

## Progress Report Como Water Tank

*by Bob Schoppe*

Attached are recent pictures showing the FIRST (finally) tank floorboard on the tank base from just a few days ago. The contractors cut a LOT of 3 X 6" boards over the winter for the floorboards, side staves and roof. They have all been routed for tongue and groove fit. You can also see some new floor joists that they felt needed to be "upgraded" as they just were not happy with the quality of several of them. With all the boards milled and the weather getting nicer we will see a lot of progress in the coming months. - Will send more updates as they develop.







## Board of Directors

### **Sam Furukawa**

samf712@gmail.com

### **Bob Staat**

207 Pebble Point

Goshen, KY 40026

Cell: 502-594-2446

Robert.Staat@Louisville.edu

### **Fred Hill**

P.O. Box 593

Del Mar, CA 92014-0593

Cell: 626-622-3751

carman@thecoachyard.com

### **Jimmy Booth**

P.O. Box 769

Ukiah, CA 95482

Cell: 707-391-8444

jbooth@copper.net

### **Richard Rands**

438 Morgan Woods Drive

Fenton, MO 63026

Cell: 314-401-4005

rands00@swbell.net

### **Lindsey Raley**

208 Palmola St.

Lakeland, FL 33803

Cell: 863-287-1920

lindsay.rale@me.com

### **Steve Frediani**

1325 N. Astor St. #7

Chicago, IL 60610

Cell: 909-241-4442

s7frediani@gmail.com

### **Allen Pollock, Executive Director**

P.O. Box 105741

Jefferson City, MO 65110-5741

Cell: 573-619-8532

execdirector@thengpf.org

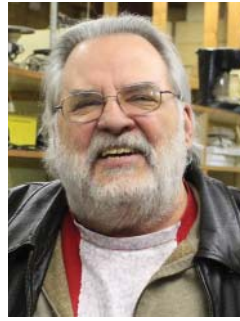
### **Chuck Lind, MMR, Editor**

3680 County Road 324

Navasota, TX 77868

Cell: 979-219-3305

chucklind46@gmail.com



## From the Executive Director

*Allen Pollock*

I am saddened to announce that Ron Kuykendal passed away last year in Arizona. Several Directors of the NGPF, especially Bob Brown and Fred Hill, as well as former ED Charlie Getz had worked with Ron, not only with his extensive layout and collection, but also telling him about the virtues of the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation. Ron must have listened very closely to these fellows, as he left part of his estate, one half in total, to the NGPF. Late last year I received a letter from the trustees and the attorneys, asking for several forms to be filled out with information concerning the NGPF. This was an indication that we were going to receive some money from the estate.

Imagine my surprise, and many other extensive emotions upon opening a certified letter from the law firm representing Ron's estate. Enclosed with that letter was a distribution check in the amount of half a million dollars made out to the NGPF. I have kept the deposit slip from that transaction as I didn't realize that the banks machine could print that many zeros! Ron Kuykendal needs to be remembered and recognized for his generosity to the NGPF.

Upon notification of receiving the check, President Booth began appointing a board committee to investigate the possible investment opportunities available to the NGPF with that amount of funds. We will also investigate setting up an endowment fund that works only off the interest generated versus funds available for future projects.

One other factor that obviously comes to mind is to encourage you, our membership, to consider naming the NGPF in your estate plans. You would be part of the effort to establishing and building the endowment fund mentioned above. When you get your renewal form for NGPF, please renew in spite of this generous gift, as we still are very grateful for your participation in our mission to save the history and artifacts of our beloved narrow gauge.

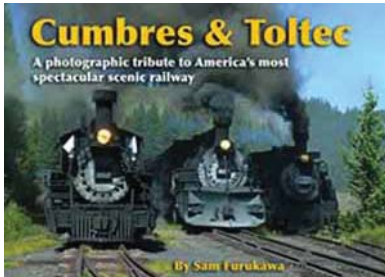


P.O. Box 105741  
Jefferson City, MO 65110

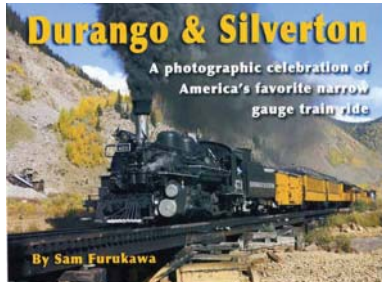
## Book Discounts for Members

Bob Hayden is offering a members only discount of the three book published by Sam Furukawa. Buy one title and receive a 25% discount off retail; buy two and receive a 35% discount off retail and if you buy all three books receive a 50% discount off retail.

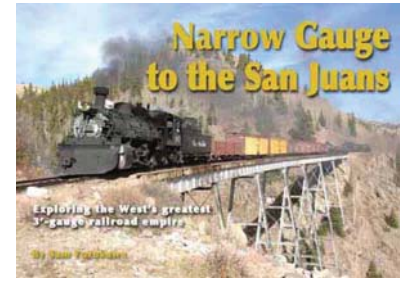
The books can be ordered from Bob Hayden at [www.bobhayden.com](http://www.bobhayden.com); Please mention the discount and provide your NGPF membership number. Titles include:



*Cumbres and Toltec*.....\$49.95



*Durango and Silverton*.....\$49.95



*Narrow Gauge to the San Juan*.....\$53.95

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### Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation

*To Contact Us, Please Call, Write or E-Mail Executive Director Allen Pollock*

573-619\*8532

[execdirector@thengpf.org](mailto:execdirector@thengpf.org)

### WHO WE ARE – WHAT WE DO – 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 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 cost. 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 the 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 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 Short Line 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 donations from members of the public, which not only shows support for the 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 NGPF are tax-deductible, acknowledged and appreciated. By donating, you support a variety of worthwhile projects and thereby enhance preservation of Narrow Gauge