

NCGR Time Table

No. 295

Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders

May 2024



Conductor's Corner

Mark Sears
President

Hi railroaders! Wow, April flew by quickly. We had a great presentation at our April Meeting by Ken Valles, railroad historian, he gave us an exceptional presentation on the history of Chapel Railroad Cars and the influence they had on developing churches in the area. Ken drove all the way from west of Woodland Park to join us, I was thrilled that we had 24 members at the meeting to hear his presentation. He is willing to come back to give us a presentation on the Golden Spike Ceremony. We also had a huge amount of stuff being given away and being raffled off. I think everyone got a raffle prize. Thanks to all who contributed.

Many of us, approximately 10, had fun running trains at Bruce Maxwell's on Saturday after Hobo Breakfast. Thanks, Bruce, for hosting the event. I'm hoping others will host train operation events this summer, a great chance to enjoy running trains and enjoy showing off all your hard work. If you are considering hosting such an event, please let me know. Carl and I can help you get the word out.

Next Meeting – 6:00 PM, Wednesday, May 15 at Scott Kretschmer's shop. Scott will have three antique single piston engines, two gas powered and one steam powered, running by 5:30, if you want to show up early. He will be giving us a tour of his amazing shop/museum and will demonstrate the use of some of his tools/machines. He will be serving soft drinks and chips with a variety of salsas.

We will discuss the upcoming June 15

RR Tours as well as explore interest in summer railroad excursions and club picnic. If you haven't picked up your hat and/or shirt, we will have them for you at the meeting.

Garden Railroad Tours – Saturday, June 15, 9-4 – It's not too late to sign up. We have nine railroaders signed up so far. Remember we are a club, many of us are willing to help others get their railroads ready and to help others run their railroads on the day of the tour. Please let me know if you are considering hosting and what help you might need to get ready. Also let me know if you are willing to help others get ready and/or help a host.

I'm enjoying this spring weather and have my railroads running and almost ready for the tour. We are looking forward to hearing about all your RR plans for the summer. If you need help, please ask, many of our members have time and talents to share.



Union Pacific Challenger 3985 headed west-bound from Green River on May 7, 1995 for the Golden Spike Special to California. (Ken Jessen)

Next Meeting Scott Kretschmer

196 Mule Deer Dr.
Loveland, CO

**Wed, May 15th
6:00 p.m.**

Hobo Breakfast

**1st Saturdays
Fort Collins**
The Breakfast Club
121 W. Monroe

**3rd Saturdays
Loveland**
Perkins
2222 W. Eisenhower



Club Car

Carl Hinderer
Sec/Treas

Current Membership

Paid members	41
Honorary Members	9

Financials **May 1, 2024**

Income	\$160.81
Expenses	\$1113.64
Bank	\$2779.00
Bank CD	\$5000.00
Petty Cash	\$00.00
Checks	\$00.00



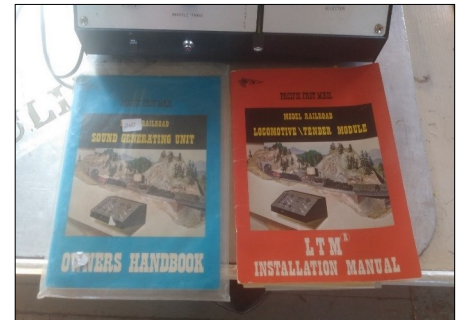
FOR SALE OR SWAP

Ads will be posted for 1 month only!
Please resubmit your ad if not sold.

FREE

This is a large, older PFM sound system with owner and installation manual. Shows some use, but no abuse. It was given to me from an estate. Free to any one that may have a use for it. This is the main unit only and no other accessories.

Ken Kafka
nash2ton@thinair.net



For Sale

Bachman hopper car with brand new steel wheels from Bachman, wheels cost \$27, selling the car for \$31.

Bachman ATSF caboose with plastic wheels, \$19.

John Arends 970-2119-1841
jp_71tm19@outlook.com



Wanted

A large radius left turnout switch, the one I need to replace measures 36" long. Let me know if you have one you would like to sell.

Mark Sears
970-217-8375

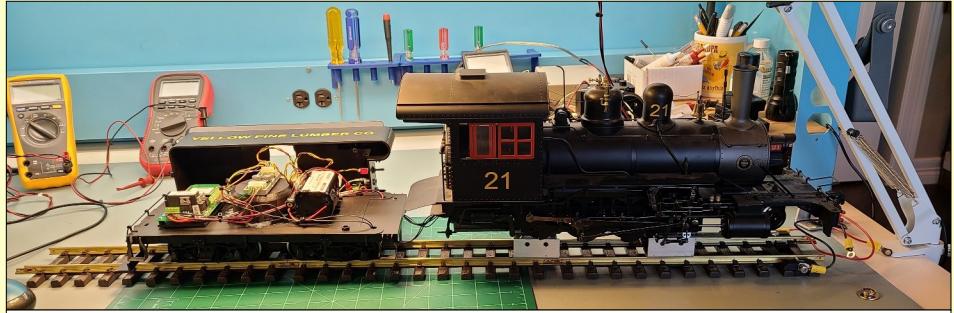


Rio Grande Southern No. 20 celebrates it's 125th year, now running at the Colorado Railroad Museum. (Ken Jessen)

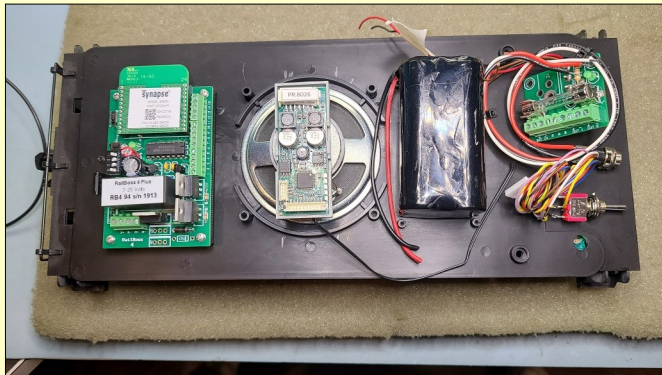
NCGR Bull Session

Del Tapparo, Windsor, CO

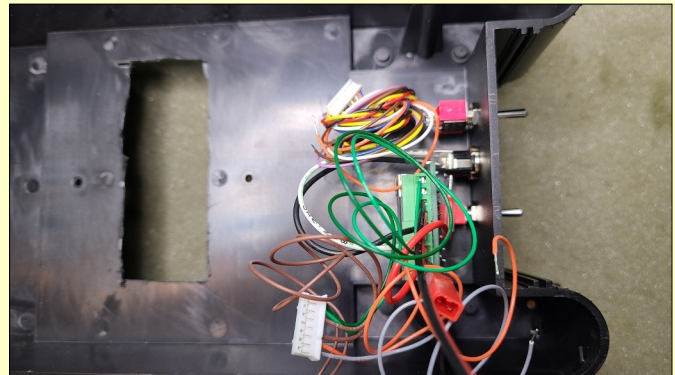
I converted a Bachmann Connie (2-8-0) to battery power R/C for Ken Jessen. Components: RailBoss 4 Plus, Battery Conversion Module, Phoenix Sound P8, 2.5" speaker with baffle, Tenery 14.8V, 2600mah Li-Ion battery. Chuff triggered via factory contacts.



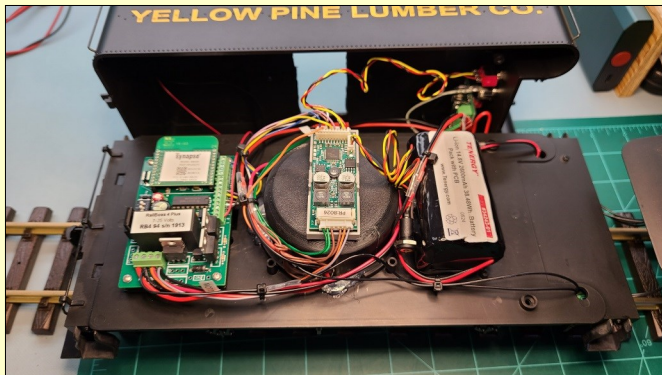
System test on rollers



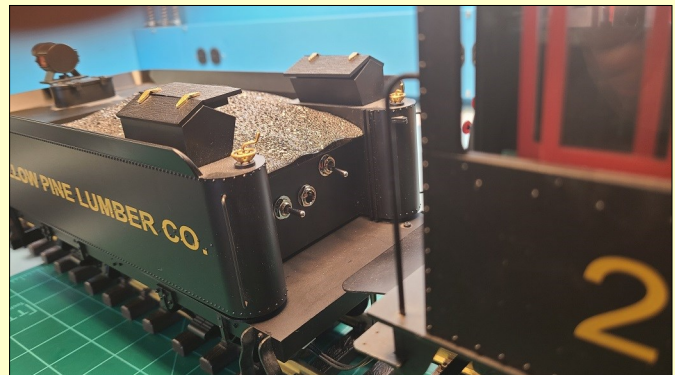
Physical location planning and test fit tender shell.



Battery Conversion Module on front of tender.
Opening cut to clear sound card.



Wiring complete and shell fits.



Phoenix Sound volume (left), Charging jack (center)
Power on/off (right)

Loco ...

- Isolate track pickups. Remove brake linkage to access and remove plungers that contact drive wheels.
- Identify motor wires. Two center wires of 4 pin connector. Outer two are track pickups.
- Two wire connector is factory chuff contacts.

Tender ...

- Isolate track pickups. Remove brass strips and wires.
- Replace factor speaker with a better one.
- Determine location of components and test fit.
- Cut opening for sound card on top of speaker.
- 3D print mounting plate for Phoenix Sound card.
- Complete wiring and make sure tender shell will go back on.
- Program Phoenix Sound for C21 sounds.
- Test system on rollers.

NCGR Bull Session

Sterling Myers, Berthoud, CO Traveling in Europe ...



Train Station in Denmark



Amsterdam Central Station Holland



Train Station in Hamburg



Beautiful Antwerp Train Station



Sterling Myers, Berthoud, CO Traveling in Europe ...



Lilli France train station



Ghent Belgium train station

5-1-24 Update: Deb and I had a wonderful time in Europe - the culture, people, castles, museums, etc. Unfortunately we both now have covid. Very bad case. First time for us despite taking the three shots. I went out to check mail and started to faint, so I tried to get to grass in the middle of the street (closest). I came up short and I hit the concrete curb. Fractured left wrist, laceration to face, black eye, bent glasses, cuts from face down to ankles, both sides of ribs badly bruised, right hand swollen, I can't feed or clothe myself, legs bruised badly too. Other than that I feel like a 1,000,000 bucks.

Mark Sears, Fort Collins, CO

I was offered a hand written contract by my 10 year old grandchildren, stating that they would ballast my track for \$20 each. I quickly signed the contract and work commenced. It took three after school work sessions to complete. They did an exceptional job. (May have broken a few child labor laws.)



John Arends, Timnath, CO

Here are some vintage train wrecks videos going back into the late 1800s that you might want to watch. I have watched and glad I wasn't on them. You can find them by calling up You Tube and Train Wrecks on Vintage TV. The first ones' title is "Vintage train wrecks in stunning detail" with photos of vintage American train wrecks colorized. The second on on Vintage TV is "Train crashes and derailments Compilation" which has some newer wrecks in it.

Also, some current train videos on the Smithsonian Channel TV may interest you. The series called "Mighty Trains" of about six seasons has a number of great videos. Among them is the White Pass and Yukon, The Canadian and lots of others but I don't see any in the US.

Carl Hinderer, Berthoud, CO Traveling in Europe ... (Apparently, everyone from Berthoud was in Europe last month)

Leaving Seville - and seeing a model train show at the station!



Kenneth Jessen, Loveland, CO

The Pennsylvania Railroad wanted to create a freight version of its successful T1 duplex. The idea for a duplex is to divide the power between two sets of cylinders to reduce the pounding inherent with reciprocating power conversion to rotary power. Both set of drivers were on a ridged frame.

The Q1 was the Pennsylvania's first experiment with a duplex freight locomotive. After a prototype was rolled out it proved a disaster. This led to the Q2 with a 4-4-6-4 wheel arrangement. This became the largest non-articulated locomotive ever built and at the same time, the most powerful locomotive ever static tested at almost 8,000 cylinder horsepower (about 6 kW).

They were the greatest successful duplex on the Pennsylvania. The propensity to have one set of driver slip was counteracted by an automatic slip control that reduced power to the slipping set of drivers. The railroad claimed the Q2 could pull 125 freight cars at a speed of 50 mph. It had only a slight advantage over the Pennsylvania's 2-10-4s, but with higher maintenance.

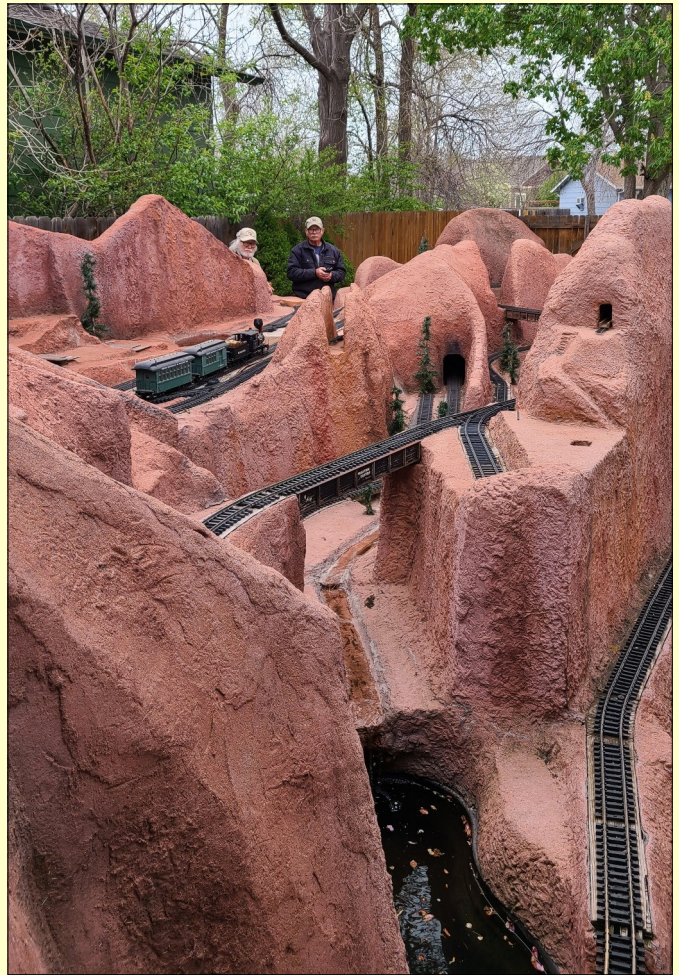
Between 1944 and 1945, 26 Q2s were built. As with all steam locomotives, by 1951 dieselization ended its service life. Unfortunately, all Q2s have been scrapped, and none were preserved.



NCGR Bull Session

Bruce Maxwell, Fort Collins, CO

Running trains on Bruce's White Mountain and Pacific RR. This railroad is over 25 years old, and still in good shape and fine running order. In attendance: Del Tapparo, Chris Reid, Mark Sears, Robert Linton, Ken Kafka, Rich Roberts, Steve Andersen.

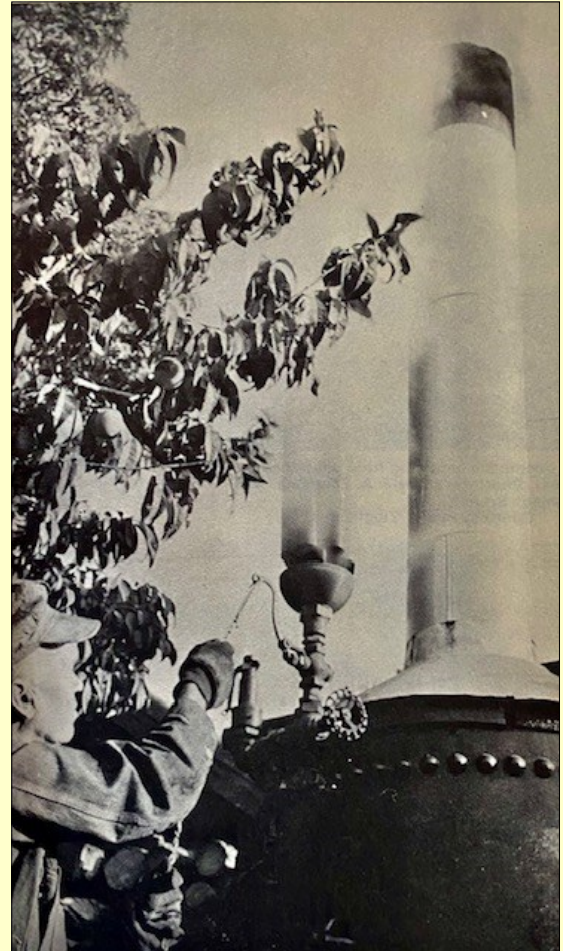


Steve Andersen, Estes Park, CO

In the middle 60's, I was a new art teacher in Boulder, Colorado who had a great passion for Colorado railroads, steam locomotives, and history generally. I had recently purchased a copy of Forest Crossen's book, *The Switzerland Trail of America*, and I called him to ask if he would sign my copy. He graciously agreed and invited me to his house on Spruce Street, west of 28th St. which at the time, was the eastern limits of Boulder development.

When I met him, he was firing up a large vertical boiler steam engine that was attached to a rather dangerous looking rotary sawmill. He asked if I wanted to join him for sawing some logs into firewood for heating his house in the upcoming winter. Of course, I said yes. The boiler included a large chime whistle which we would blow on numerous occasions during the woodcutting. The whistle was large enough that I'm sure it was heard all over Boulder. I'm certain that heating a home with firewood and blowing a steam locomotive whistle during the cutting would be strictly illegal now, and probably would've been illegal in Boulder in many recent decades.

Forest told me that the whistle was made by one of the Roundhouse workers at the old Colorado and Southern Roundhouse in Como during the early 1900's. The whistle was made on a special request by an early engineer named Walt Parlin. He used it once at night when he was coming into Como from Gunnison with his special assigned engine. It was so loud that many towns people complained about the racket and the railroad superintendent told Parlin to take the whistle off immediately. Apparently, that was the only time that the whistle was blown in the town of Como. Forest Crossen was the first person to use the whistle again, this time in the backyard of his little frame house in Boulder ... and I was there, experiencing a different age.



My 41"x76" layout has 4 separate power supplies/ controllers, separate AC and DC HO loops, a "stub" 80" back and forth HO track, an HO switching yard, and more "stubs" for G, O and Z. I think that it's more engaging fun than playing a board game with four friends. The board has been removed from my study and it now resides in my sister's half of the Estes house. She doesn't seem to mind.

I've pulled up most of the G track on the deck around two sides of the front of the house. That will hopefully form two loops of track, together with track that I've scrounged from my nephew Logan's now defunct garden railroad layout, is going to provide the corpus of track for two simple loops around my front yard in McCall, Idaho. The plan will tentatively include both track and battery power. The track will be buried under approximately 6' of snow during the winter. Any thoughts from you folks?

Will I be ruining a lot of good LGB "G" track and Lionel "O" Fastrack? I need some good counseling here... help!

NCGR Contact Info

Dues are \$25/year/family, renewable each November 1st.

President	Mark Sears	MarkESears1@msn.com	970-217-8375
Secretary/Treasurer	Carl Hinderer	clhent@yahoo.com	440-289-2139
Director	Sterling Myers	AmericanWallWorks1999@yahoo.com	970-402-8844
DGRS Liaison	Robert Linton	rjLinton1@gmail.com	970-420-0451
Past President	Robert Linton	rjLinton1@gmail.com	970-420-0451
Publications	Del Tapparo	DelTapparo@comcast.net	970-581-3567
Webmaster	Del Tapparo	DelTapparo@comcast.net	970-581-3567
Programs	Sterling Myers	AmericanWallWorks1999@yahoo.com	970-402-8844
Train Shows	Robert Linton	rjLinton1@gmail.com	970-420-0451
	Mike Shelton	Mike@eventemsofcolorado.com	720-442-2867
Facebook Admin	Ed Harvey	fedwinharvey@gmail.com	402-730-7930
Mailing Address	NCGR c/o Carl Hinderer	640 Great Basin Ct.. Berthoud, CO 80513	

NCGR Calendar

Meetings are held on the **third Wednesday of the month**.
Bring something to share for "Show & Tell". **Please wear your name badges.** Guests are always welcome.

Hobo Breakfasts Monthly

1st Sat - Fort Collins, Breakfast Club, 121 W. Monroe
3rd Sat - Loveland, Perkins, 2222 W. Eisenhower

Date	Event	Details
May 15	Monthly Meeting	Scott Kretschmer-Loveland (Blacksmith and Machine Shops)
Jun 15	Annual Open House	Our railroads on tour for the public
Jun 19	Monthly Meeting	Sterling Myers - Berthoud - First Outdoor Meeting
Jul 17	Monthly Meeting	Good Samaritan—Loveland
Aug 21	Monthly Meeting	Carl Hinderer—Berthoud
Sep 18	Monthly Meeting	Milner—Swartz House –Loveland, Mike Perry, Bob Crosby
Oct 16	Monthly Meeting	Shawn Elworthy—Windsor (Outdoors to run trains, indoors for meeting)
Nov 20	Monthly Meeting	First Indoor meeting
Dec	No Meeting	Enjoy the holidays !