



Sunrise Herald

September 2012

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Making Rock Walls In August

In The Herald

| | |
|---|----|
| Making Rock Walls In August..... | 1 |
| Notes From The Editor..... | 2 |
| Membership Report..... | 2 |
| Division Data..... | 2 |
| NMRA Notes..... | 3 |
| From The Chief..... | 3 |
| Show & Tell..... | 4 |
| Participation Good At August S&T..... | 6 |
| Be Safe When Taking Your Shot..... | 6 |
| Clinics Soon To Be On Website..... | 7 |
| Tool Time Tips..... | 7 |
| Shared Picnic Marks Summer's End..... | 8 |
| Colorado Railroad Museum Worth a Visit..... | 9 |
| Focus on the Future..... | 10 |
| Show & Tell Themes..... | 10 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 10 |

Jim Laird presented August's clinic, and as usual he offered two solutions to the same problem: a hard way and an easy way.

Jim needed a long retaining wall built from rocks. He also needed ways to represent rock construction for buildings. Not wanting to re-invent the wheel—like most good modelers Jim likes to improve and implement rather than always innovate—he first demonstrated a technique he read about in *Model Railroader*. Basically, he created a mold using bass or balsa wood for a section of a rock wall that could be cast in plaster. There were several variations, but they can be fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle.

His easy way used a graphics program to create photo-realistic walls, not only of rocks but of wood, that could then be printed out and mounted on a backing. One of his samples (*below*) was created by photographing the cedar fence in his back yard, then duplicating it with a computer. Mounting the resulting print on foam core provides the necessary strength, and from normal viewing distances it is very realistic appearing. —SH



Notes From The Editor



Awards!

Several Sunrise Division members received well-deserved recognition at our August meeting, beginning with **Don Deuell** receiving his AP Certificate for Building Structures. Having seen Don's modeling work before, I was surprised that he hadn't already gotten this certificate. His skills are outstanding.

Jim Laird, recovering well from his fight with an RV, was awarded his AP Certificate for Association Volunteer. As he is Regional Chairman for the AP program, he had to hand the award to himself.

At the Big Horn Mixed convention, **Stewart Jones** received two merit awards. Regardless of the theme, Stu always has something for Show & Tell.

It should come as no surprise that **Don Francis** got a merit award for a caboose model. Although cabooses are a rare sight on prototype railroads these days, they aren't rare when it comes to Don's modeling.

Congratulations to these members for earning the recognition that their hard work has earned.

Module News

All the base work has been completed on the modules, as evidenced by the sample brought in by Don Francis (*below*). The next step is to add sub-roadbed and track. The folks on the Module Committee have done fantastic work and hope to have it ready for display in November.

More Magazines Offered Free

Between the time that I wrote this column and the time that I was ready to send out the newsletter, the subject of this paragraph became moot. Gary Hansberry was housecleaning and trying to find a home for a large collection of modeling magazines. An example of serendipitous circumstance: a co-worker, after hearing me mention this, offered a good home.

-SH



Don Francis shows one of the new modules while Dick Hunter watches carefully.

Membership Report



BY JOHN GRIFFITH,
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

One of the things everybody always preaches about NMRA benefits is standards, so I will not have to do that. Instead, the primary benefit of membership, as I see it, is friendship.

As many Sunrise Division members are aware, I moved to Aurora last April. With the exception of some of the people I used to drag race with, the only person I knew here was my new wife. Coming to Sunrise meetings has helped to change all that. I still have all my friends in Mid-Continent Region (MCR) and have added quite a few from the Rocky Mountain Region.

More ramblings from your Chairman later.



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 |
| Treasurer | William Johnson |
| Secretary/Editor | Tom Frerichs |
| Program Chair | Jim Laird |
| Membership Chair | John Griffith |
| Modular Committee Chair | Donald Francis |
| Boy Scout Liaison | Louis Surles |
| AP Chairman | David Bol |
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| Division Website | WWW.TRAINWEB.ORG/SUNRISEDIVISION/ |



From The Chief

BY GARY MYERS, SUPERINTENDENT

Sunrise Division Activities

2012 is a year when Sunrise Division has greatly improved our activity level beyond our normal, first-Thursday-of-the-month evening meeting. One of my goals as Superintendent was to bring a variety of activities to the Division resulting in more participation, keeping things fresh, and providing alternate days to meet. This year I believe we are doing a better job of meeting this goal.

In June we hosted the 2012 Rocky Mountain Region Big Horn Mixed in Chama, New Mexico, and Sunrise Division boasted a strong presence. Our Convention Chair, Richard Hunter, put together a great convention and together with Nate Bryant, Convention Registrar, did most of the work. Aside from the rest of the convention staff, many Sunrise Division members attended and helped out. Thanks to everyone for their help and support.

In July we celebrated by skipping our meeting—which would have been held on July 5—for a Rail Fan Meet at Palmer Lake, Colorado, on July 7. A few joined in for breakfast at the Village Inn, with most of us making the trek down south. The weather



BNSF 6248 heads up a string of empty coal hoppers.

cooperated very nicely for a few hours of photography, storytelling, lunch, and spending time together. I was very pleased to see several folks who hadn't been out to Thursday meetings and some who had been long absent. Over all, we had close to a couple dozen participants throughout the day.

In addition to our regular meeting in August, we joined Front Range Division for an annual picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum on Sunday, August 19. This was the third straight year for the picnic, and I really enjoyed it.

The year isn't over yet; we'll see if we can't come up with something more! Have fun!



Module Help

Don Francis has started sign-up lists for people interested with helping on the Sectional Layout, with most work sessions planned on weekends. For those interested in helping to work on the layout and learning, please let Don know your availability and what areas you'd be interested to work.

—SH



Next to the receding waters of Palmer Lake, Sunrise Division showed up in force to photograph some joint line freights. (Photos by Gary Myers)



NMRA Notes

Charlie Getz became the new NMRA President as Mike Brestel passed the reins to him at the Annual business meeting in Grand Rapids. Charlie has stated that his first order of business is to simplify the organizational structure of the NMRA.

Charlie appointed Western Director Jack Hamilton to head up the new Strategic Planning Committee, which will prepare a plan to help guide the NMRA into the future. He'll be making a preliminary report at the winter Board meeting.

The Sacramento 21st Century Limited National Convention host group presented the Board of Directors with a check for

\$7,500, to be donated to the Diamond Club. The Diamond Club funds are being used for the scanning and posting of archival photographs and artwork currently housed in the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library.

Charlie Getz updated the Board on the state of the "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit, to be housed at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). An anonymous donor has pledged \$250,000 in matching funds, and as of late July donations of at least \$160,000 were still needed to achieve the match. The funds must be received by the end of this year. Development of the exhibit is estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

The Marketing Department team of Page Martin, Garrett Ewald, and Barrett Johnson were named at the convention. Each of these individuals has professional marketing experience, and is tasked with developing advertising and promotions aimed at retaining existing members, re-enlisting lapsed members, and attracting new ones.

Show & Tell



Turn of the Century Was Show & Tell Theme in August



Stewart Jones offered this model of a General Electric AC-4400CW, a 4400 horsepower AC unit that was introduced in 1993.

Stewart reports that this model has been a staple of many railroads up to the present, including his HO-scale Boreas Pass.



These Virginia & Truckee Railroad engines were purchased by Dick Hunter for his wife's "Christmas Train." They are AHM models, and Dick reports that these colorful HO-scale models cost

\$10-\$13 dollars, but not at a train store. He purchased them from a dime store, perhaps even the long-gone Woolworth's.



John Griffith's 3-truck HO-scale Shay qualifies for "turn-of-the-century" in two ways. The prototype of this Bachmann model

was built near the turn of the last century, and this model was voted best model of 2000 when it was introduced.

More Turn of the Century Models Grace August Show & Tell

True to his Rio Grande roots, Gary Myers brought in three HO-scale models of his beloved prototype. At the top is one he repainted to display the bright colors of early locomotives. Below

that is a carefully painted and weathered brass locomotive. At the bottom is a painting project still to be done...as soon as he gets time.



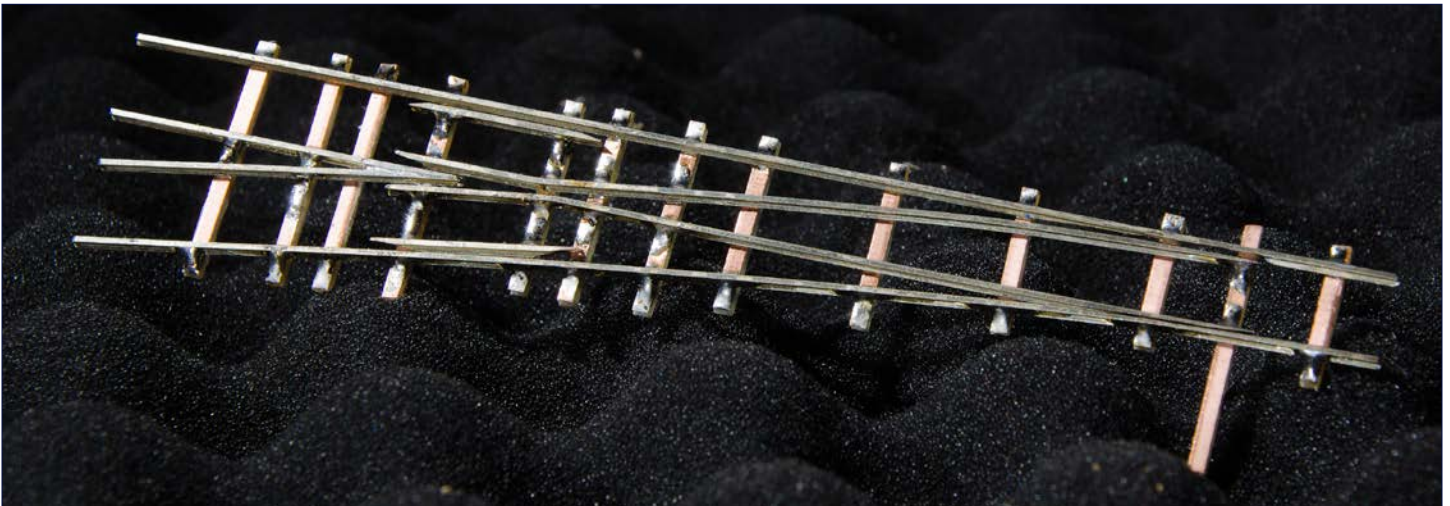


Participation Good At August S&T

Steve Schweighofer supplied the only N-scale model: this o-6-o switcher with slope-back tender (*above*).

But Steve's loco wasn't the only N-scale item. Dillon Allison,

our youngest member, brought a handmade #7 switch. In his own words, "Just for fun, I wanted to bring this in for everyone to see. I got tired of paying \$12 and over for switches; and on a budget, that's a killer. So one day I made a jig and put one together. This is my first one." Dillon won the Caboose Hobbies gift certificate. —SH



Windy Point on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is a photogenic spot, even if you photograph it from across the valley.
(Photo by Tom Frerichs)

Be Safe When Taking Your Shot

Photography and rail fanning go together. Capturing memories—and later sharing them—is an enjoyable experience, and with a digital camera you won't even have to wait until the film is developed to see if you were successful.

To get the perfect shot: that is the goal, but sometimes that leads us to precarious places. Look at the photographer in the left-hand, bottom corner. Although you can't tell from the photograph, he's standing on a large outcropping that is nearly vertical on all sides. A few feet in front of him is a twenty-foot drop to the highway.

When you're out rail fanning, be safe. Keep off the tracks; stay away from switch points that may be remotely controlled; and allow lots of room around trains. Remember that a moving train can throw ballast. Trains are fun, but they deserve respect. —SH



Tool Time Tips



What began as a way to limber up G-scale locomotives has become a diagnostic tool for Ed Doorgeest, and he was more than willing to demonstrate.

Ed had a problem with the locomotives on his garden railway: until they were warmed up, they didn't run well. His solution was elegant; he built a rack with free-rolling wheels to support the running wheels on his locomotive. He could then power the locomotive as it ran in place, and monitor the supplied current and voltage. Ed showed his original design (*left and bottom of photo below.*).

Soon, he learned how useful the design was for other scales, not only for his use but for friends as well.

Ed soon built one for HO-scale, which includes the meters to monitor the DC power as shown in the photograph below. Thanks, Ed for sharing this great idea.

If you have a Tool Time Tip you'd like to share, let Gary Myers or Jim Laird know. They'll be happy to include you in the schedule. —SH



Clinics Soon To Be On Website

Stewart Jones is in charge of the wiring for the new modules, and as part of his work he is making components to include on the layout. Stu is also very good at getting the most return out of any work that he does.

Not only is he building the components, he has also taken this effort and turned it into two clinics: making high-speed circuit breakers—very useful for DCC layouts—and building diode matrices. Both of these clinics will soon be available for download on the Sunrise Division website, [HTTP://WWW.TRAINWEB.ORG/SUNRISEDIVISION/](http://www.trainweb.org/sunrisedivision/) —SH

Shared Picnic Marks Summer's End

The nineteenth of August may not be the official end of summer, but the kids are back in school, and we'll all welcome cooler weather. Sunrise Division members celebrated by joining with Front Range Division at their annual picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, Colorado.

There was fried chicken and baked beans and potato salad, but most important, there were locomotives and rail cars to study, photograph, and appreciate.

Gary Myers shot several pictures of the newly restored Engine 30 (*left*), marveling at the fine work. The paint job shone brightly, and you could clearly read the brass plates on much of the auxiliary equipment. Although it looks like Gary is raising his hands in adoration, he is actually trying to get a better angle with his camera.

Proving you're never too young to appreciate trains, Harold Linke of Front Range watches as his grandson, Emerson, climbs on the same engine (*below*). Emerson didn't even know about the picnic; he just wanted to go to the museum.

Many thanks to Front Range Division for their hospitality in including Sunrise at their picnic. —SH





Colorado Railroad Museum Worth a Visit

We are blessed to have a fine museum dedicated to railroading located in our back yard. Where else can you find an 1880s Denver, Leadville, & Gunnison steamer (*above*) within walking distance of a Denver, Rio Grande & Western EMD F9? There's an opportunity to view and photograph rolling stock from a variety of eras.

There have been several changes since my visit last year. Aside from the various renovations—such as the work on the rotary snow plow (*below left*), the exhibits seem better displayed. For example, it was easy to get a shot of Goose #2 (*below right*), and CB&Q 5629 Northern is now standing alone and easy to see. If you haven't travelled to Golden recently, now is a great time. —SH



Focus on the Future



Decoding September's Clinic

Installing DCC decoders is the subject of John Griffith's clinic at our September meeting.

Our Tool Time Tips segment is hosted by Gary Myers and will match the clinic topic with a specific example.

Timber Trestles is the Show & Tell theme in September. These bridges were often built as the quickest and cheapest solution. Many were later replaced with steel bridges or turned into embankments by dumping dirt through the ties, but there's no denying that they were...and some still are...beautiful sights.

—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.

September 6 Timber Trestles
October 4 Coal Mining
November 1 Steam Locomotives
December 6 Rail Cars

Upcoming Events

- ◇ *September 6, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *September 8-9, Day Out with Thomas*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *September 12-15, 32nd Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention*, Seattle, Washington.
- ◇ *September 13-15, 34th Annual SOO Line Historical & Technical Society Convention*, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.
- ◇ *September 15, 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 PM
- ◇ *September 15-16, TECO Train Show*, Freedom Expo Center, 3650 North Nevada Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Saturday 9 AM—4 PM Sunday 10 AM—3 PM Adults: \$5 Family: \$8
- ◇ *September 15-16, Day Out with Thomas*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *September 22-23, Day Out with Thomas*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *September 27-30, Galloping Goose No. 5*, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Chama, New Mexico.
- ◇ *September 29, Galloping Goose Rides (for purchase only)*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado 9 AM—5 PM daily
- ◇ *September 29, Moonlight Wine Tasting Train*, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Chama, New Mexico.
- ◇ *September 29-30, 23rd Annual Fall Photo Train*, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, Colorado
- ◇ *October 4, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM



Don't forget the meeting—after-the-meeting. Join us at Village Inn, Iliff & Chambers, for pie, coffee, and maybe a little stretching of the truth now and then.