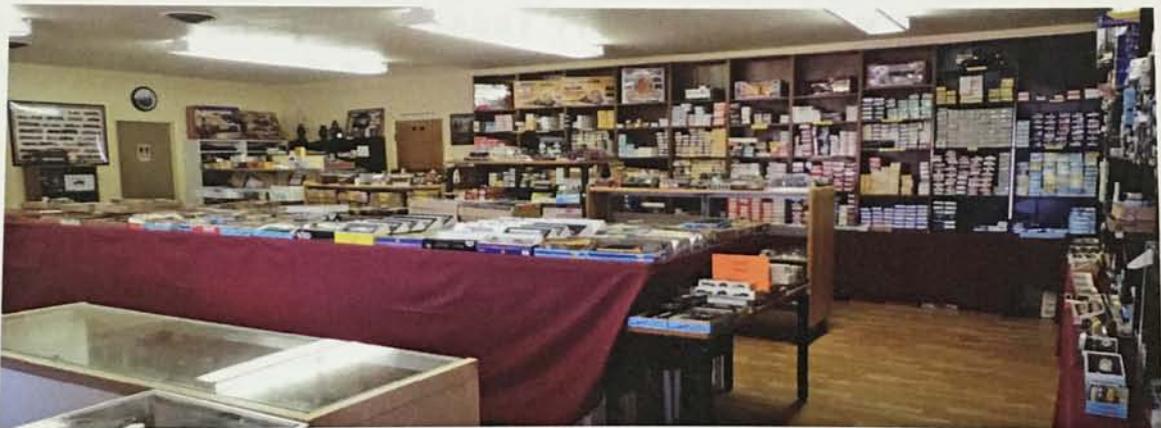
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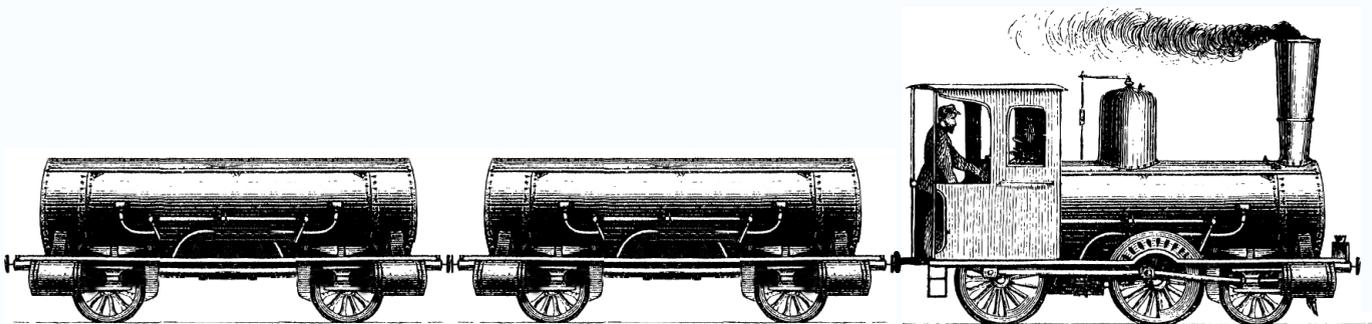
*Phone; 719-728-0503*



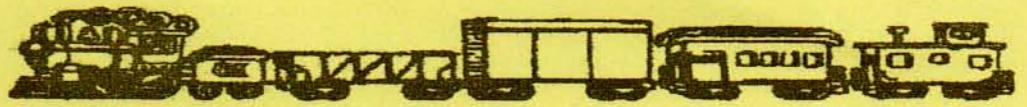
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(On the corner of Pikes Peak Ave. & Institute

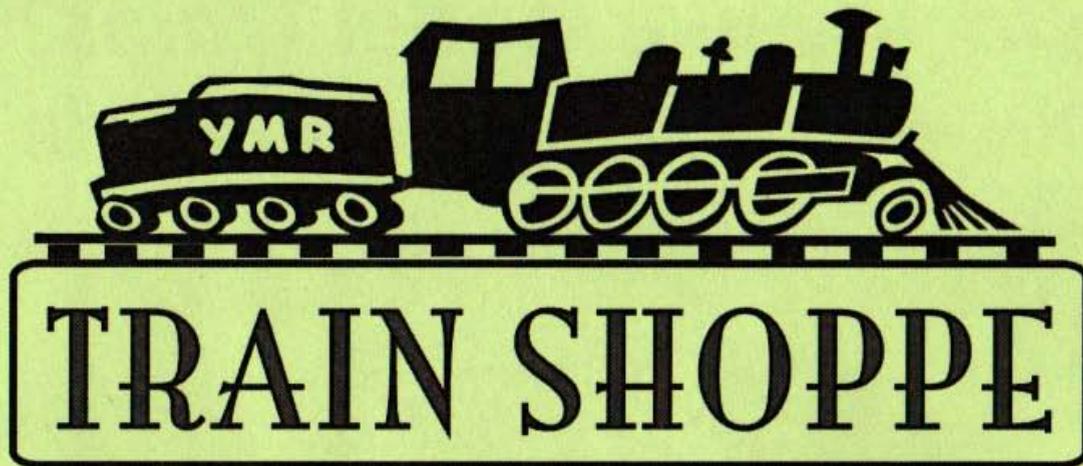
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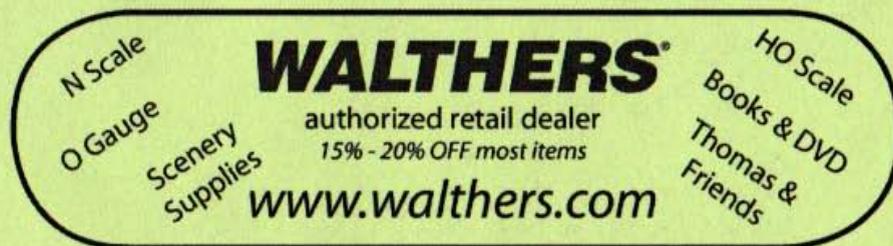
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