



# Sunrise Herald

## October 2012

Volume 5, Number 10



## Decoding the Past with the Ferro-Equine Audio-Restorist

### In The Herald

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BY GARY MYERS

If you have ever seen Decoding the Past, with the Naked Archeologist on the History channel, then this article may not be what you expected. Fortunately, for the Sunrise Division, and especially all the members present, we had the fully clothed John Griffith, Rock Island aficionado, enlighten us with a clinic on how we could take an early diesel and have it emit the sounds it made, as it was natu-

rally in the “wild.”

John showed us his Atlas Rock Island s-2, a model that needed only minor modifications to allow installation of an MRC sound decoder. After basic shell removal, John had to unmount the lead weight secured by screws. Wires from the trucks, light and motor were disconnected from circuit board, which was discarded. The circuit board was replaced with the MRC sound decoder, and the original wires were soldered to the decoder.

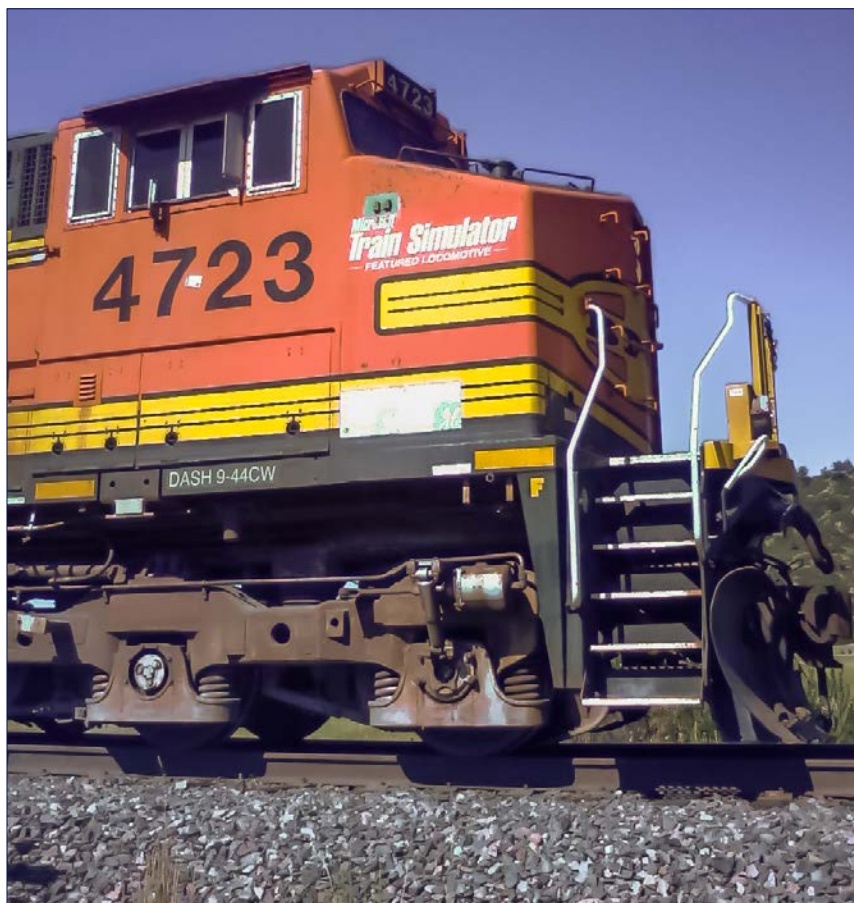
*Continued September Clinic—Page 2*

## September Clinic — from page 2

The lead weight in the engine needed only minor filing, beveling one end to fit against the sound decoder speaker. The speaker is mounted with the face glued to one side of the sound decoder board facing downwards when installed in the engine so that the sound actually comes out the back. Another nice feature of the MRC decoder is that it includes LEDs for front and aft lights, which can be de-soldered and located in place of the original incandescent bulbs. No need to fool with resistors or anything, the decoder comes with all the lighting circuitry already on the board. The old lights from the engine are no longer used and can go into the spare parts bin.

The S-2 is a very old switcher and has very little room for installing a decoder let alone a speaker. The MRC decoder is very compact and also relatively inexpensive. I checked at Caboose Hobbies and they still had a few available from \$50 to \$70. Alex may be redoing the decoders in the switchers on his Time-Saver layout. Sound will make a great addition; it has been noticeably lacking since we have gotten used to the chuffing and whistling of our narrow gauge steam locomotives.

-SH



## Reality, Not Virtual

If you have ever run Microsoft Train Simulator™ using the BNSF engine, then you should be very familiar with this General Electric DASH 8-44 cw. It is, after all, the locomotive being simulated. If you look at the hood of

4723 you'll see the sign memorializing this fact.

Tim Harkey took this photograph, but not only as a rail fan. He happened to have been the engineer on the run that this engine just finished.

I wonder if he takes as long as I do making a run?

-SH

## In Memoriam

The Rocky Mountain Region has recently lost two Master Model Railroaders. We will miss their modeling, dedication, and willingness to teach.

### FRED CARLSON, MMR

Member of Arkansas Valley Division  
Past President of the Region  
Past editor of the *Callboard*

### KEITH KOCH, MMR

Member of Silver San Juan Division



## Division Data

**S**unrise 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  
Treasurer . . . . . William Johnson  
Secretary/Editor . . . . . Tom Frerichs  
Program Chair . . . . . Jim Laird  
Membership Chair . . . . . John Griffith  
Modular Committee Chair . . . . . Donald Francis  
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. . . . . WWW.TRAINWEB.ORG/SUNRISEDIVISION/





# From The Chief

GARY MYERS, SUPERINTENDENT

## End of an Era

As most of you already know, Mizell's Trains, serving Denver hobbyists for decades, has closed its doors. Why has this happened? Changing times, changing demands, changing attitudes, and changing customers: no doubt are contributing factors. With most people having access to the Internet, hobby shops today face tougher competition than ever just trying to keep their customers, let alone attracting new ones. Also, with the economy being as slow as it has been over the past several years, we all know how our dollars are being stretched by increased food and gas costs...and just about everything else.

## Support Your Local Hobby Shop

As an organization of hobbyists and model railroaders, it is important for us to support our local hobby shops. We may take for granted the gift certificates we graciously receive from Caboosie Hobbies to reward a participant for our monthly Show & Tell. Of course, the purpose of the certificate from the store is to lure you in. They hope that you will spend more. Why do they do this? To foster and increase their clientele.

As mentioned in Tom Frerichs' column two months ago, our local Aurora hobby shop, Colpar Hobbies, has merged with HobbyTown USA and relocated to Jewell and Havana in Aurora.



*Colpar Hobbies has merged with HobbyTown USA, tucked in the shopping center at Jewell and Havana in Aurora.*

(Photo by Gary Myers)

in the corner next to the Bingo Parlor and still lacking a marquee with high visibility, Colpar Hobbies has significantly upgraded the interior of the store. Broad spaces, much wider aisles and much improved organization of displays of models, crafts, and tools await the customer. There is also a large downstairs area that may be available for modeling groups in the future.



*This hobby shop doesn't feature as many model railroad items as Caboosie Hobbies but covers a multitude of hobbies including, science, rockets, and more.*

(Photo by Gary Myers)

## Recruiting the Hobby

We have all heard about the decline in numbers of members in our organization and hobbies in general. The lack of the abundance and availability of real trains today, competition with video games, and sports has diverted the attention of many youths from model railroading and other hobbies.

What can you do? How do we turn this trend around? We read about this every month in *NMRA Magazine*. One way is to introduce your grand kids, nephews, nieces, and kids to a hobby shop. Some of you, like me, started building plastic models as a pre-teen. I remember my older brother playing with an erector set and steam engine—and not the locomotive kind. By getting involved with these kids, you can help them find an interest in the hobbies sold in these stores, and you have the skills to teach them. This is your connection to the younger generations, closing that dreaded communication gap. These are our future members and consumers of our and other hobbies.

## Legacy

My son, Alex, described his dilemma to me while doing a project in his freshman year Engineering

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## From The Chief — *from page 3*



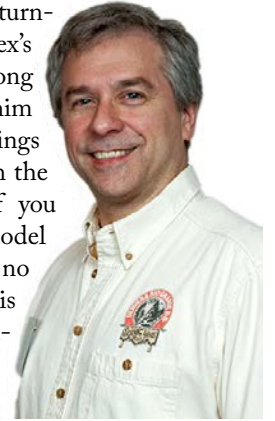
*Colpar is well known for their vast plastic model inventory, which is now well spread out to accommodate more enjoyable (and less crowded) browsing.*

(Photo by Gary Myers)

Design class. His team—and others—were to build a remote piloted blimp and make it perform actions and maneuvers through a specific course. Alex's dilemma: he found most of his teammates had no clue or any experience building a model of anything. These guys were supposed to be our future engineers. Uh-oh. Alex finally was able to get his project together, despite several missteps and lack of common sense contributed by several team members in the construction of their blimp.

When Alex was very young, I continued to introduce him to

more and more complicated toys that required assembly, then eventually plastic models. As he got older, we started working on his layout together. This month, we are turning in the paperwork for Alex's Golden Spike, although it is long overdue. The key was to let him build and work with the things he liked and help him through the learning points. As some of you have seen some of Alex's model railroading work, you would no doubt agree with me that he is already a very good model railroader.



### The Future of the Hobby

If the hobby shops are closed how many kids do you think will stumble onto model railroad websites and suddenly become modelers? Do you think with the decline of hobby shops that more or fewer kids will enjoy getting into hobbies?

If we want the hobby to not only continue but grow, we need to recruit new members. The progenies of our own families help provide the people, and the local hobby shop provides us the eye-candy they need to spark and maintain their interests. And you get to share your experience in ways where it continues to grow and live on. Hey, and while you're down there at your local hobby shop, don't forget to restock some supplies. Maybe you'll see something new that you just gotta have. Think of it not just for you, but for your country! Remember, we gotta get this economy rolling again somehow.

—SH



*Wider aisles and well displayed graphics greet the customer.* (Photo by Gary Myers)



*While the store goes through reorganization, the downstairs is currently used for storage, but the future opens up the possibility for groups of 30 or more.* (Photo by Gary Myers)



# Show & Tell



## Bridges Make October Show

October's Show & Tell theme was timber trestles: those wonderful wooden structures that carry trains over deep chasms and dry washes.

Although they are not as common as they once were—in the late nineteenth century timber trestles could be as much as one to three per cent of a railroad's entire main line trackage—they are still in use. For example, they can be used to approach a steel or concrete bridge across a flood plain where a fill would seriously restrict flood waters.

Besides, they look so good on a model railroad. That's reason enough to model them. —SH

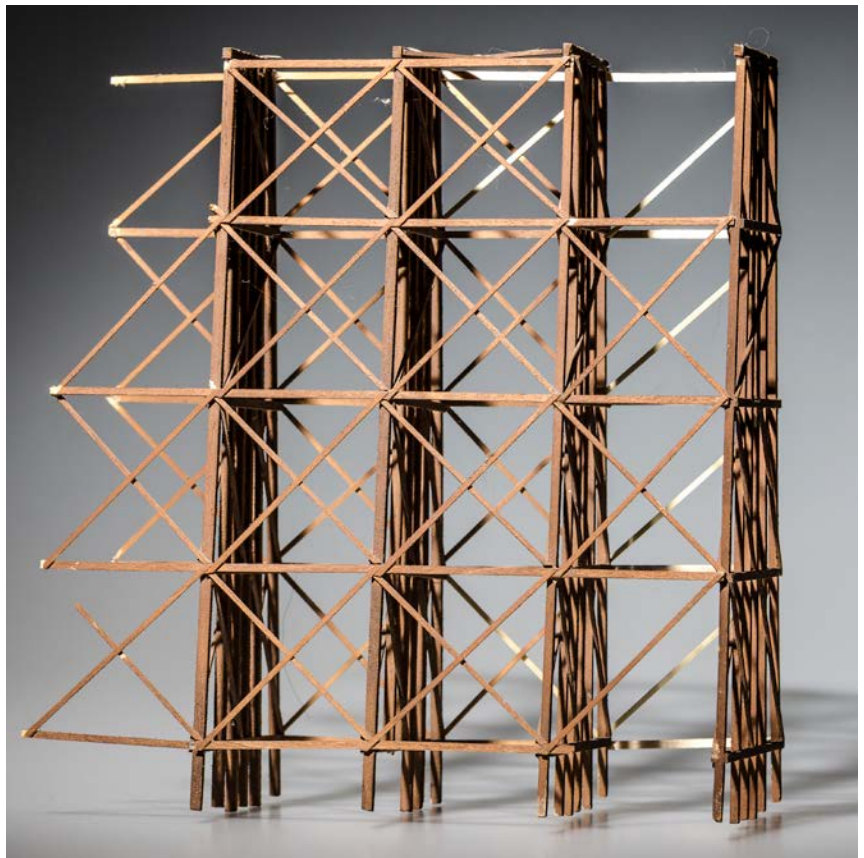
**Below left:** A bent sample from David Bol's massive trestle on his scenic home layout. **Below right:** David had moved his trestle, and this was part of what was left over when he re-deployed the bridge. Fortunately, your editor didn't cough while holding this piece. (Photos by Tom Frerichs).



Steve Schweighofer brought this wonderful N-scale bridge, which he had rescued from a previous layout. He brought it carefully wrapped and in a sturdy base. Later, during the evening, your editor, while showing the bridge for Show & Tell, had a very bad cough, tossed the bridge into the air, and caught it one-handed. Unfortunately, your editor is a klutz and managed to destroy at least one bent. Here you go, Steve. At least you have a picture as a memory. (Photo by Tom Frerichs)



Dick Hunter brought this HO-scale Campbell kit as his offering.







## A Tale of Two Bridges

Not only did Dick Hunter bring a model for S&T, he also brought a photograph from Boone Iowa. On the right is the Kate Shelley High Bridge,

completed in 1901, and on the left is the replacement bridge, completed in 2009. Dick's mother-in-law had picnics under the original bridge while it was being built. The new bridge design was assisted by Sunrise Division member Chris Johnson.

## Module News



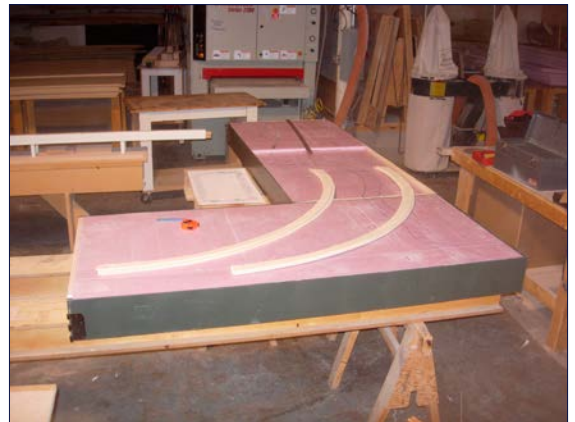
### Visible Progress!

Under the capable leadership of Don Francis, the Sunrise Division Module Committee & Knitting Club are making substantial progress on the modules.

Don sent along a wonderful photograph showing the foam in place and working beginning on getting the sub-roadbed laid out. A lot of folks have been volunteering their time to make this possible.

If you want to get involved, get in touch with Don. It doesn't matter if you have lots of experience or want to learn, Don can find something for you to do to help out.

-SH



## NMRA Notes

After several years of work by incoming NMRA Secretary John Stevens, all US Region boundaries are now defined by state and county boundaries, rather than zip codes. This will help keep boundaries stable as the U.S. Post Office continues to redefine its zip code areas.

Michigan Division co-founder Jim Six, a college professor and experienced education expert, has agreed to lead a team charged with developing a standardized clinic format that will help ensure consistency and uniformity for clinics being made available to Divisions and Regions. The format will be based upon the one currently in use in the Michiana Division of the Midwest Region.

Following the recommendation of Standards & Conformance Department head Didrik Voss, MMR, the Board directed that all eight DCC-related Recommended Practices now become NMRA

Standards. Further, in the future the issuance of a Conformance Warrant is not to be influenced by Recommended Practices but will be based solely on adherence to applicable NMRA Standards.

President Charlie Getz appointed outgoing president Mike Brestel to replace Larry DeYoung, who retired as publisher of NMRA Magazine. Charlie also announced that Mike has also agreed to serve as assistant to the president to ensure a smooth transition between administrations.

Looking ahead to next year's convention in Atlanta, the "Peachtree Express" team reports that it's putting the finishing touches on a series of short videos featuring selected layouts that will be on tour during the convention. The videos will be posted to YouTube and will be able to be accessed from links on <http://www.nmra2013.org/>

The Peachtree team is also proud to announce that there will be a number of Civil War-related tours – both rail-related and general interest – as well as a "Civil War track."

And it's not too soon to be thinking about the 2014 convention! The Cleveland Convention's website is now up and running and taking registrations at [www.2014cleveland.org](http://www.2014cleveland.org).

## Focus on the Future

### Ghost Towns & Trees for October

John Dillavou is presenting a slide show on Colorado Ghost Towns at the beginning of the October meeting. How apropos for the Witching Month meeting.

The Show & Tell theme is "coal mining." I wonder if anyone will model the famous "blue" anthracite coal from the Glen Alden Coal Company of Pennsylvania?

The clinic is on fall trees and forest fires. Gary Myers will demonstrate modeling aspen, cottonwood trees, and burnt and dead pine trees. —SH


#### WANTED: LAYOUT TOUR CO-ORDINATOR

**\$Job Description:** Put together exciting layout venues for Sunrise Division layout tours.

**\$Benefits:** Get to know the great layouts and projects of our Division members, keeping tabs on members' progress. You may get some first hand great tips and ideas!

**\$Hours:** Awe inspiring to say the least!

**\$Pay:** Your efforts directly reduce the wear and tear of your poor Superintendent and Division officers.

 **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.

October 4..... Coal Mining  
November 1..... Steam Locomotives  
December 6 ..... Rail Cars

## Upcoming Events

- ◇ *October 4, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *October 5, Cowboy Poet Train*, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, Colorado
- ◇ *October 5-6, 32nd Annual Missouri Pacific Historical Society Convention*, North Little Rock, Arkansas
- ◇ *October 6, Galloping Goose Rides (for purchase only)*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *October 11-14, Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Convention*, Ventura, California
- ◇ *October 13, Galloping Goose Rides (for purchase only)*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *October 14, Durango Heritage Train*, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, Colorado
- ◇ *October 20, Ride the Rails Saturday*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *October 27-28, Steam-Up Event—Trick or Treat Train*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *November 1, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *November 3, Galloping Goose Rides (for purchase only)*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *November 10, Model RR & Toy Train Swap Meet*, The Foothills Society of Model Railroaders, Green Mountain Presbyterian Church, 12900 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 9-11:30 AM
- ◇ *November 14, Galloping Goose Rides (for purchase only)*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *November 17, Ride the Rails Saturday*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado
- ◇ *November 24, Galloping Goose Rides (for purchase only)*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *November 24-25, Rocky Mountain Toy Train Show*, Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 East 58th Avenue, Denver, Colorado. 10 AM—5 PM