

NCGR Time Table

No. 313

Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders

March 2026



Conductor's Corner

**Mark Sears
President**

Hello Garden Railroaders!!!!

As I stated last month - Spring is here; we should expect heavy snow anytime now. (I hope.)

At our February meeting, Darwin Vander Pol, a member of the Northern Colorado Model RR Club, gave us a presentation on how he has incorporated coal operations into his HO layout. We had 17 +/- in attendance. We welcomed a new member Chris Madeya from Loveland.

Next Meeting – 6:00 PM, Wednesday, March 18, at Harmony Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins, 400 Boardwalk Drive.

At this moment we do not have a program scheduled, so if you have a show-and-tell please bring it and I am working on a potential program.

2026 Garden Railroad Tour – Saturday, June 6

We will discuss the Garden Railroad Tour some more and get a list of those planning to host a tour. There was plenty of interest in hosting, so I think we will have six to ten hosts. Please consider hosting.

We are looking for Summer Meeting Hosts; please let Dale or I know if you would like to host a meeting. (Dale and Peggy volunteered for August.)

We need a presentation/program for our March and April meetings. If you would like to share your experience on a railroad project or have a presentation you would like to make, please let Dale or I know. As always come ready to share your latest railroad projects or adventure stories and if you have fine RR items you would like someone else to enjoy, please bring them to be raffled off, sold or given away. Also, if you need help on your railroad, need advice, want to sell something, want to buy something, or make a general announcement, please email or call Carl Hinderer and he will send out your request to all club members.

Rocky Mountain Train Show – April 11 and 12 at the National Western Stock Show Complex

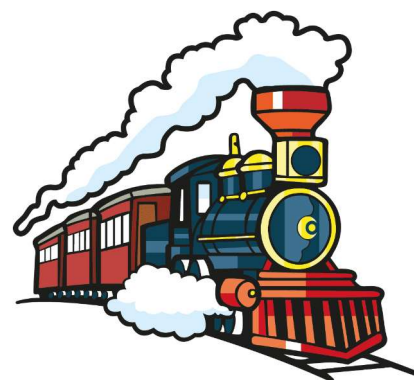
The club has decided to not participate in this show, we will conserve our energy for the November show at the Ranch.

Enjoy this wonderful weather! Winter will come any day now.

Next Meeting

**Harmony Presbyterian
Church
400 Boardwalk Dr.
Fort Collins, CO**

**Wed, Mar 18th
6:00 p.m.**



Finance Report

**Carl Hinderer
Sec/Treas**

March 1st, 2026

Income	\$125.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Bank Checking	\$2608.88
Bank CD	\$5338.09
Petty Cash	\$0.00
Checks	\$0.00
Paid Members	10
Honorary	10

Next Month:

Robert Linton has been busy in Florida!



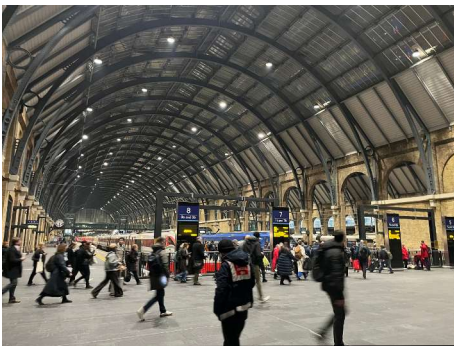
Vacations By Rail

by Wayne Huddleston

My wife and I have ridden trains in Switzerland several times during the summer and fall but never in the winter. We thought it might be fun to do that so in early February we joined the First Class Mountaintops of Switzerland tour offered through Vacations by Rail ([Scenic Train Vacations and Packages](#) | [Vacations By Rail](#)). While not particularly railfan oriented, their tours focus on using trains to get from one destination to another.



The tour started in London. We all met early in the morning at St. Pancras station to board the Eurostar, (through the Chunnel) to Paris and then transferred to a regional train that took us to Basel, Switzerland. The next two days were spent near Interlocken, then we rode the Glacier Express from Brig to St. Moritz. From St. Moritz we rode a regional train to Chur where we spent two nights. The next day we rode from Chur to Tirano, Italy on a regional train and returned any tunnels and viaducts. Next, we rode two regional trains to arrive at Lucerne where we had time for lunch before taking a cable car up to 7000' Mt. Pilatus where we spent the next two nights. After lunch on the Bernina Express. The trip to Tirano and back covers some fabulous scenery and in the winter, the only way to get to our hotel is via a 40-minute cable car ride, which only runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day. After Mt. Pilatus we journeyed to Colmar in France and then the next day to London via the Eurostar from Paris to St. Pancras. It was a fun adventure.



Kings Cross Station in London. Famous for Platform 9¾ for boarding the Hogwarts Express.



Basel Station, notice all the light rail tracks.



The train we took from Basel to Interlaken.



Inside our 1st Class car headed to Interlaken.



Rolling through the snow on the Glacier Express.



The Glacier Express about to cross one of the many viaducts on the line.



Left: The Glacier Express crossing the famous Landwasser Viaduct.
Above: Nearing Pontresina on our way to Tirano, Italy.



Meeting a train near Alp Grum. The line from Chur to Tirano is single track so there are many opportunities for meeting other trains.



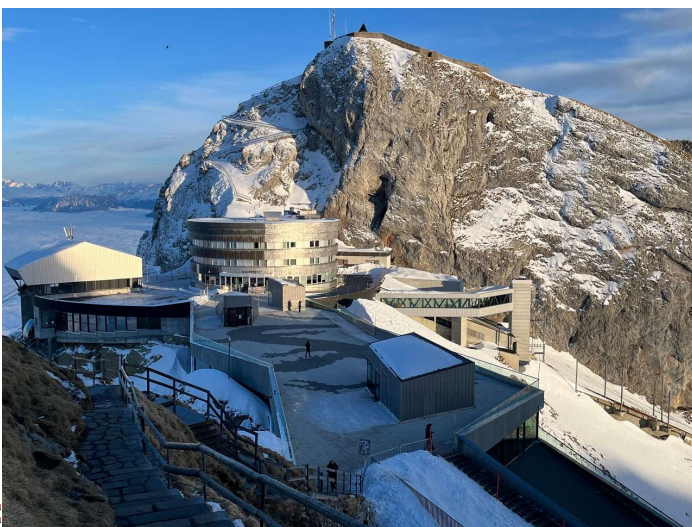
Taking advantage of being able to lower the windows to take pictures. It was cold but that is what jackets are for.



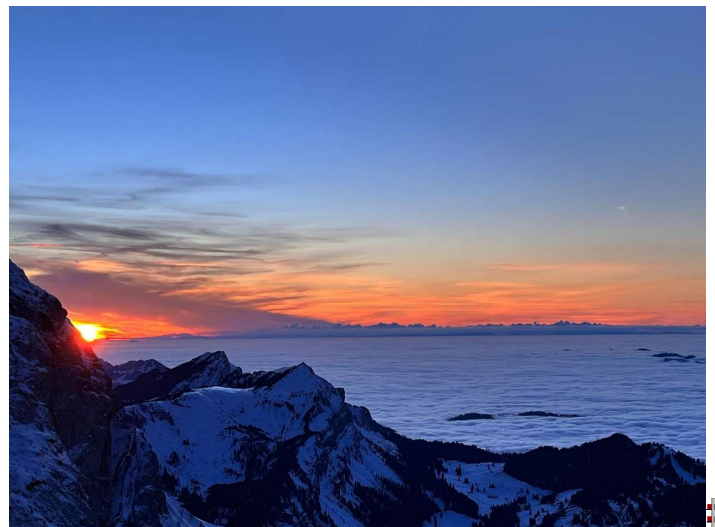
Riding the Bernina Express headed back from Tirano to Chur, Switzerland. We are about to cross over the Brusio Viaduct which loops over itself.



Inside our 1st Class observation car on the Bernina Express.



The cable car station, hotel, food and shopping area on Mt. Pilatus.



Sunset from the observation deck at the top of Mt. Pilatus. Note that we are above the clouds.

NCGR Bull Session

Del Tapparo, Windsor, CO

In a past newsletter I described a two piece 3D printed G-Scale re-railer of my own design. While it works fine, it isn't ideal for toting around to other layouts. I just found one online that someone else modified for G-Scale. It is one piece and rather short. You have to basically put one truck of the car on the re-railer at a time, but it works good.

I would be glad to print one out (club members only) for a nominal fee of \$10. You can also get a nice LGB one for \$44 on Amazon.



For Sale \$25 DelTapparo@comcast.net

Aristocraft 31101 Combine
lettered for Pennsylvania RR

- Metal wheels with track pickups for interior lighting
- Seated passengers and cargo in the baggage compartment
- Smoke unit



Del Tapparo - Windsor, CO

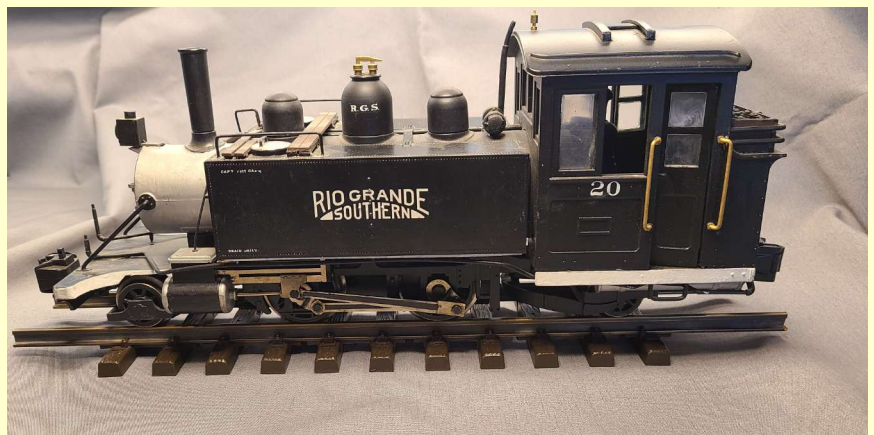
Did you know I have an LGB Forney (0-4-4T), a Bachmann Lyn (British 2-4-2T), and an Aristo-Craft Alco RS-3? Neither did I! Guess I have ignored my indoor railroad and loco collection far too long.

I got out the Lyn for a look over. I think I bought this at our swap meet years ago and never did anything with it. It is track powered, so I cleaned all the wheels, which were in great need, and gave it a test run. Runs good! Pulled a load of 7 cars no problem. No sound, and no room for one in the loco (easily anyway), but a trailing sound car would work great.

I have no need for this loco. It is a Bachmann Lyn 2-4-2T, lettered for Rio Grande Southern No. 20, although RGS never had this loco in the USA.

For Sale

If you are interested in a low cost add-on to your loco fleet ... it's only \$75. New Old Stock on e-bay currently at \$275



NCGR Bull Session

Del Tapparo, Windsor, CO

I now have an LGB Mogul with a loop coupler, an LGB Forney with a Bachman coupler, that I would like to use on two loops of my table top layout. I have a freight train with KaDee Couplers and a passenger train with hook & Loop couplers, and an assortment of Bachmann rolling stock to boot.

So one solution to my coupler puzzle to mix trains and locos was to make some transition cars:

- Loop to Bachman so the Forney can pull loop passenger train
- Loop to KaDee so the Mogul can pull the freight train
- KaDee to Bachman so the Forney can pull the freight train
- The Mogul passenger train is all hook & loop
- The Forney misc rolling stock train is all Bachman

Making these coupler mods was a challenge at times, especially the endless combinations of KaDee couplers, and making the ones I have on hand work where they were not intended.

Ken Kafka, Pierce, CO

Pending the sale of our Great Western caboose, Karen and I removed all the trains and railroad artifacts that were stored and displayed in the caboose. I put together a double-sided wall in our large shed and displayed all the tin-plate trains and other toys on it.



NCGR Contact Info

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

President	Mark Sears	MarkESears1@msn.com	970-217-8375
Secretary/Treasurer	Carl Hindeerer	clhent@yahoo.com	440-289-2139
Director	Dale Clark	dragontrain5557@gmail.com	970-290-1451
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
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. Guest are always welcome.

Hobo Breakfasts Monthly	1st Saturday - Fort Collins, Breakfast Club, 121 W. Monroe 3rd Saturday - Loveland, Perkins, 2222 W. Eisenhower
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Date	Event	Details
Mar 18	Monthly Meeting	Harmony Presbyterian Church
Apr 11,12	Rocky Mountain Train Show in Denver (No club layout)	
Apr 15	Monthly Meeting	Harmony Presbyterian Church
May 20	Monthly Meeting	First Outdoor Meeting !
Jun 6	NCGR Open House	
Jun 17	Monthly Meeting	
Jul 15	Monthly Meeting	
Aug 19	Monthly Meeting	Dale Clark - Loveland
Sep 16	Monthly Meeting	

www.NCGR.net