

THE

S

RESOURCE

NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE

April / May 2023

Volume 9 No. 4

SCALE



**Gary Waite's San Juan Extension in Sn3  
Otter Valley Needs a Station  
The Joy of Kitbashing  
New Tracks  
And So Much More...**

Published Bi Monthly

The Model Railroad Resource LLC  
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**April/May 2023**  
Volume 9 No. 4

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Welcome to the online S Scale Resource magazine. The magazine is presented in an easy to use format. The blue bar above the magazine has commands for previewing all the pages, advancing the pages forward or back, searching to go to a specific page, enlarging pages, printing pages, enlarging the view to full screen, and downloading a copy to your computer.

Front Cover Photo

*A view of #346 with shale and sandstone cliffs above and below on Gary Waite's San Juan Extension Sn3 layout.*

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The Model Railroad Resource, LLC publishes *The O Scale Resource* and *The S Scale Resource*. Be sure to look at both of our magazines. There are many articles in our magazines that are not scale specific and will be of interest to you. Click the magazine title in this announcement to see the magazine.

# From the Publisher's Desk



Parts of the below Publisher's Desk was modified from the last issue of *The O Scale Resource Magazine*. Some of you may not read *The O Scale Resource Magazine*, but the message will carry over.

## **S Scale Shows, Do We Really Need Them?**

Do we need large hotel shows? Can't smaller shows with smaller venues do just as well? Shows cost too much these days. I can find most anything on ebay.

These questions and statements seem to pop up every so often. The short answer is you can not get the same satisfaction by only purchasing on-line. There is more to shows than just the buying and selling. When I started going to the old Mundelein, IL O scale show, (yes I am an O scaler, but the message is the same), I did not know many people. I came, ran around "ooing and aahing", spent my money and left. Later on, I became friends with some of the dealers and started to see the same faces from show to show. The more times I went, the more connections and friends I made. To me, that is the largest benefit of going to shows.

These shows provide several benefits for businesses and individuals, including:

- **Networking:** Shows are an excellent opportunity to meet and connect with potential suppliers, modelers and other like minded people.
- **Market research:** Shows offer a chance to gain insight into new products, and emerging technologies within the hobby. It's an excellent opportunity to gather information.
- **Sales:** Shows can be an effective way to generate sales. You have stuff you no longer want knowing that someone else may. You are not fighting ebay and PayPal taking their cut, as well as, the shipping hassle. If you are a manufacturer or dealer, it's a chance to showcase your products to a highly targeted audience.
- **Education:** Shows often have seminars, workshops, and training sessions, which offer valuable educational opportunities for attendees to learn about hobby related topics, new trends, and technologies.
- **Social:** Shows are an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones. A time to talk about what and where our hobby is going, along with learning from others and, in turn helping, them with modeling issues.

None if this is possible without shows and the face to face interaction they allow. Now that shows are coming back, it's time we embrace them. I can also guarantee there are more deals and hidden gems at a show than you will ever find any other way.

Check our show listings in this issue, as well as the NASG Website.

Shows like these do have a purpose other then spending money. It's the networking and comradery between people. Yes, you can do Facebook and forums all day long, but it's nothing like being face to face with others. There will be items you may never see on forums or ebay and if you did I would bet they would be less money at a show.

We hope you all support these shows and come away with more than just trains, but many good memories as well.

We are always looking for articles on anything to do with scale S, and know there are great modelers out there. We see them on Facebook and the other groups. Please get in touch with us at [daniel@modelrailroadresource.com](mailto:daniel@modelrailroadresource.com) and we'll help you get started.

Happy Reading & Happy Modeling,

*Amy & Dan Dawdy*

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NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE

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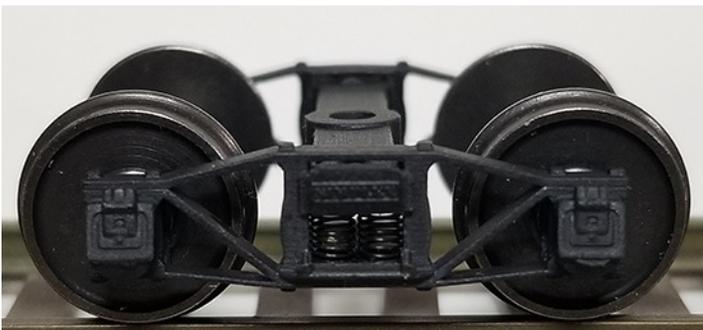
# NEWS YOU CAN USE

New from Steve Wolcott of [Pre-Size Model Specialties](#).

Pre-Size Model Specialties announces the release of our newest kit. It's a TTCX/VTTX flat car with containers. TTCX built almost 6,000 of these 60' flat cars starting in 1964. From 1984 to 1989, over 1,300 were converted to TTCX and VTTX cars designed to carry three 20' containers or one 20' container and one 40' container. The kit consists of a cast-resin frame and container brackets, grab irons, brake details, and decals. Included are one 20' container and one 40' 3D printed container. The kit does not come with trucks or couplers. Price is \$99.



Pre-Size Model Specialties is now carrying Arch Bar Trucks. The trucks are 3D-printed in black resin with nylon bearing inserts. They are sprung and equalizing. The springs are black.



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The wheels are machined stainless steel, code 110, blackened. Assembly is required. These are produced by Miniatures from the North in Canada. Pre-Size Model Specialties is retailing them in the U.S. so you don't have to pay international shipping. The price is \$32.50 per pair, and we offer free shipping!

[See their Website here.](#)

B.T.S has their Company House in S scale.



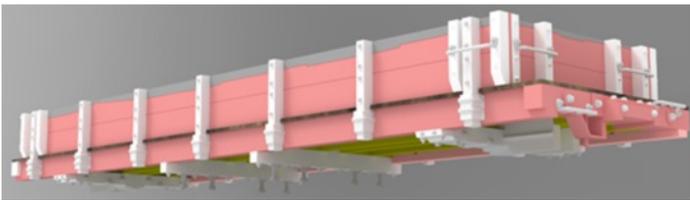
With the need for a strong workforce in isolated areas, coal and timber companies found that the establishment of company towns provided a means for attracting and controlling the labor supply. Workers rented the houses from the company, bought at the company store, and as a result, workers owed their souls to the company store as related in the 1950s song, "16 Tons." The company houses ranged in size from small to large, single story to two-story, and a variety of duplex designs. This company house was inspired by one from Pickshin, WV.

The kit includes the piling to build it for a level surface or for a sloped location. Interior partitions are included as are positionable doors and windows.

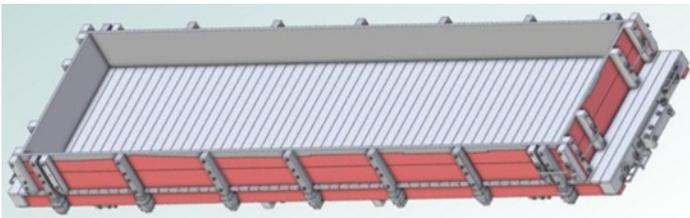
This kit consists of laser-cut basswood and plywood, and tar-paper roofing. A urethane chimney and some white metal and brass details are included. The tabbed construction provides for easy assembly.

[See their Website for more great buildings and accessories.](#)

Coming soon from [Portland Locomotive Works](#) On3/On30 are the SPNG gondolas. Sn3 is anticipated shortly after the O-scale kit release. Prices will be announced prior to kit release.



CAD rendering



The kit comes with PLW 3D printed end sills, needle beans, grab irons, stakes and bolsters. The kit will include the correct trucks and the modeler will need to provide their own wheelsets.

[See their Website for more information.](#)



[McCarville Studios](#) has some new S scale kits available.

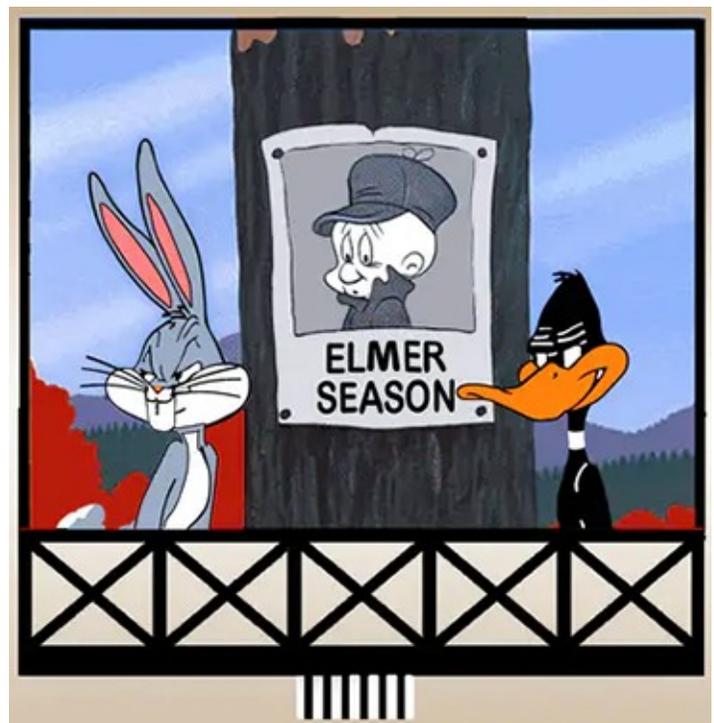
OK Clothing House - This kit is based on a men's clothing store originally located in Telluride, Colorado.



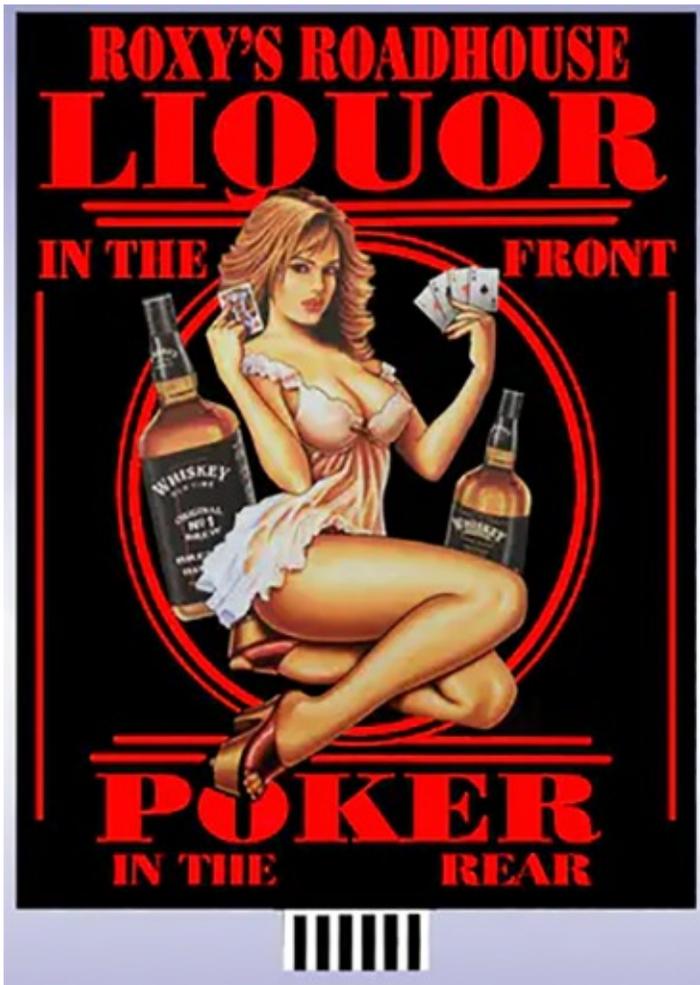
Placerville Trackside House - This kit represents the Placerville, Colorado trackside house that sat behind the flour and feed warehouse.

[See their Website for more information.](#)

[Miller Engineering's](#) Newest Products coming soon. This is our 6th Loony Toons sign in our ever popular cartoon billboard series. Elmer Fudd has



become one of the most iconic and beloved characters in the Looney Tunes franchise. Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck have finally joined forces to even up the score!



Our Roxy sign follows in the theme of Chiquita Banana, Peppermint Pattie and several others in our Mature Sign series (again, we cannot take credit for the design). Makes for quite a conversation sign on your layout.

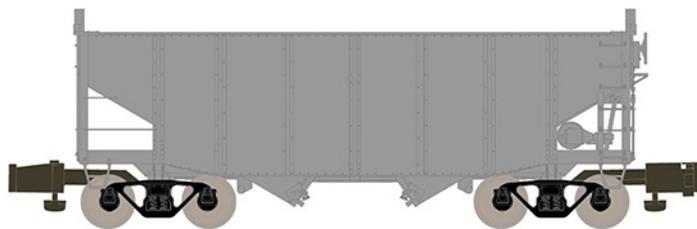
Available in two sizes, the large version comes with supports.

[Check their Website for more.](#)

S-Helper S Scale 2-Bay Peaked End Fishbelly Open Hopper, Undecorated

The new [ScaleTrains S-Helper™](#) series model of the 2-Bay Peaked End Fishbelly Open Hopper was designed for value-conscious modelers and features a  
**The S Scale Resource April/May 2023**

common detailed plastic body; metal handrails and grab irons; die-cast sprung metal trucks, wheels, and axles; as well as a detailed brake system. These cars are an example of progressive freight car design and were popular from 1937 through World War II.



Scale Code 110 wheels and Kadee-compatible scale couplers included with model.

[Check their Website for more.](#)

[Mine Mount Models](#) has some new products you may find interesting.



Picnic tables like this can be used in a variety of scenes; public parks, backyards, outside food restaurants, or they can even be modified to be used as sawhorses. This is a nicely detailed kit that is quick and easy to make in an evening.

Also some nice industrial racking used to store a variety of materials are found throughout supply yards

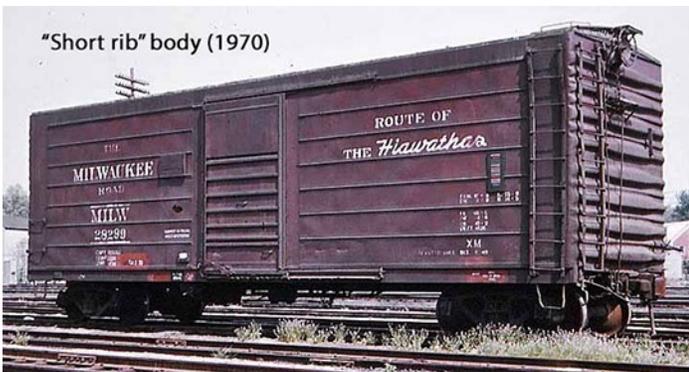
and in warehouse areas. These S scale racks come with 3 configurations of a common racking system. The kit includes 6 uprights that have all horizontal bars, 6 uprights that have the top bars at an angle, and 3 uprights that are the half racks that are usually found against walls. The uprights are laser cut from 1/32" laserboard, and include enough 1/16" square basswood to create approximately 16 linear inches of racking. They can be built into any length from 2" long to 16" long.



See more at their Website.



Smoky Mountain Model Works now has their Milwaukee Road "Short Rib" 40 ft Boxcar (Couplers & decals included). Kit (64-B7), Short ribs, "Route of The Hiawathas" decals.



Trucks are also available. See their Website for more details.



Yelton Models has a CNR Fairmont Speeder w/trailer. Cost is \$25 Canadian. Also new is their Southern Pacific Speeder w/Inspection window #1.



See their Website for more.

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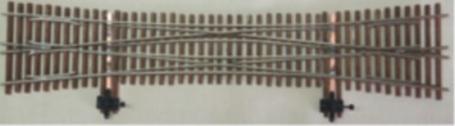


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Oh, yea, I recently published two **Military Crime Novels**. Writing #3 now.

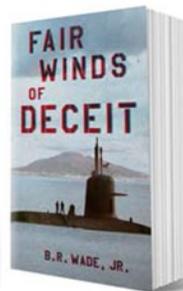
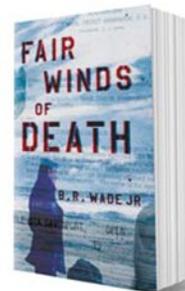
Yep, I've been busy! Thanks for keeping me that way!!

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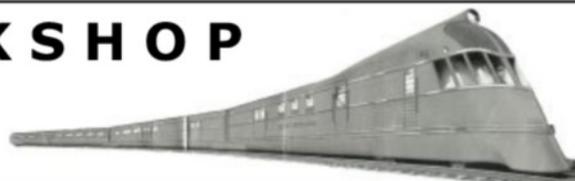
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# Otter Valley RR Needs a Station

By Richard Dombrowski



My ‘Empire’ does not have a station at Otter Valley Junction. The Junction is where S meets Sn3 and there are passing sidings for passenger trains. So why not build one! But in designing and building my layouts I acknowledge I have a serious problem, actually two. The first is I overload my designs with too much track. I admire what appear to be more simplistic and realistic layouts, but when I put pencil to paper, my addiction rears its head. The second is I don’t allow for proper sizing of buildings. Plan A would have utilized the kit for the Tomahawk station. While I saved the article from *Model Railroader*, I thought the kit would be much easier to build. Once completed, Aha!! It didn’t fit. So now it resides in Otter Valley, and I had to move it to the other side of the station tracks. And as it is so close to the gallows frame turntable, I had to cut back the deck.

So I’m still lacking a proper station. Plan B was to build a replica of the B&M station at Crawford Notch, but I was afraid it would too high and too complicated. I did a plan to reduce it’s size, but the width was a problem even though the length was fine. Still, I didn’t think it would work. Onto plan C! Years ago from riding the commuter train from Newburyport, Massachusetts into Boston, there was a station that really caught my eye. It’s the Swampscott station, and Victorian in style, somewhat ornate, but not too tall. So one summer day, I got into the car and went to Swampscott. Luckily, I have a web photo as I can’t find the pictures I think I took, but I did take many, many measurements and have those. The only challenging parts would be all the roof braces and the ginger breading around the lower edge of the roof. It won’t be an exact model as it’s all one level. Besides, I’m not a rivet counter, and I enjoy artistic license, to a degree. Eventually, I found a picture of the Swampscott Station.

Wood or Styrene? Even though styrene glues quickly and is easy to manipulate, I am very comfortable using basswood from my model ship building days. The list of materials by size is basically the same, so here goes.

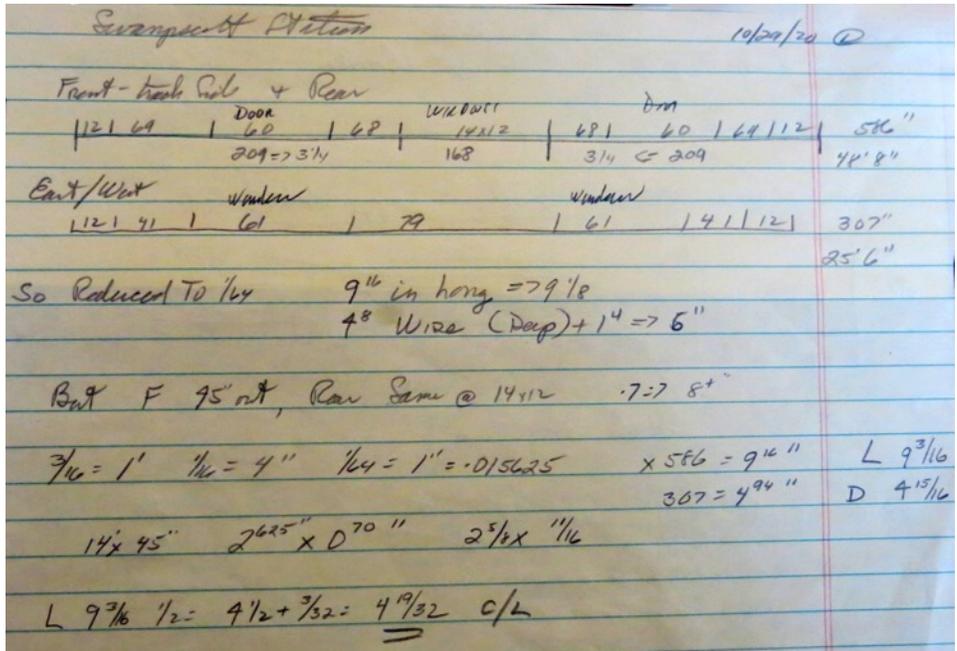


Image 1

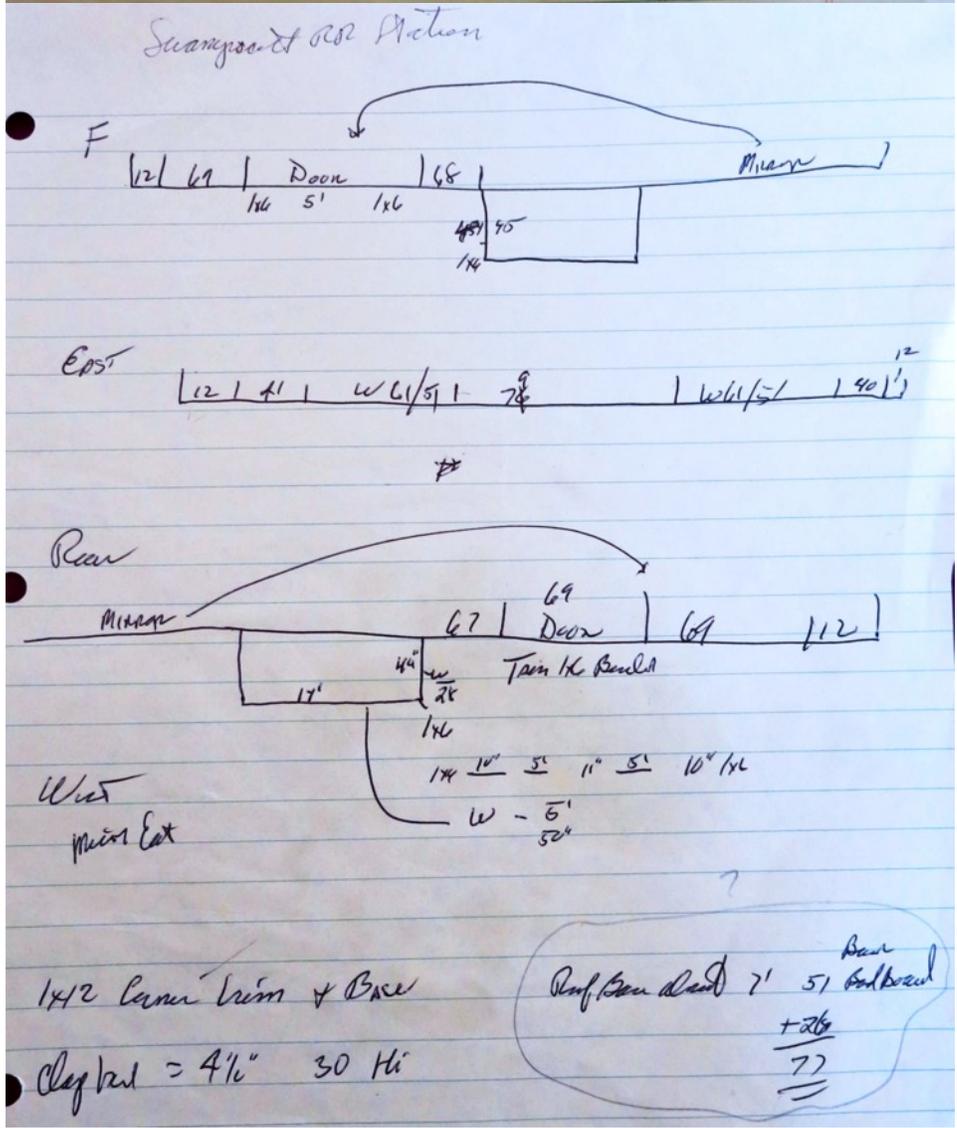


Image 2

I took all my real life inch measurements and reduced them to 1:64. (Images 2, 3 and 4) These were transferred onto some thin card stock and cut out. Then down to the Empire to see how it fit. It fit OK, but there was no room for a station platform. First to go is the knock out at the rear of the station. I can't think of any purpose other than maintaining symmetry. As there's only 7+ inches between the S and Sn3 rails, I figured the station needed 8 feet of walkway on each side.

Swampert Station 10/29/20

Front - back Rail + Rear

121	69	Door	68	68	Window	14x12	68	60	64	12	586"
		209 => 3 1/4		168		3 1/4 =< 209		44'8"			

East/West window window

121	91	61	79	61	141	12	307"
							25'6"

So Reduced To 1/4 9" in long => 9 1/8  
4" Wire (Deep) + 1" => 5"

Back F 95" out, Rear Same @ 14x12 .7:7 8"

3/16 = 1" 1/16 = 4" 1/16 = 1" = .015625 x 586 = 9 1/4" L 9 3/16  
307 = 4 9/4" D 4 15/16

14'x 45" 2 6/25" x 0 70" 2 5/8" 1/16

L 9 3/16 1/2 = 4 1/2 + 3/32 = 4 19/32 c/L

Image 3

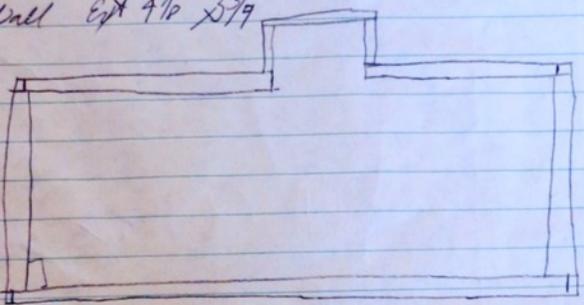
I sketched out a new floor design on another sheet of thin card stock and copied it. That way I will always have one good copy that I can go back to. This sketch allows me to place windows, doors, and start to determine material requirements. (Image 4)

Swampert Station

clepnd = 1/16 thick

3 3/4 Wire - 3/16 (1/8) 3 7/8 Wall Len - 3/16 = 3 11/16 3 1/2

Rear Wall Ept 4 1/2 3 3/4



4 1/2 - 3/16 = 4"

Cent Ept Walls Each 1 - 8 1/2

Side 2 - 3 3/4 - 2/16 = 3 7/8 - 2/16 = 3 13/16 = 7 3/8	3 7/8	2
Front 2 - 2 3/4 5/8 1/16 - 2/16 = 2 9/16 = 2 1/2	2 3/4	2
Front 1 - 2 5/8	2 7/16	1
RD ? - 2 - 3/4	3/4	2

Drum 8 1/2 1

2 1/16

Hi = 3/4

3 5/8 - 3 10/16 - 2/16 = 3 9/16 - 3 1/2

Image 4

The new floor plan deleted the rear knockout and 5/8" off the rear of the building. That left me with a 6' platform in the rear (Sn3 side) and 5' in front of the front knockout and 9' otherwise on the S side. Narrow gauge passenger cars aren't noted for their spaciousness, so I figured why should they have a wide platform? As I cut approximately 3.25' off the width, I would be able to reduce the length by a similar percentage to keep it symmetrical. How the windows and doors line up will probably determine this. (Image 5)

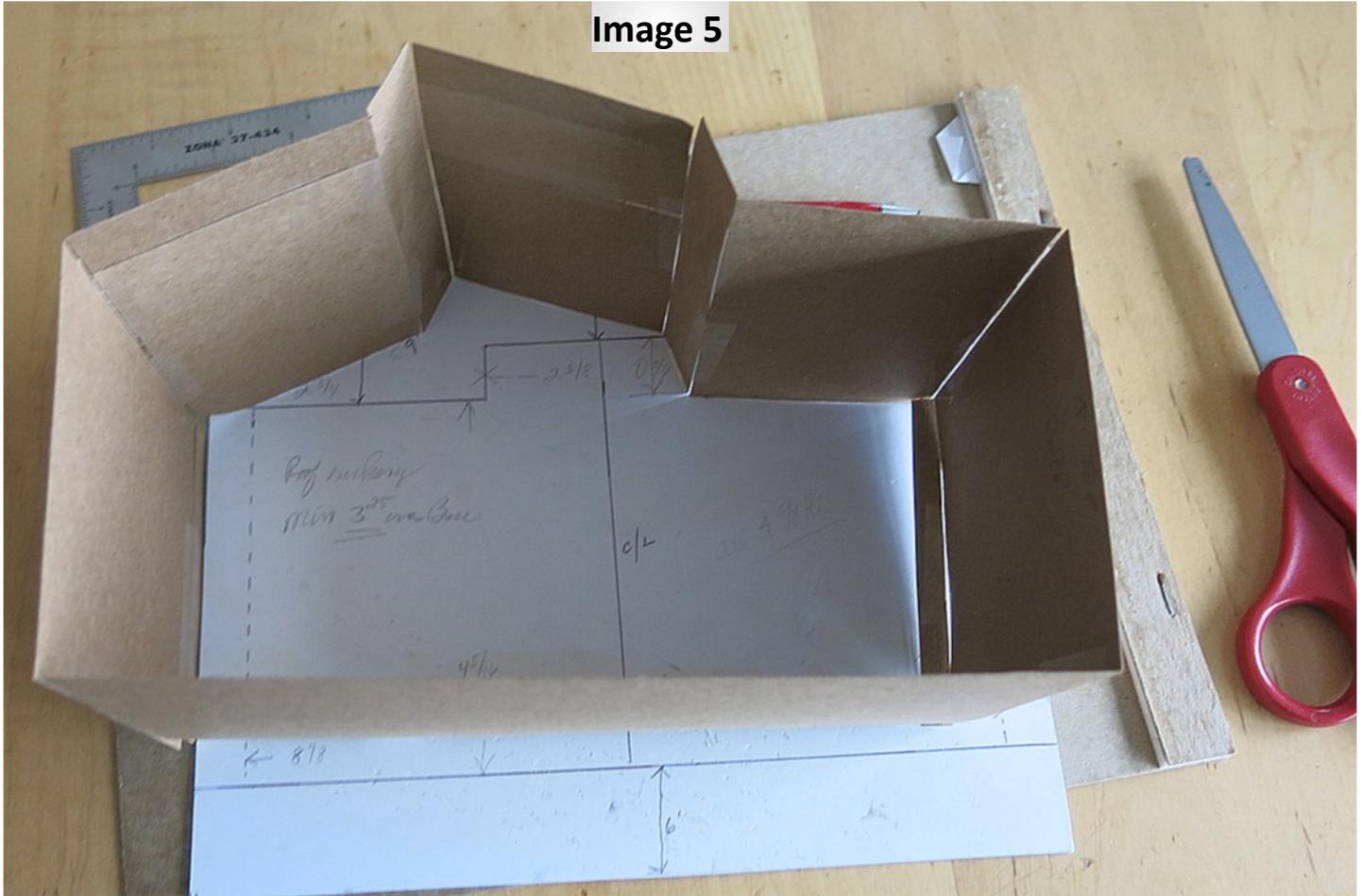


Image 5

My scrap box of windows and doors yielded windows from PBL that are a very close match, PBL-536. They have doors, PBL-543, but the doors aren't as ornate, so I chose San Juan Jct (Grandt Line 4052). I can't tell what the original roofing material was, but recent pictures show it updated from 1900-1910 to look more as as built in 1868.

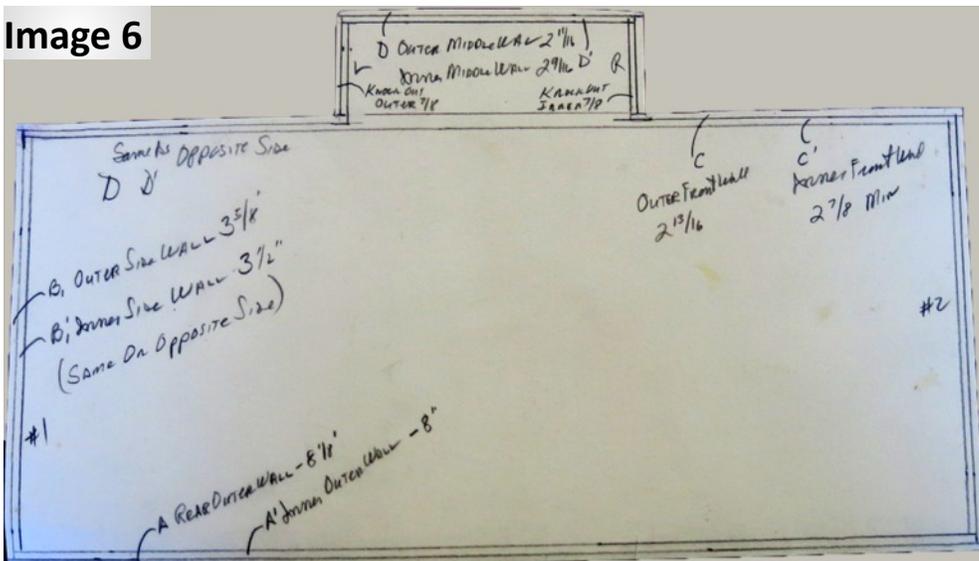


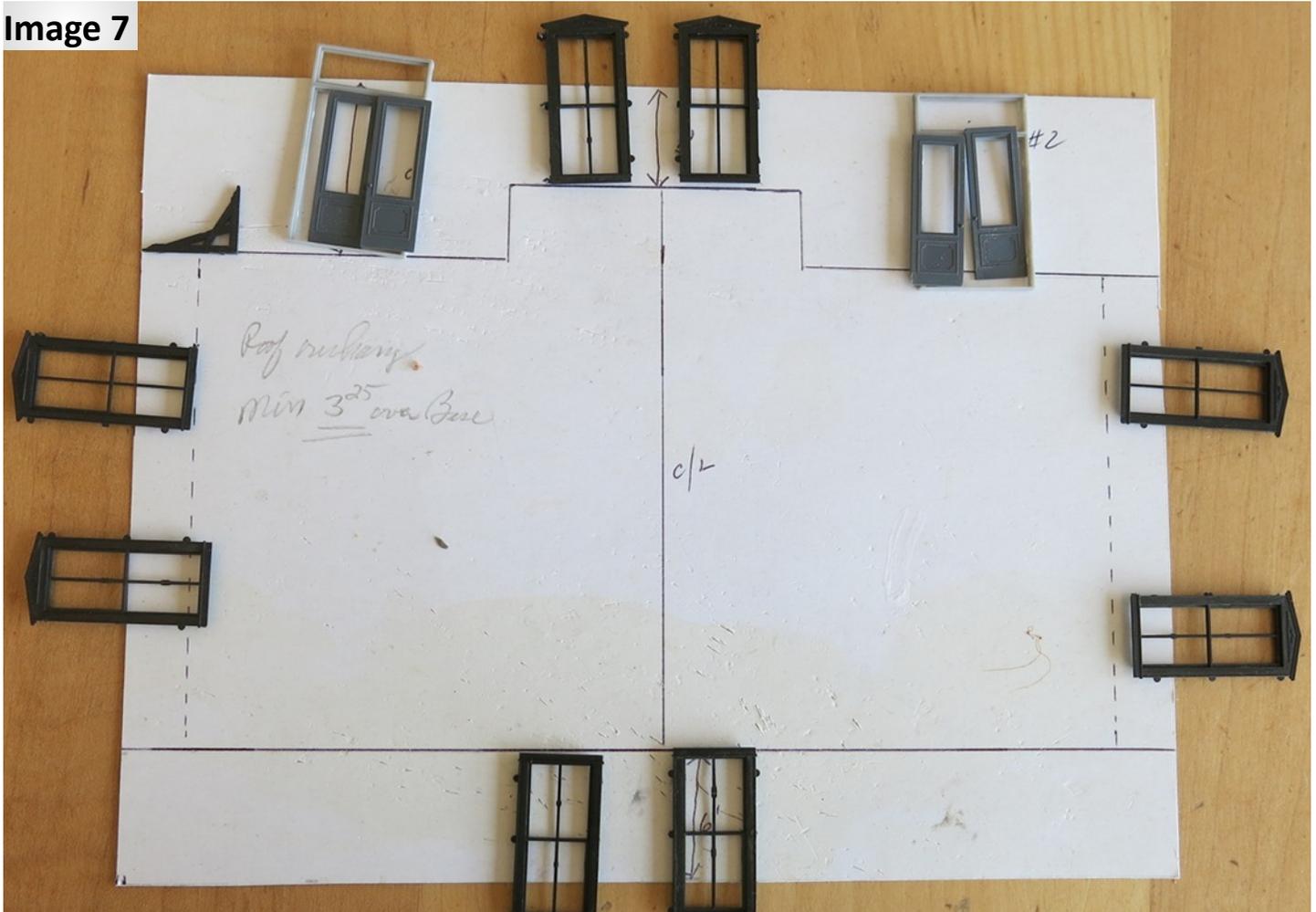
Image 6

Today I am more organized. I now have a list 'What I need and where it's coming from'. It's broken out into clapboard, trim, windows, doors, gables, and gingerbread. Left out is roofing, steeple, and chimney. I've decided to build inner walls of birch plywood to add rigidity to the structure. Parts list to follow once finalized.

Here is a drawing of the cross section of a wall. (Image 6)

The ordered parts arrived so I could size up what would fit. All looks good, the windows from PBL are excellent as are the double doors from San Juan Details. I still have to figure out the roof braces. The ones from PBL are very good, but there's only one per package and the building has 24! I could reduce it to 18, but I am ordering the others from San Juan (again Grandt Line 3569) even though they are O Scale. The roof braces are really prominent. (Image 7)

**Image 7**



In three days, the parts arrived from San Juan, Colorado to Maine, great service! Next, I sized up the walls to determine the amount of siding I would need. The total perimeter is about 28 inches, rounding up. Height will be less than 2 inches high. Since the exposure of each clapboard was 4.5 inches or .07 in scale, I opted for the 1/16, since it's closer than 1/32. And as I have to build more structures, I'm buying two sheets. Oddly, the plywood for 1/8 thickness was much more expensive than the 3/16.

Now to size up the walls and start cutting. The side walls will go between the front and rear walls with 1/8" square basswood to support the corners. There will be space for the floor to fit under the corner posts.

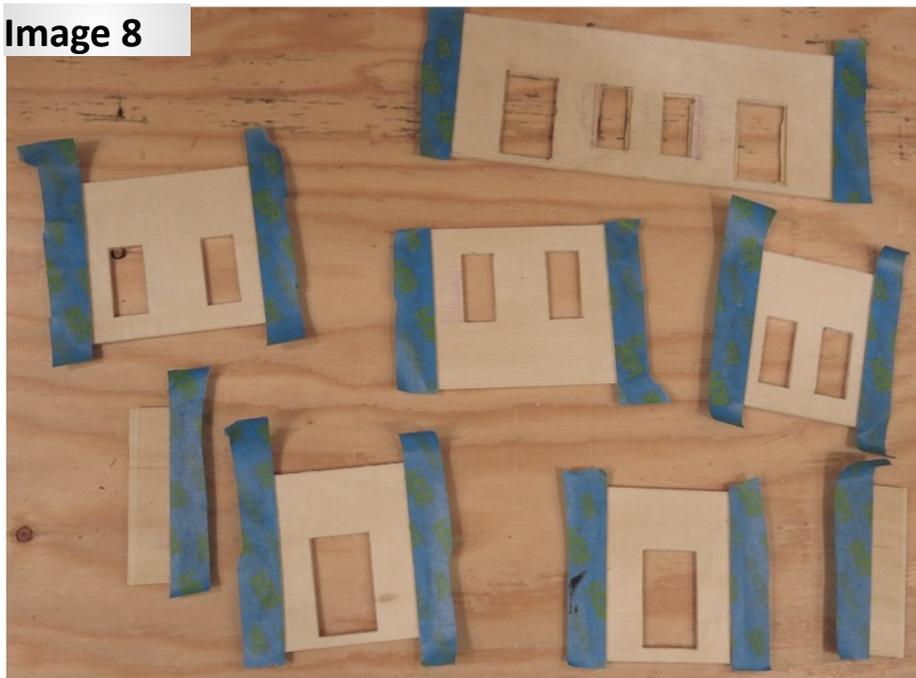
I picked up a wrong number for the height of the building. As initially formed, the roof overhand would be 2 inches/over 10 feet over the narrow gauge and 1 and 3/8 inches, over 7 feet over the S. So how much can I reasonably lower the roof? The first attempt will be 1 inch. But before I made the cut, I labeled each section just in case another adjustment had to be made. Now I have to make sure those beautiful roof gables clear. The windows look fine, in fact I think they look better, so now I just had to wait for the glue to dry for the eaves to set on the mock up.

While measuring the inner walls to cut, I thought to prevent senior moments and ruining material, it would be wiser to do the inner walls first with card stock. Wow! Am I glad I did this. On further reflection, I realized somehow I had picked up a wrong number for the height, senior moment I guess. But it was a blessing in

disguise as the original planned height maybe too low for the S side. Now the building is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " taller than planned, but I may need that to clear the S side. Before I went any further, I thought it best to review this height 'plan' which I should have done in the first place. So I measured from the layout base (plywood) to the height of a heavyweight and it came out to just shy of  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches. So a building  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches high won't cut it, as there has to be an allowance for the station platform. I settled on  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch platform, and it seemed reasonable for passengers to get on and off the passenger cars on either side. That left  $3\frac{1}{8}$  less  $\frac{1}{2}$  for the building, but the eaves will extend over the cars. I am allowing roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch over the heavyweights, so the building will come in about  $3\frac{1}{8}$  less  $\frac{1}{2}$  plus  $\frac{1}{4}$ !! Are you following? For sure I have a new reverence, appreciation and understanding for those who design and sell kits to the modeling community. Artistic license again, almost all pictures show a gap on the station platform between the station roof and the passenger cars. So management decided this model will have the roof slightly overhanging the cars to protect the passengers in the event of inclement weather. (Again, I had to justify the lack of space.)

I measured out what would be a reasonable station platform and have started to build it. This puts the station on the back burner as I really want to be very sure of the building height and proportions. But time for a modeler's hint. With local hobby shops gone the way of the dinosaurs, years ago I purchased a small table saw from Micro Mark (no affiliation) and fortunately our local Ace (no affiliation either) hardware sells basswood by the sheet in various thicknesses. So rather than plan material needs and hopefully order the correct amount, I just go to my stash and cut what I need. Fuzz is an issue, but a small sacrifice.

**Image 8**



As I didn't work on the platform everyday, it took the better part of a week to complete it. Currently it's in three sections and I'm hoping the weight of the station will keep it flat and straight. It does have to be stained, and I'm thinking of a weathered light gray wash.

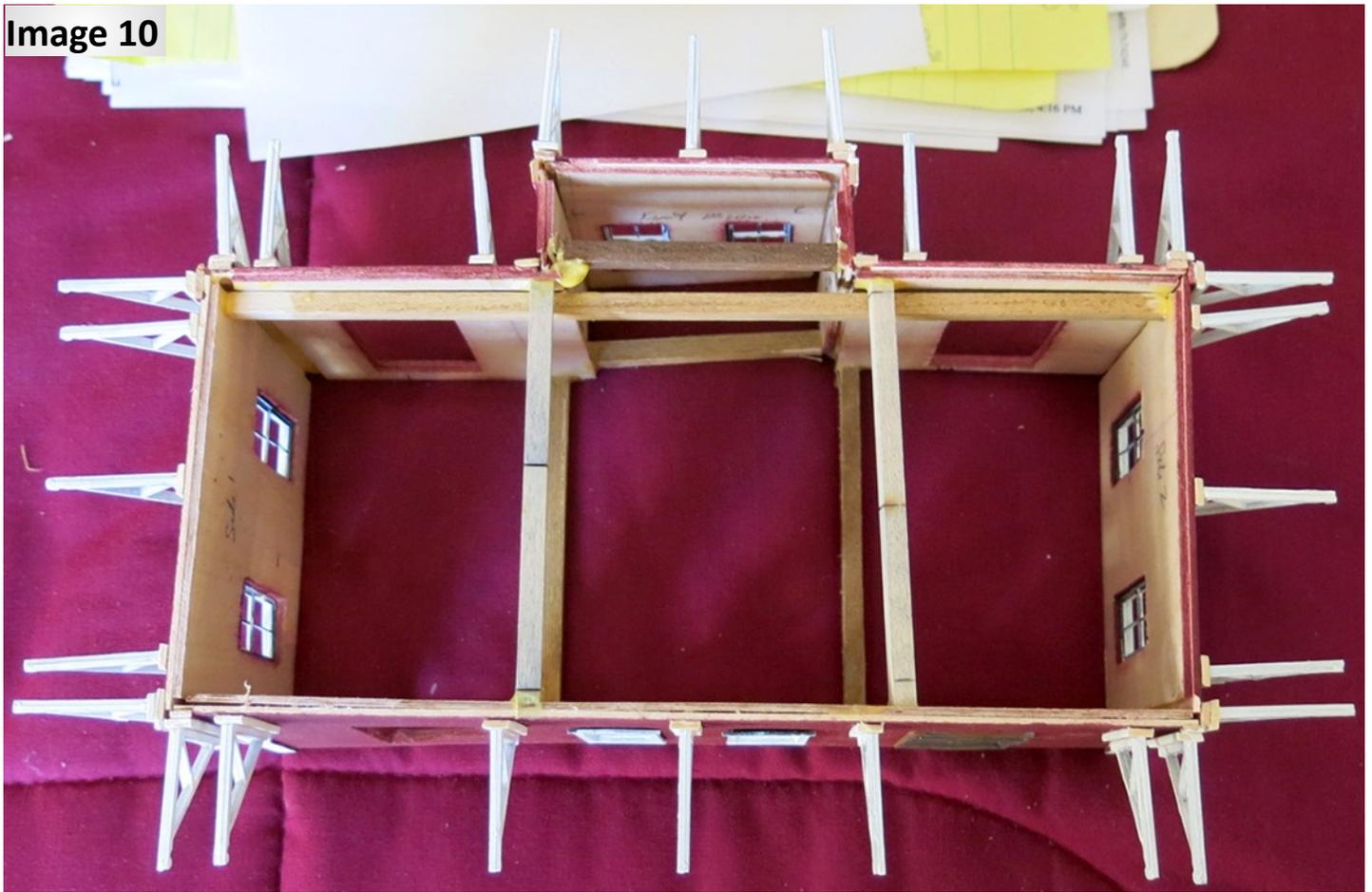
It's now back to the station itself. I spent much time measuring and cutting the outer and inner walls; and to verify the accuracy, I drew the lines on the base and compared them to my cuts. It looks pretty good so the inner back wall was glued to the outer back wall. Initially I didn't clamp it, I used weights instead as I had a bad experience trying to glue an old PBL wooden caboose kit together and the sides kept on slipping. So after the third try, well, it is what it is. (Image 8)



**Image 9**

The sides were painted with Scalecoat II S2081 which is for plastic, not wood, but it still worked and two coats did well. (Image 9) Next, I glued on the corner trim pieces and painted them with some old Floquil Reefer white.

**Image 10**



**Image 11**

They are over sized, but stand out better. I should have painted them first as the narrow side is usually the same color as the broad side, but I was anxious. All in all they look pretty good. The eaves and windows were also painted, the eaves only took one coat, but will be touched up later. The windows required two coats to look satisfactory.

How I wish the castings were in a lighter color. The eaves were a medium gray, not too bad, but the windows were black! And I also wish measurements in scale or real would be available in product descriptions. It would have saved me time and expense in ordering different parts for trial purposes. (Images 10, 11 and 12)

**Image 12**

I will add glazing to the windows and doors later. The door color is a problem. I wanted a dark brown like walnut, but all I had was mahogany from my ship building days and a dark stain. The mahogany is too red, and the stain alone doesn't cover well. I will paint again with a coat of tarnished black and then stain over that as I don't haven't any brown at all.

Next, I trimmed the eaves of paint that bled, and cut their wall mounts. These overlay on trim on the siding, and I wondered how to get the trim to lay flat. I shuddered to think of trimming notches in the siding 24 times, but finally a light came on, why not cut more siding to size, lay it backwards and upside down against the siding! That should work and a test confirmed it would. Now all I have to do is bevel the edges slightly and glue onto the siding and glue the eaves.

The roof will wait until I get the walls glued together. I want to size up the height again so that hopefully, it will look just right with the roof cupola.

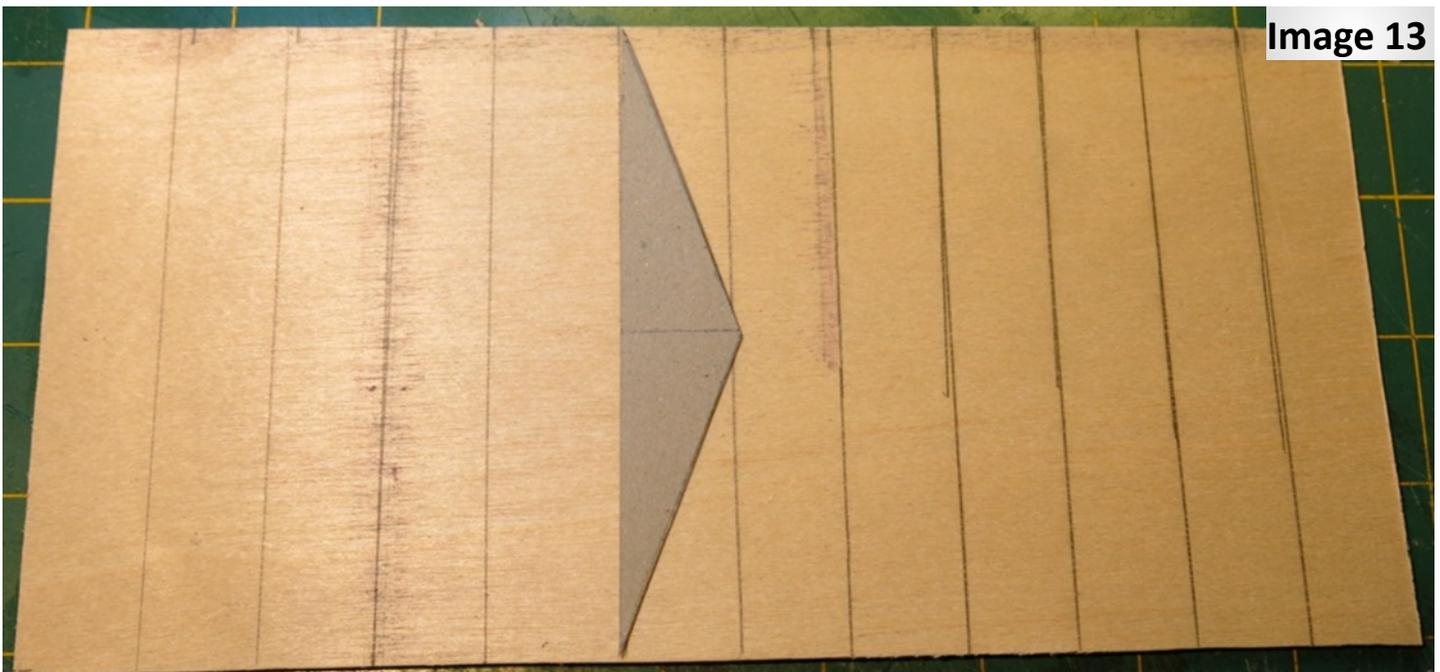
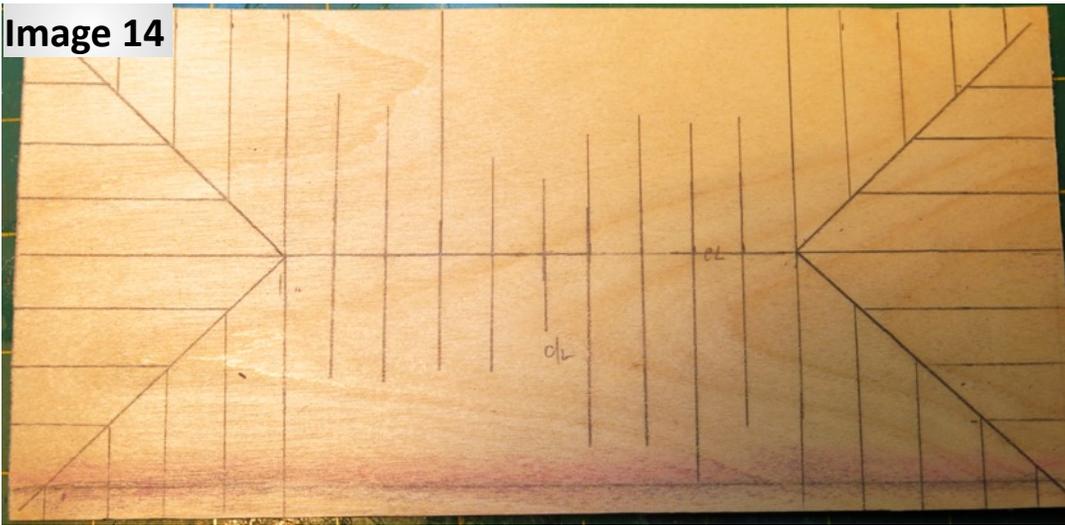
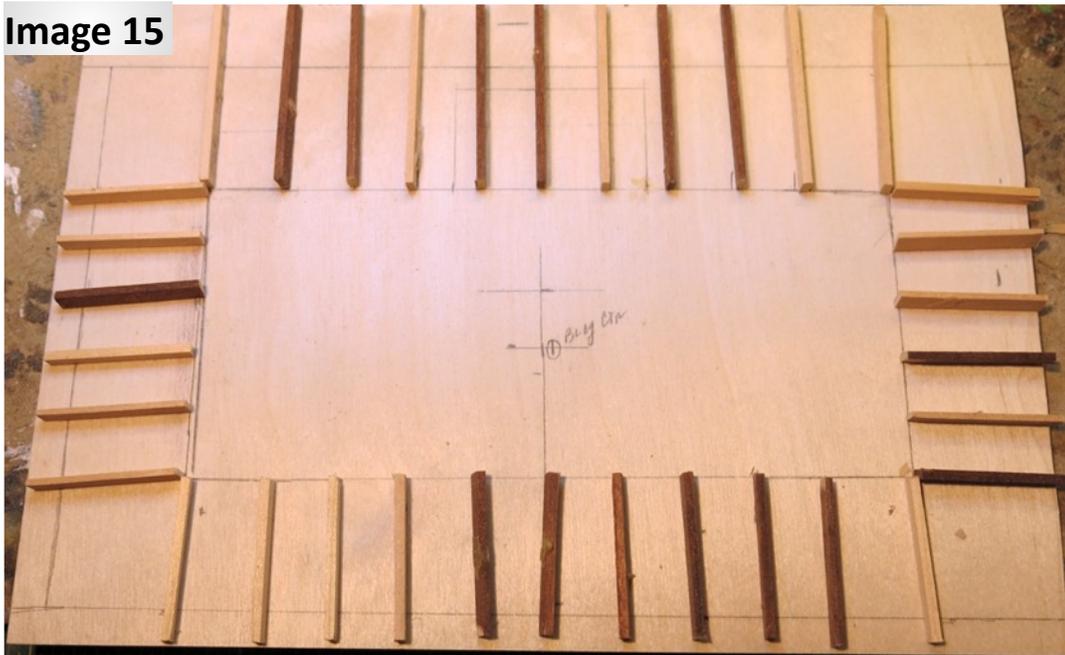
**Image 13**

Image 14



While sizing the roof, I found the walls did not setup square. The problem was the side toward S tracks. I had to carefully pry apart the knockout and realign to square. It's not quite right as one side comes in farther than planned. To keep it close to square, I added interior braces, top and bottom, side to side length and width. What I'm finding is my eyes are tricking me,

Image 15



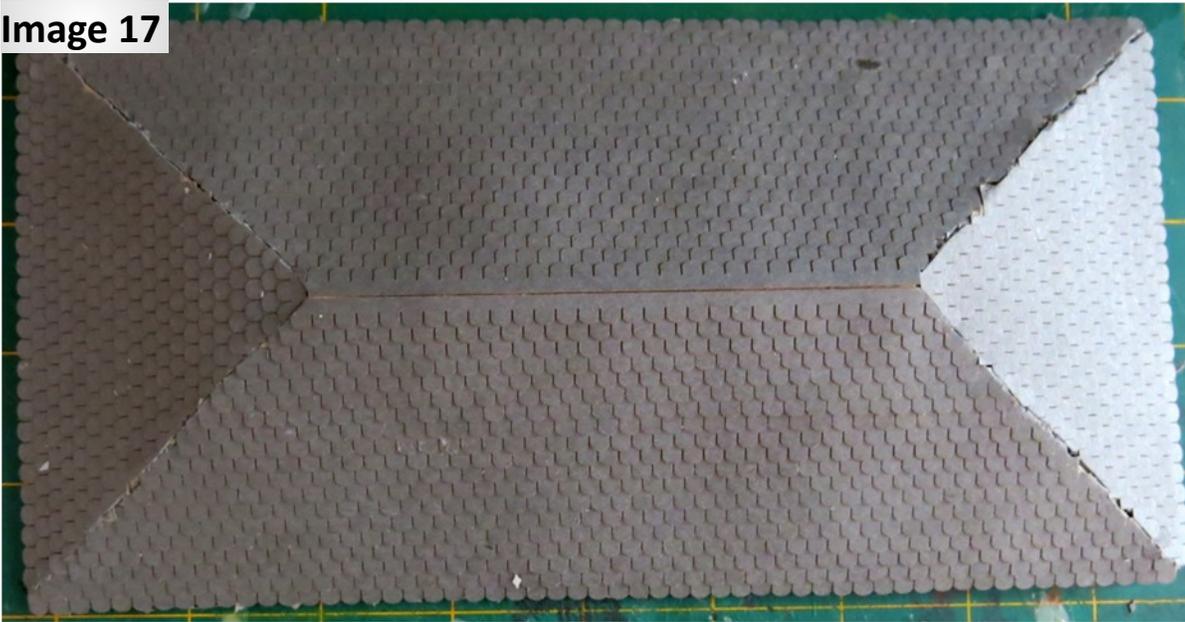
measuring twice doesn't always work. (Probably a mental block or two in there also.) I carefully measured the pictures to determine the height of the first part of the roof, and the vertical siding. As it wasn't to scale, I had to prorate to derive dimensions to fit my model. The top edge of the lower roof seemed to work out to 5mm above the bottom, so I measured out strip wood of a suitable width to support the lower roof and drew a diagonal. Imaging it was easy, cutting it was something else as my little table saw only has a 90 degree bridge. So I had to carefully angle the wood to cut the line I drew. I planned on a 5mm height at the high end and taper to 0. Well, the majority came out to 6mm. Close enough. I drew lines to center the short vertical side and glued it down. (Images 13 - 16) Once dried, then more lines to glue the roof supports down on the

Image 16



Once dried, then more lines to glue the roof supports down on the

**Image 17**



lower sub roof. Aha!! Another measurement error. The short vertical sides weren't centered! Rats!! So I calculated the difference and glued on a narrow strip in the short side. Once satisfied, I painted it. I was puzzled by the upper roof, what was the angle and what are its

dimensions? Luckily, I had an end picture and I was able to extrapolate the width and angle. Sized up, it came out to  $8\frac{3}{4}$  by  $4\text{-}5/16$ . the angle seemed to be 20 degrees. (I think my old high school pal and geometry teacher would be pleased with my ingenuity.) Once cut, I drew and cut a template for the upper roof trusses. I'll make these out of solid wood and glue them on. I did place the lower roof on the building and it looked pretty good.

I had plenty of roofing shingles left from previous efforts, so once the subroof was firmly attached, I just laid strips of roof material.

**Image 18**



Next came fitting the roof. (Image 17) Not too bad unless you look at it the wrong way, then you can see a warp.

I just had to cover the joints, add the gingerbreading and place it on the layout, ready for service.

I still have to paint the steps. Maybe someday I'll figure out how not to have a warped roof. (Image 18)

# The Joy of Kitbashing

By Gaylord Gill

*Photos by the author except for manufacturers' and prototype photos.  
Photo enhancements by Brooks Stover*

For me, the hobby of model railroading is an artistic expression. Just like an artist working with oil paints, I look for ways to use my imagination as I interpret the real world in miniature.

One aspect of model-building I especially enjoy is kitbashing structures. The NMRA defines the term as "altering the parts of a kit to produce a car or structure that is unique, or combining parts from two or more kits to produce the same result." That's the big appeal for me – creating something that's different from anyone else's. For us S-scalers, kitbashing also provides the opportunity to expand our options when it comes to placing structures on our layouts or dioramas.

Throughout the years, I've kept an eye out for structure kits in other scales which look as if they could be modified for S. Of course HO and O scales are the most likely to provide possibilities – they are neighboring scales in terms of size, and the HO product lines are extensive. In general terms, the most usable off-scale kits for bashing will be commercial and industrial structures. That's because most of us don't have an accurate frame of reference for how large a factory or high-rise wall should be. By contrast, it will probably be more challenging to bash a residential structure from another scale.

Starting with an existing kit does present some limitations. For example, if your goal was to model a specific railroad depot, you might become frustrated trying to locate a kit that could be a suitable starting point. But for more generic structures, my advice is to study a kit and see if it will "tell you" what else it might become.

I'd like to share a few of my projects as examples of how kitbashing can be used to create unique S scale structures. In particular, these four projects all originated with kits designed for other scales. In my descriptions I'll be focusing mainly on the basic construction steps – the kits or components I started with and the modifications I made. There are obviously additional painting and detailing steps that would be common to any model-building. While some of these structures might appear to be mostly scratch-built, starting with kit components can reduce the overall time to produce a finished model.

If you're motivated to duplicate any of these projects, you should note that I may have purchased my kit as much as forty years ago. Even if you're not able to order the identical kit today, there's a possibility you could locate one in the secondary market. In any case, the real goal of my article is to encourage you to come up with your own project using your own starting point.



## Small Factory

This was one of my earliest kitbashes, and it really didn't require much effort at all. The starting point for this project was the Walther's HO kit called American Millwork Company. The structure that's pictured is the one I worked on 30-some years ago. As of this writing, a similar kit is still available through Walther's; although it looks somewhat different from what's in the photo.



For an S scale model, I found the overall dimensions of the factory to be very usable as-is – the kit has a footprint of 6” x 12”, or 32 x 64 scale feet. Even the size of the bricks looked good for S. My only modifications were adding a higher foundation and changing out the doors. I scratch-built the freight door out of basswood and added an overhead hoist beam. I can’t remember if the hoist beam came with the kit, but the interesting cyclone exhaust system was included.



I always paint plastic to kill the shine, and in this case, I used a matte white to represent painted brick walls. For the personnel doors, I substituted Grandt Line S scale doors (an identical product is now sold by Tichy). Using PowerPoint on my computer, I composed my own signage and named the business Corrington Tile Works. This lineside industry is situated outside the town of Angola, NY on my Buffalo & Chautauqua layout.



## Water Tank

This steel water tank is the type you would find at a railroad yard or engine servicing facility, and kits are available in HO scale (both Walthers and Tichy) and O scale (Walthers and Atlas). I first checked out Tichy’s HO version, but it was way too small. I chose this O scale version by Atlas, which looked good overall – the tank diameter is 30’ in S and the height is 60’.



Mark Charles sent me this prototype photo, which includes a partial image of a tank similar to the Atlas model. It's hard to see because of all the smoke in the picture, but note the horizontal bracing which appears halfway down the legs. These girder-work pieces are made in a lattice pattern, and it's a feature I particularly wanted to duplicate. Thinking of what I might have among my supplies, I remembered lattice girders left over from an HO through-truss bridge kit by Central Valley. These proved to be perfect.



For me, the only objectionable components of the O scale Atlas tank were the oversized ladder and tension rods. On my model, I substituted a photo-etched brass ladder and safety cage in HO (I can't remember the brand). I also fabricated the upper ladders and bearing rollers, which represents an assembly that gives access to the roof of the structure. This allows a workman to go to the top of the tank and pivot the ladder assembly to other parts of the roof.



Here's the finished model, located in my version of PRR's Babcock Street yard in Buffalo. After making 32 anchor brackets of styrene, I cut new tension rods out of .025" music wire. This is a better-looking profile than the molded plastic pieces in the O scale kit, and the stiff wire really looks like rods that are under tension. Whereas the kit's rods extended all the way from the tank to the base, this arrangement (shorter rods connecting to the horizontal lattice braces) follows the prototype photo.

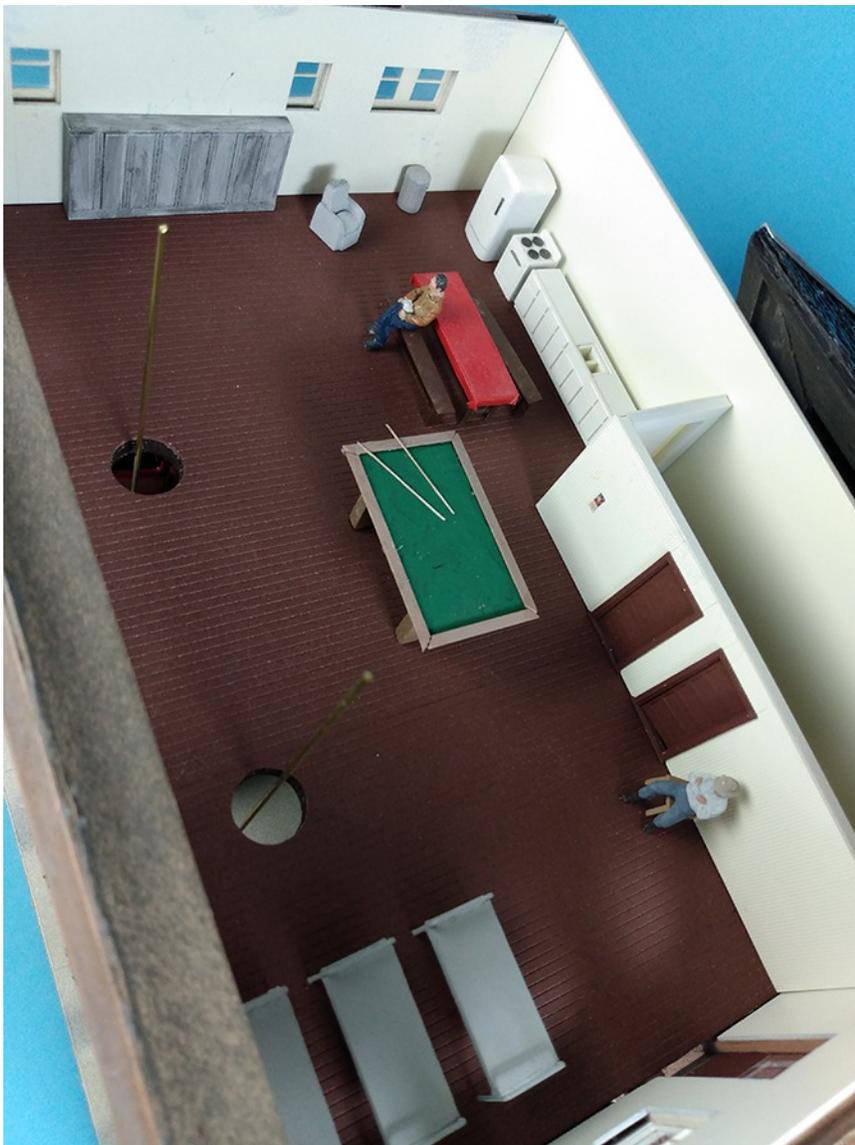


## Fire Station

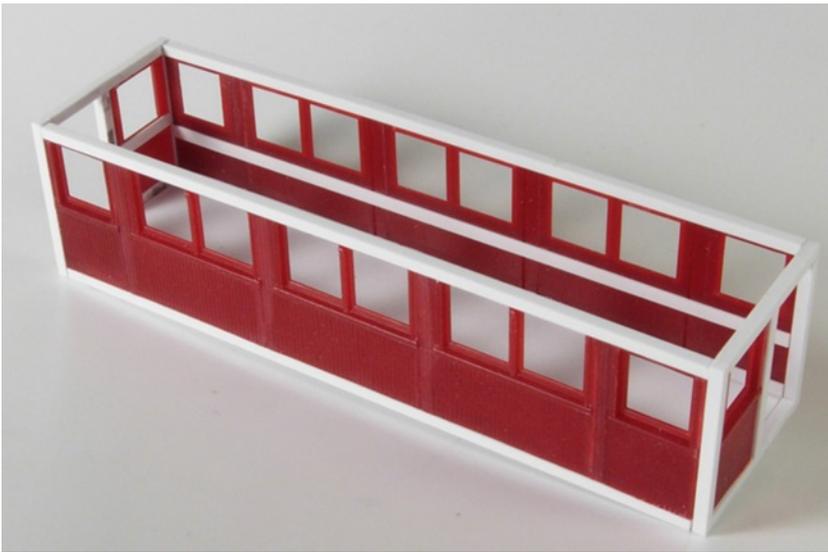
This is a project that was more complicated to build. I started with Life-Like's HO Hampden #46 Fire Engine House, which I believe is still readily available. The original kit made a two-bay station, so I used two kits to create a three-bay structure. This involved making vertical cuts halfway through the right doorway of one front wall and the left doorway of the other front wall, then splicing the two wall sections together. The side walls of the kit were sufficiently deep to accommodate the S scale fire engines I had.



There were several other modifications. To gain additional height, I made horizontal cuts in the plastic brick walls and then spliced in vinyl sheet material representing stone-work. The personnel doors are Grandt Line S scale doors, and I scratch-built one truck door from Evergreen styrene strip material. The kit had a flat roof, but I scratch-built a hip roof and added embossed vinyl sheet to represent slate shingles; the simulated copper ridges are made from styrene strip. The outside stairway was made from HO components by Central Valley. This is a decades-old project, but I believe the hose tower came from a different HO kit – it's larger than the one in the Life-Like kit.



The second floor of a fire station is usually the living quarters for firefighters between runs. Even though I didn't have any prototype photos for guidance, I wanted to add details that I thought would be appropriate. I scratch-built a row of lockers, kitchen appliances and counters, a dining table with benches, a pool table, and three cots. The figures are S scale Artista products. You can also see the iconic slide poles, made from two lengths of .045" brass rod.



## Diner

This is a diner that I built for my Southeastern Michigan club's display layout. The starting point was a bag of loose plastic parts I bought at a train show many years ago. After doing some research, I believe the parts were designed for making an O scale trolley, and they were produced by East Gary Car Company. This in-progress photo shows that the walls of my model were made up of a series of these parts; in the photo, I added the blue lines to show where the seams were.



For the S scale model I built a wood foundation to elevate the structure, and then created small decks, steps and railings for the entries at each end. I scratch-built the arched roof, adding HO exhaust vents. Finally, I created a base to form a complete diorama, which includes a fence, sidewalk, gravel parking area and shrubbery. The diorama facilitates removal when it's time to take down the layout and pack everything up for travel.



Since the diner is a foreground model on the club's layout, I also took the time to finish the interior. The tables, chairs and appliances are all scratch-built, while the people are commercial S figures (Artista and others). I left the roof removable, so during shows we can occasionally give visitors a peek inside. From that original bag of O scale trolley parts, I also made a different-looking diner for my own layout – [see \*The S Scale Resource\* June/July 2020](#).

# Gary Waite's San Juan Extension

By Randy Wilson Photos by Randy Wilson





*Rio Grande K-27 "Mudhen" stops the Durango bound San Juan passenger train to pick up mail. RPO service ended January 31, 1951.*



*Pagosa depot is at the junction of the former Pagosa Lumber Company and Rio Grande mainline. PLC abandoned the line in 1916. D&RGW removed the track in 1935. Pagosa is a Ute Indian word for “healing”.*

There is a romance to the narrow gauge railroads of Colorado. Gary Waite has surely captured that in the design and building of his sizable railroad.

This Sn3 layout, located in central Oregon, is approaching completion. All benchwork is done, the mainline is in and supporting trackwork complete. Ground cover is done, and most of the buildings are scratchbuilt.

The railroad is point-to-point with a W shaped mainline profile. Trains can switch the yard at Durango, with sidings at Carracas and Pagosa, then go on to the yard at Antonito. It is modeled in 1940, before Pagosa was re-named to Gato, the Spanish word for Cat, in reference to nearby Cat Creek.



The huge Durango 10 stall roundhouse is modeled, along with the passenger station, cold storage, freight house and other structures found in that yard. One scratchbuilt structure in Antonito is Marshall Lumber, named after the late Wayne Marshall, Gary's close friend from 1968. Wayne's family owned Marshall Lumber Company in Bakersfield, California, hence the monument.

Turnouts were scratchbuilt by Gary with a Fastrack #6 fixture. Flex-track is from P-B-L. Lee Nicholas of Utah, Colorado & Western fame laid additional track and installed all the Switchmaster machines, a challenging job. Mainline trackwork was mostly laid by longtime friend, Randy Wilson.



*The 50,000 Gallon water tank is fed from the pump house to the right which is heated in the winter to prevent freezing.*

The spectacular canyon scene at Carracas is the artwork of Jerry Boudreaux, whose ATSF Pasquinel Division is another fine area layout.

After a tutorial from Jerry, who applied the plaster and carved it to a point, Gary took over carving and coloring of the rock work. Playground Sand, from a big orange home improvement store, worked perfectly for ground cover.

LED overhead track lighting is used with the lights arranged elephant style to give off a chained light pattern, eliminating light and dark zones. Backdrops at Pagosa are from Lark Products. North Coast Engineering DCC throttles are used with the D&RGW C-class and K-class locomotives. A 4 Cycle Car Card system is used for operating sessions.

Gary has made dozens of trips to Colorado and New Mexico, taking photos and measurements of railcars and structures. He also relied on voluminous books and photo albums of research for the railroad. It shows in the great attention to detail of this marvelous railroad.

*Zabrinskie's has a gasoline pump, a precious commodity in this remote area.*



*This Modified Whipple Through Truss bridge spans Cat Creek, namesake to the station when it was changed from Pagosa to Gato, the Spanish name for Cat.*



*After an early washout here, MOW crews added a drain pipe, retaining wall and rip-rap to solve the problem.*



*This view clearly shows the roadbed of the former Pagosa Lumber branch to the left with the wood truss bridge all that remains.*



*A long siding is located at Carracas, where towering cliffs required blasting powder to create a shelf for the line.*



*C-19 #346 moves toward Durango with a manifest in tow.*



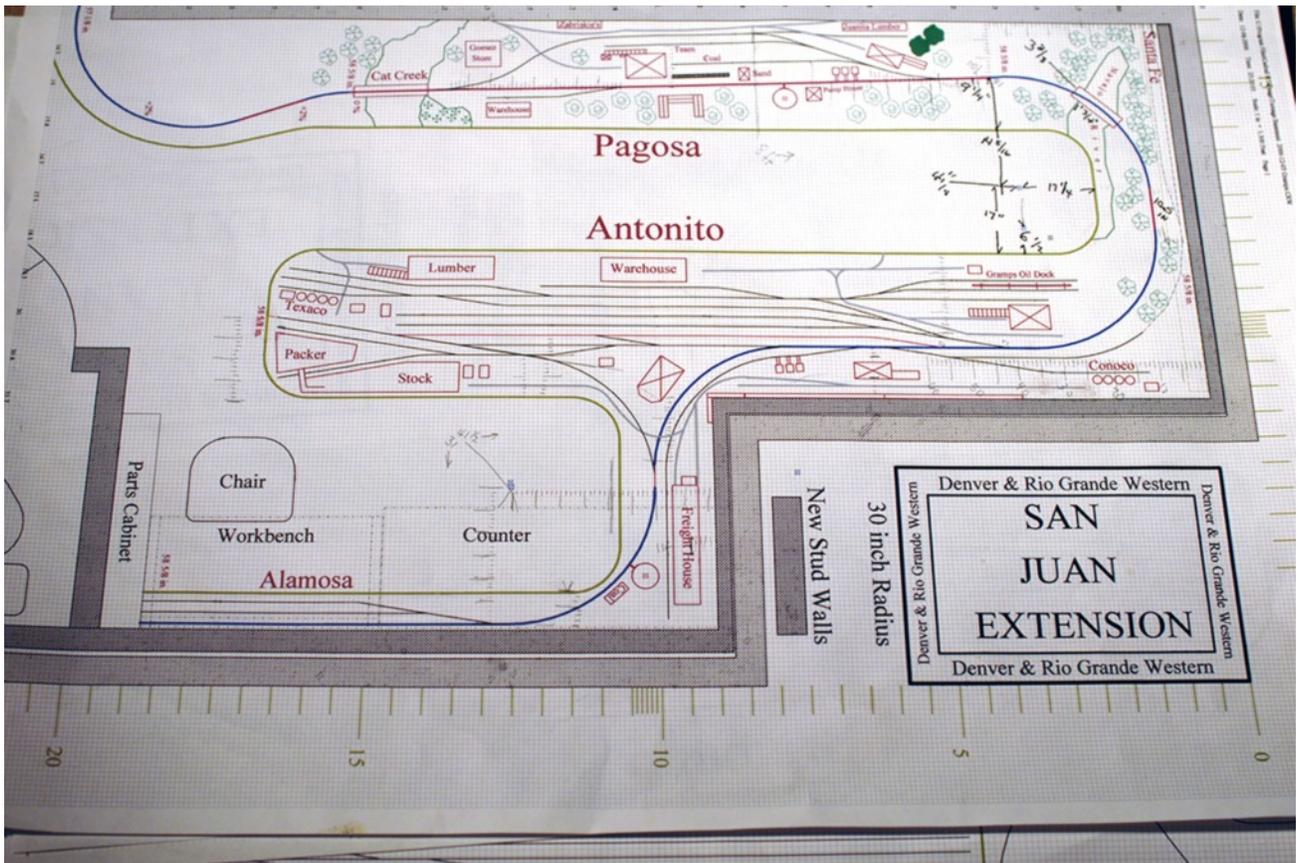
*Above: Another view of #346 with shale and sandstone cliffs above and below.*

*Below: Marshall Lumber in Antonito was name for the late Wayne Marshall, Gary's friend from 1968 until his passing.*





*Tomorrow, sheep ranchers will begin loading the round-up into double deck stock cars for the trip to market. They must be kept fed and watered during the trip.*



# Along the Railroad

A North American Rail Journey  
1958 - 1978



Howard Serig  
with  
Kent Loudon

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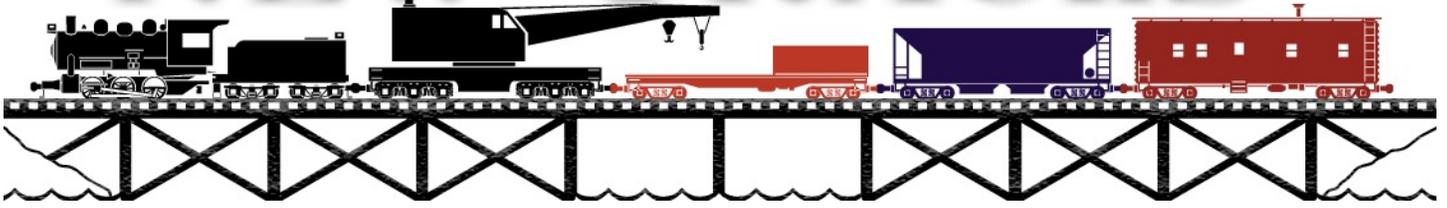
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# NEW TRACKS



**Mentor Definition: A Trusted Counselor or Guide**

**By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR**



## **MODELING WITH MENTORING FROM TALENTED MODEL BUILDERS AND EVEN FROM MODELERS IN OTHER HOBBIES**

**New Tracks Announcements:**

**Please Visit and Follow my Facebook Page [Jim Kellow MMR](#) to keep up to date with “New Tracks” and our programs. Something new is always being developed for modelers like you.**

**We did it. Great News. The IRS approved our 501(c)(3) application. it’s Official.**

The Department of the Treasury, IRS, has approved our nonprofit company, New Tracks Modeling Inc, as a Tax Exempt 501(c)(3). This enables us to receive your Tax Deductible bequests, devices, transfers, or gifts for our future “New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarships”.

Thanks and congratulations go to all our New Tracks members, and particularly to our Scholarship Committee: Chairman Bob Davidson, members Phil Edholm, Kevin Macomber and Attorney Jeffrey Jordan.

They have done an outstanding job and deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation for all their hard work.

This designation is a significant step forward for “New Tracks” and our Scholarship program. I know that 2023 is going to be an outstanding year for “New Tracks”. Thanks to everyone for your support. See more about our scholarship later in this article.

**Starting July 19, 2023: A new segment on “New Tracks” hosted by Steve Sherrill “What do you want to talk about?”**

Several modelers have suggested we have a segment on our weekly Zoom show that is about any modeling or model railroad subject anyone on the show wants to discuss. Sounds like a good idea that we have not tried before so we are going to see where this goes. If viewers like this idea, as we hope they will, it may open “New Tracks” to model railroading subjects we have not previously explored. That would be great. The more we can respond to viewers questions and issues the better. Tell us: “What do you want to talk about?”



## Another new Zoom Show Segment: “Youth Modeling”

We have started a Youth Modeling segment on my Zoom “New Tracks” shows. Mike Davis started it off on the show a few weeks ago.

I want to also recognize Youth modelers, in these articles. Here is our first Youth Modeler to be recognized. Brian Bollfenger’s daughter Ayla started building models with him (then on her own) when she was 8. She's 10 now. Here is a photo of her at age 9 with a model she built 100% on her own.

Great looking model. Congratulations. Thank you for sharing.

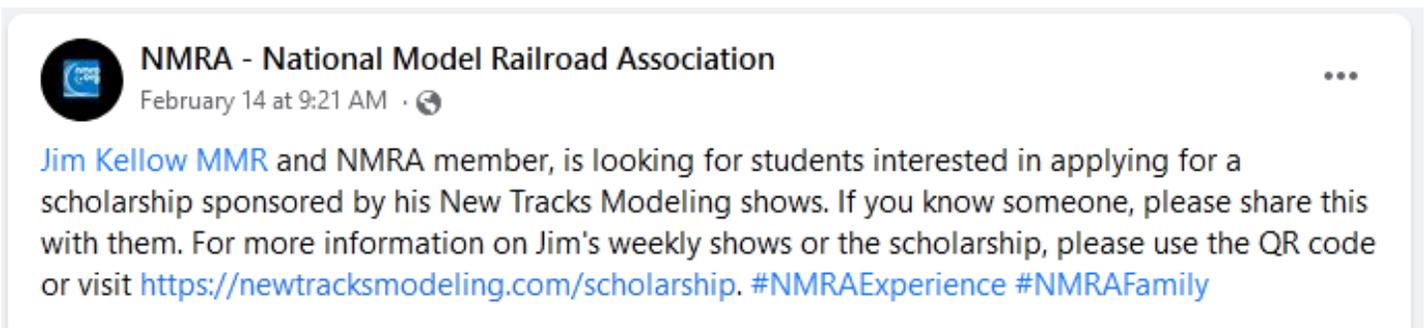
I hope we can recognize a lot more young modelers. If you have or know of a young modeler, please send information to: [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com). Again, the young modelers of today will hopefully become the future modelers of our great model railroading hobby. We need to recognize these young modelers, and encourage their contributions to our hobby.

## “New Tracks” Modeling Mentoring Scholarship” – You made it happen, thank you!

Notifying Potential Applicants about our 2023 Scholarship

We have successfully raised contributions to pay for the first year of our “New Tracks” Modeling Mentoring Scholarship program. The Scholarship is an exciting new program to help young Model Railroaders continue their post High School education in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math (STEAM) program at an Institution of Higher Learning. Thank everyone who contributed to make this happen.

**The Modeling Community is supporting us. Thanks for all their help.**



Last issue, I thanked Atlas for their support, and now I want to thank the NMRA for their Facebook posts of support for “New Tracks” and our scholarship program. This appeared on Facebook from the NMRA.



And the other day I got the GSMTS, Timonium Show, report from Scott Geare, which included the following comments about our Scholarship Program. Thank you Scott for your help and interest.

“I write to all our exhibitors, whether or not you were present at our February 4th and 5th Great Scale Model Train Show (aka “The Timonium Show”). “JIM KELLOW and the STEAM SCHOLARSHIP: You know what “STEM” stands for, don’t you? Of course you do: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. That’s the current emphasis of the national educational agenda. But what does “STEAM” stand for? Same thing, with the addition of “ART.” Jim Kellow, himself a

credentialed Master Modeler, has been working to establish a scholarship program for youth who are involved with serious modeling. Thus, he and his associates have established the “STEAM” scholarship program, which adds “ART” to the STEM program, making it “STEAM.” And indeed, what is model railroading, if not art, even “fine art?” (As Howard Zane would say).

Learn more, here: <https://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship/> Are you the parent or grandparent of a kid who needs some financial help with college? Or do you know such a youngster? If that youngster is involved in model railroading or any modeling art, connect him or her with Jim’s scholarship program. You may also want to contribute to the fund yourself. I did. Visit this web page: <https://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship>”

Thank you Scott Geare for including “New Tracks” in your show and also in your show’s report which goes to all your vendors. We look forward to being in your upcoming Timonium show.

So now, with your continued help, lets make sure every potential model railroader applicant, knows about our program and, if needed, gets help in completing their application. The deadline for submitting an application is July 1, 2023. What can you do? Find out below.

### What the “New Tracks” TEAM can do now to help?



Bob Davidson donated three banners through his company, Exhibits And More, which will be shown at train shows and rail expos across the country. Actually, Bob is donating three banners. Each banner is 3’ wide and about 7’ tall and has a QR code on it to link you directly to our website to get more information including the application to apply.

It’s a retractable unit that is very easy to ship and set-up. So if you want one for your event let Bob Davidson know at [bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com).

Please look for our banner at Train Shows and other events and tell your sons, daughters, grandkids, and all other possible applicants, about our Scholarship and encourage them to apply. The more applicants we have this year, the more scholarships we will try to provide in the future.

If you don’t see our Banner at an event you attend, please consider helping us by being our representative at the event and displaying our banner at the event the next time it is held. This year, our banner started out on the East Coast at the Amherst Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield, MA January 28-29, 2023. Chris Course, owner of Conowingo Models and a Member of the “New Tracks” team is a vendor/participant at the Amherst show, and volunteered to transport and set it up. Dylan Lambert owner of Lambert Locomotive Works set up and represented us at our Amherst show booth.

The banner was then sent to Earl Hackett, also a team member of “New Tracks” who displayed it at our table at the Great Scale Model Train Show (GSMTS) in Timonium, MD on February 4-5, 2023. We will also have our banners at Allen Littlefield’s Mid Hudson On30 show, April 14-15, 2023, Al Judy’s show: The Harrisburg Narrow Gauge Summer Meet June 9-10, 2023 in Harrisburg, PA, and at the O Scale National Train Show in Denver, CO June 8-11, 2023. We will be back in Timonium, MD for the April 29-30, 2023 GSMTS. Henry Primas also displayed our Banner at the NMRA SER Region’s Piedmont Division Model Train Show and David Schultz had it on display at the Chicago O Scale Meet March 16-18, 2023.

Another Banner was at the Association of Professional Model Makers (APMM) Conference in Dayton Ohio on March 3-6, 2023. And the third Banner is with Mark Poggendorf, owner of Poggie’s Trains in California. Mark is traveling to 20 different train shows in the Western States, and will be displaying our Banner at each show. Thank you Mark.

Look for “New Tracks” at any show you attend. We hope to be represented at as many shows as possible. If you want to take one of our banners, or help man a table, or let us be a part of your table, let Bob Davidson know at: [bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com). Thank you to everyone who helped us display the Banners at Shows around the Country. We are currently taking reservations for our banners for our second year’s (2023/2024) Scholarship Program. Stay turned for mode details on it.

### “New Tracks” Mentoring Scholarship Program Handout

You can also use the handout below with basic information about our 2023 Scholarship to pass on to applicants. More detailed information is available on our website at: [newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship](http://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship)

**Are You a Model Railroader?  
Are You a Modeler?  
Are You Pursuing a STEAM Degree?**

Apply for the  
**New Tracks Modeling  
Mentoring Scholarship**

A unique scholarship focused to Model Railroaders and other modelers pursuing a STEAM related college degree or technical school credential.

**The 2023/2024 academic year scholarship is US \$1,000.**

To learn more, visit: [www.newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship](http://www.newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship)  
Questions? E-mail us at: [NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com)



### New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship

Qualified applicants **MUST** meet the following criteria:

- Must currently be either a current high school senior or a high school graduate living in the United States.
- Are planning to or currently attending a two-year or four-year university, college or accredited technical school in academic year 2023-24 with an intent to pursue a degree in one of the STEAM fields.
- Have a current GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Demonstrate participation in either a Model Railroading or other modeling youth activity program such as Youth in Model Railroading®, Scouts MRR program, 4H model railroading, MRR Youth clinics, active participant in building a home layout, or belong to an organized model railroad club. Participation in general modeling clubs and activities will also be considered.
- Write an essay of at least 500 words describing how their involvement in modeling and model railroading as a hobby has impacted their lives and benefited their education within one or more of the STEAM areas of academic pursuit.
- Demonstration of having designed and/or built models by submitting photos and descriptions of at least two models completed by the applicant.
- Provide two references to affirm applicant's involvement in railroad or other modeling activities. (NTMMS will be contacting any listed references, so please let them know ahead of time).

#### How to Apply:

Applications can be submitted on-line or by mail. Scan the QR code to download an application, or visit [www.newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship](http://www.newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship) for more information and the on-line application forms.



#### NEW TRACKS MODELING

New Tracks Modeling is the premier organization promoting mentoring in the modeling and model railroad community. Through on-line meetups and other activities, New Tracks Modeling engages modelers with mentors to build more and better models. New Tracks Modeling is the sponsor of the 2023/2024 NTMMS.

Please note: Scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the Bursars Office of the school where the student will be attending. Any NTM staff member or relative is prohibited from applying for this scholarship.



Again, your help and support is needed to reach as many qualified applicants as possible.



**Attention all  
High School Seniors &  
College Students!**

Are You a Model Railroader?  
Are You a Modeler?  
Are You Pursuing a STEAM Degree?

**New Tracks Modeling  
Mentoring Scholarship**

A unique scholarship focused to

Remember, one of these years your younger kids or grandkids may benefit from the “New Tracks” Modeling Mentoring Scholarship program that you helped start this year. Thank you.

Please help us to get young model railroaders who can directly benefit from the scholarships to apply. Tell your kids and grandkids about our program, encourage, and help them apply. After all, this program is for their benefit. The deadline for submitting an application is July 1, 2023.

Also, please let businesses you buy from, your club, Train Show promoters, or other organizations you belong to know about our scholarship program and show our Scholarship Banner and pass out our handouts at their events. Advertising such as done by the Atlas company is exactly what we need to get our message communicated about the Scholarship Program. Thank you Atlas.

### **Scholarship Program and the 501(c)(3) designation.**

Your generous contribution to “New Tracks” first Scholarship Program has allowed us to have it fully funded, and has also provided funds to form a new non-profit corporation, New Tracks Modeling, Inc. which sought recognition from the IRS and was approved as a 501(c)(3) charity for soliciting scholarship funds in future years. Thank you so very much for everyone’s support.

- As of January 12, 2023, the State of Florida has approved the incorporation of our new nonprofit corporation, New Tracks Modeling, Inc., and we have completed all the steps to organize the corporation. We applied for our IRS recognition as a 501(c)(3) on February 8, 2023 and we just received the approval of our application by the IRS. Thanks to our great Scholarship team we obtained the IRS approval in record time.
- Thanks to every “New Tracks” viewer and reader for your support and help in completing these significant accomplishments. We can now start tax deductible fund raising for our ambitious 2024 Scholarship program. You will be hearing much more about this effort shortly.

Our Scholarship Committee is currently hard at work obtaining applications from young High School graduates for our 2023 Scholarship, as well as, finalizing the plans for our 2024 program. Needless to say, without the pro bono legal help provided by Jeffrey Jordan Counsel at ArentFox Schiff LLP, we could never have achieved these goals. Thanks Jeff for volunteering your legal expertise, and for bring a very talented Model Railroader. It is an honor for me and “New Tracks” to be working with you.

To justify all the financial and Team support “New Tracks” is receiving for our new Scholarship Program it is obvious to me that “YOU”, all the volunteers, who produce our shows, and others who do all the many other jobs necessary to participate in our shows, create the website, YouTube posting and marketing, Zoom posts and other marketing, etc. have done and are doing an outstanding job. I know this because of the favorable emails I get, the growth of our viewer community, and the interest shown for our programs by the wider model railroading community. Thank you all.

I truly hope each of you are as proud as I am of your contributions and that together we are creating “New Tracks” as the mentoring place to be for current and future model railroaders. This is what sets us apart: “Mentors Helping Modelers Build”. And the great part is we are only getting started in helping the younger modelers develop into the modelers and mentors of tomorrow. We have a lot more to come.

### **The New Tracks Scholarship Committee**

Please meet the “New Tracks” Modeling Mentoring Scholarship Committee who is guiding us as we offer our first \$1,000.00 scholarship in 2023, and implementing our 501(c)(3) organization for our future Scholarship Programs. We are so fortunate to have the talent and experience of these modelers. My Thanks to each of you.

### **Bob Davidson, Chairman**

Bob was born and raised in the Metro New York area where he began his love of trains and model railroading riding the New York City subways. After attending college at SUNY Brockport and graduating with a degree in Technical Theater and Design, Bob’s career took him to the Alley Theater in Houston, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and then to Syracuse University where he served as an Associate Professor of Theater and Production Manager for Syracuse Stage.

In 1985, Bob was one of the founders of Exhibits And More, a full-service exhibit house specializing in trade show and museum displays. The company maintains offices and a production facility in Liverpool, NY.

Bob is a Past-President of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York, Past-President of Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum and current board member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame. He is a long time member of NMRA and the NRHS, and currently models in HO scale. His "Gowanus & Northern" railway is a freelanced switching layout based in Brooklyn, NY and features an elevated subway line.

Bob lives in Cicero, NY with his wife Laura. In his spare (non-snowing) time he is an avid motorcyclist, having ridden more than 250,000 miles on his Harleys.

### **Phil Edholm, Committee Member**

Phil Edholm is an active model railroader. He is part of the California Central Coast On30 Modular group and the ACCRS club that operates layouts at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. While his primary focus is on O and On30, Phil also models in HO. Phil is the Superintendent of the NMRA/PCR Coast Division and helping drive the NMRA and railroading forward as a hobby.

Phil Edholm is a retired visionary and leader in the Enterprise Communications market. In 2007, he was recognized by Frost and Sullivan with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Growth, Innovation and Leadership in Telecommunications for an essential role in creating the VoIP industry. He has been recognized by the IEEE as the originator of "[Edholm's Law of Bandwidth](#)" as published in July 2004 IEEE Spectrum, one of four Laws of technology. He was a leader in the market adoption of webRTC, the technology underlying much of today's video collaboration solutions. Phil has 18 granted US patents and holds a BSME/EE from Kettering University.

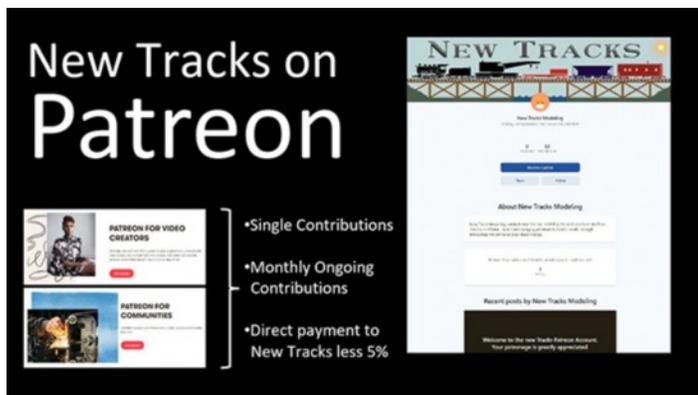
### **Kevin Macomber, Committee Member**

Kevin Macomber is the owner of NGMC, which includes eight former model railroad brands and Narrow Gauge Modeling Co. The company founded in 2015 has risen to become one of the top leaders in 1/4" scale product, hobby supplies and quality model paint.

Prior to this, he was an engineer and product manager for two Fortune 100 companies. NGMC is the sponsor of the Harrisburg Narrow O Meet and New Track's Modeling Lifestyles. Kevin is also known for his concept 'Modeling 1940s Style' gaining broad acceptance in the hobby.

### **Jeff Jordan, Legal Counsel**

Jeff Jordan is an attorney who has practiced corporate law in Washington, DC for more than 40 years and is now mostly retired. He has had model trains since childhood and has been a serious railroad modeler for more than 35 years (mostly HO, but recently in On30). Other interests include driving and maintaining his 1959 Morgan Plus 4 and horseback riding. He is married with three children and two grandchildren and lives in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia.



### **Your Help Needed in Other Areas: Help Fund our Shows.**

As with any volunteer operated effort, there are always out of pocket costs that must be paid. These costs are not associated with our Scholarship Program, but cover the out of pocket costs of just getting the show to you by Zoom, YouTube, and our website. We

have a Patreon account, NewTracks Modeling, for your donations to help fund our shows. We hope you can make a financial contribution.

We also have a monetized YouTube account, New Tracks Modeling. If you like the advertising placed on our videos, please click and watch them so we can earn a little money from YouTube. Thank you in advance for your consideration and help.

Volunteer your time to make our shows possible. We are fortunate to have as many fantastic volunteers as we do who donate their time to make our programs possible. But as our show's audience continues to grow and the types of segments viewers ask for increase, we are always in need of more volunteers. Specifically, we need help with our website to keep it up to date, help being a part of the Production Team who run our shows, and help with ideas and preparation of our advertising for our shows and fundraising efforts. Please help us keep the shows going.

Everyone who watches our shows has a contribution they can make. Offer your help in participating by sharing your modeling skills, or help make and produce our Zoom and YouTube shows, or help with our website and digital marketing, etc. Any amount of time and help you can provide will be greatly appreciated and definitely needed. Contact me at [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com) and lets discuss.

### Upcoming "New Tracks" Live Events Every Wednesday Evening at 7pm EST



Subscribe to our website, [newtracksmodeling.com](http://newtracksmodeling.com), to get all the current information about our shows and weekly emails with the log in links for our shows. Join us live on Zoom or on our YouTube channel New Tracks Modeling. By the way, we have over 800 videos of our past shows on our YouTube channel for you to enjoy. They are all free!

"NewTracks" MY BUILD Sponsored by [The Model Railroad Resource, LLC](http://The Model Railroad Resource, LLC). Join our weekly Zoom shows with our host Chris Course. Our monthly "New Tracks" MY BUILD segments provide opportunities for viewers to have their work featured. You can show your latest project, discuss your modeling technique, or a new tool you found, or give a tip you learned that helped your modeling. These are some of the photos modelers shared on our recent January 18, 2023 MY BUILD. Each of the participants has an email address included and would welcome your contact. You can see all the MY BUILD models shown and the modeler's comments on our YouTube channel New Tracks Modeling.



*Bob Farquhar - [bob.farquhar@sympatico.ca](mailto:bob.farquhar@sympatico.ca) - HO scale - Build of Interaction Hobbies Englewood Mobile Home.*

Individual Modelers and their Models on The February 15, 2023 show.



Top Left Jeff Jordan - [jordan.jordan54@verizon.net](mailto:jordan.jordan54@verizon.net) - HO scale - Build of Suydam Models Triangle Cafe.

Top Right: Martin Brechbiel - [martinwb@oscalemag.com](mailto:martinwb@oscalemag.com) - O scale - Took an old Harley Models Work Train Utility Car and filled in the dining car utilizing 3D printed parts from various manufacturers.

Left: Darryl Jacobs - [djacobs@inter-action.ca](mailto:djacobs@inter-action.ca) - HO scale - Experimenting in 3D printing. Prints of a coin operated ride and a dental suite as a gift for his dentist. Also, a meth lab conversion of Interaction Hobbies Englewood Mobile Home.



Right: Gary Shurgold - gshurgold@gmail.com - HO scale - Build of City Classics Company House using multiple paint layers to simulate wood.



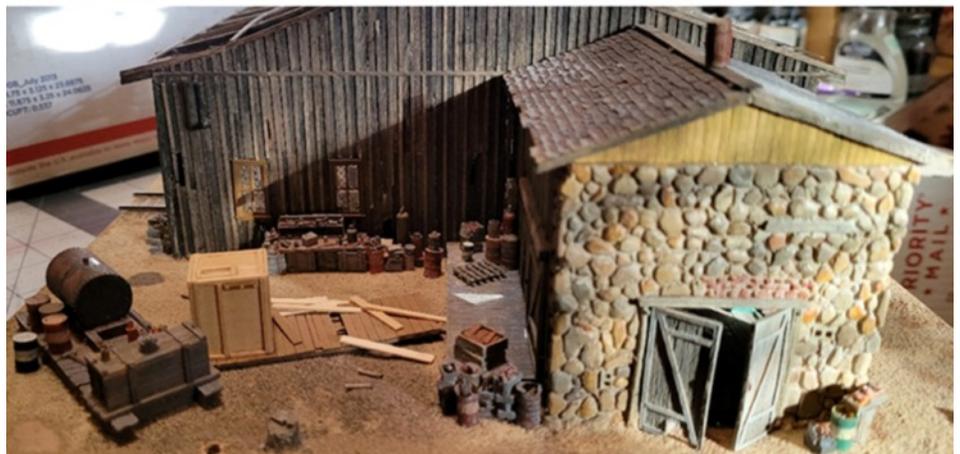
Below: Rich Wolfanger - nonameron@hotmail.com - HO scale - Scratchbuild of an engine service house.

Thanks to all the modelers who participated and shared their modeling with viewers. If you want to participate in our next monthly MY BUILD, send your model photos with a brief description and your name to Chris Coarse at: [atrailrunner130@hotmail.com](mailto:atrailrunner130@hotmail.com).

The next MY BUILDS are scheduled for, April 26, 2023 and May 24, 2023. This is the time to plan a project you want to share at these upcoming shows.

### “New Tracks” Build Alongs

Our Build Along modeling experiences provide you a personal mentor and great discounted prices on the models to be built. Join us on our weekly Zoom shows for a great learning experience that will help you improve your modeling.





## Rockin H Farm Toys

Starting February 22, 2023, Eric Haselhorst, owner of Rockin H Farm Toys, will begin a Build Along of a S Scale (1/64) Kenworth T370 service truck that is in Frederick Harvesting's Fleet. The whole model will be 3D printed. Eric has everything a modeler might need (less paint) listed and available on his website. There is a 15% discount off the model, parts, and supplies to build the model. Use the Coupon code

***buildalong*** to get the discount. The discount will be available until March 31, 2023. [Please visit Eric's website for more information.](#)

## Rail Tales Hobby Shop

Bret Jones, owner of Rail Tales Hobby Shop, informed me of an illness in his family that has required him to postpone his Build Along until later this year. I will let you know as soon as it is rescheduled. Bret apologizes and hopes everyone understands this delay. Our prayers go to Bret and his family during this difficult period.

## Modeling with Inkscape

Starting March 29, 2023, Fr. Ron Walters will begin a Build Along series on how to use the “FREE” software called Inkscape. He will start out with three segments: one on how to design windows with fine mullions using Inkscape and self adhesive labels; one on using Inkscape to change signage; and one on using Inkscape to plan walls for a scratch build. If viewers like these, he will look at a couple other uses of Inkscape for your modeling. Each segment will last 15 minutes so you can learn a little at a time.

## Tom Yorke

Starting May 10, 2023, Tom Yorke is coming out of retirement, a little, to do a Build Along for one of his Structure Kits called the White Front Grill. There is a limited number of 25 O Scale kits available to “New Tracks” viewers, at a price of 50% off the normal retail price for the kit. Viewers may start ordering the kit on March 1, 2023 by emailing Tom at [tom.yorke@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:tom.yorke@newtracksmodeling.com) using the code words ‘**White Front Grill**. When I talked to Tom while he was working on the prototype model for the kit, his enthusiasm for the kit and building it on my show made me realize that he was a true lover of our hobby, and this opportunity might be your last chance to get a Tom Yorke kit.

I apologize for the delay, however, Covid didn't care. Got it on Nov. 28th and it sapped all of my energy for almost three weeks. Good thing I had 5 shots. I shudder to think what would have happened if I hadn't had those shots! Finally feeling better. “Jim, Here are the finished photos...”



“The kit is available starting March 1, 2023 for \$40 post paid in the U.S., signed and numbered kits up to 25 (the entire run if needed). The Build Along will be mainly focused on the painting and weathering of the model resin kit. All signs shown included - just not the '36 Buick. My goal is to take the fear out of painting and weathering a resin kit. It's really quite simple.”

We O scale modelers all owe Tom a “thank you” for this one great opportunity to watch a Master Modeler at work. Don't miss his Build Along or the opportunity to get his last kits at a great price.

### A Very Special BUILD ALONG/MY BUILD Combination



### Bollinger Ederly Scale Trains

On May 31, Brian Bollinger, owner of Bollinger Ederly Scale Trains, will begin a very special Build Along using some of what he calls his “Just the Basics kits”. All the kits will be in HO scale. He will demonstrate how to use the 4 walls, roof, interior walls, and roof shingles in the kit. Richard Fall will join the discussion with some suggestions for kitbashing and using these kits as a basis for scratchbuilding projects.

Here are the various kits he will make available during the period May 1, through June 30, 2023 at the special price of \$24.95 for whichever kit you want to select. Only one kit per “New Tracks” modeler at this special price of \$24.95.

Details of special price:

\$19.95 - Regular price of the Basic kit

\$5.95 - Shingles (dark gray 3-tab)

\$7.00 - Interior Walls

\* Shingles and interior walls are not normally part of the kit but are being added to make assembly easier. They are being created especially for this online class.

\$32.90 - Total Value Regular price.

\$24.95 - New Tracks Special for the video build along and only for “New Tracks” modelers.

List of HO kits, Brian is making available at this special price:

Crossing Shanties: [http://besttrains.com/basics\\_ho\\_2010.html](http://besttrains.com/basics_ho_2010.html)

Small Shack #1: [http://besttrains.com/basics\\_ho\\_2015.html](http://besttrains.com/basics_ho_2015.html)

Small Stable: [http://besttrains.com/basics\\_ho\\_2027.html](http://besttrains.com/basics_ho_2027.html)

Anaconda Shack - Clapboard: [http://besttrains.com/basics\\_ho\\_2035.html](http://besttrains.com/basics_ho_2035.html)

White Haven Shed: [http://besttrains.com/basics\\_ho\\_2041.html](http://besttrains.com/basics_ho_2041.html)

West Hopkinton Station: [http://besttrains.com/basics\\_ho\\_2050.html](http://besttrains.com/basics_ho_2050.html)

Brian will focus on building technique that can apply to any of these, or any other, structures. He will build the Small Stable and the Clapboard Anaconda Shack on the show.

The selections should allow for personal tastes and needs of each modeler to be met rather than Brian just saying, "Like it our not, build this with me.". For more information, Brian is making a special page on his website just for "New Tracks" modelers to use when ordering. It will be available only for the dates of special pricing for the Build Along. Visit <http://www.besttrains.com/>.

But it gets even better. Every "New Tracks" modeler who buys one of the kits will be invited to a special segment of our "My Build" with Host Chris Course and Brian Bollinger on August 23, 2023 to show the model built from one of the kits, and discuss how it was customized it to suit the builder's needs. Everyone who is part of this Build Along will get their model included in my next "New Tracks" article following the show.

If you like this approach to combining our Build Along with our My Build show segments, please let me know at [Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com)

**More Build Alongs to come:** I hope you want to participate in all the "Build Alongs". The modelers and manufacturers, who are making these events possible, are doing them to try to help you improve your skills and have more enjoyment and confidence in your modeling. They are true learning experiences that have helped many modelers. So if you have been sitting on the sidelines for awhile, give model building a try. I am looking for more modelers and manufacturers to be involved in future "Build Alongs" in 2023. Contact me if you are interested at: [Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com)

**"Watch Me Build"** These segments provide modelers the opportunity to build a model to demonstrate their modeling skills and techniques. Viewers can ask questions and learn from experienced modelers in various facets of our hobby. Upcoming Segment: May 3, 2023 – Ralph Renzitte Weathering.

These segments have modelers who want to share their modeling efforts, their skills, and discuss their modeling techniques so others can benefit. These segments can be for one or more shows depending on the details included for the model building presentation.

I hope you will share your modeling experience in this segment so other modelers can benefit from your knowledge and techniques.

### **Mentoring Modelers and Manufacturers**

Now let's meet some talented modelers. This first modeler is involved in various parts of our hobby and brings a lot of varied experience to his modeling.

#### **James van Bokkelen**

I started working in HO scale in 1968, because I couldn't buy accurate models of B&M equipment in O-tinplate. I built a 12' x 14' HO B&M layout at my parent's house during high school. From 1974 to 1988, I was a member of MIT's Tech Model Railroad Club and learned a lot. After moving to my present house, I got involved in the HUB Division Modular Group in 1989.



Between 2012 and 2021, I was Director, Vice President, then for 6 years, President of the HUB Division. During part of that time, I also served as an NER Director. Initially, I was elected to represent VT, NH and ME, later I was a Director because I was the HUB's President.

In 1996, I created the Unofficial B&M Page on the web. For about 20 years, that's been part of my New England Railroad History and Modeling Page: <http://www.faracresfarm.com/jbvb/rr/index.html>

*Left: Me using a gas tamper (effectively a gas jackhammer with a different working tool) last spring. We were adjusting track in a car barn at Seashore.*



*Sunday evening on Franklin St., Bexley Massachusetts.*

Since 2007, I've been posting about the design and construction of my B&M Eastern Route layout on Railroad-Line: <https://railroad-line.com/node/9177>

The first page includes links to other RR-Line threads I've started for specific projects or contributed something significant to.

I hold 7 AP certificates: RR Setting: Scenery, RR Construction & Operation: Electrical, Civil, Chief Dispatcher, Service to the Hobby and Members: Author, Volunteer, Official.



*Outbound local meets an inbound from Portland at the West Portal of Bexley Tunnel. P-2c 4-6-2 #3684 (Overland, my paint job), Athearn Genesis GP-7, kit and kitbashed structures, B&M prototype home signal.*

I have one Merit Award for a passenger car, another for a loco, but the area and era of the B&M I'm modeling doesn't really need scratchbuilt cars or locomotives. It does need scratchbuilt structures; I've done 17, my wife 13. But I've only done enough interior on one to earn a Merit.

My Author certificate is based on 1) the Unofficial B&M Page; 2) articles published in the HUB Headlight, the NER Coupler, NMRA Magazine/Scale Rails and Railroad Model Craftsman; 3) Clinics at HUB Railfun Nights, HUB Spring Training conventions and NER conventions.

My professional career began as a software developer for a Touch-Tone Data Entry/Voice Response company, then as salesperson, developer and executive at an Internet for PCs startup, then as salesperson, developer and executive in the IT Security field.



*Eastbound RDC leaving Rowley, Massachusetts.*

I retired in 2014, and over the next few years, got more involved in 1:1 railway preservation. I'm presently Vice President, Trustee and Track Superintendent at Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, ME. I'm also Vice Chair of the Flying Yankee Association ([flyingyankee.org](http://flyingyankee.org)).

Thanks James for your contributions to modeling, and our model railroading hobby, and to the organizations you are working with. For more information or talk to James, he can be reached at:

[James.Bokkelen@newtracksm modeling.com](mailto:James.Bokkelen@newtracksm modeling.com)



*Westbound under Route 1A in Rowley, Mass. James re-numbered this Athearn USA 2-8-2 and added some detail to the tender. Bridge in the background was the subject of my April 2014 "RMC" article.*

This next modeler is a fantastic Ukraine modeler. When I first saw his modeling, I could not believe what he had accomplished. Please meet Dmitry and judge for yourself. What he does in card modeling is amazing.



### Dmitry Voronov

My name is Dmitry Voronov. I was born in and live in Kharkov, Ukraine. I am 46 years old, and became interested in paper modeling when I was a child. In the Soviet Union, there was a magazine "Young Technician" for children who are fond of technique and modelism. This magazine had a supplement with drawings, diagrams and patterns for creating models from paper. Patterns had to be copied on paper, cut out, glued and painted to create the model.

Then I stopped modeling at age 16. I worked in an auto shop, did car tuning, took part in auto races. Ten years ago, I returned to modeling. Totally by accident. My wife found an old magazine from her childhood. In it was a pattern of a robot. I cut it out and glued it together in an evening. Then I found a simple pattern for the Tiger 1 tank on the Internet. I downloaded it, printed it out and glued it together. I liked the German armor for some reason. Probably just the beautiful and powerful shape. I also made a Panther tank. They were easy to make. It took me 2-3 evenings.



Then I began to look more closely on the web for the work of other modelers, looking for patterns. I really liked the dioramas. Such little pieces of history. I decided to try to make such a work, too. But it turned out that the patterns of paper models are issued more often in 1/25 scale. And dioramas are 1/35. And in the models from magazines there was a lot of inaccuracies, and they did not look like real machines. It was necessary to redesign and paint. That's why for my work I used some scaled-down patterns from magazines, but was guided more by the drawings and photos of prototypes.

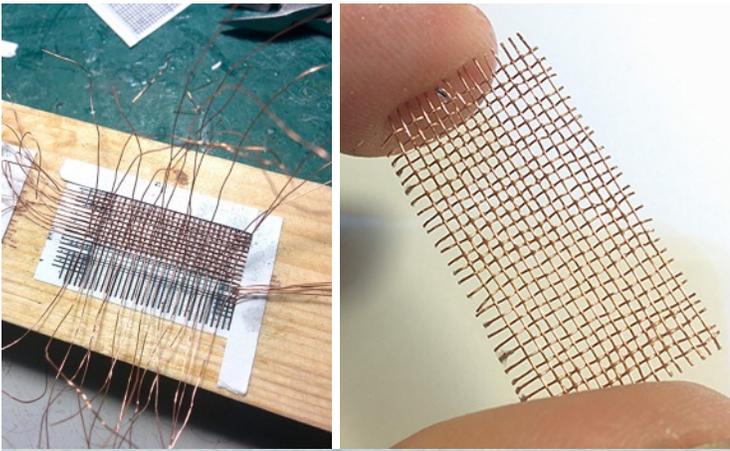
I decided to make dioramas using my paper tanks and cars and plastic figure sets. I wanted my work to look like the plastic sets and even better and more detailed.

The basic idea - it's not about super kits, etching, expensive special modeling paint, pigments. You can make a good diorama using simple acrylic paints from the art store, a simple acrylic varnish, soda, and hairspray. With each new diorama, I improved my skills. I studied methods of painting, making different elements of the diorama (houses, roads, ground). I tried different versions of materials.



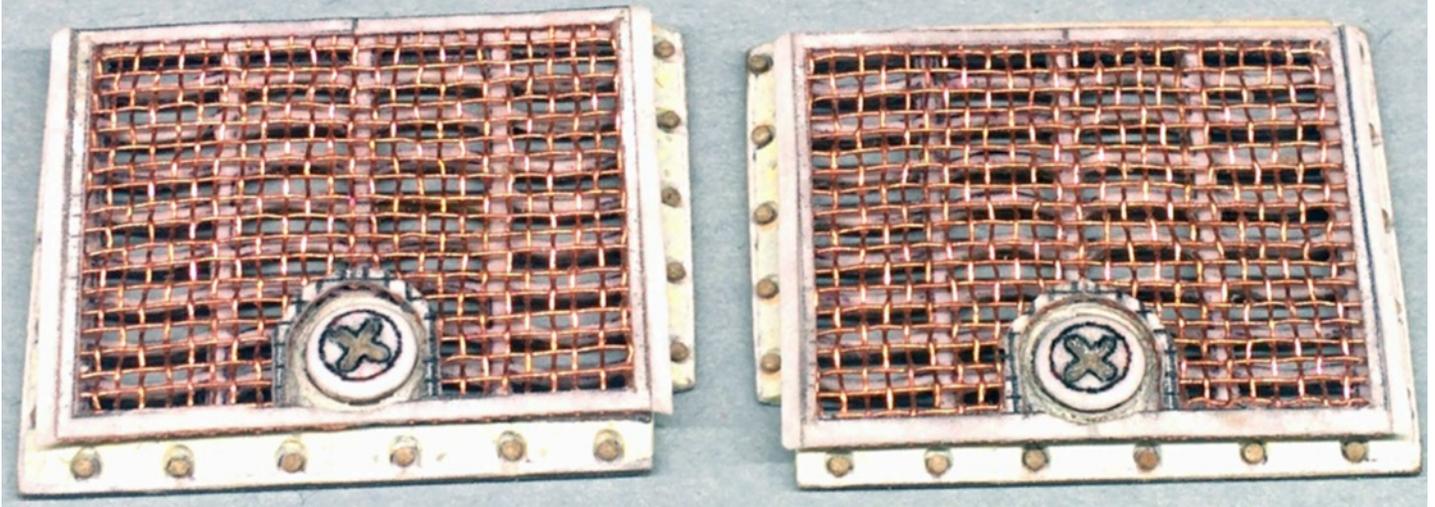
*Leibstandarte in Kharkov, 1943.*





The only problem with this modeling - the model takes a very long time, because every detail you need to make yourself. I think the last two works are the best and most detailed. They are devoted to the period of the occupation of Kharkov by German troops in 1943.

The first work is "Leibstandarte in Kharkov 1943". It shows a Tiger 1 tank on the outskirts of the city in March 1943. The tank with the number 424 really took part in the battles for Kharkov.



To create the model, I found archive materials and photos of this vehicle. I also asked for advice from David Byrden, a renowned Tiger tank specialist. He provided me with accurate drawings and data on this particular vehicle. I spent one year building this diorama.

The model uses brass and plastic nuts for the purchased parts. Everything else is paper, copper foil and wire. Even the grids on the engine compartment I made myself out of thin wire from David's drawings.

Also on the model are working paper tracks and opening hatches on the tank turret. The hatches are made of copper foil. The entire diorama is painted with Ladoga, ROSA, and Polycolor acrylic paints. The snow was made from a mixture of soda and PVA. I glued the house together from cardboard and wooden sticks. The roof is made of aluminum foil. In general, a diorama can be made from simple, inexpensive materials and without special modeling chemistry.

The second work is very big. It is not finished yet. So far, only the tractor FAMO 9, the figures and some details of the diorama are completely ready. The building, the crane and the base are still in the process of construction. I have been building the FAMO alone for over a year. This is my most detailed model. I tried to make all the small details of the transmission, engine compartment and cab as much as possible. The model has working tracks, the hood and toolbox open, the wheels turn, and the winch driveshaft turns. Absolutely all parts are made by myself.



I can assist beginner modelers with advice on gluing paper models and making special tools for working with patterns (cutters and punches). I have two educations (engineer on engines and education of the artist) and can help with painting of models and figures. I now work in the beauty center. I am a master of nails. In my free time, I am fond of bicycles and their tuning and airbrushing.

Thank you so much for sharing your modeling techniques and philosophy. I learned a lot. You can contact Dmitry at [Dmitry.Voronov@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Dmitry.Voronov@newtracksmodeling.com)

As you know, I have profiled a lot of modelers in my articles and I recently had several modelers ask me to profile myself. So here goes some of my thoughts and feelings. You asked for it. You will have to wait for a complete profile of me until later.

## **Remembering My Model Building Roots**

**By: Jim Kellow MMR**

See if this sounds familiar to any of you! If so, I bet you love modeling.

I have built models all my life. When I first started building models, I used anything I could find that was free because there was only so much I could get my Mom to buy for me at the local drug store which was the only place in town where I could find any model kits and magazines.

I vividly remember the plywood wheeled structure that slid under my bed my Dad built for me so I could have a permanent model railroad layout and not just an around the Christmas Tree set up once a year. I think I was 6 or 7 years old. I rolled it under my bed when it was not in use, which meant I had to remove everything that was too tall to fit under the bed. But that was OK. We didn't have a useable attic or basement, so this was the only available space.

Santa at Christmas and my birthdays was when I hoped to get lucky and get a new "significant" Lionel addition to my model railroad. I call these memories, "going back to my roots", because it was during these early years I started to learn how to create something I wanted in my mind, and then build it. I became a scratchbuilder and didn't even know it!

I recently read something that Kevin Macomber, owner of Narrow Gauge Modeling Company (NGMC), wrote that brought back many of those childhood memories. As I was reminiscing, I realized that my roots in model railroading are to a large extent why I have remained a model railroader all my life and so enjoy scratchbuilding models today. Memories of my Dad, and later in life, other people I read about or met, who taught me skills and showed me how they built their magnificent models, came flooding back into my mind.

Now, every time I complete a model, I realize how great a debt I owe my Dad and my other mentors for taking the time to teach me their thought processes and modeling techniques, and guiding me in developing my own modeling imagination and abilities. That is why I believe so strongly in mentoring other modelers so we can continue the modeling traditions and heritage that I, and so many others far more skilled than myself, can share. Frankly without mentoring, I fear that the modeling skills that have built our hobby may be lost, and likewise, the artistic creativity and imagination parts of our hobby. That would be a shame.

I encourage you to read what Kevin wrote, shown below, and think about your entry into modeling and how you learned the creativity and skills which allow you to build whatever you want, out of any material you want, in any scale or gauge you want. Freedom to be able to create is a very special gift. Being able to look at a model you created and say, "I built that!" is a very special thrill. Let's not lose those gifts and feelings!

### **Modeling 1940s Style**

**By: Kevin Macomber**

As a young boy, our family was below average income and there was never an allowance and seldom anything new. Typical to the time and situation, if you wanted something, you built it or fixed something that was second-hand. One advantage I had was that I was very creative and artistic. I was fascinated with creating with different materials and colors. Some of it came out well, but some of course didn't.

When NGMC was started, it was built on this very premise; everything in the store has to be built, modified or painted. During the same time, I started collecting and studying old model railroad catalogs and magazines (WWII and before) to get ideas for new products that were once provided, but the suppliers disappeared. Reading these, I was surprised by the breadth and depth of the modeling that occurred. While many think the modeling of that time was simplistic, in many cases it was more advanced than today as it required so much effort and knowledge to accomplish certain tasks. More so, they often had limited materials at hand and those materials were very difficult to acquire due to the War restrictions on both raw material and manufacturing. The true modelers figured it out, they made due, and crafted their empires!

The past few years the pandemic and economy have created a similar situation as the supply of product has lessened while prices, for those that can afford certain things, has increased dramatically. As well, the loss of suppliers is noticeable in some scales, putting the market in a somewhat similar position of the late 1930s and 1940s. Engines, lumber, plastics, etc. all fell victim to the supply chain woes of recent. Some has rebounded and some hasn't.

With that said, we have an opportunity to reboot and inspire the hobby using traditional methods, tools, and approaches to complete a large percentage of our model railroad layouts. This of course does not mean we cannot embrace new technologies, but it does give the opportunity to not being obliged to wait and pull something out of a box. Hence, the movement I have coined is 'Modeling 1940s Style.' Using old publications from the 1930s to the 1960s, I will both test and modify older approaches that can cost very little or nothing at all. We will embrace the fine art of dumpster diving, begging, and borrowing! If able, I will create new methods inspired by these as well.

I hope you find this journey enjoyable and if you would like me try or test a method or process, contact me.

Thanks Kevin for bringing back all my childhood memories. I wouldn't trade them for anything! So that's how model railroading started for me. You can reach Kevin at: [Kevin.Macomber@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Kevin.Macomber@newtracksmodeling.com).

### **My Concern and Theory About Why Modeling in Model Railroading is Declining!**

**By: Jim Kellow MMR**

My first memories of model railroading go back to the early 1940s. For my parents, World War II, and its immediate consequences, were the conversation of the day. I don't remember model railroad magazines, or any discussion of the hobby by my Mom and Dad. The only actual model railroad I saw back then belonged to my Mother's brother who had built a loop with a crossover using four Lionel 027 switches on a dirt shelf in my Grandfather's basement. Yes, he used all very old PreWar Lionel. I remember loving to watch him run his railroad.

Other than that, my only contact with model railroading was during Christmas when the large downtown department store had a big, at least to me, Lionel display layout in the toy department. That, and the Lionel catalogs, were my model railroading world.

Then Dad showed me an O scale box car he had built when he was a kid. I wanted to build one, but could never find a source that sold O scale kits. A Lionel hardcover book about model railroading was my complete library. I still have the it. Mentors to teach me modeling skills? Forget it. Everyone in my early years, adults and older kids I knew, were all working. For me, going to school, playing outside with my friends, and building things, with whatever stuff I could find, occupied my days.

I kept getting more Lionel every Christmas from Santa, and even had a piece of plywood on rollers that fit under my bed. My first railroad empire! I was a model railroader. About the 5th or 6th grade, I discovered HO and model railroading magazines. I found kits and actually could build a model. HO was smaller so I could expand my empire. Lionel was put away and I became a HO modeler.

I started building everything. Locomotives, rolling stock, structures and scenery. I completed my first realistic, mostly hand built, model railroad. I was now not only a model railroader, I was a modeler and I loved it. But I was still a loner as far as I knew. I wondered how many other modelers were out there building like I was? I wonder today how many kids are traveling my road to modeling?

I made many modeling mistakes, and some of the models were really bad, but I kept at it and slowly got better. Back then, for me, building models required patience and a lot of do overs and try agains. I learned to use my own creativity and imagination to solve my modeling problems, and consequently my modeling got better and took up more and more of my time.

No mentors were around except in the magazines. Now those guys were true master craftsmen and I would have loved to meet them. I wonder how they got so good with their modeling? Who taught them? Was it trial and error? I read and reread those magazines hoping some of what I read would rub off and help me learn their secrets.

I believe my model railroading modeling experiences and memories during my youth is why I am the dedicated modeler I am today. I am, however, concerned that modeling in model railroading is declining. I wonder why?

It may be that later generations of youth had different experiences and memories, like TV and Computers, etc., than my generation; and modeling for them never was that important. Therefore, as adults, they do not have modeling skills and have to learn them. This is why I believe mentors are so important to help modeling continue in our hobby. Read on.

I am now 84 years old. Was my childhood and growing up in the 1940s and early 50s so different than a kid who grew up later? Well let's see.

1. Was technology, TV, computers, YouTube, streaming movies, etc, different?
2. Were real railroads less visible and played a lesser role in our personal transportation?
3. Were there local hobby shops that carry model railroading material that I often visited still around?
4. Were model railroad manufacturers, like Lionel, as visible and just as important for Santa to give?
5. Did kids still play outside with things they improvised and created to play with? (Kick the can, Stick ball, rubber guns (to name a few).
6. Did model railroading become more of a hobby of “buy it, collect it, run it” rather than “imagine it, create it, and build it” to learn modeling skills, imagination, creativity and modeling freedom?
7. Were kids still always looking for stuff they could use to build a model of something, or do they just buy it prebuilt?
8. Do kids build a model with their hands, or design it on a computer and have another machine build it?
9. Is Lionel 3 rail and American Flyer high rail still considered model railroading today?
10. Is model railroading today still as popular a hobby with as it was in my youth?

I think answering these questions helps explain why we are currently in the declining state of modeling in model railroading. Maybe many kids just did not need modeling in their youth, and consequently did not learn about model building like I did. So as adults, they do not have the skills to be modelers.

No question about it when TV came into my life, my modeling kid's world changed. Our first TV had a tiny screen by today's standards, but my friends and I had a new exciting experience that was truly fascinating. One of the first TV shows I remember seeing was “The Lone Ranger”. That required me to acquire my first 6 shot cap pistol, holster, and those red rolls of caps and my first cowboy hat. New Western history to learn. New games to play. I forgot modeling.

Oh sure, there were other distractions that everyone faced that came later, taking us away from modeling – cars, girls, military service, and college. These were normally followed by marriage and a family. No time for a hobby. But then career and family became secure, and I found some spare time and money. I immediately came back to my first love. Model railroad “modeling”.

Therefore, my theory! Sometime in the late 40s/early 50s, “The Lone Ranger” came on TV and more families bought TVs. Seems the lives of kids changed forever. Kids growing up in the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s etc. had totally different experiences than in my generation.

Modeling and model building may not have been viewed or needed as a necessary part of a happy childhood. Almost anything a kid wanted, was now available prebuilt, and TV and many other technological experiences (computers come to mind) were available to occupy kids’ time. Was model railroading really a “First Love” for them like it was for me and my generation?

If not, will they return to modeling and model railroading later in their lives like I did? It appears to me that many have not. So how can they be brought into the modeling and model railroading community? Exposure, education, and mentoring I believe is the answer. I am trying to do my small part to make that happen, how about you?

The Lone Ranger won many kid’s attention. Will modeling in model railroading win their attention in their later life? I sure hope and pray so! Mentors I know can help. But I worry, if modeling has the draw of: “Hi Ho Silver Away”.

### **Your Opinion:**

Well what do you think? I believe, model railroad modelers need to have a discussion about: “How do we bring back modeling to our hobby?” We need to have this discussion in order to have modeling continue to be an important part of our great hobby. I will print all the comments and suggestions I get in my next article. I need your feedback on this. Thanks. My email is [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com).

### **Now some more “New Tracks” upcoming Show Announcements**

#### **Modeling Lifestyles**



*Click image to view Narrow Gauge Modeling Company's video introduction.*

Sponsored by Narrow Gauge Modeling Company (NGMC).

This is a NEW bi-weekly YouTube SHOW Thursday evenings at 7pm EDT on Our YouTube channel New Tracks Modeling channel: **Modeling Lifestyles**. It is available to watch live on our YouTube Channel, New Tracks Modeling. This is your opportunity to meet and chat with some of today’s outstanding modelers and a few of their friends. You can see all of the interviews we have conducted so far on our YouTube channel, New Tracks Modeling.

Here are some of the past and upcoming modelers on our show:

March 2, 2023: Joe Lavender, A great ship modeler and model railroader who writes for a N scale magazine and a German Railroad magazine.

March 16, 2023: Jim DeBoer, a great tractor and farming equipment modeler. Beautiful detail and operation of equipment.

March 30, 2023: Charles Rausch, MMR, Beautiful artistic modeling.

April 13, 2023: Bob Brown, editor of *Gazette* and long time modeler and promoter of model railroading.

For a complete list of the modelers and their friends who will be on our shows, please visit and subscribe to our website [newtracksmodeling.com](http://newtracksmodeling.com).

Please also subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#): New Tracks Modeling, and Ring the bell to get prior notification of the shows and be able to join us live.

### **New Weekly Wednesday Show Segments:**

Find your Mentor at Local CLUBS and NMRA DIVISIONS

A Bi-Weekly Segment about Local Organizations, supported by the NMRA



This is a bi-weekly segment introduces local model railroading organizations where many of us have found mentors, modeling help, and met some really outstanding modelers. I have been honored to have served on two NMRA Regional BOD and as Superintendent for one NMRA Division, AP chairman for three Regions, and Contest Chairman for two Regions. I credit these local organizations with providing much of my modeling education, and believe such organizations can also help you.

I believe at its core, mentoring is best done “one on one” at a local level with a talented model builder, who can guide a person in learning the skills, techniques, and gain confidence in their modeling efforts. These are some of the greatest memories I have from participating in local clubs and NMRA Divisions.

A mentor does not have to be an MMR or a famous model railroader, he or she just needs to be able to build models you admire or have some skills you want to learn. Ultimately, a mentor wants to help you improve your modeling. Those were the people and friends who helped me become a modeler.

Since all of my “New Tracks” efforts are focused on modeling and mentoring, I have been trying to figure out how to communicate with you, the “New Tracks” audience, the value of seeking local mentoring and how to find it.

This segment is based on my personal experiences and is my answer to how you can find a local mentor and meet some great people in the process. Join us in this Special Segment of our Show.



Phil Edholm (*left*), a NMRA Division Superintendent of the NMRA PCR/Coast Division, which includes the San Francisco Bay Area down to Monterey in California, hosts this segment. We kicked off the series with Gordon Robinson, the President of the NMRA, who discussed the value of NMRA Clubs and divisions to improving the modeling abilities of their members.

Phil recently sent this short article to all NMRA Regional publication Editors and asked them to include it in one of their publications. I am including Phil’s short article here and asking readers to make sure your local club or other group, is aware of our special show segment and participate. Thanks for your help.

### **Local Clubs and NMRA Divisions on New Tracks Modeling**

For anyone looking for ideas to improve your club or division, there is a new resource. On Wednesday nights, New Tracks Modeling has a meet-up every other week and there is a segment called Local Clubs and NMRA Divisions. The segment features an NMRA Division or Local Club leader to

discuss what they are doing. The segment focuses on key areas for all of us: what activities they do, how they engage with members, how they recruit new members, and other topics. The focus is a discussion around what they have done that is successful and unique. The goal is to have actionable ideas come out to be used by other organization in their local activities. Each time we try and identify a few key nuggets that all of us in model railroading leadership positions can use. Each person on the show is interviewed by Phil Edholm, Coast Division Superintendent. The segments are typically 15 minutes and are live on the New Tracks Modeling Zoom meet-up and the New Tracks YouTube channel, and are available later on YouTube. To date, we have hosted 14 interviews and will continue with many more in 2023. You can see all of the previous interviews on [YouTube HERE](#).

If you, or someone you know, is actively involved in an NMRA Division or a Local Club and you would like to discuss how your organization is thriving (or surviving) in the new world, please contact Phil Edholm at [coastsup23@gmail.com](mailto:coastsup23@gmail.com) or at 408-832-5618.

New Tracks Modeling is the premier organization promoting mentoring in the modeling and model railroad community. Through on-line meetups and other activities, New Tracks engages modelers and mentors to build more and better models. You can join the live Wednesday night meet-ups on the New Tracks website.



### Let's Go To Our Local Modeling Hobby Store

A monthly segment with hobby store owners

Supported by the National Retail Hobby Stores Association (NRHSA).

“Local hobby shops need modelers and modelers need local hobby shops”. This segment shows just how true this statement is.

Mark Poggendorf, a NMRA member working on his MMR, a hobby manufacturer, an owner of Poggies Trains Hobby Shop, and a member of the National Retail Hobby

Stores Association (NRHSA), started a monthly show segment concerning common issues facing hobby shops and modelers. The focus of these segments will be on how both groups can work together for their mutual benefit and hopefully introduce the value of your local hobby store to help you become a more knowledgeable and more skilled model builder.

Mark’s involvement in our hobby as a modeler, manufacturer and hobby shop owner, who not only has a brick and mortar store in California, but also attends, as a vendor, many of the train shows throughout the Country, makes him well suited to lead these discussions and provide insights into the problems and issues facing both the hobby shop industry and modelers. Who knows, you also may find a new source for your modeling products from this series.

If viewers have a hobby shop to recommend to be on our show, or you are a hobby shop owner who is interested in being on our show, please let Mark know at [Mark.Poggendorf@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Mark.Poggendorf@newtracksmodeling.com).

Well, it’s time for me to return to my workbench and start working on something that I fell in love with and just have to model. Happens all the time.

### While I am modeling:

1. Please consider a contribution to our [Patreon](#) account to help pay for our out of pocket cost to run our shows.

2. Please subscribe for free to our [YouTube Channel](#), New Tracks Modeling, and ring the bell to get advance notices to our YouTube shows. If the advertisements on our YouTube videos are of interest, please watch them so we can gain a little revenue to produce our shows.

3. Please get a free subscription to our website [NewTracksModeling.com](#) which provides log in links to our Zoom events and also provides information about what “New Tracks” you can travel.

4. Please spread the word about our New Tracks Mentoring Scholarship program to every young model railroader you know or you meet. Get the word out. Details at [newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship](#).

5. Please write me! I love getting your comments, suggestions, and modeling ideas. I so enjoy hearing from you and having a conversation. My email is: [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com)



Just finished, a nice kit manufactured by Alan Rogers, bashed a lot. Thanks Alan it was a fun project.

Just could not resist some signs.

Thank You again for reading this far. Until next time with more “New Tracks”. Happy Modeling.

**Hold the presses...**

Jim was just featured in the [Citrus County Chronicle](#) newspaper. [Click here](#) to read on-line. Hopefully, this link will work for a long time. Congratulations to Jim and his vision of the hobby!

And don't forget, New Tracks Modeling, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to those students interested in studying a STEAM subject in college – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and/or Math.

See the website at [newtracksmodeling.com](#) for an application.

**NEW CREATIONS**  
VICTORIAN RAILROAD BUILDINGS, LLC  
[newcreationsvictorian.com](#)  
**Southern Pacific Handcar Shed in O Scale**



# S SCALE SHOWS & MEETS

## S-scale Zoom Meeting

Every Tuesday at 8pm Eastern Standard US time.  
hosted by Ken Zieska or Bill Lane

[Zoom Link](#)



## O Scale West - S West and Narrow Gauge West May 25-27, 2023

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara (San Francisco area)  
O Scale - S Scale - Narrow Gauge - West has been the premier two-rail O Scale, S Scale and Narrow Gauge (all scales) show held West of the Mississippi since its founding by Rod Miller in 1991. Plan to join us over the Memorial Day weekend in sunny California.

Website: [www.oscalewest.com](http://www.oscalewest.com)



## 2023 NASG Convention

The 2023 NASG Convention is slated to be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from July 26th to July 29th, 2023 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. It is hosted by the Lehigh Valley S Gaugers club.

Check back in later issues for more updates.



## Danville Indiana Train Show

November 18, 2023

**New this year, O and S scale 2-rail sales and display room! 2000 square feet devoted to the O and S scale 2-rail modelers.** The 16th annual Danville Train Show takes place on November 19, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Presented by the Central Indiana Division of the NMRA, the show attracted more than 1,000 visitors last year, including model railroad hobbyists of all levels and interests, and many families.

Website: <https://www.cidnmra.org/>

## S Fest West 2023

Saturday, September 9, 2023

The Southern California S-Gaugers Club will be hosting its fifth triennial\* S FEST WEST on Saturday, September 9th, 2023 at the Knott's Berry Farm Hotel. We've moved the date up one week to secure a block of hotel rooms at a lower rate.

Planning is in the early stages as we engage a guest speaker for the evening banquet. In addition to the banquet the Fest will feature vendors, trading, silent and live auctions, a door prize, and a commemorative car.

Website: <http://www.socalsgaugers.org/sfestwest>



*The S Scale Resource Magazine* will be providing a free listing of upcoming events. This small, text only listing will include the Event, Date, Location, Type of Event, and Contact Information. [Click here](#) to go to the sign up form. This form will take your information, and we will publish it in our next issue. If it is an annual event, you will need to submit your information every year.

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Cast resin items for your S & Sn layout.  
Tunnel portals, bridge piers, abutments, culverts, and retaining walls.  
Trackside details and sage brush tree armatures.

To advertise in The S Scale Resource classified listings [contact us for our rates](#). Your classified ad will appear in the section you want for 6 issues. If you do not see a section that you think would fit your products or services, let us know. We can add a category that better suits you. Your ad is hot linked to your website which puts your customers one click away from you.



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Yes, we now have a Facebook page to help keep you up to date on new products and ideas. And, even in an on-line magazine, we sometimes have more pictures than we can use, so we'll post them on Facebook.