

WHAT IS THIS THING ? !

This is a Railroad Motorcar, or Speeder. Smaller models, like this one, were used routinely to inspect the many miles of track for defects. Larger versions would carry half a dozen workers and pull a few trailers loaded with spikes & tools, to handle track maintenance. Use of speeders has been phased out over the past couple decades in favor of Hy-Rail Vehicles, which are standard road vehicles with retractable guide wheels that can operate on road or rail. For years speeder enthusiasts have been sneaking onto tracks for thrill rides, many times with disastrous results. In the mid 90's these operators organized in order to conduct legal, insured rail excursions with cooperating railroads. Today there are about 2 dozen regional clubs that conduct rail excursions from 10 mile trips to 10-day multi-thousand mile trips. Running a speeder costs considerably less than boating, though some think it is hot, noisy and smelly. Learn more at www.narcoa.org