



# THE RAILWAY EXPRESS

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970-392-2934  
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## Youth Programs Full STEAM Ahead!

The Colorado Model Railroad Museum (CMRM) took its Youth Program to the next level by offering hands-on learning and fun to all ages with its CMRM STEAM EXPRESS. S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), stems from the learning-centered application of acquiring the needs of tomorrow by building the skill sets today. STEAM is introduced through our Lil' Conductors (ages 3-5), Lil' Engineers (ages 6-10), and many fun-filled events from LEGOS Simple Machines to T-TRAK, Pizza Layouts, Scenery Clinics and more!

The Lil' Conductors and Lil' Engineers engaged in Learn n' Play activities designed to build confidence and a foundational development for discovery and investigation. Storytelling for students was used to assist learners in developing the social and emotional skills that are necessary for successful learning and developing confidence and problem-solving skills.

The LEGO Simple Powered Machines provided learners and leaders with hands-on, real-world experiences. This program introduced and enforced learners and leaders with a broad range of concepts, such as force, motion, and energy, use LEGO Technic bricks and a motor to model mechanical engineering. The use of these activities assisted children in becoming familiar with engineering problem-solving tasks while developing teamwork and observation skills.



**Kassady of the Youth Programs team, teaching Lil' Conductors how to operate the Lego Duplo using an app on the iPad.**

T-TRAK, a modular model railroad system, is a track placement with an adjacent module interface and electrical connections. The standards allow for many different layout designs while maintaining the ability to connect with other modules built to the T-Trak standards. The modules are relatively small dioramas that snap together, allowing the creation of simple circle layouts to larger complex layouts. Participants were allowed to select single straight or corner modules for their clinics. The museum provided the Modules, electrical connectors, and scenery materials.

CMRM Board member Norm Wolstein took the finished T-Trak modules to Utah for the 2019 National Train Show to display the many ways to assemble a layout with modules. Young students finished their layouts in two, two-hour Saturday sessions.

Who says you need to eat pizza?

The museum introduced a new concept for pizza with our Pizza Layout Clinics this summer. Unfortunately, these pizzas did not come with a crust option. You don't eat these! Learners enjoyed building their own layout in the shape of an extra-large pizza. Instead of pepperoni and veggies, these pizza layouts provided growth opportunities in technical and artistic skills. Scenery clinics, which included terrain and trees, assisted in building an ideal creation, limited only by the builder's imagination.

***Our Mission Statement: To provide a model railroading experience that educates, inspires, and brings joy to all ages.***





Karson and Dad, Cole assembling her first Pizza Layout

### Outreach

As the school year was coming to an end at Fred Tjardes School of Innovation, we facilitated lessons and concepts on bugs, emotions, and an introduction to algorithms to the young learners and future leaders using LEGO's Duplo set.

The eager learners were geared up to build a caterpillar that would go on tracks and could operate it using the technology of an iPad.

The young learners understood the introduction of algorithms. They enjoyed pairing in groups to solve problems and share concepts as they drew them out on their hand-held whiteboards before connecting their tracks. This group of kindergartners ended the school year with a visit to the museum.



Kassady is showing a small group of Lil' Engineers how to use the iPad, so they can practice calculating distance.

### Bringing History to Life

In May and September, we were at Centennial Village Museum, facilitating Train and Railroad History for their week-long celebration of history. Our volunteers brought Train and Railroad History to life to over 500 young learners. In May we had the pleasure of connecting the past to the present as we embarked on the 150 Year Celebration of The Great Race to Promontory, the First Transcontinental Railroad across the United States where the Central Pacific and Union Pacific met on May, 10, 1869, at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory.

### Envision

In August and September, we visited Envision in Evans. Envisions vision is to, *'empower individuals to live, love, work, and play their way'* and a mission to *"Envision, Creative Support for People with Developmental Disabilities in Weld County."* Over the weeks, Director of Outreach and Engagement/Youth Programs, Mistie taught facilitators and participants how to paint rocks, make trees, and affix grass and other foliage. Participants will be showing these creations along with others at their Annual Fundraiser in October. For more information on Envision, you can visit their website at <https://envisionco.org>



Envision participants are learning model railroading skills.



CMRM Volunteers Darrel Ellis and Mistie Trefry, Director of Outreach and Engagement/Youth Programs, brought Train and Railroad History to life to over 500 young learners. CMRM director Norm Wolstein also helped on this project.



### Youth in Model Railroading

In early September, Mistie Trefry, Director of Outreach and Engagement/Youth Programs, learned how to paint rocks with over 20 young modelers who participate monthly with the Youth in Model Railroading (YMR) organization out of Westminster, CO. Mistie learned alongside the young modelers how to cast rocks with plaster of paris and paint various rock formations. Pictured below is Mistie, who received a “thumbs up” from Charlie, an avid modeler, on Mistie’s rock painting skills. Attendees of YMR love attending the monthly meetings.

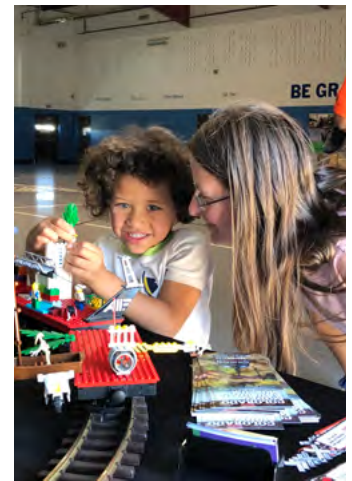
Every month, the young modelers do a build-n-take, and no two monthly meetings are the same. Each monthly meeting introduces young modelers to a different skill set. YMR highlights many of the creations at train shows and events like the 2019 Brickfest held in early August in Denver.

According to its website, “YMR is the only model train club solely dedicated to children, ages 8-18. For over 20 years, our organization has helped educate and support the next generation of rail enthusiasts by teaching techniques in modeling, electronics, and the artistry of model railroading. YMR helps foster interest in the hobby while providing members a common outlet for sharing their passion for trains with like-minded peers.” See <http://www.ymr-online.org/> for more information.



### Weld County Boys and Girls Club Celebrates Day for Kids 2019

The Weld County Boy’s and Girls Club hosted its annual Day for Kids which is held the third Saturday in September. Day for Kids celebrates kids with fun activities and provides access and opportunities for kids to engage in meaningful activities, celebrating the amazement of childhood. We were excited to be a part of this annual event. The Youth Program Team (Mistie and Kassady), who took the Creation Station, were many of the event’s 200 attendees engaged in the building and operating of the museum’s LGB Train.



Valiant shows his mom the Creation Station and the car he built.



Left: Larry Price, founder and Executive Director, Youth in Model Railroading.



Kassady helps a little girl put together a train car for the Creation Station.

## I Speak Trains Committee: Autism Speaks at the Colorado Model Railroad Museum

We have many visitors who come to the museum and enjoy all the sounds, lights, and more. Every day many individuals go through life having to avoid many of the things we take for granted.

We provide aids to assist in providing a positive visitor experience. Can we do more? Yes, we can. We want to hear from you. We want to know the needs of our guests. We have started a committee, the *I Speak Trains Committee* (IST Committee). If you are interested in getting involved, please email Mistie at [mistie@cmrm.org](mailto:mistie@cmrm.org)



## We Want to Hear from You!

As we embark on our annual review of the museum's Strategic Plan, we want to know what you, our members and our visitors think. We have been conducting a thorough review process and getting feedback from volunteers, staff, and you. Please take a few minutes to answer a few questions below. Please submit your answers to Mistie at [mistie@cmrm.org](mailto:mistie@cmrm.org) or via mail to the address below (attention: Mistie). Mistie will forward your submission to the Strategic Plan Committee with a number assigned in place of your name. Thank you sincerely in advance for your time. We are striving every day to meet and exceed our mission.

To submit your answers by mail:  
Colorado Model Railroad Museum  
Attention: Mistie  
680 10th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631



**Above:** One of the Lil' Engineers calculates the distance from the plane to the castle (she built) after learning how to use the app on the iPad. **Left:** Trent (3 years old) from the Lil' Conductors is doing a hands-on operation by taking the locomotive apart with his trusted screwdriver and reassembling it.

1. How did you discover the museum? Why did you choose to interact with us?
2. Our mission is to provide a model railroading experience that educates, inspires, and brings joy to all ages. On a scale of 1-5 (1=Not at all, 2=Somewhat, 3=Neutral, 4=Almost there, 5=Excellent), how do you feel the museum is doing to accomplish its mission? Please provide feedback with your grading.
3. What marketing and communications channels are you most likely to pay attention to (Facebook, Google Ads, print, etc.)?
4. What are your concerns about the museum? What do you feel we, as a museum, can do to address these concerns?
5. What do you enjoy most about the museum?

Thank you in advance for your time and continued support to CMRM.



# Volunteers Spotlight: I would drive Six Hundred Miles and More

By Mistie

Like many of the museum visitors, many of the museum's volunteers come from near and far. Being new in my role, one of the greatest perks is learning about modeling from the museum's passionate volunteers. In late July, I had the pleasure of sitting down with a small group of guys from Iowa. In visiting with them, I learned some come as much as 1-2 times a month while others come 2-3 times a year.

Steve Watrous, who has been coming since he met founder and donor, Dave Trussell during Trussell's travels with his traveling D&GT layout (the genesis of the museum's funding). Watrous, a former videographer for Union Pacific's Steam Program, first came to the museum when it was referred to as "the Green Building" in 2004 while on one of his filming expeditions.

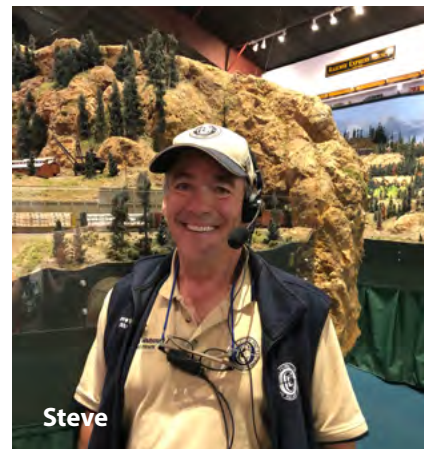
Watrous and a group of fellow Model Railroaders from Iowa, came down to support Trussell when it opened Memorial Day Weekend 2009 and found themselves running trains to the large crowds of visitors visiting this new museum, and to see the Steam Trains go by. Watrous, who retired in 2014, is a Second-Generation Model Railroader. Just as Watrous' dad shared the hobby with him, Watrous shares with his son today. Watrous' son, who is a resident of Leadville, and Watrous meet at the museum to run trains together at least once a year.

On this particular visit, Watrous was with a small group of fellow Model Railroaders who were pretty new to the museum. Scott McConathy, of Iowa, had just received his certification on this particular trip. All of the museum's train operators are required to have four successful trips before becoming certified operators. Brion Oakley and Eric Wiederholt were both on their third visit to the museum. All four men drove 640 plus miles from Iowa to operate trains on the museum's layout. When asked if this was common, as I was curious if they drove around the United States operating trains, all the men explained although they go to many train shows, our museum is the only place they go to operate trains. Wiederholt, who was certified a couple years ago, shared with me, the museum is his favorite layout to operate on, with Watrous' layout coming in second.



Scott with Aiden

I am always curious when I meet a volunteer, what their favorite thing is about the museum or their memory. Wiederholt shared he will never forget the first time he walked through the doors. "I was awe-Struck," Weiderholt explained. Oakley, who decided not to wait for his retirement to run trains at the museum, following a life event, shared he loves running the various trains. "It's running with a purpose," Oakley said. Meaning "each train has a story behind them, a place in history." McConathy, a retiree who has been modeling on and off for 25+ years, and steadily the last eight years, decided after 30 years of volunteering with Boy Scouts of America, it was his time to enjoy his hobby, and has been pursuing model railroading ever since.



Steve



Brion



Eric

# Artifact Highlight: Lionel Binnacle

By Mistie

When it was decided that I would be a contributing member to the museum's newsletter, and that a primary contribution would be to highlight an artifact, I decided the Binnacle, a navigational instrument, needed to be my first highlight. My husband asked me if it was because it was originally acquired from my home state of Washington or because when I was younger, I wanted to serve in the Navy. Although either of these answers would be true and sufficient, I am going to give the more embarrassing answer.

During one of my first tours of the museum, I came to the Binnacle and was able to give the details of the artifact, but when I tried to say what it was, 'compass' was all that came to mind. I was able to give other details, such as, manufactured by Lionel, who stopped toy production in 1942 during WWII to produce nautical items for the U.S. Navy. For me this was almost as embarrassing as introducing my husband to my boss and forgetting one of their names. Not going to mention who's name I forgot. Unlike the introduction scenario, Michelle, the museum's Executive Director heard me struggling for the name and came over and helped out.



When you visit the Binnacle, if you look closely, you can see "Lionel Corporation" on its face. The following information on Binnacles has been provided by Kate Botkin:

A binnacle is basically a casing for navigational instruments (not limited to compasses). Traditionally binnacles hold the ship's magnetic compass, mounted in gimbals to keep it level while the ship pitched and rolled on the seas. Some binnacles are wooden boxes and some waist high metal castings or stands made of non-ferrous metal to counter the magnetic deviation caused by the ship being made of iron, so the enclosed compass could point to magnetic north. These binnacles are found on the ship's deck, generally mounted

in front of the helmsman for easy and quick reference. The boxes and casings protect the delicate instruments from inclement weather.

Next time you are in the museum, be sure to visit the Binnacle. There is an ad for it on the wall, which was discovered and provided by Mike Morris, a museum volunteer. If you have information about our artifacts you would like to share, please send an email to [mistie@cmrm.org](mailto:mistie@cmrm.org)



The museum's Binnacle is located in the Mezzanine next to the Lionel Train sets. Donated by the R.J. Walker family of Greeley, the Binnacle was acquired from a ship in Bremerton, WA. During WWII, as many Americans drastically reduced luxury spending, Lionel was struggling to stay afloat. Lionel's solution was to join the war efforts by producing Binnacles for the U.S. Navy. The purpose of the Binnacle was to prevent the compass from being affected by the motions of the ship.





# ALL ABOARD for Youth Programs

By Tim McMahon

After two years of discussion on the future in Model Railroading with CMRM Board President Tim McMahon, Wm. K. Walther's President, Stacey Walther-Naffah visited CMRM on June 21st, 2019 to explore youth program collaboration opportunities. Wm. K. Walther and CMRM share complementary objectives in promoting youth participation in the hobby. On October 18th, 2019, CMRM will host the **Tracks to Success Youth Summit**. Walther's V.P. for Marketing, Karen Forminco will represent Walther's.

In the photo below, are: (Left to Right): Chris Naffah; Stacey Walther-Naffah; CMRM Director of Youth Programs, Mistie Trefry; CMRM Volunteer and Youth Advisor, Allen Hovey Albuquerque, NM; CMRM Executive Director, Michelle Kempema;; CMRM Board Director, Norm Wolstein. *Photo courtesy of Tim McMahon*



## Who is Wm. K. Walther's ?

Experienced model railroaders may know the full story, but for those who don't:

Model Railroading, despite what the internet may tell you, is not a multi-billion dollar industry. Traditionally, many model railroading manufacturers are small businesses. Sometimes very small. Walther's is a manufacturer of some products, but most importantly serves as a distributor for those companies and provides traditional Brick and Mortar hobby shops and internet dealers a central place to order all model railroading products. Bill Walther's founded the company in 1932 during the depression, and Stacey Walther's-Naffah is the fourth generation President/CEO.

Walther's is in a good spot to see industry trends, and they can plainly see that it will be extremely important to get younger people into the hobby to help compensate for the eventual loss of the baby-boomers. Given the company's position in the industry, it is likely other model railroad suppliers will also want to participate.



# The Big Boy is Headed to Greeley!

Photos by Bill Kepner

Union Pacific's Big Boy #4014 is headed to Greeley and should be there on Wednesday, November 27 at 11:15 AM. It left Cheyenne on September 27 and will visit Southern California, Arizona, Houston, Texas, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Kansas City, before heading to Denver, and finally back to Cheyenne.

After successful trips to Salt Lake City and Minnesota earlier this summer, the Big Boy will certainly put on a show for the public in locations that haven't seen a live steam engine in many years.

As it left Cheyenne, the engine was running very well. Chasers thinned out substantially after Laramie. Unfortunately, while the day started out sunny, the rains and dark skies were featured during the afternoon.

When the train finally reaches Greeley, it will stop right at the museum for a scheduled 45 minutes. The museum will be open that day, so it will be a good time to come visit! For more info on the the Big Boy's trip see <http://UPSteam.com>.



**Below: Having just left Medicine Bow, Wyoming, the 4014 is making up time on its way to Rawlins, Wyoming where it will tie up for the night.**







**Above:** Westbound at Rock River, Wyoming, The editor of Trains magazine was waiting here with us, but kept on calling it Rock Springs. We kept correcting him; we'll have to see what it's called in the magazine. **Below left:** Downhill on Track 3 between West Hermosa and Buttes. The train took Track 3 over Sherman Hill, much to the dismay of those

waiting for it on Track 1. **Below right:** Arriving at Laramie. A big crowd was waiting for the train at the historic Laramie Depot. This photo is from the pedestrian bridge over the yard, where many cameras got good photos that morning. Note that in the 30 minutes between this photo and the one previous, there had been some serious cloud buildup.





# CMRM at the Salt Lake City National Train Show

By Norm Wolstein

The 2019 National Train Show was held July 7 - 13, 2019 at the Mountain America Exposition Center in Sandy, UT. The CMRM participated in the show and engaged with additional groups focused on youth programs in model railroading. Al Hovey of Albuquerque, NM (Founder & leader Rio Grande Model Rail Road club), Blaine Holbrook of Centerville, UT (NUD NMRA treasurer, Regional Director, RMR, NMRA), Norm Wolstein of Longmont, CO (CMRM Youth Programs) and representatives from Larry Price's Youth in Model Railroading located in the Denver Area set up "hands on" displays and activities at the show.

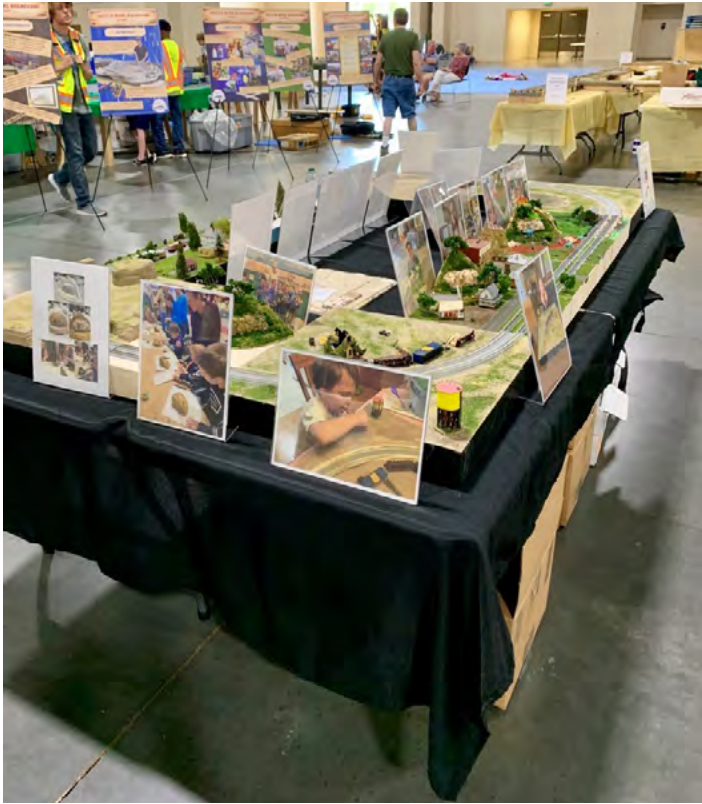
The CMRM Youth Program has focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) to help our community's youth to participate in a cross-curricular program to bring together interactive concepts from multiple disciplines. Integrated STEAM has been shown to improve student achievement and to help students develop more confidence and competence during the learning process. The museum had two displays at the show including the CMRM T-TRAK module display. The modules were built by youth from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Weld County and other youth modelers who built their modules during events at the museum. The modules were displayed as a complete oval layout which attracted a lot of attention from event attendees. The display included pictures of the youth and their modules.

The second display from the museum was enabled by a generous donation earlier this year from Marklin which included the LGB Building Block Train Set along with eight additional flat cars which are LEGO compatible. The CoWLUG (Colorado and Wyoming Lego Users Group) worked with the CMRM to develop a "LEGO Creation Station Hands-On" display which allows youth to design and build their own flat car assemblies using LEGO bricks. Once their flat cars are assembled, they are added to an LGB G Scale freight train being operated on an oval layout.

The CMRM set up the Creation Station prior to the show opening on Friday and ran "non-stop" for the entire weekend. Many parents and grandparents worked with their kids helping to build their flat cars and we received many requests for information as to how attendees could obtain their own LGB Building Block Train Set. The Creation Station combines running trains along with building LEGO flat car assemblies which includes key aspects of the STEAM curriculum. The CMRM Creation Station is used for events at the museum and is available to be conducted at community locations to support a variety of events. Contact the museum for further information.









## Around the OC&E



Seems like the city of Lakeview waited until Autumn had arrived to do some road maintenance. Just like northern Colorado.



Several years ago, there was a serious accident at this Lakeview grade crossing. An Operation Lifesaver display reminds motorists that "Any Time is Train Time."



## Museum Trades for UP Depot Bench

Photos by Bill Kepner

On Saturday, September 27, a truck pulled up to the museum's south warehouse with a big seat. Originally from an undetermined Union Pacific depot in Wyoming, the large station bench had been residing at the Calhan, Colorado Rock Island depot.

Jim Jordan, president of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Heritage Society negotiated with our museum to trade this for some lanterns the museum had in storage. The bench was not historic to their project and we hope to use it as part of our future expanded facility.

It was a bit bigger than we expected, but for John Keyser and his Bobcat it was not a problem, Randy and Steve Palmer assisted him as he unloaded and stored the bench in the warehouse.

Calhan, Colorado is midway between Limon, Colorado and Colorado Springs, which was the western-most station on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific. The "Rock" quit running on this line in 1980, and it was operated for a few years by a short line operator. The track is now removed and all that is left is several structures and signs along the way.

**Help us Determine the origin of this Depot Bench!  
All we know is that it came from a larger station in Wyoming.**



**Above:** A Cadillac and Lake City excursion train passes the Calhan, Colorado depot in September 1987. This short line operated between Falcon and Limon, Colorado for several years after the Rock Island bankruptcy, but ultimately there wasn't enough business for it to survive either. **Right top:** The trailer is backed into the warehouse where John Keyser is waiting with his Bobcat. **Right middle:** He'll lift it straight up, then the trailer will be removed from the building. **Right bottom:** Then the bench will be gently lowered onto several dollys that will allow limited movement in the building.

# Meet Mistie

By Bill Kepner

Mistie Trefry joined the museum staff about six months ago, and we felt an introduction would be appropriate, especially since she is working with me on the museum's newsletter. We have worked together on several projects such as the Ultimate DCC Throttle and the Boxcar Racetrack, and we thought it would be appropriate if I interviewed her.

**Bill: How did you find out about the museum? Mistie:** It was serendipity; I didn't want a full-time job as I'm working on several projects, including a book. I basically just wanted something to get out of the house, even something at a coffee shop.

My husband is a Facebook Friend of Michelle Kempema and saw the posting that the museum had a position opening. Michelle and I talked briefly, and I had a lot of education and experience in the areas the museum was looking for.

**Bill: What is your background? Mistie:** Not trains, although my husband is an engineer with Union Pacific. I've basically spent the last 10 years in school specializing in Outreach, Engagement, and Hospitality, I also have much experience with Graphic Design, Marketing, and photography. I am also an Authorized Operation Lifesaver Volunteer.

**Bill: What do you want to accomplish at our museum? Mistie:** I would like to bring Model Railroad to life for kids in our community. The creativity aspect is essential, but there's so much more in being able to duplicate reality

**Bill: Where did you grow up? Mistie:** I grew up in Eastern Washington, Moses Lake, I don't remember seeing a train until I was 13 or so (Moses Lake had a Milwaukee Road branch line that is now operated by a short line). However, one of my first photographs that I sold professionally was a BNSF train in a neighboring town; Eastern Washington had many branch lines that I found to be very photogenic.

**Bill: What do you do in your spare time? Mistie:** I love to hang out with my husband and my dogs. I also have over 10 years of experience with non-profits; I serve on the Board of Directors of Weld Women 2 Women <https://weldw2w.org> which assists women in need financially. We raise money as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and provide funds to women who need help paying expenses they are unable to alone.

I also assist in training the 300-500 volunteers for Weld Project Connect of United Way.



Mistie worked with Bill Kepner to plan the Hewlett Packard Enterprise volunteer event, where the group built a Box Car Race Track. The museum will conduct races similar to the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby events.

## Thanks Ed!

*Most of the CMRM volunteers don't know Ed Hurtubis, who served as the Museum's Inside the OC&E newsletter Associate Editor since the very beginning. Ed has always been active in the Northern Colorado Model Railroad club and currently serves as the Modular Layout coordinator. In 2009, he started working with me on their newsletter. When I suggested to Dave Trussell that we should have a museum newsletter, Ed wanted to help, and we thought it would be good to have him involved. Ed was always a stickler for correct grammar and punctuation; he taught me many things I should have learned when I was in grade school.*



*When I was talking to Michelle about the future of the newsletter and bringing on a museum staff member to help, Ed felt it was time for him to retire. Thanks for all your hard work. You helped make the newsletter great. -Bill Kepner*



## Hewlett Packard Enterprise Volunteers at the Colorado Model Railroad Museum

The mission of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum (CMRM) is to instill joy and creativity in all. We feel it is especially important to give our youth encouragement and provide activities that show them how to build items and solve problems.

Later this year, CMRM will be conducting youth development sessions, and one of the items that was needed for the activity

was a “Boxcar Racetrack.” Boxcar racing is similar to the Cub Scouts’ Pinewood Derby, except instead of model automobiles, the kids will race model railcars (boxcars).

When the staff at CMRM was asked if they had any ideas for a Hewlett Packard Enterprise Global Day of Service project, the Boxcar Racetrack immediately came to mind. They felt five or six volunteers could assemble a 4- piece race track in an



afternoon. Long-time CMRM volunteer and HPE employee, Bill Kepner, started the planning process and obtained the necessary materials.

On the day of the GDOS event, the HPE volunteers arrived at the museum, which is in downtown Greeley, Colorado. The HPE Fort Collins employees were: Dan Frank, Chandra Sekhar-Govindarajula, Russ Herrell, Ken James, Jerry McKinney, and Paul Reichmann, with Bill Kepner providing the little direction needed to get everyone started.





Once the team got comfortable with the task, the modules quickly took shape. In only a few hours, the team built four modular racetrack sections in the museum's back warehouse. While most were reasonably simple in design, one module required a curved surface that would require some "Just in Time Engineering."

The racetrack was built so that it could be disassembled and moved to another location when needed. A "Builders Plate" was attached to acknowledge the volunteer work by the HPE employees that should be visible to the kids and their parents during these events.

The Colorado Model Railroad Museum sincerely thanks the HPE volunteers for their hard work, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise for their ongoing commitment to the local community.





# The 2020 Calendar is Here

The 11th edition of the OC&E Calendar is now available at the museum gift shop, “The Little Shop That Could”, or at our online store at <https://www.cmr.org/shop-cmr/>. This year’s calendar features photographs from five different photographers, each specializing in a distinct style. After 11 years and over 140 calendar photos, we are still finding new photo locations on the railroad.



## Shooting the Promontory Photo

It was a simple enough request. Sherelle needed a few photos for her promotional emails and for Facebook showing a model reenactment of the famous 1869 Promontory Point photograph of the Central Pacific Jupiter and the Union Pacific #119 nose to nose, celebrating the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

I emailed my friends, Kirk Orndorff and John Crisant, and asked them if they wanted to help out. Both are good railfan photographers, and in fact, John would have a 2-page photo spread of UP #4014 in *Trains Magazine* over the summer.

We showed up as the museum was closing on Friday, March 1. We thought this would be a great time to have some time on the layout where we wouldn’t be bothering anyone else. That evening at 6 PM, the museum would have a reception for the model railroad manufacturers attending that weekend’s Rocky Mountain Train Show in Denver. Two hours for a couple photos, no sweat!

I had thought Quartz siding would be a good spot; however, we realized the limited room between the edge of the layout and the backdrop wasn’t going to work. We found that the loadout tracks would be much better. I had the idea to put several scale people figures around the engines that would make the photo more interesting. Kirk and John got some rubber cement, and started “planting people.”

But then we got a little out of hand. Just a few figures wouldn’t do. We needed a crowd, just like the 1869 photo. Positioning a couple figures is easy. Trying to line up a bunch, especially if you are in a hurry, becomes much more of a chore. But we got a fair number positioned, and the cameras came out. Each of us wanted to shoot some photos of not only the 1869 engines, but we also wanted to get shots of the UP 844 and 4014, just like we expected to happen in May.



But by now, some of the invited visitors were showing up at the museum. The OC&E operators were wanting to run trains in docent mode. While our work area was off the mainline, our cameras needed to be set up next to the track, almost blocking any trains going by.

The trains started running. Just like the real railroad, since the photographers were looking through the viewfinder and not watching for the trains, one of us served as the flagman and told the other two when a train was coming. We alternated like this for a while, until everyone was happy with the digital images they got. We then told the crowd to “go home,” and unceremoniously started shoving the figures back in their boxes. It took a while, but we got the mess cleaned up and everything back to normal.

Who would have thought shooting model photography was a hazardous occupation! And of course we got 4014 and 844 positioned incorrectly. Or maybe UP did! -Bill Kepner







## A Little Help for Our Friends

In the late afternoon of August 22, Buzz Lenander, president of the New Mexico RailRunNers, received a phone call that a car had run through the front windows of their Albuquerque clubhouse and caused severe damage to their layout modules.

Several modules were destroyed entirely. Many others had serious damage. Two of the front windows of the building were gone entirely.

Surprisingly, the accident was not caused by substance abuse, but instead a simple case of hitting the gas instead of the brake. Luckily, nobody was hurt.

Instead of giving up, the club rolled up their sleeves and got to work rebuilding the layout. With a motto of "We Can Handle It", it's going to take a while, but the layout will be back.

On October 11 2019, the club was presented with an several unexpected gifts to help with the recovery.

The club was visiting Greeley for a weekend of running trains, and during the Friday morning crew meeting, they received:



- \$500 from CMRM volunteers and staff
- \$500 from Sherman Hill Model Railroad Club
- \$500 in N Scale Peco track from ChooChooAreUs
- 12 Cornerstone building kits from Wm. K Walthers
- 

While the club still needs to do much work, these items should help with the reconstruction.







**Colorado Model Railroad Museum**  
680 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 392-2934 [www.cmrmm.org](http://www.cmrmm.org)



September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Friends,

We hope this brief update finds you and your families enjoying a memorable summer, including frequent visits to the museum and that you've been able to take advantage of the special events we planned for you. We work hard to make every day a special one for our visitors and we're delighted that our attendance during the peak summer period exceeded last year's attendance.

A growing number of our member families are participating in our youth activities program which is also expanding and developing program content. While our staff and volunteers attended to our visitors and worked hard to maintain the museum's grounds, facilities, and collections, our Board of Directors began planning and developing the museum's new "Strategic Plan". This plan is based on a thorough "Needs Assessment" and establishes recommendations and priority efforts for every facet of the museum's on-going and future operations. Financial development and management are a critical part of this effort simply because the museum's future absolutely depends on our ability to raise and manage funds entrusted to us.

Earlier this year, the museum was awarded two separate grants through the Weld Community Foundation. The Community Foundation Littler Youth Fund was directed entirely to the funding of our on-going youth activities program. The second grant is a Challenge Grant and gives us a major opportunity to begin raising funds for an endowment, which will be essential to support the museum's annual operations for years to come. Here's the challenge: The Community Foundation will invest \$10,000 of their funds in an endowment designated for CMRM exclusively; but, we must raise \$10,000 in new donations to "match" their "challenge" ... no less. So, if we're successful in raising \$10,000 from generous donors and supporters, we double our money. It's a wonderful opportunity for us and hopefully for you to underwrite the future of CMRM. It is not easy to ask for financial support, but as a family-oriented non-profit donor support is absolutely essential to keeping our doors open and providing outstanding visitor experiences.

Our Mission, our purpose, is to provide a model railroading experience that educates, that inspires and that brings real joy to all ages. Our Vision is to share and expand model railroading experiences as an avenue for human creativity. We ask for your support to keep this Vision and Mission alive and exciting. Please consider joining those who've recently supported our effort to raise these funds this year so that CMRM remains a magical place and experience for us and those that follow.

Your donation can be made on line at: <https://www.cmrmm.org/donate/> or send a check to the address below:

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Greeley, CO 80631

As always, we warmly welcome your suggestions and recommendations for improvements to CMRM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tim McMahon'.

Tim McMahon, President, CMRM Board of Directors





## Volunteer Awards

Jack Dietz	500 hours
Doug Evans	1000 hours
Bill Nagel	1000 hours
Ed Sargent	1000 hours
Scott Warren	1500 hours
John Kruger	3000 hours
Bob Wandel	3000 hours
Wayne Kosek	3000 hours
Duane Fields	4000 hours
Keith Woolf	5000 hours
Jerry Hutchison	6000 hours
Stan Bohner	7000 hours
Wayne Hansen	7000 hours

## Donors

Frank & Susan Cribelli  
Robert & Shauna Wenger  
Allen Hovey  
De Anna Kay Swetzig  
Spencer Kellogg III

## Upcoming Events

October 25th & 26th	Extreme "Monster" Trains
November 13th	Christmas Fundraiser
November 27th	the museum will be open
November 30th	Santa Visits (10 am-1 pm)
December 13th	Members Only Event: Night Trains with Santa
December 14th	Santa Visits (10 am-1 pm)
December 20th	Night Trains with Santa 5 pm-8 pm
December 21st	Santa Visits (10 am-1 pm) and Night Trains (No Santa)
December 23rd & 24th	Open from 10 am-1 pm
December 30th and 31st	Open from 10 am-1 pm
January 2nd	Open from 10 am-1 pm
January 4th	Literacy Day

## Let's Roam

Did you know about the Let's Roam app for your phone? Late this summer staff members joined Executive Director Michelle Kempema on a scavenger hunt around Greeley. We don't want to give anything away, but I will hint, train lovers will not be disappointed. Check it out and let us know what you think. -Mistie

## *The Railway Express*

***The Railway Express*** is the official newsletter of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. Its purpose is to communicate news and information to museum Members, Supporters, and Volunteers as well as others interested in the museum.

Bill Kepner, Editor.

Mistie Treyfry and Bob Owens, Associate Editors

## Endowments

Wayne Hansen  
Keith & Carol Pritchard  
Stephen Watrous  
Richard & Peggy Farewell Sr.  
Erin Stacy Ritsema  
Dave & Micke Trussel  
Ghent Chevy Cadillac  
Stephen Jaowon  
Tim & Carolyn McMahon  
John Sweeney  
Brian & Jill Seiferd  
Jim Brown  
Roger Dewitt & Becky Safarik  
Currier Living Trust  
Gene & Julie Haffner  
Lyster Family Foundation Fund  
Jerry & Sue Peppers

## Why The Railway Express?

Astute observers will notice we've replaced the previous name of the newsletter, "Inside the OC&E" with "The Railway Express." The Oregon, California and Eastern model railroad will always be the most important feature of the museum, but as we expand our horizons, we felt it was time to rename the newsletter.

The original name was supposed to be temporary. During my initial discussions with Dave Trussell regarding the newsletter, we felt somebody would quickly come up with a better name. That was 10 years ago, and as far as we can tell this name is unique and not used by another organization. -Bill Kepner





# SANTA IS COMING!

November 30th: 10am - 1pm

December 13th: Members only

Night Trains 5-8pm

December 14th: 10am - 1pm

December 20th: Night Trains 5-8pm

December 21st: 10am - 1pm

**ADULTS \$10 - SENIORS (65+) \$8 - KIDS (4-12) \$5  
3 AND UNDER FREE**



Festival of Trains: Nov. 27th - Jan. 4th  
Fridays/Saturdays 10am - 4pm Sundays 1-4pm  
Dec. 23rd - Jan. 5th (Extended Hours!!)

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