



# The WHISTLE POST

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

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## Tom Piccirillo, MMR #418

My story begins like many of you who enjoy the art of model railroading. My parents gave me a set of Lionel trains in 1955 when I was just 3 years old. I switched to HO scale in 1964 after discovering a Model Railroader magazine with a John Allen cover at the corner store. I learned a lot about mechanics and electronics by reading Model Railroader over the ensuing years, and I have since collected every issue published. I promised myself that someday my model railroad would be featured within its pages. That promise was filled in the April 1996 issue, and my latest railroad is featured in Great Model Railroads 2009.

As a teenager, I used to ride my bike to see the annual exhibition put on by the Westfield, NJ, O scale model railroad club. I had become fascinated by the model traction equipment that ran on that line...that it received power from the overhead wire was of particular interest. In those days, you had to be at least 21 years old to join the club, and I did just that as soon as I was old enough. Some members of the club had roots that went all the way back to the 1930's, and I was fortunate to apprentice with some of the finest traction modelers in the country...Jack Shawde, Gene Stains and Bill Bolmer.

My O scale Somerset County Traction System was developed in stages, starting in a small apartment in 1977...very soon after the Westfield Club had lost its layout space. In 1981, I bought my first house, and the layout was enlarged. A further move in 1987 allowed further expansion, and, in 2000, I moved to my current home and built the layout shown in GMR 2009.

After being graduated from Newark (NJ) College of Engineering in 1974 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, I worked for various industrial firms in New Jersey, holding various R&D and managerial positions in all departments. In 1992, I joined Micro-Mark, a manufacturer and distributor of tools and supplies for model builders, and followed a career path that led to the position of president.



Since all the trackwork on my model railroad is complete, my operating crew gathers twice a month to run the railroad. I have reached what many call the "fun stage" of model railroading, and can pick and choose the projects I care to work on...anything from building a locomotive to rolling stock to scenery to structures, sound systems and animation. I also own and operate a 1" scale live-steam locomotive.

*"Tom Piccirillo, MMR #418" continued on Page 7*



## THE CAB

### Next Stop, Hartford!

Well, I am off to Hartford on Sunday with some friends and I can't wait. Hartford will be the 8th National Convention I have attended and I have a very busy week planned. I will be taking three tours, presenting my photo contest clinic twice, helping with security at the OPSIG room Monday evening, operating in the OPSIG room on Thursday, selling a whole bunch of things at the silent auction, helping out at the tour desk, seeing a heck of a lot of clinics, including a hands-on clinic, and photo judging in the contest room. Plus, I plan on meeting a number of folks I know and making new friends. Finally, there is the National Train Show where I will be working most of the day at the Iwata air brush booth. That will be a lot of fun.

The tours are a terrific way to see how others have built their layouts. I take many of these tours with my friends from home. For those tours where I am not with my friends, I always manage to make new friends on the tour, along the way.


The clinics are great because you can now see how something is done. The hands-on clinics take it to another level because you are actually doing the work and learning from it!

The model and photo judging is also a learning experience. You always walk away with an idea on something.

The silent auction, or any auction, is a great way to unload or pickup some model items. You can always find tools or trains at good prices.

And then there are the operating sessions. I belong to the OPSIG because I enjoy running operations on my own layout. Operating on someone else's layout adds something special to the experience.

Last but not least is the National Train Show. It is similar to a Greenberg show. But, at the Train Show, the manufacturers are on hand to show off their products. Many have giveaways, samples or other items to show off their line. They even show you how to use their products right there, as I will be doing in the Iwata booth.

Yes, it will be a full week for sure. But, it will be worth every minute. So if you haven't signed on, come on up to Hartford to sign up. And, if you are coming, I will see you there. 



## THE CABOOSE

### Making and Marking Progress

There is a new series of articles appearing in *The Whistle Post*, beginning with this issue. Ciro Compagno, the division secretary, is building a new layout. And, he graciously offered to provide snippets of progress for *The Whistle Post*. This new series will appear periodically in this newsletter, as Ciro makes progress on the layout. It will be a wonderful way for other model railroaders to learn from Ciro's progress. And it may even inspire them to start or continue building their own layouts.

We begin this new series with Ciro preparing the layout room. Many model railroaders are tempted to skip this step, only to regret it later on. It is much easier to tackle the walls, flooring, ceiling, and lighting without having a layout in the way. In addition, performing these tasks before building the layout will prevent damage being made to the layout.

Future installments are expected to cover the design, benchwork building, track laying, scenery building, structure building, and the operation of the layout. But, you can see from this issue, Ciro is just getting started. So, let's get you caught up to where he is at.

On another note: This issue marks my eighth issue as editor of *The Whistle Post*. *The Whistle Post* is published four times a year. So, if I have done my math correctly, this issue represents two full years as editor. Time sure seems

to fly when you are having fun, and that is definitely the case here. But, the success of *The Whistle Post* would not be possible without the many contributions you have made over the last two years. Your stories, photos, and ideas are what make a good newsletter.

Speaking of contributions: Check out the photo theme for the next issue of *The Whistle Post*. The theme is the national convention, Hartford National 2009. If you attended the national convention, consider submitting photos of the convention for publication in *The Whistle Post*. The photos can be from a clinic, the Train Show, a layout tour, a prototype tour, the contest room, or any other event associated with the convention. Please be sure to include a description of what is in the photo, when sending them in.

In addition, if you have stories from the convention you would like to share with the readers, forward those to me as well. Perhaps you learned about a new technique from a clinic or layout tour. Or, you found a really great product at the Train Show. Or, maybe you learned a few interesting things about how the prototype does its thing, during a tour of the prototype. Whatever the story, it may be of interest to the readers.

Onward to issue number 112! 

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# RESIN CASTING, PART 2

by Tom Griffiths



The Hoboken Terminal at the 2008 NER Convention

Photo by Norman Frowley

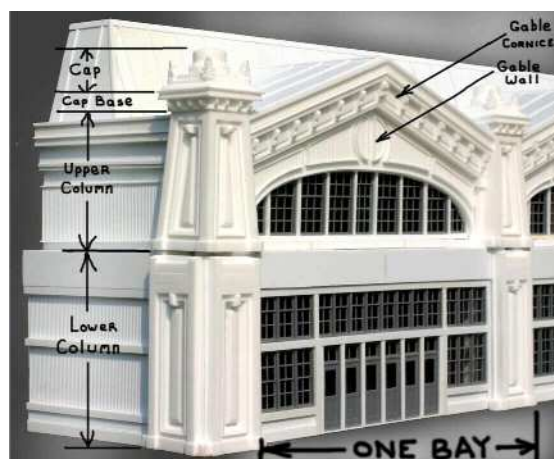
In the previous edition of the *Whistle Post*, I gave an overview regarding my use of styrene, glues, and resins. Follow along as I show you how I build the masters for the columns, corbels, cornices, and column caps for the Arcade Building for my Hoboken Terminal model. Then, I will take you through the process of building a mold box, and creating the mold for this project.

Hoboken Terminal's Arcade Building has many interesting details. In the prototype photo to the right, the upper part of the column, a small portion of the gable cornice, and walls of the Hoboken Terminal's ferry slip are shown. But, if you take a step back, you will realize that most of what is in this photo can be duplicated with various shapes and sizes of styrene strips and sheets. And if styrene doesn't fit the bill, take a look in your parts box. You may be surprised to find that parts from other kits can be used for your project.



The next photo shows my model of the Hoboken Terminal, nearly ready for painting. If you look at the castings, you will probably begin to identify the styrene strips that were used. The photo identifies the components that will be discussed in this article segment. The article will identify many of the styrene shapes that were used for the master.

So, how did I get from the prototype photo to the model shown on this page? Follow along!



"Resin Casting" continued on Page 4



The drawing in Figure 2 shows the master pattern in cross-section, with the various materials identified. As you can see, a collection of styrene strips were built up into a complex unit. The master was built by starting with the 12"x12" material on the backing piece and then worked towards the center. The quarter-rounds were the trickiest, as the pieces need to have their ends cut at 45 degrees, forming miter joints in each corner. A Chopper or miter box and saw are good tools to use for this purpose. The rest of the strips can be cut with square ends.

Just remember, you only need to make one master. But, it needs to be perfect. Any mistakes made in the master will appear in the finished castings.

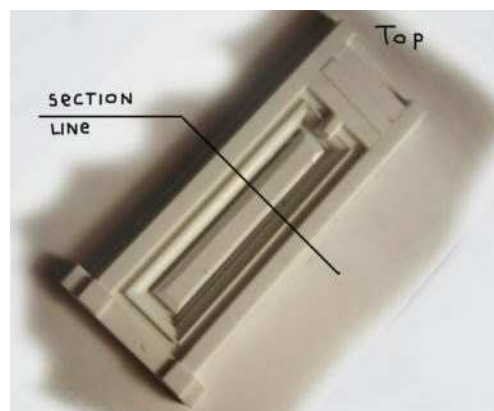
## Brackets or Corbels

If you are making a model of a building with an elaborate built-up cornice with brackets or corbels, remember that the brackets and corbels are always plumb. Often, on the rake of a gable, the molded lines of a bracket paralleled the edge of the roof. In those cases however, the sides of the bracket were always plumb.

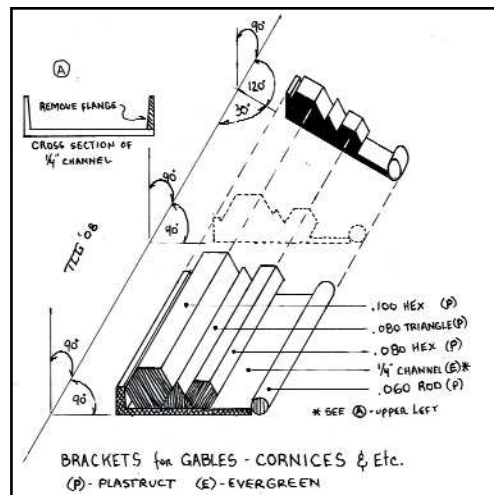
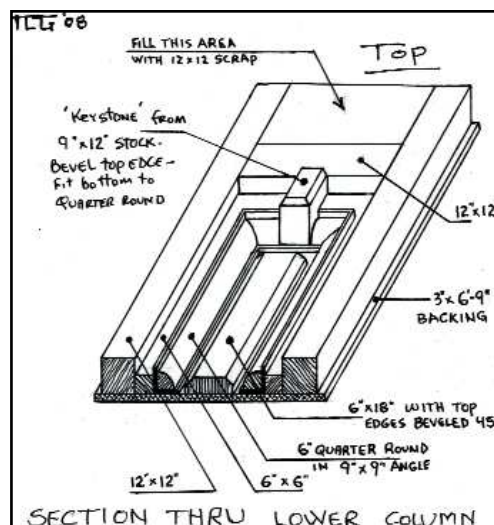
I always build my cornice/bracket material in as long a piece as possible, up to about 8". It becomes unwieldy to remove it from the mold if it is any longer. Also, build the bracket in a piece of angle or channel material. This provides a handle and a nice flat, square backed piece to glue onto the model.

The drawing in Figure 3 identifies the material for the angled brackets on the Arcade Building' cornice. You can cut the material at 90 degrees in a commercial miter box if you are working on a level cornice, or make your own miter box to cut special angles not covered by a commercial one.

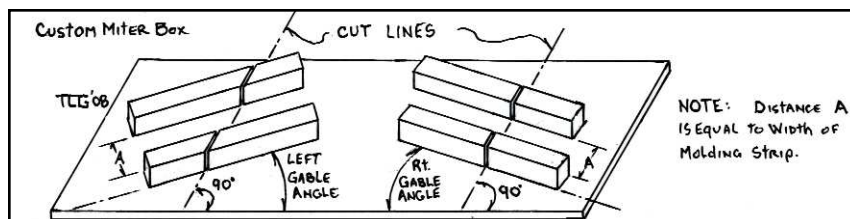
The drawing in Figure 4 demonstrates a custom miter box. Lightly scribe two cutting lines at right angles to the front edge. Then, scribe two lines crossing these at the angle of your cornice. Glue a length of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " square stock on each of the angled lines. Then using a length of the stock you want to make your brackets from, space the second length of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " stock in place and glue carefully, making sure you don't also glue the molding strip at the same time. Go for a snug, sliding fit here. Now carefully cut through the two pieces of square stock on the 'cut line'. Now you can slice off as many brackets as you need for each side of the cornice.



▲Figure 1 and Figure 2▼



▲Figure 3 and Figure 4▼



***“Resin Casting” continued on Page 5***

## THE CLUB CAR

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## *"Resin Casting" continued from page 4*

### Cornice

Figure 5 is a photo of a cornice casting and its mold. Once the mold is made, many castings can be made as needed for the project. A "generic" cornice molding can even be made and used on other buildings for your layout.

The drawing in Figure 6 shows how most of the body of this cornice is made. It is made by stacking various strips and shapes until the desired profile is reached. The brackets and infill panels between them are the only "custom" parts. They will vary depending on the angle of your cornice. Remember, what ever the angle of the rake cornice is, the brackets should be plumb. After you build up a run of molding, the brackets are cut at the appropriate angle and glued in position. The infill panels are cut to size and glued in place, last.

### Upper Bay

The photo in Figure 7 shows most of what went into the upper part of one bay, except for the column caps. The wall mold, at the far left, has flat areas on each side and along the top edge. These flat areas are where the upper column and cornice castings were glued into place. By using castings, you are really just creating your own "kit of parts."

### Finished Masters

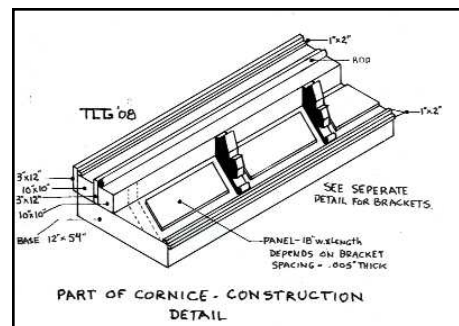
In Figure 8 are the masters for the six columns that frame the five bays of the Arcade Building. The piece with straight sides is for the ground floor. The tapered piece sits at the second floor level, above the projecting roof. The fancy cap is comprised of two parts. The first part, the base, is the flat piece. The top surface of the piece is glued to the bottom of the mold box. The top-most piece is to the left, and gives you an idea of how intricate the parts can be. This piece is 7/8" square by 1/2" high.

### Column Cap

The photo in Figure 9 is one of the column caps for the Arcade Building. This was a reject, as the points on three of the corner Acanthus leaves didn't form due to air bubbles trapped in the mold. The base for the column cap is made from square pieces of styrene and strip styrene. The center drum was half of a tank from the scrap box and wrapped with two different widths of .005 strip at its base. The Acanthus leaves at the corners and the decorative band at the bottom of the drum, are also from the scrap box, possibly from a Vollmer factory kit. It just proves that if you keep something long enough, you will find a use for it!



▲Figure 5 and Figure 6▼



▲Figure 7 and Figure 8▼



▲Figure 9

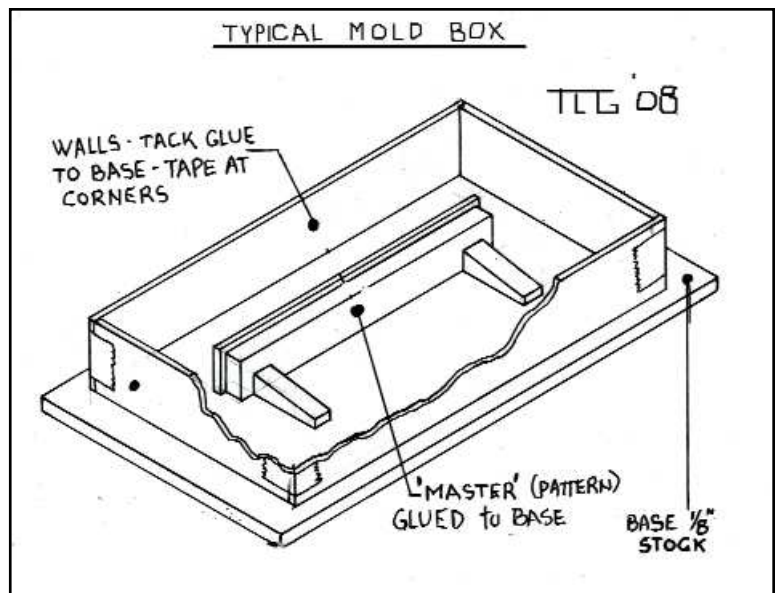
*"Resin Casting" continued on Page 6*

### **Mold Box**

The drawing in Figure 9 shows a typical mold box. Only styrene is used for the box since the mold will not stick to it. The floor of the box is made from 1/8" styrene sheet material, since it does not flex. Leave at least 1/4" all around the master pattern and make the side walls of the box about 1/4" higher than the highest point of the pattern. This helps to ensure that the mold will not stretch or deform when using it. Tape the corners on the outside, and along all the bottom edges. This is to prevent the mold material from leaking out of the box. The mold material looks deceptively thick, but it will find the thinnest crack and flow out of the box.

When you have finished making a pattern, and made a box around it to make the mold, find a nice flat place to work, and cover it with newspaper. Place your mold box in the center of the newspaper and gather the following items:

- A piece of clean sheet styrene, glass, or Lucite at least 1/8" thick. It should be large enough to overhang the box sides all the way around the box.
- Something fairly heavy to place on top of everything when you finish pouring the rubber mold material.



**▲Figure 9**

Mix the rubber thoroughly, but not vigorously. Mixing vigorously may introduce air bubbles into the rubber mixture. Inevitably there will be some, but they should be minimized. Pour the rubber into the mold slowly. Start the pour in one corner, watching it as it flows around and over the pattern. Pour from as high as you feel comfortable. This will force the rubber down to a thread thin ribbon as it falls to the mold, helping to remove trapped air bubbles.

While pouring, use a straightened paper clip to poke, prod, and drag the rubber into all the nooks and crannies. If you pour slowly, and stay in one place, the rubber will flow around and over all the detail very well by itself. But, watch areas like interior corners and narrow slots. If it looks like the rubber is not going into a corner, use the end of the paperclip to "drag" some material into the trouble spot. Usually, once started, the trouble spot will fill up quickly. Continue adding the rubber mold material until it is just above the top edges, but not necessarily overflowing. Place the piece of thick plastic or glass on top of the box filled with rubber. Place the heavy weight on top of the plastic or glass.

When the leftover rubber mold material has set up, that is your indicator that the rubber material in the mold box has set up. However, wait at least another hour before removing the weight and "lid" from the box. This will expose a nice smooth, flat bottom surface of your mold. Remove the sides of the box. Starting at one corner of the rubber block, gently peel the mold away from the pattern. If the pattern is extremely irregular or deep and narrow, the mold may not want to come away easily. If this is the case, be patient and tease your way around the edges.

Make the molds a little thicker than is needed. Try to get a mold that is the same thickness all over and has a flat back. The flat back, created from the plastic or glass "lid," will allow the mold to lay flat and un-distorted when making castings. Following these steps will create parts that are straight and true, which makes using them a whole lot easier and a lot more fun!

### **Molds**

Four rubber molds, in Figure 10, were made from the masters shown in Figure 8. It is important to have a mold that is of uniform thickness and flat on the back. This will help to insure against warped, uneven castings. After the resin sets, but before it is truly hard, a slight flexing of the mold will help the part pop out of the mold. Parts will be slightly 'soft' at first, but will fully harden overnight.



**▲Figure 10**

***"Resin Casting" continued on Page 7***



## MODELING TIP

### PROBLEM:

Are you looking for an easier way to apply Campbell's shingles, tarpaper, laser cut shingles, or other roofing materials to your model?

### SOLUTION:

**3M PRODUCES ADHESIVE TRANSFER TAPE, #465. JUST APPLY THE TAPE TO THE MODEL ROOF. PEEL OFF THE PAPER AND THE ADHESIVE REMAINS ON THE ROOF. THEN, APPLY THE ROOF MATERIALS TO THE ADHESIVE. THIS CAN ALSO BE USED FOR CORRUGATED SIDING AND SIGNS. THE ADHESIVE TRANSFER TAPE CAN BE FOUND AT FASTENAL. LOOK FOR A LOCATION NEAR YOU OR BY VISITING THEIR WEBSITE AT: WWW.FASTENAL.COM.**

MODELING TIPS CAN BE SENT TO  
**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR:**  
**NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR**  
**normanfrow@aol.com**

## "Resin Casting" continued from page 6


### Castings

Figure 11 shows castings from three of the four molds shown in Figure 10. The castings comprise the upper part of the column and the two-piece cap. Because the cap of the column sits so close to the roof, cast pieces for the sides or rear of the columns were not needed as they cannot be seen. At the left end of the Arcade Building, the column wraps around the corner to the end wall, giving the appearance of a full square column. To achieve this look, 45 degree angles were carefully filed on one edge of the lower and upper column pieces so that they formed a right angle when joined.



▲Figure 11

### Next Issue

This article showed many examples of masters that were created from styrene strips and sheets. In addition, this segment covered the construction of the mold box and molds. The only step remaining is the casting of parts. Casting the parts, using the newly created molds, is covered in the final installment of this article, in the next *Whistle Post*. 

## "Tom Piccirillo, MMR #418" continued from page 1

tive, and have had the honor of serving as the President and Secretary of The New Jersey Live Steamers. I've taken particular pleasure in the instruction and development of my young son, Joey, as a model steam locomotive engineer.

After 44 years of preparation, I entered the NMRA's Achievement Program in May of 2008 and was pleased to complete the requirements for Master Model Railroader in February 2009. The AP showed me that you can, indeed, show an old dog some new tricks, and I learned plenty during this program. It's a great way to make new friends, improve your model building abilities, and enjoy some recognition of your accomplishments.



**Tom Piccirillo (l) receiving his MMR award from Norman Frowley, AP Chairman (r)**

In addition to the Golden Spike, Tom holds the following Achievement Awards:

- Master Builder - Motive Power
- Master Builder - Scenery
- Master Builder - Structures
- Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
- Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
- Chief Dispatcher
- Model Railroad Author

*Congratulations, Tom, from everyone in the Garden State Division, Northeastern Region, and the NMRA! --editor *



# SCRATCH BUILDING: SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION

by AP Chairman, Norman Frowley, MMR

Last issue I addressed "conformity" with respect to my two models, Kendall's Country Store and Thorndike Mill, and now I turn to scratch building, a subject which has engendered heated disagreement among more than a few. My guess is that scratch building, in general, holds a certain cache with some in the modeling community since in years past there were few craftsmen kits. If one wanted to build an impressive model one needed to make it from scratch. The "scratch builder" became synonymous with the true "model railroader" and those who opted to build kits rather than scratch build were thought of in, let us say, lesser terms. Things, however, have changed. Craftsmen kits abound. And of the 125 points one can possibly earn on a contest or Achievement Program model only 15 points can be earned for scratch building. That is only 12 percent of the total points conceivably awardable. Incidentally, the 15 points one can earn for the scratch building element are the least number of points that can be awarded in any of the judging categories. All this is not to say that scratch building is unimportant. It is. It is just not as important as some people would like to believe.

With this background in mind I turn to the marks earned and comments made by the judges concerning my models. With respect to Kendall's, it was awarded 5 points for scratch building with the judges' criticism, "Nice model. Not much scratch." Thorndike Mills earned 7 points with the judges' comment, "Nice model. Difficult to see scratch parts."

Kendall's came as a kit without lighting or an interior. In order to light the interiors of the buildings and exterior porches pains were taken to run and hide wiring and install brass shades in appropriate locations. Entire interiors for the country store and the two stories above it were scratch built out of cardboard, modeling putty, scrap wood and styrene parts. Without going into all the details added, virtually 40 percent of the model was scratch built. The award of 5 points out of 15, in light of the work done and the paperwork submitted with the model, seems to be appropriate, but not for the reasons given by the judges. We turn to the judging guidelines to explain why.

The guidelines provide that judges are to consider not only the "quantity" of the parts of the model fabricated, but the difficulty of the fabrication. As the official rules instruct judges:

*"Consider the amount of effort required to*

*convert basic materials into finished parts....Consider any planning or design work that was necessary. Drawing plans is considered part of scratch building, if the plans are submitted with the model. Scratch building from prototype plans, photos, or measurements is usually more difficult than scratch building from kit plans or a magazine article."*

The scratch building judging matrix is reproduced below. Along the horizontal axis the quantity of fabrication is measured. Along the vertical axis the difficulty is assessed. As one can see, the judges were correct in finding Kendall's "Partly Scratch built." However, fabricating the multitude of details was clearly not "simple" as the five point award would suggest. They were between simple and moderate at the least, but the fault was mine in not providing the judges with the plans I had drawn showing the interiors I had fabricated and the lighting schemes I had developed. Without the plans the judges' conclusion that there was "not much scratch" was justified. Had plans for the scratch built features been included, not only would the judges have been constrained to find that there was a significant portion of the model fabricated, but that the effort to fabricate the details was relatively extensive. In that manner I might have been entitled to perhaps 8 points for scratch building, since building the details of the interior of the model was, in my opinion, at the least moderately complex.

The comment by the judges concerning the Thorndike Mill, that the scratch parts were "difficult to see," raises an issue which has become one of my pet peeves about the judging process. Thorndike Mills is a three story structure with walls made of Hydrocal. The roof is complex, making its removability a substantial problem. All of the substantial interior detail is visible in a darkened room since the interior is totally and adequately lit with 1.5 volt bulbs and the windows are impeccably clear. But there is no provision in a model contest room to turn off the lights to view interior details. Instead, judges frequently use a flashlight to view inside the model, which in my opinion is totally inadequate. Just think of how much interior detail of a darkened house is visible when a flashlight (even a high powered one) is shone through its windows at night. Not much. Grain-of-wheat bulbs do not produce enough light to overcome the ambient light of the contest room. Twelve volt bulbs might, but the effect of 12 volt lights at full power is not

**"Scratchbuilding" continued on Page 9**



## NEXT DIVISION MEETING

**TIME:**  
NOON

**DATE:**  
AUGUST 30, 2009

### LOCATIONS:

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

**AND**

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### DIRECTIONS:

LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS THE  
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LESS THAN 5 MINUTES FROM  
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY.  
FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS, VISIT:  
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### AGENDA:

BARBEQUE  
CLINICS  
MODEL JUDGING  
MYSTERY BOX AUCTIONS  
SHOW AND TELL  
TWO CLUB LAYOUTS  
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE

### COST:

FIRST BURGER/HOT DOG AND  
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ROBERT TUMIELEWICZ  
rtumielew@aol.com

*"Scratchbuilding" continued from page 8*


### SCRATCHBUILDING JUDGING POINTS MATRIX

Complexity	Little Scratchbuilt					Partly Scratchbuilt					Completely Scratchbuilt			
Simple	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Moderate	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
Complex	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			

realistic in my estimation. The result is that judge's normally cannot view the interior details when the walls and roof are not removable or where the modeler chooses to build them so they are not removable in order to make the model more realistic in appearance.

My intended solution to this problem is to cut out more of the doors molded into the walls of the craftsmen models I build. In this way, I can fabricate doors and glue them in an open position. This will increase the judges' ability to see inside the model. I have also taken to figuring out ways to make complex roofs removable. Having a complicated roof fit snugly and adding interior detail to it is not as simple as it may sound. What is more, I understand the idea of a removable roof opening up the model's interior to view, but how many of us have looked at an interior from that top down perspective. A more realistic appearance comes from viewing the interior details through windows and doors at eye level so to speak.

In addition, I now prepare plans and take photos of the interior details I scratch build. All of this, alas, would be unnecessary if one could figure out a way to have lit models, whose roofs are not removable or are multiple stories in height, viewed by judges in a room that can be darkened for short periods of time.

As a final note, it is my impression that little scratch building credit is given to the fabrication involved in adding realistic lighting to the interior and exterior of a structure. Anyone can throw a bulb or two into a building and run the wires near the ceiling or somewhere out of sight. But to add ten or twelve lights on a floor, set in visible fixtures hanging from a visible ceiling, or several lights in the roof of an exterior porch, takes a great deal of planning and effort to hide the wires and limit the number of wires necessary so the task is manageable. Perhaps this will change, as I spread the word about the merits of realistic interior lighting. 

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# MEETING MINUTES

BY SECRETARY CIRO COMPAGNO

## Purpose:

Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting

## Date/Time:

March 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

## Place:

Home of Tom Wortmann in Staten Island, NY

## Attendees:

Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, Bruce De Young, Ed Fraedrich, Norman Frowley, Roger Oliver and Tom Wortmann

Before the meeting, Roger Oliver distributed flyers for the 2009 National Convention in Hartford, CT. Roger asked to distribute flyers to local clubs, hobby shops and individuals so that they may be hung in windows in each person's home area.

## Secretary's Report:

Ed Fraedrich read the January 2009 meeting minutes by Ciro Compagno.

Tom Casey noted that the word "model" should be removed and only read "Ramapo Valley Railroad Club". The report was accepted with this correction.

## Treasurer's Report:

Tom Wortmann read the report for Anthony Piccirillo. The report was accepted as read.

## Education Committee and AP Reports:

Norman Frowley reported that there will be three awards presented at the upcoming spring meeting in Union, NJ. He also suggested to bring a model for show-and-tell, or for judging toward an AP award if the individual so desired.

## Membership Report:

Andy Brusgard reported that he sent about 50 letters to members that have no reported e-mail address. He has received only two replies to date, and does not expect much more.

Tom Wortmann motioned that the names of potential members gathered at the recent Greenberg's Train & Toy Shows be turned over to the Membership Committee for follow up. The motion was accepted.

Roger Oliver reported that he had submitted a petition on March 15, 2009 to the Board of Trustees to define Region and Division boundaries. If accepted, it will be submitted to the Mid-Eastern Region for their approval followed by National.

Roger reported that there is a meeting (the 2009 Northeastern Region Annual Meeting) scheduled during the upcoming National Train Show in Hartford, CT. He asked if any staff members going to this show would also attend this meeting.

Roger reported a meet (actually the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders Convention) in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada in May 2010. Volunteers are needed. Anyone interested can contact him for additional information. This event is not spon-

sored by the Northeastern Region (NER).

Roger reported that the next NER Convention will be in Burlington, VT in September 2010.

## Events Report:

Bruce De Young agreed to assist Bob Tumielewicz in his duties of the Convention Committee. Bruce's new title is Co-Event Chairman.

Tom Wortmann proposed that we contact individuals that opened their home layouts during the GSD hosted 2006 Regional Convention, and ask if they are willing to open them again during GSD quarterly meets. He asked to contact individuals before the summer meeting in North Haledon, NJ. Two or three home layouts would be sufficient for each meet.

The food for the upcoming spring meet in Union, NJ should be enough for 40 persons. It was reported that the soda supply is depleted. Norman Frowley volunteered to replenish the supply.

Norman Frowley suggested that due to the increase in food costs that the meet admission price should be increased from \$5 to \$6. The staff agreed to this price increase.

## Closing Business:

Norman Frowley is hosting the next staff meeting. The date and time will be determined.

Meeting adjourned around 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Fraedrich, Director at Large 

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*THE WHISTLE POST*:

JANUARY 10

APRIL 10

JULY 10

OCTOBER 10

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

CIRO COMPAGNO

NORMAN FROWLEY

TOM GRIFFITHS

JIM HOMOKI

TOM PICCIRILLO

### THANK YOU!

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*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 the Next Issue: *Hartford National 2009*



▲ A scene captured during a layout tour at the NMRA 2006 Independence Junction National Convention in Philadelphia

**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).

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# I SMELL A BBQ IN NORTH HALEDON!!!

Last year's barbeque in North Haledon was a huge success. Maybe it was the weather. maybe it was the opportunity to visit two outstanding model railroad clubs. Maybe it was the chance to meet old friends and make new ones. Or, maybe it was all of that food!

This year, the Garden State Division is building on that success by holding its summer barbeque at the same clubs, on August 30. The Garden State Model Railway Club and the Model Engineers Railway Club of North Jersey will be our hosts.


While you are checking out the clubs, take a close look at some of the buildings on the HO scale club layout. You may be surprised to learn that some of them are actually paper structures. But, since they aren't placed close to the edge of the layout, it is really difficult to tell. There will be a clinic given during the meet, where attendees will learn how these structures were made. You will not want to miss that one!



▲ *Enjoying the festivities during 2008's barbeque*

A second clinic is also being offered. If you recall last year, there was a clinic on how to construct catenaries. Well, once you have the catenaries in place, what's next? You need electric locomotives to run under the catenaries. This clinic will cover the topic of kitbashing and scratchbuilding electric locomotives.

There will also be model judging, Show and Tell, and Mystery Box Auctions. We can't tell you what is in the boxes, but I'm sure there is something in the boxes that can supplement your parts box or find a place on your layout. And, if the auction entices you to part with a few of your dollars or earn a few back, consider the White Elephant table. The table will be available to sell those items that you no longer have a need for in your collection or to buy items for your collection.

As for the barbeque, the first burger/hot dog and soda free. Each additional hot dog, burger, or soda will cost one dollar. So, come out and enjoy a summer afternoon with friends, with food, and of course, with trains! For more information on the barbeque, refer to the sidebar on page 9. 



## 2009 Railroad Family Youth Day

Many of us were exposed to model railroading at a young age. You may have received a train set as a gift. Or, you remember holiday window displays with trains running throughout.




▲ *Ciro Compagno helping two young model railroaders build a layout*

Many of today's youth are missing out on the same experience as you. On September 26, beginning at 3 PM, the annual Railroad Family Youth Day will be held at Lake Mohawk, NJ. The event provides an opportunity for families to experience what model railroading is all about. Adults and children take part in building dioramas with scenery, building structures, and running trains.

This will be the third year for the program, and each year gets better and better.

Last year, the program was expanded to include the construction of a small cardboard structure. Anthony Piccirillo designed a simple structure, added texture such as shingles and siding, and printed them.

If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer your time to this fun event, contact Anthony Piccirillo at [anthony13trains@ptd.net](mailto:anthony13trains@ptd.net). 

## CIRO'S CORNER

The Juniata River and Southern 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 products I used during the construction of my layout. The websites have been converted to shorter URL's, making them easier for the reader to use.

### **Behr Basement and Masonry Waterproofing Paint**

<http://tinyurl.com/BehrWaterProof>

### **Dewalt Small Angle Grinder**

<http://tinyurl.com/DeWaltGrinder>

### **Georgia-Pacific DensArmor Plus Drywall**

<http://tinyurl.com/GPdrywall>

### **Thoro Hydraulic Cement**

<http://tinyurl.com/ThoroCement>

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS  
SERIES CAN BE SENT TO:

CIRO COMPAGNO

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

# JUNIATA RIVER & SOUTHERN, PART I

*by* **Ciro Compagno**

## **December 2008**

I chiseled and pushed in two steel anchors into the poured concrete basement wall. The holes and depressions were then filled in with hydraulic cement. This expanding, fast-setting cement will prevent water seepage. Water seepage through the concrete wall regularly occurs in the Spring.▶



## ◀**January 2009**

I prepared the basement walls for sealing and painting by hammering and scraping away, as best as possible, all defects. A finished concrete wall is planned. The walls will not be framed using studs and gypsum wall-board.

I went as far as could with a hammer. But, I decided to further prepare the basement walls by using a DeWalt Small Angle Grinder. The grinder is a small but very powerful little tool. My wife gave me a hard time about the grinding since it is very noisy and creates a lot of dust. But, the walls are now very smooth.



Thoro Waterplug Hydraulic Cement was used to fill in the larger holes in the wall. I also sealed the cove joint around the front half of the basement where seepage occurred in early Spring.

## **February 2009**


I constructed walls to separate the laundry room from the rest of the basement. In addition, I enclosed the below-stair pantry and water service entry/meter.

The walls are Georgia-Pacific DensArmor Plus drywall supported by metal framing and 2 x 4 pressure-treated wood studs. The drywall is fastened to the studs with polymer-coated (deck) screws.

Bi-fold doors, wood shelving, and ceiling lights were also installed. The walls are taped, compounded and primed. All of this work needs to be completed before the flooring is installed throughout the basement.▶

I painted the walls with two coats of Behr Basement & Masonry Waterproofing Paint. The painted walls came out much better than I expected.



The next installment of the Juniata River and Southern will cover the installation of lighting and flooring. 





# The GSD Spring Meet in Union

The Model Railroad Club, in Union, NJ, hosted the Garden State Division's Spring Meet, in April. And, it was quite a meet!

The highlight of the meet was the presentation of Tom Piccirillo's Master Model Railroader award. Read the lead story, in this issue of *The Whistle Post*, for more information.

Tom was not the only "Tom" to receive an award at this meet. Tom Wortmann received his Achievement Program award for Chief Dispatcher. Tom enjoys operating layouts like the prototype. He continues to modify the operations on his own Misky Rails layout in order to maximize the enjoyment of his operators.



▲ **Norman Frowley (l) presented Tom Wortmann (r) with his Achievement Program's Chief Dispatcher Award.**

**Andy Brusgard displayed this O scale caboose for the show and tell portion of the meet.▼**



▲ **Joe Korman presented a clinic on the Bahn and Microsoft Train Simulator programs.**


**Bruce De Young presented a clinic on Scratchbuilding for Beginners.▼**



Two clinics were also presented during the meet. Joe Korman presented a clinic on computer simulation programs for trains. Joe demonstrated how to build and operate a layout using two different programs.

Bruce De Young presented a clinic on scratchbuilding for beginners. Bruce enjoys scratchbuilding model structures and demonstrated how easy this can be. Bruce also recommended Wayne Wesolowski's book, "Model Railroad Structures from A to Z." The book is now available, in its second edition, through Carstens Publications.

Two model structures were judged, following the Achievement Program guidelines. Chuck Diljak submitted an HO scale hoist house while Norman Frowley submitted an HO scale paper mill. Other models were on display for the Show and Tell portion of the meet.

All were good subjects. Add in good friends and food. Now, there is a recipe for a good meet. 



◀ **A hoist house for a coal mine, modeled and detailed by Chuck Diljak**

**The Blackstone Paper Mill, a South River Model Works kit modified, lighted and detailed by Norman Frowley▶**





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# Coal



◀ A coal trestle on the CNJ line of Jim Homoki's Newark Terminal Railroad. Jim scratchbuilt the model following plans of a PRR standard design.

Photo by Jim Homoki

*The Cabin Creek Coal Company on Norman Frowley's HO scale Jessica Valley Railroad ▶*

Photo by Norman Frowley



◀ A coal trestle on the Garden State Northern layout of the HO scale Garden State Model Railway Club in North Haledon

Photo by Chuck Diljak

*The A. Dreyer & Sons Coal Yard was scratchbuilt by Tom Griffiths for the Ocean County Society of Model Railroads Club ▶*

Photo by Tom Griffiths





**Chuck Diljak**  
**31 Kuiken Court**  
**Wayne, NJ 07470**

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## THE TIMETABLE

Sunday, 8/2/09, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover, NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. Children 10 and under, \$2. For more information: [www.dovertrainshow.com](http://www.dovertrainshow.com)

Saturday-Sunday, 8/8-9/09, Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, 97 Sunfeld Ave, Edison, NJ, 10-4PM. Adults \$7, Children 12 and under, Free. For more information: [www.GreenbergShows.com](http://www.GreenbergShows.com)

Sunday, 8/16/09, Annual Railroad Day, Maywood Station Museum, 269 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, NJ. Noon-3PM. For more information: [www.maywoodstation.com](http://www.maywoodstation.com)

**Sunday, 8/30/09, NMRA Garden State Division Summer BBQ, Garden State Model Railway Club, 575 High Mountain Road North Haledon, NJ. 12 Noon. For directions: [www.gsmrrclub.org](http://www.gsmrrclub.org)**

Saturday-Sunday, 9/12-13/09, Great Lehigh Valley Train Show, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown, PA. Saturday focuses on Z, N, On3, HO, Brass & all train related items. Sunday focuses on S, O-27, O, Standard & G including repair parts. Saturday, 10AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. For more information: [www.lehighvalleytrainmeet.com](http://www.lehighvalleytrainmeet.com)

**Saturday, 9/19/09, NMRA New Jersey Division Meet, Christ Church, 90 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ. Clinics & meeting: 9AM-12 Noon, Layout tours: 1PM-4PM. For directions: [www.njdivnmra.org/NJ\\_Division/Timetable.html](http://www.njdivnmra.org/NJ_Division/Timetable.html)**

**Saturday, 9/26/09, NMRA Garden State Division Railroad Family Youth Day, Sleepy Lagoon, Lake Mohawk, NJ. 3PM. For directions, contact Anthony Piccirillo at [anthony13trains@ptd.net](mailto:anthony13trains@ptd.net).**

Sunday, 10/4/09, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover, NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. Children 10 and under, \$2. For more information: [www.dovertrainshow.com](http://www.dovertrainshow.com)

Saturday-Sunday, 10/10-11/09, 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](http://www.gsmts.com)

Sunday, 10/11/09, METCA Division of the Train Collectors Association Halloween Show, Boys and Girls Club of Garfield, 490 Midland Avenue, Garfield, NJ. 8AM-2PM for TCA member, 9AM-2PM for non-members. TCA members \$2, Adults, 16 and older, \$4. For more information: [www.metca.org/](http://www.metca.org/)

Thursday-Saturday, 11/12-14/09, Craftsman Structure Show 2009, Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA. For more information: [www.css09.com](http://www.css09.com)

Sunday, 11/22/09, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover, NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. Children 10 and under, \$2. For more information: [www.dovertrainshow.com](http://www.dovertrainshow.com)

Friday-Sunday, 11/27-29/09, 12/4-6/09, 12/11-13/09, The Model Railroad Club Annual Light and Sound Show, 295 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ. Friday 11/27 Noon-10PM, Friday 12/4 and 12/11 7-10PM, Saturdays 10AM-8PM, Sundays 11AM-6PM. Adults \$7, children \$5, children under age 13 Free, Seniors over age

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