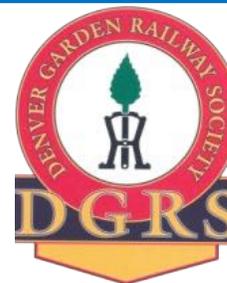


## Denver Garden Railway Society

# Newsletter



*The Denver Garden Railway Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education, promotion and enjoyment of all aspects of garden rail-roading.*

## HighBall

I am writing to inform you that there has been a change in the Executive Leadership of the Denver Garden Railroad Society. Our current President, Guy Mason, has resigned, and with the Board's support, I have assumed the role as your new President. I am now looking for someone to fill the role of Vice President.

As your new leader, I look forward to playing a vital role in the club's activities and planning a successful implementation of the NGRC in 2022. I encourage active participation by all members, and I am excited to work together to make our hobby grow and thrive. I plan to guide the club, but it will take active leadership from the board and member participation to make us successful.

One of the first things I would like to make available to you is my contact information. You may reach out to me at anytime for questions, comments, or guidance for club activities.

I hope to see you at our upcoming Ice Cream Social!

Thank You,

*Jeff Lillo*

President

[jlillo@msn.com](mailto:jlillo@msn.com)

Volume 37 Number 09

September 2020

[Denvergardenrailway.org](http://Denvergardenrailway.org)

## Content

*Highball*

*Museum*

*Calendar*

*Forney*

*Pictures*



## HOBO BRUNCH

The Hobo Brunch Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. The group gathers at Valley Inn. Just show up, no reservations necessary!

Location: "Valley Inn, 1997 S. Wadsworth Blvd." Please contact Byron & Marta Fenton at (303) 936-0920 with questions.

## ANNUAL DUES

**Club Dues for 2020 were due by the end of 2019.** \$48 for Family, or \$36 for Individual Membership. Make checks payable to "DGRS." Bring your check to the meeting or mail to:

### The Denver Garden Railway Society

c/o Al Blount **6038 Iris Way,  
Arvada, CO 80004**

## NEW MEMBER

Glenn & Regan Paluch

19410 Bright Wing Trl

Colo Springs CO 80908

303 517-5298

GPALUCH@MAC.COM

Gabe Kohlmann

4879 Barn Owl Dr

Fredrick CO 80504

303564-1807

GK89BP@AOL.COM



*Garden Railways to  
cease publication*

**The Fall 2020 issue  
will be the last for  
Garden Railways  
magazine**

Cover of the Fall 2020 issue of Garden Railways magazine

For more than 35 years, Garden Railways has been the leading magazine devoted to the hobby of outdoor model railroading. While we remain committed to serving garden railroaders, we regret to announce that we are discontinuing publication of Garden Railways magazine. The Fall 2020 issue will be the last. However, the Garden Railways brand will live on in the pages of Model Railroader, where our dedicated audience of garden railroaders will continue to find seasonal news, tips, and advice from the world's greatest model railroading experts. Garden Railways' website, grw.trains.com, will remain active on a limited basis.

We thank all of our customers and partners for their support of Garden Railways over the years, and look forward to seeing them in the pages of Model Railroader.



**Bachmann has announced new G-Scale GE Dash 9-44CW  
Diesel Locomotives**



## The Future of Our Hobby and How Grow In Size

Below is a link to an article written by Bill Derville

[https://www.denvergardenrailway.org/newsletter/otherclubs/  
TheFutureofGardenRailroading.pdf](https://www.denvergardenrailway.org/newsletter/otherclubs/TheFutureofGardenRailroading.pdf)

# ***Museum***

## **Operations:**

Day Out with Thomas will be held on September 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27 2020. Due to Covid-19 this year will be a different event with masks and proper social distancing required. Since the Garden Railway convention has been postponed and the HO Scale railroad will not be in operation because of tight quarters and narrow isles we should try to focus on putting on a solid show for the Thomas visit. To sign up to run the garden railway contact Alan by phone 303-748-0957, text (preferred) or email [alanno@comcast.net](mailto:alanno@comcast.net). The CRRM will also need help outside of the garden railway including train rides, several outdoor stages with entertainment such as magic shows, sing alongs, juggling, coloring and scavenger hunts. For More Information on how to help, contact Evan( [Evan@crrm.org](mailto:Evan@crrm.org)) or Danielle ( [Danielle@crrm.org](mailto:Danielle@crrm.org))

Thanks to Wayne Springer for donating a new KD powered wheel cleaner. October 8th, SCFD Free Admission Day. October 23 is Boulder County Free Admission Day. Donations from gate box \$69.00.

**Sign up to run during any event by contacting Alan at 303-748-0957 or [alanno@comcast.net](mailto:alanno@comcast.net)**

A reminder to new members that there are a few requirements that need to be met in order to operate trains at the museum. You must agree to work 8 hours a year to help maintain the railway, pass a short written test and sign a new volunteer document with the CRRM. Call Don McCullough at (303-421-4879) or Alan Olson (303-748-0957) for more information.

*Alan*





Masks are required  
when operating trains  
at the museum!

## Garden Railway Club News

This section is an opportunity for our members to learn from the efforts, tips, techniques, and news of other garden railway clubs. Please Click on the following link to access from the following clubs: <http://www.denvergardenrailway.org/index.php/links-to-other-clubs/>

### Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders



Northern Colorado  
Garden Railroaders

### Mile High Garden Railway Society

**Mile High Garden Railway Society**

### Rose City Garden Railway Society



### Christchurch Garden Railway Group

**The Garden Whistle  
New Zealand**

### Bay Area Garden Railway Society



### Gold Coast Garden Railway Society



### Puget Sound Garden Railway Society



### Santa Clarita Valley Garden Railway Club



### Central California Coast Garden Railroad Society



# NGRC Conventions

2021 NGRC -Nashville - May 30/June 5 - <https://ngrc2020.com/>



6/16/2020

**Garden RAILWAYS**  
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**37<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION**  
Still Coming to Colorado  
**June 20 - 25, 2022**  
Hosted by: Denver Garden Railway Society

New Advertisement in Garden Railways

WEBSITE IS NOW ONLINE: <https://ngrc2021.com/>

NOW MOVED TO JUNE 20-25, 2022!

# Calendar

- **August 25th— General Meeting and Ice Cream Social – It's ON !!!**

**The club is planning to go forward with this event to be held outdoors in a spacious garden area at the home of Chris Greenwald. Masks are required. The venue allows more than adequate space for social distancing and meets the guidelines from the CDC and the Tri-County Health Department.**

**WHERE: Chris and Nola Greenwald's home**

2060 South Joliet Street  
Aurora, CO 80014



**TIME: 6:00 PM - Open Time - Social hours & Plants available**

**7:00 PM General Meeting**

**7:30 PM Ice Cream Bars**

To make this happen safely, we will be gathering with masks and observing Social Distancing according to CDC and State Guidelines.

While the area where we will be meeting is outdoors with plenty of space to spread out, we need to be mindful of our spacing. Please bring **LAWN CHAIRS** so this can be accomplished. There is a covered pavilion at the site in case of rain, but please bring a **RAIN COAT or UMBRELLA** if the weather looks at all questionable. Depending upon turnout, there might not be room for everyone under cover with proper distancing.

Please check your email for last minute changes on the day of as there is no "Plan B." Hoping for good weather!

Ice cream sandwiches and water will be available after the business portion of the meeting. Then we can talk/ enjoy catching up.

**From Chris: He has some choice specimens of sedum and wild geraniums** available (pots provided) so be thinking if you have a need or space for any. Lastly, although there is a restroom available, it's difficult to access so please plan accordingly.

# Calendar

- **September 12, 13, 2020— Saturday, Sunday, Summer Layout Tours Times Vary**  
Tours are tentatively scheduled for the Southeast quadrant, south of Colfax and east of I-25. Schedule pending confirmation.
- **September 12, 2020 Saturday HOBO Breakfast 8:30AM**  
Members meet and swap stories over breakfast. All members are welcome. No reservation required. The club has not sanctioned the Hobo Breakfast during the Pandemic.



## Installing a G-Scale Graphics Rail Boss 4 with a MyLocoSound Card in an LGB Forney

How did I come to want to do this install? Well I had an open house on my garden railway in August 2017. After the visiting folks had left I noticed my LGB Forney stalled and smoking on the main line. My first thought was that I didn't remember putting smoke fluid down the stack. Then I noticed the smoke was coming out of the boiler area. A rail joiner had failed and the loco was stalled at the disconnected joint with the power on – yikes! I grabbed the loco and got it on the workbench, took some photos, and then started to dis-assemble it. I found a somewhat rudimentary circuit board that had melted components. I had a 1993 copyright on it so it was built since that time but probably in the last century. I bought the loco used and it was in excellent shape when I took delivery. Fortunately the motor and other running gear were fine. However, I could not find a replacement board. So I set off on a bit of a journey to convert it to radio control with sound.

Now this is not intended as a review of the G-Scale Graphics products. Kevin Strong reviewed them in a "Garden Railways" issue. Kevin's review is spot on as far as it goes. This article is about a challenging packaging situation and the issues I resolved.

I picked G-Scale Graphics ([www.gscalegraphics.net](http://www.gscalegraphics.net)) because it was a low cost solution. I paid only \$180 for the loco and wasn't interested in a \$400 investment. In addition to the Rail Boss 4 and MyLocoSound card I ordered the remote for programming the MyLocoSound. Highly recommended is the "Charging Plug with wires": containing a 2.5 millimeter male and female charging jack. This saves having to solder wires to the female soldering jack – a somewhat challenging task. I do have to endorse the documentation that comes with the Rail Boss 4 and MyLocoSound cards. And Del Tappero, the owner of G-Scale Graphics, was available for consultation by phone. I also bought a 14.8 Volt, 4400mah Lithium Ion Battery Pack and charger from All Batteries ([www.allbatteries.com](http://www.allbatteries.com)) after measuring the space where the battery pack was to be mounted. Finally, you will also need a small Single Pole Single Throw (SPST) toggle switch available at hardware stores.

Now what experience and skills did I have to bring to this project? Firstly, I know how to solder. This is the most important skill you will need. If you don't know how to solder, you need to learn and practice on some scrap wire before starting this type of project. Secondly, I have experience in adding sound cards to track power large scale locos and I have done conversions from Direct Current (DC) to Digital Command and Control (DCC) on Hon3 locos. I also

have the tools to do this. At minimum you will need a power drill and bits. A step bit is best for drilling plastic. Obviously you will need a soldering iron or stand, flux, and electrical solder. A full size hack saw and a small saw are going to be needed. A couple of pairs of pliers will be needed – one should be needle nose with a side cutter for wire cutting. Finally, pair of wire cutters/strippers that can strip AWG 20 or smaller wire will be a big help. If you need to buy wire, get multi-strand because of the better electrical conduction and flexibility. Note that the higher the wire size number, the smaller the wire diameter. A set of colored felt tip or high-lighter pens will be a big help in marking up the drawings in any instructions. I also use a music stand to hold instructions to keep them off the work bench giving me more space to hold the work.

I suggest that you get a rectangular piece of scrap foam that can be used to store the screws you remove from the loco. Label one end of the foam “F” and the other end “R” for front and rear. Push the screws after removing into the foam approximating the location on the loco. And take plenty of photos as you dis-assemble!

Now that you have the loco disassembled it’s time to identify which wires are which and make the appropriate cuts. If the loco has basic track power you need remove the track power pick-up wires and cut the motor wires. Be sure to leave plenty of wire from the motor. You will need to extend the wires to the circuit board location – be sure to use the same color wire! I checked the clearances to determine what had to be cut on the loco. The bulkhead between the cab and the tender had to be all but removed with the small hacksaw. On the Forney the battery was mounted to the rear of the frame with Gorilla Mounting Tape Squares. The Rail Boss 4 circuit board was then mounted to the battery with the Tape Squares as shown in the photo. The MyLoco sound board was then mounted in front of the cab. The weight had to be trimmed with a big hack saw to make room for the sound board.

Okay now we have to hook up the lights. I wanted to update the lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) for longevity. The Rail Boss 4 supports both incandescent and LED lights. I decided to use a relatively new product: Universal LEDs with a Bridge Rectifier built in. They work with AC, DC, or DCC applications from 7-9 Volts. No resistor or polarity worries – just hook them up to the Rail Boss 4. I chose 5mm orange (# U56) LEDs to look like an oil lamp. So these were easy to install and look great. I did not replace the light in the Forney cab as it couldn’t be easily wired and didn’t seem to provide a useful function. The Universal LEDs are available from Caboose Hobbies in Denver.

The wires were then hooked up by soldering where needed and connecting the wires to the circuit boards as shown in the directions. This is a key step with instructions: read them and

markup the diagrams with colored pens. And be sure to put solder on the tips of the wires before screwing into the circuit boards – called tinning. Otherwise you may not have a connection that actually conducts electricity! When this is complete you will need to move on to the speaker installation.

It became somewhat obvious that a 2.5 inch conventional speaker wasn't going to fit inside the Forney. So at the suggestion of the MyLoco sound card instructions I bought an MP3/MP4 speaker unit at a Best Buy store for about \$14. Using a wood chisel and hammer I shattered the case and removed both speakers. (Save the other speaker for future use.) The smokebox of the Forney was a perfect fit for installation without any other baffling. (The use of baffling for speakers in a loco or other train car is a topic unto itself.) The weight had to be trimmed with a big hacksaw to clear. Running the wires from the speaker back to the sound board was a little tricky but careful care made the day.

The Rail Boss 4 has an external optical receiver that has to be mounted on the loco. For the Forney the location I chose was in front of the cab. I attached it with silicon glue for outdoor durability. This was the final connection.

Now I have to say it is with great trepidation I put the loco back together. Be extra careful with this step as a mistake can pull a wire out of a circuit board! I had only one significant part left over and decided to leave it off.

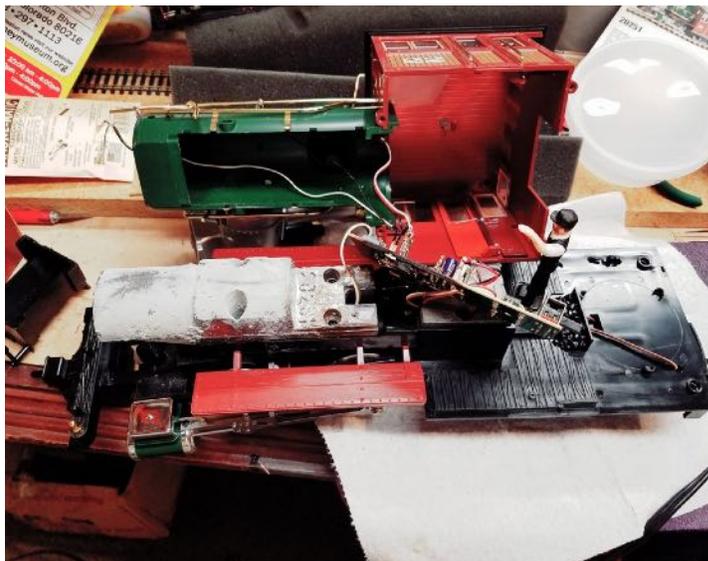
The loco runs very well and my 7 and 8 year old grandsons learned to operate the simple remote very quickly. In short I was very pleased with the outcome.

By Ray Hoppes

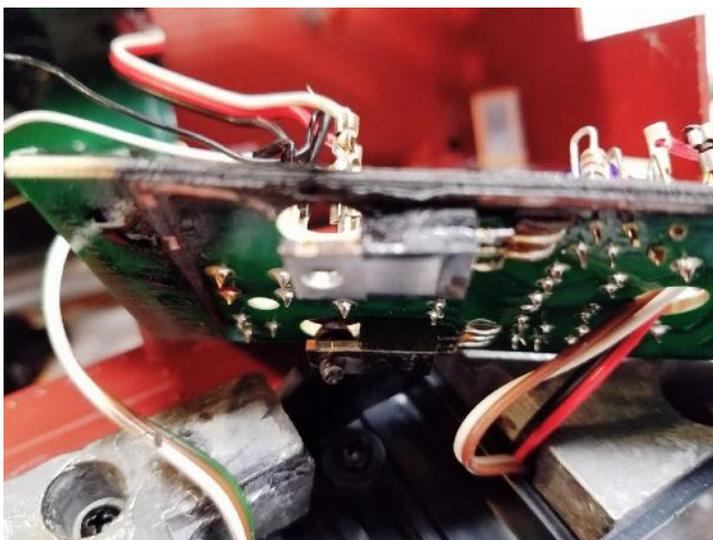
Story Lead from Tom Simco



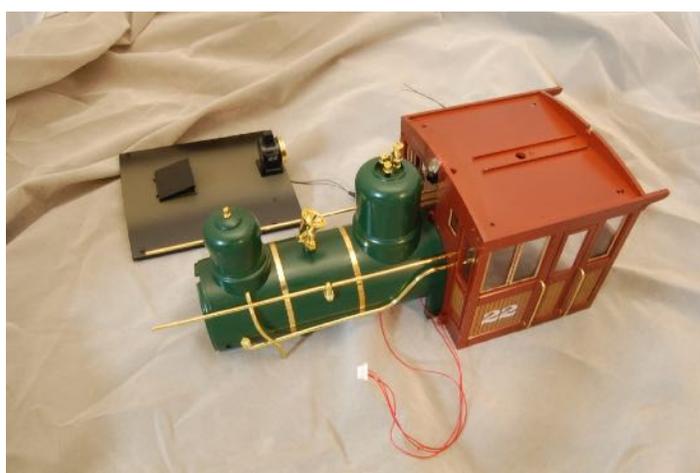
The last picture before opening her up.



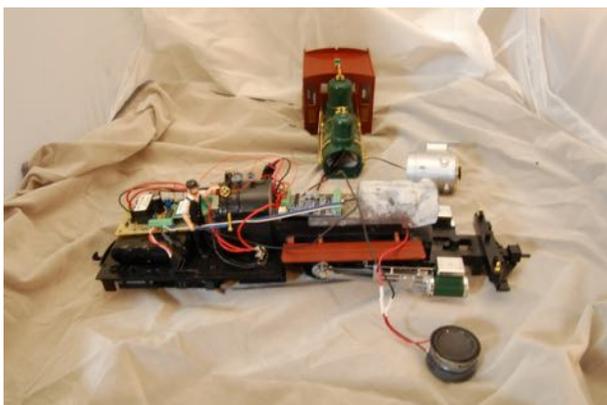
What I found after opening the Forney up.



The original LGB circuit board with a smoky patina.



The LGB Forney boiler and cab with the roof removed. The receiver for the MyLocoSound is mounted at the top of the cab behind the steam dome.



This is the final assembly before putting the Forney back together with the MP3/4 speaker shown in the lower right. It fit perfectly in the silver smoke box. The battery and Rail Boss 4 are at the extreme left. The sound card is in front of the boiler with the reduced weight in front. The 3 red wires in center front go to the 2.5 mm charging jack mounted in a hole I drilled. Note that the engineer survived all the cutting and soldering!