

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

Hello Club Members,

Things are starting to get back to normal with club activities. This month we will host our first indoor meeting at the Clements Center, with all the CDC guidelines in place. As you all are aware, we can only seat forty people, so we will host a Zoom meeting along with this meeting. If you feel comfortable attending in-person, please contact Michelle Miller with a reservation. Simply follow the instructions contained in this newsletter to reserve your seat.

I attended some of the recent tours and I was amazed to see many people in attendance which shows the desire by club members to be around like-minded enthusiasts. As the club starts functions back up to a "somewhat" normal level, the board and I discussed a ways to give back to our members. After plenty of discussion, we thought that it would be best to give dues paying members a credit. Please see the motion in the newsletter.

Last, I would like to thank Eric Petty for stepping up for VP, and Jim Desautel for his continued support in the Past President role.

Jeff Lillo

Volume 37 Number 10

October 2020

Denvergardenrailway.org

Content



Highball

Honorary Members

On Tour

Programs

Museum

Convention

Calendar

Cumbres

7.5 Inch World

Dues Credit Motion

Minutes

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

Family

Polly Cotton and Russ Rizzo + 10 yr.
old Dannis Hudson

11696 W 37th Pl Wheatridge CO
80033

pccotton.pc2@gmail.com

Honorary Membership

Marc Horovitz

In 1976, Marc formed an architectural graphic design company, Sidestreet Bannerworks. Three years later, he added an importing division to his company, bringing scale live-steam locomotives into the United States from England, Germany, and Japan.

As a way to inform customers about new developments in the small-scale steam hobby, Marc began producing a company newsletter, the *Sidestreet Banner*. Then, in 1984, he and his wife, Barbara, founded *Garden Railways* magazine. The magazine was sold to Kalmbach Publishing Company in 1996. Marc stayed on as editor until 2018.



**Garden
RAILWAYS®**

Paul Hammond

Hammond moved to Sacramento in 1997, overseeing marketing and development efforts for the nonprofit California State Railroad Museum Foundation including Railfair '99. In 2005 he was appointed by California State Parks to serve as director of public programming for the California State Railroad Museum. Hammond was named director just two years later, leading some two dozen paid and 500 volunteer staff members in serving over one-half million guests annually in a wide variety of programs. A high point of his nearly 20-year tenure at CSRM was successfully completing complex planning and railroad infrastructure initiatives in cooperation with city, state, federal, and private partners.

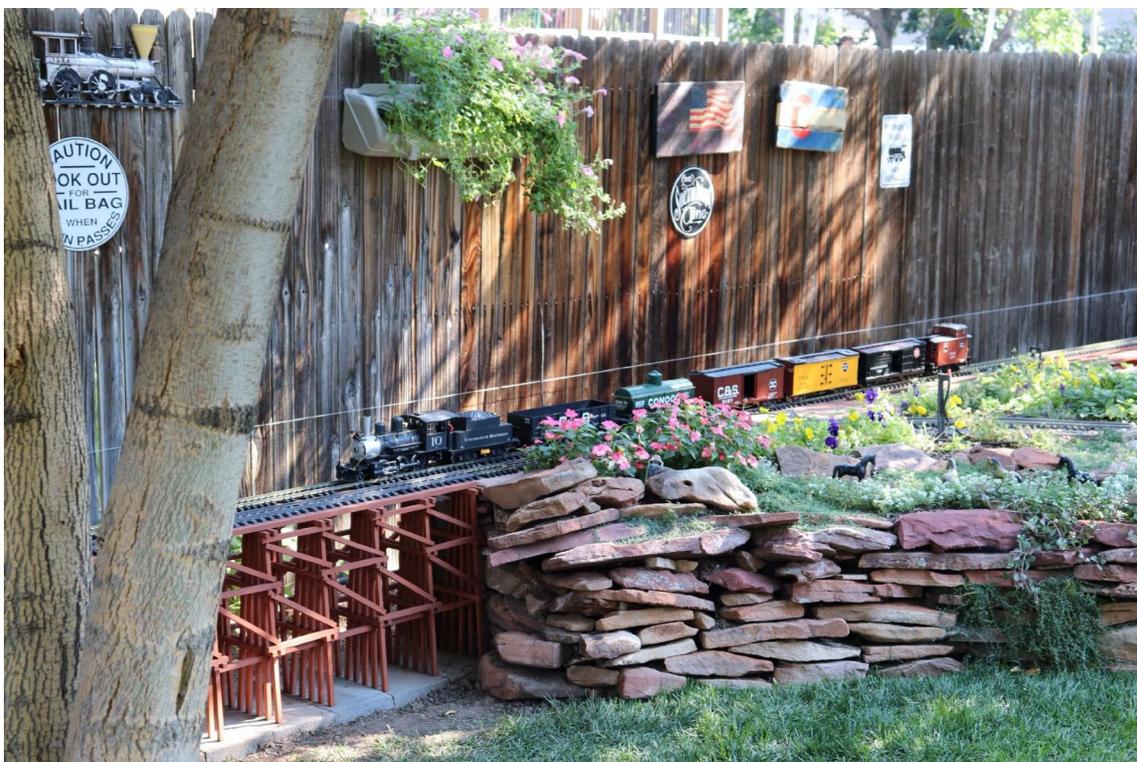
In 2019 Hammond was named Executive Director of the Colorado Railroad to succeed retiring director Donald Tallman.

Trains



On Tour

Craig and Cherylene Evans "Petrified Progress Railroad"





**THE DENVER GARDEN
RAILWAY SOCIETY**

A Brief History of the Denver Garden Railway Society

The Denver Garden Railway Society (DGRS) was the first organization of its type in the United States. John Newell, L.A. Kincaid, and Marc Horovitz founded it in 1979. Back in those days, the garden-railroading hobby, as it is practiced in modern times, was young. Not many G-scale model trains were available (especially of American appearance) and relatively few people were interested in model railroading outdoors.

The society attracted a few people as it went along and it soon had a dozen or so — too many for us to keep meeting at people's houses, as we had been doing. We began setting up temporary tracks at shopping malls for special events, which attracted a few more members. And we started looking for a more public place to hold meetings. In the early years we met at various places, including CA Supply near downtown Denver and even for a brief time at Denver's Union Station.

For some years prior to this Sidestreet Bannerworks, a small architectural design firm, sponsored an annual small-scale steam-up — for gauge 1 and gauge 0 locomotives. This began to attract attention and people began traveling long distances to attend the event. This was held variously in a warehouse, the garage of a crane company, at a shopping mall, and at Union Station. After a couple of years, it even incorporated a garden-railway tour to local railways.

In 1984, Marc and Barb Horovitz started GARDEN RAILWAYS magazine, which officially took over the sponsorship of the Sidestreet Bannerworks steam-up each year. In 1985 Marc proposed to the DGRS that GARDEN RAILWAYS magazine and the DGRS co-sponsor a national garden-railway convention. This would incorporate the annual steam-up and railway tour. The idea was tossed about and discussed at length and it was finally decided to go ahead with the plan. Thus, the 1st Annual Garden Railway Convention was held in Denver in August of 1985, it having been first proposed in May of the same year! Things happened faster back in those simpler days.

The convention was a great success. It was structured from the beginning much like the conventions are still run today. We had the steam-up, railway tours, clinics, and a dealer hall. The convention was organized by a core group of half a dozen DGRS members. We worked so well together that we decided to do it again the next year. In fact, we hosted it three more times in Denver, with the convention getting bigger and bigger each time. It attracted visitors from all around the United States and many foreign countries. When the fifth one came around we cut it loose, and it's been traveling around ever since.

Other garden railway societies began to spring up around the country, particularly in California and along the East Coast. The first list of garden-railway societies appeared in the November-December 1987 issue of GARDEN RAILWAYS. There were seven US societies at that time. (Today there are well over 100 in the US alone.)

In 1985, the DGRS participated for the first time in the Colorado Garden & Home Show. This was done in collaboration with the Denver Botanic Gardens and was the biggest project the club had taken on to date. The three-track, three-level railroad was built on real dirt (supplied by the show organizers), in a single day by club members. The Botanic Gardens people provided and planted miniature trees and flowers. The railway was a resounding success and we were asked back for several years afterwards. This first railway was written up in the March-April 1985 issue of GARDEN RAILWAYS magazine. Since then the DGRS has had displays of temporary indoor layouts several times a year at various locations including nurseries, model train shows and at the annual Colorado Home and Garden Show.

The club continued to grow and we finally found a comfortable place to meet at a bank near the Cherry Creek Shopping Center. This was our home for several years until the club outgrew it, with over 100 members at that time. Next we moved to the Emerson Street School and then on to the Glendale Firehouse. By now it had become a solid, cohesive community of friends pursuing a common interest.

The Garden Railway Convention returned to Denver in 1994 for the 10th annual gathering. In September of the same year the Colorado Railroad Museum agreed to allow the DGRS to build a garden railway as a permanent display. It started as a simple 10' diameter loop and has expanded several times to its present size, it is among the favorite exhibits at the museum. Many DGRS members operate trains at the garden railway on 7 separate loops including two dedicated to live steam. The museum garden railway operates in conjunction with special events including the very popular "Day Out with Thomas". This has developed into a very strong relationship between the museum and the DGRS.

Most of our meetings feature presentations by members or guests on topics relating to the garden railway hobby and of course we have the popular show and tell. Several hands-on how to clinics are held at various locations where topics may include weathering, structure building, gardening, landscaping, water features, track work or electronics.

In 2004 the DGRS hosted the very popular 20th Annual convention that highlighted just how sophisticated the hobby has become. Our group of about 200 members, consider ourselves very fortunate that the club exists in an area rich in railroad history and in a beautiful Colorado setting. It seems like the DGRS and the garden railroad hobby both have a bright future.

By Alan Olson

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 HO Scale railroad down stairs in the museum building 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.

We will likely not have enough DGRS volunteers to have at least two operators per shift. Several shifts have just one operator which can be difficult on event days with a large amount of visitors. Sign to help on Saturday mornings if possible.

Larry Dorsey has donated an LGB rail truck for use on the DGRS garden railway.

The plants in the ditch have been cut down and a large amount of muck removed. Water levels are low in the pond due to very dry conditions Broken trim on the steam track has been repaired.

October 8th, SCFD Free Admission Day.

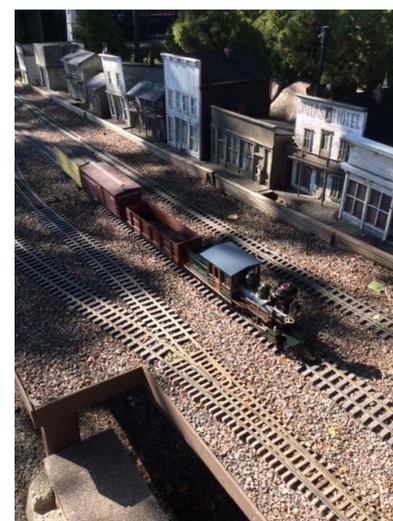
October 23 is Boulder County Free Admission Day.

The Trick or Treat Train will be pulled by RGS #20 and run on October 24th and 25th. Sign up to run during any event by contacting Alan at 303-748-0957 or 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 Newsletters

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/>



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

NOW MOVED TO JUNE 20-25, 2022!

Convention Report:

By June 2022, I hope COVID-19 will have been eliminated or at least minimized and the National Garden Railway Convention hosted by the Denver Garden Railway Society will not be subjected to social distancing, masks and capacity restraints. Unfortunately, Nashville, the host club for the 2021 NGRC is currently struggling with all those COVID-19 related issues in re-pricing their registration package. The convention hotel- the Gaylord Opryland Resort has cancelled all conventions for the balance as of 2020 and has gone to minimal staffing. Nashville is on their 5th Gaylord convention coordinator. The city of Nashville currently has a seating capacity of 25%, which drastically impacts potential banquet and BBQ attendance. Capacity on the layout tour busses has been reduced from 54 passengers to 27 but at the same cost per bus. It may be early next year before they are able to accurately price and offer their convention registration package. Also, convention goers may take a "wait and see" approach and delay any decision until Spring. A vaccine by the end of this year could potentially be a game changer for Nashville and Denver too. The decision to move our convention from 2021 to 2022 avoided all the COVID-19 problems Nashville is currently facing, but realistically, it is not going completely away and could delay our registration package too. June 2022 is only 21 months away and it is time to re-boot and re-energize our convention program because a poorly attended convention will certainly have dire financial consequences for DGRS.

Thanks to all of you that have already volunteered and those who will be joining the convention crew. It all starts at the Clements Center general membership meeting on September 29th. See you there.

Doug Mayes, 2022 NGRC Chairman.

Programs



Subject: September 29, 2020 DGRS General meeting at Clements Center

7:00PM

As discussed at the August DGRS General Meeting, the Clement Community Center has reopened and is able to host our club again, but at a reduced capacity. Because of social distancing restrictions, they can only accommodate 42 people in our usual space. This means that we will need to adopt a reservation system for those wanting to attend in person to ensure we don't exceed the limit. The good news is that for those preferring NOT to attend in person, we now have virtual access via the Zoom app.

Because times remain uncertain, the club purchased a Zoom subscription that allows us to simulcast DGRS meetings. Now, members wanting to participate remotely will have that option! One step closer to normalcy...

A link to the meeting will be sent out closer to the September 29th meeting, so watch for it. If you're new to Zoom and think you might need help, please reach out to one of the Board members (or a tech savvy friend!). We don't want anything to get in the way of full participation!

For those hoping to attend the meeting in person, we ask that you respond via email to Michele Miller (contact info below). It will be "first come, first served" but if our reservation tops out, those not able to be present will be at the top of the next list.

Until we can streamline the process, please respond to Michele with the names of members wanting a spot:

micdavmiller@aol.com

(a message can be left at 720-560-3165, but email preferred).

If you don't receive an acknowledgment, please contact Michele again.

Thanks all. We look forward to "seeing" you at the next DGRS meeting-either in person or virtually!

Bob Schoppe who will do a program on the Como project progress.

October General Meeting — October will be by Wally Weart (a club member) on the Alaska railroads

Calendar

- **September 29, 2020— Tuesday, 7:00PM** **General Meeting at Clements Center / Zoom**
Program—Bob Schoppe, “Como Progress”
- **October 10, 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.
- **October 27, 2020—Tuesday, 7:00PM** **General Meeting at Clements Center / Zoom**
Program—Wally Wert, “Alaska Railroad”



Work Week on the Cumbres & Toltec



Hi All,

Attached are a few photos from day 1 of session F2. Today we worked on 470's trucks, caboose 0306 repairing a roof leak, reapplying some elastomeric emulsion to the roof and touching up the paint on the caboose. In addition we are cleaning the wheel press to prep it for paint. Hope you enjoy the photos. Take care.

Don A. at the CRF in Antonito, CO.

Lead by Tom Simco

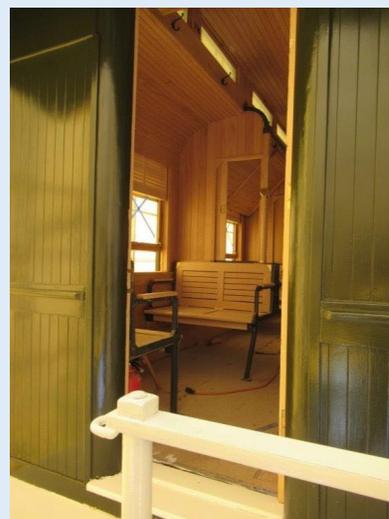
Labor Day Weekend Work Session on #470 D&RG Pullman Tourist Sleeper Coach



Tom Simco was able to make it down to the work site late just as the crew were wrapping things up to take these pics. Temp was 90 + degrees.

Dedicated crew of the Friends of the C&TSRR consisted in no specific order, Craig M., Ron S., Bill L., Mike B., John E., Don A., John C., Randy Q., Wayne B., Duncan B.

Enjoy the pictures of progress on the final stages of work in Colorado Springs.



News from the World of 7 1/2 " Railroads

It has been several months since we have provided any updates from the Larkspur Consolidated Railroad. Early in the spring, due to the mandatory isolation, it was hard to get a group together to work on track and do maintenance work.

However several of us finished building a bridge for a new loop that will extend the track another 1,000 feet when completed.

Since most of us have an engine and some cars, we found that we had outgrown our 40-foot storage container and we purchased a second 40-footer. Well that was just the start, as the container needed to be painted with 2 gallons of green paint and the lift tracks had to be extended. Since we have to open the doors all the way to get the equipment out, there is a natural breezeway between containers, so we installed a metal deck (floor) and then a metal roof for shade.



This makes a great place for cooling off or working on the equipment on rolling work racks of two different heights. To utilize the rack, you simply roll the car or engine from the container onto the lift and then move the lift to the repair area. Once at the repair area, you can lift it up to the selected height and roll the engine or car to the work rack.



We also built a new weed spray car to maintain the right of way. The car is scratch built from a boat seat, scrap iron and a 2 x 12 board. The tank holds 15 gallons of herbicide and is simply pulled behind a loco while the battery powered pump sprays the weeds/grass as you ride around.



Late in July we had a Family day for our team and the teenagers enjoyed the pedal car.



Sharon Underwood got creative and jazzed up the layout with solar lighted poles that annotate the names of the different towns on the tracks.



We also conducted a contest to build structures for LCRR and there were a variety of entries judged by Ron Keiser. Buildings so far include a depot by the Underwoods, a bunkhouse & outhouse by the Hendels, a Radio/TV station by Bob Leise (made from recycled materials) and a Coffee Caboose by Glen Leise. Bob also built Barbie a switch tower so she could watch over the action. Additional buildings are forthcoming from the McGuires and Desautels.





Pictures of recent visitors to the LCRR. Note they are checking out the track for sun kinks.

Bob Leise and Pete Hendel



Grande Gold

Rio Grande Section House Cumbres Pass

Taken from the west side this completes the two coats of Rio Grande Gold. Remaining to be done is the brown trim. The house is buttoned up just in time for the first snow.

Thanks,

John S. Engs, Board Member
COS Site Leader / Projects Chair
Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic
Railroad

Motion for a 2021 Dues Credit:***September 12, 2020***

Due to the Covid-19 shutdowns experienced this year, a motion is hereby made to provide members a 50% credit on their membership dues for 2021. Therefore, "Family" members may renew their membership in 2021 for \$24.00, and "Individuals" may renew their membership in 2021 for \$18.00. This would apply only to members that paid in full for membership in 2020. Individual members will be allowed to upgrade their membership to a family membership for \$24.00. The 2021 dues credit is a one-time credit that will be funded with any unspent 2020 dues money, and donation funds. It is not a change in the basic annual dues rates and is only offered to members that pay their 2021 dues before February 1, 2021. Members who pay 2021 dues after February 1, returning members who did not pay in 2020, and new members joining in 2021 will not be eligible for the dues credit.

Discussion:

1. DGRS had to cancel several meetings, programs, and events due to the Covid-19 Corona virus. As a result, club membership and value for many members has been diminished this year.
2. Unfortunately, for DGRS, most of our base administrative expenses have continued through the year. The club has not experienced any major savings.
3. The dues credit for 2021 is offered primarily in the interest of retaining as many members as possible.
4. This is not an original idea. Other clubs have reduced their membership dues, either through a refund, or credits for the time period in which their club was not meeting.
5. It is hoped that the general membership recognizes that most of our club functions have continued throughout the pandemic. Monthly publication of the newsletter, operation of the club layout at the museum (was only closed for a short time), summer tours, and continual eNews updates and notifications via eMail. Our only major cancellations were two meetings at the Clements Center (March and April), the June Picnic and Swap Meet, and our May and July meetings.

This motion will be put forth for a vote by the membership at the September 29, 2020 General Meeting. Members present at the Clements Community Center will be eligible to vote and a majority of those members present will determine whether the motion passes. Unfortunately, members viewing the meeting via the proposed Zoom simulcast will not have the opportunity to vote on the motion.