



Sunrise Herald

January 2012

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Holiday Cheer Was December Clinic



Cookies and candy, cakes and egg nog: these were the topics of the December meeting. Twenty-two members braved the nasty weather to share food, stories, and maybe a lie or two.

The movie *Unstoppable* ran during the normal clinic time, although that didn't stop folks from refilling their plates. The conversation in the kitchen did touch on some technical parts of the movie, with a suggestion or two that there *may* have been some inaccuracies. And why didn't they just hit the kill switch?

After the movie was completed, David Bol donated it for sale with the funds going to the Module Group fund.

Amazingly, the members did not adjourn to Village Inn after the meeting for pie and coffee. **-SH**

Above: Ernie Roque entertained other members in the relaxed atmosphere of the meeting. Left: Gary Myers was intently watching the movie. (Photos by Tom Frerichs)

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Membership Report



GARY MYERS — ACTING MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
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New Members

Sunrise Division would like to welcome new recruits from the Denver Merchandise Mart Toy Train Collectors Association (TCA) Show: David Bauman of Parker, John Booth of Brighton, and Chuck Roy of Denver. Congratulations to Rich Flammini for another superb recruiting effort. He also recruited members for several of our fellow Divisions as well.

Member Unit Train

The Sunrise Division train is now at 92 cars (members) including the three-pack of new boxcars from the TCA show. In addition, we also had eight cars receive new shop dates (renewals) from the Car Maintenance Department. We had one rerail (former member renew), one derail (one not renew). Sadly, this year we lost three members because of their failing health, and two members moved out of state. Overall our membership numbers are back up.

Searchlight Car

This month's searchlight car casts its beam on these fellows. Do you know any of them? If so, give 'em a fare-free ride on over to one of our monthly meetings.

Robert Arnold
John Barlow
Paul Dalrymple
Dan Engdahl
Ralph Foote
Jay Hanna

Scott Johnson
Randy Lee
Steve Manion
Dennis Roberts
Philip Tromberg
Joseph Walsh

Spread the Word

If you have some railroad buddies that are not NMRA members or are members, but have not been coming to our meetings, let them know about our upcoming monthly program, and invite them to come along with you. We are always happy to welcome more model railroaders in the Division: to learn and grow from each other. I hope in 2012 we get to meet more of our membership at future meetings and activities.

—SH



Don't Delay!

June 8 is coming faster than you can imagine, and you don't want to miss your chance to catch a ride on the Big Horn Mixed chartered mixed freight/passenger train on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

For more information and a registration form go to <http://www.bighornmixed.com>

—SH

Last Run

Model railroading lost a good friend in George Stanko, who passed away December 10, 2011. He was buried with full military honors Friday, December 16, at Fort Logan, Colorado.

George was an avid operator at operating sessions and enthusiastic participant running trains at Denver train shows for years. He was a member of the Foothills Society of Model Railroaders and was a key supporter for the swap meets at Green Mountain. George was a member of Front Range Division of the NMRA. He liked to attend national conventions and was active in several railroad-related groups.

George was a fun guy and will really be missed in the operations of many local groups such as the Castle Rock & Pacific and Rocky Mountain Lines. He was truly a character and made operating a fun and unique experience. George enjoyed bringing his own style of jocularity into the train room.

George is survived by a large family and an even larger family of model railroaders. He will be missed.



Division Data

Sunrise Division promotes and encourages model railroading from I-25 east to the Kansas border. We welcome all model railroaders, regardless of skill or experience, because our goal is to have fun.

The *Sunrise Herald* is a publication of the Sunrise Division of the Rocky Mountain Region, National Model Railroad Association.

Division Officers

Division Superintendent Gary Myers
Asst. Division Superintendent Donald Francis
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From The Chief

BY GARY MYERS, DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

National Model Railroad Month – Part II

Each month I normally try to write on a different topic about the NMRA for the Sunrise Herald. So if this month it seems like I am being a little repetitious, believe me: this month I am doing all our members a service.



Not Just Another Lionel Train Show

Last month I got to work with Rich Flammini at the Toy Train Collector's Association (TCA) Train Show at the Denver Merchandise Mart. John Gardberg had encouraged us (the NMRA) to participate, and we were not disappointed. He promised it would not just be o-

scale and tin plate, but would include lots of HO- and N-scale as well. I can attest that his promise was kept. I met Kent Swartz, who is employed at Lockheed Martin, but now runs these shows. Kent is an HO guy, but he has infused a more general approach to include all scales at the TCA shows. Kent is glad that the NMRA is now supporting the show, because their goal is to include everyone and especially future generations of model railroaders.

Excellent Ambience

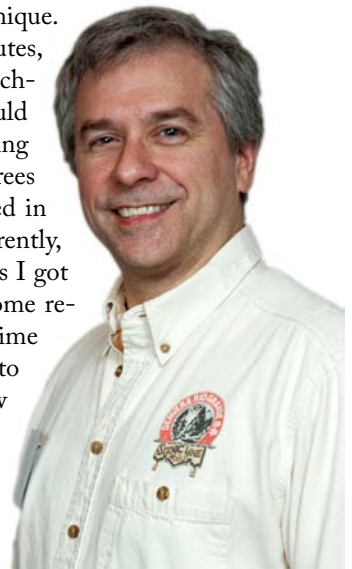
The Denver Merchandise Mart was a great venue. Several modular layouts in different scales were on display. There were hallways with separate rooms for scheduled clinics and youth rooms for kids of different ages. Projects, displays, and vendor areas were all available and done very professionally. As opposed to previous shows, these aisles full of different experiences were well advertised and, we saw, were well attended. The main exhibit room was chock full of vendors of all different scales and products, including the small-time vendors with sale prices to match. At this show one could easily find that bargain-priced equipment and rolling stock one needed for those kit-bashing projects or modest inventory upgrades without spending much. The admission price was only \$5 with free parking. This show had some of the same vendors as the Great Train Expo and many others with more used items for sale.

Your NMRA At Work

At this show, I assisted Rich by providing lessons in aspen "construction," while he described the membership advantages of

the NMRA. I used a "sit-down" technique. People would stop in for a few minutes, and I would quickly show several techniques, letting them know they could accomplish the same without needing any real expertise. The color of the trees helped attract people, many interested in learning how to make them. Apparently, making aspen was a popular topic. As I got to meet several new people and become re-acquainted with a few, I found the time passed very quickly. I finally had to sneak out to enjoy some of the show myself. I must say I was surprised to find that I enjoyed this show more than the Great Train Expo, and if I did not encourage you to attend the next show, I would be doing you a disservice.

—SH



Left: Rocky Mountain Region Promotions Chair Rich Flammini catching a breather. (Photo by Gary Myers) **Above:** Gary Myers demonstrating aspen tree making to an interested TCA show visitor. (Photo by Rich Flammini) **Below:** Gary's colorful work for aspen building attracted attention from visitors to the show. (Photo by Gary Myers)



Prototype Photo: Enjoying Rail At 1:1 Scale

Those 80-inch driving wheels on Union Pacific 844 are working hard in this photograph taken by Christopher Bates, an HO-scale modeler when he isn't rail-fanning. Chris caught this opportunity earlier this year.



NMRA Notes

This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into *NMRA Magazine*, the full package can be downloaded from www.gr2012.org. Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of *NMRA Magazine*.

Speaking of the convention, even though Grand Rails 2012 has over 200 clinic slots filled, they're still looking for more. If one of your members is interested in presenting, go to www.gr2012.org and click on the clinic application page. In addition, there's still some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show. If some of your members would like to participate, have them visit the convention's website, click on the "Contact us" link and tell the Convention Committee what you would like to bring.

NMRA elections are coming up soon. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook. It will appear as an insert in the center of the February issue of *NMRA Magazine*, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012.

Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot.

PRESIDENT

Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM

VICE PRESIDENT —

ADMINISTRATION

Howard Goodwin
Clark Kooning, MMR
Dave Thornton

VICE PRESIDENT —

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John Roberts, MMR, HLM

PACIFIC DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Mike Bartlett
Kelly Loyd
Rob Peterson

Show & Tell



Favorite Holiday Train was the Show & Tell theme for the December meeting, and we had a wide variety of exhibits. John Kerbaugh brought a figure of Santa painting a train (*left*) which was a present from his wife in 1996.

A “coal load” of M&Ms filled a pair of Model Die Casting HO-scale hoppers (*middle*) brought by John Griffith. He explained that these cars were built after he supplied the photographs and artwork back in the 1950s. He also had a notice warning people not to eat the load, but then explained it was really directed to the photographer. Mr. Kerbaugh noted that the load was “melt in your mouth, not in the hopper.”

Rich Flammini caught a moment when the Jolly Old Elf made a stop in his special railcar (*bottom*). If you look closely at the left side of the car you can see an HO-scale Santa Claus standing in the door. Rich said this was the third appearance of this car at the Division. Rich, when are you going to do the matching engine?

The following pages showcase additional Show & Tell entries. As usual, a random drawing was held for a ten-dollar Caboose Hobbies gift certificate, and it was won this time by Stewart Jones.

—SH

(Photos by Tom Frerichs)



Christmas Cards & Travel Means Mail/Passenger Train



Stewart Jones doesn't have a "Christmas Train," but he figured that the additional mail from Christmas cards and packages and additional holiday travelers means that his Boreas line would be filled to capacity on its runs between Denver and the west coast.

Here is his train (from top).

The F3A and F3B is the normal motive power. The A unit is a Highlander shell on a Steward DCC sound-equipped chassis. The B unit is a Highlander kit.

The baggage-mail combine and baggage cars are circa 1965 Walthers kits.

The diner-parlor combine is kit-bashed from Model Die Casting observation and diner kits.

The coach is a Penn-modernized JC Models kit made from stamped aluminum circa 1955. -SH

(Photos by Tom Frerichs)

Christmas and Trains Belong Together, No Matter the Age of the Railroader



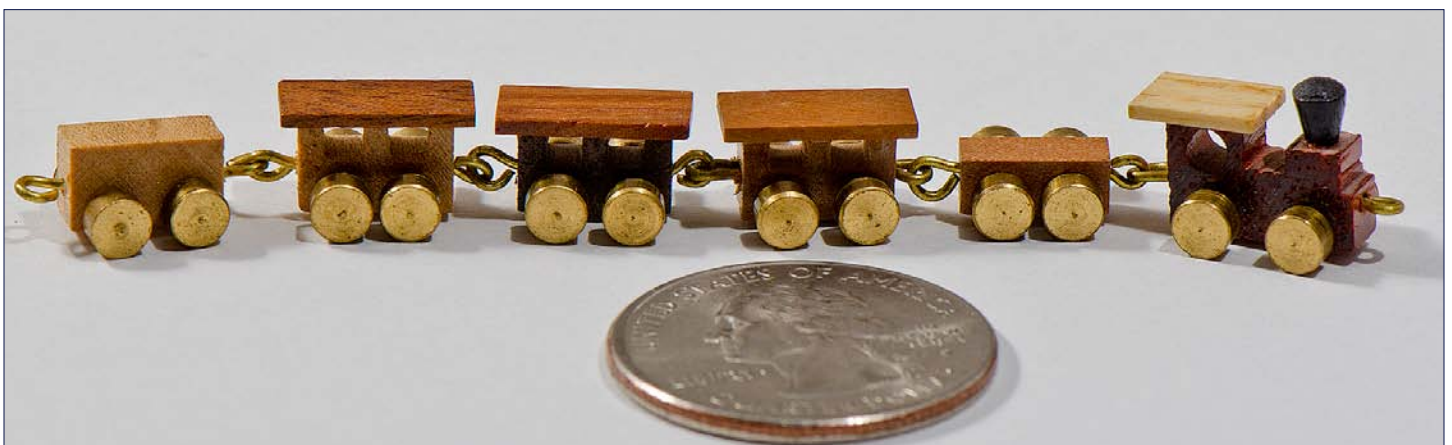
Don Francis, delayed by work, arrived a little late to the meeting (*left*), but that did not stop him from either enjoying the refreshments or setting up his train.

Don's train featured a modified Tycho o-6-o switcher (*middle*) pulling a set of cars with custom decals for his Omaha-based railroad. The HO-scale train was impressive sitting on the table for members to enjoy.

This tiny wood model (*bottom*) was brought by Steve Schweighofer and is part of a collection of twenty or thirty other trains. He said he particularly liked this one because of the combination of wood bodies and brass wheels. It must be in Q-scale, the "Q" standing for questionable. The quarter gives an idea of the size of this train.

—SH

(Photos by Tom Frerichs)



Updating the Layout

BY GARY MYERS

After some inspiration from the layout tours at the mini-meet, I took another look at our Time-Saver switching layout and noticed it was time to add some more details. Besides the lack of trees, signals, and telephone poles, there was a noticeably severe shortage of people. I decided it was time to add those Woodland Scenic people I picked up in Michigan this summer...and maybe a few more.



This scene along the front of the layout seemed to be beckoning for some activity on a typical summer day (Photo by Gary Myers)

Along the main street there seemed to be barely a soul in sight. For a summer scene I needed something natural and appetizing. It turned out that a Woodland Scenics™ wiener stand with the hot dog vendor selling lunch to a mom with her two kids made a nice change to that stretch of empty sidewalk, and practically no effort was required.

An empty public transportation bench was moved to accommodate the wiener stand after a sitting passenger-to-be was added, who was dutifully cleaned up with a #11 Xacto® blade and carefully repainted.



Woodland Scenics wiener stand turns an empty sidewalk into an interesting vignette. Don't forget the innocent bystanders standing or sitting nearby. (Photo by Gary Myers)

The next idea I had was kicking around for some time. I decided to purchase some Evans Design flasher LEDs, which were available at Caboose Hobbies. I bought the flickering fire and red flasher kits. I drilled a hole through the layout in a corner by the "junk yard" and pushed through the 3 LEDs that make the flickering fire. I took some scrap lumber, cut into various widths and lengths, and glued them together in a teepee shaped heap. When that had almost dried, I placed it over the LEDs to get a decent form fit. I then used a charcoal acrylic to paint most of the wood in the middle of the pile, leaving many "unburnt" areas. The red flasher unit was installed in the top of the yard tower, with most of the effort threading the wires through the tube in the middle of the tower which already housed wires for the interior light. Both LED units by Evans Designs advertised a 7-19v DC source, so I hooked them up in parallel with one 9.6v battery. This worked pretty well, since I found them still working great a day after I forgot to turn them off.



While the Grounds Foreman was away for college this summer, some hobos moved in outside the yard near the junk piles. The Evans Designs "Flickerig Fire" works great by poking through three LEDs from a hole under a wood pile. (Photo by Gary Myers)

A search through the extra parts bins found some already rust-painted plastic wheel sets, truck frames, couplers, extra box car doors, and other small parts. These were placed to create junk piles around the shop building and grounds near the turntable, unfortunately attracting all kinds of nefarious characters. —SH



Figurines draw attention to an area. Use some extra parts leftover from kits to add interest around buildings. (Photo by Gary Myers)

Focus on the Future

January Clinic Has Contest Emphasis

What kind of work should one enter for a model contest? This clinic will address the level of detail expected for super-detailing your freight cars for an NMRA Model Contest or AP Merit award. The clinic will also provide examples of super-detailing and demonstrations of the work to help make your models contest worthy. Also covered will be tips to simplify and improve your contest paperwork, helping you succeed with NMRA judging. Gary Myers is the presenter.

-SH

WANTED: PROMOTION CHAIR

\$Job Description: Make promotional items for Sunrise Division activities, such as flyers for Mini-Meets, Division Meetings and, God forbid, maybe even some Convention items. Make new friends at the copy store and Office Depot.

\$Benefits: Amaze your friends by displaying your wonderful talents. Let your creativity inspire us, the more graphically challenged.

\$Hours: Unlimited, as many as you want.

\$Pay: Know that through your advertising you could save lives, giving meaning to someone's life, who may have otherwise wasted away, never becoming a model railroader.

 **APPLY TO YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD**
SUNRISE DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT.

Show & Tell Themes

When you submit a model for the show and tell, you automatically are entered into a drawing for a gift certificate from Caboose Hobbies in Denver.

January 5 Snow Fighters
February 2 Engine Servicing Facilities
March 1 Turntables
April 5 Waterfront Structures
May 3 Logging Equipment

Upcoming Events

- ◇ *January 5, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *January 7, JeffCo Train Show and Swap Meet*, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, West 6th Avenue, Golden, Colorado. 9 AM—4 PM Admission: Adults \$5, Kids 5—12 \$1
- ◇ *January 7, Free Clinics*, Caboose Hobbies, 500 South Broadway, Denver, Colorado. 10:30 AM: Starting the Right Way. 1:30 PM: Lionel—Not Just For Christmas.
- ◇ *January 14, Free Clinics*, Caboose Hobbies, 500 South Broadway, Denver, Colorado. 10:30 AM: Static Grass Applications. 1:30 PM: Kit-Bashing Passenger Cars.
- ◇ *January 21, Model Railroad & Toy Train Swap Meet*, The Foothills Society of Model Railroaders, Green Mountain Presbyterian Church, 12900 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado. 9-11:30 AM.
- ◇ *January 21, Free Clinics*, Caboose Hobbies, 500 South Broadway, Denver, Colorado. 10:30 AM: Scenery A—Z (Snow & Water). 1:30 PM: Hand-laying Track & Turnouts.
- ◇ *January 28, Free Clinics*, Caboose Hobbies, 500 South Broadway, Denver, Colorado. 10:30 AM: Repairing and Mending Brass. 1:30 PM: N-scale Today (Patrick Lana).
- ◇ *February 2, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *February 4, Free Clinics*, Caboose Hobbies, 500 South Broadway, Denver, Colorado. 10:30 AM: Speaking of Narrow Gauge. 1:30 PM: Painting Figures.
- ◇ *February 18-19, Winter Photographer's Train & Night Shoot*, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.
- ◇ *February 18-19, Rails in the Rockies Train Show*, Estes Park Conference Center, Highway 36 & Highway 7, Estes Park, Colorado. Saturday 9 AM—5 PM, Sunday 9 AM—4 PM
- ◇ *June 8-10, Big Horn Mixed*, 2012 Rocky Mountain NMRA Regional Convention, Chama, New Mexico. Mixed steam freight railfan photographers' special on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. <http://www.bighornmixed.com>