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On the Web

[trainweb.org/SunriseDivision](http://trainweb.org/SunriseDivision)

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# SUNRISE HERALD



Photo courtesy Mike O'Neill

## 1:1—Scale Challenge To Run

Mike O'Neill, Sunrise Division member, shared his experiences as a participant—twice—in the CUMBRES & TOLTEC RR Fireman/Engineer classes. Using photographs, movies, and exhibits, he told us about the fun and hard work of running a full-sized steam locomotive pulling a train.

Mike's enthusiasm captured the interest of our members as he talked about his time spent working the throttle and shoveling coal. The applause at the end proved our members' appreciation of his presentation.

Although running the engine probably was the most enjoyable task, especially after learning how to manipulate the Johnson bar and throttle, it may have been the shoveling that made the most lasting impression on him. He demonstrated the stance that the fireman assumes, crouching with one foot on the tender and one foot on the engine, leaning against the cab, as he throws coal into the firebox. He also talked about ensuring that

the coal was evenly spread on the grates. He said he quickly learned to load the front of the firebox *before* dropping coal at the back if he wanted to avoid burning his arms.

Mike volunteers at the Colorado Railroad Museum and hopes to use this experience there.



*Top: Hand on the throttle, O'Neill keeps an eye on the track. Above: Explaining 100-year old technology using a PowerPoint™ presentation.*

# Modeling Agriculture Is November Clinic Topic

Gold and silver ore, logs, steel and coal—all of these are commodities hauled by our model railroads, but the truth is that a major part of the income for many of our favorite prototypes came from transporting agricultural products. Sugar beets in Colorado, Nebraska, and California, wheat from the plains of Texas to North Dakota, and potatoes in the San Luis Valley—until fairly recently most of these crops moved to market at least partly by rail. Shouldn't this be a part of your modeling?

Patrick Lana, MMR and columnist for the *NMRA Magazine*, will be showing some of the many faces of agriculture—in different seasons and regions of the United States—but mostly in the Midwestern summer. He will discuss some of his favorite methods of modeling Midwest agriculture including researching and modeling crops, livestock, buildings and machinery.

He brings history to his clinic: he grew up in eastern Iowa and spent six years in Creston, Iowa, a town of about 8,500. His October "NVisible" column in the *NMRA Magazine* is about N-scale modelers in rural areas, their trials and successes. (*Editor's note: I wonder if he pronounces Arriba the correct way?*)

Patrick is an N-scale modeler, but his concepts are applicable to any scale. Come join us on November 4 for a clinic presented by this nationally known clinician, then you can get your crops planted for a bountiful harvest.

## October Meeting Well Attended

We had 30 members at our October meeting, including the three hosts of our September layout tours: Dave Cochrun, David Bol, and Don Deuell. It was great to see and thank them again.



David Bol (left) and Don Deuell (center) talk with Rich Flammini, RMR Promotions Chair, during a break at our October meeting.



Sunset paints the worn concrete and galvanized steel of a grain elevator in Bennett, Colorado, with warm yellow. The older building to the left has been torn down, and the newer elevator is slated for demolition.

## About Sunrise Division

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

## Division Officers

Division Superintendent . . . . . Gary Myers  
Asst. Division Superintendent . . . Donald Francis  
Treasurer . . . . . William Johnson  
Secretary/Editor . . . . . Tom Frerichs  
Program Chair . . . . . Jim Laird  
Modular Committee Chair . . . . Donald Francis  
Boy Scout Liaison . . . . . Louis Surles  
Editor e-mail. TOMFRERICHS@TOMFRERICHS.COM  
Webmaster e-mail . . GARYMYERSO6@COMCAST.NET

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




## Railroadiana Is November Show & Tell Theme

You may be wondering what railroadiana happens to be. It was difficult to write an article without a good definition. Fortunately, Wikipedia came to the rescue, saying, *Railroadiana or railwayana refers to artifacts of currently or formerly operating railways*

*around the world.* As examples, spikes, station signs, and timetables were listed.


The article went on to say, *some railroadiana collectors include items in their collections as large as ... complete passenger cars.*

If you bring a passenger car to the November meeting, you are on your own when it comes time to clean up. 



## Division Announcements

### Member Slide & Video Shows

We are starting each meeting with a segment dedicated to member and Division photo and video shows. If you are interested in presenting your slides, photos, or videos at a Division meeting, please contact Program Chair Jim Laird (lairds@alascoinvestments.com) to coordinate description, time, and equipment needed. 

### Division Elections Slated For November Meeting

It is that time of year again when we select our officers for the next year. The elected positions, along with those who have announced a willingness to serve, are:

Division Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Gary Myers  
*none*  
Bill Johnson  
Tom Frerichs

Other open, non-elected positions are:

AP Chairman  
Promotions Chairman  
Layout Coordinator


If you have a desire to run for one of these offices or serve in any other capacity, please make sure and let the members know. The Division success depends upon your leadership. 





Photo by Gary Myers



Photo by Gary Myers



Photo by Gary Myers

## Loop Trip Featured Fall Hues

**S**unrise Division members enjoyed beautiful weather and brilliant fall foliage at the Georgetown loop trip on September 25. Cameras were busy, and Gary Myers shared these and other photographs at our October meeting.

We are planning more trips next year, and we welcome your suggestions. Nothing helps your modeling more than seeing the real thing. Besides, it is a great chance to get out of the house, look at trains, and enjoy the company of other modelers.



Photo by Gary Myers



# Beer Cars & Shop Buildings For October Show & Tell



*Al Johnson brought four colorful HO-scale billboard boxcars to Show & Tell.*



*Steve Schweighofer brought his "Think Factory" as a shop building and a December 1979 N-scale Coors car. Tom Frerichs brought the same Microtrains boxcar.*



*Clockwise: Dick Hunter brought Lanny loSasso's collection of HO-scale beer cars. Rich Flammini's HO-scale Schlitz car reminds him of a former employer. Gary Myers' van is in G-scale. Ernie Roque's HO-scale Budweiser car is colorful. Gary Myer's glasses mix beer and railroading.*



*Photos by Tom Frerichs*



*Stu Jones brought this HO-scale Nick L. Endyme Auto Repair as his shop building submission and two scratch-built HO-scale beer can tank cars as qualifying "beer car" entries.*



*Dave Cochran's HO-scale collection included a Coors switcher and local Tivoli Beer, Southern Beer, and Polar Bear Lager reefers.*



*Below: This lit building was John Kerbaugh's contribution. John said he built this from a repurposed Suydam kit, along with other parts, to fill a spot in his yard. John also won the random drawing for the Caboose Hobbies \$10 gift certificate.*







## From the Chief

**GARY MYERS—DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

PART II—MODELING REALISTIC SCENERY

### Importance of Topography

**Y**ou have photographs of scenery you think you want to try modeling on your layout, so now what? How do the scenes from these photos get into the model?

If you have not done so already, one of the first challenges is get rid of as much of the flatness on your scenery base as possible. You will notice that even the flat parts of areas you photographed are not really flat. You will note slight depressions, rock outcroppings, slight slopes, and grades. Photo 1 shows an example of a wye on plywood; notice that the ground has been mounded to avoid a flat look.

Get started by gouging out some depressions or adding some Sculpta-Mold and chunks of foam in-



*Photo 1, Monarch Wye—Pre-ballasted track on flat surface. Note the track cork roadbed aids in making the track look like it lies across the surface of the ground.*

sulation to give the ground the look that the track is laying on top and leveled over the ground and not imbedded at ground zero. After all, track needs to allow for drainage and should traverse across lower areas. If the ground is all flat, with no depressions below ballast level, your scenery will lose realism. Even a golf green isn't perfectly flat.

After you have the ground sculpted to the degree it needs and has been appropriately smoothed by shaped foam, Sculpta-Mold, Hydrocal, et cetera, you need to add any rock castings that are to be outcroppings to whatever degree.

### Importance of Ground Color

One thing my son Alex and I learned the hard way: just because you scoop up a bunch of tailings at Monarch and then spread them on your hillside doesn't mean they will still look like the right tailings. Sure, Alex sifted them carefully to get the finest particles to maintain a nice, homogenous smooth look, but they just did not look right. In fact, they looked brown.

Hey, what gives? The tailings are supposed to be almost grayish-white, not a mousy brown. Did our resident Salidan, Jacob, screw up and get a bucket of dirt from the wrong place? Then a light came on—literally. Alex took the bucket of tailings outside, and sure enough, under that hot Colorado sun we stood there looking at almost white—with a hint of gray—Monarch tailings. Inside, under the cold neon fluorescent lights, the tailings were definitely light brown. Well, this was not going to do to make for realistic tailings at a limestone quarry.

Thank God for Caboose Hobbies. After another trip to our favorite store, looking through more scenic materials than I knew were available, and a forty dollar bill, we had the right color ground materials under the artificial lights.

### Laying Down Ground Scenery

When starting to lay down your ground scenery, you need to have the right color mix ready to go. You first want to start with a simple base paint coat, somewhat close to the color of the dirt you will sprinkle on next. It is not mandatory, but easier, if you sprinkle the dirt on a tacky, wet freshly painted surface. Sprinkle by picking up the dirt in between your fingertips and spread evenly over the ground. If the colors are close, you will not need to worry about the paint showing through. Start with a small



*Photo 2, Red Hill West Portal —This scene is compressed from the prototype but designed to have the same overall look and density of bushes and trees of the actual tunnel.*

area the first time, like 4"x4", to get the hang of it, and expand to slightly larger areas to a maximum of around 12"x12". Any rocks or small talus should be added at this time.

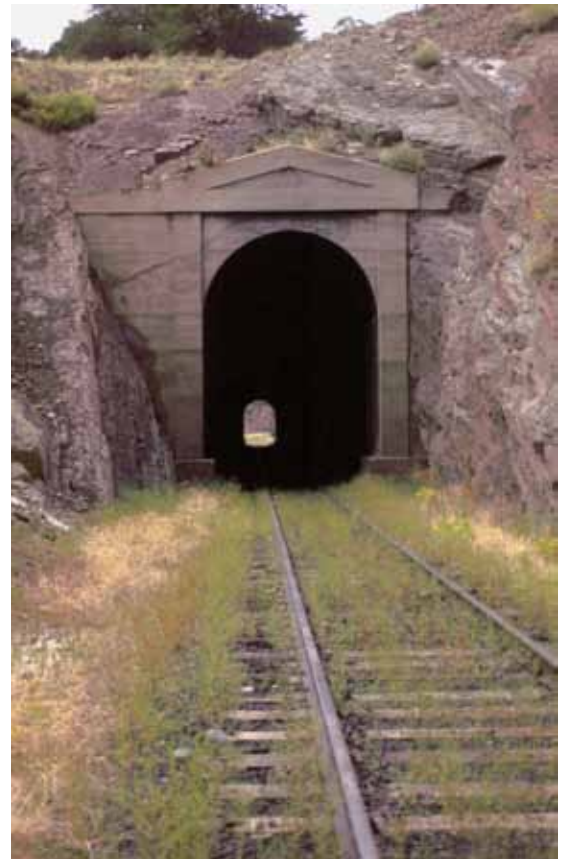
Next, using the same technique, sprinkle on the desired color ground foam, which should be very fine. Again, dirt and ground should lightly show through in areas where people walk, along roadways, et cetera, where you should see patches. As in Photo 2, add larger clumps of scenery for small bushes and a few sprinkles of color to approximate the same density of vegetation as the prototype in Photo 3.



*Photo 3, Red Hill West Portal—The same view of the actual tunnel on the former Rio Grande Tennessee Pass mainline.*

The close-up of the portal in Photo 4 is an example where we did not try to model the details exactly. The details would be an interesting addition to the model, but the operator on the model railroad does not get close enough to the scene to note this much detail. Very small amounts of tiny red, dark brown, rust, and yellow colored foams and scenic materials were added to give the autumnal look. It did not take much color, as a small bit of color quickly catches the eye, and for the western topography we were modeling, we did not want the colors to look overwhelming.

After the ground has been covered with paint, dirt, ground foam, and small clumps, add wet glue. I make mine 50% Elmer's white glue, 50% water, and a drop of dish washing liquid, stirred up in a plastic closable container. I wet the scenery using a spray bottle of isopropyl alcohol, then apply the



*Photo 4, Red Hill West Portal—Close-up of the portal reveals a lot of detail, but not all is necessary for modeling.*

wet glue using a pipette—it always seems to clog my spray bottles. Larger bushes and trees can be glued in place.

#### **Hillside Ground Scenery**

Sometimes even simple hills can be a challenge, but they effectively block backdrops for scenery. Hills can be very challenging because they can be a three-dimensional backdrop. Copying basic forms, shapes, and vegetation density and placement can aid in making realistic hills. Photo 6 shows the hills

*Photo 5, Salida Hills—This photo of the standard gauge roundhouse area was taken in the spring, but aids in modeling the basic relative hill shapes and types, size, and density of vegetation.*





behind the Barrel Transfer area, which were laid out by using a basic cardboard framework to match the peaks and slopes. The skeletal cardboard framework was overlaid using flexible Bragdon foam, although any popular technique can be used. Photo 5 shows that the hills were photographed in the spring, so a little imagination was used to make yellow and tan grasses from Woodland Scenics flocks and ground foams. The general appearance of the vegetation of scrub pine was Woodland Scenics clumps and lightly interspersed with small light green colored foams.

Compare the hill shapes, sizes, and types in Photo 5 with the modeled hills in Photo 6.

*All photographs for this article provided by Gary Myers.*



*Photo 6, Salida Hills—This scenery fills the curve around a peninsula and takes up most of the backdrop by themselves.*



## NMRA Notes

**Headquarters just completed** an analysis of the RailPass Program to see how many RailPass members went on to become full NMRA members. The statistics show that, since January 1, 2009, a whopping 65% have “re-upped!” That is just about two out of every three RailPass members who have stayed with us. From the time the RailPass program started in 2005, about 48% have renewed... again a great statistic.

A lot of the credit for that retention goes to everyone. You’re making new members feel welcome, and you’re showing them the benefits of NMRA membership.

**Huge progress is being made** with Diamond Club scanning. Craig Sutherland, the man in charge of the project, reports that they have about 500 sets of diesel loco plans (average size: 24”x30”). In addition, he and Stephen Priest brought about 50 boxes of photographs, with about 700 photos each, back to Historical Archives Services (the company doing the scanning) from our Kalmbach Memorial Library. They mentioned that there are a lot of black

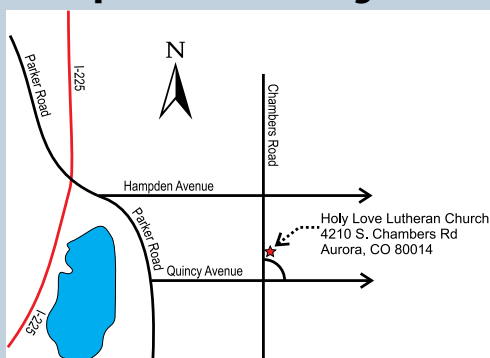
and white steam loco shots, some early diesel shots, and a lot of photos that caused these seasoned pros to say “wow.” Stephen called the collection “an unknown treasure.” We’re finding out that our archives are even more vast than we thought. So if you or your members have not made a donation yet, please do so so we can get these railroad treasures on the web... and eventually into your hands.

**As you probably read** in the October issue of *NMRA Magazine*, the X2011 West NMRA Convention committee is making extensive use of social media to promote their Sacramento convention. Over the next months they will be posting detailed information about layout and prototype tours, clinics, sights to see, and other facts. If you have not visited them on Facebook or signed up to follow them on Twitter, this is the perfect time to get your feet wet and see what the “social media” buzz is all about. Both Facebook and Twitter are free.

## Module Group Making Progress

The committee, headed by Don Francis, that is working on creating a set of HO-scale modules for display at train shows and other events is meeting regularly and making progress towards that goal. They have been working hard at establishing engineering standards, and will be putting up some of the old modules for anyone that wants them.

### Map To Our Meeting Place



# Upcoming Events



- *October 30-31 Trick or Treat Train-Steam-Up.* Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado
- *November 4 Sunrise Division Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,* Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado
- *November 6-7 Wasatch Rails 2010 Train Show, Friday 3 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.,* Grand and Promontory Buildings-Utah State Fairpark, Salt Lake City, Utah
- *November 6-7 Great Train Expo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,* National Western Complex, Denver, Colorado
- *November 20 Model Railroad & Toy Train Swap Meet. 9-11:30 a.m.,* Foothills Society of Model Railroaders, Green Mountain Presbyterian Church, 12900 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado

Sunrise Division meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 PM. Check out our web site, <http://www.trainweb.org/SunriseDivision/>, for the most current information.

Holy Love Lutheran Church is located one block north of Quincy Avenue on Chambers Road. Parking is on the west side of the church.

**Next Meeting For  
Sunrise Division, RMR, NMRA,  
November 4, 2010-7:15 PM,  
Holy Love Lutheran Church,  
4210 South Chambers Road,  
Aurora, Colorado**



The very important meeting after the meeting—the place to get coffee and pie—is held at the Village Inn, 15200 East Iliff Avenue #A, Aurora, Colorado. The restaurant is located one block west of Chambers Road on Iliff Avenue.

If you are traveling north on Chambers, turn into the parking lot just before you come to the intersection. It is easier to get there through the parking lot rather than turning on Iliff and then turning into the restaurant parking.

## Your Model Railroader Horoscope

Each month, and strictly as a public service, we are printing the year's modeling horoscope for the signs of the Zodiac found in that month. Our resident **SEER** has looked into the future to divine what wondrous things lie ahead for **YOU**. Until your month comes up, you will have to live carefully, not knowing what modelling *pitfalls or rewards* may await you in **YOUR FUTURE**.



### Scorpio

*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*

The year ahead holds many promises for you, Scorpio. Venus is in your first house; Jupiter is in your fourth house; and your brother and his kids are moving into your house. This means you won't get any modeling done because the railroad room will be dedicated to housing your relatives. But take heart! That Thomas the Tank Engine train set will finally get used.



### Sagittarius

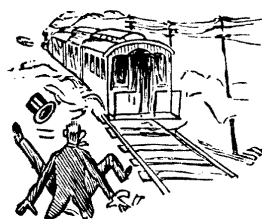
*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*

A great modeling year is ordained for you, the Archer, but only if you can pull a 120-pound bow. If you can't, your aim will be off in everything. Ballast will land only on the tops of ties and between switch points; you'll never be able to re-rail a car; and the only locomotive you acquire with your DCC controller will be in the roundhouse. You probably should become a couch potato.

## 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.

November 4 .....A Piece of Railroadiana  
December 2 .....Christmas Past: Your oldest locomotive or rolling stock or the one you've owned longest



**D**on't get left behind by forgetting to pay your dues. Remember to keep your NMRA membership current to continue to receive the benefits of belonging to this great organization.