

Model Railroad Hobbyist newsletter™

August 2009



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The Old Yardmaster



News and views from up and down the line...

Nearly 200 Model Railroad manufacturers and suppliers from around the globe gathered together last month to exhibit their products and services at the National Train Show. The event was held in Hartford, Connecticut, in conjunction with the National Model Railroad Association's annual convention. Here's a look at some of the industry's newest items.

Athearn showed three variations of a new HO scale 33,000 gallon LPG car including one with an offset top walkway platform and one with a full length platform. The third version has a full length platform with flat areas on the tank sides for clearance around curves. Also shown was a 20,000

gallon GATC SHN (Sharonville-built) GS tank car.

Here's a thought! What if the Milwaukee Road, Chesapeake & Ohio, Rio Grande and Western Pacific were still in business. And let's further suppose that those fallen flags were using the latest in modern diesel motive power. Casting aside the expected ire of Count d'Rivets and other adherents to strict prototype practice, Athearn has announced that it will apply the aforementioned road names to its HO scale state of the art AC4400 diesels. The whimsical locos are scheduled to arrive sometime this winter—hopefully in time for Christmas.

Black Cat Publishing continues its reputation for creating top quality decals with the release of a new HO scale set covering Canadian National steam engines from the 1920s through the end of steam.

For a complete list of Canadian roads visit www.greatdecals.com/BlackCat.



FIGURE 1: Aristo Craft showed a preliminary sample of a large scale PCC trolley it is developing. Still no pricing or delivery dates on the 1:29 scale model but company official Lewis Polk said work is nearing completion on the electronics and decorating schemes. More details should be available in the next 30 to 45 days.

Also new is a wireless RC control system for HO that incorporates many of the features in Aristo Craft's proven G scale units. [Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with Aristo Craft at the Hartford National Train Show.

About our news and events editor



Richard Bale writes our news column under the byline of *The Old Yardmaster*. He has been writing about the model railroad trade for various hobby publications since the 1960s.

Richard is currently introducing 3 of his grandsons to the hobby by involving them in the construction of his fifth layout. He enjoys building models, particularly structures, some of which appeared in the June 2006 issue of *Model Railroader* magazine.



Send us your product announcements!

If you are a hobby manufacturer with a product you want to announce, just [click here](#) and submit your announcement to us!

MRH staff members attending the National Train Show interviewed BLMA owner Craig Martyn who enthusiastically reviewed his company's newest products including an expanded line of signals. The models are based on Union Switch & Signal prototypes and include an **HO scale** modern hooded single head block signal with 3 separate LEDs and nicely etched metal handrails and walkways.

Also on hand were new **HO** and **N scale** versions of a US&S H-2 searchlight signal head with three red, yellow, and green micro-LEDs. The new signals are expected to be available in late 2009.

Other new items in the BLMA booth included a beautiful brass truss bridge in both **HO** and **N scale**. Craig said

the **N scale** version is sold out at the factory but some BLMA dealers may still have units available. [Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with BLMA.

Bowser displayed several new **HO scale** items in its booth including the handsomely decorated San Francisco "F Line" PCC streetcars announced in last month's MRH Newsletter.

Also shown were the new Executive Line Electro-Motive Division FT A and B diesel locomotive sets. The FTs are scheduled to arrive this winter, hopefully before Christmas, and will be decorated for Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe (cat whisker scheme), Baltimore & Ohio, Delaware Lackawanna & Western (in the passenger scheme), EMD demonstrator, and Western Pacific. DC

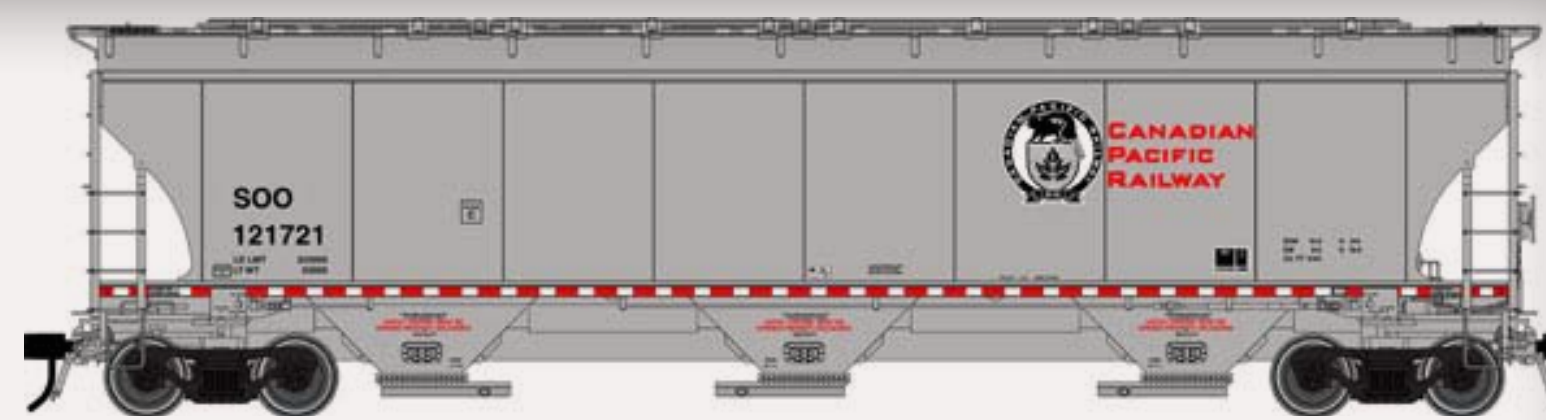


FIGURE 3: Atlas-O showed technical art work for its Trinity 5161-cubic-foot covered hopper scheduled for delivery in December. Pricing is still pending on the **O scale ready-to-run model but road names will include Ag Processing Inc., BNSF Railway, Boraxo, Canadian Pacific, Illinois Central, and General Electric Rail Services Corporation.**

Also due in **O scale is a 50-foot single-sheathed double-door automobile boxcar that is scheduled to be ready by October. Notable features include a radial roof and weighted fish-belly underframe. Initial road names are Burlington Northern, Great Northern, Rock Island, and Western Pacific.**

versions will carry an MSRP of about \$300 while sets with SoundTraxx DCC and sound will be an additional \$160.

Bowser also showed its new **HO scale** Alco C-630 diesel locomotive in Chesapeake & Ohio, Conrail, Pennsylvania, Reading, and Union Pacific schemes. The C-630s are due this winter along with Bowser's new Baldwin AS-16 and AS-616 diesels. www.bowser-trains.com.

Passenger car modelers at the Hartford event showed lots of enthusiasm for Con-Cor's new **HO scale** Pennsylvania class mP54 coach. In addition to PRR pre-war and postwar schemes and Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, the cars will be available decorated for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Boston & Maine; Long Island RR; Norfolk &

Scale Color Key:

Z scale news

N scale news

HO scale news

S scale news

O scale news

G scale news

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Continued page 4



FIGURE 2: The Atlas Model Railroad booth at the National Train Show was full of a wide range of models including this preproduction sample of an **O scale USRA (United States Railroad Administration) 40-foot steel rebuilt boxcar. Both eight and ten-panel body styles are planned with either grab irons or side ladders depending on the prototype being replicated. Availability is tentatively planned for this winter.**



FIGURE 4: Atlas-O announced its entry into **O scale** passenger cars with the introduction of several California Zephyr cars including a CB&Q Silver series dome chair car and 10-6 sleeping car shown here in a computer rendering. Additional cars of this train, as well as other notable passenger cars, will follow. Features of Atlas-O version of the famous stainless-steel corrugated cars include selectable interior LED lighting (track power or self-contained battery power), accurate representation of corrugations and welding seams, full interior and underbody details, working diaphragms, sprung trucks and patented Adjust-A-Coupler™ system for horizontal adjustment of couplers and spacing between cars.



FIGURE 6: Bachmann will deliver this new **On30** side door caboose this fall in four different Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes paint schemes. Features include interior lighting, low inverted arch bar trucks, wood grain flooring and a removable roof and cupola.



FIGURE 5: Bachmann unveiled several Spectrum series models scheduled for delivery this fall including this **On30** 2-6-6-2 articulated locomotive that features a die cast twin-idler gear box. Road names will include Greenbrier & Big Run Lumber, Midwest Quarry & Mining, Pocahontas Lumber Company and Colorado Mining Company.

More locomotives coming this fall include both **HO** and **N scale** versions of a Chesapeake & Ohio 2-6-6-2 "vest pocket" articulated with a class VC12 Vanderbilt tender.

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FIGURE 7: Large scale modelers welcomed the opportunity to study Bachmann's new Baldwin 2-4-4 Forney shown at Hartford. As seen here, the **1:20:3 scale** Spectrum series locomotive will arrive this fall in both conventional and outside frame versions. The Forney will be available decorated for Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes as well as painted but unlettered.

Western; and painted but unlettered.
www.all-railroads.com.

Division Point has launched a project to produce **HO scale** prototypically-accurate models of EMD's post-war passenger diesels including the E-7, E-8 and E-9. The brass models will be handcrafted in Korea. Also under development are **HO scale** models of New Haven's EP-2 and EP-3 boxcab

electric locomotives. We'll keep you posted on progress and delivery dates.

Imagine That Laser Art has introduced two major craftsman structure kits that use medium density fiberboard (MDF) which allows the laser process to replicate finely detailed 3D surfaces such as brick or wood molding. The new kits include a large **O scale**

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FIGURE 9: This funky **On30** narrow gauge 20-foot steel boxcar was assembled from a kit available now from Boulder Valley Models. All of the details shown are included except trucks and couplers which are sold separately. See www.bouldervalleymodels.com



FIGURE 8: Hurst Boiler is the latest 1-of-500 series kit from Bar Mills. The **HO scale** craftsman kit features individual board-on-board construction, laser-etched vertical siding, ribbed aluminum roofing and two types of laser-cut proprietary shingles. Delivery is tentatively scheduled for September.



FIGURE 10: Bob Grubba of Broadway Limited Imports showed the MRH staff an undecorated preproduction sample of an **HO scale** Baldwin Centipede. Built in 1945-48, this unique 2-D+D-2 diesel saw service on only three roads: Seaboard Air Lines, NdeM and Pennsy which purchased 24 of the unusual 3000 hp locomotive. BLI will deliver models of all the prototype schemes this fall. They may be purchased as a single A unit or as A-A set. [Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with BLI at the Hartford National Train Show.

Ore Mill and an equally impressive **HO scale** version of the first Ford Motor Car factory in Canada. www.imaginethatlaserart.com.

InterMountain Railway, which is now responsible for marketing Centralia Car Shops and Red Caboose rolling stock, says it will release all existing inventory of **N scale** RC freight cars over the next three months. The initial group, to be shipped in August, includes five different hopper cars.

InterMountain is taking reservations now for late December delivery of Centralia Car Shops corrugated Shasta coaches. Previous reservations for the corrugated coaches will be included

in the year end delivery of this newly tooled car.

Centralia's new **HO scale** Chicago Great Western class NE-5 caboose will be produced in several different decorative schemes that covered the life of the prototype. Dealer reservations are being taken through August 31 for delivery this winter.

Iwata-medea, a Japanese manufacturer of professional air brushes, has developed a single action unit for the hobbyist that is reasonably priced yet retains many of the features of more expensive pro air brushes. During his interview of iwata-medea executives at the National Train Show, MRH staff member Jeff Shultz checked

out the new air brush and found it comfortable and easy to use. [Click Here](#) to view the MRH interview with iwata-medea at the Hartford National Train Show.

Lance Mindheim's latest book is "*8 Realistic Track Plans For a Spare Room.*" The author details eight theme-inspired **HO** layouts for an 11-foot by 12-foot space.

The plausible themes include a modern industrial park in Baltimore, an Appalachian coal line, a Maine shortline plus branchline themes for both Milwaukee Road and the Illinois Central. The 8x10 paperback book is available from Amazon.com or direct at www.shelflayouts.com/bookstore.htm.

Marklin displayed several European based **HO** models including two handsome Pacific's; one from the 1920s era and an earlier 1910 Bauden Pacific. Also shown were modern Swiss Express passenger cars, a new red Swiss electric RE44 Series 1, and a class E3/3 Swiss electric switcher.

The latest decals from **Microscale** include **HO** and **N scale** sets for Chicago North Western 4700 cu. ft. FMC and Pullman standard 4750 cu. ft. covered hoppers; Canadian National 50-foot boxcars from 1990 to 2007; and Seaboard Air Line EMD E-Unit diesels from 1959 to 1967.

The crew from **Micro-Trains** showed preliminary production samples of their new **N scale** Railway Post Office cars. Road names are being determined and will be announced



FIGURE 12: Our vote for the most ingenious new product at the 2009 National Train Show is *The Bullfrog*; a turnout controller introduced by Fast Tracks. The device is an inexpensive laser cut kit that easily assembles into a manual turnout control that features automatic power routing with an integrated single-pole, dual-throw switch.

The surprisingly sturdy item was developed by turnout specialist Tim Warris, the founder of Canadian-based Fast Tracks. The controller is available in kit form for \$6 or assembled and ready for use at \$9. For full details visit www.fast-tracks.net.



FIGURE 11: Central Valley Model Works will begin shipping kits for this **N scale steel through truss bridge in August. All of the finely detailed components are cast in styrene.**

soon with delivery of the heavyweight passenger car scheduled for October.

Also displayed in the M-T booth was a sample of their diminutive Z scale Electro-Motive Division SD40-2 diesel locomotive. Pricing and road names will be announced soon since delivery is planned for September. www.microtrains.com.

Morning Star Books has scheduled an October release date for Greg Stout's "Santa Fe Through Passenger Service, Volume 1." The all-color study will provide a train-by-train look at the Santa Fe's premier passenger service including the Super Chief, El Capitan and the San Diegan. The Santa Fe book will be followed in November with "New York Central Through Passenger Service, Volume 2: Challenge and Retreat 1950-1967" by Geoffrey H. Doughty.

Northwest Short Line has a set of steel lineshaft gears to replace the factory plastic units on Bachmann's HO 3-truck Shay. The retrofit kit includes

six gears and detailed instructions for installation which, it should be noted, is not a beginners project.

Within the next few weeks, look for NWSL to introduce the Stanton Drive, a carefully-engineered replacement for its popular PDT unit which was discontinued when the specially-configured Sagami motor was no longer available. Designed for HO scale equipment, the drive is named for designer Neil Stanton who developed the new product.

The initial unit will be 2-axle HO standard gauge available with a 9-foot, 9-foot 6-inch, or 10-foot wheelbase. This same unit can be used with appropriate wheel sets for Sn3 or On3. Long range plans call for a whole family of Stanton Drive units.

Also under development is a newly designed Magic Carpet powered axle for O standard gauge to be followed by

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FIGURE 14: Funaro & Camerlengo had several HO scale prototype-based one-piece resin models on display at Hartford including this Pennsylvania RR class GLca hopper. Also new from F&C is a New York, New Haven & Hartford double-sheathed boxcar that comes with either a wood door and braced ends or a Youngstown door and Dreadnaught ends. www.fandckits.com.



FIGURE 15: This O scale model is a preproduction sample of a C&NW 4-6-0 class R-1 under development by brass importer Glacier Park. Four distinctly different versions of the R-1s (numbers 50, 487, 1385 and 1400) will be created in order to provide an historically accurate cross section of the life of the reliable steamer. The models are being handcrafted in Korea by Boo-Rim Precision. A Proto-48 conversion kit will also be available. www.glacierparkmodels.com.



FIGURE 13: Factory Direct Trains is selling HO scale Hi-Railer vehicles capable of DC or DCC operation on HO track. Styles include a 1929-era sedan and a contemporary pickup truck with a shell. Priced at about \$60 the unique inspection vehicles are produced for FDT by Broadway Limited and come decorated for several popular rail lines. The On30 kit bashers should be all over this little gem. Visit <http://factorydirecttrains.com/hohi-railvehicles.aspx>.

Super Magic Carpet powered axle for large scale equipment.

The MRH crew visited the **True Line Trains** booth in Hartford and interviewed Darren Altbaum who provided some interesting details about the company's product line. Canadian Pacific fans will be pleased to learn that True Line Trains/Hobbycraft Canada is preparing tooling for a modern CP caboose. The

prototypically-accurate **HO scale** car is scheduled for release later this year in the company's top-end Gold Series.

[Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with True Line Trains at the Hartford National Train Show.

The **Walthers** booth at the National Train Show was full of new and future goodies including the impressive Hulett Ore Unloader.

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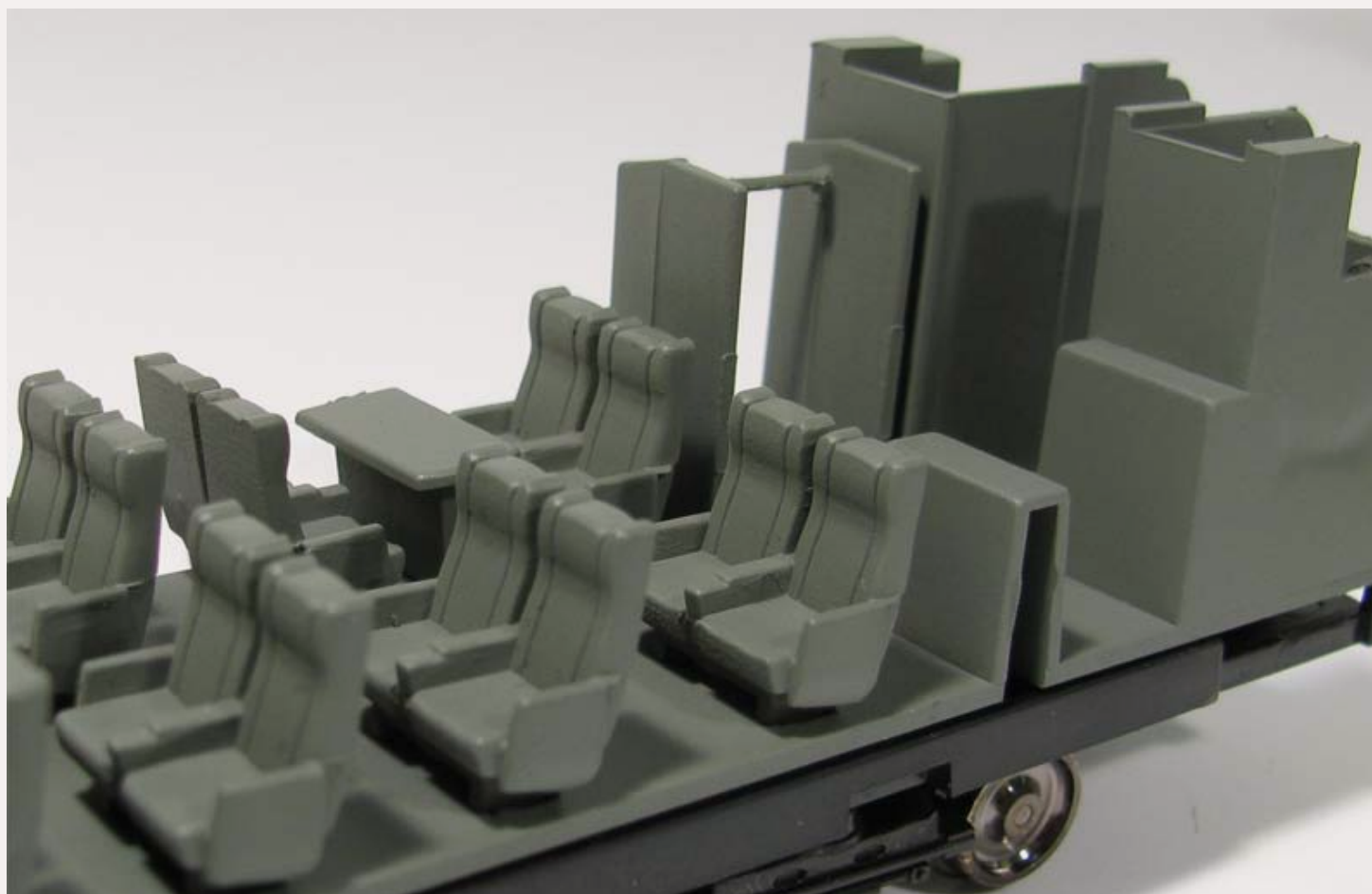


FIGURE 16: Rapido showed a preliminary engineering sample of its Bombardier LRC (Light, Rapid, Comfortable) passenger cars in its Super Continental Line. As seen here, the **HO scale** cars will feature full interior details with individually molded seats. Other details include interior lighting, separate metal grab irons, operating diaphragms, separate end gates and end bars. The initial release is scheduled for late 2009. Rapido demonstrated it's reengineered drive with an LRC locomotive slowly crawling up a severe incline. [Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with Rapido at the Hartford National Train Show.



FIGURE 17: TrainCat Model Sales displayed an impressive range of finely etched kits in their booth including this **N scale** car carrier. Also some miniature metal chain including 52-link (per inch) phosphor bronze at \$3.95 for 12-inches and an amazing 72-link brass chain at \$8.95 for ten 3-inch lengths. [Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with TrainCat Models at the Hartford National Train Show.



FIGURE 18: At the National Train Show Westerfield announced a new **HO scale** one-piece resin kits for USRA-style mill gondolas as used by Youngstown & Southern Railway and Monongahela Railway. These are clones of the New York Central cars built in 1923 with corrugated drop ends and in 1927 with Dreadnaught ends. Westerfield also announced new kits for Canada Southern Line and Midland Line ventilated cars and produce cars – all in both pre- and post-1905 lettering for a total of eight kits. Final details including pricing and an availability date were still pending at press time.

[Click here](#) to view the MRH interview with Walthers at the Hartford National Train Show.

Among the new items Walthers introduced were both DC and DCC versions of their Proto 2000 Electro-Motive Division SW900 and SW1200 diesel locomotives decorated for North American Ethanol – NAEX. The **HO scale** diesels are scheduled for release in February 2010.

The selection of road names on the previously-announced Proto 1000 EMD GP15-1 diesel locomotive has been expanded to include Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Conrail, CSX, Missouri Pacific, St. Louis-San Francisco (Frisco), and Wisconsin Northern.

Look for them to arrive at dealers in December along with the original UP and CNW road names.

Those who model the Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range will be pleased to learn that Walthers is working toward a December delivery date for a wood caboose authentically decorated in seven different DM&I paint schemes along with three Lake Superior and Ishpeming schemes.

Due for release in September is an **HO scale** model of a Trinity 30,145-gallon capacity tank car. Road names will include Abengoa Bioenergy (GATX reporting marks), Global Ethanol (TILX), Midwest Ethanol Transport (MWTX), Renewable Products

Marketing Group (NATX), and North American Ethanol.

A new **N scale** Pullman-Standard 64-seat coach in both smooth and fluted-side versions is due from Walthers in December. The initial release of fluted cars will be for ATSF, Southern Pacific, PRR, Denver & Rio Grande Western and Amtrak. Cars with smooth sides will include Great Northern, Chicago & North Western and Northern Pacific.

Industry News

Bruce Boles, one of the founding principals of **Detail Associates**, died at his home in San Luis Obispo, California, on July 6. He had been in ill health for the past several months. Established in 1975, Detail Associates is best known as a supplier of detail parts for diesels and other rolling stock. Mr. Boles was also an active principal in **Western Star**, a hobby distributor firm based in Lompoc, Calif.

Since production has moved to China and warehousing is handled by parent Horizon, **Athearn Trains**, has relocated it's sales and product development team to a smaller facility located at 2883 East Spring Street, Suite 100, Long Beach, CA 90806. The phone number remains 310-763-7140.

Downtown Deco is now focusing on **HO scale** products and is selling the molds, masters and manufacturing rights to some O scale kits including Rocky Flats Station. If needed, owner Randy Pepprock will provide the purchaser with a basic tutorial on the plaster casting process. Anyone seriously interested in going into the

kit-manufacturing business can contact Randy through his web site at www.downtowndeco.com.

Woodland Scenics will soon begin marketing all of its current and future buildings and building kits under the brand name of Landmark Structures. New packaging for DPM (Design Preservation Models), Pre-Fab and

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Briefly noted at press time...

...**Blackstone Models** of Durango, Colorado, is working on two popular UTLX narrow gauge tank cars for release sometime next year. The **HOn3** cars include the frameless GRAMPS cars rebuilt from former standard gauge tank cars in the 1930s and narrow steel channel frame cars built from recycled standard gauge tanks in the 1920s.

...**San Juan Car Company** will introduce a new **O scale** coupler at the 29th National Narrow Gauge Convention in Colorado Springs this September. Dubbed the Evolution, the new coupler has been specifically designed for ¼-inch scale narrow gauge equipment. The knuckle spring is inside the coupler body, allowing for the accurate detail on all sides of the coupler. It is molded in Celcon and has been undergoing testing for over 12 months.

SJCC says its new Evolution coupler is compatible with Kadee, Grandt Line split shank and SJCC Sharon couplers. Depending on market demand, the patented coupler design may ultimately be produced in other scales. ■



FIGURE 19: Walthers showed a standard DC version of its Fairbanks-Morse H10-44 diesel. Shown here in the ATSF scheme, the **HO scale model is also available decorated for Chicago & North Western, Milwaukee Road and St. Louis-San Francisco (Frisco Line). The CNW and MILW units come in two different lettering styles.**

Built-&-Ready products will reflect the name change.

Railflyer Model Prototypes has a Sergeant Coupler specially designed for use with its **HO scale** locomotive

kits and other modified locomotives that use Railflyer coupler plates and Walkway Module kits.

The couplers come assembled and includes all the hardware and coupler

lift bar mounting. It is claimed to be fully compatible with other Sergeant and Kadee couplers.

The initial release of type E knuckle couplers is scheduled for August with

Type F couplers following shortly thereafter. For more information visit www.railflyermodelprototypes.myshopify.com. ■



Selected Events

August 2009

MICHIGAN, ADRIAN, August 8, DT&I Modelers Meet, Carlton Lodge Hotel, 1629 W Maumee St, Adrian, MI 49221. For additional information contact Dave Washburn at DavenKasWash@aol.com.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, August 4-8, 2009, National Association of S Gaugers Annual Convention, Airport Marriot Hotel, Bridgeton. Details at www.nasg.org.

OREGON, GARIBALDI, August 22, Oregon Coast Crawler excursion behind Curtiss Lumber Co. Heisler #2 sponsored by Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad.

OREGON, SALEM, August 21-22, prototype modelers meet "Rails by the River" chaired by Greg Martin, Center 50 Plus, 2615 Portland Road. Details available at www.railsbytheriver.com.

PENNSYLVANIA, STRASBURG, August 8, Eastern PA O-On3-On30 Train Show, Strasburg Fire Company, 203 West Franklin Street.

September 2009

CALIFORNIA, SAN BERNARDINO, September 19, 2009, Western Prototype Modelers Meet, Santa Fe Depot, 1170 West 3rd Street. Details at www.westernprototypemodelers.org.

COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS, September 16-19, 29th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Doubletree Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. Details at www.29nng.com.

NEVADA, NORTH LAS VEGAS, September 2-6, Pacific Southwest Region NMRA Convention, Texas Station Gambling Hall and Hotel, 2101 Texas Star Lane, North Las Vegas, 89032. Details at www.psrconvention.org.

PENNSYLVANIA, YORK, September 25-26, East Coast Large Scale Train Show, York Fair Grounds, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, 17404. www.largescaletrainshows.com.

SOUTH AFRICA, EDENVALE, GAUTENG, September 23-27, 14th annual South African National Model Railway Convention, Edenvale Community Centre, 2nd Street and Van Riebeeck Avenue. Details available at www.2009gauteng.hot.co.za/default.htm.

Future 2009-2010

BRITISH COLUMBIA, BURNABY, November 14, annual BC Railroad Prototype Modelers meet in association with TRAINS 2009, Cameron Centre (across from Lougheed Mall), 9523 Cameron Street.

ILLINOIS, NAPERVILLE, October 29-November 1, 2009, 16th Annual Prototype Modeler's Seminar sponsored by Sunshine Models.

KANSAS, WICHITA, November 7-8, Mid Continent Prototype Modelers Meet, Benton Community Center, 150 S. Main Street, Benton. Details available at www.midcontinentprototypemodelers.org.

MASSACHUSETTS, MANSFIELD, November 12-14, 2009, Craftsman Structure Show, Grand Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center. Details available at www.css09.com.

NEW YORK, ALBANY, December 6, Great Train Extravaganza, sponsored by Upstate Train Associates and NMRA Hudson-Berkshire Division, Empire State Convention Center. Additional information available at www.gtealbany.org.

FLORIDA, COCOA BEACH, January 7-10, 2010, prototype modelers meet "Prototype Rails" chaired by Mike Brock, Hilton Hotel, 1550 N. Atlantic Ave.

MASSACHUSETTS, WEST SPRINGFIELD, January 30-31, 2010, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds. Details available at www.railroadhobbyshow.com.

TEXAS, HOUSTON, February 24-27, 2010, Sn3 Symposium. Hobby Airport Marriott Hotel. www.sn3-2010.com. ■



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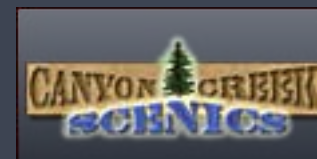
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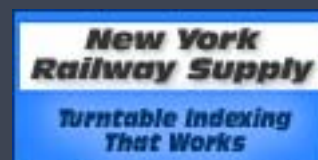
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