

NCGR Time Table

No. 291

Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders

January 2024



Conductor's Corner

Mark Sears
President

We hope to have another exciting year of club activities. Your Executive Committee met in December to begin preparing for 2024. The Agenda/Minutes of the Meeting, a proposed budget and proposed by-law changes will be e-mailed to you. The committee identified a few items for the club to discuss and/or approve at our January meeting.

- Approve proposed changes to By-Laws
- Approve proposed Budget
- Discuss having food at Indoor Meetings, would need Food Host/s
- Discuss desire for Hats and T-shirts, and should club subsidize purchase
- Discuss Indoor Meetings starting time – continue at 6:00 PM or change back to 7:00 PM
- Discuss RR Tour/Open House – proposed for June 1 from 9 to 4 – who's interested in Hosting?

- Discuss Excursions – will need Excursion coordinator/s
- Need Hosts for Outdoor Meetings

Next Meeting – 6:00 PM, Wednesday, January 17 at Harmony Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins. Our program will be given by Ken Jessen. He will be showing a video about a 42" gauge railroad. His presentations are always incredible – don't miss it.

DUES are DUE – if you haven't already paid. Plan to give Carl a check for \$25 made out to NCGR.

I'm looking forward to hearing about all your RR plans for the new year. If you need help, please ask, many of our members have time and talents to share.



Kids' enjoying trains
at the November Train show

Next Meeting Harmony Presbyterian Church

400 Boardwalk Dr.
Fort Collins, CO

**Wed, Jan 17th
6:00 p.m.**



Club Car

Carl Hinderer
Sec/Treas

Current Membership

Paid members	39
Honorary Members	9

Financials **Jan 1, 2024**

Income	\$375.00
Expenses	\$140.43
Bank	\$3974.13
Bank CD	\$5000.00
Petty Cash	\$00.00
Checks	\$00.00

NCGR.net



By Del Tapparo

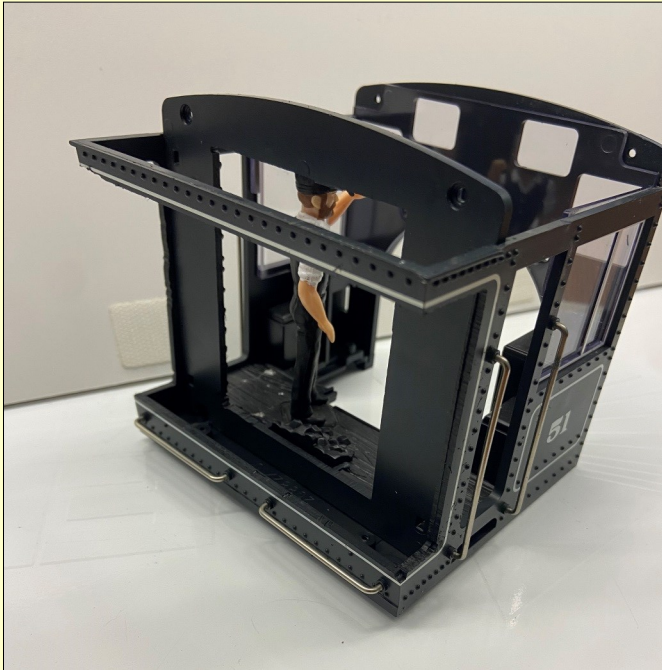
Don't forget to read the excellent newsletters we receive from other clubs every month; **GR News** (world wide), **DGRS** (Denver), **Garden Whistle** (New Zealand), **Gold Coast** (California).
NCGR.net/Newsletters



NCGR Bull Session

Bill Brayden, Fort Collins, CO

I disassembled my Accucraft Rio Grande 0573 Caboose to modify the frame. The flanges of the wheels kept hitting the frame on a couple of tight curves and would short out the power supply and trip the breaker. I used my milling machine to mill away a small amount of the brass frame to keep the flanges from hitting. We'll see if that helps!



I also disassembled one of my Uintah Mallets 2-6-6-2 to turn it into a new Class of Rio Grande narrow gauge locomotive --The 500-Class, one step above the D&RGW 490 class! I milled off the coal bin of the locomotive to turn it into a standard locomotive with a tender.

Tim Kathka, Good Samaritan, Loveland, CO

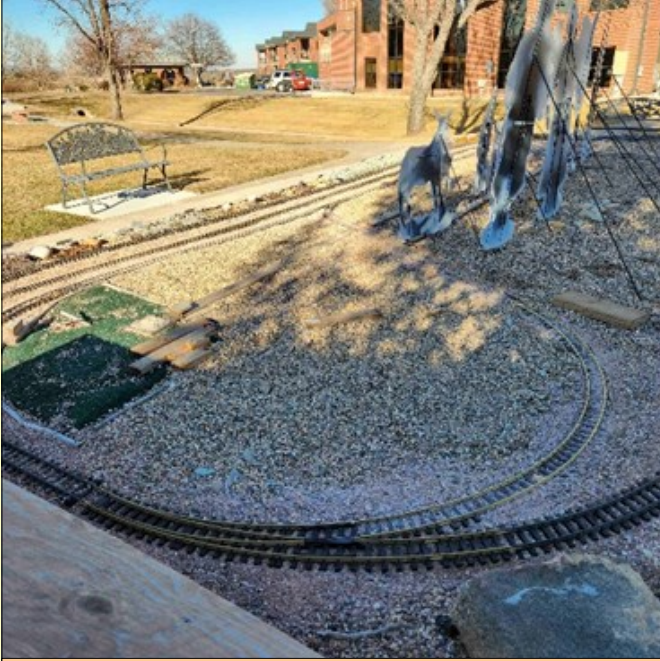
Good Samaritan Loveland Village has never had an outdoor nativity scene, but this year working our chaplain, club members set one up on the RR platform. Coupled with Christmas lights around the layout, it has added to the Christmas spirit and is enjoyed by many of our residents.



NCGR Bull Session

Tim Kathka, Good Samaritan, Loveland, CO

Club members have been busy expanding the Good Sam layout, beginning immediately after we shut down for the winter season. We have added two reversing loops which will allow us total flexibility to run our trains clockwise or counterclockwise. This will require our operators to be in constant communication to preclude any head-on collisions, but we think this flexibility will add some interest to our operations.



CCW to CW



CW to CCW

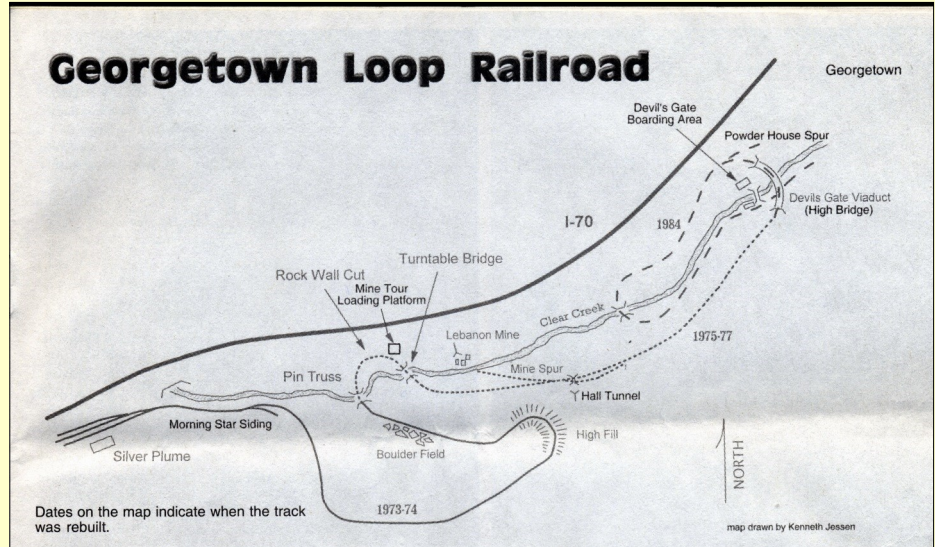
Additionally, thanks to Mark Sears, we have a fun winter project to keep us busy and out of trouble. NCGR received a couple 8 foot long car barns from the Greeley Model RR Museum and Mark made one of them available to us. Mark then was able to use his carpentry skills to widen the barn to accommodate two tracks. While the barn is in need of some TLC and cosmetic improvements, our club is now making plans to incorporate it into our layout, providing adequate day to day storage of our full passenger train and a 7 car freight train. Thank you, Mark.



NCGR Bull Session

Kenneth Jessen
Loveland, CO

Years ago, I worked on a track gang (Gandy Dancer) rebuilding the Georgetown Loop. I kept track of which sections were constructed and had this map published in a little history of the Loop.



August 1, 1984 was the opening day across the Devil's Gate Viaduct marking the completion of the Georgetown Loop. I was on hand to see locomotive No. 40 go across the viaduct breaking balloons as it went.

It has been a half a year since a train has run over the RGS Extension. Finally, a train passes by some of the houses in Mountain Pride on the dual track section.



NCGR Bull Session

Kenneth Jessen, Loveland, CO

Steve Haskew is a renowned model railroader. His indoor, basement G gauge layout is spectacular with buildings designed and constructed by Steve. This includes scenery with realistic rock walls, mountains and trees. Photographs by Kenneth Jessen



Little Annie Mine



Gladstone Station



Man by Cabin



Hulbert Station

This Steve Haskew detailed boxcar is another example of his work. It has scale flanges that look great, but multiple derailments prompted Steve to sell his boxcars off. For me, it makes an excellent static display.



20 Years Ago ...

Kenneth Jessen recently purchased this tank car from Steve Andersen and was curious about the "PMS" markings. Steve recounts the origin of the PMS name ...

When I lived on Lexington Lane in Estes Park, my initial railroad was on the flank of Prospect Mountain, running off the deck on the west side of the house.

A couple years later, Terl Robinson was visiting and as Terl is always inclined to do, he had ideas for the gulch below the house. There was no official name for it, but I called it Prospect Gulch.

The Gulch railway started out in O gauge but later it had an interchange with the G gauge railway from up on the side of Prospect Mountain. There was about 900 total feet of trackage, divided between the two gauges, and much of it was on trestles, some as



Photo: Kenneth Jessen

high as 6' and 35' long. The combined railways I considered a system so I decided to call it the **Prospect Mountain System or PMS**. Yes, I knew what I was doing; it was a playful use of language, but that's the origin of the PMS logos and initials on some of my locomotives and rolling stock to this day.

Incidentally, the logo was off business cards of mine; I would cut them down and use them as the primary insignia on many cars and locomotives. The actual lettering was done with Letraset stickers, one letter at a time.



Steve Andersen, McCall, ID

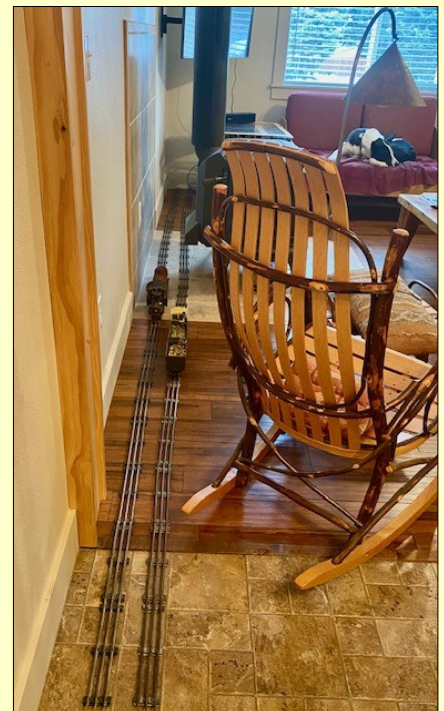
From 900 feet of track in Estes to 30 feet in McCall Idaho ... playing with and viewing my model trains still remains fun.

I'm still planning to build some sort of layout outdoors, but a significant problem is not having much space to work with, and the snow gods have blessed me and McCall with having a huge annual snow fall. It's great for my skiing interest though, and both Downhill and Nordic are just minutes away.

I currently have two old Lionel O ga. tracks supporting two battery powered trains in what is essentially G scale. They both run slowly back and forth on the 15' double line, and actually keep two engineers reasonably occupied for an indeterminate period of time.

I'm currently thinking that I will run two tracks, one O gauge, and the other one G gauge, outside, for the 48 foot approximate width of the house. Probably the O gauge track would run on a cantilevered right of way under the eave of the house, about 9 feet off the ground, while the G gauge would run on the ground close to the house, and it would include "tunneling" under more than 15 feet of deck with belly crawl clearance. Don't ask me how I would deal with a derailment in that area!

I still plan to run my existing Estes trains during the part of the year that I reside there, but all of these plans are subject to change and I will turn 82 next October.



NCGR Contact Info

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

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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
Jan 17	Monthly Meeting	Harmony Presbyterian Church Ken Jessen—A 42" gauge railroad
Feb 21	Monthly Meeting	Harmony Presbyterian Church Sterling Myers—Pennsylvania RR one and only #6200 locomotive
Mar 20	Monthly Meeting	Harmony Presbyterian Church Levi Sell—Great Western Railway Industries
Apr 17	Monthly Meeting	Harmony Presbyterian Church
May 15	Monthly Meeting	Robert Linton— Fort Collins—First Outdoor Meeting
Jun 1	Annual Open House	
Jun 19	Monthly Meeting	Chris Reid—Fort Collins
Jul 17	Monthly Meeting	
Aug 21	Monthly Meeting	Carl Hinderer—Berthoud