



# NTRAKage Writes

The New Mexico Rail RunNers Club Newsletter

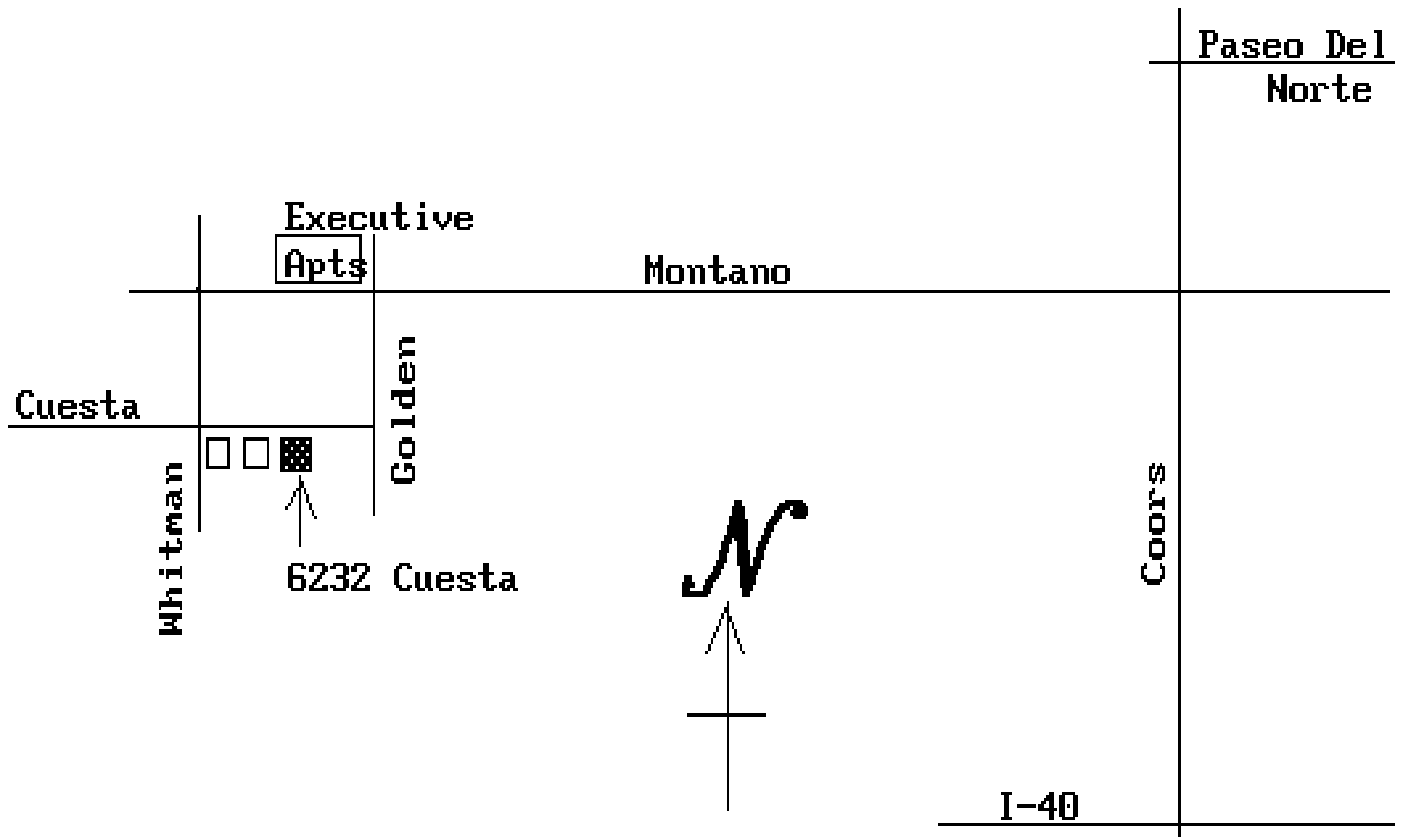
Issue #112

August 1999



## AUGUST MEETING

The August Business Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 26th at the home of Steve Stein (see map below). If you need further directions please call Steve at 898-2933



## Notes From Your President

by Eugene L. Cline



Trains appear to run smoother with fewer disconnects and other problems at the Mercado these days. Bud is the

reason for this. Much of his time there is spent working on trouble spots, cleaning crud from frogs, and aligning points at turnouts.

Marty Jones has received orders and will leave soon for a years tour with the Army in Korea.

Would you believe it! Doug has a 160/1 scale VW bug running self-propelled around the layout.

Sunday, June 27, was a most memorable day for me. The almost reverend Steve held morning services for several of the faithful at the Pancake

Chapel (4th and I-40). Later, at the Mercado, the general atmosphere was one of great camaraderie and jolliment. At one point I noticed 10 or 12 members clustered around a table, grinning foolishly. On the table was a prettily decorated cake. The occasion for all this festivity was my 80th birthday. I was so touched by all this attention, I wasn't even upset when they began to sing to me.

August 7, 1999

Your president will make an oral report on club activities at our next meeting. Please plan to attend.



### **For additional information about NMRR, contact:**

President	Eugene Cline	242-0590
Treasurer	Jay Norman	891-8795
Secretary	Randy Howard	821-7680
Director	Bud Bechdel	839-9292
Internet web page: <a href="http://www.nmia.com/~djenson/nmrr">http://www.nmia.com/~djenson/nmrr</a>		

### **July Business Meeting Notes**

by Randy Howard

The July Business meeting was held on July 22, 1999 at the home of Norman Bleicher.

Attended by: Randy, Phyllis, Bud, Eugene, Steve Stein, Dave, Doug, Jim, Dayton, Sean, Cameron, Chris and Tyler Gary, Buzz, Tom, Marty, Mickey, Richard, Jay, and Anita.

Steve made a motion to have the September meeting be part of loading and set-up for the State Fair show. The motion was approved.

A motion to rent a trailer for the Alamogordo show was approved.

Dayton displayed the new Club banner.

Need to rearrange club connector tracks into 2 separate sets to ease set-up.

Steve Stein will host the August meeting.

Phoenix GATS was discussed. We need to commit soon.

Due to a nice mention in N-Scale Magazine, we have been receiving orders for Club cars. We also sold some at the Alamogordo show, purchased by ANTS members.

Labor Day picnic/railfan trip discussed. (more later)

Door prize winners:

Jim - signal

Doug - hopper car

Jay - tank car

Anita - reefer

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##### Board of Directors

President	Eugene Cline
Treasurer	Jay Norman
Secretary	Randy Howard
Director	Bud Bechdel

Editor	Dave Jenson
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## NOTES FROM THE PROFESSOR: STATE FAIR

by Steve Stein

Yo Geeks!! Behold the COMMITMENT SHEET! This is the most up-to date information I have on your commitments to run at the State Fair. Check it thoroughly and mark your calendars before the meeting at my place on Aug. 26th and let me know of any changes then. If you cannot make the meeting or if I have left you off because I couldn't reach you or didn't know you wanted to play, then call me at 898-2933 before the meeting. Your parking and admission passes will be based on this sheet which Dayton will pick up after the meeting.

The list will be posted at the Fair and the N-scale gods will be checking to see who doesn't show. If you cannot make a specified time, then please call someone to trade with so we are not shorthanded in any given time slot. I have blocked the run times in 6 hour sessions, from 9 am to 3 PM and 3 PM to 9 PM on the 4 days. Of course, you are welcome to run longer than your scheduled time if you desire. Remember our club rule that "no one runs twice until everyone has run once". When you are not running you will all take one hour turns selling raffle tickets. We will not burden the General and a few others to shoulder this one as happened last year. This is our last chance to "rake it in" for the year!! The

winner will be announced at 5 PM on Monday. If you are displaying an incomplete module, make a sign denoting so and what plans you have for its future. I can help with signs if you need a nice computer-made one. Here is what I have so far:

TEARDOWN MERCADO --  
SUNDAY 9/12/99 AT 3 PM

General, Randy, Phyllis, Anita, Dayton, Sean, Tom, Buzz, Steve, Charlie, Don, Margaret, Mike A, Mike G, Bud and Ted.

FAIR SETUP; MEET AT  
MERCADO 4-5 PM TO LOAD,  
GET PASSES, DIN-  
NER/MONTHLY MEETING AT  
COUNTRY HARVEST AND ON  
TO THE FAIRGROUNDS --  
THURSDAY 9/16/99

General, Mickey, Randy, Phyllis, Dayton, Sean, Richard, Tom, Jay, Buzz, Doug, Charlie, Mike A, Mike G, Carl, Ted, Bud and Steve.

RUNNING AND SELLING --  
FRIDAY 9/17/99

9 am TO 3 PM: General, Mickey, Doug, Richard, Tom, Buzz, Bud, Carl, Charlie, Don, Mike A and Ted (9-6).

3 PM TO 9 PM: Steve (12-9), Dayton, Sean (6-9), Buzz, Jay (6-9), Bud, Charlie, Mike A, Bill Z.

RUNNING AND SELLING --  
SATURDAY 9/18/99

9 am TO 3 PM: General, Mickey, Doug, Richard, Tom, Buzz, Bud, Charlie, Don, Mike A, Ted (9-6).

3 PM TO 9 PM: Randy, Phyllis, Dayton, Sean, Tom, Norm, Mike G, Buzz, Jay, Doug, Bud, Carl.

RUNNING AND SELLING --  
SUNDAY 9/19/99

9 am TO 3 PM: General, Sean, Tom, Doug, Steve, Buzz, Mike A, Randy, Phyllis, Bud.

3 PM TO 9 PM: Dayton, Tom, Jay, Bud, Charlie, Don, Mike G, Ted, Carl.

RUNNING AND SELLING --  
MONDAY 9/20/99

9 am TO 3 PM: General, Anita, Mickey, Doug, Bud, Charlie, Don, Ted, Mike A, Mike G, Ted.

3 PM UNTIL TEARDOWN  
(between 7 & 8 PM): Most of the above plus, Dayton, Sean, Steve, Randy, Phyllis, Buzz, Jay, Tom, Carl, Don  
(Modules will be unloaded and stored at the General's house)

UNLOAD GENERAL'S  
HOUSE, SETUP MERCADO --  
SATURDAY 9/25, 9 am

Mike A, Charlie, Mike G, Steve, Jay, Buzz, Tom, Sean, Dayton, Randy, Phyllis, General and anyone else so motivated!!



## Diary Excerpts from A Module Widow

by Paula Stein

May 1st

Dear Diary:

I know it is only the first of May but I am dreading the end of May already. That big cardboard box from Ann Arbor arrived today. It hasn't been opened yet and it just stands in our hallway, like a silent sentry, waiting until it can push me out of my own house. Well, not this year!!!! I am going on the defensive early. I am going to refuse it entry into my living room, OK, our living room. It cannot pretend that it is only going to take up a small corner, or only be in that little space behind the sofa. I know how it secretly grows at night while I'm sleeping. Just the tiniest bit each night, hardly noticeable on a daily basis, until suddenly you realize that it has become "THE MODULE THAT ATE THE LIVING ROOM." OK, diary, I know that it really can't eat the living room, but it certainly took up enough room last year to feel like it was about to devour the room and everything in it. I haven't decided exactly how I am going to bar its' existence but I know that I can come up with a plan by the end of May. At least I think I can. At least I hope I can.....

May 28th

Dear Diary:

Thank goodness school is over and I can get on with the real work; gardening. I can hardly wait to go out each morning and have my coffee amidst my lovely flowers and.... the MODULE!!!!!! Oh no, I almost forgot about the module. Today is the dreaded, horrible, awful day of unpacking. That thing will be unleashed today and I am not ready. With all of the paper grading and student whining at the end of school I completely forgot that I needed

a plan, a foolproof plan to keep it out of the living room. I have to go now diary and come up with something quick!!!!!!

May 29th

Dear Diary:

I'm saved!!! He didn't unpack the module yesterday because he is going to build the dam model first before he puts the module together. Oh thank heaven for that dam model. (And yes that was a great pun wasn't it? I am my wittiest at moments of great stress.) This gives me just a few days to come up with a plan. I'll get back to you diary when I think I have that perfect plan.

June 3rd

Dear Diary:

Well, I have it. The perfect plan!!!! It is so simple that I can't believe I didn't think of it before. It is so brilliant that it may go down in history. OK, so maybe I am getting a little carried away, but wait until you hear this, it's really good. So anyway, here goes: the MODULE-FREE-ZONE!! What do you think? Isn't it great? Simple yet effective. I have declared certain parts of the house as module-free zones. For instance, the entire living room falls under this title. I know, I know, we'll see how effective this is once those damned legs are on the thing. I really do think it can walk by itself sometimes. A little scary isn't it? Anyway, back to my plan.

He is starting out in the kitchen on the food island. Therefore, I declared the dining table as a module-free zone, no tools, no models, no gooey stuff, no anything that has to do with the module. So far he has taken the news in stride; no fussing, no whining, no bad attempts at negotiating extra

space. I think I should be worried. This is going too well and it seems too easy. I bet he is planning a sneak attack while I'm out shopping on a Saturday. I better keep my guard up.

June 7th

Dear Diary:

Do we really need 17 tubes of paneling/styrofoam/liquid nails gooey stuff??? I can't believe we spent several "loooooooooonnnnnng" hours (get the feeling here?) traveling from hardware store to hardware store to lumber yard to craft store to discount store to ..... I had no idea that so much stuff was needed to build a little tiny insignificant 4 foot outside corner module. You'd think he was going to be entering it in the State Fair or something with all of the stuff that is going into it. So far we are doing "fairly" well with the module-free zone. He is sticking to the food island but that model of the dam keeps sneaking onto the dining room table along with assorted tools and stuff. I have threatened to throw it away, but I'm not very convincing so he doesn't seem worried. However, I have thought about hiding it and giving him a good scare when he can't find it. Maybe I'll do that! I wonder where would be a good hiding place? The oven? Under his layout? The washing machine? My underwear drawer? I'll have to give this some thought.

June 15th

Dear Diary:

Well, the module-free zone just got moved. I came home this afternoon and IT had been moved from the food island to my dining room table. My lovely dining room table with the pretty paisley tablecloth and my lovely

ceramic floral candle sticks with white candles. Gone, all gone!!!!!! Of course I do have my food island back which will make dinner preparation easier but I can't help mourning the loss of my dining table. It looked so nice in it's spring dressing. Oh well, only two more months to go until we go back to school and my house will be mine again. But wait, I heard Stephen say that this module would be ready for the show at the State Fair. Does that mean that it will be here until the middle of September??????? I have to go now diary, I think I'm about to have a small breakdown.

June 26th

Dear Diary:

I just came home from shopping (I just bought a couple of things, nothing he needs to know about just yet. I'll wear it later and when he asks if it's new I'll just say, "What, this old thing?" and he'll never know the difference.) and he was finishing making rocks. Yes, I did say rocks. Now we have a front yard and half of a back yard full of rocks and he is making them!!!!!! Men!!!! Why he didn't just go out and grab some out of the yard I will never understand. And men say we buy foolish things. I have never known of a woman to go out and buy rocks when she could have gotten from them her own yard. And to add even more nonsense, he baked the casted rocks at 200 degrees for 5 hours in my new oven and then spray painted the stupid rocks!! Maybe I should make a module. I sure could make it cheaper by getting rocks from outside. I might even be so bold as to "steal" some from my neighbor's yard. NOT!!!!!!!!!!!!

June 30th

Dear Diary:

I have no idea how all of this is going to turn out so I will keep you posted. I only know that I am not about to let this module win this time. I gave in much too easily last time and I think I may have to come up with some new and innovative strategy before the summer is over. Well, I have to run now, it's time for my soap and I have to find out if John and Marlena are really going to get married or if Stefano is going to stop the wedding. See you soon.

Sunday, July 4

Dear Diary:

We were invited to a BBQ tonight and when we got there I could not believe my eyes: there was no module set up in the dining room of this house. I had forgotten that such a thing as an empty dining table existed. It was soooo beautiful!!!! We actually put food on the table!!!! Oh well, maybe I can use this to my advantage. If there is no room at my dining table to eat then maybe we will just have to go out to dinner more often. Perhaps four or five times a week. Oh this is looking better all the time. Now if I can just get him to take me someplace that doesn't give toys away with the meal.

Tuesday, July 6

Dear Diary:

I went out to run a few errands and when I came home I could hardly believe my eyes. There are pieces of Styrofoam everywhere!!!!!! Stephen is completely covered in little pieces that seem to be electrostatically charged because they are clinging everywhere; in his hair, his beard, his cute little knees, everywhere. The dogs are running around with Styrofoam stuck to their hair, the floor is covered, and I find myself with an almost overwhelming urge to scream. Stephen calmly as-

ures me that he will clean this up and you will never know that any of this mess was here. Please, he's a man. Do I really think that he will clean this up? Of course not!!! I slowly cross to the refrigerator, fix myself a strong Sunny D on the rocks, and retire to my beloved Garden Room sanctuary to await the inevitable disaster.

Saturday, July 10

Dear Diary:

I know I haven't talked to you in a few days but it has been a very trying and difficult few days. I'm not sure exactly how to begin to tell you this but.....oh well, I guess the best way and probably the least painful way is to just blurt it out quickly and get it over with. OK, here goes: he really did clean up every last piece of Styrofoam!!!! Can you believe it? I was absolutely dumbfounded. A man!! A man cleaned up his own mess!!!! I don't know if I can admit this to any of my friends because they simply won't be able to believe it. Not only that, how will it look to the rest of the world if I come out and admit that "my husband cleans up after himself"! I'll never be able to face the girls again.

Wednesday, July 14

Dear Diary:

The painting will now begin. It is everywhere! Are you aware that there are several shades of brown dirt? Neither was I. As far as I'm concerned, dirt is dirt and it is brown. Oh no, we have to mix up 5 or 6 different little containers of "dirt." Now this means that we have to have out brown, yellow, red, black, green, and who knows what else cans of that powder tempera paint. You know that paint, the kind that always puts out that cloud of paint dust that settles on the countertops and on the floor and on ME. (That was

just a little shriek, I'm much better now.)

Sunday, July 18

Dear Diary:

Today is the day that I have been dreading since this whole project started. It all began this morning when I saw him take the legs to the module out from the train room. I knew then what was coming. I may be gaining a dining table, but I am about to lose my living room. Yes, you guessed it. He moved it off the table and it is now standing in the living room. To add injury to insult, I had to help move it in there!!! He swears that it will only be in here for a couple of weeks but I know from experience that his sense of time doesn't coincide with the real world. I just know that it will be much longer than a couple of weeks. I hope no one wants to come over because there isn't any room for anyone.

Thursday, July 22

Dear Diary:

I wish you had ears to hear this. There is more grunting, groaning, sighing, and yelling than in a full maternity ward. All of this comes from an activity that he claims is relaxing and that he enjoys immensely. Go figure!!!! Just in case you were wondering the particular activity that is eliciting such noises is the stringing of silver thread to be power lines. I had no idea that lifting that heavy thread and attaching it with a drop of glue was such hard, heavy, labor intensive work. No wonder men never have babies if they make this much noise working (and I use the term "working" lightly) with thread.

Thursday, July 29

Dear Diary:

I actually think there may be a glimmer of hope. Things seems to be "done" on the mod-

ule. At least from my perspective they look done. I also spent the morning sewing a skirt for the thing and that seems to be something you would do only if you were really pretty finished with it. Stephen had a very peculiar look on his face when I finished the skirt. It was very wrinkled and the stitching was puckered along the top and I could tell that he thought it looked horrible and how was he going to tell me that I needed to do it over or at least fix it so that it looked better. I assured him that a little ironing was all it needed and as he ironed it (you didn't really think I was going to do that, did you?) he seemed greatly relieved that I had not ruined it and that it would indeed look good. You would think he was dressing his daughter to go to the prom from all the fussing and primping and fluffing that is going on. You know, if men took that much trouble getting themselves dressed they wouldn't have to be always asking us, "Does this shirt go with these pants?"

Saturday, July 31

Dear Diary:

I hope you're sitting down when you hear this: THE MODULE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING!!!!!! Isn't that great news? Can you believe it? There is absolutely nothing to dodge or go around or step over to get from one part of my house to the other. And the most amazing part is that it is only the end of July. I would have sworn that it would be here until the State Fair. This has to be some sort of record. Should I call Guinness? Do they have a category for module building? I know he said that it would only be in the living room for a couple of weeks, but to be honest, would you believe a man? Aren't they the ones who say, "I'll fix that tomorrow," and then tomorrow comes sometime after football

season ends? All I know or care about now is that I have my house back. At least until next summer. Sigh!!!



## June Business Meeting Notes

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by Randy Howard

The June Business meeting was held on June 24, 1999 at the home of Bud Bechdel.

Attended by: Bud, Randy, Phyllis, Margret, Jim, Tom, Steve Stein, Cameron, Sean, Eugene, Dayton, Jay, Marty.

Primary business: Much discussion concerning updating and revision of the Club TimeTable (Club rules, etc.). Dave Pension has converted the old computer file to make it compatible with his word processor. As this virtual re-writing will be mucho trabajo for Dave, we should make sure that he has the most accurate and complete information possible. We will rely on this manual for years to come. So we owe it to ourselves and Dave to make it right. Any member wishing to make a recommendation can do so by submitting it to any Board member. All entries will be reviewed by the Club. Hopefully at the next meeting. So please don't delay. The Club approved funding for printing costs at the discretion of Dave

Jenson. The Club recommends 75 copies minimum.

A motion was passed requiring the addition of a "sight line" to the back of ALL modules at railhead height. This will be a standard in the new TimeTable.

Adopted: Rule 9-D: Personal modules need clamps and a selection of connector tracks.

Other business:

Bud made a motion to rescind rule #13 (concerning conduct of children at shows and meetings). After extensive discussion, the rule was found to have merit in general and will be retained and published as ratified last April.

Eugene will order new Membership Application forms.

Funds approved for a banner to be ordered and designed by Dayton. Approx. \$40.00.

Funds approved for Steve Shepard to purchase storage cabinets at auction. \$100 max.

Plastic box needed for special connector tracks on yard donated by Randy.

Steve Stein shared more on State Fair show. Set-up will be Sept 16th. Run 9am - 9pm Sept 17, 18, 19, 20. More discussion on tear-down later.

A reminder: Whoever is Roadmaster at Mercado needs to leave layout area clean at end of day.

Due to overwhelming interest, the Alamogordo show was officially deemed a "Club Event". Coordinator is Randy Howard. 281-7680. Tear-down will be Sunday July 25th, 2pm at Mercado. Set-up noon Friday July 30. Run July 31 - August 1. Remote members Howie and Doris from Roswell and Carl Sowell from El Paso will be there. So should you.

Door prizes:

Steve Stein: \$10 gift certificate from Albq Hobby Co

Tom Willers: hopper car

Phyllis Miller: hopper car

Dayton: hi-cube boxcar

Cameron: container

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## Alamogordo Train Show

Little did I know that by making a few innocent phone calls to inquire if Phyllis and I were going to be the only Club members to go link up with ANTS, would automatically elect me coordinator! My grandpa once told me not to pick my nose at a cattle auction or I would need to buy a freezer.

Anyway. Due to my inexperience at these things, I allowed myself to undertake a task that I had sorely underestimated. I assumed that since I coordinate construction projects for a living, surely doing the same with willing Club members would be easy. I soon realized that there

is a difference. The sub-contractors that I work with get PAID to put up with my abuse.

Anyhow, after all the last minute adjustments were handled, and the first trains rolled out of the yard, I knew we had a show we all could be proud of.

The layout was 18 X 60 and ran very well due to the trouble shooting expertise of people like Bud, Doug and Buzz.

I noticed a change in the attitude of the ANTS club from last year's "You guys are too serious" to "How can I do that?"

A special thanks goes out to Lori of ANTS who went to buy pipe fittings for us when we realized we had left the bucket at the Mercado.

It took four years of going to Alamogordo for Buzz to catch a train in the park on Sunday morning. the spell was broken by four Union Pacific freights in about one hour.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the show, especially those members who were there for tear-down and load-up, even though they couldn't be at the show.

Thanks, Randy



# CALENDAR



## ⊗ NMRR layout setup

## ⊗ NMRR involved

## Ⓜ For information only

⊗ Every Saturday and Sunday  
10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.  
Activity: Run Trains  
Location: The Indoor Mercado

⊗ August 26 7:00 pm  
Activity: Monthly Business Meeting  
Location: Steve Stein's

Ⓜ August 27 - 30  
Activity: Railfest '99  
Location: Durango, CO

⊗ September 6  
Activity: Annual Labor Day Railfan trip  
Coordinator: Buzz Lenander

⊗ September 16 5:00 pm  
Activity: Monthly Business Meeting  
Location: Country Harvest Buffet

⊗ September 16 - 20  
Activity: NM State Fair Show  
Coordinator: Steve Stein

⊗ October 1 - 4  
Activity: Phoenix GATS  
Coordinator: Doug Gary

Ⓜ October 9 - 10  
Activity: Railfair at McCormick Park  
Location: Scottsdale, AZ  
Coordinator: Steve Stein

⊗ October 28 7:00 pm  
Activity: Monthly Business Meeting  
Location: TBA (volunteers?)

⊗ November 18 7:00 pm  
Activity: Monthly Business Meeting  
Location: TBA (volunteers?)

⊗ December 23 7:00 pm  
Activity: Annual Holiday Party  
Location: TBA (volunteers?)

Ⓜ June 28 - July 2, 2000  
Activity: "Reno Y2K!!"  
N Scale Collector Convention  
Reno, NV

Ⓜ July 30 thru August 6, 2000  
Activity: "21st Century Limited"  
NMRA National Convention  
San Jose, CA

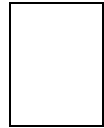
Ⓜ August 10-13, 2000  
Activity: N Scale East 2000  
NTrak National Convention  
St. Louis, MO

Ⓜ August 12,13, 2000  
Activity: GATS  
Albuquerque Convention Center

Ⓜ July 2001  
Activity: "Gateway 2001"  
NMRA National Convention  
St. Louis, MO

⊗ June 28- July 2, 2001  
Activity: "2001: An NTrak Odyssey"  
National NTrak Convention  
Albuquerque, NM  
Coordinator: Dave Jenson

**New Mexico Rail RunNers**  
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**Albuquerque, NM 87154-0507**



*Forwarding and return address requested.*

