



Sunrise Herald

November 2013 Volume 6, Number 11

Notes from the Secretary

November is National Railroad Month. One of the ways the Division will participate is by showing our modular layout at the Toy Train Show at the end of November. Last month we published a list of layouts that will have open houses on November 16 and we hope many of you had a chance to visit them. This month we will continue highlighting the AP Program with the requirements for the cars (rolling stock) award.

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 5th, at Holy Love Lutheran Church, South Chambers Road, and we hope to see you there. Since we meet at Holy Love which also has a drive for food items we have the opportunity to donate items such as dried or canned fruit, peanut butter, canned meat and seafood, cereal, canned meats and soups. We will also be passing the hat to collect for a gift for using the space for our meetings? We also traditionally

bring Christmas goodies to share among our members.

Show & Tell Themes

December 5.....Christmas memories

November Meeting Notes

Jim Laird, Division Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 7:20. As usual, we began with personal introductions including what scale we worked in and what our current projects are. Bob Rothgery showed and described a well-detailed commercial building that he has built for our modular layout. Don Francis gave a brief module report which emphasized the next show that will be held November 30 – December 1 at the Denver Merchandise Mart. One of our top priorities will be to clean the paint from the rail tops so we will be ready to run for the show.

Jim Laird summarized the Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors meeting, held on November 23. Regional Conventions have now been planned for the next three years: the 2014 convention will be in June in Salt Lake City, the 2015 convention will be in Denver and the 2016 convention will be in Colorado Springs.

Jim Laird presented Rich Flammini with his AP award as Association Volunteer.

Bill Johnson arrived late so we did not have a Caboose Hobbies report, but he had one in hand which will be reproduced below.

Larry Stephens presented the tool time about some very extensive uses for clothespins. See the details below.

The next order of business was the election of Division officers for the coming year. Following brief discussion Steve Schweighofer was elected the next Division Superintendent, Frank Germo will be the Assistant Superintendent, Bill Johnson will remain as Treasurer, Stu Jones will remain as Secretary and Gary Myers will be the Program Chair for the next year.

Bill Johnson announced that Caboose Hobbies will present a clinic about how to choose a scale on November 9 for people new to the hobby. We had a further discussion about the possibility of hosting a swap meet every other month. Jim Laird stated that Holy Love could not support this on the dates we proposed, but Frank Germo suggested that we could join the general swap meet held at the Forney Museum on the third Saturday of the month. We later learned that third Saturdays of even-numbered months are available for all of 2014.

Don Francis closed the meeting with a clinic on making trees. Dick Hunter had obtained generously donated material from Woodland Scenics so that each person could experiment with making one or more trees. Materials consisted of a plastic or metal armature to be bent into shape and green fiber material to be stretched over the armature branches. The fiber is then sprayed with inexpensive hair spray and ground foam sprinkled over the fiber to provide the leaves.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 30-Dec. 1-- Rocky Mountain Toy Train Show, Denver Merchandise Mart

Dec.7-8 -- Train Expo Colorado (TECO), Freedom Financial Services Expo Center, 3650 N. Nevada Av., Colorado Springs.

Dec. 13-15 -- Boulder Model Railroad Club annual show at Boulder County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building.

2014

Feb. 15-16-- Estes Park Model RR Show
<http://estesvalleymodelrailroaders.org/rails.htm>

June 13-15-- SER/MCoR NMRA Joint Regional Convention <http://mrtm.org/convention>

June 19-22-- RMR Regional Golden Spike Limited, Salt Lake City <http://GSL2014.org>

July 13-19-- NMRA National Convention, Cleveland <http://www.2014cleveland.org/>

November Show and Tell



Larry Stephens displayed two tank cars. The upper car is a standard-gauge model and the lower, red car is the same car now converted to a narrow gauge car and lettered for the Denver, South Park and Pacific.



Ron McHenry exhibited this Rio Grande Southern Galloping Goose. He said he thought he paid an exorbitant price for it at a swap meet, but after taking it to Caboose for reconditioning and comparing its price to a new one he couldn't believe what a bargain he had made.



Dick Hunter showed the two models above. The first is a TT gauge depressed center flat car converted into an On3 flat car. It measures 7-foot 3-inches wide by 26-feet long. The lower car is a model of an ore hopper that ran on the Gilpin Gold Tram between Blackhawk and Central City. He thinks the load may be actual ore from the region.



Ron also brought in the two narrow-gauge freight cars, above, and the 0-4-0 Porter narrow-gauge steam locomotive, below, which he obtained at the same swap meet.



Steve Schweighofer displayed the final two models of Nn3 baggage cars. Up close it almost looks like a Z scale car. These models are so fragile that he implored none of us to touch them. Steve received the Caboose gift certificate.

Tool Time Notes

Larry Stephens presented the many uses of clothespins for Tool Time this month. It was surprising how many uses he has found for this humble tool.





A few examples of his craft are shown below. The example on the left shows a clothespin with the spring reversed with Velcro cemented on each end and a strip of mating Velcro connecting the two ends to make a versatile clamp for holding odd-shaped pieces. The next example to the right is an extended clamp made by gluing parts of a second clothespin to an original. The next example is an ordinary clothespin with the spring reversed so that the narrow end forms the clamp faces.



The clamp on the right is made from two extended clamps glued to a piece of plywood. With the plywood clamped in a vise, the long ends can secure a model for painting. Clothespins can also be notched on the clamping end to hold small parts or figures for painting.



Larry's designs don't just end with clamps, however. He also takes pieces of disassembled clothespins and converts them into sanding sticks. The figure above shows sticks with various grades of sandpaper attached with rubber cement and labeled with the grit grades. He suggested buying a variety pack of sandpaper to obtain the various grades at the lowest price. He also suggested that we buy our own clothespins rather than liberate them from laundry duty to preserve domestic harmony.

What's New at Caboose Hobbies

This is a compilation of October 14 and November 4 reports

Z Scale

Micro-Trains

- 40-foot livestock dispatch car, SP
- PS-2 70-ton covered hopper car, 2 road numbers, PRR
- 60-Foot flat car, World War 2 "Heavenly Body"
- 40-foot double-sheathed wood reefer, Century Beer

N Scale

Kato

SD-45 Diesel Locomotive, SPSF, GN Big Sky Blue, ATSF, UP

Bluford Shops

Transfer caboose, C&EI long roof, Rock Island with running board.

Atlas Trainman

PS-2 covered hopper, EJ&E, NH, PRR
90-ton hopper car, PRR, C&NW
40-foot plug door boxcar, Dairy Shippers Despatch, NP, C&NW
50-foot single-door boxcar, ATSF, Erie Lackawanna, MKT, NdeM, CN
50-foot mechanical reefer, BRMX, CN, UP, Tropicana
50-foot double-door boxcar, GN, MRS, PRR, ATSF, SCL
90-ton hopper car, CN/CC, B&O, C&O, WM, BLE, NP
50-foot 6-inch boxcar, MP, NdeM, ATSF Terminal Railway
Flat car with two 24-foot trailers, CN, SSW NYC
4750-Cu. ft. covered hopper, FURX, SSAM
ACF 5250 cu.ft. covered hopper, Borg Warner, Continental Polymers, EJ&E, General American, Gulf Lifeline, Monsanto
40-foot double-door boxcar, CN GN, MRS, PRR, ATSF, SCL
Single-sheathed boxcar, ACL, CB&Q, CN&L, Erie, CMSTP, MKT, WM

Micro Trains

40-foot Dispatch Stock Cars, 2 road numbers, Canadian Pacific
100-ton 3-bay hopper car, B&O
40-foot double-sheathed boxcar, Century Beer
30-foot single dome tank car, Warren Petroleum

40-foot standard boxcar, Happy Hanukkah

3-bay covered hopper, Toledo, Peoria & Western

5-foot steel gondola with coke container load, Western Maryland

33-foot twin hopper car with coal load, Frisco

40-foot General Service drop-bottom gondola, NP

26-foot hay-bale load, 2 pack

Hon3 Scale

Blackstone

D&RGW K-27 steam locomotive and tender, with DCC and Tsunami sound
RGS C-19 steam locomotive and tender, with DCC and Tsunami sound

HO Scale

Intermountain

Bi-level Auto Rack, multiple road numbers, CP Rail, D&RGW, UP, Canadian National, Grand Trunk Western, MP
10,000-gallon tank cars, multiple road numbers, Union Tank Car, SP

Red Caboose

S-40-5 Stock car, multiple road numbers, WP, TNO, SP (1946-1947 scheme), Northwestern Pacific

O Gauge 3-Rail

Williams by Bachmann

Closeout sale on all Williams items
(Caboose will no longer carry this product line)

Lionel

Polar Express train set with remote control
Santa Fe Scout remote control freight set
Lionel Postwar Christmas Ornaments
Box of 7

Box of 12
Box of 6 different ornaments
10-light novelty set
Santa with Lionel train
Ornament gift box

All Scales

MRC Throttlepack

9900 DC High Power Train Controller, 80
VA.
9950 DC High Power Train Controller, 125
VA.
AC 100 High Power Controller, 11 VA.

Ship Model Kits

The Titanic (1/350 scale)
RMS Titanic, Centennial Edition, 1/350 scale

DVDs

Trains – set of 12 DVDs
Monster Steam – set of 4 DVDs
Great American Train Rides – deluxe box
set, 5+ hours
Colorado Steam – Set of 4 DVDs
High Country Rails – as aired on Public
Television

Blasek Workbooks

Largest Restock shipment received

Books

*North American Railroad Family Trees – An
Info-graphic history of the Industry's
Mergers and Evolution*, Brian Solomon
*Riding Denver's Rails – A Mile-high streetcar
History*, Kevin Pharris with forward by
Kenton Forest
Santa Fe Los Angeles Division, John R. Signor
*Memories of the Cab-forwards – A Personal
View*, Richard E. Lohse
*Empire – The Development of the Timber
Industry in Tuolumne County*, The

*Standard Company and its Railroads,
1850-1920*, Mark Steven Francis

How-to Books

Railway Modeling the Realistic Way, Ian
Rice
*Model Railway Design Manual – How to
Plan and Build a Successful Layout*, C. J.
Freezer
Livestock and Meat Packing, Jeff Wilson
How to Kitbash Structures, Tony Koester
Structure Projects for your Model Railroad,
Kalmbach Publishing

Calendars

Audio-Visual Designs 2014 All Pennsy
Calendar

Magazines

N Scale Railroading, Nov. /Dec.
N Scale, Nov. / Dec.
The Colorado Time-Table, October
The Railroad Press (TRP), Issue 99
Railroad Explorer, Fall 2013
Diesel Era, Nov./Dec.
Trains, November
Model Railroader, November
Railfan & Railroad, November
Cowcatcher Magazine, Nov./Dec. (new
publication)
Railroad Model Craftsman, November
Ships in Scale, Sep./Oct.
O Gauge Railroading, December
Railpace Magazine, November
N Scale Railroading, Nov. /Dec.
Classic Toy Trains, December
Garden Railways, December
O Gauge Railroading, December

Module Report

We have had several work sessions during the
warm weekends in November to prepare for our
next show, November 30, at the Denver

Merchandise Mart. Our progress has included some scenery upgrades and the checkout of electrical modifications. We have also had some new volunteers working on the project and we think we will have a much improved presentation for the next show.

The NMRA Achievement Program Award

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. Use the links on the right to explore the different certificates and requirements.

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot. Please visit the AP Staff Roster page at

<http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/staff.html> to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager.

Achievement Program: Master Builder - Cars

A "Car" is just about anything that runs on rails and is NOT self-propelled (if it's self-propelled, it's Motive Power). This includes freight cars, passenger cars, maintenance of way cars (including equipment such as cranes), cabooses, cable cars, unpowered (dummy) locomotives, etc. Actually, if you have a model which is self-propelled, but is a model of something that was designed to carry something (besides itself), such as a rail car, it can be used as one of the qualifying models for either Motive Power or Cars, BUT NOT BOTH.

Contact your Regional AP Manager if you have a question about which category a particular model would fall into.

To qualify for the Master Builder - Cars certificate:

1. You must build eight operable scale models of railroad cars:

"Operable" means that they must be able to roll on the track, negotiate a curve, be pulled by something, etc. It doesn't mean that every door, valve, or other moving feature of the car must work as the prototype does. (However, any operating features that you can include in your car are likely to increase your score.)

- A. There must be at least four different types of cars represented in the total of eight. One of these must be a passenger car.

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety

of types of cars, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a 40' steel-side box car and a 36' wood side reefer would be different types of cars, but a 40' steel-side box car and a 50' steel-side box car probably would not (unless you can show that there was a substantial difference in what it took to build them). Similarly, a wood deck flat car and a steel deck flat car would not be considered "different" types of cars, but a regular flat car and a depressed center flat car would, because it is a substantially different type of car to build.

"Passenger cars" include anything that would normally be found in a regular scheduled passenger train including baggage cars, express reefers, business cars, or other passenger carrying cars like drover's cabooses.

Remember, it is only four different types that are required: you could build a set of five identical passenger coaches, a box car, a tank car, and a gondola, and satisfy the requirement.

- B. Each of the eight models must be super detailed with either commercial parts or scratch built parts (for extra points).

When looking for ways to super detail your cars, brake wheels, grab irons and ladders are good places to start - particularly by replacing the "molded on" ones that the car came with. That's where many judges start looking. Another area that many judges look for is the under-frame brake gear.

- C. In addition to being super detailed, at least four of the eight models must be scratch built. The term "scratch built" implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produce the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model.

This is a good statement of the intent and spirit of the "scratch built" requirement. Notice that it does NOT say that the use of a few commercial detail parts will disqualify the model as being "scratch built". In general, the same standard applies that is used in contest judging: "Completely Scratch Built" means that 90% or more of the model was scratch built.

The following parts are specifically excluded from the scratch built requirement:

- Wheels
- Couplers
- Light bulbs & electronics.
- Trucks.
- Brake fittings.
- Marker lights & drumheads.
- Paint, decals, etc.
- Basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc.

("Basic shapes" are things that the builders of the prototype would have used as raw materials. For example, an "I" beam would be a basic shape; a commercial door or window casting would not.)

Something that you should remember if the idea of 'scratch building' intimidates you: There is

very little difference between scratch building and building most craftsman kits. The big difference is that in a kit, the manufacturer has assembled the materials that you will need for you. Only the construction needs to be done from scratch. If you take someone else's plans and instructions (even those from a kit) and go to the hobby shop and buy the materials yourself and assemble them, that qualifies as scratch building. On the other hand, if you do develop your own plans, make sure that you tell the judges that, as it will earn you extra points.

2. You must earn a score of at least 87-1/2 points on four of the eight models in either an NMRA sponsored contest or in AP Merit Award judging.

Note that only four of the eight must earn 87-1/2 points. The others don't even have to be judged! They do all have to be described on the Statement of Qualification (see below).

3. You must submit a Statement of Qualification.
(The SOQ forms are also available from your Regional AP Manager)
which includes the following:
 - An attachment giving a detailed description of each of the eight models, including:
 - Identification of all scratch built features
 - All commercial components used
 - Materials used in building the model
 - If the model is a kit, whose kit is it?
 - Verification of the Merit Awards (photocopies of the certificates)
 - Photos of the model are helpful, though not required.

Remember that your eight cars do not have to be from the same era, or part of the country. They don't even have to be the same scale. You also don't have to earn your four Merit Award certificates at the same time - you can earn one this year, another two years from now, and another the year after that.

Further Information

For further information contact National Achievement Program General Manager, Paul Richardson, MMR, achiev@hq.nmra.org , or your Region or Division Achievement Program Manager. Also refer to the articles "Master Builder - Cars," NMRA Bulletin, February 1992, and "Merit Award Winning Cars" NMRA Bulletin March 1992.

Forms available for this category:

- SOQ Form: ([PDF](#))
- Record and Validation form: ([PDF](#))
- Judging Form: ([PDF](#))