



New Tracks Modeling Observations

Our Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2024

And, welcome to our First Monthly New Tracks Modeling Observations Newsletter. I'm your Editor, Martin Brechbiel, MMR, and I'm here to field questions and suggestion for this newsletter. Send those to: Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com. And if you want to write an article about any aspect of model railroading, just contact me directly at that same email address.

From Jim Kellow, MMR: I can't believe 2023 moved so fast! We have already finished with Thanksgiving and are now looking forward to Christmas with our families and a great start to the 2024 New Year. All of us at **New Tracks Modeling** wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, a safe and prosperous New Year, and fun and success with every one of your Modeling projects.

New Organizational Sponsors for New Tracks Modeling

Thanks to our new Sponsors for their financial support to help pay for Shows, Zoom, YouTube, and related out of pocket costs.



Brennan's Model Railroading
<https://www.brennansmodelrr.com/>



O Scale Central Association
<https://oscalecentral.com/>

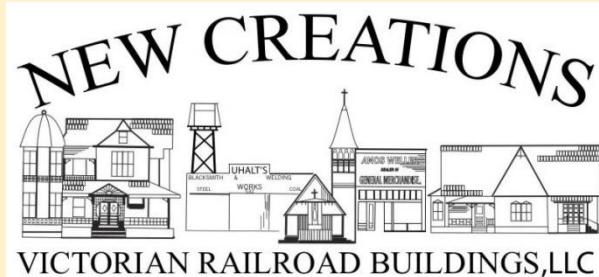


National Association of S Gaugers
<https://www.nasg.org/>



National Capital Trains
<https://nationalcapitaltrains.com/>

Mainline Hobby Supply
<https://mainlinehobby.com/>



New Creations Victorian Railroad
Buildings, LLC
<https://newcreationsvictorian.com/>

Regularly Scheduled Segments that can be seen on New Tracks Modeling

Modeling Around the World - Japan

by Bernard Kritzer, owner of National Capital Trains (Bernard.Kritzer@newtracksmodeling.com)

The internet and the expansion of world trade and travel result in growing international interconnectedness in all facets of modern life.

From the perspective of model railroading and as a long-time dealer and modeler, I observe a growing U.S. interest in foreign trains stemming in large part from Americans traveling for work or tourism. Many Americans, including my customers, identify with and approve of international rail systems moving people efficiently and cost competitively. This trend is prevalent in Japan and Europe and emerging throughout East Asia, including China and Taiwan. Another factor is that many Americans retain a level of nostalgia for travel by passenger train.

The model railroading community is embracing foreign trains, particularly N scale Japanese models because they provide a number of opportunities. The wide variety of product offerings enable model railroaders to select products ranging from 10 car Bullet Trains to small, narrow radius trolleys and trams. N scale allows for small spaces which in turn enhances layout possibilities. Available and growing technology allows modelers to operate with Digital Command Control, sound, and extensive lighting features. These trends also reflect current society with the emphasis on "smaller is better" and reliance on technology that goes far beyond the old analog modes.

In the next few months, I look forward to sharing with the group international experience and developing a dialogue with interested parties.

Scratchbuilder's Corner

by Martin Brechbiel, MMR (Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com)

Scratchbuilder's Corner presents on a weekly basis all aspects of scratchbuilding primarily with wood as the medium to build structures and rolling stock, and other materials such as styrene, brass, and resin. Intentions here are teach techniques and "tricks" that can be adapted into your scratchbuilding projects working up from simple through increasing complexity. Segments in October and November have introduced some basic structure building projects. November going into December will present an unusual rolling stock item, a substation car that crosses over into traction modeling. Thereafter, another step forward and upward in the structure building series will follow in 2024.



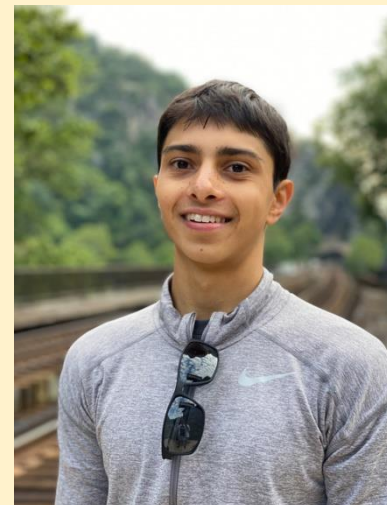
New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarships - For Modeling's Future

by Bob Davidson, Chairman of New Tracks Scholarship Committee
(NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com)

In 2023, New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. was formed as a Florida 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to model railroaders and other modelers pursuing a STEAM related college degree or technical school credential.

Our first scholarship was awarded in August of 2023 to Ethan Bernstein, who is currently a junior at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Ethan is an active modeler and member of NMRA. You can learn more about Ethan on the New Tracks Modeling YouTube channel.

Right now we are on track to award at least \$4,000.00 in scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year. You can help make this possible by making a tax-deductible donation. The simplest way



is to go online to newtracksmodeling.com and click on the Scholarship tab at the top of the page. You can donate either through the Zeffy portal or by sending a check. Either way, 100% of your donation will go to the scholarship fund. Any donations under \$80 made before January 1 up to \$1000 total will be matched by an anonymous donor, so please make your donation soon! Please donate any amount you can to our New Tracks Modeling Scholarship. It's easy just click on the link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/038439bf-a552-44e2-9b46-ef54aaa0e274>

Also, if you know of a high-school senior or college student who is or will be pursuing a STEAM related course of study, encourage them to apply for the scholarship. Applications for the 2024-2025 scholarships will open on January 1, and can be viewed under the Scholarship tab at <https://newtracksmodeling.com/>

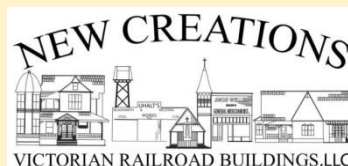
Brass Corporate Sponsors:



The Model Railroad Resource LLC
<https://sscaleresource.com/WP/>
<https://oscaleresource.com/WP/>



Brennan's Model Railroading
<https://www.brennansmodelrr.com/>



New Creations Victorian
Railroad Buildings, LLC
<https://newcreationsvictorian.com/>



Great Scale Model Train Show
<https://www.gsmts.com/>

New Tracks Modeling "MY BUILD"

by Chris Course (railrunner130@hotmail.com) (*Link to show's November 2023 segment*)

Model railroading is about sharing. In that vein, MY BUILD is your opportunity to show off your build. Trains, buildings or boats, it doesn't matter. It doesn't have to be your latest build. Heck, it could even be something you found at a flea market and thought was neat. Maybe if you're stuck on something and

need a different technique or are stumped by something, this is a good part of the show to ask these questions. Please share. We can help. It's no judgement. It doesn't have to be a John Allen special. Maybe it's your first model. Please share. These segments are held once each month. The October and November My Builds are on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-tGwdG9x5w> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx5eqAOJUTs&t=31s> , respectively Every other month, six times each year, there is a theme. These themes aren't hard and fast - if you can find something that fits in a category, but is "outside the box", that is ENCOURAGED!

So far in **2023** the themes have been:

- February** Oddities. Aliens, UFO dealership (for example), steampunk, a jackelope skull on the front of some oddball, backwoods engine (another example), non-prototypical trains, depressed center flatcars,
- April** Spring! scenery, flora, vegetation, trees, something wild, flower boxes, vines, backdrops, planting crops, world awakening after winter, greenhouses;
- June** Water. Waterfront buildings, wharves, boats, covered bridges, water tanks, anything water related;
- August** Harvest. farm equipment, grain elevators, hopper cars, mills, tractors, agriculture, barns, chicken coops, livestock, cattle pens/ranching, cattle cars, reefer cars;
- October** Halloween. haunted houses, abandoned buildings, abandoned railroad cars, scarecrows, derelict engines;
- December** Holiday. Santa, Christmas billboard cars, snow scenery, snow plows, people ice skating, holiday lighting, holiday decorations.

In **2024** we have planned:

January 17 Free for all! Anything goes!

- February 21** Oddities. Aliens, UFO dealership (for example), steampunk, a jackelope skull on the front of some oddball, backwoods engine (another example), non-prototypical trains, depressed center flatcars:
- March 20** Free for all! Anything goes!
- April 24** Spring! scenery, flora, vegetation, trees, something wild, flower boxes, vines, backdrops, planting crops, world awakening after winter, greenhouses;
- May** Free for all! Anything goes!
- June** Water. Waterfront buildings, wharves, boats, covered bridges, water tanks, anything water related;
- July** Free for all! Anything goes!
- August** Harvest. farm equipment, grain elevators, hopper cars, mills, tractors, agriculture, barns, chicken coops, livestock, cattle pens/ranching, cattle cars, reefer cars;
- September** Free for all! Anything goes!
- October** Halloween. haunted houses, abandoned buildings, abandoned railroad cars, scarecrows, derelict engines;
- November** Free for all! Anything goes!
- December** Holiday. Santa, Christmas billboard cars, snow scenery, snow plows, people ice skating, holiday lighting, holiday decorations.
-

Building a Layout - [Creating a Scene Based on a Theme](#)

by Tom Farrell (tfarrell60@comcast.net)

Creating an engaging and captivating model railroad scene first begins with establishing a theme. On the re-boot of my On30 Rustic Buff & Old Gothic Railroad, I wanted to feature a riverfront scene with bait shops, shanties, fishing boats, and fishermen as a theme.

Planning my waterfront theme based scene began with research. I initiated several Google searches specifying waterfronts in the era I intended on modeling. I quickly discovered that bait shops, strategically placed along the water's edge, with intricate details like signage, fishing gear, and men working in fishing-related activities, all could be combined to create the bustling waterfront theme I was seeking. Additionally, shanties, weathered and worn, also positioned close to the water, each could tell a unique story with fishing equipment strewn about and perhaps a small dock and fishing boats for added authenticity.

With the theme firmly established and the research completed, I began working on the planning and execution of my waterfront scene. I maintained a strong sense of realism throughout the construction and made it unique. I populated the scene with highly detailed scratch built structures and fishing boats. To enhance the realism even further, I



populated the area with figures that appear to be engaged in animated conversations about the day's fishing adventures. The gentle flow of the simulated river, created with realistic water effects, adds a dynamic element to the scene.

In the end, the careful orchestration of these elements resulted in a visually engaging and cohesive waterfront-themed scene.

What's to know about the Scales that we Model in?

I have had many discussions with modelers who say things like: "What is Scale (X) all about? Does anyone really model in (X) Scale? Can I really scratchbuild a model of ?? in (X) Scale?" Your scale of choice can be G, O or O Hi-Rail, S, HO, or N, and there are others yet that modelers choose to build in today.

To discuss these questions, we decided to start a monthly segment on G, O, O Hi-Rail, S, HO, and N scale hosted by knowledgeable talented modelers in each scale. These modelers will try to answer your questions, present information about what is possible to accomplish, and then present what a new modeler entering a scale might need to consider. One scale will be discussed each week, each month, starting in our November 2023 Zoom shows. Here are the dates and hosts for the November and December 2023 shows. If you have specific questions you want addressed, or a specific person you would like to see interviewed on a scale segment, please contact the appropriate host. Their email addresses are shown below.

G Scale Modeling hosted by Steve Bittinger (12/27)

(Steve.Bittinger@newtracksmodeling.com)

Nov. 29 See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrUtCtgLZZA>

Sponsored by New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings LLC

O Scale Modeling hosted by David Schultz (12/6)

(David.Schultz@newtracksmodeling.com)

Nov. 15 See: https://youtu.be/WLPTdSK5mQg?si=0rhpK_evl7Pb3dTD

Sponsored by O Scale Central Association

O Gauge Hi-Rail Modeling hosted by Dennis Brennan (11/15, 12/6)

(dennis.brennan@newtracksmodeling.com)

Nov. 15 See: <https://youtu.be/PAO7CJRxeXE?si=fCLQXfmgTJ6w-Y5Y>

Interested in sponsoring this Segment? Contact Jim at: Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

S Scale Modeling hosted by Timothy Huebner (12/20)

(Timothy.Huebner@newtracksmodeling.com)

Nov. 1 See: <https://youtu.be/ELMTw2xe6JY?si=9FqJfn623TpmzDR>

Sponsored by National S Gauge Association (NASG)

HO scale Modeling hosted by Ed O'Rourke (12/13)

(Ed.ORourke@newtracksmodeling.com)

Nov. 8 See: <https://youtu.be/dWMMgtFyY7U?si=S4UldwHkSm7uYakh>

Sponsored by Mainline Hobby Supply

N Scale Modeling hosted by Clem Harris (12/13)

(Clem.Harris@newtracksmodeling.com)

Nov. 8 See: <https://youtu.be/CHjfYM3KXF8?si=qNjtsDZFEmdWHsMS>

Sponsored by National Capital Trains

After these 2023 shows, we will evaluate our content based on viewer numbers, and their reactions and comments. If you are interested in having something specific discussed about one of these scales, please let the host know and tell him what you want to know and who you would like to hear from, too. It is up to you to help the host decide what these scale segments discuss, and who the guests are on these segments.

These are all currently and tentatively scheduled into 2024.

January	3rd O, O-HR	10th HO, N	17th S	24th G
February	7th O, O-HR	14th HO, N	21st S	28th G
March	6th O, O-HR	13th HO, N	20th S	27th G
April	3rd O, O-HR	10th HO, N	17th S	24th G
May	1st O, O-HR	8th HO, N	15th S	22nd G
June	5th O, O-HR	12th HO, N	19th S	26th G
July	3rd O, O-HR	10th HO, N	17th S	24th G
August	7th O, O-HR	14th HO, N	21st S	28th G
Sept.	4th O, O-HR	11th HO, N	18th S	25th G
October	2nd O, O-HR	9th HO, N	16th S	30th G
Nov.	6th O, O-HR	13th HO, N	20th S	27th G
Dec.	4th O, O-HR	11th HO, N	18th S	25th G

New Tracks Show Schedule – December (Register at: <https://newtracksmodeling.com/>) Subscribe to YouTube channel New Tracks Modeling and ring the Bell. All programs are subject to change.

<p>December 6 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow Build Along (1/4); Dylan Lambert Locomotive Works passenger car (special creation for your fleet) Build Along with Earl Hackett Scratchbuilder’s Corner 9 with Martin Brechbiel Building cheap switch machines (1/2) with Kirk Bucher Hampton Roads Model Railroad Museum Update with Greg Warth Station Kit-bashing to represent Prototype with Jeff Jordan Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill Inter-Action Hobbies; Darryl Jacobs. O scale Modeling sponsored by OSC with David Schultz</p>	<p>December 13 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow NMRA Clubs & Divisions; Phil Edholm Build Along (2/4); Dylan Lambert Locomotive Works passenger car (special creation for your fleet) Build Along with Earl Hackett Scratchbuilder’s Corner 10 with Martin Brechbiel N Scale Modeling with Clem Harris HO scale Modeling with Edward O'Rourke Station Kit-bashing to represent Prototype (Part 2) with Jeff Jordan Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>
--	--

<p>O H-R with Dennis Brennan</p>	
<p>December 20 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow MY BUILD; hosted by Chris Coarse Build Along (3/4); Dylan Lambert Locomotive Works passenger car (special creation for your fleet) Build Along with Earl Hackett Scratchbuilder’s Corner 10 with Martin Brechbiel S Scale Modeling with Timothy Huebner Station Kit-bashing to represent Prototype (Part 3) with Jeff Jordan Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>	<p>December 27 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow Build Along (4/4); Dylan Lambert Locomotive Works passenger car (special creation for your fleet) Build Along with Earl Hackett Station Kit-bashing to represent Prototype (Part 4) with Jeff Jordan Scratchbuilder’s Corner 11 with Martin Brechbiel AI and Model Railroading with Bob Geldmacher 2023 wrap up with Jim Kellow NTM Scholarship wrap up and announcement with Bob Davidson Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell G scale Modeling with Steve Bottinger “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>
<p>January 3 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow O scale Modeling sponsored by OSC with David Schultz O H-R with Dennis Brennan 3D Printing with Bob Geldy Scratchbuilder’s Corner 12 with Martin Brechbiel Station Kit-bashing to represent Prototype (Part 5) with Jeff Jordan Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>	<p>January 10 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow Scratchbuilder’s Corner 13 with Martin Brechbiel N Scale Modeling with Clem Harris HO scale Modeling with Edward O'Rourke Build Along - Frenchman River Model Works with Tom Farrell How to use Vacuum forming for modeling with Keith Stamper Let’s Discuss the Economics of the Model Railroading Market with Bernie Kriger Craigmount Tramway Main storage and engineering facilities with Ian Fainger Setting the Stage with Scenery with Bob Geldmacher “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>
<p>January 17 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow S Scale Modeling with Timothy Huebner MY BUILD; hosted by Chris Coarse Scratchbuilder’s Corner 14 with Martin Brechbiel Build Along - Frenchman River Model Works with Tom Farrell How to use Vacuum forming for modeling with Keith Stamper Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>	<p>January 24 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow G scale Modeling with Steve Bottinger Setting the Stage with Scenery with Bob Geldmacher Build Along - Frenchman River Model Works with Tom Farrell Scratchbuilder’s Corner 15 with Martin Brechbiel Modeling and Art with Santiago Pineda Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill AXM Paper Space Scale Models; Introduction and Build Along of SpaceX Dragon with Alfonso Moreno</p>
<p>January 31 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow Scenery; what’s available? with Bob Geldmacher Scratchbuilder’s Corner 16 with Martin Brechbiel Build Along - Frenchman River Model Works with Tom Farrell Build Along of SpaceX Dragon with Alfonso Moreno Build Along Track Ballasting with Dennis Brennan Modeling and Art with Santiago Pineda “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>	

New Tracks Modeling Provides

“Modeler’s Path to Success.”

Use a Mentor’s experiences to help create your own and achieve your modeling successes.

“Try it. It works”

Meet some experienced talented modelers from all over the world. See one of our previous shows ([Link to last show in November 2023](#)).

Subscribe to our website at newtracksmodeling.com so you can join us live every Wednesday evening at 7 pm Eastern Time on our New Tracks Modeling Zoom shows or on our New Tracks Modeling YouTube channel, or our regular New Tracks Modeling series in both S Scale Resource and O Scale Resource magazines.

Just want to talk or comment, please contact me at:

jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

Thanks for reading!

Happy Modeling,

Jim Kellow, MMR

