

The MILEPOST

August 2003

Volume 22, Issue 8

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Model Railroading is Fun!



Superintendent's Notes

by

Bill Poley

There are a number of items that I want to cover this month. First, we should be getting a report and a presentation from the Arkansas Valley Division on the Pueblo Convention, "Steel City Steamer". If you missed the convention you missed an outstanding event, although I know most of the readers of this publication were in Pueblo, taking an active part in the convention, and earning a lot of "well dones".

As most of you know, we had a very successful modular set up at the El Paso County Fair in Calhan, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - July 24 through 27. In particular I want to remark on our presence on Thursday, which is "Kids Day" a day usually well attended at the fair and a chance to show off our hobby to a large group of people. We had good operating crews every day, most of the time with two or three operators, despite some of the hottest weather on record. I want to commend Joe Morgan, our new modular chairman, Chris Fox, who was there every morning and

generally closed up every night, and a special word for John Emmot, our retiring modular chairman, who did such an excellent job for so many years, since long before I joined the division.

And speaking of the modular group, there are two more setups coming soon that I want to mention. Not necessary in order, we will have a mini-set up at the Rock Island Roundhouse and, for the first time, we have been invited to the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo. There should be more information at the meeting, and see: "Modular Musings".

I want to address a new [an old?] subject - internal and external communications. I perceive that despite some very good programs, attendance at the meetings seems to be less than I remember from the time I first became active in the division. I think one way to improve our communication would be to send a paper copy of the Milepost to every member of the NMRA who lives within our division boundaries [and I am still trying to determine what these boundaries are if anyone out there knows] and to some people whose faces I have not seen recently. This would direct new people to our web site and give comfort to those of us who still need a piece of paper in hand, and we have in the Milepost an excellent publication. I am open to any ideas anyone has.

And finally, on a personal note, I am in the middle of radiation therapy.

By the September meeting I will have been more than two weeks past the end of any kind of therapy. It may be October before I get a reading on what is happening to my voice, so I have asked Wade to continue to run the meetings. Life is good.

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Jerry Hansz
390-4106

Nominating
Wayne Lemle
632-1969

WEBSITE

Membership

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Frank Pareso
591-9470

NEXT MEETING

Friday, August 8, 2003 7:30 PM

Sand Creek Police Station
4125 Center Park Drive

(southeast of Academy and Fountain)

Program: The Sky's the Limit

video on backdrop painting

Contest: Weathering (any item).





**PIKES PEAK DIVISION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD
ASSOCIATION**

Secretary's Minutes

By: William L. LaFollette

Date: July 11, 2003

Opening Time: 7:30 PM

By: Wade Mountz, Ass't Superintendent

Attendance: 19, Visitors: None

Old Business:

1. The May minutes were accepted as published in the Milepost.
2. Frank Pareso gave the Treasurer's report.
3. Wade announced a report on the recent Pueblo RMR convention would be given at the August meeting.

New Business:

1. Joe Morgan from the Pikes Peak Engineers advised their group was planning a Durango and Silverton ride with bus transportation included on October 3, 4, 5. More details to be provided at the August meeting.
2. The Rock Island Historical Group announced to the group about the Rock Island Festival at the former Rock Island Roundhouse on August 16 and 17.
3. Joe Morgan discussed the module setup coming up at the County Fair July 24, 25, 26, and 27.
4. Wade reminded everyone of the upcoming layout tours on Sunday July 13th.
5. Bill Poley made a motion to send the

Milepost out to every NMRA member in the Pikes Peak region at least twice year, and suggested the idea be tabled until the September meeting.

Refreshments were provided by Bill Poley. Next month they will be provided by Ed Pagels and the Club Library is now in the care of Howard Smith.

The program was a video on John Allen's Gorre and Daphieted Railroad, shown by Wade Mountz.

The passenger car contest was voted on with First Place going to Ed Pagels and Second Place to Jerry Hansz.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.



Editor's Corner

By John Emmot

With the change in responsibility, I'll retire the Modular Musings column, but I will still put in my two cents worth.

The layout tour used a new format this year being on a Sunday afternoon rather than a Friday evening. Those I have talked to seem to feel it was a good way to do it. Let Wade know if you liked it or didn't like it. Next year's tour chairman will want your input. I was sorry to miss it this year as there were some new layouts on the tour that I have never visited. Since I wasn't here to take pictures, if anyone has photos we could put in the Milepost I would like to do so. I can work with digital or regular prints. Please let me know.

The other big event was the El Paso County Fair. The Division had a 36 X 12 foot layout in the Whittamore building. It was operational from Thursday morning to Sunday afternoon. For those of you who didn't get out to run, you missed a fine opportunity to run your equipment and represent the hobby to an appreciative audience. The official attendance this year was 33,000 plus. I was impressed by the traffic while I was there on Saturday. Young and old all took time to circle the layout and view the display. Chris Fox organized the prize judging again this year. Even



getting Giuseppe's Depot Restaurant to sponsor the ribbons presented. Next time you eat there, remember to tell them, "Thank you".

Since I have not received any information about the Rock Island openhouse in August, I can only guess at the intent. In the past they have wanted to have a small layout that they could run their Rock Island trains on. Usually eight by twelve or eight by sixteen with all three track modules. We were asked to set it up on an evening in the week prior to the show and remove it during the following week. We will have to know how large a layout they want and if the folks who have the corners can get them there. We will have to have the answers to all of these questions by the end of the August meeting.

Bill has suggested mailing a copy of the Milepost to all of the local NMRA members. This is a good idea to let them know about the local organization. My input on that is: I would like to have some assistance to get them in the mail in the month we decide to do it. I can print and copy them, but folding, addressing and stamping them is a significant task.

Although I was not able to attend the layout tour this year, a fact is apparent to me. Several of the layouts on the tour belong to NMRA members who do not attend meetings on a regular basis. Obviously they feel some connection to the organization or they would not open their homes to the Pikes Peak Division. Perhaps an informal survey would reveal why they seldom attend the monthly get togethers. One thought that occurs to me is that those who are active in the construction and operation of home layouts get all the railroad camaraderie they want from their own activities while those, like me, who usually only see other railroaders at the monthly meetings look forward to the meetings for that reason. Its an interesting point

Deadline for Milepost material is two weeks prior to the regular meeting date. If you have material that you want published, please contact the Newsletter editor.

to ponder. For those who have layouts and do attend, thanks for your support. Think about why you attend or why you don't and consider sharing the reasons with the staff so they can build on positive aspects and work to overcome the negative.

I believe all of the members in the Rocky Mountain Region received a copy of the Callboard this last week. I was glad to see an update on the Steel City Steamer convention in Pueblo by Gerald Long. It seems that inspite of a relatively small registration, the overall event was a success. Those who did attend were treated to a fine show. The public trainshow was a significant part that should not be overlooked in future planning.

I would like to reemphasize that this space is available to anyone who has ideas to share with the rest of the Division modelers. I solicit submissions on modeling techniques, editorial comments in good taste, stories of your railroad-ing adventures, or thoughts on railroad life in general.

See you at the meeting.

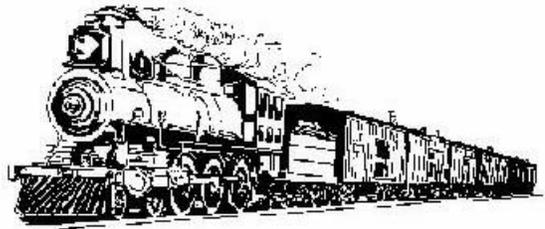


Think snow!

One hundred years ago this year Dave Moffat began construction of the Denver Northwestern & Pacific Railroad to connect Denver to the Pacific coast via Salt Lake City. Along the way he laid the highest standard gauge rails in North America at 11,660 ft. A place where snow in August was not unusual.

2003 Contest Schedule

- January - Caboose
- February - Freight cars
- March - Maintenance of Way (rail & offrail)
- April - Bent Screwdriver (unlikely equipment)
- May - Locomotives (steam, diesel, other)
- June - NO CONTEST (meeting canceled)
- July - Passenger equip (all types) Layout Tour
- August - Weathering (any item)
- September - Photos (model, prototype)
- October - Automobiles, trucks
- November - Worktrain (loco, caboose, one or more cars)
- December - NO CONTEST Christmas Party



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July Contest

1st Place Ed Pagels



2nd place Jerry Hansz



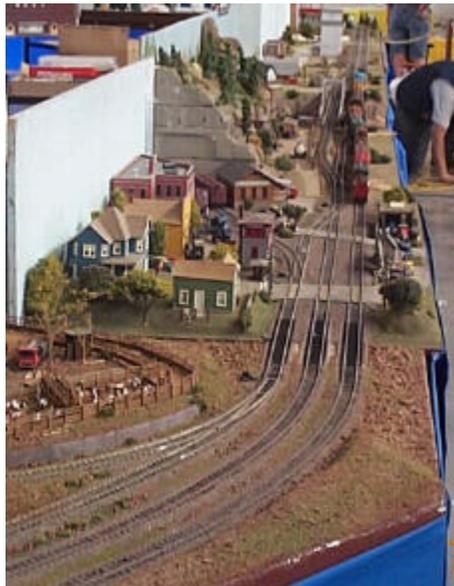
At the County Fair

Chris Fox added eight feet of plexiglass to his module so the kids could get up close without getting too personal.

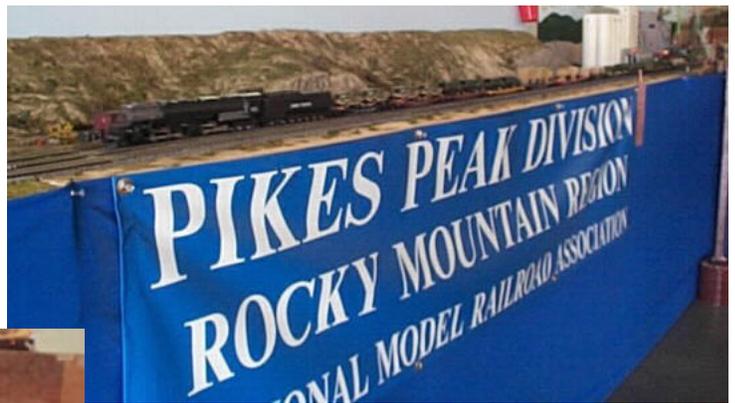


Thanks to our sponsor.

The gandy dancers did a good job. The survey line was pretty straight.



John's Buffalo Rock got the Queen's vote. Along with several others.



John Campbell explained model railroading to the Fair Queen and her assistant.



Joe Morgan also had some success with the judges.

Howard Smith brought some fine examples of Colorado Midland equipment.



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