

DISPATCH

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MAY LAYOUT TOURS

May brought us two layout tours, **Don Benz'** HO Santa Fe and **Chris Komlowski's** HO-HOn3 Crystal Valley & Central in Dacono. NCMR member turnout was good in Fort Col-

ins, but few members attended Chris' open house, part of a layout tour exchange program with the Boulder Model Railroad Club. That's a shame, because Chris has been busy adding a

3rd level to the layout. Even if you had seen it previously, a lot of the layout was new.

Don Benz' Santa Fe

Don Benz had these bright Stewart F3 War Bonnets running on his HO scale Santa Fe for the June NCMR layout tour. The DCC equipped pair has both a regular headlight and red safety light on the nose, and a Mars light on the door. Don uses a Lenz set 01 with Soundtraxx, Lenz and Digitrax decoders.

Don recently sold his pool table to make more room for the layout and free up funds for additional sound decoders. He and his regular work crew wasted no time building a new peninsula to fill the space. The messy Hydrocal work is finished and base coloring is in place.

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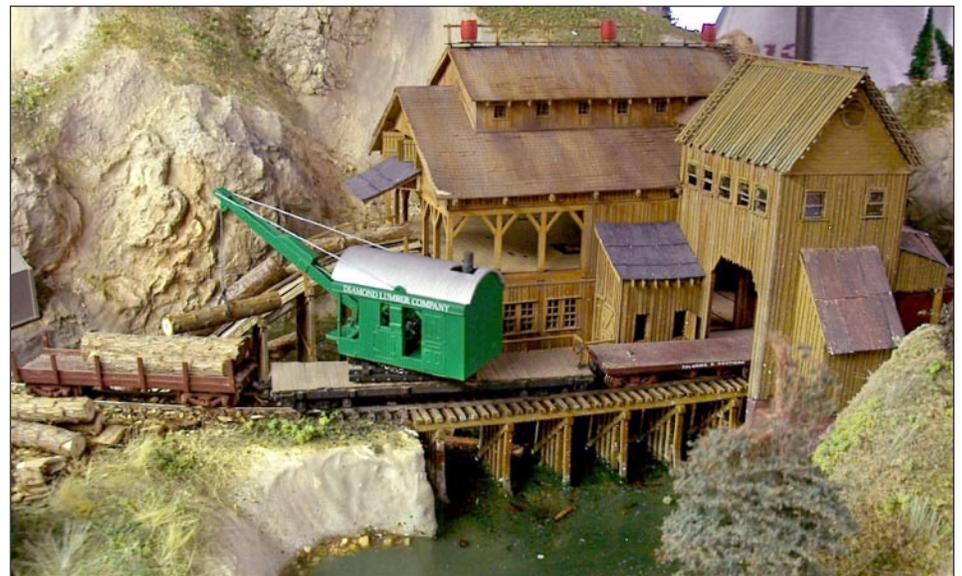
Bob Sobol

Chris Komlowski's Crystal Valley & Central

Last month BMRC member Chris Komlowski kindly invited NCMR members to attend his layout tour as part of an exchange program with the Boulder club.

Chris gave a clinic on the CV&C at the BMRC meeting prior to his open house. Rick Inglis and Bob Sobol attended, and both agreed that it was a great help in understanding Chris' objectives for the layout.

Until recently the CV&C was a double-decked layout that Chris says "can be comfortably operated by one person, or uncomfortably by four." The layout now sports a 3rd level, all part of the narrow gauge.



Photos by Bob Sobol

The sawmill scene (above) lives on the new upper deck.

Believe it or not, the layout started out in the front room of Chris' house.

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Santa Fe continued

By the time you read this, the work-group should have poured water in the deep canyon and started on scenic details and ground textures.

Right: Ted Pulles examines the new peninsula. The lighting valence has white, blue and red incandescent lights to provide day, night and sunset operation.

Below: A sound-equipped Consolidation, the "little engine that almost can" as it struggles up the steep ruling grade.



Bob Sobol



Dave Zamzow



Dave Zamzow



Dave Zamzow



Bob Sobol

Above: Dave Zamzow caught the War Bonnets crossing a curved wooden trestle.

Above, right: Activity at the freight house.

Above: It's hard to get Don to stand still when he is busy showing off his layout.

We also hear the signature "lope" of Alco PAs resting outside the engine house.

Thanks, Don! I