

NCGR Time Table

No. 271

Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders

May 2022



Conductor's Corner

Mark Sears
President

We had a great April Meeting at Scott's shop as those of you that were there know. He demonstrated a variety of soldering techniques and a brief tour of his incredible shop. There are so many tools, antiques, and collectibles to look at it was overwhelming. Thanks, Scott, for your hospitality and generosity.

*All the livelong day (at least a couple of hours)
My legs and back are hurting
Just to pass the time away
Can you hear the whistle blowing?
Rise up early in the morning
(sometime after 7:00)
And take some more Tylenol, Advil,
and Relieve*

If you need help on your railroad, don't hesitate to "respond to all" on a club email to ask for help. I'm sure someone will be able to lend a hand.

Don't miss our May meeting at Chris Reid's. I got a sneak preview a week ago and he has his track in tiptop shape, trains running smoothly, landscaping looking good, and his buildings/scenes are masterpieces. This meeting is serving as Chris's dry run for the tour, so we will have a great evening admiring at his incredible railroad craftsmanship, enjoying his wonderful deck and view of the mountains. I'm looking forward to visiting with all of you and hearing your railroad updates. I hope you can make it.



Most of us are working to get our railroads ready for running trains this summer and possibly for the national convention tour on June 23. I also know there are lots of aches and pains as we labor on. This age-old song resonates in my mind:

"I've been working on the railroad"

Next Meeting

Chris Reid
3740 Braidwood Dr.
Fort Collins, CO

Wednesday, May 18th
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Rain Date: Wed, May 25

The meeting starts at 6:30 but members are invited to help run trains from 5:30. If by chance the weather does not cooperate the "rain day" meeting will be held the following Wednesday at the same time.

Chris will email all members early afternoon to confirm the meeting is on or off.



Club Car

Chris Reid
Sec/Treas

Current Membership	
Paid members	36
Honorary Members	2

Financials **May 1, 2022**

Income	\$90.00
Expenses	150.00
Bank	\$4,022.00
Petty Cash	\$25.00
Checks	\$65.00



Meeting Notes

Chris Reid
Secretary

The meeting held on the 20th April was the first meeting of the year to be held at a club member's house. Scott had kindly offered to have it at his workshop as it was considered too early for an outside meeting.

Eleven members assembled in Scott's workshop – actually an impressive complete series of workshops with blacksmith equipment, historic artifacts and thousands of tools.

Scott had offered to provide a tutorial on the art of soldering. Most of us were only interested in how to join two wires and Scott provided insights into what most of us do wrong! He could not over emphasize how the most important thing was cleanliness of both the wire or cable and the soldering iron itself. He showed us a bewildering assortment of both solder and flux for all kinds of copper, silver etc. He also demonstrated how to join copper pipe using a reaming tool rather than copper pipe joiners.

His second demonstration was of an induction soldering tool. He demonstrated by soldering a jumper wire across a G scale rail joint and almost instant heating of the rail without any melted ties. Very impressive, but at about \$300 it might be a bit much for an individual to buy .

Lastly, he demonstrated a high frequency induction unit heating by microwave at 15,000 Hz. He uses this to quickly heat iron rather than use his blacksmith furnace. We were all astonished when this gadget heated a cast iron poker to red hot in 3 seconds! Apparently great for cooking sausages from the inside out.....

Robert had brought a couple of G scale cars and various items that he was hoping to sell and get donations

for the Greeley museum layout. No takers – it seems we all have everything we need???

Robert brought us up to date with information on the Conference tours. There will be two buses and these will start from the extreme north in Fort Collins and south of Loveland. Kevin Kirsh has dropped out of the tour as he is in the process of moving house and Bob Ferrero has taken his place – thank you Bob. He also mentioned that Sheilah may need additional help as she intends to open for the “encore” tour on the following Saturday. Mark and Scott may be able to assist on the encore day.

NCGR brochures will be required by all layouts open for the Convention. About 10 each was considered appropriate as the number of local participants' is limited.



Gauge Conversion

by Chris Reid

I had always considered that the gauge conversion of the Great Western Railway in the UK of 213 miles of track over a single weekend in 1892 was an incredible feat. This involved changing from a 7' 0 1/4" gauge to standard gauge of 4' 8 1/2".

I stand to be corrected. The Southern railroad system in the USA had 11,500 miles of 5'0" gauge track that was changed to standard gauge in 3 days in 1886.

So how is it that it took nearly 3 years to widen 3 miles of 287 in N. Fort Collins and build a ridiculous roundabout? (Nothing wrong with roundabouts but this one is confusing and unnecessarily complex and expensive).

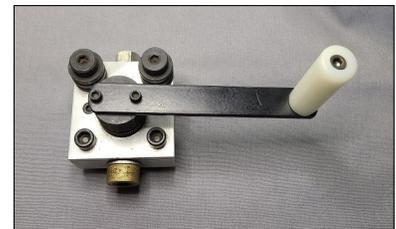
NCGR.net



By Del Tapparo

Courtesy of Robert Linton, we have added another rail bender for code 332 rail to the club tool crib. It is a single rail bender, but they work great mounted in a vise or WorkMate bench. I used one just like this to bend all my rail.

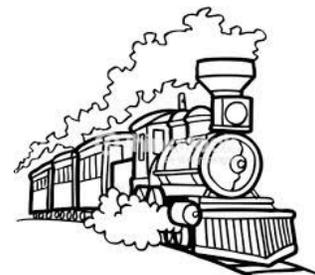
We are missing the 3/8" Allen wrench that goes with it to adjust the radius. Does anyone have a spare to donate?



Remember, you can always find out who has the rail benders on the website under “Members Only/ Tool Crib”. When you borrow one, please return it at the next meeting.

Newsletters from Other Clubs are on the website

NCGR/Members Only/
Newsletters from Other Clubs



NCGR Bull Session

Andrew Holbrook, Sidney, NE

I just added ball bearing pick up wheels, Lights and occupants to a PIKO UP set. <https://rumble.com/v13s5kc-new-improvements-to-the-up.html>



Kevin Kirsch, Fort Collins, CO



For family reasons, we are moving to the east coast this summer and suspect when we put the house on the market soon, it will sell fast. I was hoping this would happen after the convention but circumstances dictate we must go sooner.

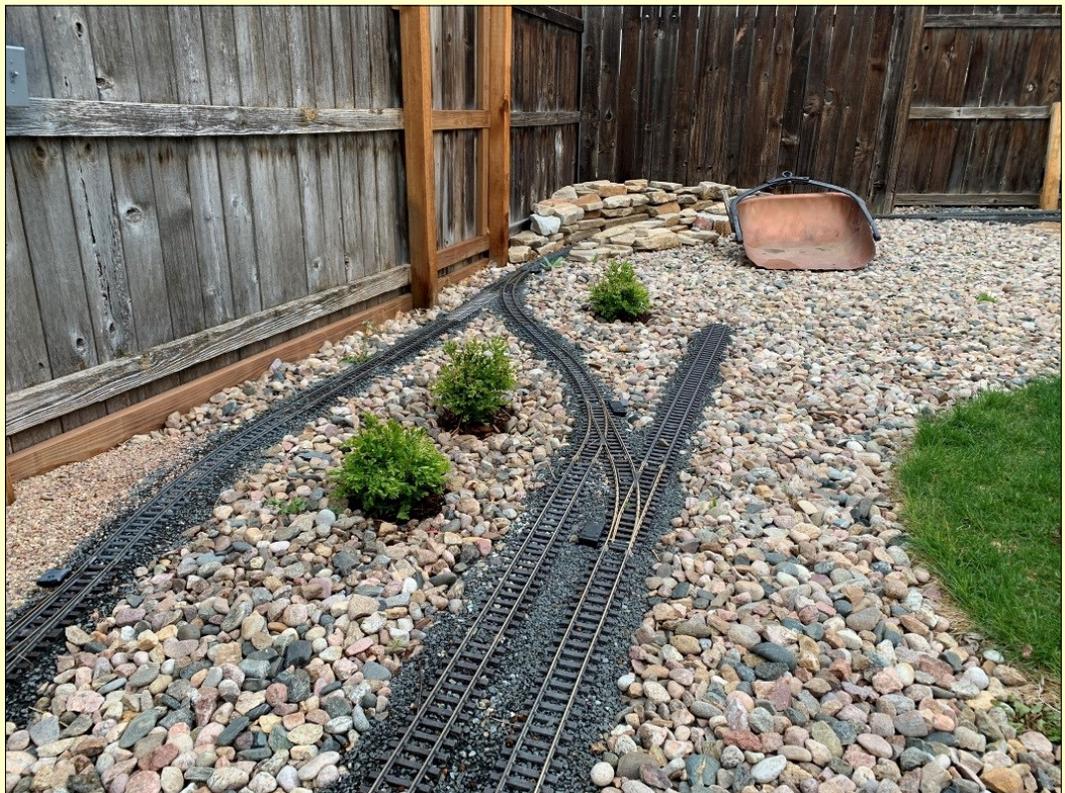


Live steam returns to Ken Jessen's operating session in the form of Scott Kretschmer's Shay.

NCGR Bull Session

Mark Sears, Fort Collins, CO

I planted trees (Jean Dilly- dwarf Alberta Spruce) in a logged out area of Worthington Hollow and some trees (Green Gem Boxwoods) near Buff Canyon. I am also getting buildings ready for the National tour.



Steve Andersen, Estes Park, CO

My first "real" train set was powered by an American Flyer Atlantic 4-4-2, made in the early 1950's. I had an opportunity to purchase a somewhat newer version, made in the late 50's, as part of a complete set ... and what a nostalgic "kick" it has been!

I discovered that the Reading Railroad prototype, with its wide Anthracite burning wooden firebox was chosen because it provided enough space for the standard A.F. Motor. The loco runs very smoothly and operates at a crawl, unusual for an old "toy train". The smoke unit produces volumes of smoke, synchronized nicely with the pistons ... better performance than Lionel.

The casting details are all sharp, but I decided to accentuate some with some judicious paint additions. The smaller parts were painted with toothpick "brushes".



Other additions that I made include the following:

- broken pilot step castings were fabricated J-B Weld.
- cab windows were made from salad box plastic, including cinder" wings", running board windows, and the main windows with red frames.
- no running boards across the firebox were on the model, so new ones were fabricated from styrene stock.
- "water spill" was added to the tender deck, made with acrylic polymer glue.
- crushed Moffat Road coal was adhered with a thin wash of polymer glue at the bottom of the coal boards and up on the coal pile.

I also added windows in the caboose, painted all the step irons, hand grabs and railings with silver for contrast, finished off with a spray coat mist of transparent matte paint.

Purists would complain that what I have done is sacrilege, but in my opinion, the end result is infinitely more esthetic ... and it is my train!

Currently, when it's not operating on the railroad outside, the whole set resides in a tight circle in the center of the dining table.



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
5-18	Monthly Meeting	Chris Reid—Fort Collins 1st Outdoor Meeting—Great Southern & Western Railway
6-15	Monthly Meeting	Robert Linton—Fort Collins East Lake & Peterson Railroad
6-19 thru 6-25 2022	NGRC Denver	National Garden Railway Convention Our Tour Day is Thursday, 6-23, 8am-4pm
7-20	Monthly Meeting	Brian Moon—Fort Collins
8-27	Club Picnic	Chris Reid—Fort Collins Great Southern & Western Railway
9-21	Monthly Meeting	TBD
10-19	Monthly Meeting	Shawn Elworthy—Windsor
10-18	Monthly Meeting	TBD

www.NCGR.net