

THE WAVEFORM



The Newsletter of **SME Colorado**
Society of Manufacturing Engineers
June 15, 2010 Volume 15 Number 6
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Tuesday June 15, 2010

**Meeting Details On
[Bulletin Board, page 3 Inside](#)**

The history of railroading is so intertwined with the history of America that most of us still feel a sense of nostalgia for railroading, whether we actually have a personal association with it or not. This collective fascination is happily indulged by organizations like the Greeley Freight Station Museum. With a history of outstanding venues for



our annual family picnic, SME 354 continues that proud tradition with our visit

to this fascinating facility. In addition to hundred of railroad artifacts, GFSM has what is widely acknowledged to be the finest HO (1:87) scale layout anywhere. Covering 5500 square feet, the layout has a main line of 1244 feet. For added realism it also includes hundreds of hand-made buildings and thousands of hand-made trees.

We're delighted to announce that we've arranged exclusive use of the museum for the evening. So attendees will be able to move freely between food, socializing and museum exhibits (please remember,



however, that food/drink are not permitted in the exhibit areas). Friendly museum staff will be on hand to eat with us, provide guided tours and answer questions, with the whole

setting being pretty informal. While an official starting time has been set, we recognize that not everyone can be there precisely at 6:00. So please come as soon as you can, with the understanding that the sooner you arrive, the more you'll be able to see and the better the food selection. **See you in Greeley for this extraordinary event!**

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From the Chair Webmaster

This month I have the pleasure of filling in for Andy for the first time!

As you've probably noticed, I don't often get the opportunity to attend the monthly meetings and most of you probably have no idea who I am! Well, I am a real person (believe it or not). I've volunteered my time to updating this site once per month, but in my other life I'm an R&D Engineer at Covidien in Boulder, a father of three young boys, and happy husband. We live in Broomfield, and my wife and I are thankful that she has the opportunity to stay home and raise the boys (the REAL job).

I ran my own part time business some years ago, which is how I learned how to run a website. I am by no means a professional, but I have at least figured out how to make a website look half-way professional and get noticed by Google. I often wonder if how many people actually visit and click around on the website. If you are reading this, please [click here](#) and send me a short message to let me know (webmaster@sme.org if link does not work)! I'd love to hear any feedback or suggestions that any chapter members have!

I look forward to meeting you at a future SME 354 chapter event!

I'll close with some *fun train facts*-

- The word 'train' comes from the Old French trahiner, itself from the Latin trahere "pull, draw."
- An average train can move a ton of freight an average of 410 miles on just one gallon of diesel fuel.
- In the United Kingdom, a train hauled by two locomotives is said to be "double-headed."
- The first trains were rope-hauled, gravity powered or pulled by horses.
- The fastest wheeled train running on rails is France's TGV, which achieved a speed of 357.2 mph.
- The highest speed currently attained in scheduled revenue operation is 217 mph on the Beijing–Tianjin Intercity Rail and Wuhan–Guangzhou High-Speed Railway systems in China.
- There are at least 884 songs about trains that have appeared on commercially released albums or singles and are notable for either their composers or the artists who performed them.
- An estimated 3.5 million passengers ride every day on Yamanote Line in Tokyo, Japan, with its 29 stations.

Continued on page 4

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

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Next month we will take a look at these in more detail.

Deborah Robbins

Member and Industry Relations Manager
Industrial Laser Community Facilitator
Society of Manufacturing Engineers

*** June Bulletin Board ***

Chapter 354 Monthly Meeting

Annual Family Picnic

Greeley Freight Station Museum

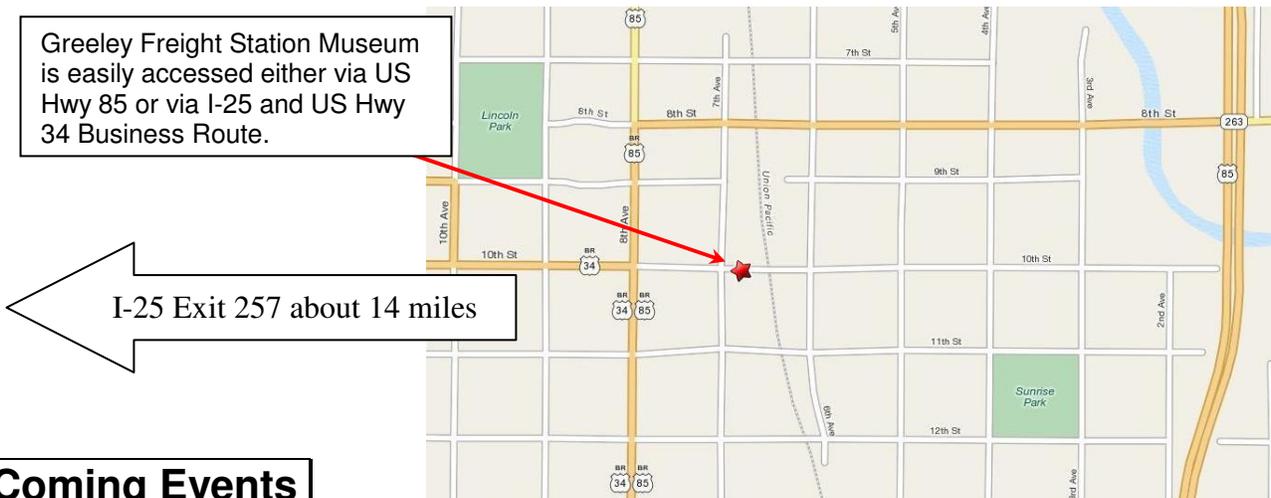
680 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80631



Date: TUESDAY, June 15, 2010
Time: 5:30 Setup starts, all are welcome to come and help
6:00 Cooking and serving begins, as well as museum access

Please make reservations. Bring your Friends! Reservations accepted through Friday, June 11.
Place reservations with **Chuck Otoupalik: 303-678-8414, chucko_17@msn.com**

Event Price: Picnic Meal – no cost, provided by the chapter
Museum Admission - \$8/person



Coming Events

July	Executive Committee Meeting only
August	Executive Committee Meeting only
September 21	Factory Tour, Prototype Casting

We're always trying to bring interesting and relevant events to our members. If you have suggestions, please contact Don Larsen: 720-244-1396, programs@sme354.org.

Chairman's Brief Message

It was good that we got background on our webmaster JD; it allows us to appreciate better a chapter member who serves us quietly. And thanks to JD for providing promotion for our Picnic.

I hope I can make it to the picnic. I have very low energy. Recently I got slammed with a big health challenge. Those who have seen me over the past three months may have noted weight loss. No, that was not Andy's big plan. In early April I was diagnosed with iron deficiency anemia. But my doctors did not know what was causing blood loss. In about the third week of May, so weak from my condition, my wife took me to the hospital. After about three days the diagnosis was serious cancer; in one lung, and elsewhere. Currently I am taking radiation therapy. My future is uncertain, thus I will gradually passing on my duties.

This is a good point to suggest the opportunity for a chapter member to accept nomination for the position of Chairman-Elect this fall.

For now, I'd appreciate your accommodations, good thoughts, and prayers.

Sincerely,

Andy Keller, CPE ret
andy@humanfactorsdesign.biz

From the Chair Webmaster

Continued from page 2

- The New York City Subway carries 4.8 million passengers per day on 26 lines serving 468 stations.
- The steepest train track is a cog train located in Switzerland, with an average gradient of 38% and a maximum of 48%.
- The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot, which was sized to be pulled by two horses side-by-side.
- Since the solid rocket booster for the space shuttle must be shipped to Florida by train from the Thiokol factory in Utah, the diameter of the sections is limited to the maximum size that will fit through the smallest train tunnel along the journey. So a major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was originally determined by the width of a horse.

Best Regards,

JD Allen
Webmaster for SME354

Optional Summer Shooting Activity

Traditionally we take the summer off – too many other things going on for most people. And this summer will be the same – no scheduled chapter meetings. However, we discovered recently that many chapter members share an enthusiasm for shooting. And, of course, we all know that a foundational event in the development of our modern industrial society was the manufacturing of thousands of muskets with interchangeable parts by Eli Whitney. So, in recognition of these significant facts, several chapter members would like to get together at a time and location still TBD for some target shooting. This is not a chapter-sponsored event, everyone who wants to participate will do because of their interest in the hobby. Chuck Otoupalik has volunteered to be the contact person for those who wish to participate. He can be contacted at: 303-678-8414, chucko_17@msn.com.

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8	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
9	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50

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