

NGPF: A Record of Accomplishment



It is not our practice to toot our own whistle (to use railroad terms) but recently a member did not renew his membership because he objected to "too many Colorado oriented projects". This is ironic because of the many projects underwritten by the NGPF, a healthy number have been non-Colorado oriented. It occurred to us that many of our members may not be aware of our proud history of supporting narrow gauge projects, regardless of their location and some may not be aware of our history of preserving narrow gauge models.

So with the new leadership team in place (See story p. 2), this seems like a good time to briefly summarize the major activities of the NGPF since we started in 2000 (For a succinct history, see p. 4). From the days of the Narrow Gauge Trust, we have sought out worthy projects that meet our criteria. Those are that the project be realistic, supported by a viable group with a reliable record, important to narrow gauge and that the host group raise matching funds. We also consider whether the group has better opportunities to raise funds through other sources.

Thus we support projects from C&TS or the SPNG group but perhaps not the D&S, which is well funded. Our first project was with the San Juan County Historical Society for a Silverton Northern caboose, now on display in Silverton. Our support made the difference in its preservation. Other Colorado projects include the Colorado Railroad Museum turntable, improved communications for the C&TS, stabilizing T-12 #169 and restoration work on Business car *Alamosa*. We were major supporters of the restoration of D&RGW K-27 #463 and C-18 #315. We assisted the Como Restoration project with their yard track work and currently are making a difference in getting T-12 #168 restored and back in service later this year. Similarly, thanks to our help, RGS #20 should be steaming in Golden later this year or early next.

Non-Colorado projects are just as important. From SPNG #18, restored and ironically currently running on the D&SNGRR, to a two-foot boxcar in Maine, we are happy to support narrow gauge anywhere. We have underwritten ET&WNC (Tweetsie) car restoration by providing trucks, and a

new roof for the SPC NG depot in Agnews, California. We were a major donor for the car restoration facility at the former Carter Brothers shops on the SPC NG. We even bought three EBT Hoppers for ballast service on the C&TS. The BOD is soon to consider a request from the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Museum for help in restoring two flatcars.

On the model front, we have preserved the historic HOn3 models of Len Madsen, pioneer modeler and MR author; the On3 models of Doc Aiken and large-scale models by Darryl Townsend. We hope to display many of these models at the Colorado Railroad Museum this year. Add a significant library and artwork, and the NGPF continues to accomplish its mission statement. Your help has been instrumental as noted in the ED Report on page 3. Without you, this list would be much shorter.

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Meet the New Leadership Team

At the Narrow Gauge Convention in Minneapolis, the NGPF Board selected four new BOD members and thanked retiring members for their dedicated service. Both Chairman Bob Brown and Treasurer Fred Hamilton have been involved since the beginning. Original Board members Fred Hill and Sam Furukawa as well as Board member Jimmy Booth continue on the Board. This month, the Board will elect officers and announce a new Treasurer. We also welcome a new ED. Picking a new BOD was a tough decision as there were many good candidates. Here is a short intro to our new BOD members and ED:

W. Lindsay Raley, Jr is a Florida native with a lifelong fascination with trains. His interest in narrow gauge trains began when he attended the University of Colorado. He has a deep passion for historic preservation and believes it vitally important to preserve as much narrow gauge history for future generations as possible. He has been an Sn3 modeler since the early 1980's and plans to start a Sn3 layout based on the D&RGW's Crested Butte branch and is also building a 2.5" scale live steam engine of C-21 #360. In Lakeland, he manages his family's citrus growing operations and serves on the board of directors of Florida's Natural Growers and Dundee Citrus Growers Association. He is also a member of the Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, the National Model Railroad Association and Florida Live Steamers.

Steve Frediani is President/CEO of the Heico Companies, a family owned business and parent holding company for a diverse portfolio of manufacturing, construction and industrial services businesses headquartered in Chicago. Steve is a long-time member of the Slim Gauge Guild in Pasadena and was its former president. He is active in the Sn3 community where along with his wife Julie, he will be hosting the 35th annual Sn3 Symposium and has participated in National Narrow Gauge Conventions. Steve has been a railroad modeler for over 35 years and is currently building two Sn3 layouts: a double deck-layout in Southern California with two divisions: Durango/Silverton; Durango/Rico and a small Sn3 logging layout in Chicago. He enjoys researching the history of both the Colorado narrow gauge railroads and the Sierra Nevada logging lines focusing on scratch building the numerous structures found along both railroads.

Bob Staatt has been involved in all aspects of the hobby industry starting at age 15 by working in a local hobby shop in Albuquerque. This job paid for two college degrees from the University of New Mexico; but also, allowed the opportunity to travel to Chama and help with the fledgling Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. Following graduation, he taught microbiology at the University of Louisville. But with the business of hobbies still in his blood, he and his wife purchased a hobby shop in Louisville and developed a model train distribution business. He obtained three patents for couplers that are currently used by Bachmann and Athearn. His real interest has always been narrow gauge trains and with John Engstrom, Bob became co-owner of San Juan Car Co. After the sale of that business, he and John are in business as the American Model Train Exchange (AMTEX.ME) specializing in narrow gauge railroading in three scales: HOn3, Sn3 and On3.

Richard Rands has been involved in model railroading and the model railroad industry since his youth. His father, Robert Rands, started Rail Craft in the 1960s selling rail and track products and eventually flex-track. After college they started a new company called Clear Creek Models that sold detailed models of some of the Colorado narrow gauge freight cars in HOn3. After the purchases of the HO & O scale lines of Tomalco and Durango Press the name of the company was changed to Micro Engineering. In 1998 Richard left Micro Engineering and in 2013, was able to purchase Berkshire Valley Inc. The line includes O scale (1/48) structures, freight cars, and a large selections of model



Mission

The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation will preserve, exhibit and interpret significant prototype and model Narrow Gauge artifacts, as well as educate the public on the importance of Narrow Gauge railroading

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAM FURUKAWA

is a recognized photographer of Narrow Gauge, author and modeler. Retired from a long career at Microsoft Corporation, Sam is now a professor at Keio University in Tokyo, Japan. He is an author of three books on Colorado's preserved narrow gauge railroads. He has extensively photographed and videoed the operations of the surviving narrow gauge lines of Colorado and New Mexico.

FRED HILL

is the owner of the original Whistle Stop in Pasadena, and has long been active in railroad preservation for both narrow and standard gauges. Fred is involved with the Coach Yard and Thin Film Decals. He has served with distinction for many years as an officer and board member on several hobby trade associations.

JIMMY BOOTH

comes from a distinguished career as a principal at P-B-L (Peter Built Locomotives), a major supplier and importer of Sn3 locomotives and equipment. He also has dedicated much of his life researching the history of D&RGW narrow gauge equipment and has served as a historical advisor to both the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic and Durango and Silverton Railroads. Jimmy volunteers at a local museum as a steam consultant

W. LINDSAY RALEY Jr.

Is from Florida and operates his family citrus business. An avid Sn3 modeler, Lindsay is involved in Friends of the C&TS as well as other preservation activities.

STEVE FREDINI

Is President/CEO of the Heico Companies, a family owned business and past president and current member of the Slim Gauge Guild. He is active in the Sn3 community including Symposiums and Narrow Gauge Conventions

BOB STAAT

Has been involved in all aspects of the model railroad industry including running hobby shops, co-ownership of San Juan Car Shops and currently is co-owner of the American Model Train Exchange.

RICHARD RANDS

Has been involved in the hobby since his childhood with father Robert Rands starting Rail Craft (Micro-Engineering) and Clear Creek Models. Richard owns Berkshire Valley and Anvil Mountain models.

Executive DIRECTOR

ALLEN POLLOCK

Owns Fun and Games and Missouri Locomotive Co. He is past President of the NMRA. and retired from heading a Missouri State agency.

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railroad detail parts. In 2017 Anvil Mountain Models' line of HO Colorado building kits and O scale wagon and animal kits was added. Richard and wife, Donna try to make an annual vacation to their favorite locations in Colorado.

Allen Pollock recently retired as head of a major Missouri State agency and is the long-time owner of Fun and Games, a supplier of figures in all scales, and the Missouri Locomotive Company, offering large-scale narrow gauge engines. A past President of the NMRA, Allen serves as Chair of the NMRA Museum committee. His credentials thus include familiarity with narrow gauge and non-profit organizations. Accordingly he is perfectly suited to take over as Executive Director.

CORPORATE SPONSORS WHO SUPPORT THE NGPF

- American Model Train Exchange
- Crusader Rail Services
- D&S NG RR
- Fun & Games
- Green Frog Production
- Hickman, Palermo, et al, LLP
- International Hobbies
- Joseph Cammalleri
- Micro Engineering
- NGNGRR Museum
- Raggs to Riches
- Rio Grande Models
- Trout Creek Engineering Inc.
- Warren Munson
- William J. Lock Esq.
- Young Goldstein Architects, Inc.

BOOK DISCOUNT!

At the Denver NGPF Board meeting, a member only discount on the three published books by Sam Furukawa was announced. Buy one title and receive a 25% discount off retail; buy two and receive 35% and if you buy all three, 50%! Titles include the *Cumbres and Toltec* (\$49.95), *Durango and Silverton* (\$49.95) and *Narrow Gauge to the San Juan* (\$53.95). Books can be ordered from Bob Hayden at www.bobhayden.com; mention the discount and provide your member number.

From Executive Director Charlie Getz

This is the last issue of the Newsletter from Margaret and myself. I have been ED from the beginning and will continue as a volunteer but it was time for a change. Margaret has created all the newsletters, maintained membership records and correspondence. She has done a fantastic job. We are proud of you, our members, for you have truly made the NGPF a success. Without your support, best wishes and encouragement, we could never accomplish all that we have.

Under Allen and the new Board, our work continues. There is much left to do and I ask you to keep our Narrow Gauge community thriving. Thanks for making our job easier and above all, for being members. Thanks also to Sam Furukawa for his vision and to Bob Brown, Fred Hill, Bob Hayden, Jimmy Booth and Fred Hamilton for their dedicated work and support over many years. I am confident the new Leadership Team will continue the excellent work of the NGPF and deserve your support. Thanks and it has been an honor.

Charlie Getz

Since 1975, Charlie has written a column for the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette and has been active in the NMRA, recently serving as its President. He has been Executive Director of the NGPF since its inception.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW CONTACT INFORMATION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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NARROW GAUGE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE DO AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation (NGPF) was first established as the Narrow Gauge Trust in 2000. It was the dream of one of our board members to help preserve Narrow Gauge in both its prototype and model form. In 2002, the Narrow Gauge Trust Fund was incorporated as the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation, and acquired non-profit status both within the State of California and as recognized by the Federal government. As a non-profit public benefit corporation, our mission is to establish interactive exhibits where the public can learn of the significant history of Narrow Gauge railroading as well as to support preservation activities and projects wherever possible.

A board of directors who do not receive compensation administers the foundation. The NGPF is proud that less than ten percent of its funds are spent on administrative costs. Thus, ninety plus percent of the funds raised go toward preservation efforts.

Our primary function is the creation of interactive exhibits where the public can be told the story of Narrow Gauge, such as the one formerly at Chama. As with that Chama exhibit, future exhibits will include interactive video presentations and models as well as dioramas, photographs and other graphics to explain the significance of the Narrow Gauge railroading experience. As a secondary function, the NGPF assists Narrow Gauge preservation efforts across North America. These efforts to date have exceeded over one million dollars and in some cases have made the difference between preservation and loss of significant artifacts.

The foundation is also unique in supporting the efforts of Narrow Gauge Preservation projects throughout the United States rather than concentrating on one area or one particular project. To date, the organization has supported projects on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, Ardenwood Park in California, Friends of Denver and Rio Grande Engine #169, the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Railroad Foundation, The Colorado Railroad Museum, the Southeast Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum in North Carolina and the Durango Railroad Historical Society, among others. In addition, we have preserved the collections of prominent narrow gauge modelers, extensive libraries of books as well as important art pieces depicting narrow gauge scenes.

One of the unique aspects of the NGPF is the use of matching grants to encourage the receiving parties to reach out to the public for support. Many of our grants require that the receiving agency establish within a set time frame, an equal number of individual new donations from members of the public, which not only shows support for the particular project, but also provides new sources of funding for the organization. As a result of this policy, organizations receiving our grants have reported increased donations. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible, acknowledged and appreciated. By donating, you support a variety of worthwhile projects and thereby enhance preservation of Narrow Gauge.