



New Tracks Modeling Observations

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Brennan's Model Railroading

<https://www.brennansmodelrr.com/>

(816)-252-4605

Welcome to the August issue of the New Tracks Modeling Observations Newsletter. Updates to our regularly scheduled program segments are also included along with the schedule for August and September (see page **19**). Announcements of new products from vendors and news about trains shows and conventions, and New Tracks Modeling Scholarship news, and its travel about the country are included. As always, send your articles, tips or “tricks” about any aspect of model railroading, or just share a photo or two of a model you are building directly to me at: Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com.

From Jim Kellow, MMR

New Tracks Modeling will be represented at the Sunshine Region - NMRA IRON HORSE October 2024 - Convention. We hope you can join us there!

The Sunshine Region of the NMRA invites you to our new convention home at the Ocala Hilton in beautiful Ocala Florida, known as [The Horse Capital of the World®](#), for Iron Horse 2024!

Enjoy numerous hands-on activities, clinics, op sessions, contests, meet and greet, fellowship and more. The convention will run from 4 pm Thurs. Oct. 10, 2024 to Sat. Oct. 12, 2024, 11 pm (or when the banquet breaks up).

This years' change of venue offers us at least 6 benefits:

- 1) a much lower convention cost;
- 2) all activities are under one roof;
- 3) Longer clinic room availability (we have clinic rooms availability from morning to night);
- 4) the opportunity for more fellowship;
- 5) you asked for more hands-on clinics and we are delivering more!

and

- 6) Op sessions on-site!

If you've never been to an Op session or are a seasoned pro we will have time to train the newbies and let our pros have at it. If you are new to Op sessions and have been curious to what it's all about then this is the place for you!

We think you will agree the Board has worked hard to bring more to our convention and to increase the quality, while being mindful of the price. Now it's up to you to come out and have some fun and fellowship. Let's celebrate our hobby together!!

For more information: https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/2024-annual-convention?utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8F4l8ejG2dfRolmZRv0etT4Ah1VIC01U8W6FPrXsNlu0zXmKfmCrBa_WWoQPTOv2iiExCyvTlzDUdz1iTIqQJqZO0BQ&hsmi=309802643&utm_content=309802643&utm_source=hs_email

Organizational Sponsors for New Tracks Modeling

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



Brennan's Model Railroading
<https://www.brennansmodelrr.com/>
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O Scale Central
<https://oscalecentral.com/>



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<https://www.nasg.org/>



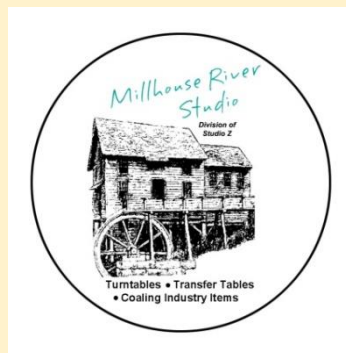
National Capital Trains
<https://nationalcapitaltrains.com/>

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



American Models
<https://americanmodels.com/>

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



Millhouse River Studio
<https://www.studiozphoto.com/Millhouse.html>

Regularly Scheduled Segments that you can see weekly on New Tracks Modeling

Scratchbuilder's Corner

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

Scratchbuilder's Corner presents aspects of scratchbuilding primarily with wood as the medium to build structures and rolling stock, but includes the use of other materials such as styrene, brass, resin, and other casting materials as appropriate.

Intentions here are to teach & share techniques and "tricks" that can be adapted into your scratchbuilding projects working from simple projects through



those of increasing complexity. Segments in July have focused on structures and include the store of J. Cutter and Trehearn's Barbershop (see above Photo).

Scratchbuilder's Corner will be taking a vacation from New Tracks during the month of August for a much needed rest as well as then to get back in front of building projects for the Wednesday night show in September through the fall of 2024, scratchbuilding more structures and cars are expected to be presented.

New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship

For Modeling's Future.

On the Wednesday, July 31, New Tracks program, I was honored to present our scholarship recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year. Each recipient will receive a \$2,000 award from New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. (sponsor of the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship) to help them with the costs associated with their college programs. The recipients are:

- Robert Winter, who will be a freshman at the University of Washington studying Engineering.
- Brock Durham, who will be a junior at The Citadel, majoring in Civil Engineering
- Ethan Bernstein, a senior at Johns Hopkins University studying Material Engineering (Ethan was also the recipient of last year's \$1,000 scholarship)

These three young modelers represent the future of our hobby, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements as modelers, as contributing members of their communities and as outstanding students.

None of this would be possible without the support of the corporate, organizational, and individual donors who gave so generously to the scholarship.

To view the award segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/q4-NP1mixWg?si=GSH0BNb8mCr4L9mr>

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Davidson at NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com

Individual and Company 2024 Donations for our 2025 Scholarships

Individuals

Individual donors in 2024 for our 2025 scholarships are: David Menard, Gerald, Linda Feeney, Jim Kellow MMR, Ft Ron Walters, Bob Charles, MMR, Jeff Zigley, Bob Davidson, and Jim Foley.

Thank you all so much for the leadership and financial commitment you have made to our young future modeler's education. Your help is greatly appreciated! Any Company donation is greatly appreciated and will be recognized. Companies that donate \$250 in any annual scholarship cycle will be identified as Brass Donors; Silver Donors will be recognized for a \$500 contribution, Gold Donors for

a \$750 contribution and Platinum Donors for a \$1,000 contribution. Donors who contribute at least \$2,000 will be listed as a specific scholarship sponsor. Please contact us at: nttms@newtracksmodeling.com to arrange for your corporate donations. Donate early to maximize your exposure. Remember, your contribution will help the young modelers who are the future of our hobby.

I am pleased and very grateful to announce the following 2025 \$250.00 Brass Donors:

**Great Scale Model Train Show in Timonium produced by Scott Geare
Brennans Model Railroading owned by Dennis Brennan
The Model Railroad Resource LLC owned by Amy and Dan Dawdy**

Brass Corporate Sponsors



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

The Model Railroad Resource LLC
407 E. Chippewa St. Dwight, IL 60420
815-274-8809 or 815-584-1577
info@modelrailroadresource.com

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



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

New Tracks Modeling “MY BUILD” 2024

by Chris Course (railrunner130@hotmail.com)

Model railroading is about sharing and the monthly MY BUILD is your opportunity to share and show off your build with the world. Trains, structures, 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 yard or estate sale and just thought was neat. Or, maybe if you're stuck on something, need a different technique, or are stumped on how to proceed on a project. This is a good part of the show to ask questions. Please ask. We can help. The July My Build is on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTRwTSxR748>

Every other month we have a “theme.” These are not rigid. If you can find something to share that fits in a category, regardless of being “outside the box”, that is ENCOURAGED!

The schedule and topics for the **2024-2025** My Builds:

- 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.
- Jan 2025** Free for all! Anything goes!
- February** Kitbashes, Scratchbuilds;
- March** Free for all! Anything goes!
- April** Automation/Animation. Make it move!
- 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** Layouts. Finished, In-progress, Switching layouts, Modules, Dioramas
- November** Free for all! Anything goes!
- December** Interiors, Insides of buildings, engine houses, cabooses
-

New Tracks Modeling will have a Table at the 44th National Narrow Gauge Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa September 11-14, 2024.

Modelers representing New Tracks will get free admission to the show, so have some fun and help us out. If interested email me at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

Visit the website (<http://www.44nngc.com/>) to obtain all the details about the convention outlined below.

Prototype railroading will be first and foremost: The East Broad Top – the premier 3-foot narrow gauge of the East, the Age of Steam Roundhouse with 22 steam locomotives on display and full functioning backshop facilities, J&L No. 58 – an operating 2' Porter steam locomotive, the Wild Goose Railroad Climax No. 313 – the only known nearly complete Class A in existence, the Waynesburg & Washington Railroad – a 1916 steam locomotive and 1892 Jackson & Sharp coach, and the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum operating restored trolleys over 4 miles of track.

Convention favorites comprising layout tours, model contest, on-site modular layouts, and clinics will be available throughout the week. The expansive vendor rooms will offer products by the finest model railroad manufacturers in the hobby. New to any convention will be the “vendor suites” where vendors can showcase their products in their own room! Railroad museums and other exhibitors also will occupy the vendor space providing information about restoration projects or organization news.

Come to Pittsburgh in 2024 to experience Eastern narrow gauge at its finest! We hope to see you there.

What's to know about The Scales We Model In?

We have had many discussions with modelers who ask, “What is O scale or N scale all about? Does anyone really model in S scale? Can I really scratchbuild a model in N scale?” Your scale of choice may be G, O or O Hi-Rail, S, HO, or N, and there are others yet that modelers choose to build in today. However, we frequently know little about the details of other scales, are possessed of misinformation, or simple mythology.

To discuss this on a regular basis, New Tracks Modeling is running monthly segments on G, O, O Hi-Rail, S, S AF/Hi-Rail, 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.

The remaining 2024/2025 schedule for “**The Scales that We Model In**” is:

August	7th O, O-HR	14th HO, N	21st S & S HR	28th G
Sept.	4th O, O-HR	11th HO, N	18th S & S HR	25th G
October	2nd O, O-HR	9th HO, N	16th S & S HR	30th G
Nov.	6th O, O-HR	13th HO, N	20th S & S HR	27th G
Dec.	4th O, O-HR	11th HO, N	18th S & S HR	25th G
Jan.	1st O, O-HR	8th HO, N	15th S & S HR	22nd G
Feb.	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
March	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
April	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
May	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
June	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
July	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
August	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G
Sept.	O, O-HR	HO, N	S & S HR	G

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 (8/28)July 31 See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNsu9FOssww>

Sponsored by New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings LLC

O Scale Modeling hosted by David Schultz (8/7)

Sponsored by O Scale Central

David.Schultz@newtracksmodeling.comJuly 3 See: <https://youtu.be/JfjXPQO Xps>**O Gauge Hi-Rail Modeling** hosted by Dennis Brennan (8/7)

Sponsored by Millhouse River Studio

dennis.brennan@newtracksmodeling.comJuly 3 See: <https://youtu.be/J8-7NDzh M0>**S Scale Modeling** hosted by Jamie Bothwell (8/21)

Sponsored by National S Gauge Association (NASG)

jamie.bothwell610@gmail.comJuly 17 See: <https://youtu.be/LfUWh4tdNFQ>**S Hi-Rail Modeling** hosted by Joel Weber (8/21)

Sponsored by American Models

July 24 See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L56IT_j5aA4**HO scale Modeling** hosted by Gary Shurgold (8/14)

Sponsored by Mainline Hobby Supply

gshurgold@gmail.comJuly 10 See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoV0QgPPDE8>**N Scale Modeling** hosted by Clem Harris (8/14)

Sponsored by National Capital Trains

Clem.Harris@newtracksmodeling.comJuly 10 See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_8JBCOghg0



Piedmont Junction

October 17-20, 2024

Raleigh - Durham Marriott at Research Triangle Park
4700 Guardian Dr., Durham, NC 27703

Hotel Rate is \$79 USD per night, hotel registration is open NOW! Go to convention website for the link on the "Location/Hotel" tab.

- 23 Layout Tours
- 44 Clinics
- 10 Operations Sessions
- 3 Prototype Tours
- Model Contest, Company Store, Awards Banquet and More!

Website: PiedmontJunction.org

Convention and hotel registration Now Open



NER CONVENTION

September 19-22, 2024

Rochester, NY



LAKESHORES
 //
'24
 NMRA Northeastern Region Annual Convention



conventions.nernmra.org



LAKESHORES
 DIVISION
 Northeastern Region - National Model Railroad Association

Indy O Scale Show 2024



2 Rail O Scale Train Show

Friday September 20, 3:00 to 7:00 PM

Saturday September 21, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

La Quinta Inn & Suites Indianapolis South, 465 and Emerson Ave.

O Scale 2 Rail/P48, Narrow Gauge/On30, 3 Rail Scale welcome

Facebook: <https://fb.com/indyoscaleshow>

Website: indyoscaleshow.com

Email: indyoscaleshow@gmail.com

Phone (317) 435-8378

Check back regularly for more details.

✂ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

DETACH AND RETURN THE LOWER SECTION OF THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Name: _____ **Registration** (2 day) \$20.00 \$ 20.00
(Exactly as it would appear on badge) Spouses and children under 18 free
of 32 x 72 tables _____ **@ \$40.00 = \$** _____
 \$50.00 after Aug 1 st

Business: _____ **Number of addl. Registrants @ \$20.00 = \$** _____
(Exactly as it would appear on badge) (List Names below, use back if necessary)

 MAILING ADDRESS **Name:** _____
(Exactly as it would appear on badge)

 CITY STATE ZIP **Name:** _____
(Exactly as it would appear on badge)

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ **Electrical needed for table(s)?** Yes _____ No _____

E-Mail: _____ **TOTAL AMOUNMT ENCLOSED = \$** _____

Make Checks Payable to Hanson Rail Service, LLC
 Mail to 3202 Saint Paul Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46237
 Email indyoscaleshow@gmail.com

Hotel Information

La Quinta Inn & Suites Indianapolis South

Address: 5120 Victory Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Phone: (317) 783-7751

Amenities:

- Complimentary Brightside Breakfast
- Complimentary Wireless Internet Access.
- Guest laundry facility
- Free Parking
- 24 hour convenience shop

\$104.00 + 17% Tax per night: 1 King or 2 Queen (No Smoking)
ask for Hanson Rail Service rate.
Individual reservation cutoff: 48 hours before check in
Cut off date: September 6, 2024.

Another Automobile from Jim Kellow





S-FEST 2024

<https://www.wrcresearch.com/SFEST24/>



Fall S-Fest 2024 will take place in St Louis from October 25th through the 27th. This year’s event is being hosted by the American Flyer S Gaugers of the St Louis Area (AFSGSLA). This is the 47th edition of this annual event and will again take place at the Doubletree – Westport conveniently located along I-270 on the west side of St Louis. Reservations for the hotel can be made by calling them directly at 314-434-0100. Registration for the event can be done online by going to the club website at trainweb.org/afsgsla.

This premier S Gauge event includes a swap meet starting Friday afternoon continuing through Saturday afternoon where you can find a wide array of trains and train related merchandise, all in S gauge. During this time there will be clinics on a variety of related subjects as well as a craft session for the spouses. The club modular layout will be on display during the event which also can serve as a test rack for items you might purchase. This event also includes train races, a model contest and then capped off with a banquet, speaker and auction to wrap up the day. Sunday there will be a number of layouts in the area to tour to see the work of local train enthusiasts to learn about and share ideas for your own modelling efforts. Last but not least, we will have meet cars available which are American Models TOFC cars in Missouri Pacific and Chicago and Eastern Illinois livery.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE	
Friday October 25	Trading Room Open
8:00 AM to 9:00 PM	Saturday October 26 (cont.)
Registration Desk Open	9:00 Am to 1:00 PM
8:00 A.M. to 2:00 PM	Model Contest Viewing
Move In, Set Up, Display Room	9:00 Am to 1:00 PM
(only open for Vendor and Manufacturer)	Clinics and Spouses Program
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM	1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Hospitality Room Open	Model Contest judging
2:00 PM to 9:00 PM	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Trading Room Open	Train Races and Incline Contest
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM	5:30 to 6:30 PM
Model Contest Entries Accepted	Cocktail Hour
4:00 PM to 8:30 PM	6:30 to ?? PM
Clinics Open	Annual S Fest Banquet
	Annual Post Banquet Auction
Saturday October 26	Sunday October 27
8:00 Am to 3:00 PM	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Registration Desk Open	Morning Layout Tours
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
	All Day Layout Tours

Come join us in St Louis and immerse yourself in the best S gauge experience available. For further information you may contact Joel Weber at weber1b14@gmail.com or call at 630-977-9323.

2025 HARRISBURG Narrow O Summer Meet

On3 – On30 – On2 - On18

A two day event focused on anything and everything O scale narrow gauge.

Friday June 13 (11:00 to 6:00)
and **Saturday June 14** (9:00 to 3:00)

LOCATION: New Hope Church
584 Colonial Club Drive
Harrisburg, Pa. 17112

Guest admission: \$20 for both days – *Spouses and children under 12 free.*
Clinics and Maker Spaces demos on going throughout the event.

“The best train show food in North America”

Due to church rules and insurance restrictions: NO alcohol will be allowed

Vendors: For table information, availability, admission and fees
please email us at millcreekrr@yahoo.com for detailed information.

For updated information on the event, including the vendor list, Clinic topics, Maker Space presenters
and layouts along with any additional information or updates can be found on the Meet's
Facebookpage under the title **“Harrisburg Narrow O Summer Meet”**.

Most attendees have used either the **Quality Inn Harrisburg-Hershey Area**,
200 N Mountain Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (717) 540-9339 or **The Ramada Inn**,
300 N. Mountain Road, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112 (717)-461-9602 in the past and
found it to be a clean, friendly and a good value. Best of all they are located
only .9 of a mile or about 3 minutes from the New Hope Church venue.

The largest all O scale Narrow Gauge event in North America

2025 HARRISBURG All O Scale Meet

O Scale 2 Rail – O Scale
Traction - Proto 48 - On3
On30 - On2 - On18

Saturday Sept. 20th - 9:00 to 3:00

LOCATION: **New Hope Church**
584 Colonial Club Drive
Harrisburg, Pa. 17112

Guest admission: \$10 – *Spouses and children under 12 free.*

Clinics and instructional displays on going throughout the event.

Food and drinks: Available all day. It has been called
"The best train show food in North America!"

Vendors: For table information, availability, admission and fees please email us at millcreekrr@yahoo.com for detailed information.

Additional information or updates can be found on the meet's Facebook page under the title "Harrisburg All O Scale Meet".

Near by hotels for any one staying over. **Quality Inn Harrisburg-Hershey Area**, 200 N Mountain Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (717) 540-9339 or **The Ramada Inn**, 300 N. Mountain Road, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112 (717)-461-9602 Both are only about 3 minutes from the New Hope Church venue.

Volunteers Working on the Real EBT Railroad

From Friday, June 28 → Wow! What a week we've had trackside.....

We assembled track to 3,100' south of the 475 crossing.

All of this track has now been gauged and spiked up.

We had lots of help this week: Daniel Lane, John Widmeyer, John Quinn, Larry Fuchs, Dave Johnson, Brian Wolfe, Al Gallo, Jake Lane, Craig Confair, Jack Fornadley, and Tom Hesketh. We had 11 on Thursday, some of whom were also present on Tuesday. Deep appreciation and thanks, gents.

We have now reached the limit of work that we can do at the moment.



Guiding a stick into place - June 25th (Dave Johnson photo)



Nipping and spiking - June 27th (G. Tucker photo)

From Saturday, July 6th → Working the Holiday weekend in the heat!

A hardy group tackled the business of dismantling joints and collecting tie plates between the Rt. 994 crossing and the high school. Many of the joints were difficult challenges to break apart.



The crew separated the collected tie plates into two groups: Standard (flat) plates and canted ones. The photos show the outside rail being turned on its side.

The joint bars and the flat tie plates collected yesterday will be re-used in the track reconstruction in the vicinity of Jordan Summit. (Plans are to re-lay the track in this area

with 100 lb rail, it is currently 85 lb rail.)

Due to the high heat (temps in the mid-90s), the humidity and working in the sunlight, not all of the work in this area got done yesterday. Still, though, yesterday's crew is to be commended for their tenacity and the work they got done. Kudos to: Lamar Tyson, Alex Cook, Dave Johnson, and Kevin Lekas (new - welcome!), and to Larry Fuchs for leading the work.



From July 12, 2024

Seven of our number worked yesterday. We got a lot done, including:

- Finishing the work of breaking apart joints and gathering tie plates and joint bars for reuse elsewhere.
- In the afternoon, we built the panel track for installation in the 475 crossing.

Assisting in yesterday's work were: Larry Fuchs, Daniel Lane, Brian Wolfe, Doug Linebaugh, Al Gallo, and Blair Stewart (new - welcome!)

Many thanks, one and all.



The photo shows Henry with a pick mattock in hand...turns out that turning the rail on its side and using a pick mattock was a good way to find the tie plates, which were buried in the schmutz.

New Tracks Show Schedule – August/September

(Register at: <https://newtracksmodeling.com/>)

<p>August 7 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow O Scale Modeling with David Schultz O High Rail with Dennis Brennan Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill Airbrush, what to buy, how to use them with Tom Grossman Traction modeling all scales with Ed Skuchas</p>	<p>August 14 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow HO Scale Modeling with Gary Shurgold N Scale Modeling with Clem Harris Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill Airbrush, what to buy, how to use them with Tom Grossman</p>
<p>August 21 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow S scale Modeling with Jamie Bothwell S gauge Modeling hosted by Joel Weber MY BUILD with Chris Coarse and Greg Cassidy</p>	<p>August 28 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow G Scale Modeling with Steve Bittinger S Scale Scenes Working for UP with William Smith Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill Airbrush, what to buy, how to use them with Tom Grossman</p>
<p>Sept. 4 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow O Scale Modeling with David Schultz O High Rail with Dennis Brennan New Technology you need to Understand to Improve your Modeling with Sherri Johnson Scratchbuilder’s Corner 36 with Martin Brechbiel Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill Traction modeling with Ed Skuchas</p>	<p>Sept. 11 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow HO Scale Modeling with Ed O’Rourke N Scale Modeling with Clem Harris Joel Weber S Fest St Louis with representative S Scale Animated Scene TBD with David MacLean New Technology you need to Understand to Improve your Modeling with Sherri Johnson Scratchbuilder’s Corner 37 with Martin Brechbiel Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill</p>
<p>Sept. 18 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow Easy Technique Painting Figures with Jeff Jordan (Pt 1) S scale Modeling with Jamie Bothwell S gauge Modeling hosted by Joel Weber MY BUILD with Chris Coarse and Greg Cassidy</p>	<p>Sept. 25 Welcome & Announcements; Jim Kellow G Scale Modeling with Steve Bittinger Easy Technique Painting Figures with Jeff Jordan (Pt 2) Animating an Athearn rotary snowplow with a DCC decoder with Bernd Fanghanel New Technology you need to Understand to Improve your Modeling with Sherri Johnson Scratchbuilder’s Corner 38 with Martin Brechbiel Scratchbuilding his layout with Tom Farrell “What Do You Want to Talk About” with Steve Sherrill Building Old Wood kits going back to the 1960s with Steve Montgomery</p>

Coming up in future shows!

WATCH ME BUILD Railroad Models

These segments provide modelers the opportunity to build a model to not only demonstrate their modeling skills and techniques but to help other modelers improve their skills. These segments may be for one or more shows depending on the details included for the modeling presentation. Viewers can ask questions and learn from experienced modelers various facets of modeling. Upcoming 2024 Show Segments:

Continuing through August into September 2024 Sherri Johnson Technology series Sherri Johnson is very well qualified to conduct this series. She has been a Professional Electrical Engineer/Mechanical Engineer working with technology for 45 years which includes using technology in her company, CatzPaw. This series will run through September 25, 2024. Its purpose is to discuss technology in such a way modelers understand what it can do for them, how they can go about taking advantage of it, and understand its future development and impact.

Scheduled subjects are:

Sept 4th →3D Printing: What it is and the types of printers out there

Sept 11th →3D Printing: FDM Printers

Sept 25th →3D Printing: Resin Printers

Date tdb →AI: What is it & What can it Do

Date tdb →AI: Continued - showcase it being used

Date tdb →Other: Anything we may missed or mentioned/suggested during the series (possible entry: 3D scanning, chemical etching)

This is a series that will be presented in such a way you will be able to understand and actually use the information presented. Don't miss any of the segments!

Starting on July 31, 2024 For 4 show segments ending on August 28, Tom Grossman, owner of Tag Team Hobbies will discuss and demonstrate which Airbrush modelers may need to buy, the air source you will need for an airbrush, and how to use various techniques with your airbrush. Tom has been helping modelers with airbrushing for over 30 years across various hobbies and for all skill levels. He believes you get the best results if you learn the basics of airbrush control.

We have had many requests for this kind of show and I think Tom is the perfect person to help us learn and improve our airbrushing skills. Visit his website at:

<http://www.tagteamhobbies.com/>

Starting September 18, 2024 and continuing for 2 more weeks thereafter, Jeff Jordan will show a new technique for painting our figures that regardless of our skill level will look great. He's calling it, "Figure Painting for People Who Can't Paint Figures" that produces results that are quite presentable.

Here is an example →



Show date → October 23, 2024 → Kurt Thompson with Modeling Lifestyle.

When I'm 80, I don't want people to say, "What a nice old man." I want them to say, "OMG, What the Hell is he up to now?"

I turned 85 June 30, 2024. To find out what I am up to please join our weekly New Tracks Modeling Zoom show, read this newsletter, my monthly newspaper article in the Citrus county Chronicle, my articles in each issue of the S Scale Resource and O Scale Resource online magazines, our New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship program, and building my own models for the JN&P Traction Line.

I am also announcing another a new exciting program for the S Scale and Hi-Rail modeling community in this August newsletter and in my "New Tracks Modeling" article in the August/September 2024 issue of the S Scale Resource magazine. Stay tuned for more new ideas coming after that.

Whatever you are doing I hope you are having as much fun as I am. Email me if the mood strikes at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

New Tracks Modeling announces

“S Scale Animated Scenes”

Kits you can Build -- Scenes you can Create

We are pleased to announce a new “S Scale Animated Scene” concept forwarded through a collaboration of three manufacturers to create a unique, InvisaTrax™ animated core scene that can be displayed in a diorama, or integrated into your S scale or S AF/Hi-Rail model railroad. The three manufacturers involved can be contacted through their websites for details about their products included in this “S Scale Animated Scene” project. To make ordering easy the complete kit components can be ordered by contacting one of the three manufacturers. That manufacturer will coordinate your purchase with the other two manufacturers and arrange to get your complete kit components delivered to you. You only need to make one payment to the manufacturer who will take your order.

American Models: <https://americanmodels.com/>

Email: americanmodels@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: (734) 449-1100



CatzPaw: www.catzpaw.com

Email: info164@catzpaw.com

Telephone: (770) 847-0076



New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings LLC

Website: <https://newcreationsvictorian.com/>

Email: eauchiche@gmail.com

Telephone: (661) 444-9656



Many of us remember when American Flyer produced operating accessories that provided animation and functionality to create scenes on our model railroads. In fact many of us still buy them, if we can find them, in any reasonable condition. This new scene is not a recreation of an old American Flyer accessory, but rather a new scale 1/64 animated scene using new

technology, and materials. The scene is suitable for use by both S scale, American Flyer, and Hi-Rail model railroaders or any other modeler who creates 1/64 displays or dioramas.

This first scene is of a Transfer/Distribution operation which moves products between rail and truck. The core scene's components include a railroad car, and truck chassis by American Models, a laser-cut Transfer/Distribution structure kit by New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings LLC, 3D printed figures, equipment, and details, along with relevant InvisaTrax™ animation products by CatzPaw which shows the movement of the cargo between rail and truck. Detailed building instructions to create a unique S scale (1/64) animated scene to enhance your modeling experience will be provided. The best part is all the work of designing the core scene and engineering the technology has been done for you. Your participation is to have modeling fun and experience the thrill of creating your personalized scene.

Plus, everyone gets the benefit of having a personal mentor, so you can improve your modeling skills, as you work live with talented modelers building the scene on New Tracks Modeling weekly Zoom shows or on our YouTube videos to make sure you produce a scene you will be proud to display. The "Build Along" series is scheduled to start in January 2025 and continue on in consecutive shows until the project scene is completed. If you miss any of the live shows, all of the shows are recorded on our New Tracks Modeling YouTube channel for future reference and viewing.

And not to forget the S scale/AF/Hi-Rail collectors, this scene provides a new first scene in a planned series of new collectibles. That's why you may want to get two of the scenes before they are sold out.

The first scene will be available to preorder at the 2024 S Fest St Louis Missouri convention, October 25-27, 2024. For details about the S Fest convention go to their website (include website).

Information concerning how to preorder at the S Fest Convention will be available on each of the manufacturers' websites.

If for some reason you cannot attend the S Fest convention you may also preorder during the month of November from one of the three manufacturers by using the code word contained in the November issue of the New Tracks Modeling Observations Newsletter. Our newsletter is available to all of our website subscribers. For website subscription information please visit our website: newtracksmodeling.com.

If you like this concept or have suggestions for future S Scale Animated Scenes please contact Joel Weber, Chairman of our S Scale Animated Scene Advisory Committee (weber1b14@gmail.com or call at 630-977-9323).

If you just want to talk, gossip, or suggest other new concepts or projects you want New Tracks Modeling to investigate my email is jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

“M. Spillane Building Watch Me Build” Videos Now Available on YouTube

The "M. Spillane Building Watch Me Build" series, sponsored by Frenchman River Model Works and featuring New Tracks Master Model Builder Tom Farrell, began on June 5, 2024, and concluded on July 24, 2024, on the New Tracks Modeling Live YouTube show. All five episodes were recorded, segmented, and posted on YouTube for convenient later viewing.

Throughout the series, Tom provided detailed, step-by-step instructions and expert tips for bringing this charming and exquisite structure to life. The five-part program showcased the new and original O scale resin kit, designed by Thomas Yorke to celebrate his 50 years of kit-making. The M. Spillane Building kit is available exclusively from Frenchman River Models (www.frenchmanriver.com). It includes over 60 resin pieces, 3D-printed parts, numerous decals, signs, and various detailed components. This kit is sure to impress!

“Perhaps the most complicated design I have attempted in my career.” - Thomas Yorke

“Certainly the highest-quality resin kit I have ever experienced.” - Tom Farrell

The New Tracks Modeling Show streams live on YouTube every Wednesday at 7:00 pm ET.

Attend the 2024 S Fest (October 25-27) in St Louis, Missouri, Preorder the New “S Scale Animated Scenes”

Visit our New Tracks Modeling Table to say Hello

Support our New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship Program.

The Convention Spokesman is Joel Weber and provided the following information.

Fall S-Fest 2024 will take place in St Louis from October 25th through the 27th. This year’s event is being hosted by the American Flyer S Gaugers of the St Louis Area (AFSGSLA). This is the 47th edition of this annual event and will again take place at the Doubletree – Westport conveniently located along I-270 on the west side of St Louis.

Reservations for the hotel can be made by calling them directly at 314-434-0100. Registration for the event can be done online by going to the club website at trainweb.org/afsgsla.

This premier S Scale/Gauge event includes a swap meet starting Friday afternoon continuing through Saturday afternoon where you can find a wide array of trains and train related merchandise, all in S Gauge. During this time there will be clinics on a variety of related subjects as well as a craft session for the spouses. The club modular layout will be on display during the event which also can serve as a test rack for items you might purchase. This event also includes train races, a model contest, and is capped off with a banquet, speaker and auction to wrap up the day. Sunday, there will be a number of layouts in the area to tour to see the work of local train enthusiasts to learn about and share ideas for your own modeling efforts. Last but not least, we will have meet cars available which are American Models TOFC cars in Missouri Pacific

and Chicago and Eastern Illinois livery (**include photo**). The meet cars are suitable for both American Flyer and scale collectors and operators.



Come join us in St Louis and immerse yourself in the best S Scale/Gauge experience available. For further information you may contact Joel Weber at weber1b14@gmail.com or call at 630-977-9323.



Grey Street Company House in HO and O Scales by Conowingo Models

A while back, we agreed to participate in a promotion for **New Tracks Modeling**, where we provided two kits that would be given away as part of a raffle during the Narrow O Summer Meet in Harrisburg, PA.

Because we needed two models at the same show, (one at our table, one on the New Tracks table) this meant that we needed to come up with a second display model. The choice for the give-away was easy- Grey Street Company House. It's an easy build and still a very popular kit in **both HO and O scales**.



For this build, we decided to draw aging inspiration from an old, closed up and abandoned house on the way in to Rising Sun, MD. We used very minimal paint and let the weathering earn its' keep.

Had this not been a display model, we would have added a rotten sub-surface to the roof. We would've also boarded up the windows and doors. You can't really tell from these photos, but we cut and weathered the curtains, broke the window glass and cut some of the steps and porch to simulate rotten, broken wood. There are nail holes throughout and the weathering stain brought out a black mold look. We considered adding some green stain to further the mold growth, but decided it wasn't necessary.

Congratulations to our contest winners Jack Dziadul and Bill McCourt. Jack is planning on donating the kit to the **Piedmont Junction MER Convention** *****in October as a door prize. Thanks to Jack for paying it forward.

Conowingo Models T-Shirts Return with a New Swag Shop

Show your support for Conowingo Models!

After several years of trying to find someone we trust with our logo, we finally found a print service that we're comfortable trying.



Our effort is to provide quality products at affordable prices. This is a print-on-demand service. Currently, we have t-shirts, hoodies, hats, mouse pads and even a coffee cup available. Most of these items have color options.

If you place an order, please provide us with feedback, both good and bad.

[Conowingo Models Swag Shop Link](#)

Rusty Rail

Here are some new HO and O scale items for 2024

For the HO scale crowd we have 4 items this month.

RRS-H-34 - Fred's Bulk Oil.

This is what every town needs a place to buy oil to run your automobiles and trucks. The main building is hollow and you have to assemble the sides and roof. Check out the walls on the building hand made masters with different building materials. You will notice it has a loading dock in the back for rail or truck delivery. The small tank farm and a bunch of brand new castings are included. The vehicles are not included. You get a sheet of old oil signs and other signs to place on the building. All resin castings and are unpainted. Minor assembly required using CA. The castings and tanks can be purchased separately. All resin casting and castings and come unpainted.



RRLE-H-09 - is the tank farm oil tanks from or Fred's Bulk Oil kit that you can buy them separately. The set contain the two standup tanks and two of the other storage tanks. These Tanks can be new or as you can see rust up nicely. All resin castings and come unpainted.

RRJP-H-43 - Third item are the castings from the new Fred's Bulk Oil kit. Some new castings in this set. Great little bit of detail to make a scene come to life. All resin casting and castings and come unpainted.



RRMS-H-04 - Fourth item is the abandoned Shay scene back again. This is a great casting for your logging railroad. Shows a old abandoned shay engine surrounded by all kinds of junk, like an old boiler. Would make a great scene behind a sawmill or a engine house or even out in the woods. You could also make a great little diorama with this casting. All resin castings. Measures 6 1/4" by 2 3/4" and 1 3/4" high

I was unable to get the O scale tractor completed for this month's release. But the new tractor will come out with next month's releases. I'm also redoing the O scale figures as 3D printed figures starting next month. And will be adding some new figures.



RRSP-O-01 - This is a oil tank on concrete supports. You also receive a 3D printed valve to add to the tank The oil tank measures 2 1/2" x 1 3/8" and 1 3/4" tall. All resin casting unpainted.

RRLE-O-06 - We have brought back the Cat 30 caterpillar painted with gray primer and ready for you to paint and place on your layout. You will receive a exhaust pipe that you have glue on the exhaust manifold. Measures 2 5/8" x 1 7/8" x 1 1/2" tall before you add the exhaust pipe. All resin model.



Rails Unlimited is pleased to announce that there is an exciting new urethane boxcar available.

This is a unique Baltimore & Ohio, 40' mansard roof boxcar. The B&O rebuilt these cars in 1934 with the raised roof for auto service, as the cars had double doors at that time.



By the late 1930s these cars were being converted to single door box cars and put in general service, as larger cars had come along for hauling automobiles. These unique cars traveled all over the country in general boxcar service hauling everything from grain, to merchandise, to lumber.

As can be seen in the photos below the body is one piece to which the modeler adds detail parts, such as, ladders and brake gear.

Rails Unlimited does have B&O wagon top box car decals available for \$13 a set. This large decal sheet has both seven and nine inch size lettering and several being all heralds and lettering styles.

The basic body is \$140.00, plus shipping if needed. Ryan Tamburrino created the original drawings for this project and Sarah Griessenbock helped with 3D printing for the project original car.



Here is a chance to add a real eye-catching model to your freight train consist.

Rails Unlimited
126 Will Scarlet Lane
Elgin Illinois 60120

<https://railsunlimited.ribbonrail.com/>



Back by Popular Demand!

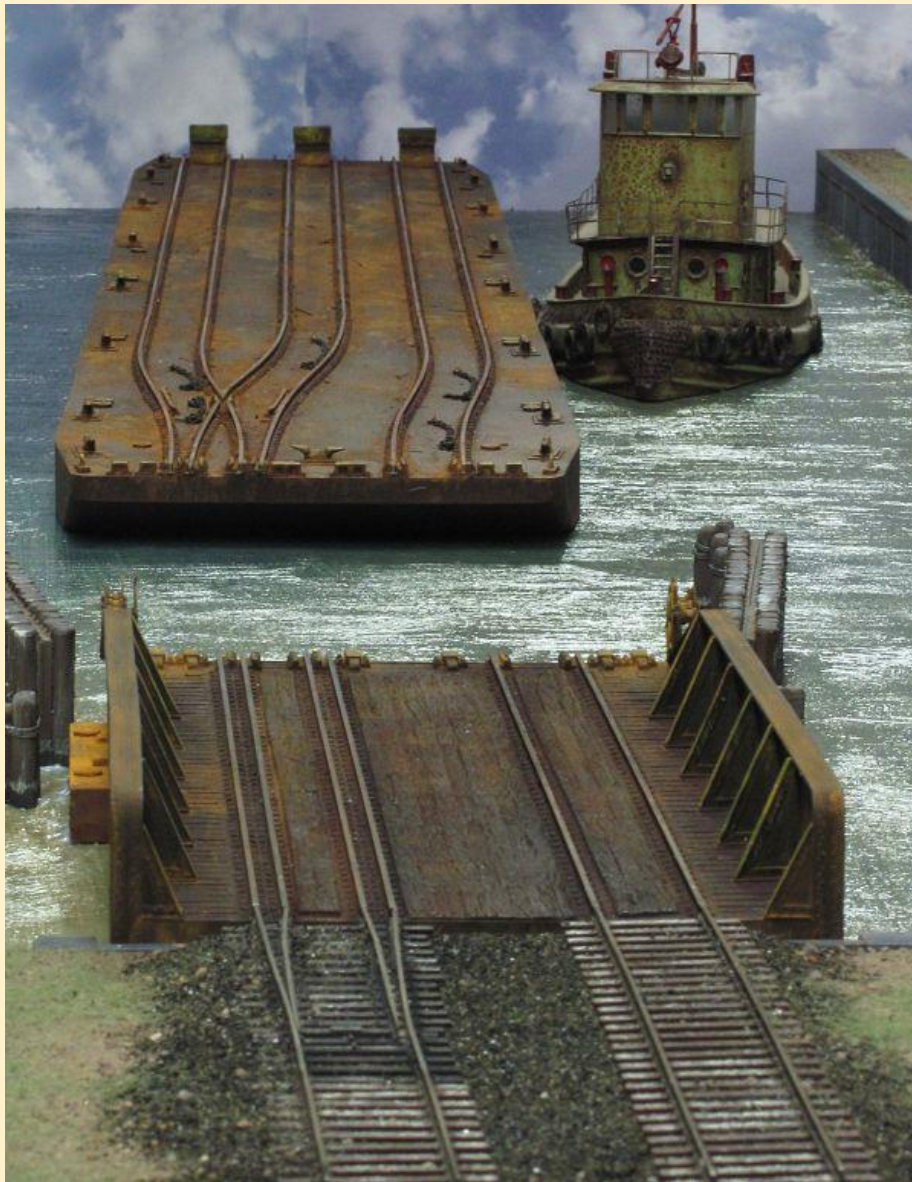
HO 1:87 Scale Pontoon Float Bridge (*designed and produced by James & Anna Cleveland*)

This kit represents a through girder pontoon type float bridge commonly used in many locations around New York Harbor. The land end of the bridge rested on pivoting bridge shoes allowing the water end of the bridge to rise and fall with the tide. The pontoon that the outer end of the bridge floated on could also be raised and lowered using water pumped into or out of it as ballast. This would allow the crew to adjust the bridge to match the floating height of the car float. The crew would use the winches to align and draw together the car float with the bridge. Once aligned the toggle bars would be extended from the bridge through the toggle pockets on the bow of the car float locking them together to facilitate loading or unloading rail cars.



This design uses a gauntlet type track arrangement with the actual switch located on the land before the bridge. The included instructions show how to cut a standard No. 6 Switch to match up with the bridge rails. Please note that the switch is not included.

Kit consists of a one piece cast resin bridge with the girders cast in place. Highly detailed with rivets, wood planking and decking and toggle assemblies all cast in place. Also included is a cast resin pontoon and cast resin bridge abutment with integral bridge shoes. Detailed winch assemblies including lead-free pewter winch drums and laser cut gears and hand wheels make this a super detailed foreground model you'll be proud to display.



- This kit does not come with rail as many modelers have their preference in rail size. Your rail preference can be easily glued in place. There are rail chair details in the casting that simulates a very realistic installment.

- This Float Bridge is designed to match up with Frenchman River Model Works 3 Track Car float Kit as well as the 2 Track Station Float Kit. We do not guarantee compatibility with any other kit manufacturer's car floats due to differing interpretations of blueprint dimensions.

Approximate dimensions not including abutment and pontoon are:

9" Long

4.75" Wide

Girder Height is 1.175"

With the abutment and pontoon, the height from the "water" to the top of the rail is approximately 0.915".

Additional items shown in photo, but not included in kit are:

- 4 Sections of Piling Seawalls glued back to back used as approaches
 - Short Pilings available from Frenchman River Model Works.

INTER-ACTION Hobbies

Rail and Tie Craftsman Kits

Inter-Action Hobbies New Kit Ready to Go!



HO & O Scale Crazy Cat Lady Accessory Kit

You were normal 3 cats ago! According to cat legend you need to have a minimum of 3 cats to be considered to own the title of “The Crazy Cat Lady” or “The Crazy Cat Man”. However we have modeled this kit with a total of 17 cats just to be sure. We supply all the accessories to complete the scene. All you need to do is supply the kitty litter and cat treats!

[HO Scale Crazy Cat Lady Accessory Kit: \\$16.95 USD](#)

[O Scale Crazy Cat Lady Accessory Kit: \\$33.95 USD](#)

Prototype Operations using “Modeltypical” Practices

By Phil Edholm

Admit it, at some point in your model railroading, you have run an engine backwards through a turnout that was thrown against you. The inevitable shorting and derailment that follows is a testament to the inherent dangers of model railroading. We all have at some point made this mistake. On the model, the advent of DCC has made it much easier to drive into a turnout that is thrown against you. It is easy to do, all it takes is someone forgetting to throw the turnout back to the main after diverging. And the result is, at least for the model, relatively dramatic. By driving into a turnout thrown against you it shorts out the power/DCC system and may even cause a derailment. In DC this was a bit of a problem, but in DCC it has the impact of bring the whole railroad, are at least one power district, to a screeching halt.

But, as a dedicated prototype modeler, do not despair if you make this mistake, the prototype follows this modelling practice. In 2018, I saw a prototype railroad going totally “modeltypical” by running through a switch in the real world. After attending the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Denver, I toured south to ride the slim gauge Colorado lines. My first stop was the Cumbres and Toltec, the narrow-gauge line from Chama, New Mexico to Antonito, Colorado. C&T trains stop for lunch at Osier at the top of the Chama 4% grade. Our train from Chama arrived before the opposite train from Antonito. While we were eating lunch, the crew uncoupled the engine and began moving it to the wye at the east end of the Osier passing track. The crew said that the engine coming up from Antonito had some brake issues and they wanted to use the same engine that brought us up the grade again on the downhill grade back into Chama for the train from Antonio. As the downhill from Osier to Antonito is generally less than a 2% grade, it was OK for an engine with less brake capacity than on the 4% grade. The engine moved to the far end, and then pulled forward and back. After this motion, everything came to a halt. There seemed to be a lot of activity on one turnout into the reversing wye. Being interested in what was causing the delay, I walked the 500 feet or so to see what was going on. Imagine my surprise when I found out that the crew had in fact driven backwards through the turnout that was thrown against the engine. Apparently, a crew member had thrown the turnout before the tender cleared and the back wheels of the tender went through the pints thrown against it. The result was not the simple short or a derailment followed by a 0-5-0 re-positioning as on the model. The force of the wheels pushed the points over and actually bent the tie rod that connects from the turnout stand to the points. In the picture you can clearly see how the tie rod/bar is bent so it has moved to the right tie (from being centered). As the turnout was thrown pushing the points on the rail opposite the turnout stand, the force pushing



it over caught between the point and the stand, bending the tie rod and the bar attached to the points. The result was that the turnout would no longer close against the closer rail when thrown in that direction (as necessary to proceed). When I arrived, the crew had begun pulling the spikes from one side of the turnout stand. By forcing the loosened turnout to close against the near rail it pushed the stand into the right position, where it was spiked. Of course some volunteer labor was needed to push everything into place. With the turnout stand now spiked into a position based on the bent rod, the turnout was once more operational. This allowed the engines to go through and my train went on to Antonito, just in time to get eh last photo of the Antonia yard. A successful trip with an educational benefit.

Now you have a great answer for any haters when you drive into a turnout and suffer the embarrassment of shorting out your system, you can simply say that it was a planned prototypical action, even a modern tourist railroad can do exactly the same thing.

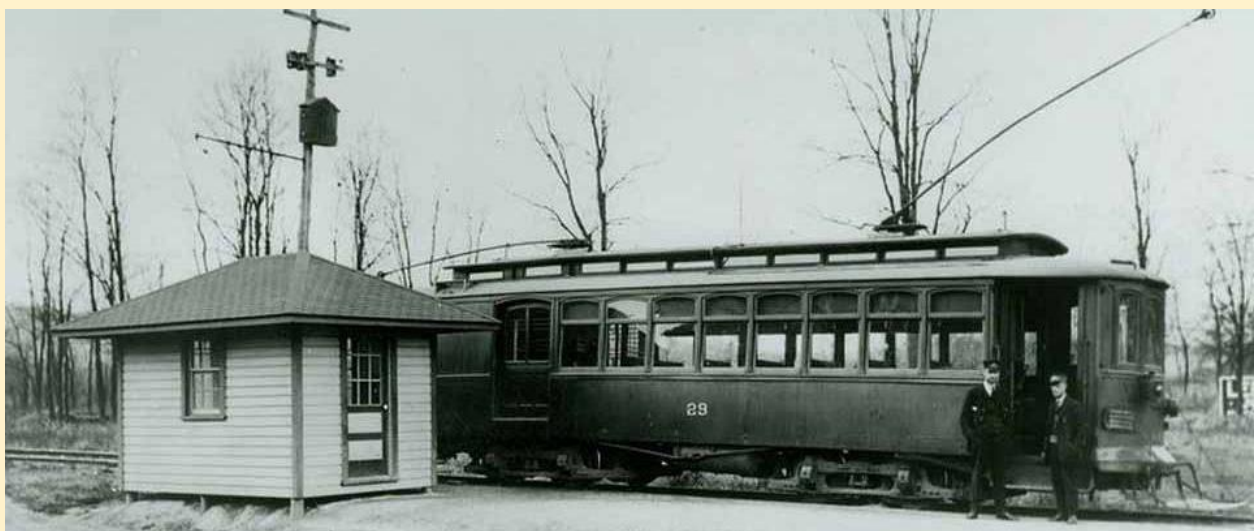


Reaching Applicants for the NMT Scholarship – Getting the Word Out!

Every reader of this newsletter can help get applicants for our scholarships both at their local HS and college levels. Promoting scholarship availability and reaching out to college students can be done through various effective methods. Here are some suggestions:

1. **College Websites:** Contact the administration or career services departments of various colleges and universities, asking them to include your scholarship opportunity on their websites or scholarship portals. This will ensure visibility to a large number of students.
2. **Social Media:** Utilize social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, to share information about your scholarship. Create visually appealing posts and encourage students to share the information with their peers.
3. **Email Campaigns:** Obtain email lists from colleges and universities, targeting students who fit the eligibility criteria for your scholarship. Send out personalized emails offering information on the scholarship, application process, and deadlines.
4. **College Fairs and Events:** Participate in college fairs and events to directly interact with students. Set up a booth or table where you can provide brochures, answer questions, and raise awareness about your scholarship opportunity.
5. **Campus Ambassadors:** Collaborate with student organizations or campus ambassadors from different colleges to help promote your scholarship. These students can serve as brand ambassadors, spreading the word about your program among their peers.
6. **Press Releases:** Draft and distribute press releases to local and national media outlets to generate wider awareness about your scholarship program. This can attract attention from a broader audience, including potential applicants.
7. **Online Scholarship Databases:** Register your scholarship on popular scholarship search platforms, such as Fastweb, Scholarships.com, or College Board's Scholarship Search. These platforms are frequently used by students searching for financial aid opportunities.

Remember to include clear instructions on how students can apply, including any required documents and deadlines. Make the application process straightforward and easily accessible to maximize student engagement with your scholarship opportunity.



Two Areas that Need Attention by Modelers

If we want to have a growing modeling community in Model Railroading there are two key issues I think need to be addressed. I am convinced the old guys currently involved in our hobby are the ones who need to step up and provide avenues for developing ideas and possible solutions to these issues. After all they are the people who have made the hobby what it is today and have gone through many changes up to this point, and made sure our hobby continued to attract new members and continue to exist. If the old guys don't step up now, who will?

What is a Hobby Shop? What is Modeling and its Benefits?

The other morning I got a telephone call from a New Tracks Modeling zoom show viewer. He had recently been in a barber shop, I assume for a haircut, but maybe a pedicure! Anyway, he struck a conversation with a younger customer. During the conversation he told a story of his working in a local Hobby Shop when he was in high school.

The young customer's first comment to him was "What is a Hobby Shop?" He was shocked that the young customer, probably in his late 20's, did not know what a Hobby Shop was and was also not interested in a modeling hobby. After taking the time to explain to the young man what a Hobby Shop was, and the benefits of modeling, it was time for him to leave the barber shop.

Driving home he kept thinking about the young man not knowing what a Hobby Shop was and the fact he was not interested in building any kind of models. He called me because he knew that my main concern for our hobby and the focus of my New Tracks Modeling articles and Zoom show is "More People Building More Models with the help of a Mentor." He knew I would be interested in his conversation and suggested I write an article about young people not knowing what a Hobby Shop is or the value modeling can provide them in their future careers.

He was right; I was shocked. I know I am an old guy and obviously the new generation of young people have not had the variety of experiences I had when I was there young age. But for a 20-year old to not know what a Hobby Shop is means that their Dad's Dad (us old guys) never took their son to one, or was not a modeler, or their son purchased everything for their hobby over the internet, or somewhere else. No real surprise there as I look back while I went to a local hobby shop regularly once a week or so, I never remember taking my son with me because I went either on my way home from somewhere or on my way to somewhere when my son was not with me. My son and I did attend a local train show and R/C model airplane flying group event every Saturday after our private (just guys) breakfast at a local diner. But as I look back while he ran my model railroad he never really seemed interested in modeling, and that as I look back again, I really did not encourage him to do any modeling. If the young man in the barber shop has not had a diner breakfast I truly believe his education is lacking another great experience. I must admit it's been a long time since I have looked for a diner. Are they also gone like our local Hobby Shops?

I believe it may be that us old guys who never took our sons to a hobby shop or taught them modeling skills that are responsible in part for some of the decline in modeling, the loss of local Hobby Shops, and certainly the lack of interest currently seen in our son's, their sons, and grandsons. It's funny in a way, but I have not even previously thought about how much I personally may have caused the lack of my own son's interest in our hobby. If I am not involved in my own son's activities and interests, and we as a group of old guys are not for other young people being involved in modeling or our hobby, then what can I and we old guys do to get our sons and other young people interested in modeling in our hobby, before our modeling hobby completely disappears?

My answer is simple. Educate the young fathers and their son's today in the skills, techniques, and enjoyment they can have in creating and building models. They can build anything they find interesting! They can imagine and create any model scene. We old guys need to Mentor them without reservation so they can experience the thrill of imagining, creating, and then actually building a model.

How can we do that? Simple! I believe the tools are readily available to us.

1. Join in our New Tracks Modeling live Weekly Zoom/YouTube shows every Wednesday evening at 7pm Eastern Time or watch the recorded videos of the live shows at your convenience later on our New Tracks Modeling YouTube channel. Our Focus is: "Helping more people build more models with the help of a mentor." We have over 1300 videos of our past shows on our YouTube channel.
2. Join any model association, or any other YouTube, or other internet based event that provides modeling educational and mentoring opportunities. There are many associations, clubs, special events, etc. all over the world to investigate and choose a program that works for you. You need to decide which ones best suit your needs.
3. Subscribe to both the free S Scale Resource and O Scale Resource online magazines whose goal is to "Bring Modeling back to Model Railroading." I am the Contributing Editor for the New Tracks Modeling segment in both magazines. My articles have the same focus as my Zoom/YouTube shows.
4. There are many other publications both print and digital that you can review to see if they provide modeling and mentoring to serve your needs. If they do, you should consider paying for a subscription, or definitely subscribe if they are free.
5. Notify high school students you can talk with about our New Tracks Modeling Mentoring scholarship. In 2024 we are awarding three \$2,000.00 scholarships to young modelers in model railroads. We can help them complete their application as it is part of what mentoring is all about. Go to our website: <http://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship/> for details. Also don't forget to donate to our scholarship as 100% of our funds are provided by volunteer

contributions. We are just a bunch of old guys who are helping the next generation of model railroads complete their education and have a great career. We hope you help us.

6. Please find out what other organizations you investigate in items 2 and 4 above are doing to encourage and help get young people involved in modeling and model railroading. Join their free programs and consider paying for a membership.

The above suggestions are meant to encourage all us old guy model railroaders to get involved in helping to pass on our modeling skills to the next generation, and help save our great hobby by getting young people to become model railroaders. I hear all the time that we old guys are not willing to get our hands dirty and volunteer to help participate, support, and more importantly to work in an organization's programs. New Tracks Modeling is fortunate to have great dedicated volunteers who are making our projects work. But naturally we always need more volunteers. Send me an email and be prepared to get your hands dirty with the rest of us who so love our hobby. We need you to help in any way you can for as much time as you can give. Thanks for considering our request (Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com).

This next issue not only is of concern to many small and medium manufacturers, but also to all modelers in our great hobby.

How can Small/Medium Manufacturers Afford to Communicate with their Prospective Customers?

I have said many times that I believe the small/medium sized, or as some may call them, mom and pop boutique manufacturers are the heart and sold of our model railroading hobby. How can they communicate with us old guys (everyone, really!) who are their potential customers and what do we want to know about them and their products. I also hear from these businesses all the time that they can't afford magazine advertising rates or train show costs.

A manufacturer can advertise in a printed and/or digital model publication, send new product announcements to the print and digital publications to get free visibility, use Zoom, YouTube and social media including our New Tracks Modeling, and our New Tracks Modeling Facebook Group, or be profiled in one of my articles if they offer S and/or O scale products as part of their product line. Or they can create their own Zoom, Youtube, or digital show and communicate with their prospective customers, or attend local, regional, or national, train shows, conventions, or events, and register as a vendor. But there are still real costs to all of these options.

I believe we need to find ways to make a manufacturer's communications as cost effective and inexpensive for him as possible. Why do I feel this way? Because I hear all the time manufacturers need to help in communicating their message to their customers. They just can't afford to spend much money on their advertising and promotion. We try to give the small/medium sized manufacturers a very minimal cost communications avenue to try and

reach at least some of their potential customers. See what you think of the options we offer below and the cost.

1. Our weekly Zoom show New Tracks Modeling offers a “Build Along” segment. This provides either the manufacturer or another talented modeler using 15-20 minute segments of 4 or so weekly shows, plus a single 15 minute segment to promote their company and discuss the model to be built on our show. Their total cost is providing a discount on the purchase of their model to New Tracks Modeling viewers who are interested in building the model along with the guidance of the modeler building it on the show. They also have to provide a free copy of the model to the modeler building it on the show if the manufacturer does not build it personally. All of these segments are streamed live on our New Tracks Modeling YouTube channel and videos are available on our channel for later viewing.

2. I also offer writing a profile of a manufacturer in one of my S and/or O Scale Resource, New Tracks Modeling articles if they provide any S and/or O scale products in their product line and offer to provide the winner of a random contest drawing from reader’s emails, a prize of one of the manufacturers models they select to offer.

3. In the past I have offered digital Train Shows to small/medium manufacturers on Zoom, live streamed and viewable on video later. These were very well attended by viewers and the feedback I got from many viewers was “I didn’t even know that manufacturer or his product even existed!” Each manufacturer was provided 5 minutes to promote his company and products. I limited each manufacturer to 2 show segments of 5 minutes each which could be together or separated in the show. Total cost was \$10.00 for a 5 minute segment when we did the first one. By the time we scheduled the 4th Train Show that went to \$25.00 for a 5 minute segment to cover all of the costs. I would start these again if I had volunteers to help produce and help run them.

4. Participating manufacturers in any of the above options can link to their videos on our YouTube channel so they can provide access to their videos from their own websites. We have even helped them prepare their videos if needed for our shows at no cost.

I am only suggesting that New Tracks Modeling is offering alternative communication possibilities that are financially possible for a new mom and pop who has little financial start-up funding options to present new products for use in our modeling. We also offer other more established small/medium manufacturers who feel they just cannot afford the print and digital advertising magazine venues, or Zoom costs, or the very real costs associated with being a vendor at train shows. We all see the current loss of some of our modeling magazines and the decline in train show vendor participation and attendance by small/medium manufacturers.

We are not trying to compete with the for-profit modeling communication companies, but rather offer admittedly access to a small audience of modelers in all scales. But this does provide communications with many modelers through YouTube over time and then we hope

that the existence of these small/medium manufacturers spreads by word of mouth in the model railroad community.

Well that's the issue small/ medium sized manufacturers are facing and an option that New Tracks Modeling is trying to provide as a possible solution. Any comments or questions are welcome. Please email at jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

You Can lead a Horse to Water But!!!. Here's another real problem that goes hand in hand with all of the noted above. A lot of small guys just can't even bother to lift a finger to send a few photos and sentences about their products to get free product announcements, along with the information on how to order them. If you're serious about selling your product, you have to scream about it from the mountain peaks over and over. Sitting behind a table sullenly at a train show is a route to failure. It's no wonder that so many of the boutique vendors dry up and blow away..... **It's free advertising in our newsletter!**

As always, if you just want to talk or comment, or continue this discussion, please contact me at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

Thanks for reading!

Happy Modeling,
Jim Kellow, MMR

