



NEWSLETTER

Denver Garden Railway Society



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Jeff Lillo

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View From the Caboose

This will be my last newsletter contribution as the DGRS President. Thank you for the opportunity to give back to this great organization! I have enjoyed the challenges of keeping this train on track for another year. The energy and commitment of the elected leadership and all the committee leaders has been outstanding and much appreciated.

Overall, I feel it was a very successful year. Some of the areas I wanted to focus on during my term included maintaining the cadence and structure of our monthly board and general

meetings, sustaining our membership numbers, improving the process and tracking for donations to the club and looking for new outreach opportunities. We made some measurable progress in all these areas. I was very pleased to see our membership answer the call and show up strong at the railroad museum to operate and represent DGRS this summer and fall.

Once again, our layout at the Denver Christmas Show was amazing and well received by the public this year. A big Thank You to Scott and DeAnn Vance and all the volunteers who help to make this annual outreach effort a success. Our next public DGRS layout demonstration will be at the Rocky Mountain Train Show in 2024.

I encourage everyone to try to attend our General Meeting in November to participate in the election of our new DGRS leadership. Please consider filling the role of one of our elected leaders in the future or helping with our various committee efforts 2025.

Thank you!

Eric Petty

On the Cover

Kirk & Pam's layout in the summer of 2023. K27 photo by Jeff Lillo.

No. 463 is a K-27 class 2-8-2 "Mikado" type coal-fired narrow gauge steam locomotive built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia, PA in 1903 for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad (D&RG), later known as the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW). It was retired in the early 1950s, and in May 1955, it was sold to singer Gene Autry and moved to his private ranch in California for static display.

In 1971, 463 was sold to the city of Antonito, CO for an equivalent of only \$1. In 1994, 463 was restored to operating condition and operated tourist excursion trains over the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TS) until it was taken out of service indefinitely in October 2002 due to a broken side rod. In May 2013, 463 was later restored back to operating condition and made its inaugural run on the C&TS on May 20, 2013. As of today, 463 is still fully operational on the C&TS between Chama, NM and Antonito, CO, part of the old D&RGW narrow gauge system. From October 19 and 20, 2023, 463 was scheduled to operate on a 2-day photo charter to celebrate the locomotive's 120th birthday. As part of this photo charter, it had the flying D&RGW lettering on its tender.

Newsletter Contributors this Month - A Special Thank You to each

Al Blount	James Mackay	Larry Dorsey	Richard Corey
Bob Finch	Jim Desautel	Michele Miller	
Bob Leise	Jeff Lillo	Mike Harris	
Cherylene Evans	John Cushman	Marilou Hendel	
Eric Petty	John Hart	Pete Lammer	

2024 Election of Officers

Please attend the November 29th General Meeting to elect the DGRS Officers for 2023. The election ballot is at the end of the newsletter so you can print it and take to the meeting.

Garden Trains on Facebook and YouTube

Facebook has Public and Private Groups.

A Public group on FaceBook allows anyone to see who's in the group and what they post. It is visible to anyone. A Private Group allows only members to see who's in the group and what they post. Most Groups are visible and anyone can find the group. When you join Facebook, you do not have to provide any information that you do not want to share with others.

This is a **Public Group**: [GRNews on Facebook](#), and you do not need a Facebook account to view.

The following are **Private Groups**, and you need a Facebook account and join the group to see what is posted.

DGRS has a Private group page (Denver Garden Railway Society). Videos of the operations and others are posted there. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/970224199655068/>

These are other Private Groups:

G Scale Trains: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/248809748503280/>

LGB Train fans: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52647946993/>

LGB Train Sales & Trades: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/316404888778962/>

GScale.Net: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gscale/>

G-Scale- Garden Trains: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/268889036532980/>

There are many other groups on Facebook that have similar interests.

YouTube

You do not need an account to see posts on YouTube. There are a lot of posts on YouTube that have nothing to do with our hobby.

Programs

November 28, 2023

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Speaker will be Tom Klinger on the "C & S" books.

2024

January 30, 2024

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. James Mackay will talk on the South Park Restoration program.

February 27, 2024

Our Annual Swap Meet and Pizza night along with our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center.

March 26, 2024

I'm still working on several really interesting presentations for the meeting.

April 30, 2024

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Sean Jackson, who is one of the leaders at the Durango & Silverton railroads car shop, will do an overview of the recent projects in the car shop as well as the roundhouse.

May 28, 2024

I'm still working on several really interesting presentations for the meeting

Ron Keiser



James Mackay

Hospitality

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're thankful for you!!!

Here's what Hospitality has planned in the coming months:

GENERAL MEETING on November 28, 2023—A "Your Choice" night.

Either bring a favorite fall snack, or for those looking forward to the holidays (and since we won't have a December meeting) your favorite holiday cookie to share. If made at home, please be sure to bring a recipe card or printout so that interested folks can snap a photo of it (but only if giving out a favorite recipe won't get you in to trouble!) 😊

When we voted on the Holiday Party in September, it seemed like such a long time away...

FOOD, FRIENDS, AND PRIZES!!!

POST HOLIDAY DGRS PARTY Sunday January 7, 2024 at 12pm is our reservation at the Old Spaghetti Factory (9145 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, CO 80031).

This was voted on at the meeting, so if you would've preferred Cinzettis and weren't present or didn't call me with a proxy vote, I can't help you! Come anyway—you'll enjoy the company! 😊

3 ENTREE CHOICES:

- Baked Lasagna
- Fettuccine Alfredo (chicken available for extra \$5.00)
- Meat Lovers Treat (Sicilian meatballs, Italian Sausage and Spaghetti with a rich meat sauce)
 - ***Gluten free option can be done with the Fettuccine Alfredo
 - ***Vegetarian option can be done by subbing marinara sauce to go with spaghetti
- Price of \$25 includes:
 - Non alcoholic beverage (coffee, tea, milk, or soft drink of choice)
 - Salad
 - One of above entrees
 - Bread
 - Spumoni for dessert
 - Prizes

Additional drinks may be purchased at the bar before, during, or after the party.

While you can contact me now with your meal preference, a formal call for orders will come out in December.

Last day to respond: **Friday December 29th**

Email to micdavmiller@aol.com OR call/ text 720.560.3165 (either way, if no acknowledgement reach out again, please!).

GENERAL MEETING on January 30, 2024 – "In with the New." Bring a sample of something new—a recipe you want to try or something you had over the holidays and liked (and want to try making yourself)!

GENERAL MEETING on February 27, 2024—Back by popular demand, our Annual DGRS Pizza Party to accompany the Winter Swap Meet!!! Come for the pizza (and the deals) and stay to chat with your DGRS people!

We hope to see you at these events. As always, find me if we haven't talked in a while, or you're new to the DGRS. We do have a good number of new members. Please remember to wear your badge if you already have one, so we can put names together with faces. For those who have ordered badges and picked them up, Thank You! But there are still a good number in the DGRS layout's Alpine Tunnel Building, waiting to be picked up. And they'll be at the November meeting...

Can't wait to see everyone—reach out if any questions!

Michele Miller



Outreach

Terry Foley will be on Santa duty twice in December, and will be bringing DGRS Christmas cheer along with him. He'll take a holiday train with him to a Littleton Rotary event as well as a day at a local retirement facility.

In addition to operators helping out at the DGRS layout, the club continues to look for outreach opportunities in the community. We're eager to hear any ideas club members might have as to school or community events that DGRS could travel to. Please let us know of these, and we'll do our best to make it work!

Outreach also includes helping those in our club who might need help with a specific project that would allow for railways to continue operating. But we need to hear from you!

Talk to Eric Petty, Terry Foley, Alan Olson, or Michele Miller if wanting more information.

Michele Miller

Museum Happenings

Golden Spike Exhibit Photos by Al Blount



Al Blount



Al Blount



John Cushman

John Cushman working on Deadman's Curve and testing the Thomas's



Al Blount



John Cushman



Young Train Engineer

A Spooktacular Event

He was dressed as a train conductor from some 1950s or 1960's movie.

He was so enamored with the trains running in the garden railroad that his mother, who was holding a younger sibling couldn't contain him. I jumped in to help control this miniature conductor. He was happy to choose one piece of candy, but to my surprise he handed it to his mother then took off chasing the train on the outside loop all the way around the DGRS layout.

Our garden railroad ambassador-hospitality-outreach person, Michele Miller talked to his mother while I assured the mom I was watching her little conductor.

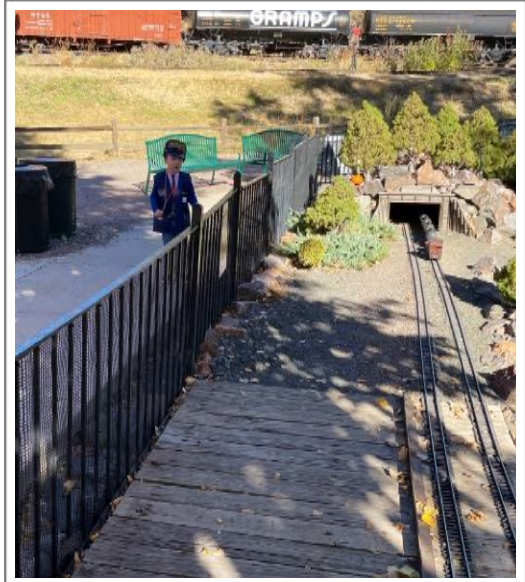
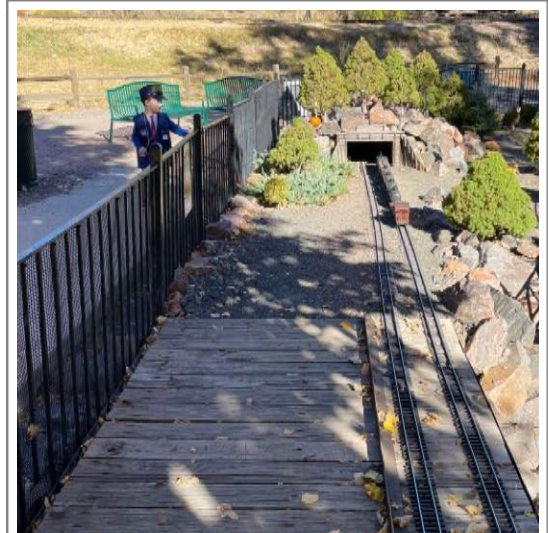
What a delight it was to be able to enjoy this little 4 ½ year old on a beautiful October morning at the railroad museum. Even if no visitors had appeared that morning, it would have been a very pleasant day to work at the museum.

It really was a spooktacular day. One of the trains that we had running was dressed up for the season. There was a monster on the front of the engine and every car was embellished with pumpkins, ghosts, goblins, and such. The train the little conductor was chasing was loaded with Halloween candy that got the attention of most of the kids. However, the little conductor didn't acknowledge the load, only the miniature train. After a day or so at the museum, you will start recognizing the little kids who are going to be into trains forever. They just can't get enough of them and they ask thoughtful questions. It is a joy to see our future members when they are so young.

It is so easy to get involved at the museum. Just an hour or so and you will become proficient enough to run trains. Bring your own train if you wish and don't worry about cleaning all the leaves off the track at home (although the track at the museum may need cleaning). It is very rewarding to see your favorite engine light up the eyes of some youngster. Just a little effort by more of our members can make the museum layout more enjoyable for all.

I'm looking forward to more innovative and engaging events at the museum. I intend to get out there about once a month or so to spend more time learning about the operations in all seasons. I invite you to join me and consider becoming one of our regular volunteers.

Cherylene Evans



Halloween Haunt at the Museum



Eric Petty



Eric Petty



Eric Petty

It is time to pay your dues for next year:

Annual dues for 2023 are \$48 for a family membership, or \$36 for an individual.

Mail your check to: Al Blount, 6038 Iris Way, Arvada, CO 80004. or bring it to the meeting.

If you want your membership card, please include a self-addressed stamped envelop with your check.

You will not get the newsletter nor the email blasts unless you pay your dues for next year

Exhibits



The Denver Christmas Show

James Mackay

James' Video of the Christmas Show: <https://youtu.be/aniuR7K1wyw>



James Mackay



Kent Crysdale



Kent Crysdale



James Mackay

Train News

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

This page shows interesting railroad happenings as well as breaking railroad news. Check it often as you may learn about new events and ideas for your railroad. [Rocky Mountain News and Photos.](#)

Rail Pictures and Videos

Photos from all over the US. You can select the locomotive type, railroad, location, etc. <http://www.railpictures.net>

Colorado Railroads

Colorado Railroads, a site for the fans of past and present railroads serving the Centennial State. <http://www.corailroads.com/>

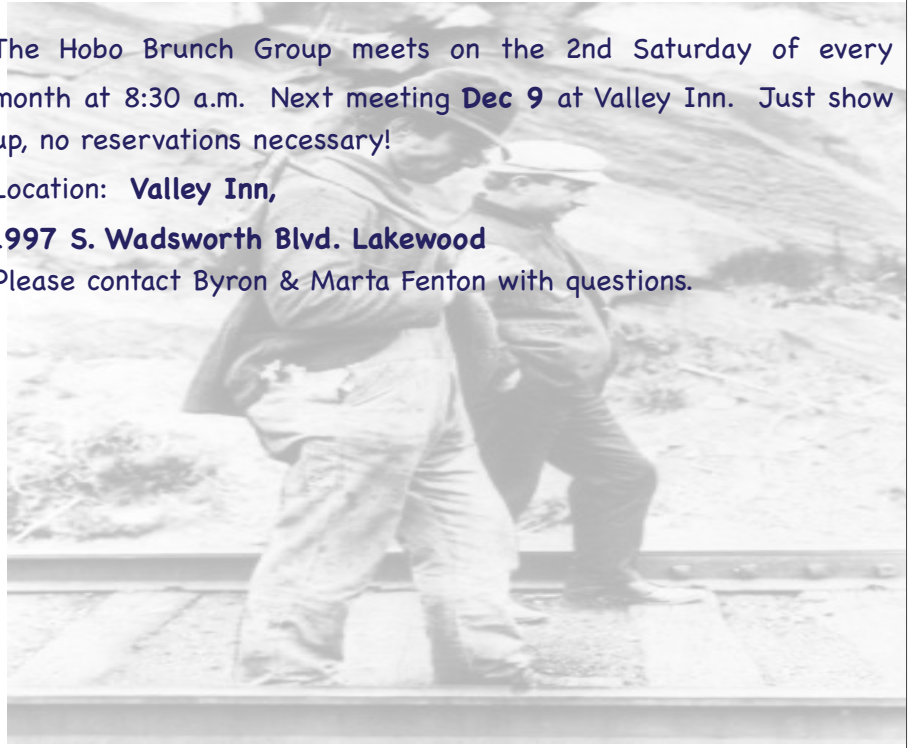
Abandoned Rails

Featuring thousands of miles of abandoned railroad routes in North America, illustrated with maps, pictures, and history. <https://www.abandonedrails.com/>

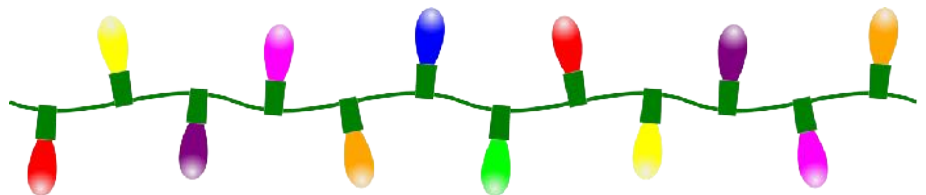
Hobo Brunch

The Hobo Brunch Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. Next meeting **Dec 9** at Valley Inn. Just show up, no reservations necessary!

Location: **Valley Inn,**
1997 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood
Please contact Byron & Marta Fenton with questions.



“D&RGW diesels No. 50 at Museum layout in October.



Clinics

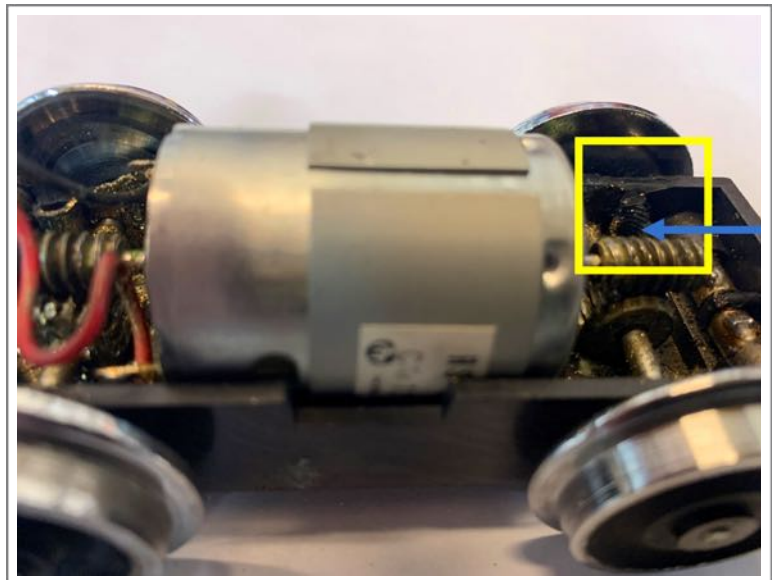
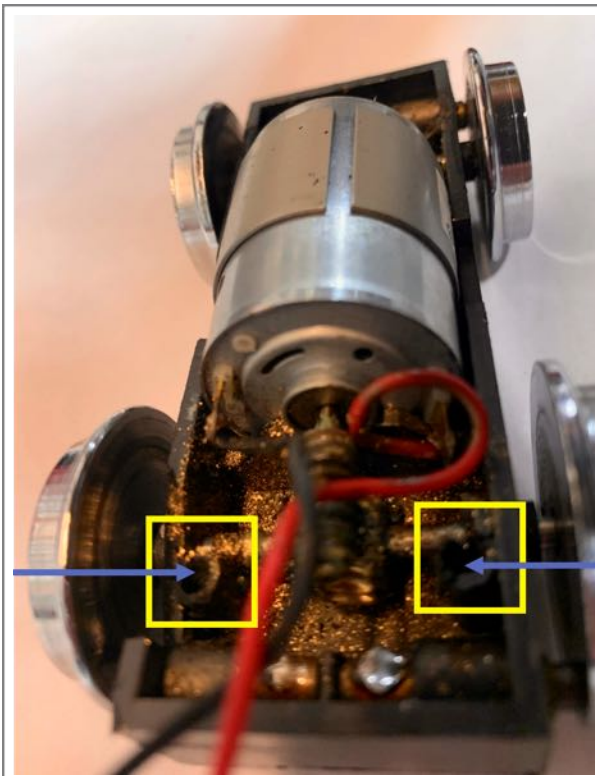
Slipping Gears in Motors

Introduction

Have you ever experienced the gears slipping in one of the motors on your locomotives? I have. While there may be several reasons for the slipping, most of the problems I've encountered revolve around the plastic housing not holding the drive shaft in place properly. This article discusses my solution to this problem.

The Problem

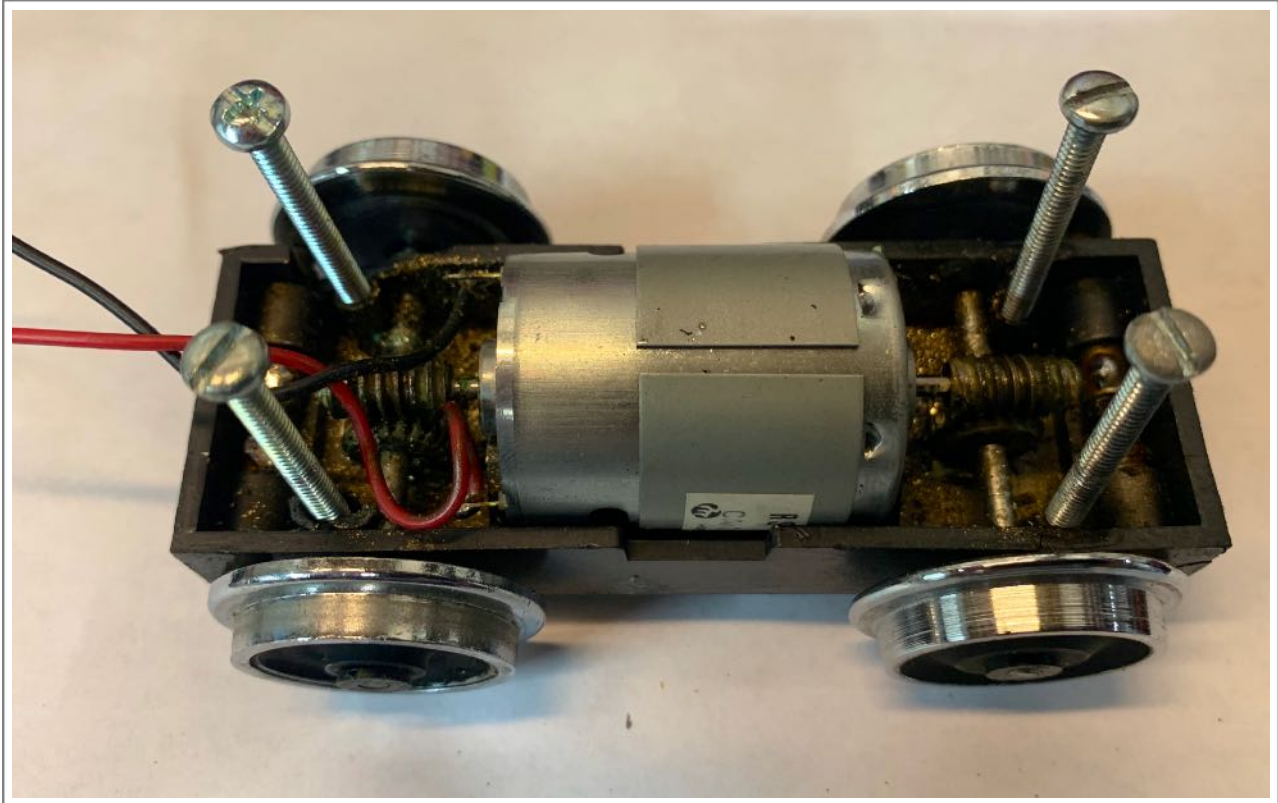
After opening up the housing to the motor, the problem became apparent. The drive shaft and gear extending from the motor was not fully engaged with the gear on the axle. This occurred because the top cover of the housing was not holding the drive shaft and gear in place. That occurred because the top cover was not secured to the bottom part of the housing. That occurred because the screws designed to secure the top cover to the bottom was not secure, because the sleeve was broken into which the screws were driven. Without the screws secured into the sleeves, the top cover was loose, allowing the gears on the drive shaft to 'jump' off the gears on the axle. This was evident based on the many shreds of brass shown at the bottom of Photo 1. Also shown in both photos below with the squares and pointed to with the arrows, are the broken sleeves.



One Solution to the Problem

One solution to resolve the problem is to replace the sleeves, but that is impossible as they were part of the molded plastic bottom of the housing. So a second solution is to devise a way to secure the screws into what remained of the sleeves. My solution that has worked on several of these motors, is to continue drilling a hole down through the sleeve until the drill bit exits the housing, and then tap the hole to accommodate a #6 x 32 bolt.

Photo 3 below shows the four bolts screwed into the tapped sleeves that will securely hold the top cover onto the bottom part of the housing.



I've used this type of repair of three such motors and applications, and thus far it seems to be working. While this is just one solution if you ever experience this same problem, I am sure there are other solutions as well. If you have your own solution that is different but still effective, please share it with me and the rest of DGRS.

Jim Desautel



SMOKE'N

Installing a high output smoke generator.

Several years ago, while making a 3D video at the Nevada Northern Railroad in Ely, Nevada, I filmed this scene of a vintage 2-8-0 exiting a tunnel on the run from Ely to the mining camp:



John Hart



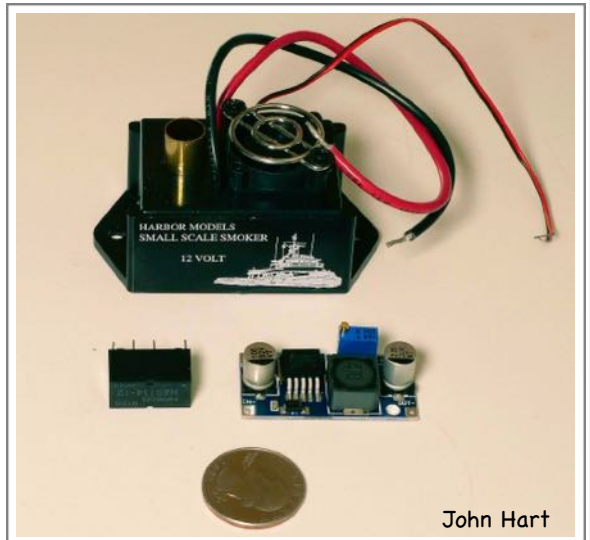
John Hart

Wouldn't it be cool to have something like this on my own G-scale layout! Gary Carlson once told me he had put a large Harbor Models smoke unit (designed for big model boats) into one of his giant 4-8-8-4 locos. Although I never saw his in action, I decided to investigate if it would be possible to put something similar into my much smaller LGB steamers.

Below is the "small" smoker I used, along with a dc-to-dc converter (to give 12 volts, at ~1.2 amp), and a bridge rectifier to insure polarity of voltage after pickup from the ~20 volts on my DCC track. Alternatively, one could run this unit off a battery, but the drain is fairly large. Although I do use radio control and battery drive for my locos, I power the smoke unit off the track, which is set at 20 volts for lights and accessories.

It was not easy to mount this into my LGB engines. It would have been best to put it in the front of the boiler just under the stack, but that meant removing LGB electronics, maybe even the engine's sound unit, and perhaps its lead weights.

So I decided instead to put it in the cab, and run the smoke through some Tygon tubing, via a T, up along the top of the boiler and out the stack, with an L at the end of the tube. Here are some of the custom brass and epoxy fittings, designed for minimal flow constriction:

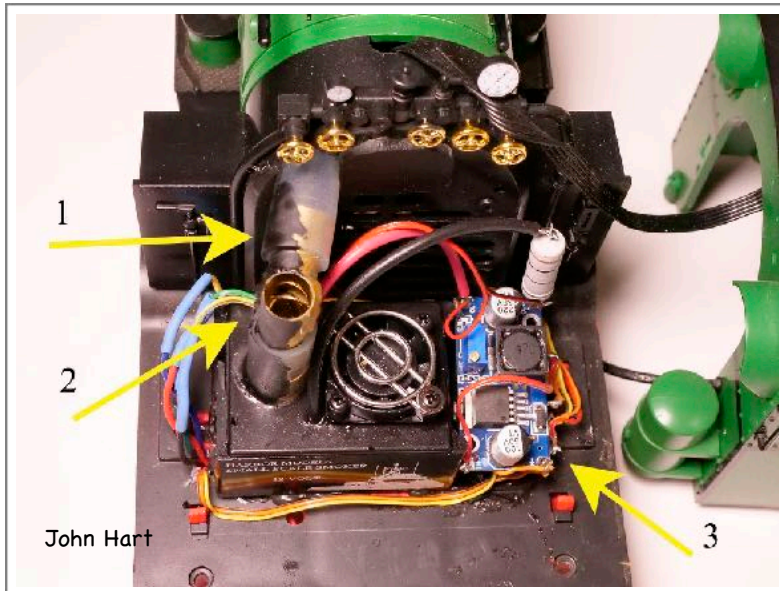


John Hart



John Hart

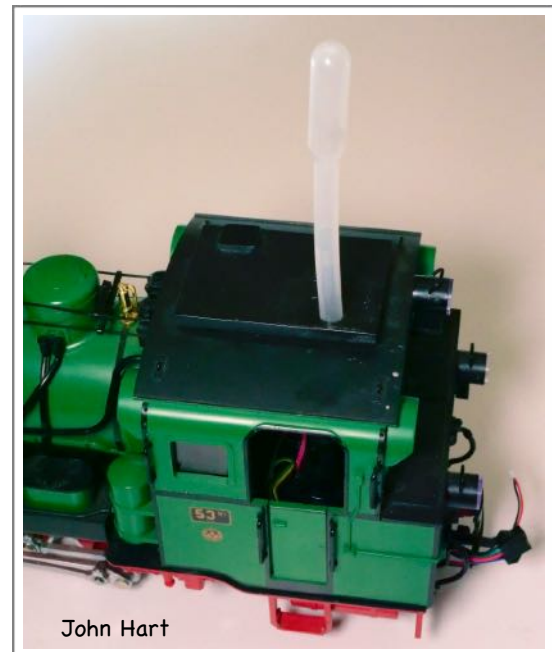
Every engine is different (unfortunately!), but the gist of it was to mount the dc-to-dc converter and the smoker in the cab, fit the smoker with a T whose horizontal leg tubed out to the stack through a hole in the control wall, and whose vertical leg could be capped or uncapped to allow filling with smoke fluid through a hole in the cab's roof.



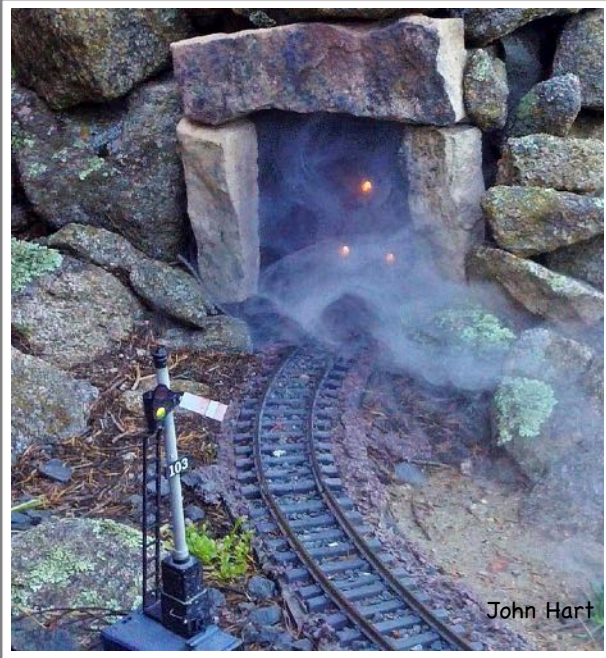
Example:

- 1) Tygon tube heading through the boiler to the stack.
- 2) Brass T with vertical opening for filling. The vertical opening is fitted with a stopper during operation and storage,
- 3) dc-to-dc track-voltage to 12 volts converter (bridge rectifier underneath).

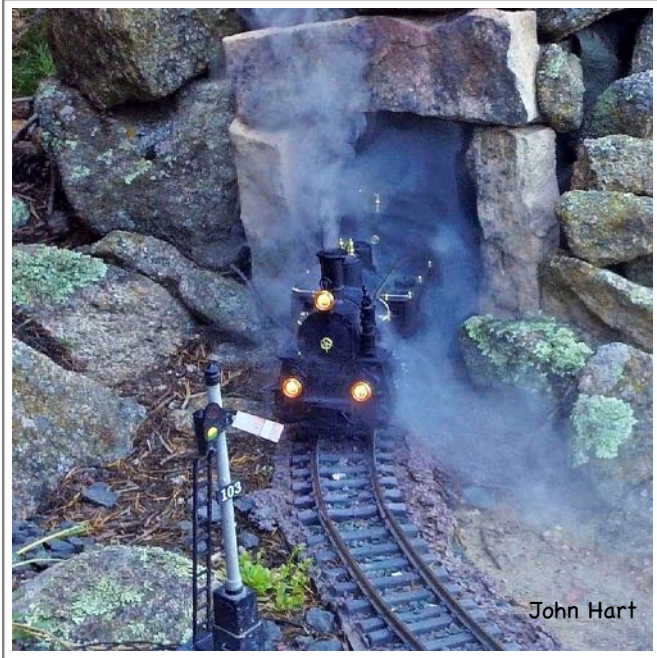
Side view of the cab with stopper in place, and filling operation through the roof.



Well, was it worth all the work? Yes and no. The 'small' smoker is a little tricky to run. You have to put just the right amount of fluid into it. Too much and it drowns the heater. Too little and the heater burns out (bad!, not easy to replace). A dip stick (which comes with the unit) is essential, and about 3/8" of smoke fluid is best. Runs for about 40 minutes, before getting too low. When everything is right, like a cold day and no wind, it's great:



John Hart



John Hart

I put one of the large (~2X bigger in each dimension) Harbor Models smoke generators (harbormodels.com/smokegenerator.html) inside my "burning brewery".



John Hart

The bigger one takes about 2 amps (at 12 volts) and smokes like crazy. It is a lot less sensitive to fluid levels, but there is no way I could have gotten one of these into my 'tiny' engines. Oh well. Live and learn. Part of the fun of our hobby.

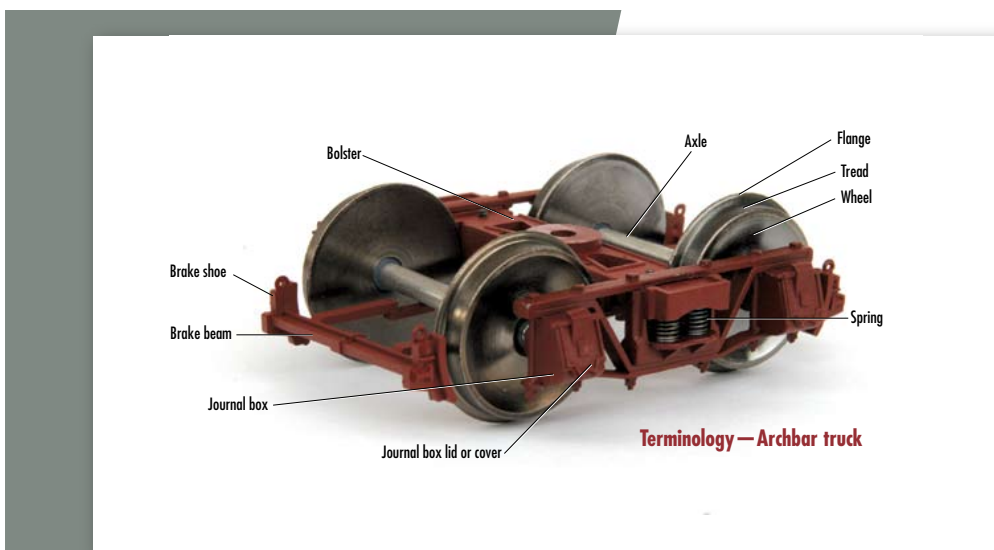
John Hart

Tips for all New Garden Railroaders

So that we never stop learning, we will include information from past clinics, other clubs and organizations in this section of the newsletter.

Hopefully, each month you should find something here that will be of interest to some of you, even if it was from years ago.

These tips are from Garden Railroads in 2014. The full document is at <https://www.trains.com/grw/beginners/free-downloads/50-tips-tricks-for-your-garden-railway/>. Thanks to Kalmbach Media for allowing the publication to be reproduced.



50 Tips & tricks for your garden railway

1

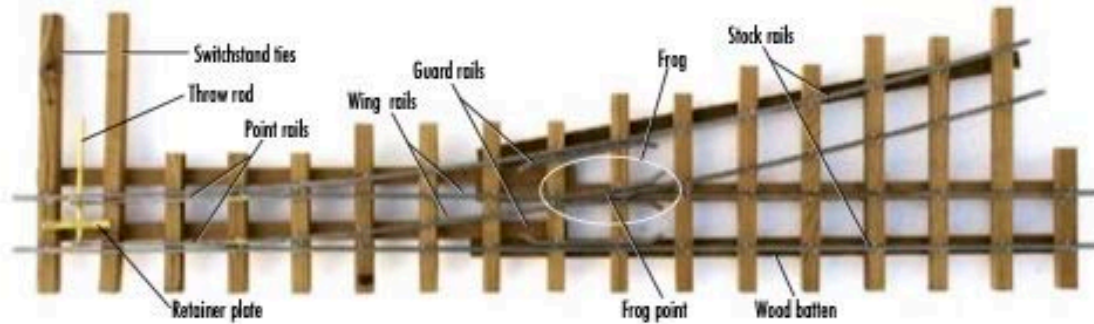
Hanging on to little screws

To keep those pesky little track screws on the end of the driver when getting them started, apply a tiny bit of Elmer's glue stick on the end of the driver. It's white glue in a semi-solid form. Rain and weather will eventually disperse it, but it is enough to provide some hold.

2

Wiring in pipes

Don't run wiring under the track. If you have an electrical problem, you'll have to dig up a large part of your railway to find it. Instead, bury 2" pipes beside the line, using 6" plumbing pipe and end caps to make accessible junction pits. Run feeders away from the trenches using small pipe. Wiring can then be easily accessed for repairs, additions, etc. Wiring is also protected from a garden spade. Pits can be hidden or visually softened with plants.



Terminology — Switch

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Tips & tricks
 for your garden railway

3

Making translucent "glass"

If you paint newsprint with polyurethane resin, it becomes translucent and stiff. It can be cut with an X-acto knife and is great for use in clerestory windows in coaches, bathrooms, or anywhere else "see-through" glass would be inappropriate.

5

Before you paint

Before painting a plastic kit, wash all of the parts in soapy water to remove any mold release or hand oils that would prevent the paint from properly adhering.

6

Use the proper tools

Nothing frustrates more than taking three hours to do a task that should have taken three minutes, if you'd used the proper tools. Using improper ones is like using a plastic butter knife to cut a thick steak. Unless you're on a diet, it is inefficient and counterproductive. Using improper tools is not only discouraging, it could be dangerous, both to you and your model. The use of proper tools will make the projects flow faster and you will be encouraged by the confidence and skills you develop.

4

Don't be afraid to try

People often believe that they are incapable of doing something only because they have never tried. Anyone who has been successful has reached their goals by taking risks and venturing into the unknown. Learning the art of weathering, for example, is a common fear amongst modelers fear, but knowledge will not come without effort. The best tool for learning is to practice on a cheap or old model. If you make a mistake, you can learn what went wrong and try again. This is the best way to both discover and improve your capabilities.

7

Weatherproof control box

If you're looking for a weatherproof control box for outdoor use, consider using a large, insulated ice chest to keep your electronics safe from the elements.



8

Protecting LGB switch boxes

Commercially available, weatherproof mailboxes will house three LGB switch boxes mounted side-by-side, using the side connectors of each box. Install the main input cable on the rear of one of the boxes, as there is not enough room to use the remaining side connector for input when using three boxes side-by-side. Simply drill holes for front mounting of the switch boxes in the floor of the mailbox and install using small screws, after drilling holes in the rear of the mailbox for incoming/outgoing wires and attaching the wires to the switch boxes. The switch boxes will stay clean year round and can be locked in the mailbox to deter theft. Seal the holes with aluminum duct tape on the inside after wires have been installed if you want a bomb-proof installation. The picture (above) shows these in use: the top box has switch controls, the bottom box has block controls.

9

An easy-to-use track cleaner

Use a "Swiffer" mop for a track cleaner. Cut off 1 1/2" from each end of the mop base, then attach 3" x 6" Scotch-Brite scouring pads to the mop with double-sided tape. This combination makes an excellent track cleaner.

10

Take small steps

Risk taking is good, but you don't have to build the whole Roman empire in one day. Start your modeling career simply, by adding a little detail to a model. Once you build confidence, try painting and lettering a car for your favorite railroad. As you continue to learn, try some light weathering. Skills are not acquired overnight but, once acquired, the results are quite rewarding.

11

Bird-house buildings

Ready-made, unpainted bird houses, available from Hobby Lobby, Michaels, and other craft stores, make excellent starting points for large-scale structures in the garden. A good coat of exterior-grade paint helps make them weather resistant.

12

When planting, plan ahead

Most of us, in our impatience to get lots of green into our garden railways, tend to plant perennials too closely together. Be sure to read the information on how far a plant (particularly a groundcover) can be expected to spread. Consider what to expect in another year or two, and space new starts accordingly. Cover the empty space with mulch and be patient. Your new plantings will fill in the space without intrusively intermingling with others.

13

Better spray painting

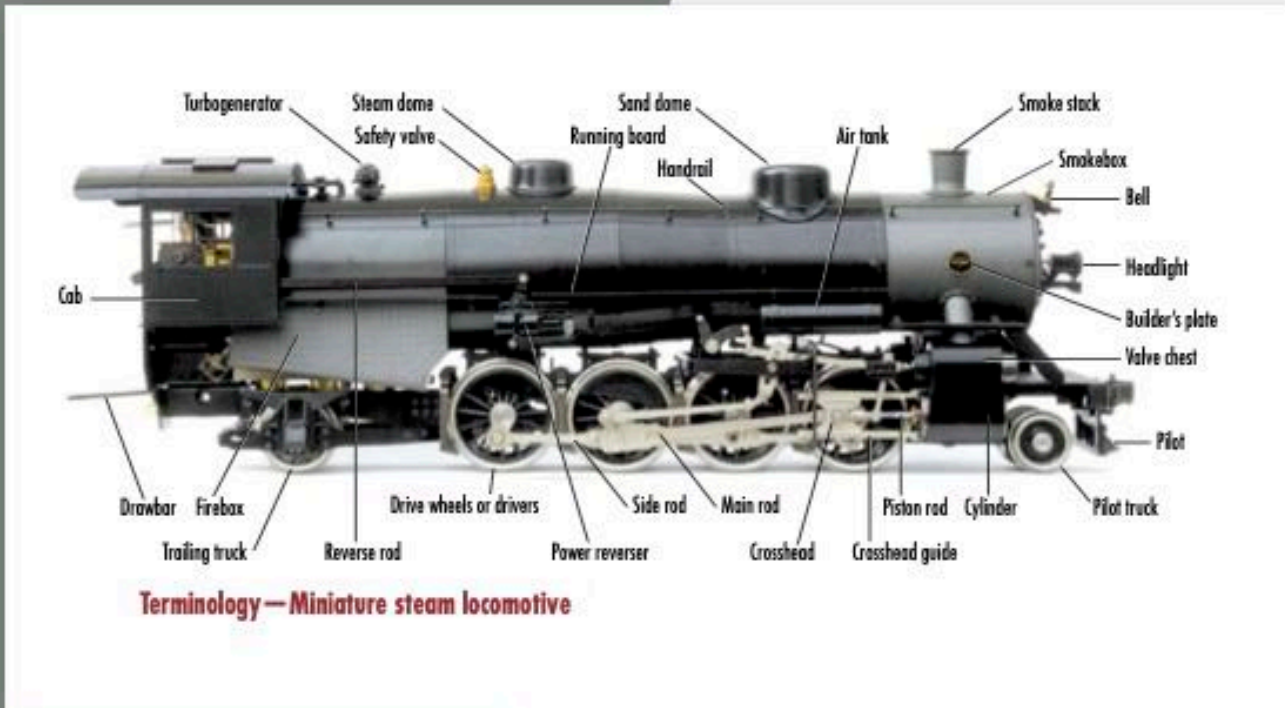
Spray paint in cans from the hardware store (Krylon and other brands) is capable of giving a fine finish. To help it along, immerse the can in warm water for 10 or 15 minutes before spraying. This helps the solvents flow better, giving a very fine spray.

14

Weathered enamelled signs

Here's an easy way to simulate old, rusting enamel signs. First, invent and print the sign, or digitally photograph a real one. Print it onto gloss photo paper. With a scalpel, scrape away the top color in places, leaving the white base. Then, in a smaller area, scrape away further until you are left with just the ragged paper. Blob some gray-brown acrylic paint on, then wipe it off right away. It will soak into the ragged paper and remain. Give it a light spray with a sealant. The result is that your enamel sign now not only has areas where the enamel has chipped away realistically, but this has a genuine three-dimensional effect to it. It is quicker to do than to describe.





Terminology—Miniature steam locomotive

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Tips & tricks
 for your garden railway

15

Stone mulch

Consider using crushed stone as mulch around alpine plants. Most alpine plants grow naturally in poor, but well-drained soils. Stone mulch has heat retention qualities that are conducive to giving your plants a good start in spring, and the excellent drainage it provides will discourage crown rot.

16

Headlights for live steamers

A working headlight adds a lot to a locomotive. On a live-steam engine, you'll have to run one off a battery. Running wires can be problematic, sometimes. However, it's possible that all you'll need to run is a single wire. A live-steam locomotive is largely metal. You may well be able to solder one wire from the battery box directly to the floor or cab wall of the engine, using the metal structure of the locomotive to complete the circuit. Then

you'll only need to run a single lead to the headlight. The light's other lead can be soldered to the headlight bracket or smokebox. Use a continuity tester to see if this will work for you.

17

Add color with roses

Micro-miniature roses (under 12" high) can be pruned to look like scale trees or shrubs. They will add color and texture to both urban and rural scenes.

18

Avoid distractions

Have you been guilty of wasting time because you tried to work on a model while watching television? This doesn't work. Your attention is drawn to the television program instead of your work on the model and, before you know it, you will have accomplished little in the time you have set aside. Avoid this distraction by listening to music instead. You'll still have the background noise, but you will be more focused on the work at hand.

19

Conduit

If you are running a lot of wiring to distant tracks, PVC pipe makes an excellent, inexpensive conduit. Sections are easily connected to one another using special cement available at hardware stores.



20

Plan your work

When contemplating a project, you must first set goals regarding what you want to achieve. Part of this is simply deciding what you want to build. You should then quantify your goals by deciding how much work you want to put into the project. Whether you decide to do a little work or a lot, you have control of your own choices.

21

Sawdust for weed suppression

After cutting up old redwood fence boards for ties, timbers, etc., keep the sawdust. Neither bugs nor weeds like it, and it makes a good corral floor or pathway. Even a layer ¼" thick will stay down and look good. When it begins to fade, just add another layer!

22

Flat wire source

A good source for flat wire or modeling projects is to use staples from cardboard packing boxes. These are an inexpensive source of materials for making boxcar steps and other small details.

23

A carrying case for trains

An old suitcase, lined with foam, makes a fine carrying case for locomotives and rolling stock. Pull the lining out of the suitcase and glue the foam in with contact cement.

24

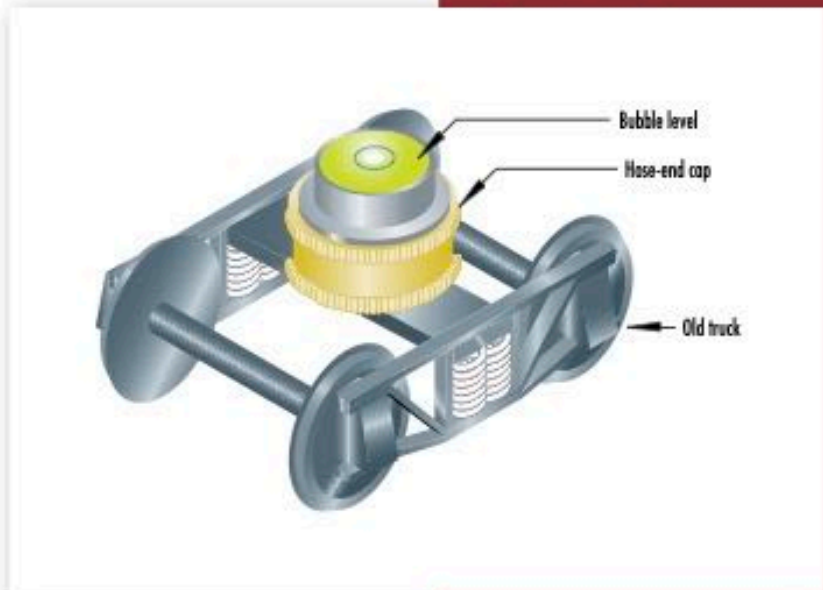
Keep your switches clean

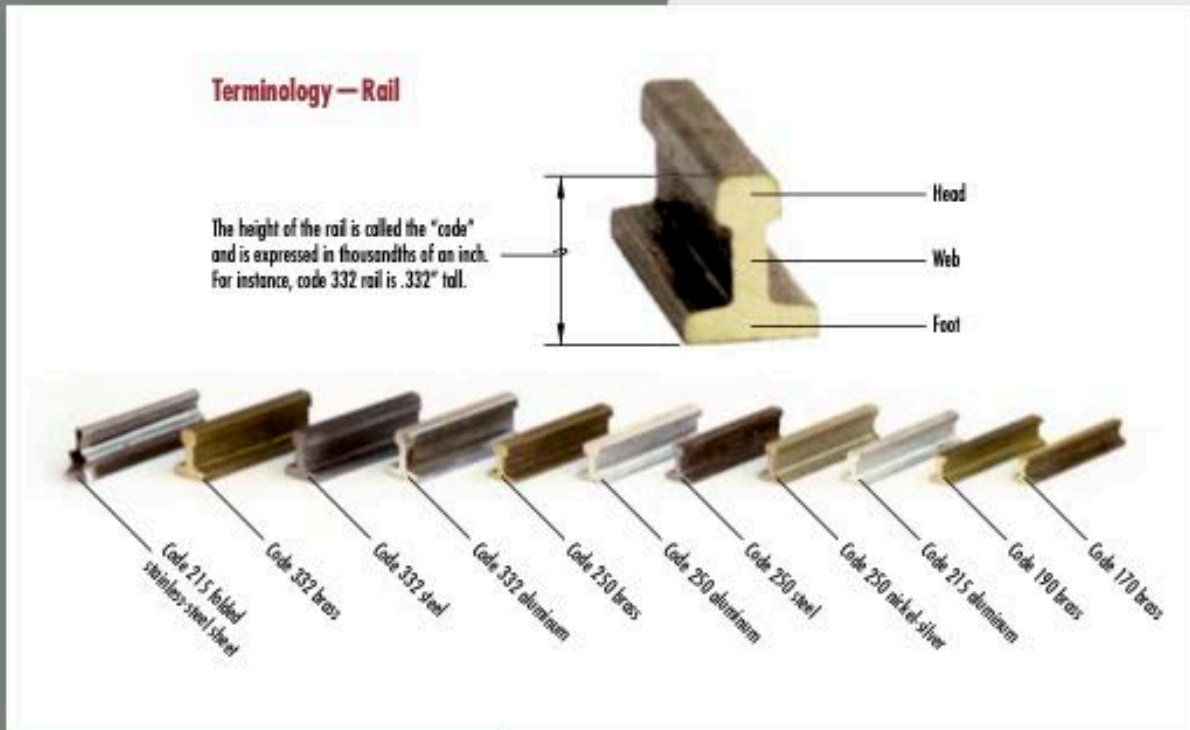
To help keep switches from getting clogged by blowing debris (dirt, ballast, leaves, etc.) when the railway is not in use, look for some shallow plastic planting trays at your local hardware store or garden center, that are just a little larger than your switches. Mark the sides of the tray where they intersect the rails, then cut out openings for the rails with a hacksaw. Place the tray on top of the switch, using a brick or stone for added weight. Cut the openings deep enough for the tray to rest on the ground. For a really tight seal, you can use aluminum duct tape to cover the openings around the rail.

25

A rolling level for track ballasting and maintenance

Here's a quick-and-easy project that will help keep your track in fine trim. Take an extra truck and glue a hose-end cap with a fairly flat blank end to the truck, using either clear silicone or "Goop." Glue the cap over the truck's bolster with the open end down. Buy a bubble level (the round, centering type that some places use to balance tires) at a hardware store and glue that onto the flat hose cap surface and you'll have a rolling level. It works great for rolling along as you reballast and relevel your track after a season of weather's ravages!





50
Tips & tricks
for your garden railway

26

Finding dropped parts

A small part or screw, if dropped on a heavily patterned floor, can often be difficult to find. One useful technique is to turn the lights down, then use a flashlight, laid flat on the floor, to look for the part. The beam of light will cause the part to cast a long shadow, essentially enlarging it and making it easier to find.

28

Blowing out the fire

If you're running alcohol fired, live-steam locomotives, the fire can sometimes be difficult to blow out, especially if it is protected by a good firebox. Canned-air products, like "Dust-Off," can be quite effective. Just point the nozzle down the side of the firebox, or down the stack on an internally fired engine, and give it a blast. The fire will be out in a second.

27

Toning down LEDs

White LEDs often have an unrealistic blueish cast to them, making them less than desirable for lighting. You can mitigate this somewhat by "painting" the LED with a yellow or orange permanent marker, giving it a more realistic yellowish cast.

29

Keeping track of joiner screws

If you have trouble keeping tiny Aristo-Craft track screws on the hex driver, simply take some white construction paper and crease it the long way so it forms a shallow "V." Place this under the joint in the rails. When the screw falls off, it will roll into the center of the paper and be easy to retrieve. When finished with one rail joint, just slide the paper down to the next and continue on.

Choo Choo Sew

The sewing group met in September and again in October. However very few of us were able to make the gathering so progress is slow. Our next sewing day is November 16th at 11:00 AM. Please call me if you are planning to join us. **We will not meet in December but will get back into our routine of the third Thursday of every month beginning in January.** We always gather at 11:00 AM and enjoy lunch before we launch into the quilt and sew the afternoon away.

There is plenty of room for everyone who might want to participate in helping us make a quilt for DGRS. No experience is necessary, just a desire to learn to put together a quilt inspired by and made with t-shirts.

Merrie Jones has been our teacher on this project. Her lessons have helped to inspire me to make a quilt in the near future for my marathon running daughter-in-law. When we saw her in July she asked me to make a quilt from the many t-shirts she had accumulated.

QuiltI had no idea at that time how to go about such a project. However, I saw a very clever t-shirt quilt made for a high school graduation gift at a quilt show. The girl was a cheerleader and a cross country runner. She had 35 t-shirts which were very cleverly arranged into a most unique and delightful quilt. This group provides lots of stimulation for our personal projects as well as an opportunity to learn from each other. Sharon Underwood was our leader in making the train table runners we made this summer. She figured out how to cut out the locomotives in fabric for us to appliqué onto the fabric. This hobby is a great way to show our love of trains and train people.

After we finish this project, there will be a nice quilt featuring DGRS and Colorado Trains which we will either donate to be a door prize, or perhaps the club can auction it off as a fund raiser. Then we will be discussing our next project. Will it be a vest for our pins and patches, or a bag for schlepping treats to a train meeting, or??? One will never know until we actually begin sewing on it.



Cherylene Evans



Publications

The best experience of the DGRS newsletter is to read it online or download it and read it on the computer or tablet. Articles and topics provide links to photos, videos, additional information and enhanced content that supplements the article.

If you print it and read it off-line, you will miss a lot of the content. As an example, there may be links to other web sites, documents and movies that you would not be able to access if the newsletter was printed.

Any links in this newsletter were active at the time of publishing. In some cases, the web site may have ceased operation, the material was removed or expired, and it is no longer available. We have no control over these issues, but try to make sure the links are active at publication time.

The newsletter content is for DGRS members and all Garden Railroad club members. We do not share email addresses nor telephone numbers within the general part of the newsletter. For DGRS members, there is a Members Only section that is not distributed to other organizations.

If you need to contact DGRS, the following email addresses are available:

Club President: president@denvergardenrailway.org

Web Site: webmaster@DenverGardenRailway.org

Newsletter: publications@denvergardenrailway.org

This is what happens when you give the engine too much gas while switching.

This happened at my work on October 19

Richard Corey



Richard Corey

Thanking a Vet

Doug Mayes

Veteran's Day is fast approaching – a day set aside to recognize the service our military personnel have provided and continue to provide to our country and our citizens. While I am sure there are many veterans in DGRS, Cindy and I wanted to recognize a specific veteran for his service to our country – Doug Mayes. Doug served in the Air Force for a total of 24 years in both the Active Force for 4½ years and the Reserve Force for 19½ years. Doug's field of expertise was Communications, or what Air Force people called the Comm Squadron. The Comm Squadron was responsible for the communication equipment on each base, and there is a lot. This equipment included telephones, radar, air traffic control signals, high frequency signals, signals sent to and received from satellites, short-wave radios that allowed commanders to stay in constant contact with their fighting forces, and even what were called TWX's. TWX's were high speed notes sent to any military base worldwide. You might recognize a TWX in what we call 'texts' today. But the Air Force was using them over 50 years ago. All of these systems, plus others unique to various weapon systems, were managed and maintained by personnel in the Comm Squadron.

Doug's role in various Comm Squadrons varied from base to base where he was assigned, but his primary role was deploying the radar/communications networks used to monitor and direct aircraft in combat zones. These signals were the predecessor to what is now called the Global Positioning System, or GPS. But when Doug first started out, the GPS did not exist. So, Doug's job was to provide the air traffic controllers with a visual display of the combat zone and have reliable communications with all the aircraft. This job was particularly important in Germany given the proximity to the Soviet Union and other so-called Iron Curtain Countries

After entering the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant, Doug served at various locations including Mississippi, Germany, Texas, and Nevada. Doug closed out his military career at Buckley AFB retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

As many of you know, Doug has guided DGRS through several National Conventions. His leadership role and service DGRS has been easy for Doug as serving others comes naturally to Doug. In his military service, he served the many customers in the Comm Squadrons in which he worked, so serving others in DGRS was a natural follow-on for him. DGRS is lucky to have him as both a member and leader within the club.

Doug met Ricki while in college, and they have been married 56 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren and they all live in Lakewood. Doug truly appreciates how close they live as it is very handy when they are preparing their layout for the annual DGRS summer tours. Doug has owned and operated a financial services business in Lakewood for 40 years.

Thank you, Doug (and Ricki), for your service to our country. Happy Veterans Day.

Jim Desautel

Ghost Riders of the DGRS



It has come to the attention of management and train crews that every month the DGRS Express leaves the station the train is half empty. The train crews are complaining about inaccurate train consists for the journey as ridership is down to a hardy 80 souls, but the manifest is registering over 140 souls.

The engineers and conductors of the DGRS are a challenged bunch and rely on an accurate and full train list every month the train departs. Management has ensured that they have provided every avenue for the ghost riders to come aboard and participate in the DGRS Express. Ghost riders are encouraged to stop by the station and pick up their tickets to catch the train.

The express stops by the Clements center, the CRRM, and DGRS members' homes monthly, so please pick up your ticket and jump aboard.

This is a spoof article designed to encourage DGRS Members to participate in events. Written by Jeff Lillo

Casey Jones comes to the LCRR

All train people know about the legendary Casey Jones. Now you have a chance to meet him during your next visit to the LCRR. By way of a little preview let me give you some background on our Casey.

Although he stands 6 feet 3 inches tall, he only weighs 130pounds. His physical makeup is as follows; like his namesake he has a steel constitution. To be more specific, he is composed of the following:

- legs= an old jeep bumper,
- body = 20 gallon air compressor tank,
- arms= pieces of an old swing set,
- overalls and shirt= pieces of sheet metal,
- watch= a small tin can,
- watch chain= an old necklace,
- lantern= an antique with a piece of PVC for an unbreakable globe,
- neck= an outdoor PA system speaker horn,
- scarf= an old kitchen towel,
- head = a 5 pound propane tank note: the propane has been drained so the tank is full of air,(but do not make the mistake of calling him an "air head"),
- face = scrap metal,
- ears=big washers,
- facial hair= sheet metal,
- Hair around hat = stainless steel pot scrubber a.k.a. curly Kate,
- hat = 2 quart pot from Goodwill with handle removed, a bill and vinyl stripping added to make it resemble a train hat.



What makes all these components stay together is a MIG welder and many hours of planning, cutting, welding and painting. Of course if you do not have imaginations don't bother to look. So far he just stands in the shade of the tree keeping the trains running on time but, one day with the help of **AI.**, he may actually engineer one of the LCRR trains.

Design, fabrication and report by Bob Leise.

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 each club name below or go the following link to access all the clubs:

<https://www.denvergardenrailway.org/index.php/links-to-other-clubs/>

[Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders](#)



**Northern Colorado
Garden Railroaders**

[***Mile High Garden Railway Society***](#)

THE GARDEN WHISTLE

[New Zealand Large Scale Newsletter](#)

[Bay Area Garden Railway Society](#)



[Puget Sound Garden Railway Society](#)



[Rose City Garden Railway Society](#)



[North Texas Garden Railroad Club](#)



[Gold Coast Garden Railway Society](#)



[Northern Ohio Garden Railway Society](#)



[Garden Railroading News \(GR News\)](#)
digital magazine

[Central California Coast Garden Railroad Society](#)



2023/2024 DGRS Calendar

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Nov 10, Friday	THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride Tickets	The magical holiday theatrical experience THE POLAR EXPRESS™ returns to the Colorado Railroad Museum.
Nov 16, Thursday	Choo Choo Sew Everyone is invited and will be welcome.	Contact Cherylene Evans for time and details: 8061 W Grand Ave, Littleton CO 80123
Nov 28, Tuesday	General Meeting. Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. ELECTION NIGHT Speaker will be Tom Klinger on the "C & S" books.	7:00 PM, Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, CO 80214
Dec 6, Wednesday	DGRS Board meeting	7:00 PM, @ Doug Mayes Office. 7114 W. Jefferson Ave, Suite 210, Lakewood 80235 or via Zoom
Dec 9, Sat	Hobo Brunch; Members get together and swap stories at breakfast.	8:30 am at the Valley Inn, 1997 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
December	Happy Holidays & Seasons Greetings No DGRS meetings are scheduled for December, because...	Santa Claus is coming
		
2024 EVENTS		
Jan 10, 2024, Wed	DGRS Turnover Meeting	8061 W Grand Ave, Littleton CO 80123
Jan 7 2024, Sun	<i>DGRS Holiday Party and Meeting at Old Spaghetti Factory</i>	12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Old Spaghetti Factory, 9145 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, CO 80031
Jan 13, Sat	Hobo Brunch; Members get together and swap stories at breakfast.	8:30 am at the Valley Inn, 1997 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
Jan 30, Tuesday	General Meeting. Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. James Mackay will talk on the South Park Restoration program	7:00 PM, Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, CO 80214
Feb 27, Tuesday	General Meeting. Our Annual Swap Meet and Pizza night along with our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center.	7:00 PM, Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, CO 80214