

# THE WHISTLE POST

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



Number 92

Summer 2004

## WE MEET AT THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB IN UNION

Good people, good weather and a great layout made for a good day in Union. There was a excellent clinic on the history of the motive power of NJ Transit with lots of photos and discussion. Then there was a clinic on the prototypical maintenance of locomotives and how the Host club operates them on their layout.

There was a discussion on the new so-called security rules which prohibit photographing trains. Sure, if you find someone inside railroad property taking pictures of controls, towers and other equipment, you may have a problem or some way out rail fan. But, if you have someone taking pictures from a bridge, road or something, what is the problem?

There were over 20 door prizes, which as you may know are donated from the local shops in the area and everyone got a free door prize ticket upon paying the suggested donation.

And of course we had some videos, and a great white elephant table filled with good deals.

In October, our next meet, there will be a light refreshments supplied. Salads, sandwiches, snacks, coffee and tea along with doughnuts. Hey if you're going to be there for lunchtime, why not have lunch on us? Be sure to be there!

Our Winter meeting next year

will be a business meeting. From now on all Winter meeting will be that way. As it appears right now It will also be hosted at the Model Railroad Club in Union NJ. At this meeting, there will be no clinics, no videos, but there may be a white elephant table. The whole idea of this is to get you to vote on the new officers, to discuss what you the member want out of the division. What we can do to provide you with services and anything else we can do for you, the local NMRA member. This meeting will not take long but it is important that you attend. Afterward there is always the layout to see.

*Check out the pictures of the Union meet on page 7*

## YES, WE ARE DOING A ROLLING MEET THIS SUMMER

Yes, after a lot of debate and discussion, they are having our first, what we like to call a "Rolling Meet" This is a meet where we meet outdoors someplace and gather to visit layouts, we could visit a railroad or as we are having a 'driving and walking' tour of the Historic points of interest in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties.

It's simple. Ralph Heiss has a world of knowledge in him about the railroads and the Morris Canal. As you may know, it was the Railroad the caused the canal to eventually

shut down so it makes sense to learn about both of them.

In this particular case, on August 29th at 10 AM, we're going to meet at the Stop and Shop parking lot in Morris Plains N.J.

This store is located at the corner of Routes 202 & 10.

Once we park our cars, we will fit 4 people into a few cars and begin our tour. We'll get to one point and we'll get out and let Ralph do his thing, then we'll have time for pictures and questions. Once we're done we'll move to the next location

and the next and so on. Around Noon we'll find a interesting place for lunch (on you) so we can eat and maybe watch a train go by.

So wear sneakers and bring your camera. It's going to be a great day. All this for \$4.00! Can you beat that?

By the way this event is open to ANYONE. Bring your friends, wife, neighbor or whoever. It's going to be a beautiful day!

But just in case, the rain date is

## AT THE THROTTLE

### President & AP Chairman

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Donj1044@aol.com

### Convention Chairman

Ralph Heiss  
So. Plainfield NJ  
gs2006@yahoo.com

*Notice that some people have two titles? Yes, we need more help in running the division. Please step up and lend a hand*

**Our website**

**www.trainweb.org/nergds**

## Clubs around the Division

### THE RAMAPO VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB

Meets Tues. & Fri.  
620 CLIFF ST. HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07  
Dennis Alderman 845-359-0746

### GARDEN STATE MODEL Ry. CLUB, Inc.

Meets Tues. & Fri.  
575 High Mountain Rd. North Haledon, NJ 07508  
www.gsmrrclub.org  
"O" SCALE CLUB  
Meets Tues. & Fri. at above  
Contact; Karl Geffchen 973-857-2825

### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY N-TRAK

Meets Fridays GARFIELD, NJ  
Harry 2001-460-7290 or Ric 201-939-2134  
http://members.aol.com/awOL/ntrak.html  
E-mail trackcrew@aol.com

### THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, Inc.

Route 22 Union, NJ  
http://www.tmrcc.com  
MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

### STATEN ISLAND SOCIETY of MODEL RAILROADERS

HO Modular Club, Round Robin meets once a month.

Contact Willie Butler  
Pennsy39@aol.com  
http://members.tripod.com/~MSKRR/SISMR.htm  
MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

### NY SOCIETY of MODEL ENGINEERS

HO & O scale club  
341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt NJ  
201-939-9212  
http://community.nj.com/cc/sme  
MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

### GARDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

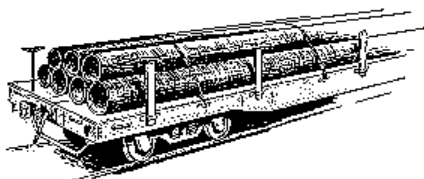
Meets Tues. & Fri.  
607 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Asbury Park, NJ 07  
inlinebob@aol.com

Did we miss a club?

If so Please get us the Information By Emailing gsdtrains@yahoo.com and we'll be glad to include it in the next issue

Please support the division on your website

**Check out CLUB NOTICES on page 6**



## Members Column

Part three of a seven part series which began with the last issue.

### SCENERY, MY WAY

By Norman Frowley  
Part Three

The preliminary thought process and planning stage complete, it was finally time to begin the building of the layout and of course the scenery connected with it. Before the bench work was complete my scenery was already laid out, in theory at least.

### LAY IT OUT ALONG WITH THE TRACKS

Rather than use some CAD program, into which I would have to have entered the specifications for my sectional Marklin C track, I decided to "lay out" my layout on site, meaning place the track down on large pieces of brown wrapping paper taped together on my basement floor, and then trace it on the paper. At the same time I drew out the areas where my scenery elements would be found, including structures, trees, mountain and what have you. As I indicated, my primary concern was in leaving sufficient room to encompass most if not all of the scenes I had already constructed. So my track plan was in large measure driven by my scenery elements. You may find the opposite works for you. That is to say, your scenery will be dictated in whole or part by your track plan. Ideally the two should work hand in glove. Your scenery should be spatially laid out in conjunction with your development of a track plan, each having equal weight in the planning process.

The one thing you are unable to do on a flat piece of paper used to trace a track plan is to see the varying elevations of both track and terrain. A computer comes in handy here if you're able to handle the appropriate design programs. But if you chose not to use a PC, as did I, you can write measurements on the floor plan itself to get some idea of the elevations. My measurements were from floor level since my basement floor is relatively level. You should also take measurements from the walls to pinpoint the scenery locations and elevations and write those numbers down somewhere, because once the bench work and track bed is installed (having left the brown paper on the floor), and the brown wrapping paper on the floor has gotten ripped to shreds you may have, as did I, a difficult time reading the measurements off the crumpled, soiled and torn brown paper.

One caveat for those of you new to the hobby. Be conservative with your first layout. Large changes in scenic elevation require large amounts of time and energy. You may be biting off more than you can chew by incorporating gargantuan mountains or extensive dramatic fea-

tures. By all means include drama, but be realistic, or you'll end up with a partially incomplete layout for years.

All that said, I violated my own admonition with the Jessica Valley Railroad. I planned two rather large mountains, which were literally pains to build. My back paid the price for this investment, but the interest it earned in appearance was sweet.

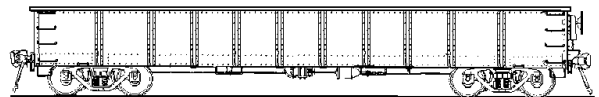
### SOME BACKGROUND FIRST

Before the bench work, before the tracks, before the terrain comes the background, unless, of course, you want to be reaching over your layout with a paint can and brush in hand trying to paint clouds or other scenery elements behind what you have painstakingly constructed. What I'm talking about here is the overall background, not some element of a street scene or a road, or some similar element which cannot be added to the background until later on when the road is installed or when the building, behind which the street scene painted on the background appears, is built. I started with Masonite board attached to one by two strips screwed to my basement's sheet rock walls using sheet rock screws. Make sure the background will completely cover the area of the layout. If there is a significant drop in elevation at some point make sure the background goes low enough to continue the illusion of some sky, or mountain or whatever in the distance.

I used spackling or joint compound to hide the screw heads, which were countersunk, and sheetrock tape and compound to hide the seams between the Masonite panels.

Background scenes can be created in many ways. You can use cloud stencils on a painted sky or you can paint clouds, mountains, trees, or buildings or a combination of some or all. You can have someone paint them for you: hopefully someone with a modicum of artistic talent. There are also commercially produced backgrounds, which are nothing more than enlarged photos of scenery elements. I, however, chose the simplest and easiest method. I painted a section of the Masonite board with a primer, followed by a latex house paint close to the color of sky blue. While the blue paint was still wet I took another but smaller brush and with horizontal strokes worked white paint up from the bottom, feathering it into the blue on the way up. The result is a deep blue on top with wispy white stratus clouds below that, followed by solid white section, giving the impression of thicker clouds close to the horizon. But you can't tarry. One must work methodically to blend the paints and avoid the appearance of separately painted sections.

Next time we'll get into the guts of the scenery making process: the hard shell.



## NEWBURG NY, NER CONVENTION

On June 11th a few of us traveled up to Newburg NY to attend the Northeast Regions Spring Convention hosted by the Mid-Hudson Div. The clinics were fine and the contests were excellent. Tours and a trains show topped the weekend off. Of course the GSD made it's mark (as always)



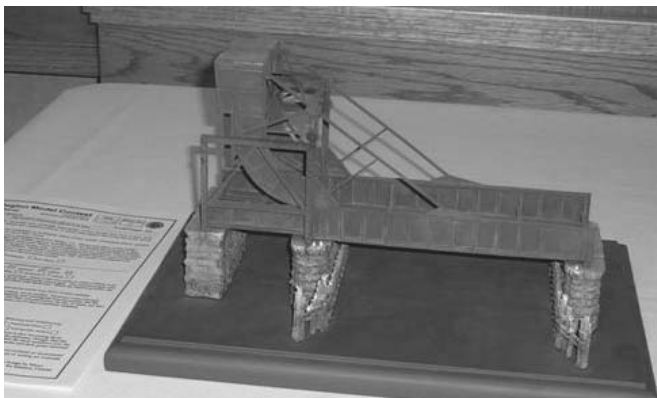
Of the four GSD members that attended, three won awards, two gave clinics, and one took all the pictures and that's not bad. Now where were you?

Hey, you're a member, get out and enjoy the benefits! You need NOT be a NER member at attend. You GSD membership will get you in.

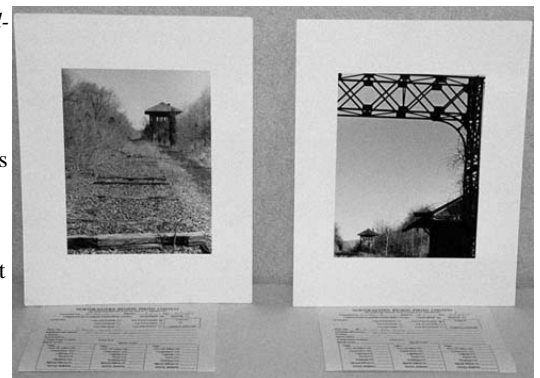
(Left) Bob Malberti and his first prize certificate and AP merit award for his PRR GP40. (Above right) Your editor is awarded 1st Prize for his color prototype photo. (Lower right) Ralph Heiss is award 3rd prize for his B&W prototype photo. (see below)



All photos by Don Jennings



(Above Middle) Other contests entries. (Left) The banquet was great. (Right) Ralph Heiss's contest photos.



## THE CONTEST TABLE

We forgot to award one of our members his AP awards during our meet at Union.  
We apologize.

So we did the next best thing and awarded them at his house.  
Here's the pictures



(Left) Norman Frowley and his Scenery AP certificate and (Right) Norman and his Engineering- Electrical AP certificate. Norman is on the fast track to becoming the GSD's first MMR. How about you?



## WOODEN KITS RETURN, A REVIEW

Bar- Mills Kits- a review by Tom Wortmann, Editor

Last time I told you I had discovered laser wood kits. One kit, Sawgrass models was a great kit, and I found it on the White Elephant table in Bloomsbury. Then I tried a Bar-Mills kits. Well, let me start by saying that this company makes fine billboards. Oh the building kits are great too, but-

Upon opening the box and sorting thought the pieces I read the instructions. The first sentence in these so called instructions was- "I don't like to read instructions so I don't supply them. Great, I'm on my own. The kit itself was well made and all the parts fit. I even tossed the wrong part in the trash and they supplied me with another- free, so that's a good point.

I assembled the kit and for the most

part, after figuring out what part was what because I wasn't completely familiar with all the names, it came out ok. BUT I highly suggest that you read the "detail & hint" sheet before you start the kit and again and again while you assemble the kit.

I had completed the kit before doing so and found out that I no longer had access to some areas the detail sheet said to detail. The finishing and the weathering hints are very good and to be honest I purchased my next kit, Wicked Wanda's" from them and will remember the hard lessons I learned with this kit. In short the kit looks fine, not great only because of my lack of knowledge not knowing some part names and what they looked like, some roof parts may be in the wrong place but to look at the finished kit you would never know it.

Details, details, and more details. Fin-

ish them and use them. The kit itself comes with a good supply but I suggest you add more. Why? Because it's amazing how people see the details and not the flaws. (smile) Yes I expect "Wicked Wanda's" to come out much better.

While your out there try a few other brands like Railway Design and Railroad Tech. These are plastic and I will be giving them a review in the future. Also Branchline has a new Building kit line. Yes, I already have one, yet unbuilt.

Now if any of you readers wish to submit a review or any tool building, rolling stock, loco or anything. Please feel free to do so. Any article printed in the WP will count toward a NMRA "Author" AP certificate.

NOT JUST A HOBBY, BUT A WAY OF LIFE!

## Club Notices

**The New York Society of Model Engineers** is looking for new members.

The oldest model railroad club in the United States meets Wednesday nights 7:00 at 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, (1/2 mile from Giants Stadium) "HO" and "O" Scales. But anyone with an interest in model railroading or trains is welcomed to stop in.

Contact: Andrew Brusgard for additional information  
ajb1102@comcast.net

**New York Society of Model Engineers' Annual "Scale Only"** meet. October 30, 2004 at auditorium of St. Joseph's Church, 120 Hoboken Road, East Rutherford, NJ (1/2 mile from Giants Stadium) 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Tables are still available.

Contact: Andrew Brusgard for additional information  
ajb1102@comcast.net

**New York Society of Model Engineers' Annual Holiday Open House.** At the Society, 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, (1/2 mile from Giants Stadium) Three Weekends. Nov. 26,27,28, Dec.3,4,5 and Dec. 10,11,12 Fri. 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Sat and Sun 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Contact: Andrew Brusgard for additional information ajb1102@comcast.net

## Support our Hobby shops!

Hopefully you attend our Division Meets. If you do you have seen (or hopefully) won a door prize. These prizes are donated free of charge to the division to hand out to you, the member. We always ask that you write to them and thank them for their donation— to you!

They need to know that the item was given out and appreciated. They also need your support.

These are the places that we go to for our paints, rolling stock, scenery and so much more.

Imagine if they weren't around. Where would you go for those great

kits? Sure you can buy the bigger ticket items on the internet or mail order yet will that same internet store sell you the screw that fits in the front of that loco you took apart? No. Only your local hobby shop can do that. Will that mail order store special order hard to get items for you? No, again a hobby shop will.

That internet/mail order store only wants to sell big ticket, fast moving and therefore money making items, no parts, no details, and no small scenery items. Nor can you look at the item before you purchase it.

That local hobby shop keeps the hobby alive. Support them.

We'd like to personally recommend the following big supporters of the GSD.

**Big Little Hobby Shop**  
206 West Main St.  
Somerville, NJ 08876

**The Model Railroad Shop**  
290 Vail Ave.  
Piscataway NJ 08854

**Model Railroad Post Office**  
26 Industrial Road (off Airport Road)  
West Milford, NJ 07480

## Magic Glue

How many glues do you use on your layout? 5, 10, 15??

I can cut that number down quite a bit if you use magic glue. I use magic glue for laying my track, placing my scenery including my buildings. I use magic glue to glue my foam sub roadbed to the quarter inch plywood under layer. I use

magic glue to put down my ballast, signs and lamp posts.

Magic glue can be diluted by water, rubbing alcohol and can be mixed with soap to make it wetter. In fact I even assemble my laser wood kit buildings. So what is this Magic Glue?

White glue, plain and simple white

glue. Yes, you could use the yellow type as well, but the white is just as good, just about as strong and cheaper. The best part is that you can remove it any time with hot water.

There isn't much I can't use magic glue on. To name a few, Plastic Models, Metal castings and brass.

Try it, you'll like it!

## PICTURES FROM THE UNION MEET



(Above left) President Ponton speaks to the membership (Above right) The membership watch's Ralph's NJ Transit Clinic. (Right) Bob Nalbhone's clinic on Engine Terminals. (Below left & Bottom) The membership watches a demo. (Middle right) Roger Oliver, the division treasurer checks the books.



Photographs by the Model Railroad Club



**Our next Union Meet in October will host a full operating session. Don't miss it!**



## Around the Division

*This months member input is from Robert Miller who now lives in Bartlesville Okla.*

### The House By The Tracks

For the first twelve years of my life I lived in New Jersey. Now when you think of New Jersey the first thing that pops into your mind is big cities and a lot of people. Well they do have a lot of big cities and a lot of people. When I lived there, there were not nearly as many people as there are today. We lived on a farm west of New York City. There are many nice thing about living on a farm, but in this case the best thing was the railroad track that was in our back yard.

This railroad was the High Bridge branch of the Central R.R. of New Jersey.

At that early age I did not know much about railroads, but I was learning. To me they had two types of steam locomotives, big and small. I now know that the big locomotives were USRA design 2-8-2s and the small locomotives were mostly 2-8-0s and 4-8-0s camelbacks.

Normal operations for week days was one train about 8 am with a 2-8-2 an the front and a

2-8-2 helper on the rear. This helper would return light about 2 hours. The next train would run about 11 am with another 2-

8-2. I think that this train was empty coal hoppers. This train would return about five hours later. About 2 pm the local with the 4-8-0 camelback would come by with two or three cars. It would return in an hour or so.

On weekends usually only the early train would run. I did not tell you that this train would return about 1 am. We seldom heard it, but when we had over night guests they sure knew when the train by. The headlight would shine in the hall window and really light the place up. One other thing that we always enjoyed was the candy one crew would throw to us.

There where a few special moves. About once a year they would have a fan trip. This was pulled by a 4-6-0 camelback. Works trains had 2-8-0 camelbacks. For a time they had a local come from the other direction with a regular 2-8-0. One time I saw a 0-6-0t pulling a hopper car. I did not know at the time what it was, but I think what the deal was, they could get water on this run but not fuel. The tank engine did not carry much coal, thus the need for the hopper car, or it may have been for breaking.

In other operations, the town just east of my home had two customers. One was a feed store which received one or two box cars a week. The other customer was a foundry which would re-

ceive a car or two a month. I think it was coal and some cars of steel. To the west about three miles was the town of Long Valley. This town received lumber and coal. At one time it also shipped milk. The coal dock was always of interest to me. It was an elevated track that stopped right next to the road. The school bus always stopped at the railroad crossing so you had a good view of the cold yard setup. There was also a branch line to Chester, about 6 miles. I never went by the rail yards in Chester until after the line was out of service, but I think they hauled lumber, feed, gasoline, and coal.

So what has happen since I was a little boy living in the farm house by the tracks. While I was in the Navy I had a chance To go back for a visit. Steam was gone and the numbers of trains a day was down to one a day. It was about thirty year later before I went back again. By this time the tracks were gone to be replaced by a trail. I was back about a year ago. The tracks have been rebuilt up to about 2 miles from where I lived. Toy-R-U's built a big warehouse , and there is other new freight traffic. Also the future need for commuter service. So who knows, maybe some day some other little boy may get to watch trains go by that house by the railroad track.

*Thanks Bob, Ed*

**Anyone having any photos or stories from around our area or anywhere else for that matter, send them to us so we can share them with the membership.**



**Garden State Division "Rolling" Meet**  
**"Morris Canal & Northern New Jersey Railroads His-**  
**torical Tour"**

**August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**(Rain date Sept 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**We meet at 10 AM at Stop & Shop Parking Lot, Morris Plains, NJ**

**(At the corner of Routes 202 & 10)**

**A guided walking and driving tour of historic points of interest in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties along the old Morris Canal, and the railroads that helped replace it.**

**We will car pool and drive to various places for exploration, lectures and photographs, so be sure to bring your camera.**

**We'll lunch around 12 Noon at a point of interest (Lunch is on you)**

**Cost \$4.00 per person for Map & Handout**

**Application to join or renew your membership in the**  
**Garden State Division**

**An active part of the Northeast Region of the NMRA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ NER # \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Required) (Optional)

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 Per year membership, \$5.00 Whistle Stop Subscription Total = \$15.00

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to the GARDEN STATE DIVISION  
 Mail to: Roger Oliver, 61 Franklin Road Denville, NJ 07834-1558

## The Whistle Post

Tom Wortmann  
68 Carmel Ave.  
Staten Island NY 10314

<http://www.trainweb.org/nergds>  
Email: [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com)

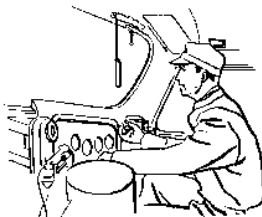


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### THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION

**The Whistle Post is published quarterly. Contributions, in any format are always welcome. Please contact the editor, [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com)**

Check out the date on your mailing label, if your expired please renew. Not only do we need your dues, we need your membership!



Know of an railroad or model railroad event coming up? Let us know so we can share it with the entire division. Email [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 29th, 2004  
**“Rolling Meet”**  
Morris Plains N.J.

Sept 10 - 12th 2004  
NER Fall Convention  
North Conway NH

October 10th, 2004  
**‘GSD Fall Meet’**  
The Model Railroad Club  
Union N.J.

January 24th, 2005  
**‘Annual Membership Meeting’**  
The Model Railroad Club  
Union NJ

May 13 - 15, 2005  
NER Spring Convention  
Nashua, NH

May 2005  
**‘GSD Spring Meet’**  
Location yet unknown

July 2005  
NMRA National Convention  
Cincinnati, Ohio

October 7 - 9, 2005  
NER Fall Convention  
Stamford Ct.

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Know of an event or a meeting that we can share with the rest of the members? Let us know so we can let them know.