



Sunrise Herald

May 2024 Volume 17 Number 5

Sunrise Division Officers

Superintendent.....William Boorman
 Asst. Superintendent.....Dennis Hagen
 Secretary.....Bob Hochstetter
 Treasurer.....Dave Clifford
 Program Chair.....Gary Myers
 Division AP Chair.....Gerry Meltzer
 Youth Coordinator.....Position open
 Education Chair.....Stewart Jones
 Modular Layout Chair.....Larry Stephens
 Herald Editor.....Bob Hochstetter

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Layout Photos of the Month

This month's three photographs were taken on Bob Rothgery's HO scale 1890's Rocky Mountain themed home layout.

I need photographs for the Herald. If you have photographs of your layout that you would like to have included here, please send them to me. (Ed.)



May Meeting Notes

The regular monthly meeting of the Sunrise Division of the National Model Railroad Association was held May 2, 2024, at Holy Love Lutheran Church. Superintendent William Boorman conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Twenty-two members attended in person, and one joined via Zoom.

William began the meeting by asking the members for a self-introduction and the scale that they modeled.

Announcements, Show 'n' Tell, Tool Time, the Clinic and more followed the self-introductions. All of these are included in this issue of the Herald.

William adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 6, 2024, in person at Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 S Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will also be streamed on Zoom with sign-in between 6:30 and 7:00.

Video of the Month

This month's video continues a look at some unique railroading south of the border.

Mexico's Abandoned Branch Lines - National Railways of Mexico, Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cE68E0B0St8>

Upcoming Tool Time

June—TBD—??

Upcoming Clinic

June—Unusual Solutions—Nick Tomlinson

Upcoming Show 'n' Tell

June—Observation Car

Reminder

To reduce problems, especially for those who join the meeting on Zoom, we continue to ask that Show 'n' Tell photos, Clinic presentations, and Tool Time photos be taken before the meeting and sent to:

Gary Myers (garymyers06@comcast.net)
for presentation at the meeting,
and to the editor (rlhoch422@gmail.com)
for inclusion in the Sunrise Herald. (Ed.)

Module Report

from Larry Stephens

We had a new location at the TCA show for the modules. We were placed near the west loading dock, which allowed us to unload and load back up much easier than last year. Some electrical problems were caused by the connectors reaching their end of life. Adam and I have started to replace these connectors with the phoenix style. We are also installing additional wiring to increase from four blocks to eight blocks. This will allow the signals to perform closer to prototype. We will also put the sidings on their own circuit breaker. They had previously shared the circuit breaker with the mainline next to the siding.

Announcements

The Foothills Society of Model Railroaders swap meets
Green Mountain Presbyterian Church
12900 W. Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
on the third Saturday of odd numbered months
(303)989-0087 or (303)985-1491



Kick Off Event! Save the date!

COLORADO
RAIL PROTO MEET

Saturday, September 21st, 2024

9am-5pm—Zoe's Café and Event Center
715 10th Street, Greeley CO

5pm-8pm—Colorado Model Railroad Museum
680 10th Street, Greeley CO

\$20 admission
(Includes free dinner at the CRRM)

Model Displays—Clinics—Hands on Stations—Vendors

www.corpm.org

Hosted by the Colorado
Model Railroad Museum
and the Northern Colorado
Division NMRA



Tool Time

Bill Johnson presented this month's Tool Time. Bill began by showing how lantern signals were used by the railroads before radios were introduced and how a flashlight could be used to accomplish the same thing on a model railroad. Bill continued by showing how to make an attachment to the flashlight for use as an uncoupling tool.

Model Railroad Lanterns and A Lighted Uncoupling Tool

Bill Johnson
May 2, 2024



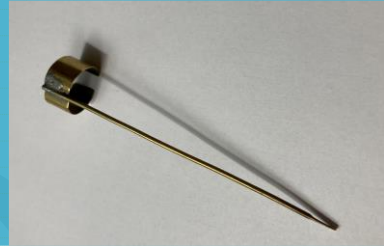
A Penlight from Radio Shack



Fabricate a clip from sheet brass and solder a brass tube as an uncoupling tool.



Tube soldered to the clip.



The completed uncoupling tool with the penlight.



Using the lighted uncoupling tool.

Position the blade between the coupler inner faces and twist to uncouple.



Bill Johnson demonstrating the use of the tool and the lantern signals to signal another operator during a crowded and noisy operating session.



Show 'n' Tell

This month's Show 'n' Tell subject was Water/Fuel Tank.



Bill Johnson showed this fuel tank fabricated from an old tank car.



Rich Flammini showed this water tank. He said that a manufacturing facility of this size needed a secure source of water. He said that the 3M decal on it is correct for the year that he models and told the story of how he got it.



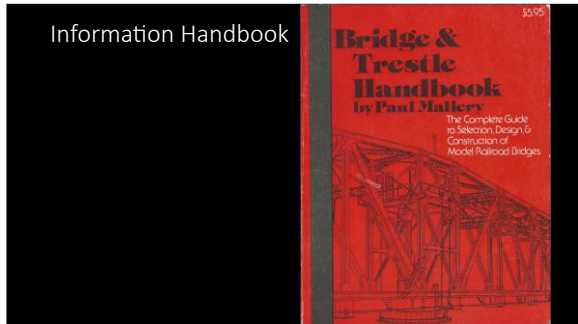
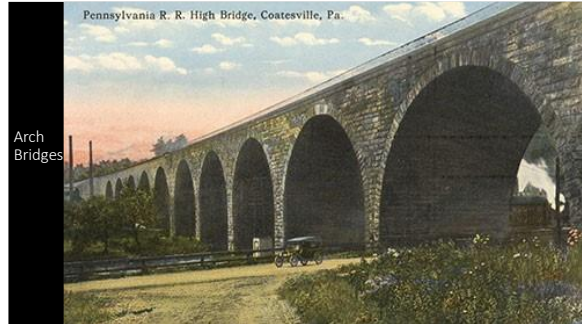
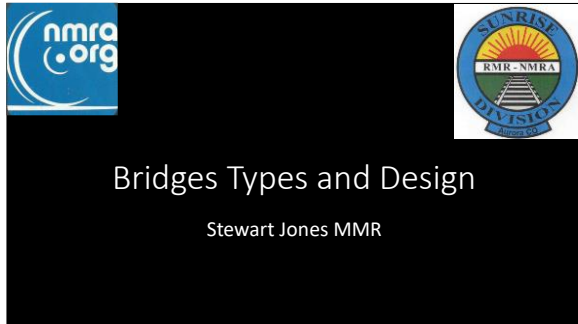
I, Bob Hochstetter, showed this N-scale fuel tank and pump house. These are both metal kits. The dimensions of this mini-diorama are 1½ inches x 3 inches.

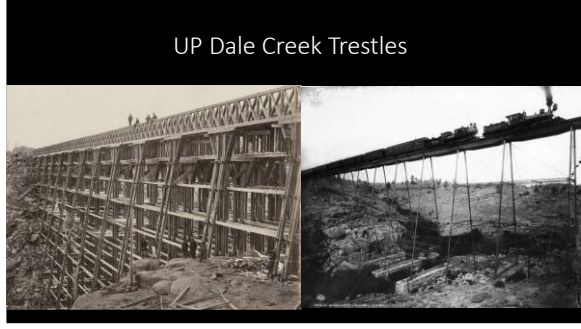
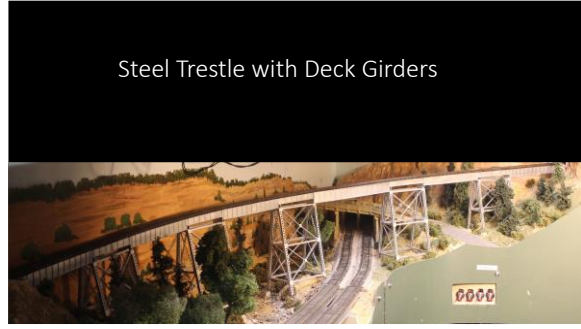
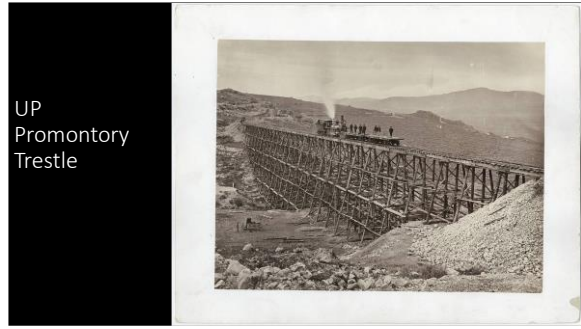


Stu Jones showed these two water tanks. The first is a Walthers model and the second was built from a Campbell kit.

Clinic

Stu Jones presented this month's clinic on bridge types and designs. He covered the materials from which bridges were made and the different types of bridges. He illustrated the types with photographs of prototype bridges and of models on his layout. Many of his PowerPoint slides are included here.





Three-span Deck Plate Girder



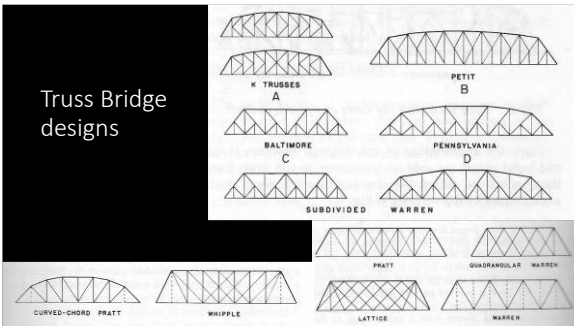
Three-Span Deck Girder



Combination Through and Deck Girders



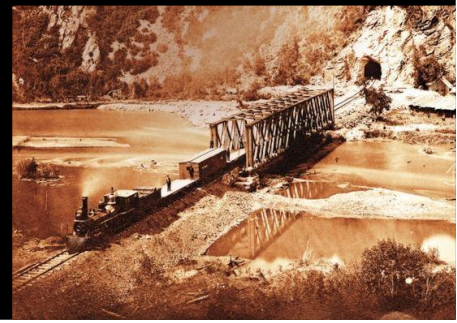
Truss Bridge designs



Truss Bridges: The Howe Truss



Truss Bridges: The Howe Truss



Truss Bridge



Truss Bridges



Warren Truss, Pulga, CA



Moveable Bridges: Swing





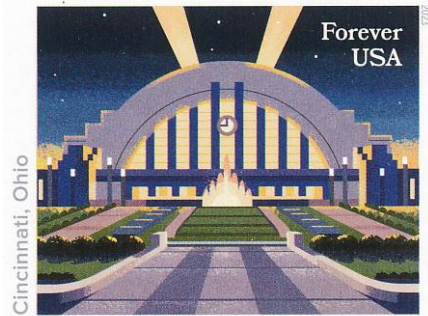
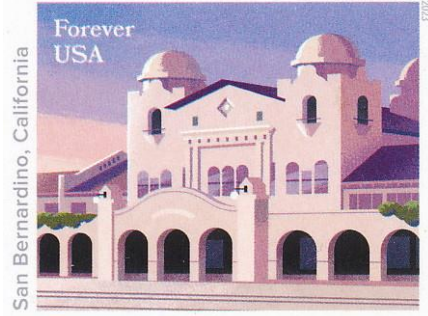
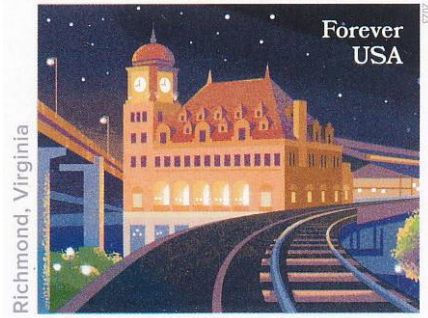
Additional Information

Larry Stephens passed along this additional information: a couple of vendors' website addresses, a link to an interesting story from Trains magazine on the Tennessee Pass and images of some new USPS Forever Stamps.

<https://litko.net/> Mostly for gamers but some of their products will work for scenery work.

<https://boltdepot.com/> For hobby and home. Screws and bolts.

The long autumn of Tennessee Pass:
<https://cs.trains.com/trn/b/fred-frailey/archive/2012/08/16/the-long-autumn-of-tennessee-pass.aspx>



Golden Spike Limited

Annual RMR Convention, June 5-8, 2024

Join us in Salt Lake City for our annual Regional Convention. We will be hosted by the Stadler Light Rail Facility (west of the airport). We will enjoy factory tours, have model railroad modular setups, hold clinics and have our annual model contest all in their facility. But that is not all, we have operations and layout tours hosted by the Northern Utah Division at members layouts, plus many more local things to do!

Register now!: [Rocky Mountain Regional Convention – Northern Utah Division, NMRA \(northernutahnmra.org\)](#)

Model Contest details: [Site Navigation - The Contest Chair \(google.com\)](#)

Gary Myers / garymyers06@comcast.net / (720) 837-4393
President, 2024-2026
Rocky Mountain Region

Saturday & Sunday, June 8 and 9, 2024, 9:00am to 2:00pm

Tom Wilcox

23442 East Otero Drive

Aurora, Co 80016

land line: (303) 862-8491 cell: (978) 505-3024

Both an indoor and an outdoor layout will be open at this address, which is inside the gated community at the Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course (HEBGC) in the SE corner of the Denver metro area. Gate code #3442

Directions:

These turn-by-turn directions start on S GARTRELL RD at the E-470 overpass in southeastern Aurora. E-470 is the fastest way to get to the overpass, but it is a *toll road*. Alternatively, find your way to E ARAPAHOE RD, the major east-west artery in the southeastern Denver metro area. The major north-south arteries I-25, PARKER RD, and SMOKY HILL RD all intersect with Arapahoe Rd. The intersection with S Gartrell Rd is 9 miles east of I-25, 4.5 miles east of PARKER RD, and 1.8 miles west of SMOKY HILL RD where they cross Arapahoe Rd. The 470 overpass is 1 mile south of E Arapahoe Rd on S Gartrell Rd.

1. From the E-470 overpass, proceed south on Gartrell Rd through the light at E AURORA PKWY to the light at E HERITAGE PKWY (0.7 miles total).
2. Turn left onto E. Heritage Pkwy (AWAY from the HEBGC Clubhouse)
3. **STOP** at the keypad on the left side of the VISTOR lane in front of the gate and key in the 5-character code "#3442" to open the gate. (code is valid only on June 8&9, 2024)
4. Continue 0.2 mi through the gate and down to the T-intersection at the bottom of the hill.
5. At the T, turn right onto S ADDISON WAY.
6. At the next T (700ft), turn right again onto E. OTERO DR.
7. The layouts are 350ft up Otero at the third house on the left (with a crossbuck in the driveway). You can park on either side of the roads near the house.

These layouts are not particularly HC-friendly.

The Outdoor Layout is a U-shaped loop-to-loop layout in the shrubbery surrounding three sides of the house with a branch line to a loop on the elevated patio. It has about 530' of mainline, 96' of passing sidings and 63' of stub sidings. It has one 1.5% grade connecting the garden level to the patio. All track not on the patio is mounted on 5/4 pressure-treated decking. (*The west side can be viewed from a concrete walkway. The south side is on the patio, two steps above the walkway. The east side can be viewed from the lawn, two steps down from the patio or slightly uphill from the front sidewalk.*)

The Indoor Layout (*down a flight of stairs to the basement*) is mounted on a flat table elevated 42" from the floor occupying about 522 sq. ft. in the unfinished basement utilities room. It has 276' of mainline, 65' of passing sidings and 181' of stub sidings. (This layout can accommodate about 15 viewers at any given time. The narrow viewing aisle has limited opportunities to pass going in and coming out.)

Neither layout has a name, nor do they depict any discernible road name, location, or era. Buildings and rolling stock migrate (manually) between the layouts seasonally.

Most of the rolling stock is vintage LGB 1::22.5 narrow gauge equipment. All of the track is LGB sectional track. Locomotives are track-powered and controlled using DCC. A TCS LWT-100 hand-held throttle talks over home WiFi to a WI Throttle Server provided by JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface) software running on a Mac.

Although both layouts are physically and electrically independent and are each controlled by different instances of JMRI, they both have the same hardware and software architectures. DCC tasks are implemented by a DIY base station known to JMRI as DCC++. DCC++ software is in the public domain and runs on a 20-dollar Arduino micro-controller connected to JMRI via the home LAN.

Up to five trains can run autonomously on each layout. Each train is assigned a route by a human "dispatcher". The route defines not only where the train is to go on the layout, but also where it is to stop and how long it is to stop each time. Once a train is dispatched, a script running within JMRI controls all aspects of the train's travel along its route, including throwing the proper turnouts, controlling the speed and direction of the train, generating sounds available on the locomotive's sound card appropriate to each activity on the route, and, most importantly, always trying to enforce the rule that, at any given time, at most one train occupies a given section of track. This past year an effort has been made to introduce some randomness into the route a train follows though the layout.]