

# The WHISTLE POST

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

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## ICE CREAM WAS SERVED!

BY BRUCE DEYOUNG



**GSD Members posing during the Ice Cream Social at the Whippany Railway Museum ▲**

*Photo by Tom Wortmann*

A beautiful sunny July day with moderate temperatures, low humidity, and a well-shaded lawn all made for a terrific setting for the GSD's summer outing. Looking for something different, the GSD decided to hold its Summer Meeting at the Whippany Railway Museum and to offer an old fashioned Ice Cream Social as well.

There was plenty to keep attendees occupied besides just eating ice cream

and talking trains with fellow GSD members and Museum volunteers. The Museum's outdoor collection was there for exploration by young and old alike. For a nominal \$1 donation, a look at the Museum's indoor collection was also available. Museum volunteers kept the large Garden Railroad running with multiple engines simultaneously making their way around the elevated dog bone track work. For

*(Ice Cream Social Continued on Page 5)*



## THE CAB

by President Norman Frowley, MMR


### Let Us Know

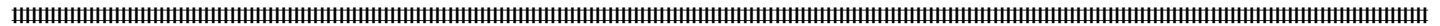
As the weather cools and we recover from the heat waves of the summer of 2011, our leisure thoughts turn more fully again to the hobby we love and to all it has to offer us. We have our fall meet at the Ramapo Valley Model Railroad Club on Oct 1 and the Northeast Region's annual convention starting October 14, this year held in Rhode Island. These are events which are sure to stir your modeling juices. Clinics, contests and showcases, operating sessions and the like make this hobby what it is: a pure joy. But again, the mantra is the same from season to season. If you don't partake, you don't reap the benefits of the NMRA in general and the Garden State Division in particular.

Happily, the word seems to be getting out to the membership. Our spring meet at the Union Model Railroad Club was better attended than ever. Our summer ice cream social at the Whippany Railroad Museum was a welcome change of pace and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. We plan to have multiple, informative clinics

at every meet, with refreshments and operating sessions at most. We're on a roll, and hopefully all of you will join us for the ride.

I'm sure you know by now that this is your organization, and you make it what it is by your participation. There's something for everyone to do. The key is to do something. Attendance at a meet or convention is just as much "doing" as contributing as a member of some committee. If you want to be part of any committee, just ask. There's room for all to be a part of the division's operations. We want your input. If you don't want to be part of the team that runs the division, that's fine, but at least make your presence known by joining our activities.

As a final thought, we want to make the NMRA experience a fulfilling one for everyone. If you want to see things done differently, let us know. If we're doing it right let us know, as well, by a letter to the editor of the Whistle Post. We'd love to hear from you. 



## THE CABOOSE

by Editor Chuck Diljak

### NMRA Magazine Index

Have you ever wanted to start that scratch building project, but couldn't find the article that contained the drawings? Or, perhaps you were looking for some historical information about an industry, railroad, locomotive, or car but couldn't find those articles, either. Well, things have changed in the last couple years.


Until a few years ago, modelers could look for these articles in an on-line magazine index that was available on the internet. Then, seemingly overnight, the index was no longer available.

Some enterprising individuals decided to fill the void by developing a new magazine index. One difference between the new and the old index is that the new one also includes NMRA newsletters. Another difference is that the new one is being maintained by volunteers. Ultimately, this index will be hosted on the NMRA website. And, yes, I am proud to say that I was approached to include *The Whistle Post* in this index. You can find the new index by going to <http://www.olimpia.com:8084/magazine-index.html>.

But, I was faced with a decision. What do I include in the index. *The Whistle Post* is filled with NMRA and non-NMRA articles. I decided that I would include items in the index that I

think model railroaders, in general, would be interested in. Therefore, I excluded NMRA meets from the index. But, I am including modeling articles, the photo page, and opinion columns in the index. There is one more category that will be included in the index: Modeling and Photo tips. Photo tips? Yes, photo tips. This is a new feature in the sidebar on [page 15](#). Photography is a big part of model railroading and Tom Wortmann will be providing us with tips on white balance, aperture settings, lighting, and many more topics.

If you have that article floating around in your head and are wondering where to get it published, consider *The Whistle Post*. You will even get a reference in the index and author points in the NMRA Achievement Program. And speaking of the NMRA Achievement Program, the managers of the index are looking for volunteers to help index magazines on the website. The work you do counts as Volunteer points in the Achievement Program. Information on how you can help can be found on the index's website.

So, get on-line and support the work of the NMRA Magazine Index. This index is critical for your research on that next project. 

## AT THE THROTTLE

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# BUILDING SOUTH RIVER MODEL WORKS ROBINSON'S ELECTRIC

BY NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR

Whenever one of my structures or dioramas are on exhibit either at a division meet or model railroading show of some sort I'm invariably asked by other modelers, or model railroading enthusiasts, the following question: "How many hours did it take you to do *that*?" My usual answer is, "I actually have no idea." And

the reason for my answer is simple. I don't keep track of time or maintain some log of hours spent at the work bench while modeling. That's one of the joys of the hobby. No time clocks. No schedules. No deadlines.

The only thing I can honestly say when asked the inevitable question is, "I probably worked on it over a number of months."

In this and succeeding articles I'll document my efforts in building Robinson's Electric, a craftsman kit produced by Bob Van Gelder's South River Modelworks, as I'm actually doing the modeling. In this way readers will get a better understanding as to exactly how much time and effort is put into constructing this type of advanced craftsman kit.

I've built some twelve different South River Modelworks structure kits in the past, and I therefore know from that experience the general approach to constructing any SRM kit. I rarely, if ever, however, follow an SRM kit's instructions



verbatim since in almost every structure I've built I've included my own interior detailing (either scratch built or commercially available) and lighting; additions which mandate some variation from the prescribed order of construction set forth in the kit's instructions.

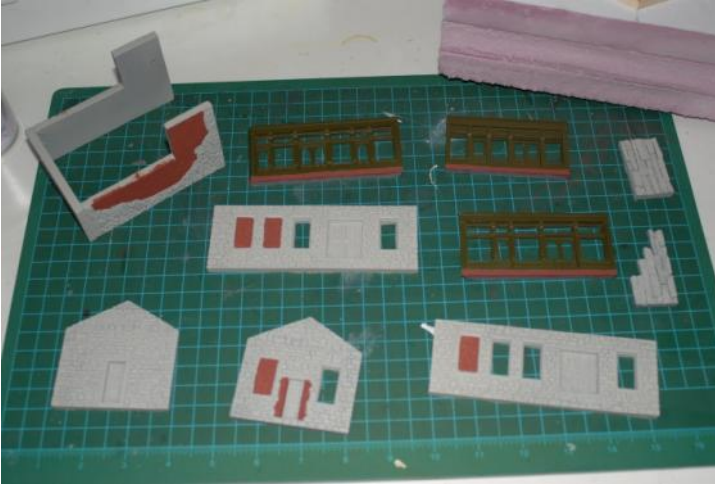
Robinson's Electric will be no exception, since I plan to at the very least add my own lighting. Whether interior detail will find its way into this model will ultimately depend upon how much of the interior will actually be visible to the viewer once the floors and walls are in place, or at least temporarily situated on the base before being finally affixed to it.

Prior to beginning any model, no less an SRM kit, the first thing I do is read over the instructions and peruse the color photos or other documentation to make sure I have an adequate supply of fresh paints to complete the job. There's nothing worse than starting a project, and building up a head of steam, only to find the work has to come to a dead stop because you

*(SRMW continued on page 4)*



either don't have the right paints, or the paints you have are not "fresh" in that they are either partly or completely coagulated. I also check my brushes to make sure they are "fresh." If not, I do my hobby or craft store shopping before starting, not while the work is progressing. You'll find, as I have, that once you are forced to stop working on a project, for whatever reason, it may be difficult to return to it for quite some time given the other pressures or distractions of life---such as your job or other equally important imperatives and demands on your time.



When I checked my supplies after receiving this latest kit, I discovered I needed several cans of hobby flat and enamel paints. Incidentally, I don't know about you, but in the wintertime I will not set up my spray booth in my garage and use an airbrush. The only ventilation I have (or choose to have) is an open garage door, and I am simply not going to sit in my unheated garage and freeze to do my spray painting. As an aside, even using spray cans in the winter can be a difficult task, what with the wind, the snow or ice outside the entrance to my garage where the painting will probably take place if the cars cannot be moved, the cold air affecting the flow of paint out of the can's nozzle, and the general discomfort caused by heavy winter coats and bulky clothing. I've done it a number of times, but my preference is not to do any spray painting in the dead of winter if I can avoid it.


Fortunately, Home Depot finally has available the type of one-inch-thick pink insulation paneling for which I've been looking for a number of years. This material forms the model's base and the basic structure or scenery support of any diorama. In the past I've substituted one-half-inch thick foam board for the insulation. The one-inch thick insulation material makes life easier since you don't have to

sandwich two half-inch pieces every time a one inch height is required.

I constructed the base for the model using this insulation material and glued onto it the paper template for the building's foundation, which is composed of strip wood. On occasion, I have found that the base template in an SRM kit is somewhat "off" in that it was either bigger or smaller than it should have been given the configuration of the walls above. This one was not the correct size by a matter of millimeters. I had to adjust the strip wood foundation so that the store front castings would fit correctly.

I primed most of the major resin castings containing stone work with a dark gray automotive-type primer, and then sprayed them again with a flat, very light gray paint (Model Master Flat Gull Gray) that will serve as the base color for the stone. I've painted the areas which will be brick with a mixture of craft paints (Georgia Clay and Charcoal), and I sprayed the store front castings first with the primer and then with a dark-green-colored spray paint. This was followed by painting the brick areas on the store front with the brick color. The final brick color will be the residual result of white and gray chalks used on the painted brick to simulate a mortar color as well as red, brown and various shades of gray chalk used to replicate on the "bricks" the weathering effects of age and environment.

I also painted the interior of the windows and the doors white, various stones different shades of gray and the lintels a mudstone color using craft paints. It's always an issue using craft paints over oil based paints. You simply have to use the craft paint full strength (undiluted with water) and then go over for a second time areas which dry an unacceptably light color. It's the price you pay for choosing to use craft paints at times rather than using oil-based paints only.

And we've only just begun. 

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MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:  
TOM CASEY  
[TCASEY@CO.BERGEN.NJ.US](mailto:TCASEY@CO.BERGEN.NJ.US)

(Ice Cream Social Continued from Page 1)

**Morristown & Erie's  
Alco C-424 provided  
the head end power  
for the excursion▶**

Photo by Tom Wortmann



◀ You can spot a few GSD members enjoying the ride in the CNJ's club car, the Jersey Coast

Photo by Tom Wortmann

**GSD members enjoying the ice cream social▶**

Photo by Ciro Compagno



◀ Southern Railway's number 385, a Baldwin 2-8-0, was taken out of service in 1978. It is currently a static display at the museum.


Photo by Norman Frowley

(Ice Cream Social Continued on Page 6)



those interested, a ride on the 'Caboose Train' (or a ride in the restored Jersey Central heavy weight club car) was available. Pulling that train was one of the ALCO C424's that the Morristown and Erie currently uses for motive power. That ALCO, #19, started life on the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad. Between runs, GSD members had the opportunity to 'get up close and personal' with that C424!

Also on the grounds was plenty of evidence of the progress being made on the complete restoration of the Museum's ALCO 0-6-0 steamer #4039. Originally made for the US Army during WWII, it went on to work 15 years moving freight for the Blue Ridge Railway before having a life pulling tourist trains. Once the restoration is complete, #4039 will once again be serving that role – right at the Whippany location (See related information in the blue box, below).

All in all, a good time was had by all who made the trip to Whippany on July 10th. 



**A variety of cabooses complete the remainder of the train ▲**  
Photo by Norman Frowley

NOVEMBER IS....



## Fund Raiser for #4039.

On November 5, 2011, the Delaware River Railroad Excursions will be holding a fundraiser to help generate funds to complete the restoration of #4039.

For just \$30, you can get a full-day pass to ride behind steam and participate in the various run-bys.

For more information, go to the following website:  
<http://877trainride.com/4039.htm>

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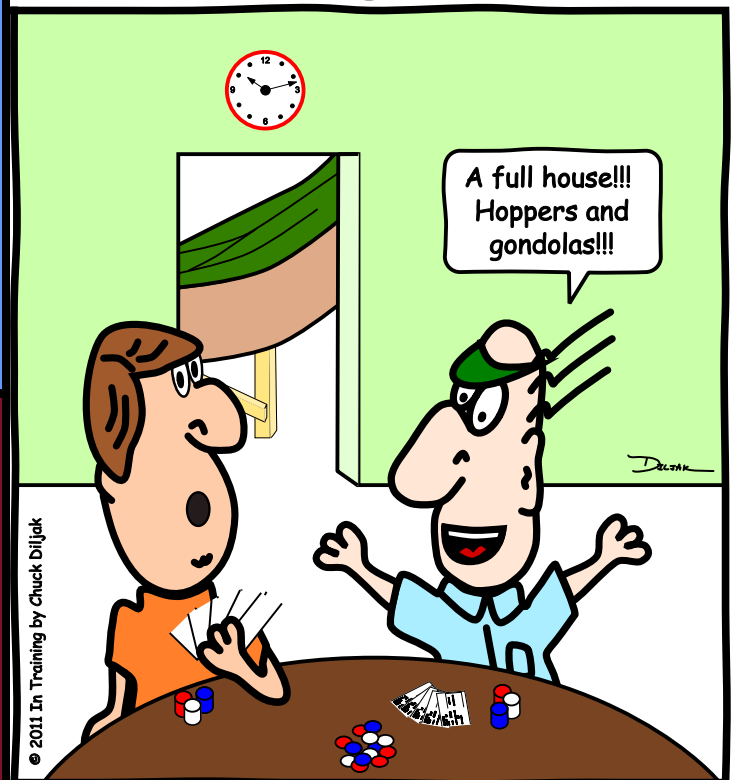
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## In Training

by Chuck Diljak



What really happens in the crew lounge during an operating session

## MODELING TIP

### PROBLEM:

MODELING PAINT CAN BE PRICEY, OVER TIME, AND MOST IF IT GOES TO WASTE BEFORE IT CAN BE USED WHEN THEY DRY OUT IN THE BOTTLES.

### SOLUTION:

THE TRICK IS TO SEAL THE BOTTLE WITH THE PLASTIC FROM PARTS BAGS INCLUDED WITH MODEL KITS. CUT THE BAGS INTO 1 INCH SQUARES AND EVERY TIME YOU OPEN A BOTTLE, REPLACE THE SHEET IN THE BOTTLE WITH A NEW ONE.

*CONTRIBUTED BY  
TOM WORTMANN*

## 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](http://WWW.NERGSD.COM/ACHIEV.HTML)

### MODELING TIPS CAN BE SENT TO:

CHUCK DILJAK, EDITOR  
[GSDWHISTLEPOST@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GSDWHISTLEPOST@YAHOO.COM)



# THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM? I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THAT!

*BY AP CHAIRMAN NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR*

I've heard the following said by a number of NMRA members: "The Achievement Program? I have no need for, or interest in that." Let's analyze that statement for a second.


Most of us who partake in any activity in general or take up a hobby in particular have a desire to either be the best we can at what we do, or at least get progressively better. Take skiing, for example. Anyone who loves skiing hopes to move up from the green circle (or bunny-type) slopes up to the blue square or intermediate trails and eventually to the black diamond or expert runs. Some never get to become expert skiers, but they strive to get better. The same holds true for golf. Golfing enthusiasts practice or take lessons to lower their handicap or at a minimum keep the ball in the short grass and out of the woods.

But it seems to be a common thought among many model railroaders that getting to be a "better" model railroader is not a priority. Or they may believe that it requires too much effort to get "better" in any modeling skill whatever that means in any particular context. I respectfully suggest that all of these premises are flawed. Being a more informed and skillful model railroader does not take that much effort and at the same time leads to greater satisfaction from the hobby. Indeed, in my opinion, many lose interest in the hobby because they don't continually expand their model railroading horizons by learning new skills or perfecting whatever modeling knowledge they already possess.

So who needs the Achievement pro-

gram? Anyone who wants to gain enjoyment from building their own rolling stock, or constructing their own structures, that's who. Anyone who wants to hand lay track or do prototype modeling, that's who. Anyone who wants to learn the details of railroad operations or create realistic scenery, that's who.

Sure, modeling straight "out of the box" is model railroading. However, is there anyone who can truthfully say they derive greater satisfaction or pleasure from off the shelf creations than from models which came to life through their own efforts and skill? Can anyone be sure that their own work is superior without having it evaluated by experienced hobbyists. Some may say they get equal satisfaction from store bought and self constructed models. But if you haven't tried to create quality models on your own, you'll never be able to make a valid comparison.

Here's the challenge to all those who have never tried the Achievement Program. Just give it a stab. Build from scratch or kits rolling stock, structures, or motive power. Hand lay a switch or create a prototype scene and have your efforts evaluated by AP personnel. See if you learn something. See if you derive some self satisfaction from your work. See if the expenditure of time and effort pays off with a dividend of increased knowledge and craftsmanship. If it doesn't, then you can truly say that you have no use for the Achievement Program. But my bet is that once you try to obtain an Achievement certificate you'll wonder why you never participated in the program before. 




# AMERICANIZING A “COFFEE POT”

ARTICLE BY CHUCK DILJAK AND TOM PICCIRILLO, MMR

When I first saw Tom's photos that accompany this article, it reminded me of an articulated Santa Fe doodlebug that I saw photos of, years ago. I have a fondness for doodlebugs and you can find that Santa Fe locomotive at [www.northeast.railfan.net/images/sfM190.jpg](http://www.northeast.railfan.net/images/sfM190.jpg).

The locomotive started as an On30 “Coffee Pot” steam railcar from Ixion models. You can find the model by visiting their website at [www.ixionmodels.com](http://www.ixionmodels.com). Tom converted the locomotive for use on Ray Buteux's Sterling Mountain and Hudson Railroad. He began by removing the original cab, pilot, and side steps and took measurements as a first step to design the revised model. Tom contacted Mount Blue Model Company, a manufacturer of many laser cut models and replacement parts. Their website can be found at [www.mountainbluemodelco.com](http://www.mountainbluemodelco.com).

Over the course of a few weeks, the folks at Mount Blue and Tom designed and laser cut the parts needed to Americanize the “Coffee Pot” with a new cab, wooden pilots, and side doors. Tom also added many other details to the model before airbrushing it with Pollyscales paint, adding custom decals, and weathering.

So where is this weird contraption, now? It is currently leased to Tom's Harter Felsen Quarry Company, where it has been shuttling employees back and forth from crusher to tipple while the company's narrow gauge coach is laid-up for repairs. 





## NEXT DIVISION MEETING

**TIME:**  
11 AM

**DATE:**  
OCTOBER 1, 2011

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

**DIRECTIONS:**  
FOR A GOOGLE MAP, CLICK ON  
THE GOOGLE LOGO, BELOW:



**AGENDA:**  
CLINICS  
OPERATING SESSION  
MODEL JUDGING  
DOOR PRIZES  
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS  
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE (10% OF  
PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO GSD)

**COST:**  
\$6

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

TOM PICCIRILLO, MMR  
TOMP1952@VERIZON.NET



*GSD Members are invited to the:*

## NEXT GSD MEET IN HO-HO-KUS

*BY BRUCE DEYOUNG*

If you missed our winter Business Meeting at the Pacific Southern Railway Club in Rocky Hill; if you didn't make our spring meeting at The Model Railroad Club in Union, and if you passed up the Ice Cream Social at the Whippany Railway Museum in July, you still have one more chance to attend one of the GSD's meetings.

The fall meet will be on October 1st in Ho-Ho-Kus (Bergen County) at the Ramapo Valley Railroad Club.



As always, some great clinics are planned. Clinic Coordinator Tom Piccirillo has once again planned for three clinics: Howard Lash: Decal Making and Application; Norm Frowley, MMR: How to Win a Model Contest; and Tom Piccirillo, MMR: Threaded Fasteners for Model Building. In addition to the clinics, there will be food, door prizes, model judging, a White Elephant Table, and an operating session on the club's layout.

For those who would like to take a train to this meet, the club is located within easy walking distance from NJT's Ho-Ho-Kus station. For more information on the club and directions on how to get there, just follow this link:

<http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com/history/>

We hope to see you there!



## STOP AT THE GSD BOOTH AT THE GREENBERG SHOW

*BY CHUCK DILJAK*

November is National Model Railroad Month. And, what is the GSD doing for this special month? We will be at the Greenberg Train & Toy Show in Edison, NJ, on November 26 and 27. Outside of the regular GSD meets, this is an opportunity to meet the GSD staff and talk about your interest in the hobby and the NMRA. Information about the show can be found on page 14 of this issue. We hope to see you there!





# MEETING MINUTES

BY SECRETARY CIRO COMPAGNO

## Purpose

Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting

## Date/Time

Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 10:00 am

## Place

Home of Norman Frowley

## Attendees

Andy Brusgard, Joe Calderone, Ciro Compagno, Chuck Diljak, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

## President's Report

Norman provided open remarks. He briefly reviewed the intent of monies from National to Regional level (i.e., \$1 per member). This money is intended for National purposes; e.g., the Achievement Program and membership communications (e.g., Division website and newsletter), and not for a general fund. Thus, related Division expenses should be specifically accounted for.

The person that gives away the door prize during a GSD meet should announce the company or store that made the donation.

## Secretary's Report

Ciro reviewed the 03/20/10 staff meeting minutes. Several editorial revisions were made. With revisions, the minutes were accepted. It was agreed future minutes would highlight open action items.

## Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented a year-to-date financial summary. There was an open discussion on the reports. The lack of collection of the 10% commission for the white-elephant table activities for the Spring Meet was discussed. Tom W. donated four door prizes from the estate-related, white-elephant sales. Other individual sales went uncollected. Anthony P. will follow-up and ask other known individuals. All agreed a white elephant Coordinator is needed for future meets. Tom W. repaired and updated the GSD laptop. Tom W. will give Tom C. the lap-

top in October. Andy offered Tom W. to give it to Tom C. The Treasurer's report was accepted as amended.

## Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman presented the reports. Several merit awards were given at the Spring Meet where several nice models were presented. The Division has been active in the Achievement Program. A very positive approach is being emphasized throughout the Region. Constructive feedback with positive attitude is very important. He will be giving a clinic "How to be an Effective AP Judge" at the upcoming Regional Convention on how to be an effective model judge. Certificate of Judge Approval program is ongoing.

## Events Report

There was a group discussion:

Spring Meet, May, hosted by The Model Railroad Club, Union, NJ:

- It was a very successful meet with a record 47 attendees
- Advertising of clinics proved to be very important
- Timing of responses is important with three notices being ideal.
- Tom W. indicated Ed Fraedrich's estate sale is done. The family has approached Tom W. and asked for the names of groups Ed belonged to for a possible donation. They presently have Anthony's and the Treasurer of his model railroad club.

Summer Meet, Sunday, July 10, Whippany Railway Museum

- Norman will bring the ice cream scoops and a cooler with ice.
- Bruce will bring food, ice cream, dry ice, cups and spoons, napkins. He will be there around 12:30 pm to cordon an area for the Division.
- Everyone needs to bring tables and chairs.
- Chuck asked Tom W. to take GSD group photograph for the Fall newsletter.

- Tom W. will take general photos.
- Roger Post, NYSME member, will likely be working as a train engineer.
- \$3 event fee.

Fall Meet, Saturday, October 1, Ramapo Valley Railroad Club, 11:00 am

- Tom P. indicated two persons (guest) offered to give a clinic. Norman and Tom P. offered to give a clinic if needed. Tom P. will finalize clinics.
- There will be an \$6 admission fee
- There will be coffee, soda, bagels, cream cheese, etc. for this midday event.
- Operating session, model judging, door prizes, and white-elephant table is possible if providers come forward. Norman will follow-up with Bruce to confirm the Operating Session.

## Membership & Club Chair's Report

- Tom C. has been sending Andy the Regional membership lists. Andy stated the Hunterdon County members are still not on the Region list.
- Volunteers at the National maintain the list. Jenny Hendricks approves it.
- Andy indicated the division membership is holding steady around 254. This does not include the 12 Hunterdon County members.

## Whistle Post Report

- Chuck stated the Editor's staff has been meeting monthly. The process is working out well. Summer issue is complete and awaiting the Richmond Harbor column. The plan is to publish the issue in a week. There will likely be a Whistle Post Extra for the upcoming Fall Meet. Photos may be needed of Ramapo Valley Railroad Club. He is presently working on the Fall issue.
- Norman indicated all photos should be e-mailed the Photograph Editor Tom W.
- Tom W. is taking photos and Bruce is writing the Summer Meet article.
- Chuck has added newsletter articles

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 12)



## ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES  
FOR *THE WHISTLE POST*:

JANUARY 10

APRIL 10

JULY 10

OCTOBER 10

### EDITOR

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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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### SUBSCRIPTION COST:

\$10 PER CALENDAR YEAR

SEND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND  
SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS TO:

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## PHOTO THEME FOR NEXT ISSUE: *HAND-LAID TRACK*



▲ *Ever tried making your own track? Not out of the box, but making and laying your own track using rails and ties? You really build a railroad that way and if you have tried, let us know by sending in a picture of your work as seen here with **Ciro Compagno's** hand laid 15 degree crossing still under construction. It's not as hard as you think. *

*Photo by **Ciro Compagno***

**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](mailto:gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com).

## Want to be a Clinician?

We seek members who would like to give a clinic at our Division Meets. If you can present a clinic, you'll help your fellow model railroaders enjoy their hobby even more than they do now, have a chance to strut your stuff, and have fun while doing it!

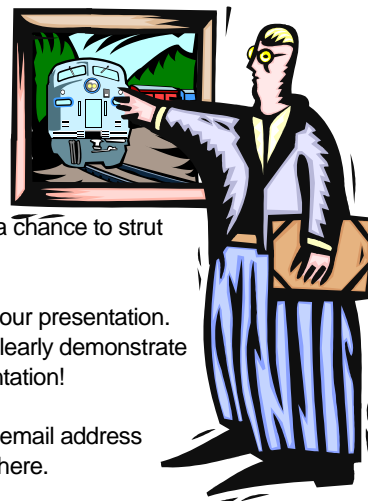
A video camera and projection screen will be available to assist your presentation. Fancy graphics are not required, but you should be prepared to clearly demonstrate and fully explain the topic. We'll even help you set up your presentation!


If you'd like to present a clinic, please send an email to me at the email address below with your suggested topic and we'll discuss it further from there.

Tom Piccirillo, MMR

Chairman, NMRA-GSD Clinic Program Committee

[tomp1952@verizon.net](mailto:tomp1952@verizon.net)



- This year's Sacramento convention attendance topped the 2,000 mark -- the continuation of an upward attendance trend.
- The folks at the NMRA Membership Booth at the National Train Show signed up 243 new members in three days!
- Many of the clinicians at the Sacramento convention have uploaded their handouts or full presentations as PDF files to the x2011 website at [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org). Anyone can download them. Just look for the Clinics tab, then Clinic Handouts.
- Based on two big proposals for the 2015 National NMRA Convention, the Board of Directors selected Portland, Ore. as the winner. Details and exact timing of the convention will be announced in the coming months.
- The "Carpet Cutting" at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento marked the official start of fundraising for a scale model railroading exhibit in the museum's Gallery area. No NMRA dues or regular revenue streams will be used to fund this project, so its construction will rely entirely on donations. For more details about the Gallery Exhibit, see the article in the May 2011 issue of NMRA Magazine.
- The Board continues to review the timing of all future conventions. While a mid-summer date has been traditional because of lower hotel and convention center rates over the July 4 weekend, many NMRA members have voiced the concern that it conflicts with family functions. Constructive suggestions may be directed to the Convention Committee, headed by Pacific Director Peter Jensen.
- Registration for Grand Rails 2012 is well underway. Members can visit the website at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) and either register online or download a mail-in form. Non-members can also sign up at that time. Note that currently registration only covers the costs of attending the convention. Furniture City Flyers Club members will receive the complete list of tours, activities, and merchandise in December, followed by advance registrants, then all other members.
- The Howell Day Museum is planning a new release of its extremely popular Commemorative Car #3 -- the Gorre and Daphetid bobber cabooses -- except this run will feature two new road numbers, #3 and #5. As you may know, John Allen was very fond of these cabooses and ran a fleet of them on his G&D railroad. Pricing will be \$19.95 for one car, or \$34.95 for the set of two. Watch for the announcement of their availability at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org), or keep your eyes open for the ad which will appear in NMRA Magazine. 

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 10)

(non-meet related) to the NMRA Magazine Index.

- Chuck is looking for modeling tip ideas to include in the newsletter.

### Old Business

- Tom W. indicated he has some videos and wording that could be used for public events (e.g. Greenberg Train Show). He is waiting for the president's video, which Norman will provide. Tom W. stated the goal is to have it completed for the Fall Meet.
- Tom W. is waiting until the Fall to purchase transportable, flat-panel monitor. A 32 in. size was suggested.
- Andy will follow-up with the National regarding membership package and promotional items to have available for the Fall Meet.
- Anthony will follow-up with Bob Dennis regarding the GSD cloth sign with grommets.
- Anthony's initial local vendor for a GSD badge failed. He will follow-up with another vendor and have sample

badges within 2 weeks and provide Norman photos. Chuck will send Anthony the GSD logo. The goal is to have the badge available to all staff members for the Fall Meet.

- Ciro presented a large print version of the NMRA Railpass. Joe will follow-up with a local vendor to obtain a quote for a foam version.
- Tom W. received approval to write-up an e-mail to send to the membership requesting photos for the newsletter. Andy will send e-mail.
- Andy will continue working on developing a postcard to promote the Division.
- Tom C. sent Norman a suggested paragraph for Edward Fraedrich service award. Norman suggested it should be awarded by the Directors to a Division member for sustained (over a period of time) dedicated service in the Division. It does not need to be an annual award. Tom W. and Tom C. will complete final wording by the next staff meeting.
- Anthony will finalize the details for Model Railroad Day at Lake Mohawk planned for September 17. Anthony

asked for any ideas for the event. One idea is to have activities for Boy Scouts to earn a model railroad badge.

- Anthony will update The Paul Mallory Award trophy to include the 2010 recipient. The award is presently located at The Model Railroad Club.

### New Business

- Ciro will send nomination of Andy for the Robert W. Spate Public Service Award by July 1, 2011.
- Chuck provided an overview and benefits of the private GSD Staff Yahoo Group. It is open and available. Chuck will re-send an invitation to the staff.
- Joe accepted the appointment of GSD liaison to the New Jersey Division.
- Tom W. will look into having the Winter Meeting at the Staten Island Marine Corp. League, and asking local members to open their home layouts.

Next staff meeting is at Joe's home on September 24th at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM 



## 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.



QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SERIES CAN BE SENT TO:  
CIRO COMPAGNO  
GSDSECRETARY@VERIZON.NET

## BUILDING

# RICHMOND HARBOR

BY CIRO COMPAGNO

With a cloudy blue sky on the scenic divider, it was time to switch gears and begin sub roadbed construction. I still need more clouds to paint. However, I was "chompin' at the bit" to start track construction. When I need a break from track construction, I will return to cloud painting. There is a lot of available information and opinions on sub roadbed construction, which can be overwhelming. This is where hobby friends and visiting home layouts become invaluable. You listen to their successes and mishaps, note what you like and dislike, make a mental list of pros and cons, etc. My final decision was to try something my local hobby friends admired but never actually attempted (drum roll please) ..... spline sub roadbed.

Yes, spline roadbed. It has been around for decades. Yet, it is the least chosen sub roadbed technique. Because my track plan calls for many curves, spline sub roadbed is the best choice. Tempered hardboard spline is a strong flexible material that can form smooth, natural-flowing surface to accept the above track work. With the paper track plan in hand, the steps are:

- temporarily hold, using spring clamps, single and double-risers along the planned mainline.
- risers are spaced 18 to 24 in. on-center at each joist.
- add sub joists to fit risers in-between joists.
- use 2 and 4 ft. construction levels for the correct grades (for my plan the grade is 0%).
- install a drywall screw at each riser to temporarily mark the track centerline.
- temporarily hold, using spring clamps, the first 1 in. spline strip. Take advantage of drywall screws to hold the strip for curved sections.
- stand back and see for the first time the overall shape of the mainline. Does it make sense?
- check, double check and triple check, risers, grade and drywall screws. Adjustments will be needed.
- As the mainline takes shape, tweak the track plan to account for any major differences.




▲A strip for the spline sub roadbed shows the natural sweep of the curve

▼Screws mark the track centerline and hold a strip for the spline subroadbed in position



▲ A second photo showing the screws used to hold the spline subroadbed

Before adding additional spline strips, have hobby friends inspected your workmanship. By listening and learning from them, you will improve your skills and build a better sub roadbed. The next article I will delve into more detail about building-up the sub roadbed for a double track mainline and adding roadbed. 

# Holiday Timetable - Dates and Times

Daily, Oct 13. to Oct. 15	Times vary by Day	Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo	<a href="http://modelrailroadexpo.com">modelrailroadexpo.com</a>
Saturday, Oct. 23	9 AM—2PM	NYSME Scale Only Swap Meet	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Saturday, Oct. 29	9 AM—4 PM	Great Scale Model Train Show	<a href="http://www.gsmts.com">www.gsmts.com</a>
Sunday, Oct. 30	10 AM—4PM	Great Scale Model Train Show	<a href="http://www.gsmts.com">www.gsmts.com</a>
Daily, Nov. 2 to Nov. 5	Times vary by day	Craftsman Structure Show	<a href="http://www.csc11.net">www.csc11.net</a>
Daily, Nov. 19 to Dec. 31	See website for times	New Hope & Ivyland Railroad	<a href="http://www.newhoperailroad.com">www.newhoperailroad.com</a>
Friday, Nov. 18	7—10 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Saturday, Nov. 19	1—6 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Sunday, Nov. 20	1—6 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
	1—4 PM	Ramapo Valley Railroad Club	<a href="http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com">ramapovalleyrailroad.com</a>
	9 AM—3 PM	Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama	<a href="http://www.dovertrainshow.com">www.dovertrainshow.com</a>
Friday, Nov. 25	Noon—10 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	7—10 PM	Model Engineers Railroad Club of NJ	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj">www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj</a>
	7—10 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	7—10 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Saturday, Nov. 26	10 AM—4 PM	Greenberg Show in Edison, NJ	<a href="http://www.greenbergshows.com">www.greenbergshows.com</a>
	10 AM—8 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—5 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	1—5 PM	Model Engineers Railroad Club of NJ	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj">www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj</a>
	1—6 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Sunday, Nov. 27	10 AM—4 PM	Greenberg Show in Edison, NJ	<a href="http://www.greenbergshows.com">www.greenbergshows.com</a>
	11 AM—6 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—5 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	1—5 PM	Model Engineers Railroad Club of NJ	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj">www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj</a>
	1—4 PM	Ramapo Valley Railroad Club	<a href="http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com">ramapovalleyrailroad.com</a>
	1—6 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Friday, Dec. 2	7—10 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	7—10 PM	Model Engineers Railroad Club of NJ	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj">www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj</a>
	7—10 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	7—10 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Saturday, Dec. 3	10 AM—8 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—5 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	1—5 PM	Model Engineers Railroad Club of NJ	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj">www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj</a>
	1—6 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Sunday, Dec. 4	9 AM—3 PM	Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama	<a href="http://www.dovertrainshow.com">www.dovertrainshow.com</a>
	11 AM—6 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—4 PM	Ramapo Valley Railroad Club	<a href="http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com">ramapovalleyrailroad.com</a>
	1—5 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	1—5 PM	Model Engineers Railroad Club of NJ	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj">www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj</a>
	1—6 PM	New York Society of Model Engineers	<a href="http://www.modelengineers.org">www.modelengineers.org</a>
Friday, Dec. 9	7—10 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	7—10 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
Saturday, Dec. 10	10 AM—8 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—5 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
Sunday, Dec. 11	11 AM—6 PM	Model Railroad Club, The	<a href="http://www.tmrcl.com">www.tmrcl.com</a>
	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—5 PM	Garden State Railway Club	<a href="http://www.gsmrrclub.org">www.gsmrrclub.org</a>
	1—4 PM	Ramapo Valley Railroad Club	<a href="http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com">ramapovalleyrailroad.com</a>
Saturday, Dec. 17	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
Sunday, Dec. 18	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
	1—4PM	Ramapo Valley Railroad Club	<a href="http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com">ramapovalleyrailroad.com</a>
Friday, Dec. 23	1 PM and 2:30 PM	Essex Steam Train Santa Special	<a href="http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html">www.essexsteamtrain.com/santa.html</a>
Saturday, Jan. 7	10 AM—4 PM	Greenberg Show in Somerset, NJ	<a href="http://www.greenbergshows.com">www.greenbergshows.com</a>
Sunday, Jan. 8	10 AM—4 PM	Greenberg Show in Somerset, NJ	<a href="http://www.greenbergshows.com">www.greenbergshows.com</a>
Saturday, Jan. 28	9 AM—5 PM	Amherst Railway Society Railroad Show	<a href="http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com">www.railroadhobbyshow.com</a>
Sunday, Jan. 29	10 AM—5 PM	Amherst Railway Society Railroad Show	<a href="http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com">www.railroadhobbyshow.com</a>



## PHOTOGRAPHY TIP

WITH THE ONSET OF DIGITAL CAMERAS THERE IS ALMOST NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS ONE CAN TAKE. I HIGHLY SUGGEST THAT YOU NEVER TAKE ONE PHOTOGRAPH OF ANYTHING. TAKE 2, 3, 4 OR MORE. TRY DIFFERENT ANGLES, LIGHTING, POSITIONS AND KEEP WHAT LOOKS BEST. HEY, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOUR CAMERA MAY CAPTURE!

CONTRIBUTED BY  
TOM WORTMANN



# CUSTOM PAINTED LOCOS

*The Laredo Division of the Rio Grande runs a new GP-9 on Frank Russo's layout. The loco was custom painted & lettered by Trains Emporium in Nevada.▶*

*Photo by Frank Russo*



◀ *The Wyoming Valley's only SW-7 sits at the West Coalton station waiting for it's next assignment. The locomotive was painted and lettered by Chuck Diljak using custom Rail Graphics decals.*

*Photo by Chuck Diljak*



▲ *Tom Piccirillo, MMR, custom painted and lettered these two Atlas Alco RS1's for his O scale Easton & Amboy Railroad. Tom used LV PollyScale Cornell Red and a custom-blended PollyScale warm black for his color scheme. The lettering was created with an Alps printer on Micro-Mark blank decal paper. The locos were lightly weathered using PollyScale Mud and Dust colors.*

*Photo by Tom Piccirillo*



◀ *Starting with a Athearn blue box engine, this unit was stripped and repainted and lettered with Microscale decals by Vincent Zablocki.*

*Photo by Vincent Zablocki*



*Joe Calderone's NW-2 Kato HO scale model that was repainted for the NYO&W by a good friend Bruce Barrett.▶*

*Photo by Joe Calderone*

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY, INQUIRIES CAN BE SENT TO:  
TOM WORTMANN  
[MISKYRAILS@MSN.COM](mailto:MISKYRAILS@MSN.COM)



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*The date in the mailing label corner identifies  
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In December 1955, a thin blanket of snow covers the ROW as Staten Island Rapid Transit Rwy. Alco S-2 488 makes its way past the Wallerstein Corporation Syrup Plant in Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island. It is pulling a short freight toward St. George Yard car ferry terminal. this scene was shot on Marc Pitanza's N scale bookcase layout which measures only 6 feet by 15 inches. He has changed this scene recently to represent summer 1953.

*Photo by Marc Pitanza*