



The Milepost

Volume 36, Number 3 — March 2016

The official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division
Rocky Mountain Region — National Model Railroad Association.



NEXT MEETING:

Friday, March 11th, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Sand Creek Police Station
4125 Center Park Drive
(Southeast of the intersection of Fountain/Academy)
Colorado Springs, Colorado

INFORMATION

The Milepost is published monthly and is the official newsletter 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 many other model railroad activities.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March's meeting program will be by Robert Allen. His program will be a presentation on his newest 8-foot HO-scale module.

Charles is still in need of programs for March through November of this year! If you have a presentation, a video, or something else that you would like to have as a program for our monthly meetings, please get in touch with Charles. His contact information is in the "Pikes Peak Division Staff Members" column on this page.

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FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The last meeting was on Friday, February 12th, 2016.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent, Wade Mountz, on Friday, February 12th, 2016, at the Sand Creek Police Station, 4125 Center Park Drive (southeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 7:05 PM. There were 21 people in attendance with no new visitors.

Last month's *Milepost* minutes (notes) were approved as printed with no issues. Frank Pareso gave the Treasurer's report. There was no old business to be dealt from last month.

Wade mentioned about Gideon Diamon passing away (February 3rd); he was a former superintendent of the PPD.

Andy gave an update on TECO. Mike Peck has been nominated as president of TECO; vice-chair is still open. Robert Allen was nominated as Secretary. Roy has stepped down from running TECO like he was. Andy is planning to work with the vendors. Andy also discussed details on the upcoming TECO show in April.

Dusty Thompson gave an update on the next swap meeting show for May 14th, 2016. 18-20 tables have been sold so far. Relabeling fliers left over from previous shows to save money. Planning on regular advertising. The May PPD monthly meeting, Friday, May 13th, 2016, will be at the church instead of at the police station.

John Emmot gave an update on the lights for the modules. John is looking for which modules will be at the April TECO. Discussion about gentleman in Black Forest wanting help with his model railroad layout. There was also discussion about a possible Fall trip to the Cumbres Toltec railroad. Please contact John if you are interested.

Wade discussed Jim Vadeboncoeur's e-mail about having another PPD picnic this year (see last issue). Nothing was decided about this at this meeting.

Wade thanked those contributing to *The Milepost*. Specifically, Jeff Cahill, Jerry Hansz, and Dennis Snyder.

Dennis discussed the rules for contests. Some people had input on the contests rules. A motion was passed to accept the new contest rules. These will be posted on the PPD website.

Tonight's contest is for non-revenue model railroad buildings. Lindsey was selling Girl Scout cookies.

Dennis discussed what can be added to member's badges — like achievements or positions. He would like to have the badges standardized — especially with the convention coming up. A motion was passed for spending money on new name tags.

Robert Allen discussed scratch-building article from the NMRA magazine. This includes a source of old model railroad kits that can be used for practicing weathering skills. Encouraging modelers to enter contests, layout tours, etcetera.

Contest winners were: 1st Place, Rob Allen; 2nd Place, Dennis Snyder; 3rd Place, Dennis Snyder.

Video presentation on scenery.

Meeting ended at 9:00 PM.



OCTOBER CONVENTION NEWS

Wade has completed the final nine crossbuck railroad crossing signs for the October convention. Roy has already accepted the first two signs and they are being stored until October. The time has arrived to shift into high gear for the convention. We hope seeing this progress gets people excited and motivated to help with the convention.



MURDOCK'S SIDING

By Michael Murdock, Editor of The Milepost.

Hello... ..cough, cough... ..sneeze, sneeze... As some of you may already know, I have been fighting a major cold for the past few weeks — it has really knocked me down. I have heard from various people that this cold virus going around town — some of you may be fighting it as well — constant coughing, runny nose, sore throat, sneezing, headache, feeling miserable, etcetera. Because of this cold, I am at about 20% of what I can do each day. So I apologize in advanced for this abbreviated issue of *The Milepost*. If you had an article you were expecting or can't find your favorite column, rest assured it will appear next issue. Most likely, I will not be at the meeting this Friday.

2016 TECO SHOW DATES

This year's Train Expo Colorado events will be held at the Mortgage Solutions Expo Center, located at 3650 North Nevada, in Colorado Springs, Colorado — the same place last year's shows were held. Listed below are the dates and themes for each show.

TECO #27

April 23-24 — Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad.

TECO #28

June 18-19 (Father's Day weekend) — Midland Terminal RR.

TECO #29

December 2-4, 2016 — Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railroad (The Short Line).

Please note that, unlike previous years, there will be no September show because of the RMR's October 2016 convention — which runs October 3-9. For that event, please see this link: <http://www.2016rmrconvention.com/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This monthly column lists model railroad and related events that are mainly in the Pikes Peak region and the state of Colorado. If you know of a railroad-related event that can be added to this listing, please e-mail them to the editor (midnightriver@ymail.com). Please note that dates and times sometimes change, so please check this column each month for the latest information. For more information on a particular event, click on the blue underlined text to jump out to the Internet for the relevant website (not all events have a link).

MARCH 2016

- 11 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 17..... Saint Patrick's Day.
- 19..... Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>).

APRIL 2016

- 1 April Fool's Day.
- 8 PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 16 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>).

MAY 2016

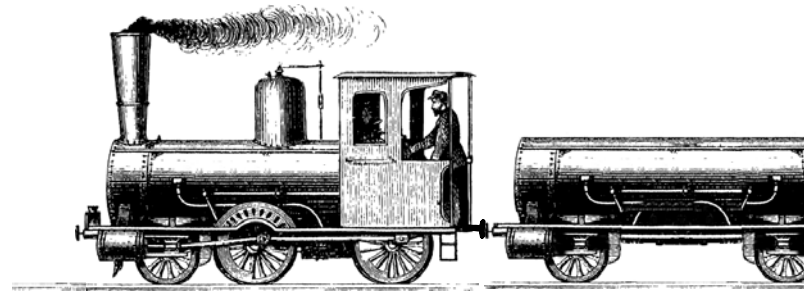
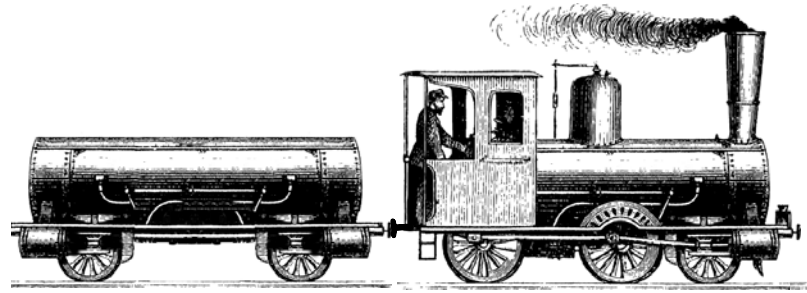
- 8 Mother's Day.
- 13..... PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, this month only, at the church -- see swap meet flier).
- 14..... PPD Swap Meet at Trinity Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street, Colorado Springs.
- 21..... Pikes Peak "N" Gineers module setup at Peterson Air Force Base Museum.
- 21 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>).
- 21..... 21st Albuquerque Rail Fair. Albuquerque, New Mexico State Fairgrounds, Albuquerque, New Mexico. No other information available.
- 30..... Memorial Day.

JUNE 2016

- 10..... PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 18 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>).

JULY 2016

- 8..... PPD-NMRA Monthly Meeting (7 PM, Sand Creek Police Station).
- 21..... Pikes Peak "N" Gineers module setup at Dinosaur Resource Center, Woodland Park, Colorado.
- 16 Youth In Model Railroading (9 AM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pikes Peak/Institute, see the website for more info: <http://www.ymr-online.org/>).



2016 CONTEST SCHEDULE

At each PPD-NMRA meeting, a contest is held. A contest must have at least three entries for voting. Below is the 2016 contest schedule. If you have any questions, please contact the Contest Chairman, Dennis Snyder — his contact information is on page #2.

- March *Weathered Caboose.*
- April *Whimsical Model Or Scene.* Something whimsical to bring a smile or chuckle. Examples could include: animal control chasing loose monkeys, mini-scene, car with a hot tub, engine with wings, etcetera.
- May *Railroad Owned Structure.* Such as: railroad Station, yard, right-of-way.
- June *Weathered Unusual Car.* Like a weight car, clearance, black smith, coil car and exclusive of hopper, tank, box, passenger, flat, gondola, caboose, etcetera.
- July *Weathered Diesel Operated Equipment* (for track or other use).
- August *Weathered Steam Operated Equipment* (for track or other use).
- September *Scratch Built Structure* (preliminary to Regional).
- October Enter the Regional Convention Contests.
- November *Passenger Car.*
- December Christmas Party (no contest).

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

By Wade Mountz, Superintendent of PPD-NMRA

Last week, John Emmot, Gary & Travis Coleman and myself attended the funeral in Monument of Jim Lipper. Jim was a longtime member of the division modular group and a very fine modeler, besides being heavy into his retired fire truck club. Jim's module's were of excellent quality and he made the rest of us better by giving us the opportunity to try and catch up with what he had already done. Jim will be missed by all of us who knew him and what he could do. Right now, John is working on obtaining one of Jim's creations and adding it to the division module inventory. Jim's work may still be with us.

Keep in mind our upcoming showings at the April TECO show and our own May Train show/swap meet.

Wade

MODULAR MUSINGS

By John Emmot, Chairman of Module Group

Time keeps rolling on. March is the end of our winter time off from module activity. We will have two quick shows with TECO in April and our own PPD swap meet in May. I would like to know if you won't be available for the April 23-24 TECO show or if you will be available for the May 14 Division show. Now is the time to finish your arrangements for powering the new layout lights. While we have focused on the idea of permanent power strips located on the module, it is possible to meet the need with an extension cord of appropriate length if it has enough sockets for your lights and for the cord that goes to the next module in line. It should be grounded and have at least 14 gauge conductors.

There has been some discussion about the specifications for the Pikes Peak Division modules. In general, we follow the NMRA requirements with a couple of significant variations. The National standards still use two conductor Cinch plugs for train power buss connections. The PPD uses six conductor Cinch 306 connectors to connect all of the train power in one place. There has been discussion of changing our connectors for something more 'modern' and perhaps less expensive. With the advent of DCC power, we require 12 gauge conductors for the power buss. While the soldering required for these connectors is tricky, all of the current modules use them and I have offered to fabricate connectors for anyone who needs them. There is wide connector deviation in all module layouts from the NMRA norm.

The other significant difference between NMRA and PPD is in the track placement on the module. The National standard says to put the track centers at 5, 7, and 9 inches from the front edge of the module using two inch centers for the track. The PPD uses 4, 6, and 8 inches from the front of the modules. It is significant that it is still two inches between the centers. Our modules track would still match up with NMRA modules even though there would be an offset at the front edge of the modules. Both standards use 9" sectional track for joiners.

For our new AC power buss, we want the male plug to point the same direction as the male plug on the train power buss. Because of the unknown length and unknown total power load, please use a minimum of 14 gauge conductors with ground.

The PPD requires that any single module or module set must have a length that is a multiple of 4 feet. We will accept modules which are more than two feet wide/deep. Experience has shown that more than 30 inches deep creates a very long reach from the inside operating space.

The PPD uses the NCE DCC system for the layout, though because of the NMRA standards, any DCC equipment, other than

Cabs, is compatible. Personal NCE cabs may be used if the Cab address has been deconflicted in the system. JMRI wifi control for DCC is also available. Radio control for DC trains is available using AristoCraft equipment. Hopefully, this will answer any questions about these parameters. If not, feel free to contact me. Other details are in the Module portion of our website: ppdnmra.com

Some of our old timers may remember Jim Lipper. He was the de facto module chairman when I arrived on the scene. He had arrived in Colorado from the HUB Division on the East Coast where he was very active. He had a module which had won at a National Convention and he is the one who originally designed the high line still used in our layout. He named the oil facility 'Skelly' as that was his wife's maiden name. His Old Colony home layout was written up in Model Railroading magazine in 1998. As might be expected, there was a large Fire Station on his layout. Jim passed away on February 29, 2016. I hope everyone is able to be at the meeting on Friday.

John



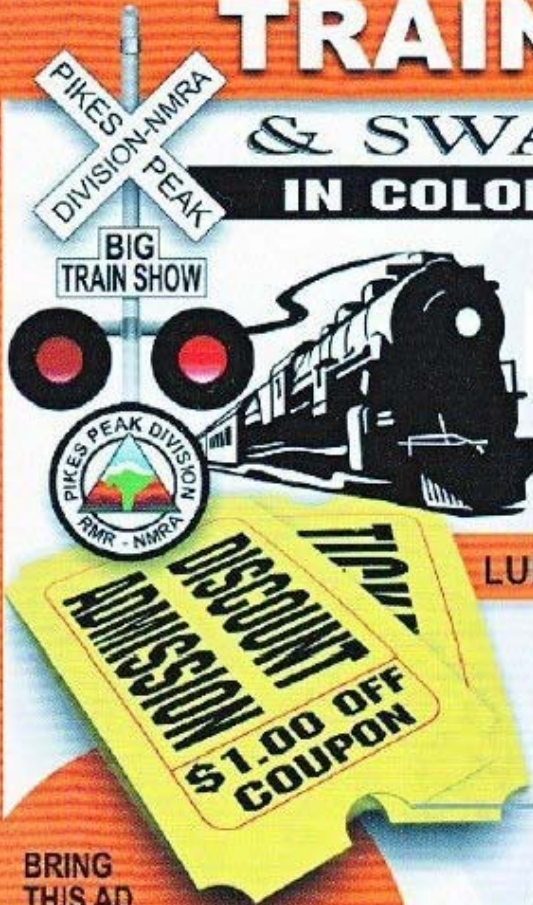
TRAIN SHOW

& SWAP MEET IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Doors Open 9:00-AM -to- 3:00

May 14th, 2016

All Scales + Trains
& Memorabilia
Easy Access Off I-25
Free Parking



LUNCH AVAILABLE ONSITE

Location:

Trinity United Methodist
Church Gymnasium
701 N 20th St., Colorado Springs

Show Admission:

Adults 13 and older - \$5.00
Children 12 and under always FREE!

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