



The **WHISTLE POST**

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

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A "RETRO" SCRATCHBUILD

By **BRUCE DE YOUNG**



We indeed live in a 'Golden Era' for model railroaders when it comes to structures – and just about everything else, for that matter. But structures will be the focus of this article. We can go to our favorite hobby shop or on-line retailer and get a tremendous variety of ready-built structures or kits. Kits, whether styrene, wood, plaster, or metal, are available in

most scales for almost any era and modeling budget. My storage shelves are full of such great kits, but when the modeling urge strikes, I tend to draw a sketch and take the scratchbuilding route. And even for scratchbuilders (there are still scratchbuilders out there besides myself, right?) there is a wealth of raw materials available. No matter what your scale, there is stripwood and scribed siding (either wood or styrene) to meet your needs, scale windows, doors, roofing material, etc. that the pioneers in scratchbuilding could never imagine. Now I am a scratchbuilding junkie and enjoy reading the old issues (very old) of MR and RMC to see how the 'greats' of a previous era populated their layouts with good looking structures made from cardstock and paper for just a few pennies. I decided to start off the New Year with just such a scratchbuilding project - somewhat reminiscent of the old 'Dollar Projects' seen in the vintage modeling magazines. Not only would the structure be of paper and cardstock, but I promised myself not to use any commercial products for windows, doors, roofing, etc. Why forego such great resources? Just to see if I could.

What follows is a summary of that adventure with a few modeling tips along the way. I should mention that I model in HO and HO_N3.

Sub-Walls

A while back I had the pleasure of visiting John Rahenkamp's Clairmont, Lewiston & Western RR. John lives far enough south in New Jersey that he is not in the Garden State Division. However, he is an active member of the New Jersey Division (MER), and often has his layout open for tours. If you haven't seen the CL&W yet, it is certainly worth

(Scratchbuild continued on page 6)



THE CAB

by President Norman Frowley, MMR


All Aboard!

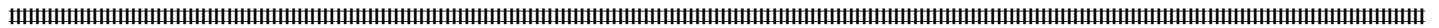
Thanks members for your confidence in me. I hope to merit your faith through deeds. Thank you, Tom, and the entire staff, for bringing the division this far. But now, it's ALL ABOARD as we depart into a new and brighter future for our division, our region and the NMRA in general.

Let's face it, we're an endangered "species," we modelers who play with trains; who spend hours and hours building models and operating someone's layout in one basement or another. We have to be conscious of that reality, and stop ignoring the demographics of our hobby. And that means we also have to do everything in our power to preserve our "species" and eventually through our efforts have it thrive. So what can we do?

We can start by realizing our endangered status and acting accordingly. We have to reach out to our fellow modelers in any way we can to share our modeling with them and give them support in their modeling when and where we can. When there are division meets, we have to make it our business to attend if we can. When we attend a meeting we have to reach out to new comers and make them feel welcome. If there are NMRA conventions, national or regional we have to find a way to attend them and share in the social and educational aspects of the modeling experience. If there are events sponsored by our division for youngsters designed to get them

interested in modeling we have to help out with that endeavor if we can. If we know modelers who are not members of the NMRA we have to reach out to them and get them involved in our efforts to build the hobby. If we have any time we can spare we have to step forward and say "I want to help out if I can. Tell me what I can do." I believe we can eventually take our hobby off the "endangered list." But it won't happen automatically. It won't happen if we simply keep doing things the way we have always done them.

In this spirit, I have established a new committee, the Clinic Program Committee headed by Tom Piccirillo MMR. Tom will coordinate and cultivate our clinics and clinicians. We will run shorter and more numerous clinics at our meets. We will have clinics where things are demonstrated, but where the demonstrations are projected onto a large screen through use of a video camera and digital projector so everyone can get a close up view of what is going on. We'll reach out to the modeling community with a more exciting and interesting presence at hobby shows, such as the Greenberg Show each fall. We'll do a number of new things too numerous to mention here. And we'll build on our past efforts, but we will not rest on our laurels. For if we do, our hobby may end up abandoned and rusty on some weed infested siding, like an outmoded wood -sided reefer. So join us as to get up steam. Don't be left at the station. 



THE CABOOSE

by Editor Chuck Diljak


Paper Memories

Reading Bruce De Young's article on building a structure from paper and card stock brought back many childhood memories. That was a time when I couldn't afford to buy those nice kits at the hobby shop since I was limited to the money I made mowing lawns or shoveling snow. So, I learned to adapt to the materials I could afford. And, the one material I could afford was paper.

I enjoyed scratchbuilding. I would design my own structures or use the plans from the hobby magazines. One of the national magazines published a scale rule as part of a pull-out section. I copied that scale rule from the page in the magazine to a piece of wood molding. That wood stick became my scale ruler for all my scratchbuilding projects. I would study the plans in the magazines and revise them. Then, I would figure out how I was going to build them. I found paper at the hobby shop with brick printed on it. I found Campbell's paper shingles. And, for the wood floor boards, I used a variety of colors of card stock. I hoarded card stock from gift boxes, card stock that was packaged with shirts, and any other source of cardstock I could find.

I discovered that paper tablets for water colors had an interesting texture and used it to represent stone. And, I learned to layer the card stock to obtain relief in the structure. For a teenager, it was very realistic. I also learned the tricks to painting paper and cardstock. Paper will curl when it gets wet so to minimize the curl, I painted both sides of the paper.

But now, I see that modeling with paper and card stock has been raised to a new level. When I look at the work that Bruce has done, I am amazed. And, in an age when the price of kits keep climbing, it is nice to see that modelers can still create models that are as impressive as the ones you can buy, at a very affordable price.

So while it doesn't compare to Bruce's work, I am still very proud of my paper structures from childhood. Bruce's article has taught me new tricks to scratchbuilding. And, who knows, maybe someday I will take a shot at building another structure using paper and cardstock as the building material. 

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Rich Ross's

NORTHERN VALLEY & WESTERN



Rich Ross has a couple philosophies towards model railroading: Keep it simple and have fun. That philosophy can be seen in the operations of his layout, the equipment he runs, and the season he models. His Northern Valley and Western Sub-Division of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad is set in the fall of 1975. But, that doesn't stop him from running equipment that is more modern than 1975. Rich likes the more modern equipment and enjoys running them behind his Erie Lackawanna engines.

This is Rich's fourth Erie Lackawanna freelanced layout. His current layout uses four MRC Control Master 20 walk around throttles, two dedicated to the yards and two road throttles. With his DC operations, Rich installed Atlas Selectors to control the blocks on the layout. Each Atlas Selector can control four different blocks and is much cheaper vs. buying four SPDT Center Off switches.

(Rich Ross continued on page 4)

▲ *Erie Lackawanna number 3615, an SD45, is getting ready to hit the road at the West End Yard engine facility.*

► *The Mountain Ridge Brewery is a major source of activity on the layout.*



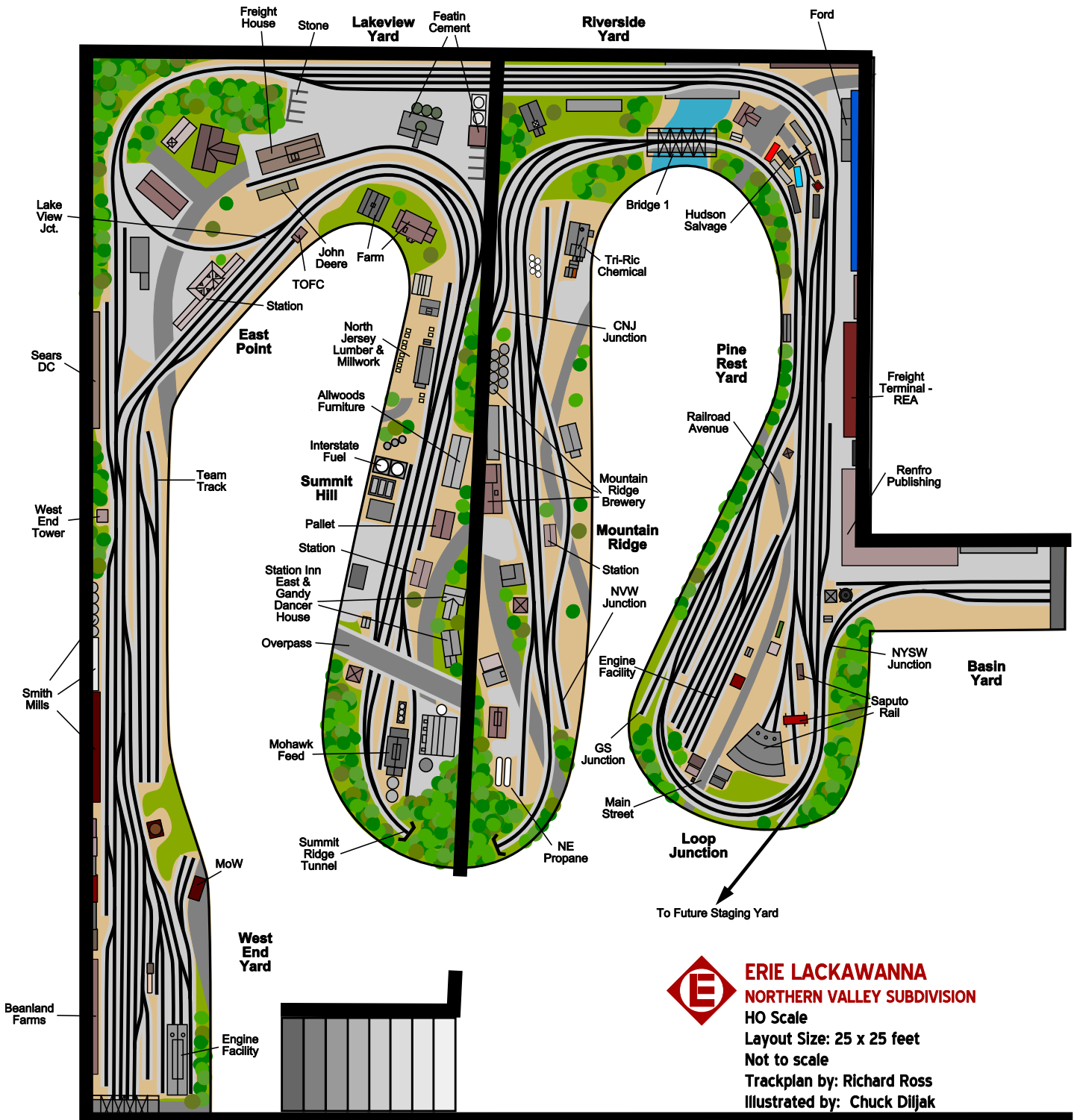
(Rich Ross continued from page 3)

Rich likes the look of the fall season and finds that the color of the trees compliments the Erie Lackawanna paint scheme. If there is one thing Rich wishes he did differently, it would be utilizing photos for the backdrop instead of his painted backdrop.

Operations are a key part Rich's enjoyment in the hobby. He

has been using a simplified waybill operation. He created a Car Card/Waybill for each car, using Microsoft Excel, with 10 destinations listed. Five of the destinations are local industries and the remaining five are destinations off the layout. He has storage tracks on shelves that represent his off-line industries. In total, Rich has about 450 cars for his layout, more than can fit on the actual layout. Having five off-line industries in each waybill facilitates moving cars on and off the layout.

(Rich Ross continued on page 5)



THE CLUB CAR

GARDEN STATE MODEL
RAILWAY CLUB
575 HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD
NORTH HALEDON, NJ 07508
WWW.GSMRRCLUB.ORG

MODEL ENGINEERS RAILROAD
CLUB OF NORTH JERSEY
569 HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD
NORTH HALEDON, NJ 07508
WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/NJ4/MERRCNJ

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
295 JEFFERSON AVENUE
UNION, NJ 07083
WWW.TMRCL.COM

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF MODEL
ENGINEERS
341 HOBOKEN ROAD
CARLSTADT, NJ 07072
WWW.MODELENGINEERS.ORG

RAMAPO VALLEY RAILROAD
CLUB
620 CLIFF STREET
HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07423
RAMAPOVALLEYRAILROAD.COM

THE NMRA

NMRA NATIONAL
WWW.NMRA.ORG

NMRA NORTHEASTERN REGION
WWW.NERNMRA.ORG

GARDEN STATE DIVISION
WWW.NERGSD.COM

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF THE
NMRA MID-EASTERN REGION
WWW.NJDIVNMRA.ORG

SEND CLUB INFORMATION TO
MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:
TOM CASEY
TCASEY@CO.BERGEN.NJ.US

(Rich Ross continued from page 4)

Rich does not use AAR designations on the cards, however. Instead, he uses the actual type of car in the description, such as "Box." The cards are carried around by the operator, clipped to a lanyard around their neck. Once the car arrives at the next destination on the waybill list, the operator records the date on the waybill and places the car card in the back of the card holder for that industry. The next blank square on the card designates the next destination for the car. After dropping off the car, Rich will pick up a car of the same type, taking a card from the front of the card holder for that industry. His simple operations help guest operators to easily understand what needs to be done. He reserves paperwork for the office and operates trains for enjoyment.

CAR	OWNER	NO.
CAR	OWNER	NO.
Box	RDG	20031
EAST POINT		
FREIGHT HSE.		
PMW JCT.	12-16	
MOHAWK	1-25	
FEED & SEED		
GS JCT.		
NORTH AMERICAN		
PALLET CO.		
NY SW JCT.		
EAST POINT		
TEAM TR.		
PMW JCT.		
SEARS		
DIST. CENTER		
NYW JCT.		

The end result is a reflection of Rich's philosophies: It really is simple and he is having fun! 



▲ An example of a Car Card/Waybill that Rich uses for each car on his layout.

◀ There is quite a bit of action at the John Deere loading dock and East Point Freight House.

Rich likes running modern cars on the layout, as can be seen with this Ralston Purina Evans 50' Double-Plug Door Boxcar, spotted at the Mohawk Feed & Seed in Summit Hill. ▶



(Scratchbuild continued from page 1)

the drive. In the meantime, here are two hot links. One is to a video of John's layout in action at an open house, and the other is a few photos posted by Arnold Kimmons of some of John's structures.

<http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=5JTMSGZKyrE&feature=related>

<http://s201.photobucket.com/albums/aa252/akimmons/MRR%20Tours/John%20Rahenkamp/>

Most of the structures on John's large layout are scratchbuilt by him. In talking to John about his techniques, I found that most of the structures have sub-walls made out of mat board. Mat board is made of several layers of paper laminated together and is used by picture framers to make the mats that surround a photo or painting. Anyway, I left John's basement that day with a big sheet of mat board in my hands. I have since used that mat board as sub-wall material on other scratchbuilds and will use it for this structure as well. I got my mat board for free, and so may you. The next time you are by a frame store, spend a few minutes chatting with the help. Explain that you are one of those goofy model railroaders and that you would like to try to make a building out of mat board. See if they have any scraps. I'll bet that they do.

Mat board is strong and easy to cut with a hobby knife. Just draw the outline of the wall(s) right on the mat board along with the windows and door openings. Next, place the material on one of those self-healing cutting mats. Lay a metal straight edge along those lines and with a sharp #11 blade (this is not the time to try to get just one more model out of that old blade), make multiple light passes along the line. If you press too hard, you will get an angled cut instead of one that is 90 degrees to the cutting mat. I think you will find cutting window and door openings easier in mat board than in either wood or styrene.

In no time you will have all your sub-walls cut out and all the necessary door openings cut into the walls.

Besides the metal straightedge and a hobby knife with a #11 blade, the other item that helps laying out the walls, windows and doors is a small machinist's square. Hint: if you are not sure that you will be able to scratchbuild the windows and doors, make the openings the size of a commercially available part. I did. As it turns out, I was able to pull the build off without having to use the plastic equivalents.

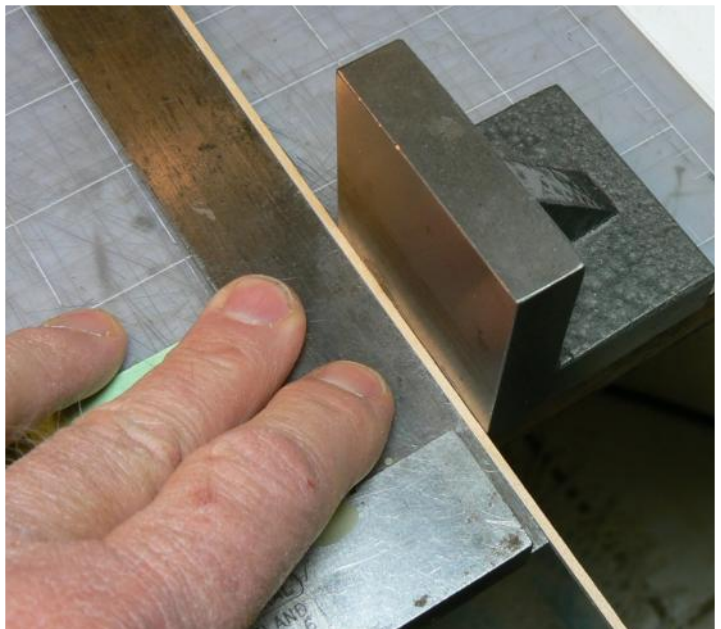
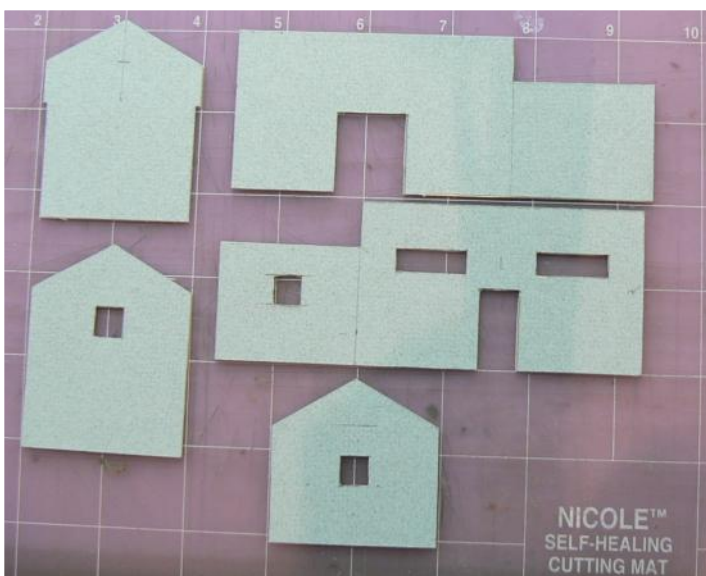
"Stripwood"

Of course we will not use stripwood, we will use cardstock. If you are a packrat like me, you keep a good supply of sheet cardboard. Everything from the backings of writing pads to the cardboard that comes packed in a dress shirt is in my collection. I use these for such things as view blocks in buildings to sub-roofs, and now for my "stripwood".

I decided that the small addition to the larger structure would be sided with 'tar paper' held in place with 1"x4" battens. The larger building would be 'board and batten' siding. So, I needed plenty of 1"x 4"s. I would also use 1" x 4"s for the window and door trim. Finally, the corner trim will be 1" x 6"s.

I looked through my collection of cardboard sheets and picked some that was close to a scale 1" thick.

To cut these, I used some 4" x 4" and 6" x 6" stripwood as spacers to give me the proper spacing between the edge of the cardstock and my machinist's square. Photo 2 will show how I did this. I used a metal angle weight to hold the stripwood flush with the edge of the cardstock, positioned my square to squeeze the wood spacer between the square and the angle weight, removed the wood and made the cut along the square.



(Scratchbuild continued on page 8)

MODELING TIP

PROBLEM:

AT THE GSD WINTER MEET IN ROCKY HILL, ONE OF THE MEMBERS ASKED A CLINICIAN WHAT THEY USED FOR MAKING GUTTERS FOR HIS STRUCTURES.

SOLUTION:

ONE POSSIBLE METHOD IS TO GLUE TOGETHER HALF ROUND AND CHANNEL STYRENE STRIPS FROM EVERGREEN SCALE MODELS THAT ARE THE SAME WIDTH. FOR EXAMPLE, .060 HALF ROUND AND .060 CHANNEL FOR HO SCALE.

HALF ROUND

CHANNEL

MALLERY AWARD

THE MALLERY AWARD IS AWARDED EACH YEAR TO A GARDEN STATE DIVISION MEMBER WHO HAS EXHIBITED EXCELLENCE IN MODELING CRAFTSMANSHIP DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THIS AWARD, THE RULES AND FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION WEBSITE AT:

WWW.NERGSD.COM/ACHIEV.HTML

MODELING TIPS CAN BE SENT TO:

CHUCK DILJAK, EDITOR

GSDWHISTLEPOST@YAHOO.COM




THE GSD ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM IS ON A ROLL

BY AP CHAIRMAN NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR

The GSD AP is working up a head of steam. In the last several months we've seen two Golden Spikes earned, one by James Homoki, the other by Jerry Kronengold. Four members of the division have earned their Volunteer Achievement Certificate: Robert Tumieleiwiz, Anthony Piccirillo, Thomas Casey and Ciro Compagno. Two Merit Awards have been earned, one by Bruce DeYoung for his wood sided gondola in HOn3 scale, and the other by Mike Bowler for his structure, Mike's Tool Shop. I am also proud to announce the addition of three new AP Merit Judges; Bruce DeYoung, Bob Malberti and Andy Brusgard.


I am sure that many of you have structures, cars and other modeling accomplishments which are worthy of Merit Awards, but for whatever reason you have failed to come forward and have those models recognized. I urge you get involved with the program and see how much fun it actually can be. Our object is not to criticize your work, or tear you down in any way. Instead, our goal is to see to it that you become the best modeler you can be. When we evaluate your model we do so with an eye towards how it may be improved, not with an intention of simply pointing out whatever aspects

of the model may be less than perfect. The Achievement Program is about learning and improving, not jumping through hoops. Give it a try.

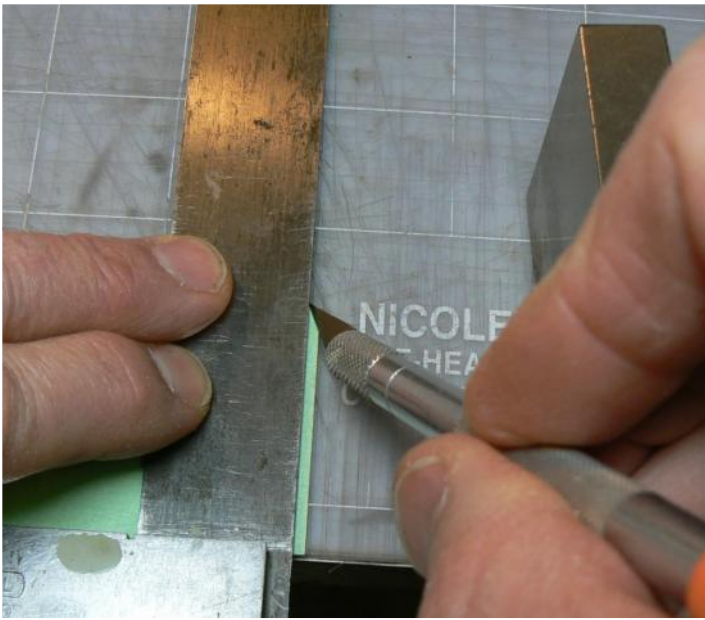
In October, the Northeast Region will be holding its annual convention, this year in Rhode Island. Look for more details in a future *Whistle Post* and in the *Coupler*, the Northeast Region's publication. I plan to be there and give a clinic on "How to be an Effective AP Judge." The clinic will prove useful to those already involved with the program and those wishing to become involved. The convention experience itself is one not to be missed by anyone who enjoys sharing good times with fellow model railroaders, and learning new and interesting modeling techniques and tricks. The region also has its annual Model Contest during the convention. There you can win Merit Awards which are credited towards whatever Achievement Certificates you may be seeking. If you want to learn more about the judging process for contests you can attend Bob Hamm's clinic on contests. He is the National Model Contest Chair. In all, the regional convention is a wonderful way to spend a long fall weekend. I hope to see more than a few of you there. 



Association Volunteer

Tom Casey, shown on the left, was unable to attend the GSD Winter meet in Rocky Hill, NJ. However, he was present at the World's Greatest Hobby Show in Edison. Norm Frowley, the GSD Achievement Program Chair-man, presented Tom with an AP certificate for Association Volunteer. Congratulate all of the recipients of Achievement Program Awards featured in this issue of the *Whistle Post* the next time you see them. Well done! 





Here is the resulting pile of 'stripwood' before painting.



I ended up not using the 1" x 8"s in the picture, but I wasn't sure at the time I was making my cuts. The cardstock I used was green, which is not the trim color.

Next it would be good to paint those pieces of stripwood that need painting. I decided that the corner trim, window/door trim and the battens on the tar paper siding would be painted a brown color. The battens that I used to form the "board and batten" siding would be painted the color of the sub-walls. In my case I used a cheap craft paint called Country Tan by Apple Barrel (#20778) for the wall color.

Next Issue

In the next issue of the *Whistle Post*, I will discuss doors and windows, finishing and assembling the walls, and the roofs. 



Golden Spikes




On the left, PJ Mattson, the New Jersey Division's Achievement Program Chairman, presents the NMRA Golden Spike Award to Jim Homoki.

You may have met Jim Homoki at the Garden State Division (GSD) meet in Rocky Hill, NJ. What you may not have known is that Jim was recently awarded the NMRA's Golden Spike Award. Jim lives within the GSD. But, he is also active in the New Jersey Division (NJD). The award was presented by PJ Mattson, the NJD's AP Chairman and Mid-Eastern Region Vice President. The award was presented during an operating session at John Rahen-amp's layout.



(l to r) Dick Genthner presents Jerry Kronengold with his NMRA Golden Spike Award.

Jerry Kronengold is another GSD member who is active in the NJD. Jerry received his Golden Spike at the recent NJD meet on Saturday, March 12th, in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. Dick Genthner, the NJD's Achievement Program Assistant presented Jerry with the award.

Congratulations, Jim and Jerry! 

NEXT DIVISION MEETING

TIME:
11:30 AM

DATE:
MAY 1, 2011

LOCATION:
THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
295 JEFFERSON AVENUE
UNION, NJ 07083
WWW.TMRCL.COM

DIRECTIONS:
ROUTE 22, BEHIND THE HOME
DEPOT. FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS, VISIT:
WWW.TMRCL.COM



AGENDA:
CLINICS
LIGHT LUNCH
OPERATING SESSION
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE
DOOR PRIZES
MODEL JUDGING

COST:
\$8 DONATION

CLINIC CONTACT:
IF INTERESTED IN PRESENTING A
CLINIC AT A DIVISION MEETING,
PLEASE CONTACT CLINIC CHAIR:

TOM PICCIRILLO, MMR
TOMP1952@VERIZON.NET



GSD SPRING MEET IN UNION

BY TOM PICCIRILLO, MMR

The Spring meet will most certainly be an event you will not want to miss. First of all, there are three fantastic clinics being presented. The clinics are described, below. And, we're sure you have some items in your collection that you really don't want anymore. But, there is likely to be someone who wants the very item you want to sell. Just bring the items to the meet, label them with your name and the price you are asking for. It is as simple as that! The White Elephant table will be manned by a GSD officer, during the meet. With these quality clinics, a White Elephant Table, a fantastic layout to operate, and even a lunch, this is one meet you can't afford to miss!

Jim Grill: Operations on the Neshanic River Railroad

The NRR has been using the Car Card / Waybill system of operation since 1984. Over the years, Jim has made several modifications to make it easy for the operating crew to have fun while doing so. Learn how this system provides the foundation for an eleven man crew to handle over 30 trains in a two hour op session. These trains regularly move over 350 cars to their destinations, while four yards keep the local industries happy. Includes Jim's recommendations for layout planning to insure ease of operation by the crew: Position of scenery and buildings; distance between major scenes; organization of the schedule to aid in the coordination of train movements.



Jim Fawcett: 2D, 3D and Everything In-Between

Jim Fawcett creatively examines Model Builder Software beyond its basic tutorial. Although the manufacturer's instructions emphasize full-3D paper structures, this clinic will focus on creating backdrop images and low relief structures. Learn how the imaginative use of available tools, templates and images can be greatly enhanced in both overall scope and realism. Jim will give examples of tricks that create shading, weathering, distressing, texture, depth and forced perspective to make your backdrop blend in seamlessly with the 3D scenery of your railroad.



Dave Ramos: Modeling and Operating Rail Marine

A look into modeling and operating a harbor based layout. Dave explains the historical use of car floats, piers and barges, and how he incorporated them into his HO scale New York Harbor Railroad. Learn how he researched, designed and constructed the railroad from available kits, by kit bashing and by scratch building. Harbor rail marine operations and modeling are not limited to seaports; many cities and towns had rivers, and they used car floats and piers to trans-load freight. Dave shows you how to convert these areas into live interchanges on your railroad.





MEETING MINUTES

BY SECRETARY CIRO COMPAGNO

Purpose

Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting

Date/Time

November 21, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Place

Home of Tom Wortmann in Staten Island, NY

Attendees: Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Bruce De Young, Chuck Diljak, Ed Fraedrich, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

President's Report

Tom W. thanked everyone for their contribution over the years that lead to a successful re-organization of the GSD Division. He is proud to have served the Division as President the past 6 years. A personal accomplishment includes re-alignment of the original GSD border.

Secretary's Report

Ciro read the 9/26/10 staff meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony provided a brief financial summary.

Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman indicated there was an increase in AP activity. He announced:

- "Certificate for Approval" for an AP Judge given by the NER AP Chairperson (Norman).
- The 2010 Paul Mallory Award is Norman Frowley. He indicated he would withdraw his entry if at least one AP earned model were entered in 2011.
- The NER Fall Convention will be jointly hosted by the Little Rhody and Nutmeg Divisions. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI the weekend of 10/13 – 10/16/11. Participation by GSD staff and members was encouraged. He will give a clinic on "How to be an effective AP Judge".
- He will provide a clinic at the 2011 Winter Meet on "How to win a model contest".
- He developed a questionnaire to determine judge qualifications.
- Inter-regional judging is acceptable with knowledge and agreement between the two group's AP Chairpersons.

Events Report

- Greenberg Show, 11/27-28, in Edison, NJ.
Review of the proposed staff schedule.
No Wi-Fi available.
Need RailPass Applications.
Ciro provided Norman 50 copies of the GSD pamphlets.
Ciro will bring another 25 copies of the GSD pamphlets on Sunday morning.
- GSD Business Meeting & Winter Meet, 2/13/11 (snow date 2/20/11), hosted by the Pacific Southern Railway Club in Rocky Hill, NJ.
Bruce will call Bob to finalizing event details.
Ciro will e-mail Bruce what further information is needed.
- World's Greatest Hobby, 02/26-27, 2011, in Edison, NJ.
No contact has been made.
Bob T. will reserve a table.
- GSD Spring Meet, 4/10/11 or 5/01/11, hosted by The Model Railroad Club in Union, NJ.
An Ops Session is desirable and needs to be discussed with the club.

Membership & Club Chair's Report

- Tom C. is sending membership correction to the National.
- Andy continues to send e-mail announcements with minimal turnout; i.e. 25 out of 400 show up at GSD events. Tom P. indicated this was a good turnout. Andy is considering asking in the e-mail announcements to confirm receipt.
- Add new members to the *Whistle Post*?

Whistle Post Report

Chuck provided a summary of items needed for the upcoming winter issue. He also discussed upcoming work for the Spring 2011 issue that includes the Richard Ross layout. Tom W. offered a series of articles on his layout expansion including hand-laying track for the first time. Other layout articles are welcomed.

Discussion of old business:

- Solicit home layouts in northwest section of New Jersey in late March 2010. Update: Bruce will take the lead on contacting individual home layouts near a GSD venue. Focus will in the Phillipsburg, NJ area in late March.
- Solicit layout photos from the GSD membership to possibly include in future *Whistle Post* newsletters. Update: Chuck will provide Tom W. with a questionnaire to gather layout information. A photo will be attached.
- Possible future GSD venues: Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Parsippany, NJ (Ciro); East Hanover, NJ (Anthony). Additional locations were given to Bruce to follow-up on. No Update.
- Andy presented a nicely done card promoting New York Society of Model Engineers. Andy volunteered to create a similar card for the GSD. No Update.
- Tom W. and Andy agreed to look into GSD golf shirts and its cost. Update: Approx \$25/shirt with an embroidered GSD logo.
- Election 2011
Andy is chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
Chuck is on the Nominating Committee.
Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for election with at least one name for each elective office per Article 7 of the GSD Constitution.
Positions up for election in 2011:
 - ♦ President (2011) – 5 yr. term limit is in affect
 - ♦ Vice President (2011) – 5 yr. term limit is in affect
 - ♦ Secretary (2011)
 - ♦ Treasurer (2011)
 - ♦ Directors: Bob Tumielewicz (2011 and 2012)*, Ed Fraedrich (2011 and 2012) and Bruce De Young (2011 and 2012)

*Bob called into the meeting and asked if someone could replace him as Director. If no one is found, he would serve another term.

Discussion of new business:

None

Next staff meeting is planned at Bruce's home in March 2011.

Meeting adjourned around 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary 

ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES
FOR *THE WHISTLE POST*:

JANUARY 10

APRIL 10

JULY 10

OCTOBER 10

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MISSION STATEMENT:

THE WHISTLE POST, THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NMRA'S GARDEN STATE DIVISION, SEEKS TO SERVE AS A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNICATION AMONG THE DIVISION'S MEMBERSHIP, SHOWCASE ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AND PROMOTE THE HOBBY OF MODEL RAILROADING.

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PHOTO THEME FOR NEXT ISSUE: *MINI SCENES*



▲ A customer hanging out at Mel's in Northport on Tom Wortmann's Misky Rails. Mel's is a great place for crews to grab a sandwich or snack.

Photo by Tom Wortmann

Photo Theme is a one or two page feature in each issue of *The Whistle Post*, based on a theme. Photos and captions can be e-mailed to gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com.




GSD Election Results

During the GSD winter meet in Rocky Hill, NJ, a portion of the meet was dedicated to GSD business. One of the items on the agenda was the election of officers.

The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors-at-Large were up for election.

Andy Brusgard fulfilled his obligations on the Nominations Committee by presenting the nominees for each position.

The results of the election are shown, at right. 


Position	Name(s)
President	Norman Frowley, MMR
Vice-President	Tom Wortmann
Secretary	Ciro Compagno
Treasurer	Anthony Piccirillo
Director-at-Large	Joe Calderone Bruce De Young Richard Ross

- Although the Diamond Club met its initial goal of \$75,000, we're still looking for additional donations so that more of our collection can be scanned and posted. The Online Archives site is up and running, and accessible via the link on the www.nmra.org homepage.
- The NMRA is planning to help Regions and Divisions promote National Model Railroad Month this November by making available materials that can be downloaded from our website, such as poster and flyer templates, press releases, etc.
- As part of our National Model Railroad Month promotion, we'll be publishing a special story in NMRA Magazine about how Regions and Divisions celebrate and promote it themselves.
- The X2011 West NMRA National Convention site went "live" in January, allowing online registration and online selection and payment for tours, events, meals, and even Convention merchandise! This is the first time ever that a Convention committee has provided complete online registration and tour signup. Even OpSIG and LDSIG signups are being handled online. Easy, fast, and you immediately know if a tour or event is sold out. Hotel reservations are also being done online through the Convention website. The Convention website is www.x2011west.org.
- The "Members Only" section of our website is getting very close to opening to the public. In addition to some content we're preparing right now, we're also looking for some ideas from NMRA members of things we can add to that section. If you or your members have some ideas, please forward them to Bob Robbins at marrob17@optonline.com.
- Two "new" model railroad podcasts have popped up within the past several months. One is "Model Rail Radio," and features the NMRA's own Board Member Clark Kooning as a regular guest. Shows run from 20 minutes to three hours and cover a wide range of topics. You can find out more about that podcast at www.modelrailradio.com. Another podcast, hosted by Trevor Marshall and Jim Martin, features two in-depth interviews in a concise, 20-minute period. Find out more at www.themodelrailwayshow.com. Both podcasts can be downloaded via iTunes.
- The Board is investigating the feasibility of occasional National conventions that are markedly different from those currently scheduled.
- In an effort to maintain contact with all NMRA members, the Board is investigating various means of sending regular communications to the 4,000 NMRA members who don't subscribe to NMRA Magazine.
- The Board adopted one of two versions of NMRANET standards which were presented. It also approved two new tables to Standard S-7 to accommodate clearances for model railroads set in the modern era.
- Notice of 2012 elections. The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, davoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than June 15, 2011.
- The Summer Board meeting will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Thursday, June 30, 2011. The meeting is usually held at the Convention hotel, but the exact start time and room number will be announced when available.
- The Board authorized revising NMRA by-laws to make the election of two vice presidents a permanent change. 



GSD AT WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY SHOW

BY NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR

The Garden State Division had a "double wide" booth at The World's Greatest Hobby Show on Saturday and Sunday February 26-27, 2011. Manning the booth at various times were Bruce DeYoung, Bob Tumielewicz, Tom Wortmann, Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, Rich Ross, Bob Dennis, Frank Russo, Ciro Compagno and Norm Frowley. There were far more people attending this show than at any Greenberg Show in the recent past. All the parking lots were full to the brim, and on Saturday at 3:00 pm there was still a line of cars waiting for spots to park. Several persons visiting our booth signed up on the spot for membership and a number of others expressed serious interest in becoming a member of the NMRA. We hope to improve our presentation at these kinds of shows in the future but we're certainly off to a good start. 



CIRO'S CORNER

THE RICHMOND HARBOR IS AN HO SCALE LAYOUT I AM CONSTRUCTING IN MY BASEMENT.

THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES WILL FOLLOW THE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE LAYOUT.

THIS SIDE COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS THE WEBSITES OF ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT ARE MENTIONED IN MY ARTICLE, TO THE RIGHT. CLICK ON ANY OF THE HIGHLIGHTED LINKS LISTED BELOW.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SERIES CAN BE SENT TO:
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BUILDING

RICHMOND HARBOR

BY CIRO COMPAGNO

The backdrop construction was completed. You can stand in front of it and stare at it. It is so smooth, clean and white. You quickly realize its innocence will be short lived. It needs to be de-sanitized. It needs color. It needs life. At first thought, the task of bringing your backdrop to life is daunting. Added to that, are the tantalizing photos in the modeling press with very impressive finished backdrops. WHAT DO I DO? You begin by asking yourself a few basic questions to assess your skill, will power and budget.

The first question is: do I finish the backdrop now or later when I have an idea what I want. The consensus of many experienced modelers is to finish the backdrop before installing track work, scenery and structures. If you attempt to finish the backdrop after these layout elements are in place, you will find it very difficult (almost impossible) to access the rear of the layout. Moreover, even if accessible later on, there is increased risk of getting paint, glue or even damaging your completed foreground work. The answer was clear to me – begin now.

The second question is: do I paint or install a photographed scene? Using the internet, I found several websites selling photo backdrops. These can work very nicely if they have photos of the scene and era you are modeling. Alternatively, if you are photographically inclined, have a high mega-pixel digital camera, will power and good weather on your side, you can venture out and try to photograph the right scenes. For my particular need, large panoramic scenes of the Staten Island north shore in the 1950s were not available. In addition, my layout will model scenes changing from in-land to shoreline views. For example, Port Richmond is an in-land view while New Brighton is a shoreline view. The answer for me was to paint.

Painting is an art in itself requiring schooling and practice. This was schooling and time I did

not have or want to spend. After researching and speaking with friends, my final strategy was to paint a graduated sky blue followed by adding various cloud formations. Later on, when I had a good idea where model structures and trees went, I can paint trees and grass as needed. Because the layout depth is 30 in. or less, I can easily reach the backdrop with standard artist brushes to add these subtle natural scenery features.


The chosen base blue color was Sherwin Williams Dynamic Blue (SW 6958), which is a



good quality latex paint. I tried to closely match earlier photographs I had taken during a partly cloudy October sky. Alternately, choose your favorite sky blue color. To help reduce roller marks and slow the drying time, I chose Flood Floetrol Latex Paint Additive. It is very

important to use an additive (or retarder) to reduce the paint drying time. This will allow the blending of two shades of blue where they meet. Any sharp contrast where two colors meet will immediately kill the look. Before attempting to paint in full scale, I practiced on a 24 x 36 in. miniature version of the backdrop that I built. After several tries comparing to photographs, I was able to reasonably paint two shades of blue (lighter color at the bottom and darker color at the top) using mixtures:

- Medium Blue - 2:1 mix of flat white and Dynamic Blue followed by 1:2 ratio of Floetrol to Medium Blue (bottom half)
- Blue – 1:2 mix of Floetrol to Dynamic Blue (top half)

I purchased several 1-quart metal paint cans, Whizz 6 in. mini roller handles and rollers. With the needed equipment, desirable paint mixtures and a practiced technique, I took the deep plunge and painted the entire layout backdrop a two-shaded, graduated sky blue. With the attained good results, I confidently move on to the next step of painting clouds. 




GSD's WINTER MEET IN ROCKY HILL

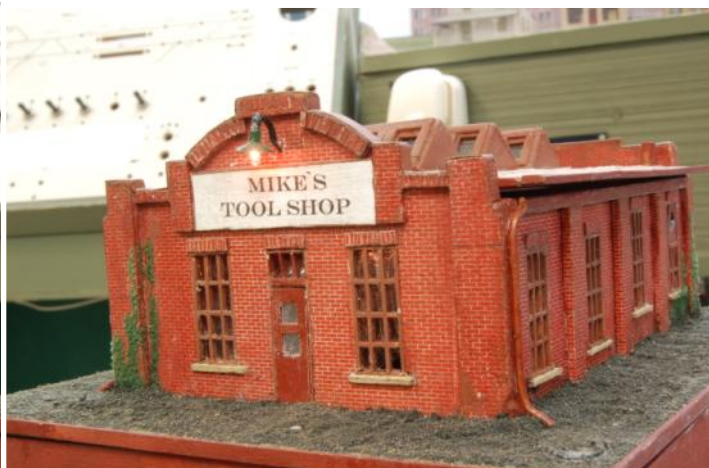
There is nothing like a new venue to draw out NMRA members to a meet. The GSD's Winter meet was held at the Pacific Southern Model Railroad Club in Rocky Hill, NJ. The club recently completed its conversion to DCC and has been opening its doors, once again.

The meet featured three clinics. The first clinic covered the history of the club and its recent conversion to DCC. The second clinic covered the process creating the row houses seen on the layout by making resin casting. The final clinic covered the signaling of the layout. If you looked around the layout, you could see several forms of signal, including light targets and semaphores.

The meet also featured the annual business meeting. New GSD officers and existing officers were voted into office. In addition, there was a very good debate on term limits for GSD officers, with the result that the President and Vice-President can only hold their respective offices for five consecutive years.

Several models were submitted for Merit Award judging. Two of the models were cars and 2011 is the "year of the Car" for Merit Award judging.

The meet wrapped up with a fun operating session on the club layout. A great time by terrific hosts! 



Clockwise from the upper left: Models entered for Merit Award judging, including Mike Bowler's "Mike's Tool Shop" and Bruce De Young's NER Box and Pulpwood Cars; (l to r) Bob Tumielewicz, Ciro Compagno, and Anthony Piccirillo receive their Association Volunteer certificates; (l to r) NER Achievement Program Chairman Norman Frowley presenting the NER Achievement Program Judge Certificate to Bruce De Young.

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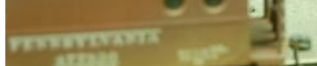


MAINTENANCE OF WAY



◀ A crane sits idle next to the shop facilities on the Pacific Southern Model Railroad Club layout, in Rocky Hill, NJ.

Photo by Chuck Diljak



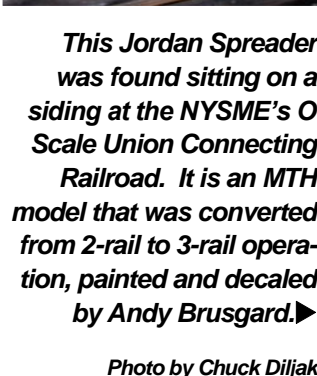
This car, nicknamed "Gravel Girdy" is a ballast cleaning car located in Spencer, NC. It uses large wheels to start the cleaning process.▶

Photo by Chuck Diljak



◀ This crane and boom car was located at the Whippany Railroad Museum.

Photo by Chuck Diljak



This Jordan Spreader was found sitting on a siding at the NYSME's O Scale Union Connecting Railroad. It is an MTH model that was converted from 2-rail to 3-rail operation, painted and decaled by Andy Brusgard.▶

Photo by Chuck Diljak





Chuck Diljak
31 Kuiken Court
Wayne, NJ 07470

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THE TIMETABLE

Friday-Sunday, 4/1-3/11, 4/8-9/11, 4/15-17/11, The New York Society of Model Engineers **85th** (and that is not a misprint, it is **85** years!) Anniversary 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: www.modelengineers.org

Saturday-Sunday, 4/2-4/3/11, Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, 97 Sunfeld Ave, Edison, NJ, 10-4PM. Adults \$7, Children under 12, Free. For more information: www.greenbergshows.com

Saturday-Sunday, 4/9-10/11, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$9 Saturday, \$8 Sunday, children under 15 Free, family \$18. For more information: www.gsmts.com

Sunday, 5/1/11, NMRA Garden State Division Spring Meet, The Model Railroad Club,, 295 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ. See Page 9 of this issue.

Friday-Saturday, 6/3-4/11, New England/Northeast Prototype Modelers Meet, Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. For more information: www.neprototypemeet.com

Saturday-Sunday, 6/25-26/11, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$9, children under 15 Free, family \$18. For

more information: www.gsmts.com

Sunday-Saturday, 073-9/11, NMRA National Convention, "Extra 2011 West," Sacramento, CA. For more information: www.x2011west.org

Saturday, 10/1/11, Northeast Fallen Flags Railroad Prototype Meet, Ted Blum 4-H Center, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ. Admission is \$25.00 at the door and includes a hot Italian Lunch buffet at 1 PM. For more information: groups.yahoo.com/group/neffrpm/

Sunday, 10/9/11, Train Collectors Association Meet, Boys and Girls Club, 490 Midland Avenue, Garfield, NJ. 8AM-2PM for TCA members, 9AM-2PM for General Public. Free to TCA members, \$5 for Non-TCA adults, 16 and over. For more information: www.metca.org

Thursday-Sunday, 10/13-16/11, NMRA Northeastern Region "Roger Williams Express" convention, Warrick, RI. For more information, visit the convention website at: nerconvention.org/2011/

Thursday-Saturday, 10/13-15/11, The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo, Holiday Inn, 1 Newbury Street, Peabody, MA. For more information: modelrailroadexpo.com

Saturday-Sunday, 10/29-30/11, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$9, children under 15 Free, family \$18. For more information: www.gsmts.com

Wednesday-Saturday, 11/2-5/11, The Craftsman Structure Convention, Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA. For more information: www.csc11.net

To have a show or meet listed, please e-mail the information to gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com