



The WHISTLE POST

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

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Logo-Less, No more!


One of the first things many freelancing model railroaders do is design the logo of their railroad. The Garden State Division isn't exactly a freelanced model railroad, but we have been floundering around without a logo for many years. A logo can be many different things to the organization it represents. And, for us, we wanted a logo that identified us with railroads, New Jersey, and the NMRA.

If you were to look at the divisions and regions in the NMRA, many of the logos incorporate the NMRA logo in their design. Many others include a geographic symbol or other symbol from their region. It was

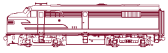
this second idea that was popular with the board members. But what geographic symbol or other symbol could we use?

In 2006, the Garden State Division hosted the Northeastern Region's convention in Parsippany, NJ. The logo for the convention was based on the Central Railroad of New Jersey's logo: The Statue of Liberty. Recently, it was suggested that we modify and use this same logo for our division.

Chuck Diljak made many iterations of the logo, differing on color, text, and font, before the board agreed to the logo you see here.

Some New Yorkers say that Lady Liberty turned her back on New Jersey, based on the way she is positioned on Liberty Island. Some New Jerseyans say that she is leading their State, instead. And now with this new logo, Lady Liberty is leading our division. 





THE CAB

by President Tom Wortmann

Did you miss the last event? Well....

We have a logo. It took longer than we wanted. But after many changes and additions, even discussions about the color to a fine point, here it is. Expect to see it on everything GSD from now on.


We had a great time at The Model Railroad Club in Union with over 40 attendees and 2 great clinics. If you missed it, you missed a good one. I did make one big mistake, a number of members brought models for our Show and Tell table and I did not give them a chance to discuss their work, for that I do apologize. We had a great lunch and a number of door prizes thanks to the Big Little Railroad Shop in Somerville and the Train Shop in Dunellen.

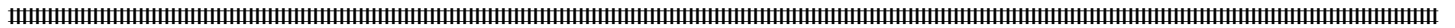
We have a great summer event coming up as well and we hope you will be hungry. It's our annual BBQ in North Haledon, hosted by both clubs there. The first soda and hot-dog (or burger) is on us, if you are still hungry there will be more on the grill for sale. Salads and condiments are yours for the taking for as long as they last. When you arrive, we

will give you a soda, food tickets (remember, the first one is on us), and a door prize ticket. Yes we will also have door prizes. In addition, this year we've added a clinic and an operating session at the HO club. Plus, we will be asking members to open their doors to our attendees so you can take a look around at another member's layout when you come or when you leave.

We will be doing the children's event at Lake Mohawk, again. We hope to include the Boy Scout merit badge as part of this event, as well. Watch for details. Last year this event turned out to be a blast. Both the kids and adults had tons of fun.

So we are trying hard to bring the NMRA closer to you, the member. We are having events and we are getting attendees. So if you miss an event, all I can say is try to make the next one.

I hope to see all of you there. So until then, Happy Railroading. 



THE CABOOSE

by Editor Chuck Diljak

Youths in Model Railroading

What stimulates the minds of today's youth? Music, sports, and video games would be near the top of the list. I bet model railroading would not be on their list. Why is that?

Music has been around for years. In fact, many of us will have music playing while we toil away at the workbench. So, in my way of thinking, music can be enjoyed simultaneously with model railroading. Whether it is jazz, classical, new age, country, rock, rap, hip hop, or just pop, youths can enjoy their music while model railroading.

However, sports are another story. Today, youths are more involved in sports than when I grew up. Today's society sees the competitiveness in dual career households carrying over to their children's lives on the sports field. It seems that every waking hour that a child is not in school needs to be consumed in baseball, soccer, basketball, football, dance, Tae Kwon Do, and many other sports. Where is the creative outlet that so many kids need to express their individualism?


I don't think video games are what I would call a creative outlet. Where is the reward in video games? Is it the ability to compare scores with your friends? That may be fine for today, but tomorrow, those scores are forgotten. This only results in short term satisfaction. It is not something where you will look back and say,

"Wow, I did that!"

This is why it is heartening to see young people, such as Joey Piccirillo, participating in our hobby. Joey is managing to split his time between school, baseball, and his N scale layout. It was also heartening to see so many of the GSD membership support Joey in the hobby by donating their door prizes to him at the Spring meet in Union, NJ.

I was also happy to see a few young members participating in activities at the Ramapo Valley Railroad club in Ho-Ho-Kus during the GSD Winter meet. They were operating trains and dispatching during the operating session. And, all looked to be enjoying themselves.

And, it was also satisfying to see so many youths participate in the first annual Sleepy Lagoon Express in Lake Mohawk, last year. On September 20, 2008, the second annual Sleepy Lagoon Express will be held at the same location.

So, whenever you can, help the future of this hobby by supporting youth activities. You can start by joining us at Lake Mohawk in September! 

To feature your layout in *The Whistle Post*, contact the editor at: gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com

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INTERIOR DECORATION

by Bruce De Young

Let me confess, right up front, that I am a detail junkie. Not just content with adding details to the outside of my structures, I find myself adding details to the inside - just to give them that 'lived in' look. Although I tend to get carried away with my interior decorating, there are a number of quick and easy things to do that will eliminate that 'vacant building' look. For the sake of organization (another of my many hang-ups), let's look at some ideas in three areas: windows, doors, and interiors.

Windows:

One of the easiest ways to add interior detail to your structures is with window treatments. Although some modelers add shades to their windows by painting the inside with a beige paint, I tend to make mine out of old faded newsprint paper. I found an old pad of 'arithmetic' paper in my desk drawer that had faded nicely with time, and that will last me my modeling lifetime. If you put shades in every win-

indow in every structure, it would become very boring, so what else can you do? I find that beige and light yellow napkins (like those from Starbucks and Wendy's) also make nice curtains and drapes. I also found a piece of thin fabric that makes nice drapes. Although there are detail suppliers who offer Venetian Blinds, I find that you can make very believable blinds by just drawing parallel pencil lines on white paper. A modeling friend of mine also e-mailed me a file of Venetian Blinds that when printed out on white paper look terrific. If you would like a copy, just e-mail me at bdeyoung@optonline.net. Tissue paper also makes great drapes, and if you leave a window open a bit, why not model one of those drapes blowing out the open window. That is easy to do if you are making your drapes with thin tissue paper. Before leaving the topic of window treatments, let me suggest that you look through all the catalogs that come into your house that contain pictures of home decorations. I have found patterned curtains that look fine in HO scale from this source.

Besides window treatments, adding signs to windows are another way to imply the building is occupied and help block direct view into an empty building. Grabbing a few signs from the internet and reducing them in size, or making up your own signs on your computer are easy sources for these details. These signs can be attached to the inside of your window glazing. I have also had success modeling signs 'painted on' windows by adding dry transfer lettering right to the glazing material (thin styrene or acetate) before installing the glazing on the window frame.



▲ **Figure 1: Myranda's Market**

"Interior Decoration" continued on Page 4

“Interior Decoration” continued from page 3

Finally, placing a little person or other detail item right behind a window can be a quick and easy way to imply a fully detailed interior. Again, a person looking out at widow also helps provide a view block to an otherwise empty interior. A very easy way to display 'goods' inside a store window is to glue a piece of wood inside of the building wall, directly under the window. I take a piece of basswood a scale 2' wide, and glue it to the wall with a piece of 1/8" square bracing under it. Paint this a dark color so as not to attract attention. Add some crates or

case you are pretty much done. If it is a 'people door' with a window, you can add some window treatment or person standing just behind the window as in the discussion above. However, closed doors can be pretty uninteresting, so I tend to model many of them in open or partially open positions. That brings us back to our topic of interior decoration.

One of the first issues to address is to have a floor of some type behind that open door. You don't want a gaping hole behind the open door. I use either a sheet of basswood or heavy cardstock for a quick floor, etch some floor planking on with the back of a #11 X-Acto blade, and then color it with Guardsman Furniture Touch-Up Pens (magic markers sold to touch up scratches in furniture). Now that you have an open door with a floor behind it, you can place some figures in the doorway, or place some appropriate detail items just in view inside the building. If it is a freight door, a few crates and barrels will suffice. The picture of the trackside structures in Figure 2 show how easy that can be.

Interiors:

There are times when just a few figures, or a few crates and barrels will not suffice. This can occur when a structure has very large windows (such as in a factory or store front), or when you wish to model a fully detailed interior and provide the structure with a removable roof. Let's begin by looking at the first situation - very large windows. You could 'frost' the windows, but I think that you are missing out on a real mod-



▲ **Figure 2: Trackside Structures**

baskets of fruits and vegetables, a crate of soda bottles, or a sack of apples, and you are good to go. Three great sources for HO scale detail items for this use are the following Preiser sets: #17105 (beer barrels, beer crates, beer bottles), #17501 (fruit and vegetable boxes), and #17502 (fruit and vegetable baskets). These three sets will provide enough detail items for all the structures on your layout!

The photo of Myranda's Market in Figure 1 illustrates many of the techniques mentioned above. The shades in the second storey windows are made from that pad of arithmetic paper. The curtains on the windows just below the porch are made from a paper napkin, and the window sign was printed out on my computer. Notice the figure looking out of the window on the door, and the Preiser vegetable items on the display shelves just behind the windows. The shelf by the 'Egg Sign' is tilted a bit to better display the veggies.

Doors:

There are generally two types of doors - 'people' doors and larger 'freight' doors. Of course, you can model both types of doors in the closed position, in which

▼ **Figure 3: Model Tech Studios model**



“Interior Decoration” continued on Page 6

THE CLUB CAR

GARDEN STATE CENTRAL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712
WWW.GARDENSTATECENTRAL.COM
100% NMRA CLUB

GARDEN STATE MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

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WWW.GSMRRCLUB.ORG

MODEL ENGINEERS RAILROAD CLUB OF NEW JERSEY

569 HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD
NORTH HALEDON, NJ 07508
WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/NJ4/MERRCNJ

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

295 JEFFERSON AVENUE
UNION, NJ 07083
WWW.TMRCL.COM

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

341 HOBOKEN ROAD
CARLSTADT, NJ 07072
WWW.MODELENGINEERS.ORG

RAMAPO VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB

620 CLIFF STREET
HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07423
WWW.MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RVRRCLUB

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF THE NMRA MID-EASTERN REGION

WWW.NJDIVNMRA.ORG

SEND CLUB INFORMATION TO MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:

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TCASEY@CO.BERGEN.NJ.US

Union, NJ Spring Meet

You can't say you weren't warned! The Spring Meet, held at The Model Railroad Club, in Union, NJ was a great success.

Many models were entered for judging for the Achievement Program. Tom Piccirillo submitted many of his O scale traction engines for the Motive Power category while Bruce DeYoung submitted models to complete



▲ Tom Griffiths of the New Jersey Division displayed this near HO scale replica of the Lackawanna Hoboken Terminal for Show and Tell



▲ Andy Rubbo presenting his clinic on building catenary

his certificate in the Structure category.

Many fine models were also entered in the first Show and Tell. You will have to excuse us. We remembered the "Show" portion of Show and Tell, but forgot the "Tell" portion. The idea was to have modelers talk about their models. Since this was the first time we held Show and Tell, and there were so many other things occurring during the meeting, we forgot to have modelers talk about their models. Fortunately, many of the models had small write-ups next to the models. We will do better at

the next Show and Tell.

There were also a couple clinics presented at the meeting. Andy Rubbo brought a diorama to supplement his fine presentation on building catenary lines. Chuck Diljak presented a short clinic on the steps he takes to have articles published in the model railroad magazines.

The meeting wrapped up with door prizes for all participants and a three hour operating session.

Looking back, there was a little bit of something for everyone. 🍷

Chuck Diljak presenting his clinic on "Getting Published" ▼



eling opportunity.




▲ **Figure 4: Interior of Boarding House**

I recently modeled a factory as a background building. This model, offered by Model Tech Studios, features huge factory windows. Even though it was to sit against the backdrop, about three feet from the viewers, an empty structure would have been obvious. The solution? Insert a floor just below the window level, add a figure that looks busy, dig through the scrap box for colorful plastic shapes that would suggest machinery, and add some crates and barrels. It did not require the purchase of any expensive detail items. In fact, it allowed me to get rid of some items that would not stand up to close viewing. Figure 3 is a picture showing the results.

Figure 4 is of another model with large front windows. This model represents a boarding house, so I decided to model the lobby behind those windows. Again, this did not require the purchase of fancy detail items. In the following picture, only the people and the sofa were purchased items. I quickly turned the round table from a piece of wood dowel placed in my electric drill, made the registration desk from some scrap wood, and made the potted plant from a dried weed covered with ground foam. The picture on the wall behind the desk is taken from the Internet and reduced in size, while the rug is a picture taken from one of my wife's many catalogs. I made the globe lamp from stuff I had found and saved over the years.

Finally, you might want to fully detail an interior and provide your model with a removable roof for better viewing. In this situation, you might want to plan ahead and purchase the necessary detail castings in advance. I have done that on only one model so far. Since this issue of *The Whistle Post* has 'stations' as its theme, it is fitting that the model I'm talking about is a station. The station is a Bar Mills model, and I fully detailed the interior, as shown in Figure 5. The wood paneling on the interior walls is made from individual pieces of stripwood. I scribed the planking on the wooden floor provided by the manufacturer, and colored it using MicroMark's Age-It-Easy Brown stain, although the Guardsman Furniture Markers that I mentioned before would do a great job also. Many of the detail items are from SS Ltd, but there are many other manufacturers represented as well.

To get more ideas about 'Interior Decoration', there is a terrific thread devoted to the topic on the Railroad-Line Forum. The Railroad Line Forum is one of the premier on-line forums dedicated to model railroading. Here is the link to that thread:
http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=7418

So, if you haven't been adding detail items to your building interiors, give it a try. As I have shown, it doesn't have to be either expensive or time consuming. I think you will like it! 

▼ **Figure 5: Interior of Bar Mills Station**



MODELING TIP

PROBLEM:

Many kits and scratchbuilt structures contain elements that are brick or wood. How do you model a structure that has a stucco texture, instead?

SOLUTION:

Many modelers use Durham's water putty. However, there is another product that is worth trying. Go to your local craft store, such as Michael's, and look for a product called Deco Art Sandstones. Several colors are offered and can be applied with a dabbing technique. When dry, the surface can be painted another color to match the look you want.

CONGRATULATIONS:

GOLDEN SPIKE
TOM PICCIRILLO
WARREN, NJ

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR
TOM PICCIRILLO, NER 453*
WARREN, NJ

STRUCTURES
BRUCE DEYOUNG, NER 456
WEST MILFORD, NJ

DISPATCHER
TOM PICCIRILLO, NER 454
WARREN, NJ

* INDICATES FIRST CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

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

SPRING CLEAN UP

by Norman Frowley, MMR

The Achievement Program of the Garden State Division is in full swing this spring. (that is a nice alliteration, huh?). Tom Piccirillo won his Golden Spike award and Chuck Diljak his Association Volunteer Achievement Certificate. Bruce DeYoung just won his sixth merit mark for his rendition of Hap Hazard's Hardware Store and is now set to win his second Achievement Certificate, this one for structures. Tom Piccirillo has achieved a Merit Award for his O scale traction crane. Two other locomotives scored more than 87.5 points in judging and are therefore on their way to Merit Awards as well. That sets Tom up to receive his Achievement Certificate in Motive Power. Tom also completed his requirements for the Author Certificate and the Chief Dispatcher's Certificates. Both are in the works so to speak. In addition, Tom received his Golden Spike Award this spring. And speaking of Golden Spike awards, Frank Russo also received his.

This type of activity in the AP Program makes my heart sing (Do re me!!); for it's my belief that participation in the program is what makes us all better modelers. We learn by watching what others have accomplished in the hobby.

It's so easy to get involved in the AP Program if you haven't already done so. Bring your models down to meets, give me a call or write me an email and I'll come to your home to see your layout. Don't be bashful or self conscious about your work. Not every model is capable of winning a merit award, but the beauty of the program is that for the most part you don't have to produce an award winner every time out. To gain the Achievement Certificate in Structures you have to build twelve, but only six of the twelve have to



▲ Bruce De Young's model of Hap Hazard's Hardware

▼ Tom Piccirillo's scratchbuilt O Scale traction crane



"Spring Clean Up" continued on
Page 14



◀ Chuck Diljak received his Volunteer AP Certificate

Tom Piccirillo received his Golden Spike Award from Norman Frowley ▶



RAILROAD FAMILY YOUTH DAY

Saturday, September 20, 2008, 2 – 5 PM
At the Sleepy Lagoon Beach on Lake Mohawk in
Sparta, New Jersey
Free admission
Sponsored by the NMRA's Garden State Division

All family members can participate. Last year, over 20
children and 15 adults participated.

- ✓ Run Lionel, HO and G scale trains
- ✓ Build a 13" x 9" scenic module
- ✓ Construct trees, mountains, houses, bushes and
road beds
- ✓ Build structures from cardboard
- ✓ Build two 4' x 4' HO layouts with track to raffle at the
end of the day

Contact Anthony Piccirillo
Treasurer and Youth Coordinator
Telephone: 973-726-5934
E-Mail: anthony13trains@embarqmail.com

PLEASE CALL SO ENOUGH MATERIAL IS PROVIDED FOR EVERYONE.

Donations of scenery materials, HO track, cars and
engines for the two layouts will be cheerfully accepted.

Volunteers are also needed. Thank you for your help!

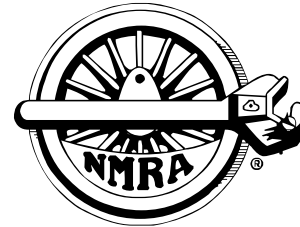
The Empire Junction '08



The Northeast Region Model Railroad Convention

Presented by The Central New York
Division
September 11-14, 2008
Liverpool, NY

For more information, visit our website at
www.empirejunction.org



"Meeting Minutes" continued from page 15

-A proposed mission statement was reviewed and accepted by GSD Board and Directors: "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".

-Chuck Diljak indicated that the deadline for the upcoming Whistle Post articles is July 10, 2008. Items needed include Point / Counter Point, Meeting Minutes, etc.

-Because of increasing mailing and processing costs, the annual subscription cost for a black-and-white copy will increase from \$7 to \$10. Only renewed subscriptions will begin paying \$10, which runs from January to January. Anyone (member or non-member) can still download a free color copy of the Whistle Post from the GSD website.

Old business:

Anthony Piccirillo presented an update of the upcoming Youth Day at Lake Mohawk in Sparta, NJ on September 20, 2008. The

event may be expanded to include about 40 local Boy Scouts.

New business:

Chuck Diljak presented 20 variations of a GSD logo. All logos were reviewed in depth. A vote was taken to decide between two favorite logos. Logo 20 won the majority vote subject to a few enhancements. Generally, everyone was pleased to finally have an official Division logo. Everyone thanked Chuck for spearheading this worthy effort and working through the varied design possibilities.

Next meeting:

Early September 2008
At the home of Tom Wortmann in Staten Island, NY

Meeting adjourned around 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary

NEXT DIVISION MEETING

TIME:
NOON

DATE:
AUGUST 24, 2008

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

AND

MODEL ENGINEERS RAILROAD CLUB OF NEW JERSEY
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NORTH HALEDON, NJ 07508
WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/NJ4/MERRCNJ

DIRECTIONS:
LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM FIRE Co. 2, UNDERNEATH HONEY BEE NAIL SALON, LESS THAN 5 MINUTES FROM WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY. FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS, VISIT: WWW.GSMRRCLUB.ORG

AGENDA:
BARBEQUE
CLINIC
DOOR PRIZES
OPERATING SESSION

COST:
FIRST BURGER/HOT DOG AND SODA ARE FREE.

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

ROBERT TUMIELEWICZ
RTUMIELEW@AOL.COM



Come to the GSD Barbeque on August 24 at: The Garden State Model Railway Club in Haledon

Did someone say "burgers and dogs?" Did I also hear "trains?" If that combination doesn't put coals in your fire, what will?

Yes, it is time for the annual Garden State Division barbeque. Like last year, the HO scale Garden State Model Railway Club and O scale Model Engineers Railroad Club of New Jersey will host.



This year, however, we are making a few changes on the agenda and menu. The important stuff, first. When you arrive, you will be given two tickets. One of those tickets is for your first hotdog or burger, free. It also entitles you to a free soda to wash down that burger or hotdog. After that, a \$1 fee will be charged for additional burgers, hot dogs, or soda. Side dishes will be provided at no charge.

Remember last year's agenda for the barbeque? That's right, there wasn't any. It was a social event where everyone talked about their trains, families, work, and vacations. This year, you can still do that. However, we decided to add more to the agenda. Remember that second ticket? Why, that will be entered in a drawing for door prizes.




But wait, there's more.


We are planning to have a clinic presented, this year. This year a clinic on building a diode matrix is planned. If you are on the verge of picking up that soldering iron, but still hesitant, come to the barbeque to learn more about how easy it is to build this circuit.

And, there is still more!

At the end of the Spring meet in Union, The Model Railroad Club hosted an operating session on their layout. Not to be outdone, the HO scale Garden State Model Railway Club will tempt fate by having the GSD membership operate their Garden State Northern.

Can you hear the sizzling burgers and steam whistles calling you? I can. See you on August 24 in North Haledon. More information is provided in the column, at left. 

Subscription Price Increase

Beginning with the 2009 calendar year, the subscription price for *The Whistle Post* will increase from \$7 to \$10. The increase in price is due to printing costs and postage. The price increase will only affect those members who prefer to receive a printed copy of *The Whistle Post*. All other members can continue to download *The Whistle Post* from the Garden State Division website for free. 

CRAFTSMAN KITS: THE ONLY WAY TO GO

By Norman Frowley

I've scratch built cars and structures and constructed craftsman kits of both, and here's the deal. If you have unlimited time to devote to one modeling project then scratch building can be fun. But for those of us who have jobs and family responsibilities it is impractical and perhaps politically unwise to spend months researching a project, obtaining or drawing plans, choosing the materials and finish, finding distributors of the various components and ordering and receiving the parts and supplies before even thinking about starting construction. And even then you may have to fashion your own parts to suit your project since not everything is commercially available.

Good craftsman kits are based on solid research and usually come with almost everything you need, including a comprehensive set of instructions. You pay for the time spent by the kit manufacturer in doing the background work, collecting the needed materials in the proper quantities and composing the construction instructions; but for me time is money and I'm happy to pay for the savings in time and energy gained by building a craftsman kit.

In addition, building craftsman kits enhances your skills as a modeler. Frequently, the instructions accompanying a kit specify and explain certain procedures or techniques in methods of construction or weathering which can be used on other projects. For example, I learned the "peeling paint" technique I use all the time on wood structures from building a South River Modelworks structure 10 years ago. Likewise, the painting with chalks technique and special wood stain I frequently use came from instructions accompanying craftsman kits. [For those of you who don't know these techniques I'll be happy to tell you about them at some other time].

Finally, craftsman kits are usually designed so as to allow you the freedom to do some serious kit bashing. So you don't have to feel confined to building exactly what the kit manufacturer had in mind when he sold the kit to you. I've modified walls and foundations, added flooring and interior details and lighting, changed the configuration of building roofs and used materials different from those specified by the kit's maker.

It took me several months to build one particular structure from South River Modelworks (Threadwell Mills) only because I took time to develop an interior floor plan, design and build interior details such as wooden and mechanical looms, and plan and install interior and exterior lighting so as to hide all the necessary wiring. The kit came with numerous stone wall hydrocal castings

"Craftsman Kits" continued on Page 14

SCRATCH BUILDING WHAT I WANT

By Ed Fraedrich

Scratch building is a very interesting subject for me. I have constructed my share of laser cut kits and Campbell's wood kits. But I really enjoy scratch building structures, right down to the double hung windows. Well, to be honest, "I don't do windows" anymore due to the eye strain. However, Grandt Line, Tichy and many other companies manufacture terrific, affordable window and door castings. So, there isn't any reason to strain the old peepers, anymore!

The number one reason I enjoy scratch building is the ability to modify plans to fit a specific space on my layout. I have even combined two separate structure plans to construct something that is unique to my layout. That is similar to kit-bashing, only this is "scratch-bashing." Pat Harriman, a Master Model Railroader, publishes plans in every issue of Scale Rails. His plans would be an ideal starting point for "scratch-bashing." They can be modified or combined into many different combinations of structures.

And, what if you want a model of a prototype that is not available as a kit? You will have to scratch build it from plans or find a kit that you are willing to use as a substitute or kitbash.

The second reason I like scratch building is how forgiving it is when mistakes are made. When cutting a window or door opening, it can be easily corrected. Or, if you really mess up a wall, a new piece can be cut and I can go happily on my way. Scratch building allows you to make mistakes at an affordable price. If you are not completely satisfied with the final results, use the model in the background. You will have learned from your mistakes and the next model will be even better.

I have never tried to modify a laser kit. Some laser kits use a tab and slot method of construction. I don't like the idea of cutting off those tabs that hold everything in the proper position. I suppose it can be done but I am not the guy to try it after spending that much cash for the kit.

And there is also one more reason to scratch build. Norman knows full well that to satisfy their Masters Builders Structures certificate, six of the structures must be scratch built by the modeler. And, if the structure is scratch built, it will help in accumulating more points towards a merit award. So, it will be interesting to read why Norman, the Garden State Division Achievement Program Chairman, prefers building craftsman kits vs. scratch building.

But, I have to admit that craftsman kits look great when com-

"Scratch Building" continued on Page 14



ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR
THE WHISTLE POST:

JANUARY 10

APRIL 10

JULY 10

OCTOBER 10

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

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MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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Photo Theme for the Next Issue: *Motive Power*



▲ Number 98 on Tom Piccirillo's O scale Somerset Traction Company

Each issue of *The Whistle Post* will feature a page or two centered on a theme.

For the Fall 2008 issue, the theme will be "Motive Power." Send in photos of your diesel, steam, and traction models. They can be photographs of models or prototype motive power..

The photos can be e-mailed to gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com. Include a description for each photo that is submitted that fits the theme. 

How Our NMRA Liability Insurance Coverage Works

We have been getting an increasing number of questions lately about our liability insurance...who can use it, whom it protects, when it goes into effect, etc.

In order to help answer these questions, we have just posted a new memo and other documents to the nmra.org website in which we have tried to supply plain-language answers to many of the questions we've been asked.

To access all the insurance information and forms, just go to www.nmra.org and click the "insurance" link that is under the "Resources" heading on the left side of the web page. Or you can go directly to this URL:

www.nmra.org/national/insurance/insurance.html

Mike Brestel
NMRA President

Nella Country Store
KingMill Enterprises
www.kingmill.com
HO Scale
MSRP \$54.95



I bought this kit at the 2005 National NMRA convention in Cincinnati. The folks selling it were very nice and very proud of their products. And, since they offered a show discount, I bought it.

The kit is packaged in a blister pack and is considered a craftsman kit. Believe me, it is indeed a craftsman kit.

I no longer consider Bar Mills kits craftsman kits. Granted, they do look great with their fine

laser cut parts. But the newer ones are easy to assemble. I no longer hold my breath, hoping I build it right. If you follow the directions, which have improved a 1000%, you will build it correctly.

That's where the KingMill kit suffers: the directions. I am not a professional model builder, a Master Model Railroader, or a modeler that claims to be great at kit building. But, I have constructed my share of craftsman kits. And, while this looks like a straightforward kit, the lack of clear instructions makes this kit a challenge.

The directions are very basic. They exclude the details, measurements, scale drawings, and close-up views that would make the construction of this kit easier. Many times, I referred to the small color photos on the cover sheet to see how the model should look when completed. "Cut two pieces of the 1/16th stock and place here." How long? How far from the edge? At this point, I was

guessing. I even ran out of stripwood and had to buy more. This may be due to cutting pieces the wrong length. And, perhaps I did not use the provided stripwood efficiently. The end result was a collection of short stripwood pieces.

They give you very general instructions on how to assemble the windows along with one exploded view. But, there were three different types of windows, two types of doors, and only one master view. Many windows needed double side jams but nowhere did it say that. I figured that out by all the extra parts left over and again looking over the color photo



very carefully. No scale plans are included in the kit. With scale plans, one could lay down their pieces and see how much to cut and where it fit.

The side walls also needed a lot more bracing than the kit shows and there was heavier stock left over to do just that. The kit comes with many details: newspapers, signs and even an outhouse. Sadly this could be a much better kit if it came with better instructions.



I strongly suggest building a kit by Bar Mills, Fine Scale Minatures, Sawgrass Models and others before trying a kit by Kingmill. The skills you learn from the other manufacturers will be invaluable when building a kit like this. 

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THE JACKSON HOBBY SHOP SUPPORTS THE NMRA BY PROVIDING A 10% DISCOUNT ON TRAINS AND TRAIN SUPPLIES WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR NMRA CARD. THE REMAINING HOBBY SHOPS SUPPORT THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION BY PROVIDING DOOR PRIZES FOR OUR MEETINGS.



Stations



◀ CRRofNJ's Lakewood, NJ station as modeled in HO scale by Tom Griffiths



A scene on the Pacific Southern Railroad club's HO layout in Rocky Hill, NJ ▶



◀ A scene on the New York Society of Model Engineers O scale layout in Carlstadt, NJ



The Reading Station in Belle Mead, NJ ▶

NMRA Patent Challenge Update:

Real Rail Effects fails to respond to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.


RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.


The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.


After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible. 

"Spring Clean Up" continued from page 7


be of merit award quality. The other six just have to be built and be reasonably detailed. So why not get started as soon as today. I'll be happy to help you along the way. (Always fun to end with a rhyme). 

"Craftsman Kits" continued from page 10

containing intricate detail. I can only imagine how long it would have taken me to build the same structure from scratch. Perhaps a year or more? In my opinion that's a bit too great an investment of time for one structure. In sum, for those of us short on time (and energy) craftsman kits are simply the only way to go. 

"Scratch Building" continued from page 10

pleted. I have seen the work Norman has done and they are very good looking models. But, I have also seen my share of great looking models that were scratch built.

If you haven't scratch built anything, give it a try in wood, plaster or plastic. What ever material you prefer will be a good starting point for your model. So, if you have an itch to build something unique, try scratch building. 

WANTED

For Publication in the Whistle Post

WRITERS AND

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ARE STILL AT LARGE

←FOR→

Feature Articles

Photographs

Regular Columns

Event Listings

Product Reviews

Point / Counterpoint

Viewpoints

Layout Articles

How-To Articles

Club Articles

Contact the Editor at

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WELCOME TO NEW GSD MEMBERS

WILLIAM MEOLA
GLEN ROCK, NJ

JEANNE PALAZZO
PORT MURRAY, NJ

ROBERT RATHGEBER
RIDGEFIELD, NJ



MEETING MINUTES

BY SECRETARY CIRO COMPAGNO

Purpose:

Garden State Division (GSD) Meeting

Date/Time:

June 1, 2008 at 11:00 AM

Place:

Home of Norman Frowley in South Orange, NJ

Attendees:

Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Chuck Diljak, Ed Fraedrich, Norman Frowley, Roger Oliver, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Wortmann and Bruce DeYoung

Open remarks by GSD President Tom Wortmann. The minutes of the March 8, 2008 GSD Staff Meeting were read by Secretary Ciro Compagno. Motion was made to accept those minutes followed by a second motion. There were no dissenting votes. Motion to accept the proposed agenda submitted by the Secretary was offered followed by second motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony Piccirillo presented his first report as Treasurer. Several suggestions were made to improve reviewed accounting statements.

Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman Frowley summarized recent activities in the AP program with recent acknowledgements given to Chuck Diljak, Tom Piccirillo and Bruce DeYoung. The Paul Mallery Award entry form and requirements have been finalized, and was a featured article in the Spring 2008 Whistle Post. The start date for the 2008 award was January 1, 2008.

Convention Committee Report

There was a group discussion on the upcoming summer meet in the absence of Bob Tumielewicz:

-The meet will be hosted by the Garden State Model Railway Club and Model Engineers Railroad Club of New Jersey, in North Haledon, NJ on August 24, 2008.

-Highlights of the event will include a clinic,

door prizes, auction and an operating session.

-Roger Oliver agreed to follow-up with door prizes.

-Andy Brusgard agreed to bring rolls of colored tickets for door prizes.

-Ciro Compagno agreed to bring the barbeque cooking utensils.

-Food requirements include 50 hamburgers and buns, 50 hot dogs and buns, soda, etc. to feed about 40 persons.

-The first hot dog or hamburger and a soda will be complimentary. Thereafter, \$1 each.

Membership Report

Tom Casey presented a summary:

-It was clarified that the GSD membership is filtered from information provided by National via the Northeastern Region (NER). The information is reportedly the entire membership. Errors and omissions are brought to the attention of National. The filtered GSD membership is then supplemented with corrected information and finally sent to the GSD Staff.

-Tom Casey will send to the GSD Staff the May 2008 membership reports. The purpose in sharing this information is to give Chuck Diljak consideration on how to possibly fit this information into the Whistle Post.

-The inactive membership continues to be an area of opportunity.

-It is believed that the neighboring New Jersey Division of the Mid-Eastern Region (MER) may have GSD members assigned to it.

-Tom Wortmann and Norman Frowley agreed to write a resolution to address incorrectly assigned members, lost members, boundary issues, etc. Roger Oliver offered to present the resolution at the August 3, 2008 NER Staff meeting.

Whistle Post Report

Chuck Diljak presented a summary:

"Meeting Minutes" continued on Page 8



Chuck Diljak
31 Kuiken Court
Wayne, NJ 07470

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THE TIMETABLE

Sunday, 8/3/08, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: www.dovertrainshow.com

Saturday-Sunday, 8/9-10/08, 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

Sunday, 08/10/08, Annual Railroad Day, Maywood Station Museum, 269 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, NJ. Noon-3PM. For more information: www.maywoodstation.com

Sunday, 8/24/08, **NMRA Garden State Division Summer BBQ**, Garden State Model Railway Club and Model Engineers Railroad Club of New Jersey, 569-575 High Mountain Road North Haledon, NJ. 12 Noon. For directions: www.gsmrclub.org or www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj

Thursday-Sunday, 9/11-14/08, NER Regional Convention: Empire Junction, Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY. For more information: www.empirejunction.org

Saturday, 9/20/08, Railroad Family Youth Day, sponsored by the **NMRA Garden State Division**, Sleepy Lagoon Beach at Lake Mohawk in Sparta, NJ, 2-5 PM. Free admission. Contact Anthony Piccirillo at 973-726-5934 or anthony13trains@embarqmail.com

Sunday, 10/5/08, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: www.dovertrainshow.com

Saturday-Sunday, 10/11-12/08, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$7, children under 12 Free, family \$14. For more information: www.gsmts.com

Friday-Sunday, 10/17-19/08 and 10/24-26/08, Garden State Central Model Railroad Club Show, 607 8th Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ. For more information: www.gardenstatecentral.com

Saturday, 10/25/08, **NMRA Garden State Division Fall Meet**, in conjunction with the The New York Society of Model Engineers Fall Exhibition, 341 Hoboken Rd, Carlstadt, NJ. 10 AM. For more information: www.modelengineers.org

Thursday-Saturday, 11/13-15/08, Craftsman Structure Show 2008, Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA. For more information: www.css08.com

Sunday, 11/23/08, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: www.dovertrainshow.com

Friday-Sunday, 11/28-30/08, 12/5-7/08, 12/12-14/2/07, The Garden State Model Railway Club 51st Annual Model Railroad Show, 575 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. Friday evenings 7-10PM, Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1-5PM. For more information: www.gsmrrclub.org

TO HAVE A SHOW OR MEET LISTED, PLEASE E-MAIL THE INFORMATION TO GSDWHISTLEPOST@YAHOO.COM