

Railfanning the Rio Grande Narrow Gauge

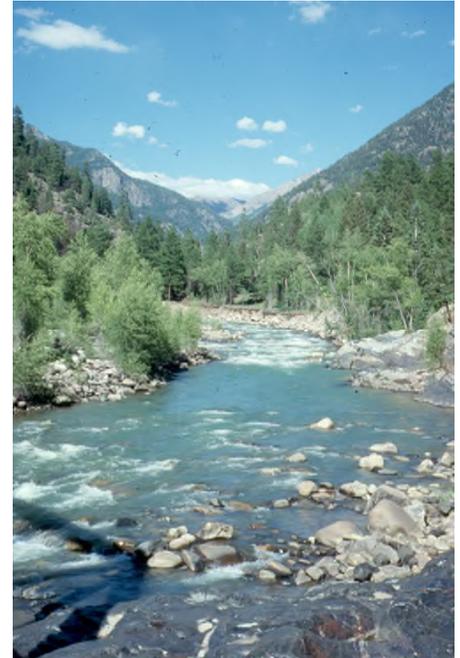
Do you know how to find this?



Do you know which way to look?



Do you know which side of the train has the best view?



These shirt pocket guidebooks will tell you!

These four shirt pocket guide books come from 35 years experience railfanning and guiding tours around the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. A guide for a scenic tour from Denver to Durango is included for those traveling that direction.

Each book covers one of these railroads or routes. They have specific information on driving routes and where the best views are. For the two active railroads, they also tell you which side of the train to be on and when to be ready for your picture.

Each book is 3½ by 8½ inches, 24 to 28 pages and has planning information as well as details to use while on tour.

The following sample shows how the guides describe the driving route and where to look. The <12> indicates the location is 12 miles from the reset point. In this case, the junction of US Highways 285 & 50.

Reset mileage to <0> at jct. US 285 & US 50. Follow US 50 – 125 miles to Montrose.

The highway follows the Monarch Branch to the mine. The old roadbed on the left is now used as a road, hiking trail and bike path.

<12> Garfield – a set of switchbacks crossed the highway at the east end of town. Watch for some local roads with 7% grades to the north.

<13.5> Monarch Mine and end of the Monarch Branch.

<17.5> Monarch Pass (11,312 feet) – A good rest stop. The building to the left houses a snack bar, gift shop, rest rooms, etc. It is worth the stop for a break. This pass is on the continental divide.

<27> Sargents – The Marshal Pass line is now a road coming in on the left at the east end of town. A section house and water tank still stand here but the Depot was moved to the museum in Gunnison. That move deprived the town of historical site status. Turn left into the town. Turn right on the

first street past the tank to see the section house and a descriptive sign near the water tank.

<47> Parlin – A highway turns off here to Pitkin City, home of the Pitkin City Hall of which Builders in Scale created an HO scale model kit.

<58> Gunnison – A good place for a noon break. The museum on the east end of town has the Sargents Depot and a nice rail exhibit as well as other historic items. Several fast food restaurants are available here.

This sample shows which way to look and provides timing and mileposts for reference while riding the trains. The LOOK column tells you which side of the train the view is on. FR indicates front right, X indicates all directions. The (7313) & [-0.32%] indicate the (elevation) and, the [grade] from the prior station.

TIME FROM				LOOK	LOCATION OR VIEW
DUR.	SIL.	M.P.			
1:35	1:51	472.28			Tacoma (7313) [-0.32%] (NOTE: it is downhill from Rockwood to Tacoma)
				L	Power plant. Flume is buried in hill behind the plant.
				R	Company housing was in this meadow. Siding may have cars or equipment.
		474.00		R	Ah Wilderness Ranch. Guest ranch from the 1950's. No longer in use.
				FR	Silver Falls on hillside. Originally called Horsetail Falls.
1:50	1:41	474.65			Tank Creek Water Tank (7462) [1.19%]
				R	Quick shot of Tank Creek. Water stop on way up.
				L	Modelers should note the trees growing out of the rocks across river.
		474.70		L	Rails in river are from old wash outs.
1:54	1:38	475.25			Tall Timbers Resort
				X	five star guest ranch. Watch for people sliding down a zip line and for helicopters.
		476.13		R	Quick shot of Grasshopper Creek. 50-foot high water fall is just out of sight.
2:03	1:29	477.55			Cascade Canyon (7696) [1.53%]
				L	Wye is used to turn trains. Near the track is a monument, placed by the National Railway Historic Society to commemorate 100 years of service on this line.

If you have any specific questions, address them to hunterrl@central.com I will try to answer them.

Please feel free to make copies of this information and pass on to friends.

Order Form for RAILFANNING THE RIO GRANDE NARROW GAUGE

This set of four guidebooks comes postage paid in the USA. Individual books are not available. Orders will be held until personal checks clear. For every set ordered before May 2017, \$5.00 will be donated to the Animas Rails 2017 convention.

Number of sets ordered: _____ at \$15 per set Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Shipping Information: Name: _____

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W

How / where did you hear about this: _____

None of the above information will be distributed. The email address is so I can send any near future updates.

Make check payable to: Richard Hunter Mail to: 832 Geneva Street, Aurora CO 80010-3941