



The

Milepost

Volume 41, Number 1 — January 2021

The official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division

Rocky Mountain Region — National Model Railroad Association.



NEXT MEETING:

CANCELLED due to COVID-19 but a Zoom virtual meeting-will be held!

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

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom

February 12th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}.

March 12th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}.

April 9th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}.

May 14th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}.

June 11th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}.

July 9th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}.

August 13th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}

September 10th, 2021 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: {to be determined}

Program: {to be determined}

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The Milepost, Volume 41, Number 1, January 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 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 railroad (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, web sites, 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

2020 what a year! Twelve issues later and we are now into the first edition of 2021. You will note I have changed the milepost marker to reflect the year in both places! Not to dwell on last year but I am incredibly grateful for all the articles some of you have provided, they have been both informative and interesting with many great photos. I look forward to 2021 expecting more great articles that we can publish!

As John mentions in his minutes, I had shown a partially completed CN wooden caboos and was awaiting delivery of some paint at our last show and tell portion of our NMRA PPD Zoom meeting. When I started the project, I did a fair amount of research on the web to find out what the correct colors Canadian National Railway used in the early 50's as I wanted a model that would represent a restoration project as I had seen such a caboos at the Alberta Railway Museum just outside Edmonton, Alberta. (you can see the real caboos on my web site [Alberta Railway Museum pictures](#)). I discovered the official name of the orange color was Morency orange, which fortunately Badger makes a Modelflex CN Orange #10 that is supposed to match. The roof, stairs, platform, trucks and under carriage are painted CN Red #11, which to me looks more brown than red!



Happy New Year!

David

January Superintendent's Notes

Zoom Meeting and Show & Tell

Part of what we do at our Zoom Division meetings is to have a show and tell. All members are welcome to participate.

Here is the link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86493099516?pwd=U3V5dmQ0VUxqNm1nM2pnWC9MTWRBQT09>

Elections

We were able to scrounge up a quorum for the December Zoom Meeting. The existing officers were re-elected and committee folks such as Dave for the Milepost, Jack for contests and John Emmot as our acting webmaster were reconfirmed. Congratulations and/or condolences.

Hopefully, sometime in 2021 we can get back to a normal routine and activities.

Show and Tell

Tony showed us his skills in working on the underside of shorty tank cars to make them more realistic. He must have been a Swiss watchmaker in an earlier incarnation. You saw some of his work in last month's Milepost.

Showing off Christmas gifts is cool too. These are some vintage cufflinks and clasp I was given:



Lionel Harry Potter Train under the "empty" tree (battery powered with sound and remote control):



Menard's Strip Mall:



This building, like several of those sold by Menard, is lighted but a 4.5 VAC power supply is not included. I mail ordered one of their power supplies which has plugs for three buildings.

One very important gift was this mold:



Will have to try it out.

Remote Control Caboose

Do not ever let a rivet counter tell you that you can't have a caboose on a modern train. In fact, some cabooses are used as remote controls for diesels in switching scenarios.

Here is an example of a remote-control unit:



Jawtooth, a YouTuber who runs around the Midwest creating great videos, has a great example.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGImlce7KEow&ab_channel=JawTooth

Broadmoor Gingerbread Railcar

The December 17 issue of the Gazette has a great picture of a Gingerbread Railcar created by the Broadmoor culinary team created for their annual display:



Mel McFarland wrote an interesting article back in April about the Cog Railroad:



Photo by Stewarts Commercial Photographers, Courtesy Pikes Peak Library District. That's Spencer Penrose in the left front in 1938. He had a small cog that ran to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

Polar Express Finds Permanent Home in the Springs

In 2006, Travis Coleman and his father, former Palmer Lake Town Councilman Gary Coleman, began a communitywide holiday tradition. Every year around the holidays, they would set up and display a model train replica of the Polar Express in various places around Palmer Lake for the community to see. This year, the replica was donated by the family to the Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation in Colorado Springs. (Video by Skyler Ballard)

https://gazette.com/news/palmer-lakes-polar-express-finds-permanent-home-in-colorado-springs/article_99c8ba0c-2dee-11eb-bf9c-5b439b30ec2b.html

Cass & Durbin Update

I have been a fan of the West Virginia Tourist Railroads since we did a five-week road trip a few years back, riding the Cass up to Bald Knob and the Durbin Rocket. If you been on the Georgetown Loop, you have been exposed to the allure of geared, steam locomotive.

The State of West Virginia wanted to preserve its railroad heritage but didn't want to be in the business of running a railroad. The folks who ran the Durbin and Greenbrier were enthusiastic about running railroads.

They got together with the State and they made an agreement to run the Cass a few years ago after our visit.

Back in 1985, a flood on the Greenbrier wiped of the connection between Cass and Durbin isolating Durbin from the national network. But the D&G folks have been working hard on reconnecting!

Here is a video of the Cass Railroad meeting up with the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad out of Elkins at Old Spruce. That has been taking place for years.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkSk6CmDF0I&ab_channel=JawTooth

The shop and crew at Cass, West Virginia are every bit as impressive as those in Colorado.

Trout Run Bridge Construction

We are excited to announce that work has officially begun on the Trout Run Bridge project, the historic final step of restoring rail service between Cass and Durbin, WV for the first time since 1985! Over the past four weeks, West Virginia Department of Highways, State Rail Authority, contractors, and Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad crews have been hard at work drilling and pouring the massive foundations on the Durbin side of the bridge. A total of nine holes were drilled into the hard bedrock. Due to the remoteness of the construction site, all crews, equipment, and materials must be moved by rail from access points at Cass, Durbin and Hosterman. Drilling and concrete work for the foundations was completed on December 9th and equipment is currently being staged for work on the Cass side.

What's next? The construction crew will now repeat the process of drilling and pouring foundations on the Cass end of the bridge. While this work is occurring, another team will be building the forms for the abutment on the Durbin end.

And yes, that is old rail hanging out over the old bridge:



Maps on this website show how these railroads will all tie together:

<http://www.sinfin.net/railways/world/usa/touristus/wvc/today.html>

PowerPoints Online

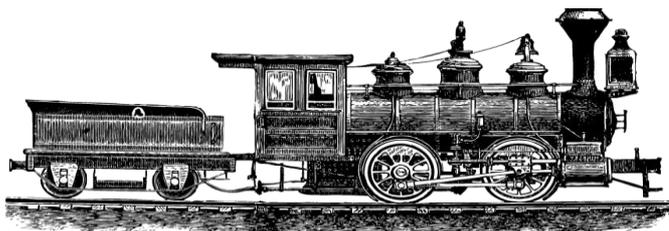
As an experiment I have posted a PowerPoint on 3D Printing that I intended to present at an upcoming TECO train show on the TECOshow.org website under the Presentation section of the Otherlinks page. Technically, it is a link to my OneDrive but it's pretty seamless. Could also do this on the ppdmra website and any other club or historical society could do the same thing. If anyone is interested, I would be glad to share the instructions --- it is not rocket science. No audio or animations in this one.

Upcoming Division & Local Events

Any events scheduled for 2021 are subject to cancellation.

- May 22-23, 2021: TECO Train Show at Chapel Hills Mall?
- August 2021: Regional Convention in Pueblo?

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



Notes from The Siding

By John Emmot

Well, 2021 is going to start as soon as possible. The second Friday is the eighth day of the year. So, at 72 years and 364 days old, this is what I am doing for New Year's Eve. :-> Somehow it seems OK. December was not much of a change from the rest of 2020. COVID was still calling the shots or non-shots. Thanksgiving was lunch with son, daughter-in-law, her parents, and the girls. It was nice, but not real 'festive'. We had much to be thankful for. Christmas was just the two of us. We saw the kids the week before so they could be in Kansas for the 25th. The best part is that my son likes to shop from the MicroMark catalog. I have a couple more toys, er tools on the work bench. Progress was slow on my Parlor car project, but it is still on my mind and one more tool is coming that will ease a needed task.



It was a good holiday season for my friends at the Moffat Road Railroad Museum in Granby. They had good attendance at the Christmas Lionel layout from Thanksgiving to New Years. Santa and a couple reindeer even made a short visit. Things are going well with new buildings and shops going up. The 'park train' should arrive this spring and be in operation before fall. The UP caboose rebuild is nearly complete. More model layout space is also in the works. They have a connection for an actual Moffat caboose in southern Colorado. If it pans out, they may have another reclamation project. If you are near Granby next spring, it is a great stop for railroad fans.

Some of you may remember Gary Coleman and his son Travis from Palmer Lake. Gary was part of our module group several years ago. Coleman Meat Packing on a HiLine corner is reminiscent of his time. Gary and Travis had a large O-scale Polar Express setup that they displayed every December in Palmer Lake for many years. After Gary passed away four years ago, the display was stored. It has now been permanently setup in the Trolley Museum on the west side of Colorado Springs. Just another reason to stop in if you are in the area.



Photo by Jerilee Bennet, The Gazette



I may have told some of you that my brother in Kansas decided he wanted a John Deere train to add to his extensive collection of model green machinery. After much searching, I found a good one that was affordable, however it did not arrive until after I was on my way with what turned out to be my last Kansas

visit of the year. So, I still have it here. I just cannot pass up the chance to say that it passed through Beloit wheat country while it was in my possession.



The Calhan depot project also continues. One of the positive developments is that the RMRHS has forged a connection with a group of High School students in a service organization. They were present on several days in the late fall helping with the depot. We hope this will generate more local interest and give the kids a greater knowledge of the history of their town. Two new caboose doors have been built and await favorable weather to be installed. Replacements for the missing platform steps are being fabricated and will also be installed when weather permits. We have a donor for the glass for the caboose windows as soon as we can make new window frames to mount them.

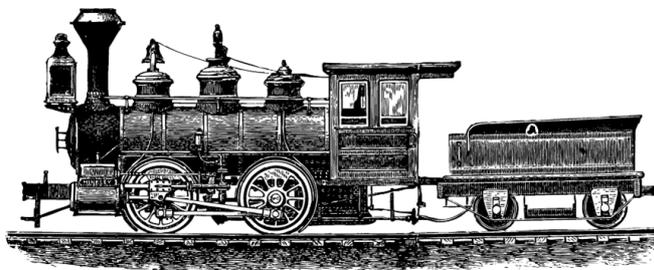


Here is something that could be one of the best bits of news we could get in 2020. I just saw a notice that the Rio Grande Pacific has announced that it has entered into a commercial agreement with Union Pacific to LEASE the Tennessee Pass route through Colorado. The former Denver & Rio Grande Western route over the Continental Divide in central Colorado has sat dormant for nearly a quarter-century. They will lease the line

from Milepost 171.90, at Parkdale, CO., to Milepost 335.00, near Sage. If this actually comes to pass, it could be the most interesting news of the year.

I was heartened this week when I visited Roy's Trains. It was midafternoon on Wednesday. The store was full of folks buying model railroad stuff. While our NMRA community seems to be on hold, there sure seems to be plenty of active model train builders in the area. The store is well stocked, though one may need to search to find a specific item, there is a good chance that it is there. They did request a new supply of PPD materials to help spread the word about the Division. This contrasts with the word that Caboose in Denver has now permanently closed their store. Good luck to Roy and J.B.'s Sidetrack Hobbies for continued success in the local area.

Time to close this out and get it to Dave. Would like to see ya all 'round the computer screen. Please attend the ZOOM meeting this Friday.



December 2020 Minutes

Secretary, John Emmot

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Superintendent, Joe Costa at 7:13 on a digital ZOOM meeting. Initially, all the officers, except the assistant superintendent, and several members were present. Eventually, we had 11 Zoom boxes, some with multiple members, including the assistant superintendent. We were glad to see some faces that have been absent for a while. Some folks even dressed for a party to attend.

The minutes of the November Zoom-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 prior to the meeting time. There was no activity other than the interest credit. The activity statement was accepted as submitted.

Election of Officers:

The slate of candidates announced in November did not change. All incumbents were re-elected on a 'white ballot'. Formal vote was delayed until a quorum was logged in.

Officers for 2021 are:

- Superintendent- Joe Costa
- Assistant-superintendent-Mark Feurstenberger
- Treasurer-Tony Pawlicki
- Secretary-John Emmot

New Business

There was short, but wide-ranging discussion of whether Gerry Drewes' trailer should be of interest to the PPD. It was determined that it would not be cost effective beyond the existing trailer and our current needs. No further action expected.

Old Business

No old business was brought up.

Contest

There was no formal contest.

Program

Tony described upgrading some MDC shorty tankers by adding cut levers, steps, braces, and new shelf couplers. He was able to share closeup pictures of the freight cars.

Kristin showed a very elaborate pop-up Christmas card of a locomotive.

David displayed a work-in-progress CN caboose. He is waiting for the right color of orange to finish it.

Mark talked about his father's new project of modeling a circus train now the Ringling Brothers are no longer running. Mark also talked about the small layout that was built for the train. It was an interesting tail of construction :-).

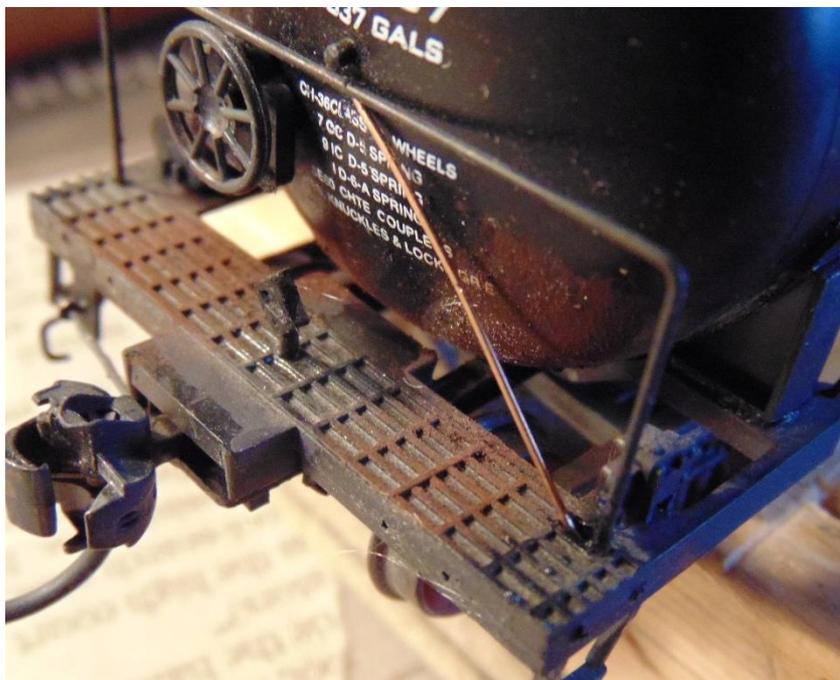
Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

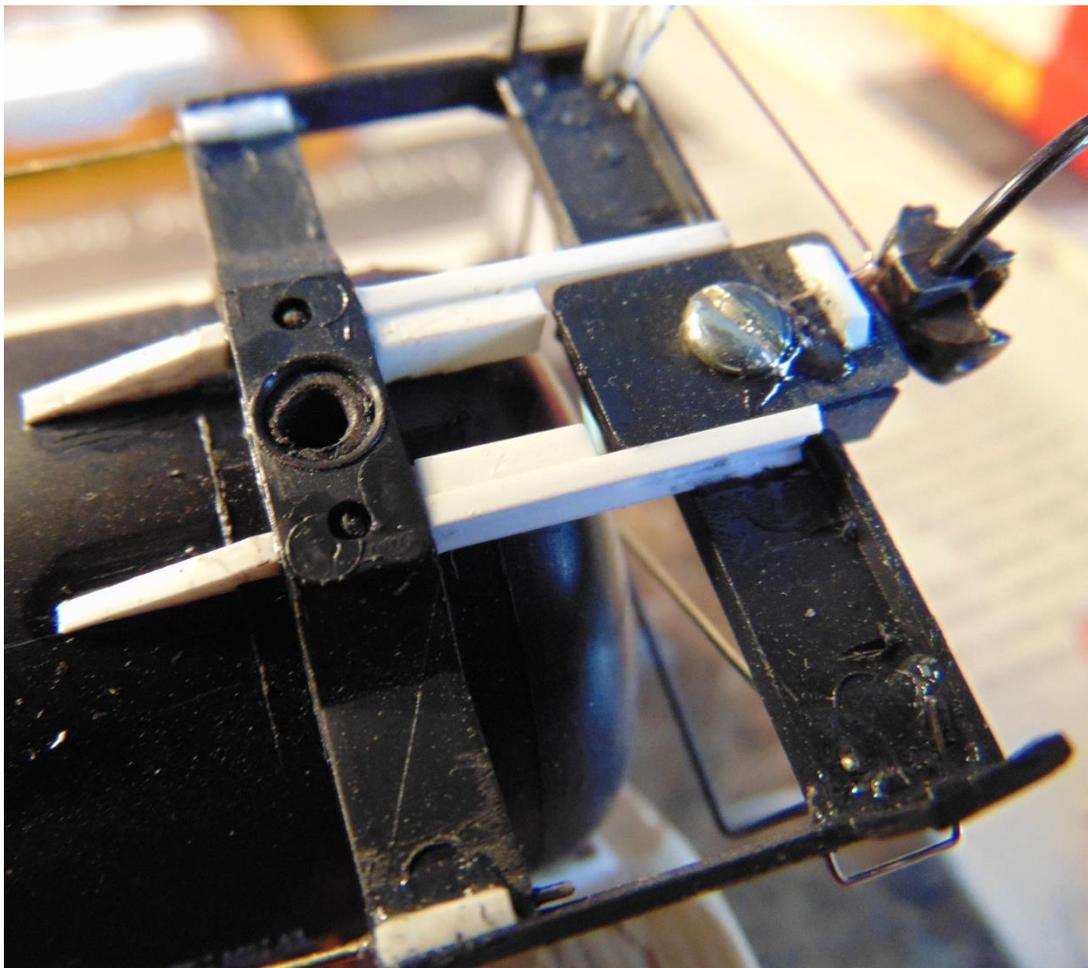
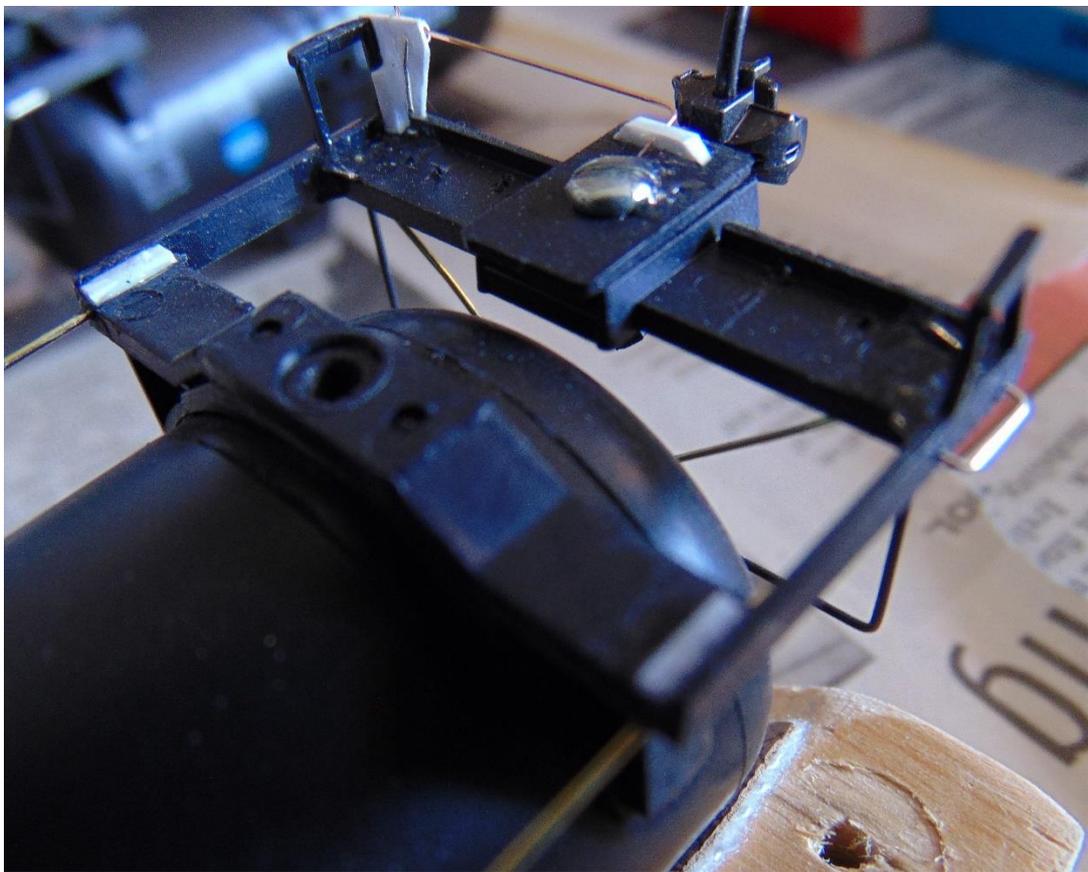
Secretary comment: It was great that we were able to get some railroaders together for the December/Christmas meeting. It is sad that we were not able to meet and celebrate in person. It does lose something in the 'translation'. Here is hoping we are all still here next Christmas and that we can make up for 'lost time'. Season's Greetings to all.

GATX Tank Car Tease

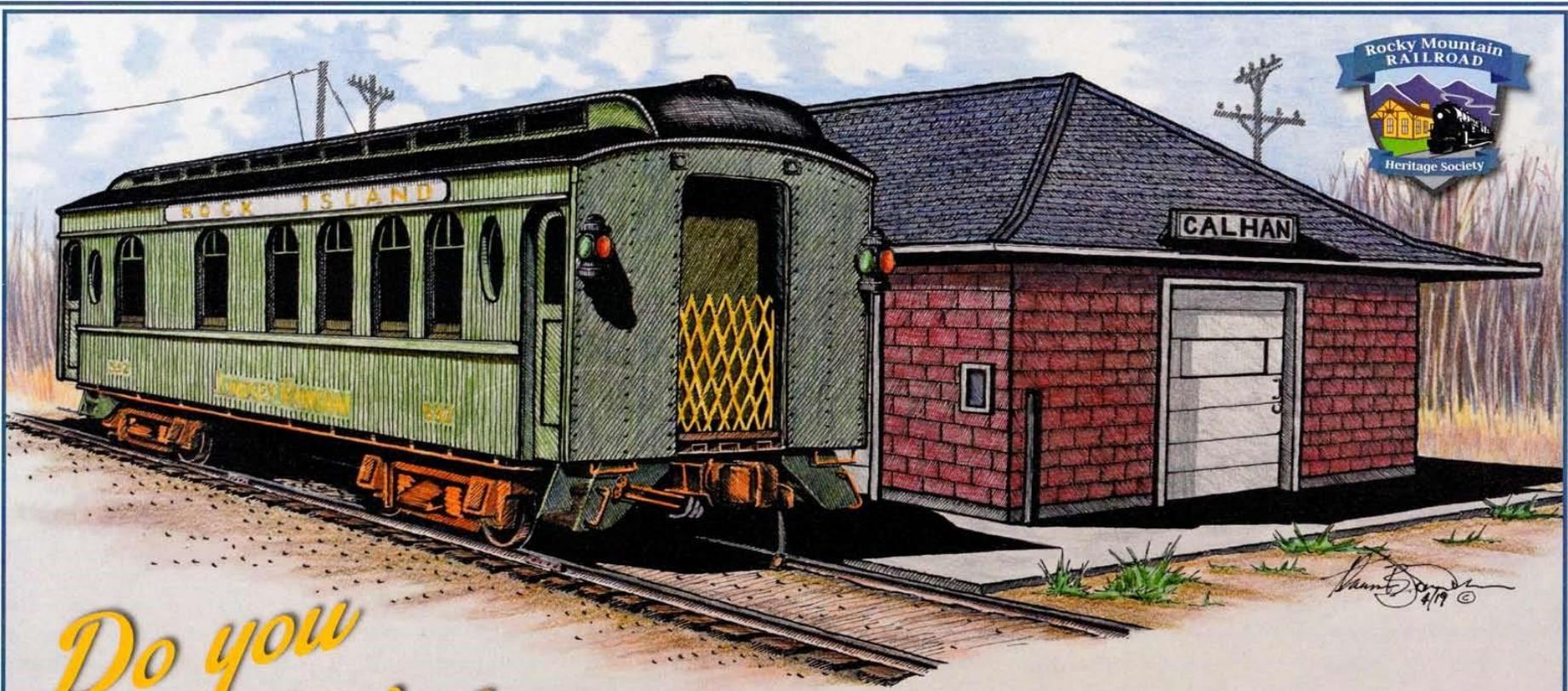
By Tony Pawlicki

At the last NMRA PPD meeting show and tell I showed my latest effort, detailing the old Model Die Casting (MDC) GATX "shorty" tank cars. The related MDC 50' tank car model, that really is of a 61' Trinity car (hard-core purists may tune out now), has also been dragged into his project. The car-end photo shows how the single diagonal end brace is installed and has a nice view of the Kadee shelf coupler. Also provided are before-and-after photos of the stub sill area of one of the "shorties", showing how to add the stub sill following the Model Railroader August 1983 article (pages 135-138); see, those old issues can be useful. The recipe, like so many others, reads, 'Just add styrene.' " So, this is just a teaser of a complete article that will be published later.









*Do you
like trains
and enjoy
history?*

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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.

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Artwork By Thomas B. Jordan

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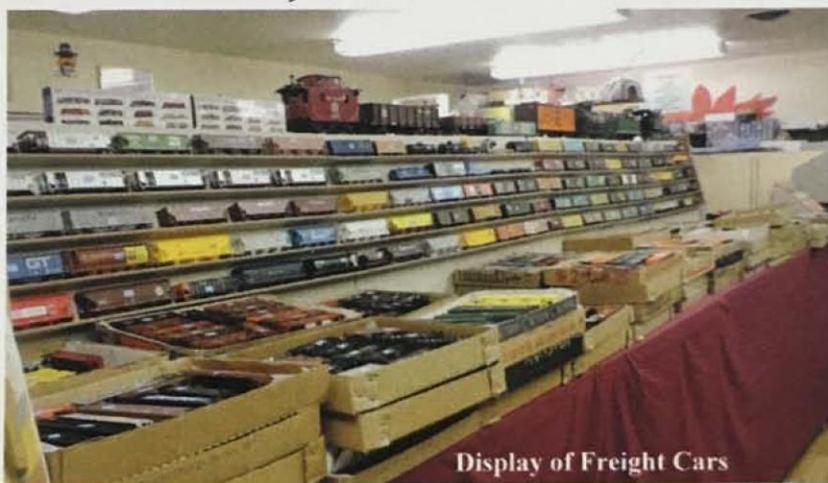
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Closed Sun-Mon

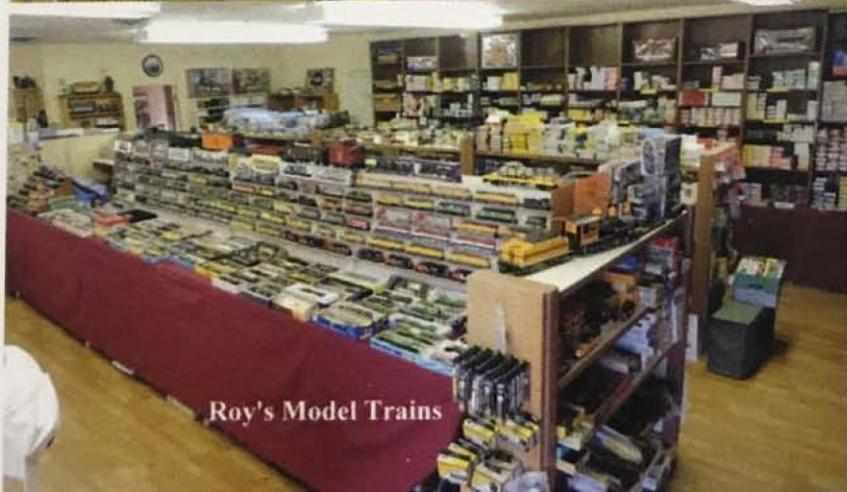
Website: Roysmodeltrains.com

Email: roysmodeltrains@comcast.net

Phone; 719-728-0503



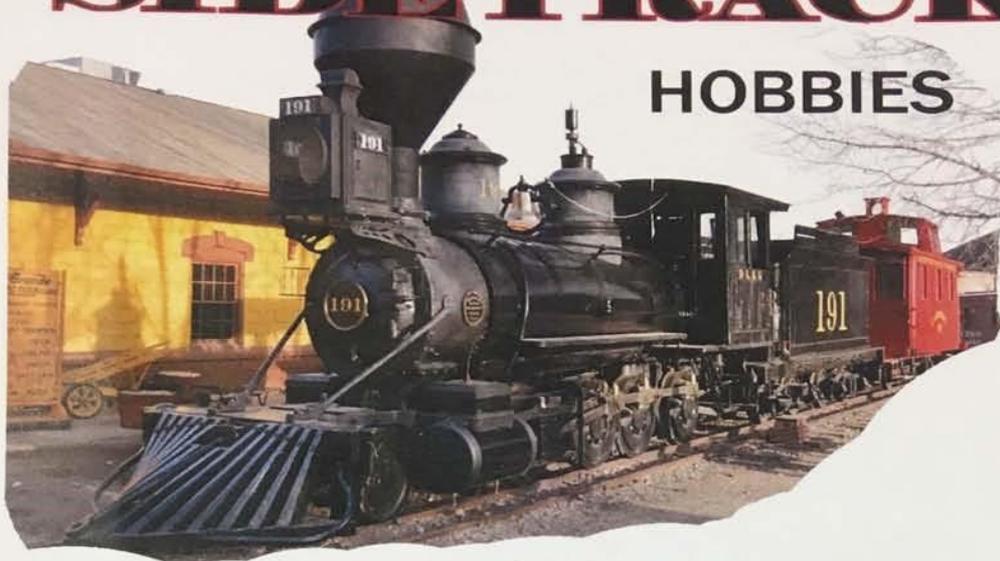
Display of Freight Cars



Roy's Model Trains

SIDETRACK

HOBBIES



GOT TRAINS?

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

SCALES

You have seen us at the train shows with a full line of narrow gauge train equipment and supplies.

You know me as President of Pike Masters Railroad Club and active member in Pike's Peak Division of the NMRA.

NOW know us as a hobby shop with regular hours on:

July 1, 2017

Sidetrack Hobbies will be open for regular business hours. Stop by between 1:00pm and 6:30 Tuesday through Saturday and see our expanded line of railroad supplies, to include homocote, hydrocal, scenic materials, scratch builder parts, paints, cement, and much more.

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