



Winter 2018  
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Issue 1

# INSIDE THE

## OC&E

# CMRM in the Class Room

By Norm Wolstein

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Thanks to our caring volunteers and supporters, the Youth Program had a busy year in 2017. We conducted several “Kids Clinics” teaching them how to paint, landscape, and develop miniature layouts. We also conducted several tours of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum for the Boy, Girl, and Cub Scouts at the museum. Museum volunteers also engaged with the local community, setting up temporary model layouts at the Centennial Village and the Greeley County Club as part of those organizations’ holiday celebrations.

Recently we began collaborating with the *Fred Tjardes School of Innovation* to teach kids how to build modular layouts. This innovative school opened this fall in downtown Greeley within walking distance of the museum. The school is based on natural learning through projects, discussions, and guidance. Their teaching model uses adjustable spaces, taking away desks, chairs, and lectures. This approach gives the kids experiences and opportunities to explore.

The museum’s Youth Program volunteers have been meeting with a group of 12 to 15 students daily for six weeks teaching them about trains. We started out working with children in grades one through four, and starting in 2018 we will work with a similar group of kids in grades five through eight. The focus is on providing a background of the history of railroads and how they are integrated into our environment. Activities include the development of collages, the design of their train layout, and

the construction of modules to teach modeling skills including painting, landscaping, and track layout. The kids also visited the museum and received a guided tour including a look “behind the scenes.”

Larry Scovill has led the volunteers’ effort with support from Phil White, Mike Fitzpatrick, Michelle Kempema, and Sherelle Escobedo. The classes met for an hour every school day at the School of Innovation’s facilities. We are so proud of our volunteers’ support and especially the kids’ desire to learn. We are looking forward to see how the next group of kids enjoy their “exploratory band” of learning. (That is a school term referring to the last hour of each day, The kids get to choose a topic/project and work on it for six weeks.)

We’re so lucky to have all of you as part of our community.

Thank you for making 2017 an amazing, impactful, and meaningful year for the organization and for each of our students. Our focus during 2018 will be on supporting our local schools’ STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math)

Initiatives. The Youth Group will also support the local Boy Scouts Railroad Merit Badge University by serving as counselors for two sessions in January, one in March, and one in April. We also look forward to engaging our other community organizations to collaborate in our programs during a busy new year.



CMRM museum volunteer Larry Scovill (right) works with the kids at the School of Innovation.

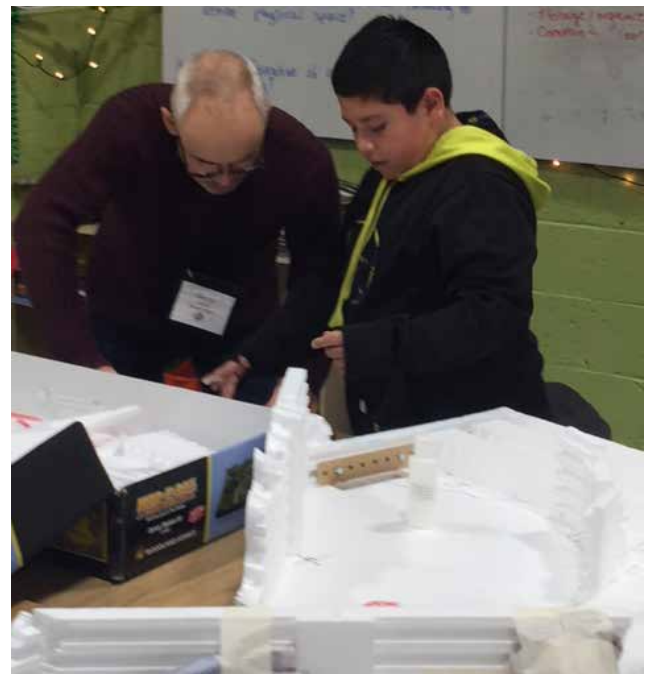


**Top left:** Several students are learning scenery techniques while painting modules. **Top right:** The boys are laying track on the modules. **Bottom left:** Now they are applying ground foam and other landscaping materials to their modules. **Bottom right:** Larry Scovill works with the kids to fit track sections on their modules.





**Top left:** The students are proud of their accomplishments and love to show off their work! **Top right:** They are learning to make mountains out of newspaper and foam, just like the OC&E. **Bottom left:** Younger kids get to construct their own projects. **Bottom right:** Larry working with the Woodland Scenics modules. This vendor supplies materials at greatly reduced cost.



# An Evening with Santa

This year a change this year in the museum's holiday schedule was to schedule a "Members' Evening" with Santa on Friday, December 22. Santa had more time to spend with the children who were present, and all had a good time.

The museum toned down the lighting for the evening, allowing for a festive mood of Holiday Cheer. Snacks and Christmas beverages were served, and several volunteers were present to run trains "at night"

Between Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas, many museum volunteers dedicated significant amounts of their time to help at the museum. This year a very aggressive schedule had been published for December, with the museum open the entire week after Christmas. Santa was present five different days for a total of 14 hours. That's a lot of Christmas lists to listen to!

Special thanks must go out to Darrel Ellis and others their time and efforts to make our guests' visit to see Santa very special. The museum provided photos to the families for these special times.

**Right top:** Not everything went as planned. After posing for a "perfect portrait", Addison, a nine month-old girl wanted to test whether the beard was real. **Right bottom:** That caught everyone by surprise!





Photo by Sherelle Escobedo

**Above:** Part of the museum team that made Christmas at the museum happen (left to right): Deb Reinick, Sonya Brunner, Christine Ellis, Darrel Ellis, Johnnae Escobedo, Sherelle Escobedo, and Sara Vari. **Below:** The Christmas lights made the museum feel special during the evening.



Photo by Sherelle Escobedo



**Above:** Every child got to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. **Right:** The “Thomas Layout” got a workout over the Christmas season. That it handled that well is a testimony to those who built and maintain it. **Below:** Santa knows a little bit about Klamath Falls and got to tell this child about it.



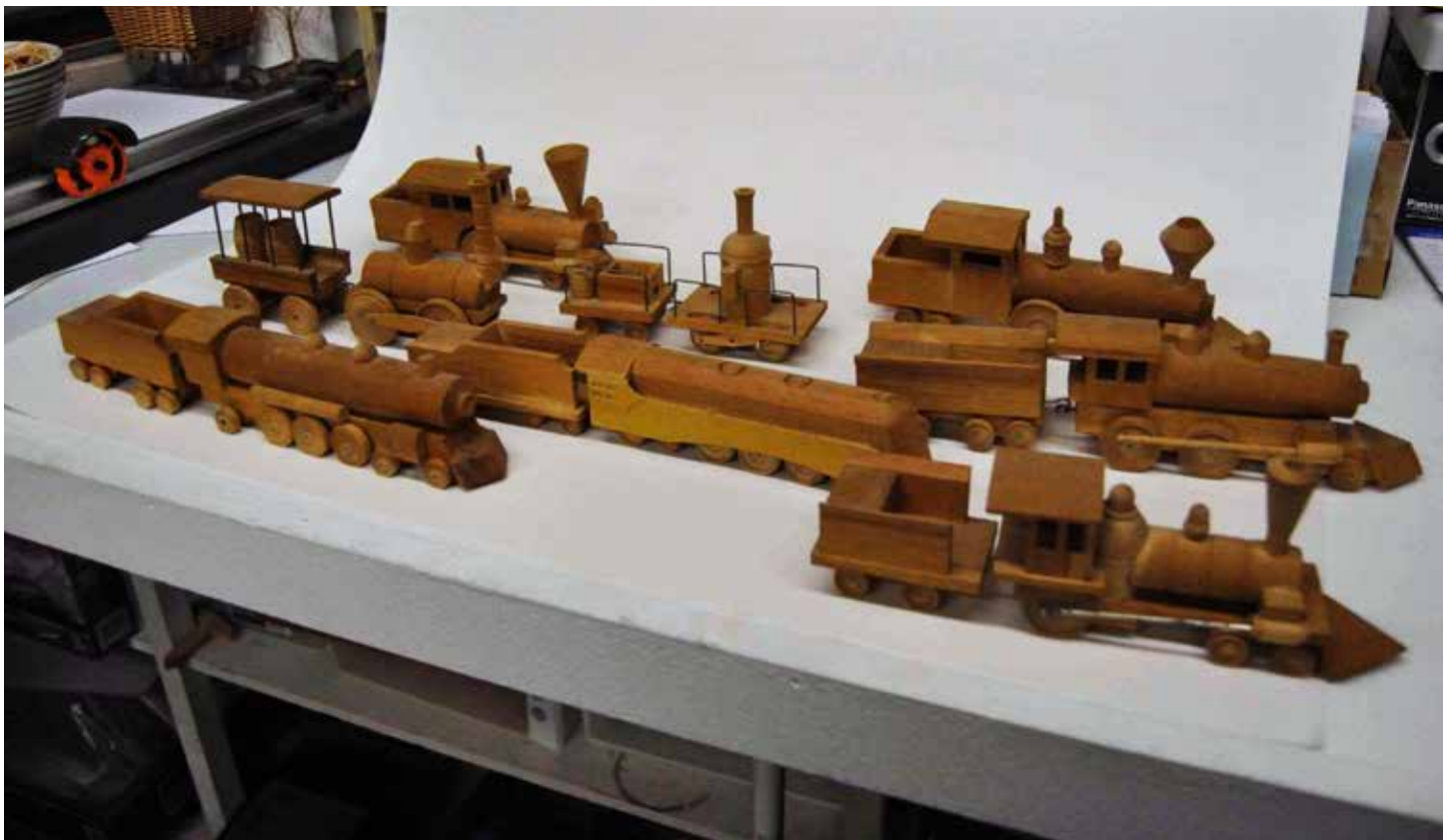
# A Sneak Peek of a future Museum Exhibit

In mid-November, museum volunteer Mike Fitzpatrick brought this set of antique model trains to the museum to see if they could be a possible exhibit sometime in the future. He didn't know much about them, but they had been in the possession of his family for a long time, maybe 70 or 80 years. He believes they were given to his father by Mike's grandfather about 1930. Mike's grandfather was a Controller for the New York Central Railroad and passed his passion for the railroad down to his son and grandson.

Museum director, Michelle Kempema knew who to ask about them, our vintage model train expert, Keith Woolf. Keith knew exactly what they were, Stombecker wooden trains that dated from the 1930's and 40's. Mike did have a hand written note that listed the models, and museum volunteers were able to match the locomotive type with the model. They are:

1. C. P. Huntington - Central Pacific 4-2-4T
2. Tom Thumb - Baltimore & Ohio 0-4-0
3. A Baltimore and Ohio locomotive
4. Dewitt Clinton - Mohawk and Hudson 0-4-0
5. New York Central 999
6. Milwaukee Hiawatha
7. Pacific, Passenger
8. Union Pacific

The models are hand carved from pine wood, and they were sold as kits in the early 1930's. It is reported that they sold two million of the kits in a single year! These were popular during the tough times of the 1930's when families didn't have the money for fancy electric trains. They continued to be produced until the 1960's.



# Steve Lehwald Joins CMRM Board of Directors

By Tim McMahon

Steve Lehwald joined CMRM's Board of Directors in early December 2017 after retiring as the Comptroller for SpradleyBarr Ford Lincoln Inc. in Greeley.

Steve's automotive career spanned 45 years beginning in Tampa, with a stop in Cheyenne and ending in Greeley nearly nine years ago. Steve also has business management experience in the golf, retail, and hotel industries.

He has served on the Cheyenne United Way Board of Directors as Treasurer and Auditor, and on the Finance Committee for the First United Methodist Church, also of Cheyenne. After moving to Greeley, he served on the Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Agricultural Committee, and the Visit Greeley Committee.

Steve will join Joel Rothman and Wayne Hansen on CMRM's Finance Committee and also Norm Wolstein's



Youth Activities Committee.

He is married with four children and seven grandchildren. Steve's hobbies and activities include both downhill and cross-country skiing, stamp and coin collecting, hiking, and reading.

We're very fortunate to have him help manage CMRM's current operations and our way ahead!



## In the Next Issue

This photo is a scene on the G scale layout that was recently put on display at the front of the museum. In the next issue you'll learn how it came to the museum and how much our guests appreciate it.



# Scouts Visit CMRM

The Colorado Model Railroad Museum has become a very popular activity for some of the area's scout groups. Recently the museum's Youth Program arranged special visits for Boy, Girl, and Cub Scout troops. Later this spring, museum volunteers will provide resources for the Boy Scout's Merit Badge University which will help

the scouts achieve merit badges which signify special knowledge in this area.

And on March 24, 2018 Scouts in uniform will receive free admission to the museum, while their parents receive a \$2 discount.



# Origins of the OC&E

## The Grand Pacific Northwestern

By Bill Kepner

A key trait of model railroading is the sharing of ideas and the cooperation of modelers to help each other in their projects. While we have our modeling contests and other competitive events, for the most part we love seeing others leverage our own ideas and develop improvements from us; as Tony Koester mentioned jokingly in a recent MRV video “theft or plagiarism is a legitimate tool” ...for model railroading.

There is no doubt that the OC&E has inspired us all in our own personal projects. For instance, on my home layout, I patterned much of my staging yard after the OC&E’s, and I expect that in the future I’ll continue to “borrow” ideas to enhance my existing layout. It’s only natural; when you are around one of the best model railroads in the country, you aren’t going to ignore things that make it so good.

But what about the museum’s layout; how did Dave Trussell, the OC&E’s designer, come up with so many good ideas? Over the last seven years of this publication’s existence, we’ve covered numerous facets of the development of the OC&E design concept. The Denver, Greeley and Tahoe modular layout, covered in the August 2013 issue of this newsletter, was clearly a test bed of ideas that Dave had been formulating for many years.

Dave had combined ideas from prototype railroads in the northwestern part of the country with many different model railroads he had visited over the years. Some, like Bob Bandy’s large home layout in Monument, Colorado, The Grand Pacific Northwestern, has an operations theme common with the OC&E, and both layouts are focused in the same geographic territory. But obviously a layout designed to fit into a basement and one designed for a purpose-built building will need to be different.

Bob and Dave may have first met between 15 and 20 years ago when the DG&T modular layout was still actively traveling to many train shows in the region. Both men were thinking about their dream railroad empires at the time. Bob was a commercial artist and had skills in designing scenery to highlight the operation of a mountain railroad across rugged terrain. Dave, being a journalist has always looked for the background story for how and why a railroad was promoted, and what made it prosper. Dave and Rick Bacon visited Bob’s railroad during the early stages of the OC&E construction to get ideas on bench work techniques. Dave remembers picking Bob’s brain about a number of subjects, including his take on bridge placement on layouts, ease of access for operators, rolling stock storage, and the fact he had a real live snowy owl

perched on the top of his roof that evening when they returned home.

The two of them traded many ideas, continued their respective projects, and the rest is history.

Our museum volunteers have spent countless hours building and operating the OC&E. while Bob has an active work crew that helps him with his 2000 square foot layout.

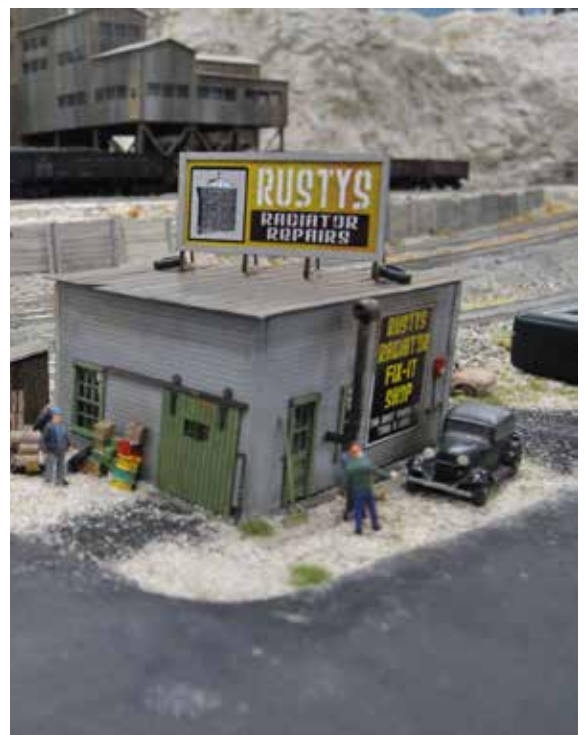
**Left:** Your first two impressions when you descend the stairs to the GPNW are the rugged scenery, and the great job of blending the painted backgrounds on the basement walls.

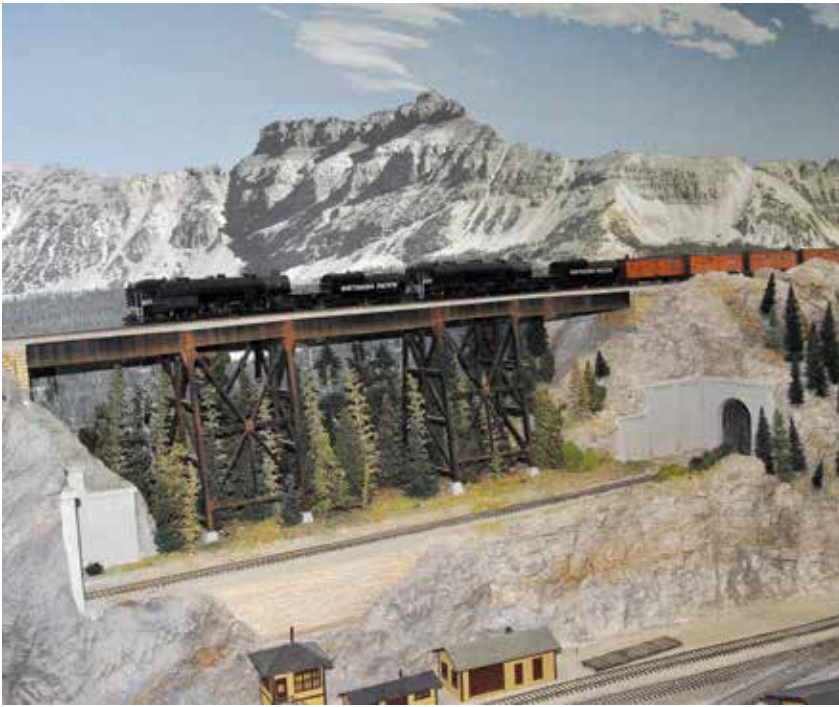




Before Christmas Bob had planned an open house on two successive weekends, and through one of his good friends and scenery expert, Tim McMahon (our museum's Board Chairman), invited museum volunteers down to Monument. Some made the 200-mile round trip from Greeley, and for those who couldn't we present the following photos. Maybe you'll see some ideas you can "borrow" for future OC&E projects! To quote Dave, "Visits like this can be a truly fun and educational; one that every serious-minded modeler who wants to improve his/her skill levels needs to do on as regular a basis as possible."

**Top left:** Like the OC&E, there are many signature bridges on the layout, including the "Cisco Viaduct" that anchors this part of the layout. **Other 3 photos:** You'll love the highly detailed and sometimes humorous scenes that are spread across the layout.





**Left and above:** Bob will successfully mix steam and diesel operations; wouldn't it be fun to have double headed Cab Forwards on the OC&E? **Below:** There are many small towns along the line, and all structures seem to blend in to the scenery like they belonged there.



# Night Shots From the Museum

*Photos by Bill Kepner*

*Since before the museum opened, I have literally taken hundreds (if not several thousands) of photos of the museum's Oregon, California and Eastern model railroad.*

*Perhaps the most fun photos are those taken "at night". This is when things come alive for me on the railroad. Maybe it's the desire to emulate the famous photos of O. Winston Link that documented the last of the Norfolk and Western steam in the 1950's. Maybe it's the thought that the railroaders running trains at night are working when the rest of us are in bed. Or maybe it's that the darkness hides the confining walls of the museum.*

*Regardless, I hope you like these too.*



### October Visitor Counts

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Week 1</b>	262	203	193	223	214	215
<b>Week 2</b>	352	190	211	234	203	233
<b>Week 3</b>	250	260	205	246	272	275
<b>Week 4</b>	234	245	305	273	180	239
<b>Week 5</b>					220	226
<b>Totals</b>	1098	898	914	976	1089	1188
<b>YTD</b>	15090	14675	14283	16524	17937	14446

### November Visitor Counts

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Week 1</b>	209	172	210	140	164	201
<b>Week 2</b>	195	171	351	317	210	220
<b>Week 3</b>	198	140	176	203	507	232
<b>Week 4</b>	408	137	697	173	709	514
<b>Week 5</b>				631		
<b>Totals</b>	1010	620	1434	1464	1590	1167
<b>YTD</b>	16100	15295	15717	17988	19527	15613

### December Visitor Counts

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Week 1</b>	137	534	184	167	179	165
<b>Week 2</b>	168	89	174	271	124	247
<b>Week 3</b>	225	158	361	521	987	418
<b>Week 4</b>	472	360	663	632	513	496
<b>Week 5</b>	982	1339	176	532		
<b>Totals</b>	1984	2480	1558	2123	1803	1326
<b>YTD</b>	18084	17775	17275	20111	21330	16939

### Yearly Totals

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
18084	17775	17275	20111	21330	16939

## Volunteer Awards

**500 Hours**  
 Larry Tiffany  
 Scott Warren  
 Kent Shelton

**1000 Hours**  
 Carl Debo

**1500 Hours**  
 Norm Wolstein

**2000 Hours**  
 Craig Zimmerman

**6000 Hours**  
 Stan Bohner

### Inside the OC&E

Inside the OC&E is the official newsletter of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. Its purpose is to communicate news and information to museum volunteers and others interested in the museum.

The Spring issue **PUBLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 5:00 PM.** Send submissions to **drgw0579@comcast.net.**

Bill Kepner, Editor.  
 Ed Hurtubis and Bob Owens, Associate Editors

## Upcoming Museum Special Events

Check the museum's web page for last minute changes

January 19th and 20th Extreme Days

February 9th and 10th Trains of Romance (1940's passenger trains)

March 9th (6 PM to 8 PM) Member's only Game Night

March 16th and 17th BNSF Days

March 24th Scouts FREE Day (in uniform only) Parents receive \$2 off admission

April 7th Super Hero Day

## Donations to the Museum

Stapp Interstate Toyota-Scion  
 Wayne & Edith Huddleston  
 David & Erinstacy Ritsema  
 Nancy Marsh  
 Richard & Eleanor Allen  
 Marklin  
 Anonymous  
 Jim & Carol McNulty  
 Carl & JoAnn Hill  
 Union Pacific Caboose #25251  
 Steve Watrous  
 Wayne Huddleston  
 Lyster Family Foundation  
 Wayne Hansen