

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway

NEWSLETTER 6 - FEBRUARY 2010

My '0' Scale layout portrays the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway's Three Foot Gauge service from Denver to Durango (450 miles) and then on to Silverton (a further 45 miles) plus the branch from Durango to Farmington (50 miles) run as a Colorado & Southern operation. The date is 1905 which was at the peak of goods and ore transportation for the precious metals mining industry in Colorado. The layout is set around Durango and its silver ore smelter. The layout has 1.25 scale miles of track with 34 switches ('points') and a turntable. Electric Dual Cab Control enables any two engines to be run at the same time. The daily train schedule at Durango showing arrivals and departures is set out overleaf. The full timetable can be seen on request.

Trains featured are (a) the Durango/Denver Mails, (b) the Durango/Silverton Accommodations and (c) the Durango/Farmington Flyers. In between are Way Freights to and from Alamosa and Chama (between Durango and Denver), metallic ores brought down from Silverton for smelting, coal for the smelter from the Durango City Coal Mine just south of Durango, lumber from the Posta forests for the Durango Sawmills, and livestock movements (sheep from Silverton, beef and horses from Farmington, and hogs from east of Denver). There is beer from Denver, a host of domestic and industrial goods, plus special charters and railroad maintenance work.

The Denver Depot area has had a Diner (Heinrich's) added to the layout adjacent to Passenger Track 1. Since the December Show there has been some paint detailing of the underframes, brakes and wheels of most of the rolling stock to give an appearance more in line with that captured on photographs of the period.

The all-steam locomotive register totals 13 (2 x Porter 0-4-0 Switchers, 1 x Porter 0-4-2 Switcher, 1 x 2-4-4 Forney Tank, 7 x 2-6-0 Moguls and the Colorado Mining Company's 28 Ton Climax and 14 Ton Shay geared engines). If you would like to drive one of these engines then please ask the Engineer Staff and they will hand you an electric throttle and show you how to operate it. If you are new to model railways the Club hopes driving today will encourage you to take up railway modelling as a lifelong hobby - one from which you can be sure to derive much enjoyment as well as acquiring new friends and many of the creative skills involved in the construction and operation of a layout.

On the maintenance side Colorado Mining Co's Caboose 103 now has a Cupola at one end. A photograph taken at the December Show of Monson Snow Plow (104) propelled by Mogul 138 has appeared on the Blog pages of an American model railway buildings website (www.clevermodels.net). As winter continues here look out for Snow Plow 102 and the Monson Plow in action on the layout although you will have to imagine the snow which in reality was all too often many feet deep for long periods in winter at the high altitudes at which the D & RGW operated.

Please feel free to give advice and ask questions – your interest will be appreciated.

Thank you, John Feltham (Member of Gosport American Model Railroad Group)