

The WHISTLE POST

The Official Publication of the Garden State Division of the NMRA Northeast Region

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THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION

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SLEEPY LAGOON EXPRESS

Anthony and Judy Piccirillo could not have planned a better day for the inaugural run of the Sleepy Lagoon Express. Fifteen children under the age of 8, four over the age of 8, and 15-20 adults participated in the event on September 22.

The participants picked up their "train" tickets and had several stops for activities throughout the afternoon. The younger group received an assembled 13" x 9" diorama base and a house that required gluing and painting at their first stop. The older group had to assemble and paint the diorama base and house at their first stop.

The second stop required even more hands-on work by both age groups. The older group assembled trees while the younger group worked with modeling clay.

The last stop for the day involved operating model trains in HO, O27, and G scale. Anthony constructed John Allen's Timesaver layout specifically for this event, and his efforts paid off. Many of the adults and children enjoyed operating this challenging layout. This little layout proved to be so challenging, that some of the children learned how to O-5-0 a car just like the adults do.

While most of the credit for this successful event must go to Anthony and Judy, others were involved with the day's events.

The weather committee must be commended for providing the great weather enjoyed by everyone that day.

In addition, donations were provided by Rich at Kenvil Hobbies, the NMRA, Anthony Piccirillo and the Garden State Division.

While Anthony and Judy were the chief engineers of the event, others volunteered their



"Sleepy Lagoon" continued on page 5



THE CAB

Winter Rail Activities

by President Tom Wortmann

Winter is almost here and already I have had a season filled with trains. From the Fall NER convention in Albany to a guest visit to the Sunrise Trail Division in Baldwin, NY. Not to mention that my own operating sessions are back and running again as well. Yes indeed, summer is over. And I still have homes to visit, more track to lay on my own layout and there is always rail fanning.

Many of us only think of winter as snow and cold, but I think of it as trains and rail fanning. Did you know that the coldest day of the year is the best for rail fanning in these not so great neighborhoods, and once back home, there's nothing better than a hot cup of chocolate. Just never go rail fanning alone – always go with a friend.

If it snows too much and you can't get out, well then I guess you're stuck inside working on your trains. Ah Gee.

What I am really saying is that there is no bad time to work on the railroad and we all are experts in finding good reasons to do just that, work on the trains.

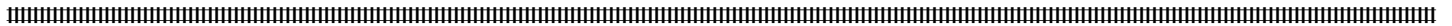
While you're down there or up there don't forget to invite your friends to join you. I have found that to be an excellent way to get new ideas and free help, besides if it's outside, just make more hot chocolate.

Now every winter meet at Ho-Ho-Kus, the Ramapo club always offers us an excellent operating session to any GSD member after the meeting. Their only complaint in the past is that we don't operate enough trains! So join us this winter for a good meeting, our annual elections and a clinic or two and then a great operating session. This year we are going to ask for a one dollar donation, not to the division but to the club as a kind of give back to them for being such wonderful hosts.

If you have been a loyal follower of the GSD you would know that the area clubs support us at every meet. Our Spring meet is always hosted by The Model Railroad Club in Union, NJ and we give them a piece of your donation to us. Our Summer meet is hosted by the Garden State Model Railway Club and they get free food (as do you). This past October, the New York Society of Model Engineers shared their swap meet with us. 100% of the fee you paid went to the NYSME.

So we do make the rounds all thanks to our local clubs. So please attend the meets, make a donation, give a clinic, host an after-meeting layout tour and if you would like to offer your services as a host for an after meeting layout tour, give a clinic, or in any other way, please let us know.

The division is there for you. Only together we can make it better.



THE CABOOSE

by Editor Chuck Diljak

The New Whistle Post

Welcome to the new Whistle Post! What was the first thing that grabbed your attention? I bet it was the big "W!"

Many of you may be wondering about that big "W" that appears in the masthead. The design is actually based on a prototype. The Lehigh Valley Railroad made these whistle posts in their shops by punching out a stenciled "W" from a 22-24" disk. Then, to give it a little more visibility, they painted it red. But, what I really think is clever is that it can be read from either direction.

Those who know me may think I am a bit biased for using the Lehigh Valley whistle post, for you see, I am a fan of the Lehigh Valley. There may be some truth to that, but to be honest, I wanted to use something different from the standard whistle post everyone knows. If the Central Railroad of New Jersey used this as their whistle post, I would have been happy to use it. But, as far as I know, they did not.

But, there is more to a newsletter than a logo. There is the content of the newsletter. The division has a large membership of around 300 members. One way to get to know

one another in this division is through our Division meetings. Another way to get to know one another is through this newsletter.

Our division has at least 300 stories, waiting to be told in this newsletter. We can learn about each other's model railroading interests, what we are modeling, and why we are members of the NMRA through the pages of this newsletter.

A good place to start is with your layouts. Drop me a line if you are interested in having your layout featured in a future issue. I'll bring my camera and notepad. You supply the layout.

Another way to give a sense of your modeling interests is to write an article for the newsletter, as Bruce De Young has done for this issue on page 3. Tell us about your accomplishments or share a modeling tip. You have a great forum here to brag, share, educate, or boost your ego.

Either way, drop me a line at gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com and welcome aboard the new Whistle Post. Enjoy the ride!

AT THE THROTTLE: CRAFT PAINTS AND MODEL RAILROADING - PERFECT TOGETHER

by Bruce De Young

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Wouldn't it be nice if we had an almost unlimited choice of paint colors available to us? Wouldn't it be even nicer if a two ounce bottle of that paint was routinely priced at less than a dollar? Well, we do, and they are!

If you haven't discovered the many uses of the inexpensive lines of acrylic craft paints available at Wal-Mart and craft stores like Michaels, A.C. Moore, and Jo-Ann's

Structures

If you build wood structures, these are the paints for you. If you normally stain your walls first with one of the alcohol and ink (or leather dye) mixes you can still do that. The same is true if you want to paint your walls first with an oil-based paint (like Floquil CN Gray) as a base coat. Once those base coats are dry, the craft paints will go over them the same as any

other paints. As with any water-based paint, heavy applications can warp wood walls. However, any warping can be eliminated by bracing the inside of the walls first or by painting both sides of the wall with the craft paints. To be safe, I apply the craft paint to the wood



Fabrics, read on. Although there are other brands, the primary ones that are available in the stores just mentioned are made by Apple Barrel, Folk Art, Americana, and Delta Ceramcoat. A list of the available colors would take up the entire newsletter!

Some of the brands have thicker paints than others, but most can be brushed on right out of the bottle. I squeeze some out of the bottle into a small plastic cup (like the kind some fast food restaurants use for condiments), and stir it good with a toothpick. If you want to thin the paint a bit, either water or windshield washer fluid will do the job-again, just stir it good with that toothpick.

Now let's talk about uses of these paints in our hobby.

walls with a stiff brush. I only put a little paint on the brush, and keep spreading the paint out over the wall until it is almost dry. This 'semi-dry brushing' technique allows some of the base coat to show through, and gives a nice weathered look. It also helps prevent any warping of the walls. As I have already mentioned, the selection of paint colors is almost unlimited, let your imagination go wild.

Craft paints are also ideal for painting plaster structures. In this case, I like to thin the paint (again, with either water or windshield washer fluid), and apply it more like a stain. It soaks nicely into the plaster walls. For stone walls, use an assortment of browns, tans, grays, or any of the earth tones. For a mortar color, I have had good luck with a mix of Apple

"Craft Paints" continued on Page 4

"Craft Paints" continued from page 3

Barrel Burnt Umber and Folk Art Light Gray (mix in a ration of 3:2). For brick work, the Americana line has three colors that I like: Terra Cotta, Georgia Clay, and Burnt Orange. Again, you can use the mortar color mix I mentioned above, or try a mix of Apple Barrel Country Tan and Folk Art Pewter Gray in a 7:3 ratio. Then again, you can play around with your own mixes.

For styrene or resin kits, I find that you really need to prime the walls before using craft paints. Over the years, I have used the PollyScale gray primer, Floquil primer, or more often, an inexpensive spray primer from Wal-Mart. Once any one of these primers are dry, the craft paints will adhere to the plastic or resin quite well. I find that I often have to use several thin coats to get good coverage on plastic and resin.

Detail Items

If you have a collection of plastic, metal, or resin detail items (barrels, crates, etc.), prime them with a cheap spray primer, and paint them up with craft paints. It works quite well. If you are familiar with the black plastic fencing available from Central Valley, I have gotten great results by dry brushing Folk Art Barnwood right onto the black plastic, with no priming. That Barnwood color also look great dry brushed onto the walls of a wood structure, especially if you have given it a base color with alcohol and India ink.

Scenery

As mentioned above, thinned craft paints make a great stain on plaster. So, when you want to color your plaster ground, rocks, cliffs, etc., think of using the various earth colors that are available with these craft paints. Just make them into a wash and apply them the way you would any other wash.

Making a concrete road or sidewalk? Try the 7:3 mix of Apple Barrel Country Tan and Folk Art Pewter Gray. For black top roads, I play around with mixes of Folk Art Dark Gray, Folk Art Wrought Iron, Americana Charcoal Gray, and Americana Asphaltum. Just a tip here. Once you get a mix that you like, write down the formula. Also, when making up a batch, make sure you make plenty for the entire job. The chances are, your next mix will look just a little different. (Ask me how I know!)

Want to dry brush some color on the tops of the ripples/waves you have formed in your rivers and streams? I love Folk Art Icy White for that application (white with just a hint of blue).

Rolling Stock

Although I have not used craft paints for rolling stock, a modeling friend of mine routinely does. He had found a variety of craft paint colors that closely match the corresponding railroad colors. He thins the paints down with windshield washer fluid, and applies it with an air brush. If you are interested in learning how he does this, he has posted a detailed explanation on the Railroad-Line Forum. Here is the URL to those instructions:

http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?ARCHIVE=true&TOPIC_ID=3558

As you can see, there are plenty of uses of acrylic craft paints in our hobby. I am often asked if the paint is so thick that it covers up the details on the model. I have not found that to be a problem. However, I tend to model primarily with wood where that is less likely to happen. Also, you can see that I apply the paint in thin coats. Another frequent question concerns the care of the brushes I use with these paints. When I see the paint starting to build up on the brush, I simply dip it in some water, and wipe it off in a rag. Then it is right back to painting. When done, I clean my brushes good with Octagon Soap and water. Others swear by either the blue windshield washer fluid or

Windex. I find that my brushes last just as long when using craft paints as with any other type of paint. Finally, I want to mention that new colors are always being added to these lines of paints, and old colors are dropped. If you have trouble finding a specific color that I have mentioned, that

RECOMMENDED COLORS

Wall Color

Apple Barrel Lemon Chiffon
Folk Art Light Gray
Delta Ceramcoat Parchment
Folk Art Butter Pecan

Trim Color

Delta Ceramcoat Wedgewood Green
Delta Ceramcoat Maroon
Folk Art Real Brown
Apple Barrel Burnt Umber

might be why. Not too long ago, Apple Barrel dropped one of my favorite colors - Indian Red. Luckily, a friend was able to find some still on the shelf, and he sent it to me. I now use it for 'special applications'.

So there you have it. If you haven't tried using these paints yet, go for it. Just watch out. Collecting additional colors can become habit forming! ☺

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TCASEY@CO.BERGEN.NJ.US

"Sleepy Lagoon" continued from page 1

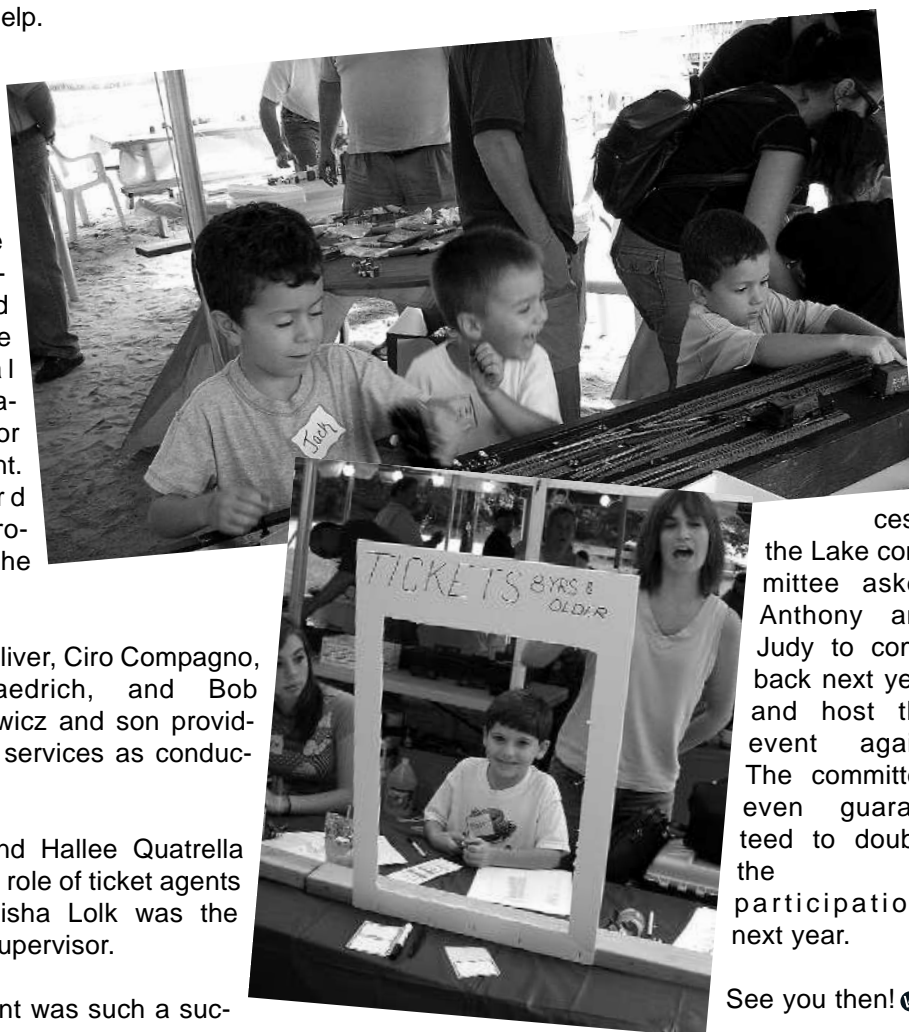
time to help.

Richard Kump was given the title of engineer and was the official photographer for the event. Richard also provided the sound.

Roger Oliver, Ciro Compagno, Ed Fraedrich, and Bob Tumielewicz and son provided their services as conductors.

Matty and Hallee Quatrella filled the role of ticket agents while Alisha Lolk was the Ticket Supervisor.

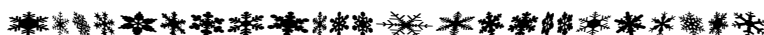
The event was such a suc-



cess, the Lake committee asked Anthony and Judy to come back next year and host the event again. The committee even guaranteed to double the participation, next year.

See you then! ☺

"Sleepy Lagoon" continued on Page 12



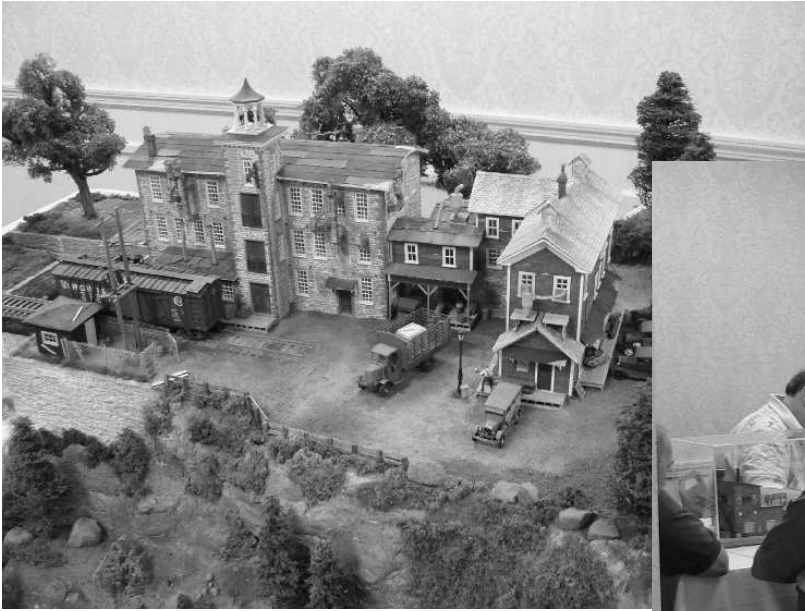
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

NMRA Bulletins

Interested in back issues of the NMRA Bulletin? Talk to Tom Casey at the next division meeting on January 20, 2008 at the Ramapo Valley Model Railroad Club in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. ☺



2007 NER Fall Convention: Commodore Vanderbilt Albany, NY



◀Norman Frowley's mill diorama placed second in the diorama category



The contest judges hard at work▶



◀Bruce De Young won first place in the structures craftsman category with this pickle factory

The GSD table at the NER convention banquet.▶
Clockwise from left: Tom Casey, Norman Frowley,
Tom Wortmann, Roger Oliver, Bob Tumielewicz,
Bruce De Young, and Ed Fraedrich



"Commodore Vanderbilt" continued on Page 13

MODELING TIP:

BACKGROUND:

You've just kitbashed a structure by slicing the walls, repositioning them, and gluing everything back together.

PROBLEM:

After taking an objective look at the model, you can see the joints where the walls were glued together.

SOLUTION:

Create a slurry consisting of Testor's Plastic Cement and Squadron putty. The slurry should be the consistency of thin pancake batter. Apply the slurry, using a toothpick, to the joint. The slurry will flow into the crack, hiding the joint better than Squadron putty, alone. After the slurry dries, the joint can be sanded.

MODELING TIPS CAN BE SENT TO
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR:
NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR
NORMANFROW@AOL.COM

TO BE JUDGED OR NOT TO BE JUDGED:

THAT IS THE QUESTION by AP Chairman, Norman Frowley, MMR

If you think you know everything there is to know about modeling and feel there is no room for improvement in your modeling skills then you should stop reading now. If, on the other hand, you'd like to learn more about how to build an outstanding model or thirst for information on how to improve your abilities as a modeler, then model contests and the Achievement Program are perfect for you. Through contests and the AP program you not only "do" but learn in the process. And the way you learn is to submit your creations to judging by other modelers who ostensibly (and in almost all cases) have developed their modeling skills over the years to the point they have something worthwhile to say when they critique your work product. Constructive criticism is a proven method of learning. Few budding musicians, painters, sculptors, indeed artists of any kind become virtuosos on their own. They have teachers or others with experiences who guide them, in part through constructive suggestions on how to improve their work. Model contests and the AP program were designed to similarly help the modeler grow as an artist and craftsman.

When you submit a structure you've built, to be judged for either AP purposes or as an entry in a model contest, your goal should be to learn from the experience. If you score lower on your masterpiece than you thought you should have, make it a point to discuss your model with either the AP chair or judges to get a fuller idea on how they think your model could have been improved. Thereafter you can go back to your workshop and modify your creation with the critique in mind, submit it again and see if the score for your project improves. In the process you will have learned what others feel makes a better model and what you have to do to reach that standard. Through reconsideration and introspection you can reassess your approach to the various aspects of modeling.

For instance, if the critique centered on

your model's weathering, you may be motivated to delve deeper into the subject and explore the various techniques for weathering you have not used before. If the critique focused on how well the model conformed to the prototype, you may be motivated to concentrate harder on how closely your model represents the original. It may foster more attention to detail in the future, which for a modeler, as Martha Stewart might say, "is a good thing."

To be sure, there will be instances where the critique is not particularly helpful and you will have to be pro-active in finding out just how your model can be improved. Let me give you one personal example. At the recent NER convention in Albany I entered a diorama for judging in the model contest. I also judged at the contest and disqualified myself from the diorama judging for obvious reasons. I received a second place award for the diorama and was extremely pleased with the model contest experience as a whole. I've received first place awards for models at NER conventions in the past and have a decent sense of what makes a successful contest model and what constitutes a helpful critique from a judge. At the end of a regional contest the entrant is given a sheet which records the judges' comments about the model and in some way informs you why you scored as you did on each of the various categories (e.g., conformity, construction, scratch built, appearance). Several comments with regard to my model were quite helpful. For one thing it was suggested that I weather more heavily the wood exposed on the roof where shingles had been ripped away over the years. With regard to "construction," the judges' comments were not particularly beneficial. With respect to the front scenery they wrote, "front scenery could have been better built." That's the equivalent of a theater critic saying the play could have been better written or an art critic writing the painting could have been better painted. If you are faced with such a critique the only

"To be Judged" continued on Page 11

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NEXT DIVISION MEETING:

TIME:
NOON

DATE:
JANUARY 20, 2008

SNOW DATE:
FEBRUARY 17, 2008

LOCATION:
THE RAMAPO VALLEY RAILROAD
CLUB
620 CLIFF STREET
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DIRECTIONS:
THE CLUB IS ACCESSIBLE BY TRAIN
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IF INTERESTED IN PRESENTING A
CLINIC AT A DIVISION MEETING,
PLEASE CONTACT EVENT CHAIR:

ROBERT TUMIELEWICZ
RTUMIELEW@AOL.COM

SUNRISE TRAIL DIVISION 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

The Sunrise Trail Division held their 40th anniversary convention on November 3rd. Our division president, Tom Wortmann, and other members of the Garden State Division were invited to attend this special occasion as honored guests.

One of the first things that the Sunrise Trail Division needed forty years ago was a constitution and by-laws. Paul Mallery, a member of the Garden State Division at the time, helped the Sunrise Trail Division develop these important documents.

Using the constitution and by-laws of the Garden State Division, Paul and the Sunrise Trail Division crafted the constitution and by-laws for this newly formed division of the NMRA.

Forty years ago, it was suggested that a joint Sunrise Trail Division and Garden State Division "Little Convention" be held. There was even

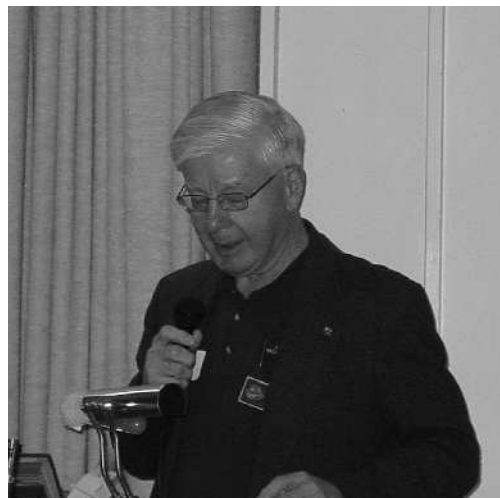


GSD President Tom Wortmann, accepting certificate from STD President, Walter Neumen

talk that the two divisions could merge. However, if a merger did occur, many thought that it would be difficult for members from both divisions to attend a "joint" convention.

To mark the assistance our division provided forty years ago, the Sunrise Trail Division presented Tom Wortmann with a plaque to the Garden State Division.

Tony Koester was the guest speaker at the banquet. Tony, pictured to the left, will be a guest clinician and speaker at future Garden State Division meetings. He is a member of the Garden State Division and frequently opens his home to division events.



Guest speaker, Tony Koester

The Garden State Division congratulates the Sunrise Trail Division on their fortieth anniversary. ☺



'tis the Season!

by Chuck Diljak

As I write this in November, those of us in the Northeast Region have marked our calendars. We've started planning on what to shop for. What do we need for our layouts? What don't we need for our layouts, but have to have? How much money do I think I can spend before my spouse thinks it is excessive? There are locomotives, cars, structures, electronics, details, books, memorabilia and other railroad things to think about. There are so many things to contemplate and so little time. Two days, in fact. Huh? Two days? Yep, I'm talking about the Big-E, not Christmas. And, the Big-E opens Jan 26-27, 2008, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Ah, the Big-E. Four acres of railroading contained in four buildings. I remember the first time a friend of mine went to the show. We met outside after he finished casing his first building. "It is about the size of Timonium," he said. Now, Timonium is another big show near Baltimore, Maryland. What he failed to realize was that there were three more buildings to case out. That certainly got his attention. His expression was as priceless as using your Mastercard at the show.

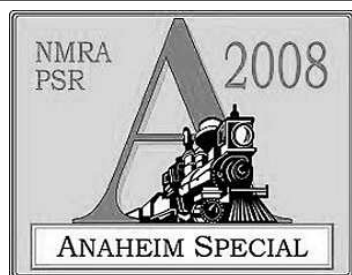
So, the Big-E is a big deal for a lot of us in the hobby who live in the Northeast. One of these days, I will have to go to the Timonium show and see for myself how good a show it

is. Some modelers prefer the Big-E vs. Timonium. Other modelers prefer Timonium vs. the Big-E. No matter which show you prefer, the winner is you, the modeler. Having regional shows like these help modelers get those hard to get items you cannot find in your local hobby shop. It gives



The Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield, MA

you a chance to meet some of the manufacturers. It also gives you a chance to socialize with some of your modeling friends that you might not see on a regular basis. Who knows, there might even be a few clinics you can take in. Whatever the reason, make the pilgrimage to a regional show. It only goes to strengthen the hobby. ☺



Los Angeles Division/Pacific Southwest Region
Presents

ANAHEIM SPECIAL
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July 13-19, 2008

Registration email contact: nmraconventionregistration@charter.net

Website: <http://www.nmra.org/2008/>

ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR
THE WHISTLE POST ARE:

JANUARY 10
APRIL 10
JULY 10
OCTOBER 10

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THANK YOU!

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"To be Judged" continued from page 7

productive thing to do is to seek out the judge or judges and learn from them exactly what you might do to improve your model. Otherwise you will have learned nothing from the experience. I sought out the judges and received a satisfactory response.

The moral of the story, so to speak, is that you should embrace the experience of being judged, not shun it. Use the AP program and model contests to learn and become a better modeler. 


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Judging Example:

To the left is a photo showing two cornices. The model is a cornice to my fan house that was judged at the national, region, and division levels. At one point, one of the judges wrote a comment on the judging sheet stating that the vertical line in the brick where the two cornice pieces meet isn't prototypical.

The judge is right. Unfortunately, this is the way DPM kits are designed. However, for my next model, I mitered the two pieces of cornice parts in order to eliminate the vertical line. This can be seen in the cornice leaning against the structure wall.

Here is an example of where a judge provided valuable information in their evaluation. This information allowed me to make the next model better than the last. In this case, having my fan house judged was a positive learning experience for me. 

Chuck Diljak

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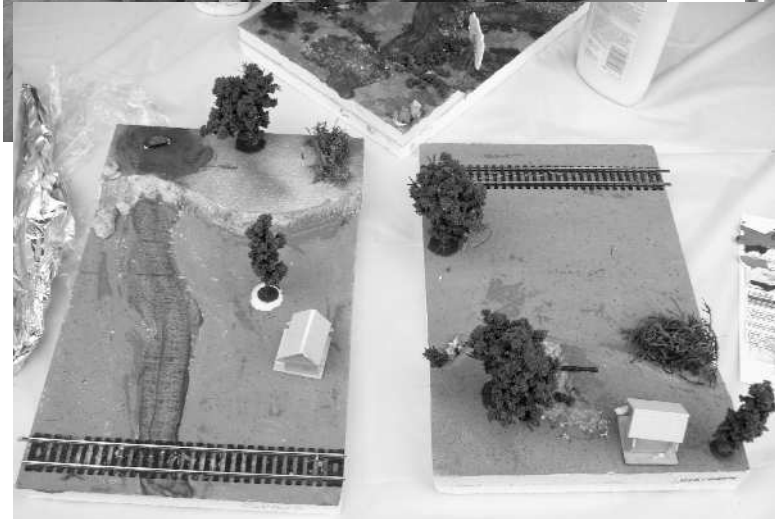
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"Commodore Vanderbilt" continued from Page 6

Cobleskill Coal Company ►

Norman Frowley and his mill
diorama ▼



Model farm house ▲

◀ An overhead view of Bruce De Young's pickle factory, Devon's Dills.



Boston Corners ►





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<http://www.trainweb.org/nergdsd>
Email: gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com

THE TIMETABLE

Friday-Sunday, 11/16-18/07, 11/23-25/07, 11/30-12/2/07, The New York Society of Model Engineers Fall Exhibition, 341 Hoboken Rd, Carlstadt, NJ. Friday evenings 7-10PM, Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1-6PM. Adults \$5, children \$1, children under age 5 Free. For more information: <http://modelengineers.org/>

Friday-Sunday, 11/23-25/07, 11/30-12/2/07, 12/7-9/07, The Model Railroad Club Annual Light and Sound Show, 295 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ. Friday 11/23 Noon-10PM, Friday 11/30 and 12/7 7-10PM, Saturdays 10AM-8PM, Sundays 11AM-6PM. Adults \$7, children \$5, children under age 13 Free, Seniors over age 59 \$6, \$1 discount on advanced tickets. For more information: <http://www.tmrcl.com/>

Saturday-Sunday, 11/24-25/07, Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Ave, Edison, NJ, 10-4PM. Adults \$7, Children 12 and under, Free. For more information: www.GreenbergShows.com

Friday-Sunday, 11/23-25/07, 11/30-12/2/07, 12/7-9/2/07, The Garden State Model Railway Club 50th Annual Model Railroad Show, 575 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. Friday evenings 7-10PM, Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1-5PM. For more information: <http://www.gsmrrclub.org/>

Saturday-Sunday, 11/25/07, 12/15-16/07, 12/30/07, The Ramapo Valley Railroad Club Christmas Open House, 620

Cliff Street, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. 1PM-5PM. Adults \$4, children \$1, family maximum \$10. For more information: <http://members.aol.com/rvrrclub>

Sunday, 1/20/08, The NMRA Garden State Division Winter meeting, The Ramapo Valley Railroad Club, 620 Cliff Street, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. Noon. Snow date: 2/17/08. For more information: <http://www.trainweb.org/nergdsd/>

Sunday, 1/26-27/08, The Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds (The Big E), West Springfield, MA. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-5PM. Adults \$10, children 15 and under Free. For more information: <http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/index.asp>

Saturday-Sunday, 2/2-3/08, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$7, children under 12 Free, family \$14. For more information: <http://www.gsmts.com/>

Sunday-Saturday, 07/13-19/08, NMRA National Convention: Anaheim Special, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA. For more information: <http://www.nmra.org/2008/>

Thursday-Sunday, 09/11-14/08, NER Regional Convention: Empire Junction, Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY. For more information: <http://www.empirejunction.org>

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