

PIKEMASTERS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The PikeMasters Model Railroad Club is located in the basement of the City Auditorium. The auditorium is located at 221 East Kiowa, Kiowa and Weber streets, in downtown Colorado Springs, across the street from Municipal Court. All visitors are welcome and club members will be present to explain the operation and to answer any questions. We will be operating the trains during this time.

The PikeMasters Club, founded in 1988, currently is the only model railroad club operating a permanent layout in Colorado Springs. The PikeMasters have been in the City Auditorium site since 1996. The current facility at one time housed the Colorado Springs indoor police pistol firing range.

The PikeMasters Club, an affiliated NMRA club, meets every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM. New members are welcome. Although the meetings are used to improve and maintain the layout, at least one meeting per month is devoted to operating the railroad. We operate the trains like the prototypical railroads.

The PikeMasters layout covers the periods from early steam through modern diesel power. Both standard gauge and narrow gauge trains are modeled. The standard gauge trains are operating on the popular HO model railroad scale. The prototype is the ever-present four feet 8.5 inch wide tracks found throughout Colorado Springs and the United States. The narrow gauge section operates on the HO_{n3} scale. This narrow gauge scale has the prototype track that was three feet wide and was common during the late nineteen and early twentieth century Rocky Mountain region. The Durango-Silverton, Cumbres and Toltec and the Georgetown Loop lines still operate a three-foot wide rail.

Many of the clubs locomotives are equipped for sound. You hear the steam engines chuff as they begin to move, as well as the chug-chug as the engine reaches running speed. Listen closely you can hear the steam engines whistle and their clanging bells. You hear the diesel locomotives as their engines increase and decrease speed. You hear the air compressors, the clanging bell, and the diesel's horn. You can even hear the engineer open and close the door to the cab, as he is entering or leaving.

The PikeMasters layout models many different facilities. The layout includes a large circus. This circus has many operating rides. A ferris wheel, tilt a-whirl, an ice rink with skaters moving around and lots more. There is a big-top and even an airplane circling above.

There is a cattle-loading pen. There are several stations for boarding and de-boarding passengers. There are freight stations. There is a large yard where trains are assembled and disassembled for their movement from one shipping point to another.

The layout also has a turn of the century mine where you can have a look at a cross-section of the underground operation. There is even a cemetery, where a burial is in progress.