

THE SAN JUAN FLYER

A Publication of
the Silver San Juan Division,
Division 10 of the Rocky Mountain Region, NMRA
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sanjuandiv>

Ray Schmulde, Editor

Doug Rabick, Publisher

Winter, 2009

Spring meet at Farmington April 25th

Backdrop painting and prototype clinics, model contest, From the Workbench, swap, favorite train, and layout tours

Come, join us April 25th in Farmington for the Silver San Juan Division's spring meet at the First United Presbyterian Church, 843 N. Dustin Ave. (See directions and meet schedule below.)

Clinics:

"Backdrop painting made easy." Jim Richards will demonstrate how easy it is to paint realistic backdrops. One doesn't need to be an artist, and Jim will share his tips and techniques so that anyone can create a good-looking backdrop.



This is one of the closer mountains on Jim Richards' backdrop.

Jim Richards photo

Jim is currently constructing a basement-size layout with 327 feet of painted backdrop in place. The clinic will feature a video presentation of Jim's backdrop and a demonstration/examples of Jim's work.

Jim's modeling was featured in the December 2005 *Model Railroader* where his Grande Rivière station won second place in *MR's* kitbashing contest. Jim is an award winning commercial director/cameraman with a 35-plus year career as a commercial director/cameraman, shooting "top end" commercials (e.g., Ford, Coke, Continental Airlines, American Express, Sharp,



Note the receding clouds and the level of the horizon line, topics Jim Richards will address during his backdrop painting clinic.

Jim Richards photo

Kodak, Cosmo, Mitsubishi, etc.) all over the world. He started his own company, Challenges Accepted, which eventually became the leading one-director production house in Australia. He shot some 1600 commercials, put something like 3 million feet of 35mm film through a camera, and picked up over 150 international awards, including 10 Lions from Cannes (2 Gold, 3 Silver, 5 Bronze).

"How the rails came to Pagosa" will be our prototype clinic this spring. Dick Wholf, past division superintendent, will make clear who was building what railroad where and when in the Pagosa Springs area. Pagosa Springs was blessed with several logging railroads as well as a short line up from the D&RG connection at Pagosa Junction (a.k.a. Gato). It's a story of political intrigue and Western Slope development (sound familiar?) as well the romance associated with logging railroading.

Model contest: The division's spring model contest will be "anything one can put on a layout." Hence, no size or scale or thematic limitations. It can be a building, a bridge, a loco, rolling stock, an automobile, detailed track or right-of-way, or some scenery, whatever. Run (i.e. enter) whatcha brung, in other words. As always, the winner will be chosen by popular vote. First and second place will receive videos and third place

a year's subscription to the *Flyer*. Must be a *Flyer* subscriber to enter.

Favorite train contest: Any gauge, any scale, any length (it just has to fit on the table, i.e. it might have to split in half if too long). Winner determined by popular vote. Bring your favorite train to show the division.


From the workbench (a.k.a. show and tell): See what other division members have been working on and what techniques have worked for them. Bring your latest project, complete or not, to share with the group.

Layout tours: Several layouts that we haven't seen in a while are expected to be open, but as we go to press, layouts for the tour have yet to be finalized. Directions to the layout will be available at the meet.

Swap: We'll have a few tables available for swap. Bring what you want to swap or sell along with your checkbook or cash.

Farmington meet schedule, Saturday, April 25:

08:30	Set up room for meet, model contest, Workbench, favorite train, swap
09:00-09:45	Meet start: gather, swap, socialize, coffee, contest voting
09:45-10:00	Introductions and draw for first door prize
10:00	Jim Richards' backdrop painting clinic
11:00	Break
11:15-12:15	Draw for second door prize and Dick Wholf's "How the rails came to Pagosa"
12:15-1:15	Lunch on your own (also, swap, socialize, contest voting)
1:15-1:30	Final voting for model contest and favorite train
1:30-2:00	Draw for third door prize; announcements; attendees describe their contest entry, From the Workbench project, and favorite train.
2:00-2:15	Model contest and favorite train award presentations
2:15	Hand out maps for layout visits and adjourn

Directions to the First Presbyterian Church: The church address is 843 N. Dustin Ave. From east side of Farmington take Main Street to Butler Avenue, turn right on Butler and then left on Apache and then right on North Dustin to the church. Or take 20th street (off Main) to Dustin, turn left (south) to the church. From the west side, veer left on Apache as you're entering town and continue to a left turn (north) onto Dustin. The church will be on your left in a few blocks. 

Division Bylaws Draft

Below is the third draft of the division bylaws. The final draft of the bylaws will be published in the summer 2009 edition of the *Flyer*. The bylaws will be submitted to the membership for adoption at the annual meeting this fall. Your comments and suggestions to these bylaws are most welcome. Please send them to Ray Schumde via USPS or email. Ray's address appears in the list of division board members elsewhere in this issue.

As has been discussed in past issues of the *Flyer* and at division meets, these bylaws are intended to bring the division into compliance with NMRA rules on division *governance*. Remember,

these bylaws do not in any way affect your participation in division activities, e.g. contests, clinics, swap, From the Workbench, layout tours, etc. These bylaws are for the protection of the board's personal assets and the personal assets of division members who are engaged in division activities.

Bylaws

Silver San Juan Division National Model Railroad Association Rocky Mountain Region

Membership

Any NMRA member in good standing and having a residence in the Silver San Juan Division area is entitled to membership in the division. Any NMRA member in good standing can participate in all division activities. Newsletter subscribers who are non-NMRA members are entitled to participate in all division activities except they do not have franchise to vote for the division governing board. Subscription to the division newsletter requires an additional fee.

Newsletter subscription fee

An e-mail subscription to the division newsletter, *The San Juan Flyer*, shall be five dollars per year, payable at the fall meeting. Ten dollars per year adds a hard-copy version of the *San Juan Flyer* via USPS. Subscription fee is subject to adjustment by the governing board.

Division fiscal year

The division year shall run from November 1 to October 31.

Meetings

The division shall hold at least two meetings a year, a fall meeting shall also be the annual meeting. Other meetings and activities may be scheduled by the board.

Governance, finance, and assets

The division shall be governed by a board, all of whom must be NMRA annual or life members. The board shall consist of three officers and six or fewer directors (determined by the board) who, if possible, correspond to the division's geography and population centers. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall prevent the slating and/or election of an officer or director from a rural area. The board shall meet twice a year—winter and summer— or more often if necessary.

Terms: Terms of board officers and directors are two years and shall run concurrent with the fiscal year dates. There are no term limits. The board shall make every effort to stagger the terms of officers and directors, i.e. electing as much as possible one half of the board at each annual meeting. The superintendent and assistant superintendent positions shall always be staggered.

Officers: Three officers: superintendent, assistant superintendent, and secretary/treasurer. Officers are to be elected by the division's NMRA members at the appropriate annual meeting.

Directors: Six or fewer directors shall be on the board. Directors are elected at-large by the NMRA membership at the appropriate annual meeting.

San Juan Flyer Publisher: The publisher of the *San Juan Flyer* shall be an ex-officio board member as long as that individual is the publisher. The publisher is not elected and serves to provide the board with sober counsel and a sense of division history.

Vacancies: In case of vacancies among the officers or the directors, the superintendent shall have the authority to appoint a qualified (NMRA member with division residence) individual to fulfill the vacant term, i.e. when that position would be next up for election. Should the superintendent position be vacant, the assistant superintendent shall assume all the superintendent's authority and duties. Should both the superintendent and assistant superintendent positions be vacant, the secretary/treasurer shall assume all the authority and duties of those offices. Should all officer positions become vacant, the directors shall select from among themselves, an individual[s] to assume the authority and duties necessary to operate the division until the next election cycle.

Removal from office: Any board member may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the board; such two-thirds shall not include the subject party.

Voting, Board: A quorum (50% of the board membership, proxies included) is necessary for the board to conduct business. A majority vote will pass any motion.

Division assets: Assets, financial and physical, shall be in the control of the board.

Division monies shall be held in an institution selected by the board. The secretary/treasurer shall be in charge of the division finances. The secretary/treasurer and at least one other board member should be on the account as joint tenants with right of survivorship so that division funds shall always be accessible to meet division obligations.

The physical assets of the division shall be under the control of one of the board members, that member to be selected by the board.

A list of assets, financial and/or physical, shall be available to any division member requesting said list[s] given a reasonable lead time for said list[s] to be prepared and delivered to the requesting party.

Dissolution of Division Assets: In the event of the dissolution of the division, all assets, financial and physical, shall be disbursed in accordance with NMRA rules.

Voting, Membership

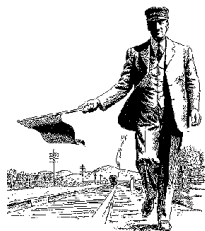
Division members in good standing, i.e. paid up members of the NMRA with a division residence are allowed one vote. Members must be present to vote. Secret ballot will be used only upon request of majority of members present. This paragraph concerns voting for governance and election issues, not division model contests and the like.

Bylaws Adoption

These bylaws shall take effect upon a majority vote of eligible division members.

Bylaws Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of eligible division members.



Have you renewed your subscription to the *San Juan Flyer*?

If not, this could be your last *Flyer*. Send in your \$5 renewal NOW!

The time to renew your *San Juan Flyer* subscription is now! (See form on page 7.) The *Flyer* is where you'll get all the information about upcoming Silver San Juan Division events, model railroading tips, photos and stories on local layouts, and reports of division and NMRA regional activities. The email version is still only \$5 per year. The hardcopy *Flyer* remains \$10 per year. Send your check to division Secretary/Treasurer Van Chaney (see board of directors list elsewhere in this issue). If you no longer wish to receive the *Flyer*, please let Secretary/Treasurer Van Chaney know.

What's the NMRA done lately?

The following news release was received from the NMRA.

NMRA challenge to DCC - sound patent moves forward

Published: Monday, November 17, 2008

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is pleased to report that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) determined, after a thorough review of the information submitted by the NMRA, that the NMRA's challenge of the Real Rail Effects Patent on using sound with Digital Command Control was meritorious. The USPTO found in favor of the NMRA on every issue the NMRA submitted for review and is in the process of striking the patent.

Real Rail Effects (RRE) was granted the patent by the USPTO based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE

Real Rail Effects now has two months in which to file a response to the USPTO's decision. According to USPTO rules for challenges, the NMRA will not be able to respond if RRE chooses to make a response. Nevertheless, the NMRA remains confident that the current decision will remain unchanged even if RRE files a response.

New Mexico Rail Runner Ride Comfortable, inexpensive, scenic, and fun

Just before the holidays, ye old Ed. had the serendipitous chance to hop on the Rail Runner in Santa Fe and take a round-trip ride to Albuquerque for lunch. We were in the City Different with friends for food and a baroque concert and wanted to do something besides look at gallery art that we couldn't afford.

One boards the Rail Runner at the Santa Fe Southern depot. Most readers have probably ridden the Santa Fe Southern, and the Rail Runner follows that line, rehabbed with heavier rail until I-40 where the Rail Runner swings southwest onto its newly built right-of-way. The line follows the interstate for only a short way before veering off to join the old ATSF alignment for the run through the high desert to the Duke City.



Rail Runner engine getting ready for duty in Albuquerque
Carol Schumde photo

The smooth ride of the double-level coaches allowed many passengers to spend their time doing paperwork at the tables provided for some of the seats. Our ride was on a workday after all. We, however, enjoyed the high desert scenery, enhanced on the return trip north by the slanting rays and exaggerated shadows from the almost winter solstice sunset. Railfans will enjoy the trackage of north Albuquerque, filled with industrial sidings and old rail-served businesses, some in operation and some not. Difficult to ignore were the long line of autorack cars stored in Albuquerque, a sign of crumbling automobile sales.



Autoracks were stored throughout the BNSF Albuquerque yard before the holidays.
Carol Schumde photo

The train crew’s enthusiasm created an unexpected pleasure. These Rail Runner employees were happy to be “workin’ the railroad.” One contribution to their excitement was the heavy patronage the train was receiving, far more than the line expected. In fact, we read later in the newspaper that the line was planning on increasing the number of cars and the number of trains to meet the demand.

Were there any problems? Just a few. We rode second day after opening, and some dispatching issues needed to be resolved. The day prior one of the trains hit a cow and was delayed until track crews could reach the remote site and remove the dead animal. Also, not all coaches are equipped with bathrooms, so one must move through the train to find a car so equipped.

The line has a station at the Albuquerque airport, which would make picking up or dropping off airline passengers at one of the outlying stations, e.g. Bernalillo, much easier than driving through Albuquerque’s infamous traffic. (You can tell that ye old Ed. is a country bumpkin.)

Fares were unbelievably low, only \$8 for the round trip; seniors 65 and over and students pay less. Weekend fares are even lower. Visit their website at www.nmrailrunner.com.

Dr. Martin Pirnat Appointed Assistant Superintendent

At the January 10th division board of directors meeting with the concurrence of the board, Superintendent Ray Schumde appointed long serving division board member Dr. Martin Pirnat to division assistant superintendent. Martin will complete the assistant superintendent’s term vacated by Ray when Ray was elected superintendent in October.

News from the NMRA Rocky Mountain Region


By Dr. Martin Pirnat

As I hope most of you know, I was fortunate enough to be elected to the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Region of the NMRA in May of 2008. Since then, I’ve attended two meetings of the Board, and have participated by email on several other discussions. As the only elected director (All region division superintendents have a seat on the region board.) from this part of the state, I thought it would be helpful to division members to hear a bit about what has been happening at the Region.

The fall meeting was held on October 18, 2008 in Colorado Springs. Nominally there are two regularly scheduled meetings during the year. The first is held in conjunction with the regional convention in the spring, and the second, in the fall is attached to another rail event, in this case the Slim Rails show and swap meet.

At the last meeting:

1. There was a final report on the 2008 regional convention finances and the monies made at that convention. The Region provides “seed” money to the designated division starting about 2 years before the convention to assist with deposits etc., and is repaid out of the profits of the convention, so an appropriate financial accounting is necessary.

2. A report was given on the progress of the 2009 convention to be held over Memorial Day weekend in Greeley in conjunction with the opening of the Greeley Freight Museum and the large layout within. I hope most of you have seen the video shown at the fall division meet in Durango, or the updated cover article in December 2008 *Model Railroader*.
3. Discussion was held regarding the 2010 convention, which has no division sponsor/organization yet. Several of the officers will be working on this over the next several months. A pointed reference has been made several times that it has been over 20 years since a convention was held in Durango, and that we should consider sponsoring a convention.
4. There is always a need for material for the *Callboard*, the regional newsletter. Fred Carlson, former president of the region is the current editor.
5. A long discussion was held regarding distributing the *Callboard* only by electronic means, but as in our division, there are members who would be unable to receive it, so it will continue to be distributed both electronically and by snail mail for those who requested it by that means. The discussion was similar to the one we have had at the division level regarding the *Flyer*.
6. A new division in Utah was approved.
7. The region also struggles with getting enough interests in the model contest, and is interested in ideas to increase participation. (Déjà vu all over again.)
8. Rocky Mountain Region module standards were approved as revised. This apparently has been an ongoing project before my board term, and while they have been a subject of much prior discussion, my understanding is that they are complete. I have a paper copy of the next to final standards, but I think are available elsewhere.
9. The 2009 budget for the region was discussed and approved.
10. Membership continues to be an issue, as it is in the division. Ray gets a monthly report generated by NMRA and distributed to regions, and subsequently divisions. Some of our division members are as far away as Montrose and Gunnison, so we remain challenged to include them in our fellowship and activities.
11. The next meeting will be in association with the regional convention in Greeley. We will be discussing a very thoughtful letter from Bill Kaufman that appeared in the January 2009 *Scale Rails*, as it affects the region and divisions. If you have read it and have thoughts and opinions that you would like me to share at this meeting, please call or (better yet) email them to Ray and me. (See division directors list elsewhere in this issue.) 

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| May 21-24 | 2009 NMRA Rocky Mountain Region Convention, Greeley, CO. See www.2009-rmr-nmra.org for further information. |
| May 23 | Cumbres & Toltec opening day |
| June 13-15 | Day Out With Thomas™ at D&SNG |
| Summer 2009 | Special division summer event date/location TBA (details in the spring 2009 <i>Flyer</i>) |
| August | Division board meeting, date and time TBA |
| Sept. 16-19 | Narrow Gauge Convention, Colorado Springs |

LOCAL AREA GROUPS

- Durango club meets 2nd Friday of the month (contact Martin Pirnat, see division directors list)
- Pagosa Springs group meets at 2:00 pm at the Methodist Church on the 2nd Sunday of the month (contact Joe Lemmo, see division directors list)
- Cortez/Dolores meets at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Mike Mikkelson's, 13159 CR27.6, Dolores, CO 81323.



**SILVER SAN JUAN DIVISION 10
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2009 Board Of Directors**

Division Superintendent/ Editor, <i>San Juan Flyer</i> : Ray Schmutde	970-382-8856
Assistant Superintendent/ Director: Martin Pirnat, MD	970-247-5349
Secretary/Treasurer: Van Chanay	970-565-7964
Director: Jamie Wagner	970-884-9319
Director: Joe Lemmo	970-731-1590
Director: Andy Saez	970-259-3519
Publisher, <i>San Juan Flyer</i> : Doug Rabick	970-247-8123

For more information on model railroading activities and events in your area, contact one of the board members listed above.

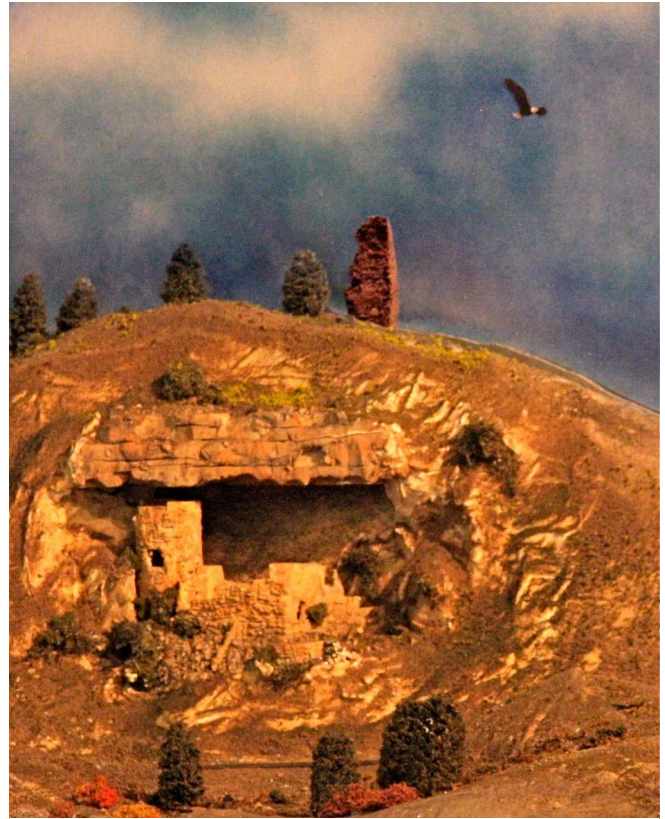
ORDER BOARD

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 25 | Silver San Juan Division Spring Meet at Farmington, First United Presbyterian Church, 843 N. Dustin Ave. (See details elsewhere in this issue) |
| May 2 | Narrow Gauge Day at Durango Depot: free food and entertainment, 11:00-2:00p |
| May 3 | D&SNG Silverton service starts up |

**PHOTOS BY
SSJD MEMBERS**



A Mallet crosses a scratch-built bridge on Duane Danielson's O-scale empire.
Duane Danielson photo



Pueblo dwelling often missed by visitors to the D&SNG museum layout
Martin Pirnat photo



A Mallet emerges from a tunnel on Duane Danielson's layout.
Duane Danielson photo

DSNG K-28 pulling Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec special train in October 2008
Martin Pirnat photo



San Juan Flyer Subscription Form

The newsletter of the Silver San Juan Division
National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR)

Include your check (payable to Silver San Juan Division) and mail to:

Van Chanay, Secretary/Treasurer
Silver San Juan Division, NMRA, RMR
29166 County Road M.4
Dolores, CO 81323

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address, street: _____

Town, state, zip code: _____

Phone number with area code: _____

Subscription type: Renewal New

Which *Flyer* version do you want:

Electronic *Flyer* via E-mail, \$5 per year Hardcopy *Flyer* via U.S.P.S., \$10 per year
 Include E-mail *Flyer* with hardcopy sub.

NMRA member? Yes; your NMRA #: _____ No

MODEL INFORMATION

Do you have a layout[s]: Yes No If more than one, how many? _____

What scale[s]: _____

What era[s]: _____

What railroad[s]: _____

Percent of layout[s] completion: _____

Control method: DC DCC Other _____

Willing to open your layout[s] to a division tour? Yes No

Do you: operate just run trains both model only

If you operate, would you be will to host an operating session? Yes No

What are your favorite parts of the hobby? _____

Interested in the NMRA's Master Model Railroader and Achievement Program? Circle: Yes or No
Use the back of this form to tell us anything else you'd like ask or want us to know.

SILVER SAN JUAN DIVISION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
534 E. 4TH. AVENUE
DURANGO, CO 81301



FROM THE BACKSHOP *by Ray Schmutde, Editor/Division Superintendent*

Sad Thanksgiving weekend: Our rail community suffered two hits over the Thanksgiving weekend. The first was the sudden passing of Bob Shank. The following is from Jim Richards, secretary of the Durango Model RR Club: Bob died suddenly on Thursday, November 27, following a stroke at his home near Durango, Colorado. He was 89. Bob became well-known in national model railroading circles as a consummate scratchbuilder in several scales, from O to N. One of his early projects was a fully detailed O scale steam locomotive with a boiler made from tin can metal. His son, Don, said, "When Dad would take us to national conventions, it was a foregone conclusion that he would win Best in Class, and often Best In Show." Bob was a past member of the NMRA and, right up until his death, was an active member of the Durango Model Railroad Club. Bob is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 65 years; daughter, Margien; sons Don and Bob; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Also Thanksgiving weekend, Jim Lewin, active in the 315 group and the D&SNG volunteers, was run over by a truck while he was pushing his grandchild in a stroller in a crosswalk while returning from a Christmas light show in Littleton, CO. Jim heard the truck accelerate and pushed the stroller to safety but was unable to remove himself from the truck's path. There was concern that Jim wouldn't survive, but he is making a miraculous recovery. You can keep track of Jim's progress by reading his wife Carol's updates on <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimlewin>

The economy: Everyone has been affected some way by the economic decline that began last fall. One wonders about our hobby, too. In February 2008, *Model Railroader* ran 122 pages; in February 2009 the magazine had 114 pages. In February 2008 *Trains* was 82 pages with its third cover already part of their photo section and not advertising. In 2009, the February *Trains* ran 74 pages. In the past, our hobby has been rather resilient during economic downturns, but each recession has its own characteristics. Perhaps the time has come, if one can afford it, to make some of those purchases one has been considering.

The Rail Runner article elsewhere in this issue mentions all the autoracks stored in Albuquerque. In a recent I-40 drive between Thoreau and Grants, ye old Ed. saw more autoracks stored along the BNSF transcon. A sign-o-the-times.

The Greeley convention: The NMRA's Rocky Mountain Region convention in Greeley looks to be very exciting. As of 15 November 2008, all the vendors' tables were sold. The clinic roster is also full.

Backdrop clinic: My jaw dropped when I first saw Jim Richards' backdrop at a Durango club meet last summer. His backdrop *puts* you into the Canadian Rockies and on the Vancouver waterfront. The photographic reproductions in this issue don't do his backdrop justice. I learned more about painting clouds in 30 minutes than I did in 30 years in the hobby. See you in Farmington.

Wear your nametag: Don't forget to wear your division nametag to the Farmington meet, and, for that matter, to all division events. Those who wear their nametag at the spring meet will be rewarded. If you don't have a division nametag, please contact me so that I can get one to you.