



**August 2010**

# Callboard

The official publication of the Rocky Mountain Region, National Model Railroad Association

## **RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

How time flies by when one is having fun. I have been working on my car section of the MMR and having a great time. I certainly hope your work on the railroad has been as pleasurable.

The region convention is past history, and the South Suburban and Sunrise Divisions prepared a superior convention. Plan to attend all Region Conventions in the future. This is one of your benefits of the NMRA, the camaraderie with fellow members and seeing what they have accomplished during the long winter here in the Rocky Mountain Region. I know I look forward to renewing old acquaintances, and making new friends at this convention. You may be surprised at the ideas your fellow members can come up with to solve that particular problem you are having with the current model you are building. The Utah guys are planning the next convention (2011) and I know them well enough to say they will have a great convention also. Plan now to attend it. We need someone or Division to make a bid for the 2012 convention at the board meeting during the convention.

I have in the past few months received calls from disgruntled members, not really at the NMRA but at the current leaders in their organization. The best answer I have for this problem is to step up to the plate and run to replace that leader in your organization, during the next election your organization has. We are going to have an election for Board Members this go around, but no one stepped to the plate in several of the categories and the present people agreed to remain in the position. I am currently looking for a Region Boy Scout Coordinator and a person to handle the mailing labels, (Thank You Bob Charles for taking on this additional position along with your Board Members duties). For those of you interested in helping our hobby, please consider filling one of these positions.

I do want to encourage all of you to call, email or write me if you have a problem or need an answer about the way your organization is run. My phone number is 307-672-8471; my snail mail address is Harold Huber 1405 Dana Ave. Sheridan, WY 82801-2405; and my email is [sarge9usa@bresnan.net](mailto:sarge9usa@bresnan.net). I may not have the answer at hand but will research and find an answer. I also may not have the answer you want to hear, but I will do all I can to get the correct answer to you.

Well, back to the model bench, see you at the convention, stop by and say hello.

Harold Huber

Ps – Below are a few photos from the Alamosa Convention.



Jack looks to be enjoying the ride!



Ex LS&I 2-8-0 #18, an iron ore engine dear to the editors heart!

## Region Achievement Program News

August 2010 - Mark L. Evans

I've got some exciting news this month. The RMR has a new Master Model Railroader. **Jim Harper**, Southern Utah Division, completed the requirements for MMR in June of this year. Jim is MMR #440 and the 21st person to receive the MMR in the Rocky Mountain Region. Jim earned certificates for Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, Volunteer and Author. It's rare that I see a completed application for Motive Power. Congratulations on going 110% Jim!

In other AP news:

- Bill Sedivec, Rio Grande Division, completed his Volunteer certificate
- Bill Tulley, Northern Wyoming Division, completed his Author certificate.

We've closed the books on the recent region model contest held in Alamosa. Contest Chairman Bill Tulley put on a great event as always. Nothing misplaced or broken and the raised tables were a favorite with visitors. We had fewer entries this year but the quality was everything we've come to expect from RMR members. There were 19 models and 6 photos. 9 of the 19 models earned merit awards. The NMRA judged contest resulted in the following winners:

### 2010 NMRA Model Contest Awards

Steam Locomotive

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Fred Carlson - DM&IR 2-10-2 #508 – \*95 points

Diesel/Other (1 entry)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Gary Myers - SD40-T-2 – \*105 Points

Passenger Cars

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Stewert H. Jones - Heavy Weight Diner/Lounge

Freight Cars

- 1<sup>st</sup> - James Davis - D&RGW Grain Car

Caboose

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Gary Myers - D&RG Caboose #01507

Structures – Online

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Don Bailey - RR Station at Penasco – \*115 Points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lynn Daugherty - RGS Bridge 158 – \*114.5 Points

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lynn Daugherty - RGS Bridge 18-D – \*114 Points
- Honorable Mention
  - Don Bailey – D&RGW Water Tank
  - Fred Morton - Bernalillo New Mexico ATSF Depot

Structure – Offline

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Don Bailey - Church at Penasco – \*101 Points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fred Morton - Gulf Service Station
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rich Flammini - Chicago Commissary CO-OP

Display – Offline (1 entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Charles Hagemeister - R. Schramm Manufacturing Company – \*95 Points

*\*Indicates Merit Award*

We would love to see more entries in the contest next year in SLC. We also continue to invite those who would prefer to display their models in the contest room to join us. Bill Tulley exhibited a stunning collection of boxcars this year. It's our hope others will accept our offer of free table space to display and discuss their work.

You can obtain all of the information and paperwork to participate in the Achievement Program on the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org> or you can contact your Division AP Chairman for that personal touch. As always, if you have AP questions or concerns, you can reach me by phone at 801-254-1312 or email at [mevans@slco.org](mailto:mevans@slco.org).

## CONTEST CHAIRMAN

By Bill Tulley

Alamosa Convention

Even though there were only 24 entries in the Model Contest, I consider the Alamosa Convention Contest a success. The contest had only one day for entry and show. Saturday night we were able to start judging at 7:00pm and had the judging and awards finished by 11:30pm. Having everything completed this early has never happened before this convention. There may be hope for an early finish at next year's convention, but I doubt that will happen.

A special thank you must be extended to Nate Bryant for supplying the leg extensions for the display tables. I heard nothing but positive comments for the raised viewing height.

Merit Award Judges

I would like to thank the following individuals for passing on the Saturday night activities to help with the model judging. Their help was greatly appreciated by Mark Evans and myself.

Martin Pirnat, Gary Myers, Greg Long, Harold Huber, Lester Oberfelt, Donald Bailey, Bill Poley, Jim Laird, Fred Morton and Lynn Daugherty

Your editor has included photos of the first place models. If space is available; the second place models will be in the next issue of the Callboard.



FIRST PLACE - STEAM LOCOMOTIVES



Model by Fred Carlson

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

FIRST PLACE - CABOOSE



Model by Gary Meyers

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

FIRST PLACE - DIESEL AND OTHER



Model by Gary Meyers

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

FIRST PLACE - STRUCTURE ON-LINE



Model by Don Bailey

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

FIRST PLACE - PASSENGER CAR



Model by Stewart H. Jones

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

FIRST PLACE - STRUCTURE OFF-LINE



Model by Don Bailey

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

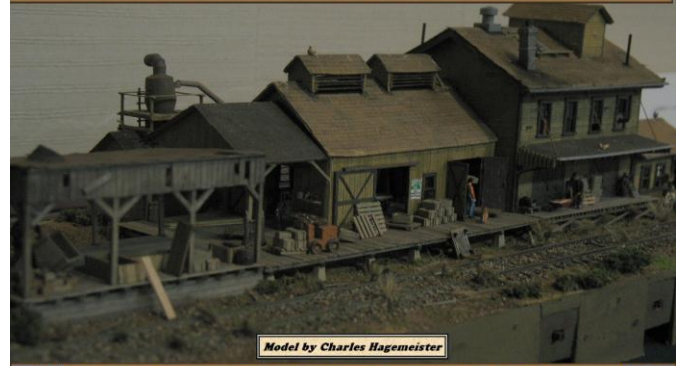
FIRST PLACE - FREIGHT CAR



Model by James Davis

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

FIRST PLACE - DISPLAY OFF-LINE



Model by Charles Hagemeister

Rocky Mountain Region/NMRA - 2010 Model Contest

# **REPORT FROM YOUR ELECTION CHAIRMAN**

## **BY BILL TULLEY**

Here are the official results for the 2010 election.

Officers for the 2010 - 2012 Term

President: Harold Huber  
V President: William Johnson  
Secretary: Greg Long  
Treasurer: Don Francis

Directors for the 2010 - 2012 Term

Martin Pirnat  
Nate Bryant  
Jim Laird - [lairds@alascoinvestments.com](mailto:lairds@alascoinvestments.com)

Directors for the 2009 - 2011 Term

Fred Carlson MMR  
Robert Charles  
Michael Weiss

## **Division and Club Doings**

### **ROAD RUNNER DIVISION - Acting Superintendent: Mike Weiss**

I have taken the position of Acting Superintendent for Division 7. Division 7 will have an organizational and planning meeting on Saturday, August 14, 1:30 PM at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla Street, Las Cruces.

Elections for division officers will be held at the September meeting, date and time to be announced. For information, contact Mike Weiss, Acting Superintendent, 575-532-1051

### **FRONT RANGE DIVISION - Superintendant: Paul Brennecke**

The Front Range Division held the July meeting at the Lockheed Martin Model Railroad Club. The club members hosted the operating session and FRD railroaders ran trains all night. A great time was had by all! The Lockheed Martin layout fairly accurately depicts the 3rd Division of the D&RGW. A significant amount of research to produce accurate models was in evidence.

The August FRD meeting will be the annual picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum. This year we are teaming up with the Sunrise Division.

The Front Range Division meets at 7:00 pm the 3rd Monday of the month at the Colorado Railroad Museum.

## **SILVER SAN JUAN DIVISION - Superintendent: Ray Schmudde**

October 16: Silver San Juan Division holds its fall meet and annual meeting at the Durango Tri-County Early Childhood Services Head Start meeting room in the Northpoint Mall. Public is invited. Sign-in at 9:00 a.m. First presentation at 10:00: "The Silverton Railroad Then and Now," by Don Paulson, Curator, Ouray County Historical Society. The all-day meet also features door prizes, the annual photo contest (must be a division subscriber, subscriptions and NMRA memberships available at the door), "From the Workbench" (where modelers display and discuss their current projects, favorite train contest, board elections, and ends with layout tours. Info: Ray Schmudde 970-382-8856.

**EXTRA 2011 WEST**  
**X2011**  
2011 NMRA CONVENTION  
SACRAMENTO, CA

**The Unconventional Convention!**

**The current registration fee for the 2011 NMRA Convention in Sacramento is a very cheap \$99! But this low rate will be only available until September 1, 2010.**

**Register now! Go to [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org)**

## **TORTOISE™ REPAIR at THE DENVER HO CLUB**

©Rex G. Beistle - Denver HO Model Railroad Club - May 17, 2010

A typical model railroad thing happened some time ago. I installed the last of several Tortoise™ switch machines in the Cripple Creek area of The Denver HO Model Railroad Club layout. These were replacing twin coil switch machines that had been in place for more than 40 years. I confirmed the operation of the Tortoise™ machines and the new control panel. A couple weeks went by and I was there again, installing dwarf signals to indicate the alignment of the switches. A track power short circuit would come and go as I changed one switch from normal to reverse. It worked only a couple weeks before, but now something was amiss! After a bit of trouble shooting, I determined that the suspect switch machine had internal problems. The machine was removed for a trip to my home workshop.

The Tortoise™ switch machine was older, but appeared OK externally and had initially worked fine. No worry about warranty, the old machine was quickly opened. Figure 1 reveals the five screw holes hidden by the label. The holes can be found by rubbing a finger over the label. I cut the label away using a sharp #11 blade. The screws are Phillips head type, a number 1 driver fits fine.





FIGURE 1

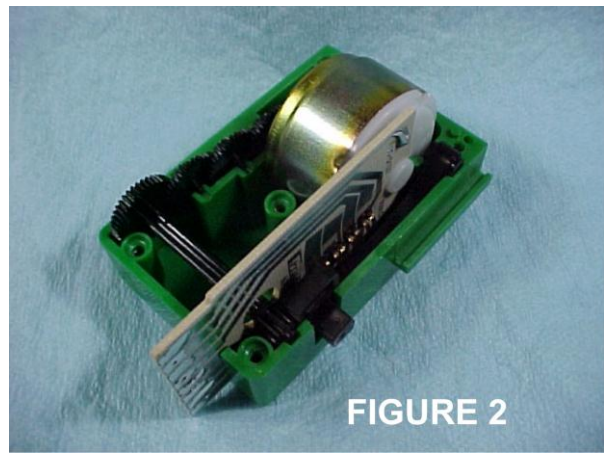


FIGURE 2

Separate the two parts of the case carefully so small parts do not fall out and run away to hide under the furniture. Figure 2 shows the parts that make up the gear train. Notice, in case some do fall out, that the three small gears are all installed with the large gear toward the printed circuit card.

Figure 3 reveals the problem with this particular Tortoise™ machine. The contacts are attached to the geared lever arm with 'hot upset' rivets. The pins molded into the thermo-plastic part are heated and reformed to act like a rivet. In the case of this machine, the 'hot upset' job was done to extreme, leaving a very thin bit of plastic to hold the phosphor bronze contact material. The thin plastic failed, letting the contact twist and short the frog circuit.

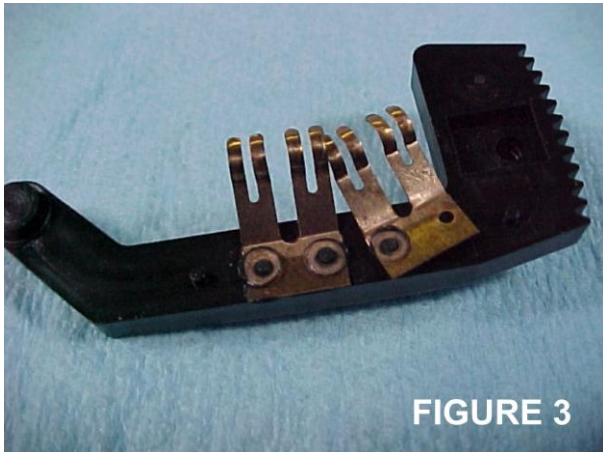


FIGURE 3

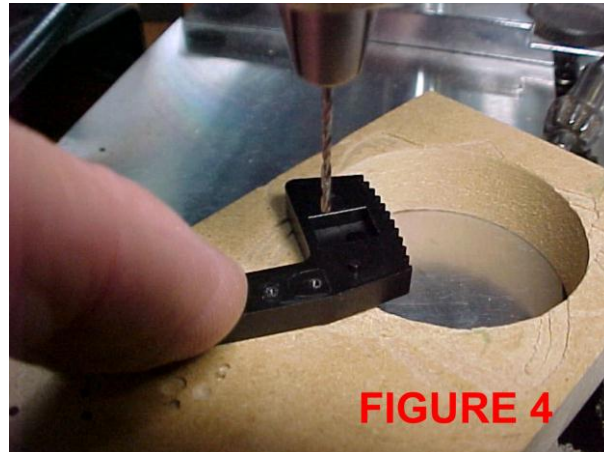


FIGURE 4

I determined the size of the holes in the contacts using drill bits. A number 56 drill fit the holes and cleared a 00-90 screw. I used the remaining stub of the 'hot upset' pins to locate the centers for drilling 00-90 tap size holes with a number 68 drill. Figure 4 shows drilling the holes that are then carefully tapped 00-90 using a tap held in a pin vise. Do this carefully; some finesse is necessary with these small screws.

Re-attach the contacts using 00-90 screws, being careful not to tighten them too tightly. Figure 5 shows the contacts in place on the geared lever arm.

Re-assembly the gear train, assuring that the contact is located properly as seen in figure 6. I quite sparingly applied plastic compatible lubrication to the shafts of the several gears. I also applied a very thin, wiped on coating of petrolatum (petroleum jelly) to the surface of the printed circuit card where the moving contacts run. This bit of contact lubrication is consistent with the practice of the IBM company years ago on the Standard Modular System printed circuit cards used in mainframe and I/O equipment up to and including some components of System 360.

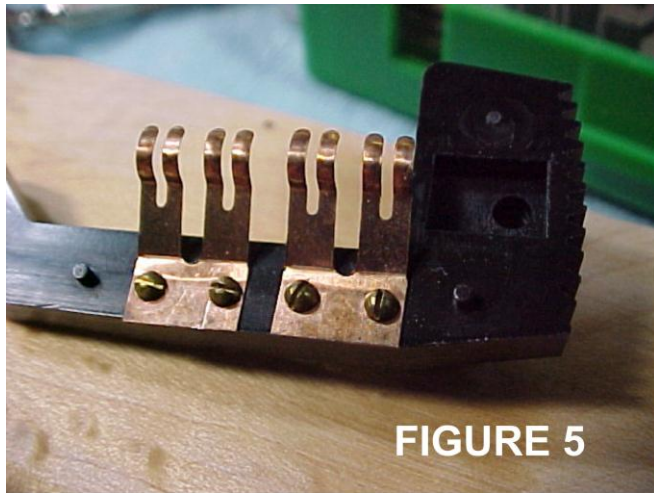


FIGURE 5

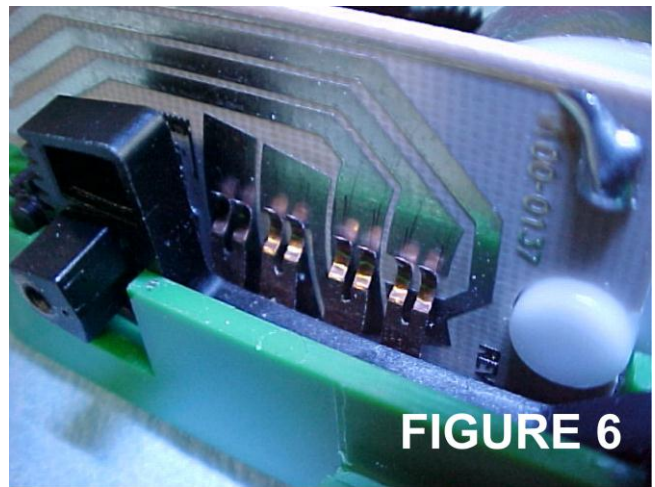


FIGURE 6

Figure 7 shows the Tortoise™ ready to go, with the color coded wire pigtail installed. I like the color coded pigtail wire because I typically attach the wires to a terminal block under the layout and the color code eliminates tracing wires. I know that *BROWN* goes to 1, *RED* to 2, *ORANGE* to 3 and so on. The only significant current is in the frog circuit, and the short lengths of small wire will not cause a problem there.



FIGURE 7

## NORTHERN WYOMING DIVISION

By Bill Tulley

There were two train shows in April with in reasonable driving distances for the NWD members. The only problem was that both are held on the same weekend. I attended the Helena, MT show because it is closer for me and found a rare CB&Q brass locomotive, which I probably did not need. Those members from the Casper area who attended the North Platte, NE show told me that it was worth the effort to attend.

Four division members (Harold Huber, Scott Bergey, Bob & Lisa Charles, Bill Tulley) attended the Alamosa Convention. We all had an enjoyable time, but are not quite ready to attend another convention soon. The La Veta train ride was worth the long drive to Alamosa.

In June, the Summer School Second Graders were guests of the SMRA layout to learn about railroad operations. They asked exhalent questions which kept two retired conductors on their toes coming up with reasonable answers. We even surprised them with the fact that the railroad here in Wyoming is controlled from Fort Worth, TX.



October 2, 2010 is the scheduled Northern Wyoming Division meeting in Sheridan, WY. Schedules for the three area club open house displays in November will have to wait for the November Callboard since times are not finalized at present.

Bob Charles will have the Deer Feathers garden railway open for inspection after the division meeting. Come see the new construction. Bob has promised that a train will be able to run over the new bridges as long as the deer stay out of the yard.

South Dakota now has a railroad museum located in Hill City. You can take a ride on the 1880 Train and then visit the South Dakota State Railroad Museum. Information at [www.1880Train.com](http://www.1880Train.com) and [www.sdsrm.org](http://www.sdsrm.org) .

## **WASATCH DIVISION - Bob Shearer**

Bob asked me to include a flyer on an upcoming show in their division. Due to my computer ineptitude I was unable to do so. Please refer to the Wasatch Division link at Facebook @ <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=53807805717&ref=ts>

## **SUNRISE DIVISION - Gary Myers**

A fun and busy first half of the year went by successfully co-hosting this year's Tracks to Alamosa convention with the South Suburban Division, amongst our other activities. We regularly schedule monthly meetings (at Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 S. Chambers Rd, Aurora, CO 80014) in the first Thursday of each month, from 7:15 - 9:15 PM. On August 15th, we will join with the Front Range Division for a picnic at the Colorado Railroad Museum. In September, we will take a break and not hold a meeting on the first Thursday and instead have a layout tour on September 11th and a fall train ride on the Georgetown Loop on September 25th. Check our website for the latest; <http://www.trainweb.org/SunriseDivision>.

Volunteers from Sunrise Division have stepped up in many areas. Amongst the convention board members, Nate Bryant served as Convention Chairman. Jim Laird and Nate Bryant are two of the Region's new Directors for 2010-2012, serving with Executive Board members Vice President Bill Johnson and Treasurer Don Francis. Louis Surles has volunteered as the Division Boy Scout Coordinator to work with Blaine Bachman, Region BSA Coordinator. Jim Laird has also volunteered to deputy under Mark Evans as Region AP Chair, for a transition year until Mark leaves his post at the conclusion of the 2011 convention. Rich Flammini continues his excellent leadership as Region Communications and Promotions Chair, actively recruiting and successfully increasing new members into the Region.

Our Division Secretary Tom Frerichs has drastically improved our Division newsletter, the Sunrise Herald, which is now drawing some attention from Headquarters (in a positive way!). The Sunrise Division has seen a lot of new members over the past year and we hope to continue to reach out and grow. We have expanded our activities and continue to look for new things to do.

*If your division or local club has future events planned, send the information to the editor.*

# Rocky Mountain Region -NMRA

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TREASURER	Don Francis	dbyron08@aol.com	(303) 377-3403

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2008-2010	Chris Fallis	chrisfallis@yahoo.com	
	Martin Pirnat	martin@rmi.net	(970) 247-5349
	Gary Myers	garymyers06@comcast.net	(720) 837-4393

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Contest Chairman:	Bill Tulley	railroadbill@vcn.com	(307) 674-4885
Company Store Dept:	Jack Sousa	jackfrw@pcisys.net	(719) 576-7017

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Web Master for Region Web Site:		webmaster@rmr-nmra.org
Electronic Mailing of CALLBOARD:	Chris Fallis	chrisfallis@yahoo.com
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Sunrise BSA Coordinator for RR merit badge - Louis Surles,		louandrewx@juno.com

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