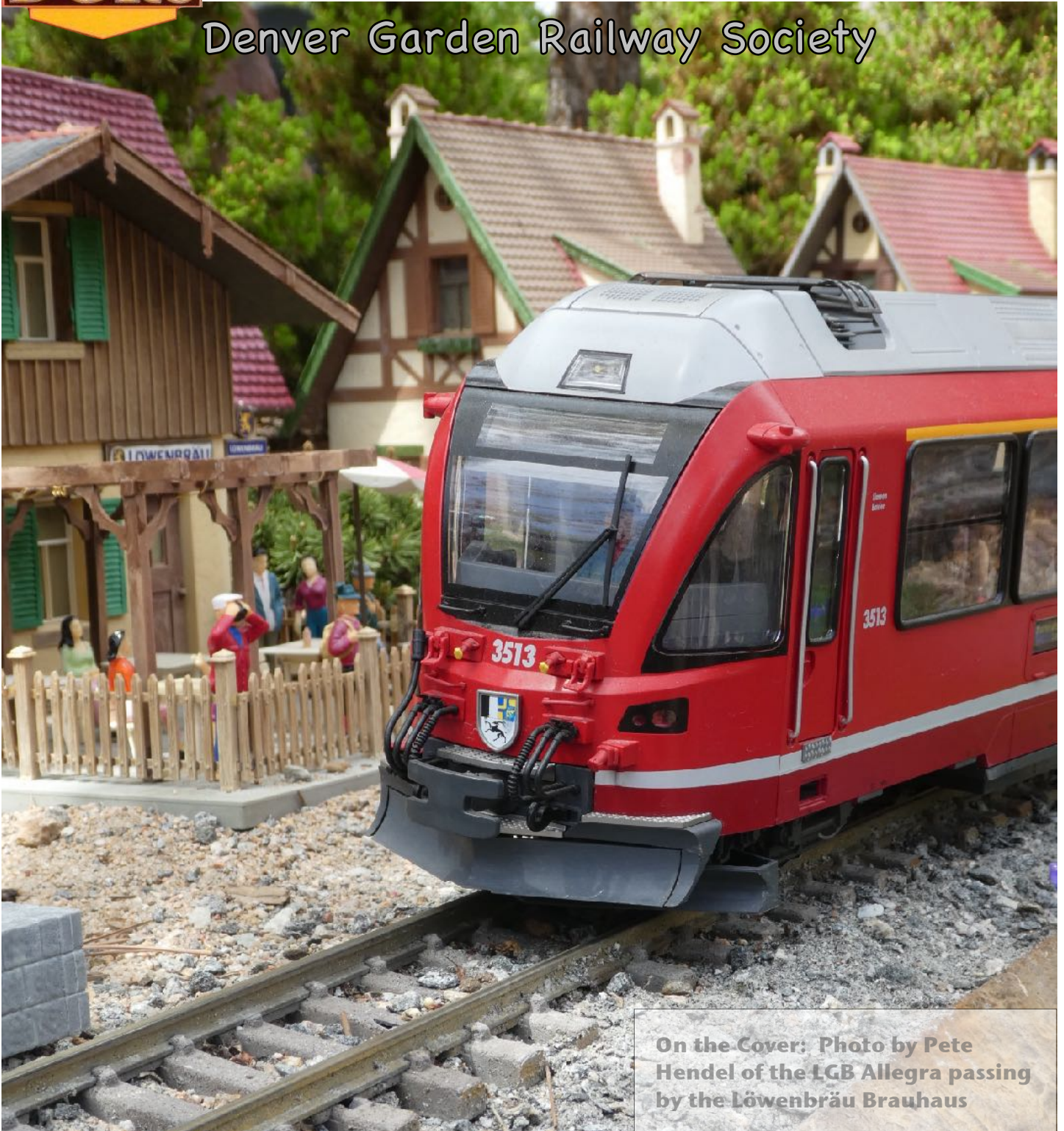




# NEWSLETTER

Denver Garden Railway Society



**On the Cover:** Photo by Pete Hendl of the LGB Allegra passing by the Löwenbräu Brauhaus



## View From the Caboose

Our April meeting was a lot of fun! It was delightful to see D. A. Bertram sporting a Christmas train shirt and win the Grooviest t-shirt prize (even though it wasn't a t-shirt (it was a very loud shirt). Mat Anderson was delighted with the rattiest t-shirt prize (a head lamp so he could better assess the clothes in his closet). The oldest t-shirt prize went to Byron Fenton who claimed that his shirt was at least 30 years old so he got an old fashion hot water bottle for his reward. Our show and tell was also fascinating. John Hart has engineered some amazing snow plows that really do a good job of clearing the snow from his mountain track. He showed off the actual plows as well as some short video of them doing the work. Al Blount brought several beautiful buildings from his abandoned railroad, and Doug Mayes talked about his AML GP 60 parts and installation. Our program was excellent. It is always a treat to see real trains and rolling stock being restored and returned to service. All of this, yet I must apologize for letting the meeting run late. I will make

sure that does not happen again. We will adjourn by 9 PM.

We will soon begin to tour railroads of our club members. This is one of the most rewarding benefits of being a member of DGRS. It is so fun to meet and visit with other train people and see the way they exhibit their trains and make the hobby fun. I love seeing other layouts and find it delightful to see how people use plants to enhance their layouts. We always invite members to bring their children and grandchildren to the museum and to our open houses. **However, parents are responsible to supervise their children at all events and activities.** As always, we must be respectful of the property of others and that of the museum.

The next workday at the museum is May 25. If you can come, please join us at 9 AM and be prepared to work. We will need people to carry rocks to line the pond, some to ballast the track, and some to work the plants in the garden. We also need to paint the porch of the Alpine Building and spiff up the control center. We will want people to manage a refreshment table, and help with cleanup. Come prepared to work! I expect most of us will go home close to noon. We will likely schedule another work day in June.

We really must get our DGRS layout up and running for the museum events that are scheduled for the summer. It is limping along at present and in need of some long over due maintenance. If you are at all able, come, pitch in. Many hands make for light work.

Cherylene



## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

### VIEW FROM THE CABOOSE

PROGRAMS

PUBLICATIONS

HOSPITALITY

CALENDAR

OUTREACH

MEMBERS ONLY

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

GARDEN RAILWAY  
CLUB NEWS

### Newsletter Contributors this Month

#### - A Special Thank You to each

Al Blount	Don McCullogh	Marilou Hendel
Alex Manne	Doug Mayes	Michele Miller
Alyssa Sorensen	Erlene Finch	Mike Harris
Anne Loring	James Mackay	Pete Lammer
Bob Finch	Joe Foss	Phillip Nilsson
Cherylene Evans	John Cushman	Robert Linton
Chris Greenwald	Larry Dorsey	Ron Keiser

## 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/>

**Rocky Mountain Railroad Club:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rockymtnrrclub>

*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

## May 28

Our DGRS meeting will be held at Jareds Nursery at 10500 W Bowles Ave, Littleton, CO 80127 to learn about plants for our layouts.

## June, 29, Saturday

Picnic and swap meet at the CRRM. Refer to the Hospitality report for more info.

## July 30, Tuesday,

Short meeting and Ice Cream Social at Michel Miller's home.

## August 24, Saturday

General Meeting at Larkspur, LCRR, Bob & Glenn Leise's home. Meeting, lunch and G Scale and 7 1/2 trains.

## September 24

Our first fall regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Richard Luckin will present our September program about the Pullman Car company and its history.

## October 29

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Paul Hammond from the CRRM will talk about the museum and its programs.

## November 19 NOTE Date Change due to Thanksgiving

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Bill Robie and Dave Ropchan will talk about the beginning of the Georgetown Loop.

## January 28, 2025

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Lindsey Ashby will be our speaker to tell us how all the equipment was moved to Silver Plume to start up the Georgetown Loop.

## Ron Keiser



## Hospitality

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

**GENERAL MEETING May 28**, - Water and cookies will be provided for our summer kick off at Jared's Nursery in Littleton. If any particular plant topics you'd like to hear about, let me know and I'll pass it on to Betsy. Last year she spoke to plants that are more "pest" resistant, and ways to minimize their impact. We'll see what she comes up with this year. Wear your name badge and come a little early to browse/purchase. They will offer a discount to members there for the meeting only. Terms are under negotiation.

**GENERAL MEETING/ DGRS SUMMER PICNIC and SWAP MEET June 29, 9am-2pm.** Not to be missed! Set aside the whole morning and plan on eating at 11:30 after our abbreviated 11:15AM General Meeting. **You must wear your DGRS badge or Membership card to get into the Museum.** As in the past, brats burgers and hotdogs (and a limited number of veggie burgers-please let me know if you fit into this category) will be provided by the club in addition to sodas/ water. Members, please bring a side dish (with a copy of your recipe if you're able to share it) according to LAST NAMES as follows:

A-K Fruit dish/ salad or Dessert

L-Z Salad (pasta, egg, potato or green, baked beans, etc)

For those with Family memberships, all immediate family members will be included, but those with Individual memberships will need to bring \$4 per extra person in attendance. This will be collected at check in. Members **MUST** have either a DGRS name badge or current membership card to attend. If you don't have either, please contact Al Blount, DGRS Treasurer, ahead of time.

RSVP by Wednesday June 25th to: Michele Miller (720)560-3165 (text/call).

In addition to the numbers attending, please provide names of the nonmembers so I can make them nametags ahead of time.

For more specific details on how the event will work (picnic and swap meet set up, how to access the Pavilion, timing, when/ where to drop off side dishes etc) please refer to the separate article in this newsletter

**GENERAL MEETING and ICE CREAM SOCIAL July 30**, Hosted by the Millers. Come at 6 to enjoy the Miller Family layout. Business meeting at 7 pm with Ice Cream Social to follow. No RSVP needed.

**GENERAL MEETING/ TRAIN DAY Saturday August 24** at the Larkspur Consolidated Railroad. A great way to close out the summer meetings!!! The Leises and rest of the Larkspur crew are preparing for a day of fun at the Leise Farm. Hot dogs and beverages per DGRS, side dishes alphabetically.

A-K Salad (pasta, egg, potato or green, baked beans, etc)

L-Z Fruit dish/ salad or dessert

Like the picnic, an RSVP will be required so we have enough to eat. **Contact Michele Miller with your intentions as for the CRRM event...**

**Keep coming to the meetings to hear of any changes or more details for the more distant events.** And no food/drinks unless you wear your **DGRS Badge.**

If for any reason you're unable to make the meetings because of transportation issues, we already have several carpool groups that have developed. Let me know if having a ride would make a difference in your attending, and we'll make sure to facilitate that!

We hope to see you at the upcoming meetings. It's the best way to hear about changes or get more details as events approach. As always, find me if we haven't talked in a while, or if you're new to the DGRS.

We have a good number of new members. Please remember to wear your badge (or your membership card in a lanyard sleeve- we have some in the Alpine Tunnel Building at the layout, and will have some available at upcoming events). This so that we can all put names together with faces! We still have badges in the Alpine Tunnel Building, awaiting their homes...

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

**Michele Miller**

## OUTREACH:

It's all about FUN (with some engineering, modeling, and gardening thrown in!). The Rocky Mountain Train Show on April 6-7 saw great attendance and was a fun time to connect with folks interested in the hobby. We even had several new memberships from the weekend! Thanks again to Scott and DeAnn Vance for their work on the shows-this is a great way to educate people on the hobby! And to Dale Underwood and Dean VandeBurg for supporting the Vances when it wasn't certain how things would work out... 🙌🙌🙌

Museum DGRS Layout opportunities continue on days of regular operations. All it takes is a rail truck, trolley, or small engine on Track 7 and a friendly face to help people run it! And conversations at the fence with people expressing an interest in the hobby. It's easy to plant those seeds in the young and more mature folk alike!

As the CRRM's programming ramps up, we'll see an increase in traffic around the layout. We'd love to have you join in the fun!

In addition to operators helping out at the DGRS layout, the club continues to look for community based outreach. Terry Foley, Outreach Chair, has his sights set on planned Rec Center events (starting with South Suburban as a pilot) this spring. Stay tuned, and let him know if you'd like to be involved in the planning! This will hopefully attract people (individuals and families) to the hobby. Another possibility is helping staff the Hudson Gardens layout, which falls under the South Suburban system. They run for 2 hours in the morning, 3 days per week. Details will be forthcoming if this seems to be a workable option for our DGRS members.

The Outreach Committee is also 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 be built or continue operating. But we need to hear from you! Let us know how you want to be involved!

**Michele & Terry**

## EXHIBITS

### Rocky Mountain Train Show - Spring 2024, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Denver Garden Railway Society layout at the Rocky Mountain Train Show April, 2024. Our club had a 40' x 90' (12m x 27m) layout at the Rocky Mountain Train Show. Many volunteers were needed to setup 8 tracks of action-packed G gauge railroading.

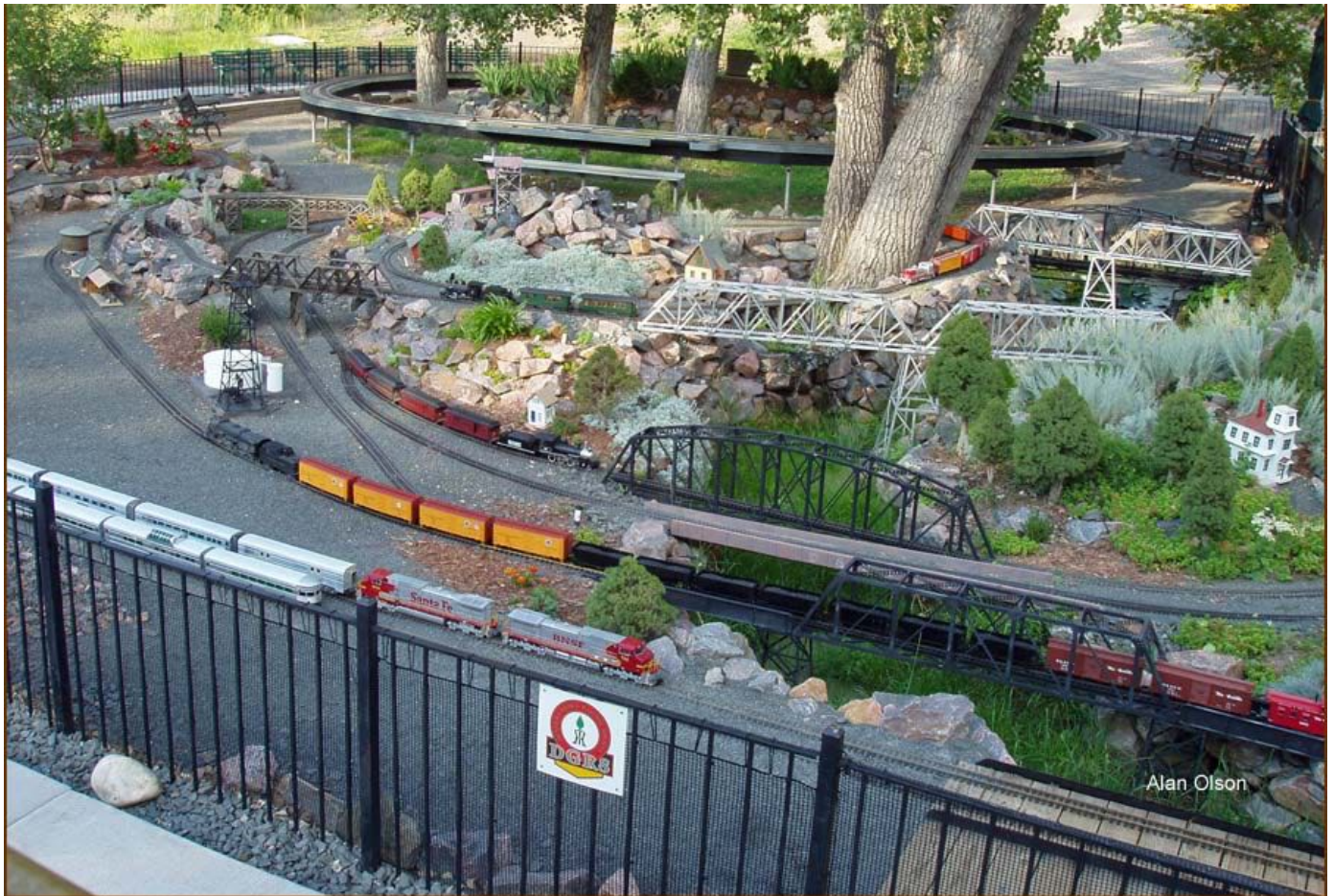
For more information about our club visit: [DenverGardenRailway.org](http://DenverGardenRailway.org)

Video of the action at the RMTS.

[Denver Garden Railway Society layout at the Rocky Mountain Train Show April ,2024](#)



## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS



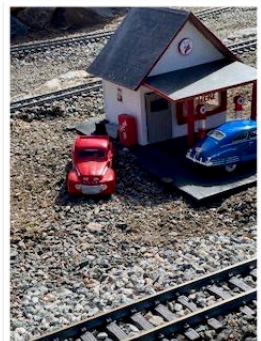
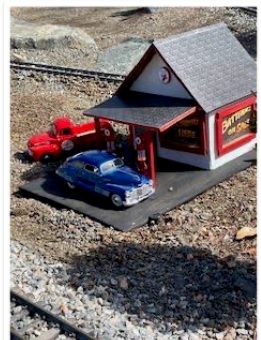
Alan Olson

### Activities at the Museum

Some months ago a donor contributed a large number of buildings to the DGRS. In helping Don McCullough go through them I thought a couple of the more whimsical buildings would look good on the Museum layout. So, I took a little depot and gas station home and went through the process of cleaning, sanding, gluing and painting to bring them back to life.

Since they were a bit smaller, I thought they would look good in the Rose Garden railroad on the north side of the layout. So, that is where they are now. I think the youngsters enjoy them. I used some lawn stakes to hold them in place. They are pretty light. So far they have survived our recent high winds.

### Larry Dorsey







←  
John Kaufman is running  
his new engine at the  
CRRM April 14, 2024.

→  
Re-channeling of the creek  
in the DGRS layout at the  
CRRM with Ezekiel Jones  
train crossing on track 5.



## RUNNING G SCALE at the Colorado Railroad Museum

This is an invitation to all members of DGRS to take advantage of our Clubs Large G Scale layout located at the Museum at 17155 West 44<sup>th</sup> Ave on the East side of Golden. You're welcome to run club designated trains or your own any time the Museum is open at no cost to you with free access to the Museum. Enter thru the gate straight back from entrance. Never drive past gated areas into Museum grounds to our layout. GOLF CARTS are available to bring in your equipment.

To qualify for this opportunity a few requirements are needed on your part. First a visible Club Badge is to be always worn. Sign a volunteer document for the Colorado Railroad Museum. Agree to work on the Garden Layout for eight (8) hours per year to help maintain the garden or equipment. After I or a designated senior club member explains the use, care and operation of the equipment, as well as general information you will be able to share with paying guests. A short test on general rules and operations will be given. NO CHILDREN UNDER the age of TEN are allowed in the Garden layout due to Insurance Requirements. Youth from age 10 to 15 must have a parent or guardian present throughout their time within the club layout.

After completion of this short informational session, you will be able to run any time the Museum is open during regular hours. We would encourage you to run on the weekends, however any day that meets your schedule would be greatly appreciated. The museum is closed on Mondays. Thank You

**Don McCullough**

Contact: Alan Olson or Don McCullough

## Train News

### Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

The Rocky Mountain Railroad club has had a page on their web site for years that has had excellent photos of trains. Recently the club has removed those pages and posted the photos on their Facebook page. You have to be a member to see the photos. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rockymtnrrclub>

### 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/>

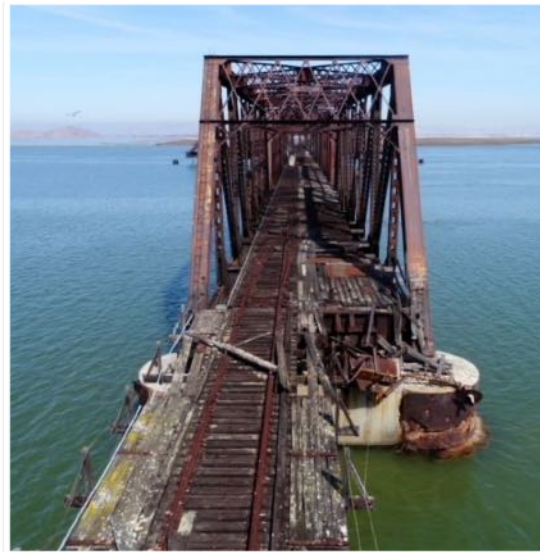
### Abandoned Rails

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 **June 8** at Valley Inn. Just show up, no reservations necessary! Location: **Valley Inn, 1997 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood**



Facebook  
Pete Lammer  
Fallen signal on the now 42 year abandoned Dumbarton bridge crossing San Francisco Bay



Facebook  
Pete Lammer  
Patrick Flanagan Staten Island NY

# SUMMER TOURS

People are stepping up to get their lines on tour. If you see your name and it is in the right month and/or quadrant, fine. If you see your name and it has a time and day, you are committed. If you have to move to another month, email me. If you don't see your name and you want to be on tour, but want to, email me. If you see your name but there is no day or time, you have not committed but I would like to get you on the committed side. Please call and tell me what day and time you prefer. If you have made changes from the last time you have shown, please update and email me that information. I can't wait to see what everyone has been up to!

**June 8/9. SE Quadrant**

- Miller 8<sup>th</sup> 9-3 and 9<sup>th</sup> 10-3
- Jones 8<sup>th</sup> 10-3
- Bisgard 9<sup>th</sup> 10-4
- Varney 9<sup>th</sup> 11-4
- Mayes 9<sup>th</sup> 10-3
- Dunlap 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> 10-3

**July 13/14 NE Quadrant**

- Hickman, Art, 14<sup>th</sup>
- Desautel 13<sup>th</sup> 10-3

**August 10/11 NW Quadrant**

- Cushman 10<sup>th</sup> 9-1
- Foley
- Burros
- Carlson
- Foley
- Manne
- Gardens on Quail

**September 14/15 SW Quadrant**

- Evans
- Fenton
- Finch?
- Hendel
- Petty
- Waber
- Leise w/LCRR
- Simmons

**Chris Greenwald**

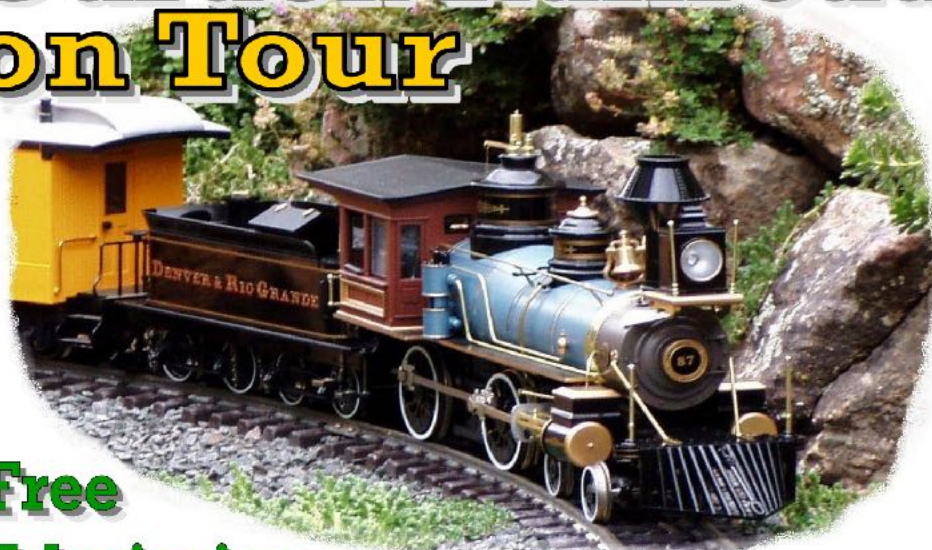


## Northern Colorado Summer Tours

Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders - Garden Railroad Tour will be June 15, from 9-4. It is open to the public, and we would especially like to have railroad club members come see our railroads. As the date gets closer, we will send out specific information with addresses. You will also be able to find the information on our website, NCGR.net, and on our Facebook page. At this time, we have 8 railroads on the tour, 5 in Fort Collins, one in Windsor, one in Berthoud, and one in Loveland. **Locations and Tour maps at:** <https://www.ncgr.net/2024-tour-maps.html>

Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders present their 17th Annual

# Garden Railroads on Tour



**Free Admission**

<b>Bruce Maxwell</b>	1500 Wagon Tongue Dr.	Fort Collins (North)
<b>Robert &amp; Sally Linton</b>	1501 Peterson St.	Fort Collins (Old Town)
<b>Sheilah Mann</b>	1713 Eastwood Ct.	Fort Collins (East)
<b>Mark &amp; Jayne Sears</b>	3131 Worthington Ave.	Fort Collins (West)
<b>Brian &amp; Susi Moon</b>	424 Starway St.	Fort Collins (South)
<b>Bob and Nancy Ferrero</b>	1979 Red Cliff Pl.	Loveland
<b>Good Samaritan Loveland</b>	2101 Garfield Ave.	Loveland (South)
<b>Shawn &amp; Patti Elworthy</b>	1072 Hawk Ct.	Windsor
<b>Carl &amp; Holly Hinderer</b>	640 Great Basin Ct.	Berthoud

# June 15 2024 9 to 4

---

## Save the date!

---



The Colorado Toy Train Foundation  
Is excited to announce an exclusive G Gauge Sales Event  
**Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Please plan on joining us at our Foundation headquarters  
171 S. Van Gordon St. Unit A, Lakewood, CO, 80228

We have something for every G Gauger including Cars, Engines,  
Accessories, Track, and more!!

While you're there, you can learn more about the Foundation, our  
education series, and our focus on the world of toy trains.

*Stay tuned for more information coming in early June*

**Click here to learn more about CTTF via our website.**

<https://coloradotoytrain.org/>



**Hi fellow Railroaders,**

I am a Board Member of the San Diego Garden Railway Society and am reaching out to you to invite you and your members to enjoy plenty of train-related events as we host the **2024 West Coast Regional Meet** this summer in sunny San Diego. It will be lots of fun for everyone!!

If we had contacted you previously, we just want to inform you that Registration is **now officially open**.

Look forward to seeing you at the event in Sunny San Diego Aug 10- 15th.  
All other detailed information can be found at [SDGardenRailway.com](http://SDGardenRailway.com)

Look forward to seeing you at the event in Sunny San Diego

**Dave Hillon**



## Big Boy No. 4014's Westward Bound Tour Schedule is Out!

Union Pacific's legendary [Big Boy No. 4014](#), the world's largest operating steam locomotive built to conquer mountains, will make 19 whistle-stops in five states this summer during its 2024 Westward Bound Tour from Wyoming to California. In addition, this mighty steam locomotive will be on public display for two days each in Roseville, California, July 12-13, and Ogden, Utah, July 20-21.

Big Boy will leave its home base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on Sunday, June 30, traveling across Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California and Idaho during July. Display days in Roseville and Ogden offer an up-close look at the 1.1-million-pound marvel along with the ["Experience the Union Pacific"](#) rail car, a captivating walk-through exhibition that provides a unique glimpse into the rich history of railroading.

### Scheduled whistle-stops:

Sunday, June 30: Laramie, Wyoming  
 Monday, July 1: Wamsutter, Wyoming  
 Wednesday, July 3: Green River, Wyoming  
 Thursday, July 4: Morgan, Utah  
 Saturday, July 6: Wells, Nevada  
 Monday, July 8: Carlin, Nevada and Battle Mountain, Nevada  
 Tuesday, July 9: Gerlach, Nevada  
 Thursday, July 11: Oroville, California  
 Sunday, July 14: Colfax, California and Truckee, California  
 Tuesday, July 16: Lovelock, Nevada  
 Wednesday, July 17: Carlin, Nevada  
 Friday, July 19: Montello, Nevada  
 Monday, July 22: Brigham City, Utah, and Soda Springs, Idaho  
 Tuesday, July 23: Kemmerer, Wyoming  
 Thursday, July 25: Point of Rocks, Wyoming  
 Friday, July 26: Medicine Bow, Wyoming

Check out the [official steam schedule](#) at [UPsteam.com](#)! Next week, special Big Boy tour merchandise will begin to arrive at our online store so you'll be able to place your orders in time for the upcoming tour! Check out the online store link that will be posted on [UPsteam.com](#) next week.

During the tour, the [Union Pacific Museum](#) will host a special passenger trip. The unique experience is the annual gala fundraiser for the nonprofit organization and provides a rare opportunity to travel on this historic heritage equipment. More information on the specifics will appear at [www.UPtrainTix.org](#) when they become available.

# 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](#)





## 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:

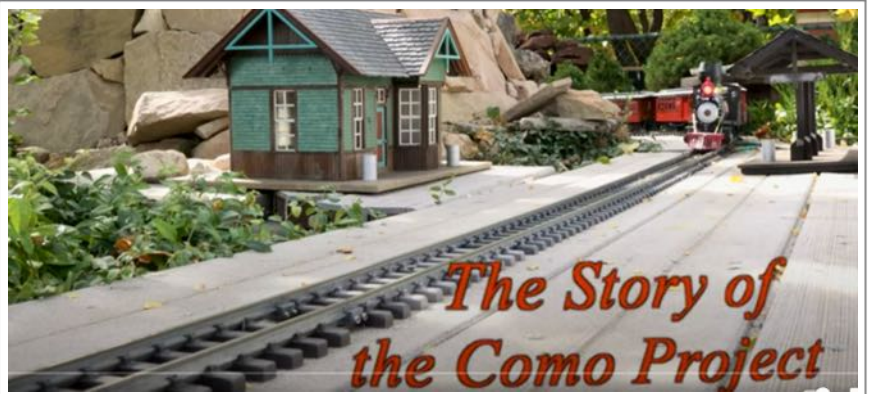
Club President: [president@denvergardenrailway.org](mailto:president@denvergardenrailway.org)

Web Site: [webmaster@DenverGardenRailway.org](http://webmaster@DenverGardenRailway.org)

Newsletter: [publications@denvergardenrailway.org](mailto:publications@denvergardenrailway.org)

## The Story of The Como Project

Chuck and Kathy Brantigan bought the Denver, South Park & Pacific's Como roundhouse in 2002 to preserve it. In 2016 they started the South Park Rail Society and acquired a 1912 Baldwin Prairie type steam locomotive "Klondike Kate." She was built for the Klondike railroad in Canada and also operated on the White Pass & Yukon railroad out of Skagway, AK.



Many volunteers have helped with restoring the Como campus, including the original Como depot, track construction, and rebuilding the water tank. Recently they acquired the Como hotel and have plans to refurbish it. Over a miles worth of rail is now on site and it is hoped to extend the tracks to the site of the King wye on the other side of the valley. Como is becoming a recognized site for rail fans from all over to immerse themselves in the heritage of Colorado narrow gauge railroading

[https://linklock.titanhq.com/analyse?url=https://youtu.be/XtdJ37EXwnY&data=eJx1jEsKwjAUAE-TLEP6Qd28RZF0IYLBunz5EGPbpORj7e3NBYRZDAyMglMjddNjvJi-1VSDNv5josVYJaJbdjxYiJaucl-K92i54N\\_HQBOsqGY8pJsN6TmGhamwOghbkYtTmF3wqYZ\\_uwKvnLdEuoGOY-UIJRcmTdUp61t3FtPunz9AEDdM](https://linklock.titanhq.com/analyse?url=https://youtu.be/XtdJ37EXwnY&data=eJx1jEsKwjAUAE-TLEP6Qd28RZF0IYLBunz5EGPbpORj7e3NBYRZDAyMglMjddNjvJi-1VSDNv5josVYJaJbdjxYiJaucl-K92i54N_HQBOsqGY8pJsN6TmGhamwOghbkYtTmF3wqYZ_uwKvnLdEuoGOY-UIJRcmTdUp61t3FtPunz9AEDdM)

**James Mackay**

# The Present and Future of Rail

## Part 3 CHINA

CHINA is a large country with a large rail system, so it gets a chapter or its own.

### COMPARISONS

China is nearly the same size as the United States, coming in at 3,795,407 square miles compared to the United States at 3,796,742 square miles. Of course, Alaska counts in measuring this. The population figures are nearly reversed: The United States has an estimated (2023) population of 334,914,281 people, but China, now the second most populous country in the world (behind India) clicks in at 1,409,670,000 souls. Another interesting fact: China’s population is falling as its riches grow, although China is still considered “developing” by most economists.

China is also an ancient country, dating back at least to the 13th century BC (Shang dynasty). Population distribution is also very different from the US. The population density is very low in the US in the Middle, (think Kansas and Nebraska, as opposed to the populous west coast and Eastern & Southeastern seaboard) while Chinas population is mostly in the Eastern third of the country-there aren’t too many people in the central and West of China, and this is reflected in the development of their rail transportation system.

**Chinese rail map:** Note high speed lines in red, and the rail is mostly in Eastern China.



## STEAM BEGINNINGS

China had something like high-speed rail as far back as the thirties and forties, with steam locomotives in Manchuria achieving speeds up to 60 mph (and the locomotives looked a bit like Dreyfus styled knockoffs).



Asia Express: Sorta high speed steam 1930s and 40s

This, however, did not meet our modern definition of high-speed rail, which is clocked at 120 to 240 mph. China also possesses one MAGLEV system (meaning “Magnetic Levitation” – more on this later). China jumped into high speed with the inauguration of their CRH (China High Speed Rail) system, the origins of which date to the 1990’s with China’s leader at the time, Deng Xiaoping. He inaugurated what came to be known as the “high-speed rail dream” after a trip to Japan in the 70’s, where he observed the Shinkansen railway system (the Japanese Bullet Train) which has become very popular worldwide.

Around 1993, the Chinese railway system was averaging only 30 miles per hour and its passenger patronage was shrinking in favor of aviation and roadways. The Chinese Ministry of Railways began a “speed up” campaign, which started with several improvements: Double tracking to increase capacity, electrification (abandoning steam and diesel, but slowly) improving the “road” itself (eliminating grades, improving tunnels and bridges, reducing the degree of curved track) and changing to continuous, welded rail. Passenger rail patronage improved, as did speed, which started to reach towards 100 mph, initially with Swedish built diesels.

Internal debate within the Chinese government, specifically the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Engineering focused on two technologies: traditional rail on wheels (you guessed it, 5’8 ½” between the rails-but high speed) and MAGLEV.

## MAGLEV

This was specifically considered on a new rail line then being proposed between Beijing and Shanghai. In 2000, the Shanghai Municipal Government agreed to purchase a Transrapid train system – MAGLEV- from Germany for a rail line between Shanghai’s International Airport and the city of Shanghai. This went into operation in 2004, becoming the first in the world operating MAGLEV train system. It travels at 268 mph in its dedicated MAGLEV corridor and travels its nearly 20 mile journey in less than seven and a half minutes.



Chinese MAGLEV train from Shanghai Airport to Shanghai City

But this is the only MAGLEV train operating in China: ultimately, they chose to pursue the Japanese alternative (Shinkansen Bullet Train). Why?

The first is cost – not just the cost of obtaining MAGLEV and building it, but also power consumption as MAGLEV use tremendous amounts of electricity. The cost of the train line between the airport and the city is estimated to have been 1.3 billion, - over 68 million per mile (counting the train itself). This was made possible, in part, by the German Government providing partial financing for the project. Also, residents along the right of way launched protests about the noise and fears of about electromagnetic radiation. The Chinese government tried, without success, to convince residents that they need not fear the radiation.

Finally (and this is important, because it is a continuing feature of Chinese commercial development) was the refusal of Transrapid in Germany to share the technology behind MAGLEV with the Chinese Ministry of Railways, and also a refusal to allow the sourcing of production of MAGLEV trains in China. The Chinese always insist on getting whatever technology exists behind any system, and the Germans refused to share it. As a result, the ministry of Railways in China adopted traditional (read mostly Shinkansen) technology over MAGLEV for the rest of the country's rail development.

### CHINA BEGINS CHR NATIONALLY

In 2003-2004, the Chinese ministry of Railways began soliciting bids for an enormous expansion of high-speed rail, mostly in Eastern China (where the majority of the population is). Bids were specifically submitted by Alstom (France) Siemens (Germany) Bombardier (Germany) and a Japanese consortium led by Kawasaki (Japan). These were enormous contracts, with 200 high speed train sets to be purchased – and the technology behind them – and with much of the production to be based in China spread among all the bidders except Siemens (who would relent on price, technology, and production in 2006). So China got the trains, the technology and the production settled mostly in China. Kawasaki ended its participation in the deal in 2007, with the Chinese continuing production on their own.



Chinese designed and built high speed rail: the CRH380a (maned Harmony)

Today, the CHR system is the largest in the world. It is the world's longest (28,000 miles) with the highest passenger participation. The system operates trains at 120-240 mph. This entire project began in 2007, and the Chinese government has committed to and funded the project despite at least one major rail catastrophe, complaints about the placement of the system, and recessions. Track runs in dedicated, pre-fabricated causeways, most of them suspended so that the line can control curves and be kept as straight as possible. The causeway sections are manufactured and then lifted into position. This includes the Beijing to Shanghai route which is 1,760 miles long the world's longest single route with the world's fastest convention (HSR) trains. As the map of the system shows, the development is proceeding, and the Chinese are largely self-sufficient in equipping the rail lines. Their recent production is the Harmony, CRH380a. Now, China is competing to export their expertise and build rail systems in Mexico, Thailand, India, Russia and Turkey.

*Next time: Mexico et al*

**Joe Foss**

## The Dinosaur Train

The Dinosaur Train completes the final test lap on the Boulder Valley & Pacific Railway, in preparation for the 2024 edition of the Rocky Mountain Train show in Denver. The engine and powered tender drifted a load of dinosaurs, food, water and personnel around the dangerous eastern curve. Everyone was ready.



This image was captured just 4 hours before power was shut down in Louisville, Gunbarrel, Boulder and parts of surrounding communities as a precaution against wind-driven wildfires like the ones that demolished over 1,000 homes in Louisville three years ago.

So the dinosaur train and its passengers sought shelter in the Train Shed as the winds roared outside. They dreamed of their 15 minutes of fame. But it was not to be.

See you next year.

**John Cushman**

## The Misadventures of the Galloping Goose

Retold by Phillip Nilsson and Illustrated by Patricia Sinex.



We are in our 2nd printing of our storybook. This story tells how the Galloping Goose got its name and one of its many adventures or misadventures as it served the Rio Grande Southern in Southwest CO and ended up keeping The little shortline from going bankrupt. You have probably seen this story in many adult books, but for the first time, it is rewritten specifically for Children in an exciting and funny way for them to learn Colorado History.

It is now available through 18 different venues in Colorado, and online. We are very happy with the reception of this book, especially from museums and educational gift shops that see the need for nonfiction books in picture book form.

The book is available from several vendors including Amazon and Prairie Light Books:

<https://www.prairielightbooks.com/book/9781977259479>



## Accucraft's AML GP60:



The rumors that Accucraft was going to build its first diesel locomotive date back almost ten years. G Scale enthusiasts were excited that this producer of high-end brass steam locomotives would be building a GP60 diesel in 1:29 scale. G scalers speculated in the "My Large Scale" forums as early 2014 and 2015 about the viability of this project and Accucraft's reputation for announcing production of a new steam locomotive, but not making actual deliveries until years later. Five years ago Accucraft began running teaser ads with pictures of the GP60 in several large scale train publications and a few years later some of the large on-line vendors began taking pre-orders. Ten road names were available for the GP60 and four road names for the GP60M.

Vendor installed sound systems were an option at an additional cost. Accucraft was a vendor at both the 2022 and 2023 National Garden Railway Conventions and had one of their GP60 engines on display. These display models were highly detailed, quality re-productions of the diesel-electric locomotives built by General Motors Electro-Motive Division between 1985 and 1994. Actually, the GP60 was the last 4-axle GP locomotive built by EMD as the railroads preferred the more powerful 6 axle diesels. The GP60 was EMD's first engine that was classified as a "third generation" locomotive. Hidden behind the electrical cabinet doors on the rear wall of the cab, the GP60 concealed a trio of microprocessors that monitored and managed a host of engine, cooling system and control functions.



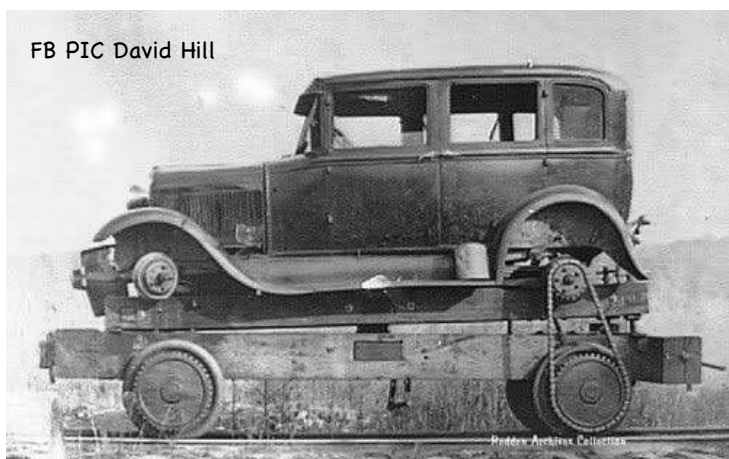
The engines on-board microprocessors replaced hundreds of wiring circuits, dozens of relays and all but one module card, making it a large improvement among EMD's engines.



The AML GP60 and GP60M engines are now available in limited quantities from the online vendors, like RLD, Live Steam Station and Reindeer Pass. I ordered two Rio Grande models with sound, but they only had 1 in stock, so I switched to Union Pacific rather than wait for another shipment on a slow boat from China. The engines arrived in two large boxes. The factory packaging was almost as remarkable as the engines.

The inside of the larger outside box was lined with 1/2 inch Styrofoam sheets that protected a second box containing the engine. The GP60 engine was anchored down inside the interior box with nylon straps and wrapped in Styrofoam. I was surprised to find U-Tube videos that actually showed you how to step by step unpack this locomotive. Also, there were five baggies of detail parts to be attached to the locomotive. With the help of a little super glue, I had all the detail parts attached in about 30 minutes and was ready for a test run - it worked flawlessly. Be sure to look for the GP60s on my layout during the DGRS June tours.

**Doug Mayes**



This looks like a simple Prototype to model.





Silverton Railroad Red mountain Depot Winter of 1891  
Facebook rails of the San Juans Crabtree



# 2024 DGRS Calendar

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
May 18-19, Sat & Sun	Colorado Crossings at the CRRM	This year's event will feature two coal-burning steam locomotives in operation, along with special activities, cab tours, and more
May 28, Tuesday	DGRS General Meeting at Jareds Nursery	6:00 PM. Sara Burns will discuss native plants. Jareds is located at 10500 W Bowles Ave, Littleton, CO 80127
June 4, Tuesday	DGRS Board Meeting	7:00 PM, @ Doug home. 2683 S Fenton Ct., Lakewood.
June 8, Saturday	Hobo Brunch; Members get together and swap stories at breakfast.	8:30 am at the Valley Inn, 1997 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
June 8-9, Sat & Sunday	DGRS Summer Tours - South East Quadrant	A list of layouts on tour will be sent our prior to the weekend. Contact Chris Greenwald if you want to be included.
June 15, Saturday	Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders is open to the public, and we would especially like to have railroad club members come see our railroads	Garden Railroad Tour will be June 15, from 9-4. Go to <a href="http://NCGR.net">NCGR.net</a>
June 29	DGRS General Meeting, Picnic and Swap meet at the CRRM. 9am to 2 pm	Please bring a side dish to share by your Last Name beginning with: A-K: Dessert L-Z: Salad (pasta, fruit or vegetable, beans)
July 2, Tuesday	DGRS Board Meeting	7:00 PM, @ Doug Mayes Office. 7114 W. Jefferson Ave, Suite 210, Lakewood 80235
July 13 -14, Sat & Sun	DGRS Summer Tours - North East Quadrant	A list of layouts on tour will be sent our prior to the weekend. Contact Chris Greenwald if you want to be included.
July 30, Tuesday	GENERAL MEETING and ICE CREAM SOCIAL July 30, Hosted by the Millers. Come at 6 to enjoy the Miller Family layout. Business meeting at 7 pm with Ice Cream Social to follow. No RSVP needed.	Details later