

Model Railroad Hobbyist newsletter™

May 2009



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The Old Yardmaster



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

Accurail has completed work on a new 40-foot 6-panel outside braced box car. A ready-to-run version of the single sheathed car is scheduled for release this month.

Equipped with wood doors and dreadnaught ends, the **HO scale** cars are decorated for Canadian National, Southern Pacific, Frisco, Rock Island, GB&W, Bangor & Aroostook, C&EI, Illinois Central, Georgia & Florida and Louisville & Nashville. A data-only version will also be released in mineral red as well as red oxide.

Accucraft is offering an impressive **1:32 scale** (45mm gauge) live

steam model of a Southern Pacific 2-10-2. The big model weights a hefty 18 pounds and requires a minimum radius of 10-feet.

The butane-fired boiler operates on 60 psi of pressure. The model carries a list price of \$3975. Visit www.accucraft.com for more details (Figure 1).

Amarillo Railroad Museum has an **HO scale** Rock Island 50-foot AAR-type box car with DF lettering. Produced exclusively for the museum by Branchline, the car's notable features include Youngstown doors, a non-overhanging roof, Universal

handbrake and "dartnot" ends. The Rock Island cars are available in six road numbers and two reweigh/repacking locations/dates (Figure 2). For ordering information visit www.amarillorailmuseum.com.

Athearn reports that all new sound-equipped locomotives announced after April 27, 2009, will feature SoundTraxx Tsunami Digital Sound Decoders. This includes HO scale Genesis locomotives as well as Athearn **N scale** and Roundhouse sound locomotives. Custom-designed for Athearn

equipment, the decoders will provide full Tsunami technology for locomotive operation including back-EMF control for consistent operating speeds, NMRA DCC compatibility, analog operation on DCC layouts and a 16-bit digital sound processor.

Diesel sound effects will include prime mover startup/shutdown, bell, air horn (with selectable horn types), air compressor, turbocharger, dynamic brakes, brake squeal, fans, and coupler impact. Steam decoders will provide exhaust chuff, bell, whistle,



Figure 1: Impressive 1:32 scale Southern Pacific 2-10-2 live steam locomotive available now from Accucraft.



Figure 2: HO scale RI 5000 series box car with yellow DF markings available from Amarillo Railroad Museum.

air pump, dynamo, and injectors sounds. **HO scale** models will feature special effects lighting including Mars oscillating signal lights, Pyle Gyalights, Western-Cullen rotary beacons, Prime Stratolite sequential beacons, Xenon Strobes and flashing ditch lights.

Go to www.Athearn.com and click on keyword SoundTraxx for a list of specific locomotives that will be equipped with SoundTraxx Digital Sound decoders.

In other news, the Old Yardmaster salutes Athearn for calling attention to a painting error on its **HO scale** Norfolk Southern Genesis SD60M locomotives and inviting consumer to return the affected models to the place of purchase.

Individuals returning the designated models can request a refund and place an order for a new, correctly

decorated product which Athearn says will be available in approximately four months. The item numbers of the incorrect models are ATHG67268, ATHG67269, ATHG67270, ATHG67368, ATHG67369, and ATHG67370.

Atlas Model Railway Company has introduced a nifty little signal shed in **both N and HO scales**. The model follows a typical prototype structure with metal sides and a vent at the peak of a metal hip roof. The shed is supported on four simulated concrete piers. For N scale modelers a pack of two is priced at \$6.95. The HO scale two-pack sells for \$7.95 (Figure 3).

Banta Modelworks has **HO, S and O scale** versions of a Black Smith Shop that features strip wood siding over a

laser cut frame. The barn-like structure pairs nicely with Banta's new Carpentry Annex. Other projects underway at Banta include the soon-to-be-released Southern Pacific Port Costa engine facility, and **N and HO scale** versions of a pickle salting facility (Figure 4).

Central Valley has added an assortment of large shop doors to its useful assortment of high quality structural accessories. Included in the package are six nicely detailed shop doors **suitable for any HO** engine house or railroad shop building and three smaller exterior doors. The shop doors include tiny hinges that uses .020" wire for realistic operation (Figure 5).

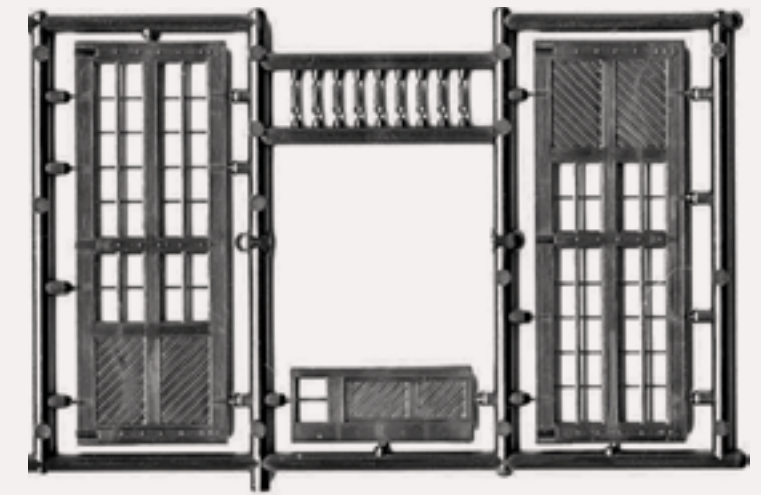


Figure 5: New HO scale engine house doors available now from Central Valley.

New items coming this month from **Fast Tracks** include a complete kit for building dual-gauge turnouts. Kits are available for dual-gauge arrangements in **HO-HOn3, S-Sn3 and N-Nn3**.

Two versions of the kits are available; one for building left and right hand left side narrow gauge turnouts, and one for building left and right hand right side narrow gauge turnouts.

Also new from Fast Tracks are QuickSticks suitable for use with the aforementioned dual-gauge turnout kits. QuickSticks provides instant, accurately arranged ties for

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Figure 4: Seen here in S scale, Banta's new Black Smith Shop and Carpentry Annex are also available in HO and O scales.



Figure 3: New signal shed from Atlas is available in both N and HO scales.

constructing **HO-HOn3**, **S-Sn3** or **N-Nn3** dual-gauge turnouts. Visit www.handlaidtrack.com for full details on these new items as well as the complete Fast Tracks system of track and turnout construction.

Foothill Model Works is close to starting production of highly accurate ¼-inch scale wheelsets of American Car & Foundry 24-inch, double plate, cast iron wheels. The wheelsets will be suitable for **O**, **On3**, **On30** and **On2** modeling.

Specifications for the wheels were taken directly from cast iron wheels used on the Casper, South Fork, & Eastern log disconnects preserved in Willits, California. Rather than compromising to the NMRA RP25 contour,

the wheel tread is an exact match of period M.C.B./A.A.R. recommended practices.

The tooling was designed to inject the wheels from the center to preclude the possibility of nicks or parting irregularities on the rim of the flange.

As in the prototype, the gauge of the ¼-inch scale wheels, which are cast in Celcon®, will be determined by axle length. Foothill uses thin-walled, stainless steel hypodermic tubing to simulate the straight 5-inch diameter of the prototype axles (Figures 6 and 7).

Fos Scale Limited has released a new DVD titled, *Model Railroading Details & Scenery: Volume 1*. The material in this volume covers weathering track sidings using real dirt, Silflor and Heki grasses and static grass.

Suitable for modelers working in **all scales**, the high-definition DVD demonstrates methods for creating quick and easy sidewalks, rusty signs, photo backdrops and shows several uses of 3M Transfer Tape. Visit www.foslimited.com for ordering information.

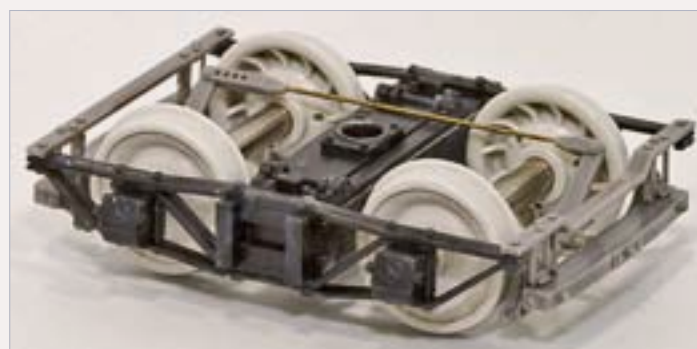


Figure 7: Pre production samples of Foothill's new wheelsets installed in MacLeod Western T-16 Truck.

Highlands Station of Lakewood, Colorado, has released its tenth digital book. Produced in cooperation with the Society of Freight Car Historians, this CD book contains volumes 1 through 5 of the organization's Intermodal Transport History & Technology newsletters. Articles by David Casdorff, John Helberg and Chad Hewitt cover a variety of topics and include many pictures.

Highlands Station founder Randy Lee said the digital book is presented in PDF format (Adobe® Reader® 5.0 or later required), and all of the high-resolution photos can be zoomed in for close examination of details... something not possible with printed versions. Pages may be printed for personal use.

With 2,044 pages and more than 600 high-resolution photographs, Lee cited the book as an invaluable resource for intermodal modelers and historians. The CD book retails for \$14.95. Visit www.HighlandsStationLLC.com for additional information and ordering details.

After a series of delays at its overseas factory, **InterMountain Railway's HO scale AC-12** Southern Pacific cab forward locomotives are now in production. They will be delivered in three monthly batches beginning in June. The **N Scale AC-12**, which was originally expected in March, has been delayed until September or October.

On a more positive side, InterMountain has completed tooling for an **HO scale** closed-side 1958-cu. ft. 2-bay hopper with the initial release scheduled for this summer. The ready-to-run models will feature etched metal roofwalks, wire grabs, wire brake rigging, metal wheelsets and Kadee #78 couplers.

The first release will offer six road numbers each for New Haven, L&N, Ann Arbor, Central Silica Co. and American Potash & Chemical. Plus Southern Pacific with red lettering.

A second group is scheduled for November or December arrival and will include ATSF, C&EI, CGW, Erie, SSW-Cotton Belt and Southern Pacific in the original black letter scheme.

Development work is underway at **JLL Models** to produce an **HO scale** Lackawanna 18000-18099 series 4-bay covered hopper car and an Erie-Lackawanna series 04926-04975 wood caboose.

The caboose (figure 8, next page) replicates equipment built at Erie's Dunmore Shops in 1941 and will be correct for modeling Erie, Erie-Lackawanna, Conrail and WA&G cabooses.



Figure 6: Note the detailed lettering on the 0.5-inch diameter wheel.

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Figure 8: Pilot model of HO scale Erie-Lackawanna Dunmore caboose coming from JJL Models.

The design of both models will center on a detailed one-piece resin body kit with separate roof, end sills and underframe. Etched components in the kits will be produced by Plano. JJL is working toward a tentative release date of January 2010.

The product development team at **Kadee** is seeking high quality photographs, color transparencies and general technical information including color chips for a Bangor & Aroostook 50-foot box car as built in 1962 with a 9-foot door.

Other projects nearing release include an **HO scale** 40-foot PS-1 Western Pacific box car with a 7-foot Youngstown door. The car was built in 1951 and was repainted in March 1956 with the large feather and "Rides like a Feather" slogan (Figure 9).

Laser-Art Division of Branchline Trains has released an **HO scale** kit for

Santa Fe's Rivera Station that served passengers from 1887 to the early 1970s. The prototype is preserved at the Pico Rivera Historical Museum located on the east side of Los Angeles.

The laser cut kit consists of wood and resin parts, Grandt Line baggage cart, platform benches, appropriate signs, diagrams and assembly instructions.

The building has a footprint of 8 x 5 inches and can be built as the original building with a short baggage room or an extended baggage room following the prototype's late modification. Go to www.Branchline-Trains.com for more information (Figure 10).

Micro Mark Tools has introduced an arbor punch/press specifically designed for delicate work, yet is said to be sturdy enough to apply up to 250 lbs of force.

Called Press-It, the hand press has a throat depth of 4.25 inches and is



Figure 9: Preproduction sample of Kadee's forthcoming Western Pacific PS-1 box car featuring the bold "Rides like a Feather" scheme.



Figure 10: Santa Fe's Rivera Station as built from new Laser Art HO kit with extended baggage room.

constructed of steel and aluminum alloy. The base of the unit measures 7 x 3 inches. Press-It is priced at about \$75.

Also new from Micro Mark is Emboss-It, a precision advancing table that attaches to the base of Press-It. Sold separately, Emboss-It has a knob that moves the table left or right in calibrated increments of .001 inch for accurately spacing simulated rivets or other precision embossing.

The unit is designed to work on light brass, aluminum and styrene sheet stock. A 0.015 inch diameter rivet tool is included. Additional embossing accessories are available separately. Emboss-It will be priced at about \$45. Visit www.micromark.com for details.

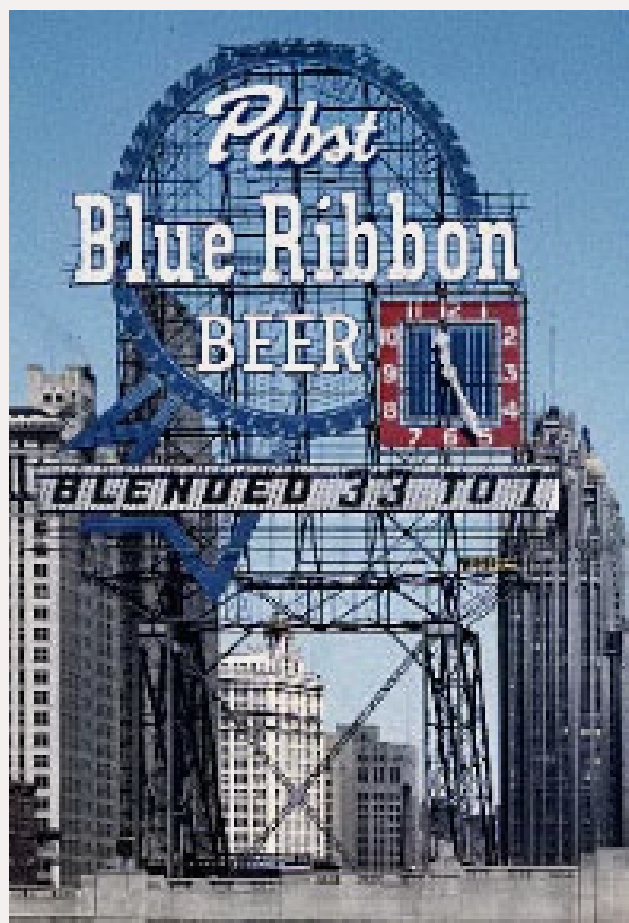


Figure 11: Illuminated Pabst sign is one of several in new beer series available from Micro Structures.

The latest illuminated sign from **Micro Structures Division of Miller Engineering**, is a Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer billboard based on a familiar Chicago prototype from the 1940-50 era.

The model is 8.5 inches tall and comes with a photo-etched stainless steel support structure. In operation, the letters P-A-B-S-T light up individually, followed by the remaining words lighting up in sequence. The sign is priced at \$55.95 and is suitable for **HO scale or larger**. See www.microstru.com for more information (Figure 11).

Brass specialist **PBL** is taking orders for an **Sn3** Lima class C-60-3 three-truck Shay project that will include New Mexico Lumber Company #7, Oregon Lumber Company #7, Swayne Lumber #2 and #6 and West Side Lumber Company #12.

Included in the mix of 60-ton three-footers is a standard gauge version as used by the Eagle Lake Spruce Mills and Klickitat Log & Lumber #5. Lima built eight C-60-3s using the same 428-C-5055 erection specs. Three of these, NM Lumber #7 and the two Swayne Shays, were originally built as narrow gauge locomotives. The other five were built for operation on standard gauge track.

PBL's Spruce Mills #2 and Klickitat #5 adhere to the prototype and can be ordered for either standard or narrow gauge operation, just as they could from the Lima Locomotive Works in the 1920s (Figure 12).



Figure 12: Preproduction sample of PBL's new Sn3 West Side Lumber Co. #12 class C-60-3 Shay.

Petes Custom Decals has **HO scale** decals for Milwaukee Road Olympian Hiawatha and Twin Cities Hiawatha. The 1948 versions are in gold while decals for the 1952 edition of the trains are in black.

In addition to the essential car lettering, each set has dozens of specific car names including all of the Lake, Mount, Alder, Gold, Spanish, Chippewa, Granite and Crystal series. Go to www.petescustomdecals.com to see the firm's complete line of items.

Precision Scale Company has imported four versions of a Northern Pacific class A-2 4-8-4 steam

locomotive. The **HO model** will be offered with either Worthington or Wilson feed water appliances, with and without number boards and with either a 1930s or 1940s-era class 1F tender.

Each variation will be available painted black with graphite or with a gray boiler jacket (Figure 13).

Rail Yard Models has introduced an upgraded version of its **HO scale** 60-foot X79 Thrall outside-braced box car as used by Penn Central, Conrail, and Kellogg. Built by Thrall for Kellogg in 1973, the cars were leased to Penn Central.



Figure 13: Precision Scale Model's HO Northern Pacific #2650 4-8-4 replicates the class A-2 locomotive in the 1930s-era gray boiler jacket equipped with Worthington feed water system, Scullin disc drivers and a class 1F tender.

Some cars were later repainted by Conrail. In 1983 Kellogg regained ownership and stenciled the cars with KELX reporting marks.

Upgrades to the one-piece urethane body casting include modifications to the draft gear to more closely replicate the cushion underframe of the prototype and an improved decal option that includes KELX reporting marks.

The CD-ROM instructions, detail photos and historical information have also been upgraded. Correct trucks with metal wheelsets are included in the kit. Visit www.railyardmodels.com for pricing and ordering information (Figure 14).

Red Cap Line, the **HO scale** passenger car parts specialist, continues to expand its assortment of interior and underbody detail items. Recent additions to the extensive line include a kit suitable for building interior partitions for lightweight food service cars built beginning in 1937. A



Figure 14: Undecorated sample of Rail Yard Model's HO scale 60-foot PC/CR/KELX Thrall X79 outside braced box car as operated by Penn Central, Conrail and Kellogg.

complementary kit for typical kitchen equipment including refrigerators is under development. Also recently added is a 24-pack of Heywood-Wakefield coach seats with (non-working) adjustable backs and foot rests. Go to www.redcapline.com to visit the complete line.

River Point Station has signed an agreement with Toyota to market selected scale models of vehicles manufactured by the Japanese car maker. River Point Station currently has similar agreements with Ford Motor Company and expects to have an **HO scale** 2007 Ford XLT Expedition ready for introduction within the next 60 days.

The 1/87 scale model will be loaded with trim features including charcoal-black bumpers and lower sides (gold on the Eddie Bauer edition), and either 17-inch 5-spoke wheels and tires or 20-inch 6-spoke wheels with appropriate low-profile tires.

Spotlights, low-profile LED-style light bars, push bars, and special wheel sets



Figure 15: Preproduction sample of 1/87 scale 2007 Ford XLT Expedition coming this summer from River Point Station.

will be sold separately for kitbashing. Visit www.riverpointstation.com for more details (Figure 15).

Sunshine Models has introduced prototypically accurate **HO scale** resin kits for both 40-foot and 50-foot versions of SFRD wood reefers. The shorter model is for a class RR-18 USRA car as rebuilt by Santa Fe beginning in the 1920s. The 50-foot model covers SFRD super insulated class RR-17 and RR-26 reefers as rebuilt in the 1930s and the RR-37 as rebuilt in the mid-1940s following WWII.

Although Sunshine does not maintain a presence on the internet, detailed information is available at independently sponsored www.sunshinekits.com. Rumors about Sunshine ending production are wrong, according to Tricia Lofton, co-owner of Sunshine Models. She

stated that several experienced pattern makers, including Charlie Slater and Frank Hodina, are continuing to develop masters and Sunshine has no plans to end production of kits.

SMR Trains anticipates delivery early this summer on its V&T 2-6-0 Moguls #19, 20, 23 and 24. The all-brass **O scale** models are made in Korea and are fully decorated in historically accurate livery. Quantities are extremely limited on this one-time project with only twelve models of each road number being produced.

As a professional historian, SMR's Dave Schneider established the company to specialize in producing accurate models of historically important locomotives. SMR models are currently on display at the National Park Service's Visitor's Center

for the Petersburg National Battlefield and the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, Georgia. SMR is the official licensee of the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore for 19th Century railroading. For more details visit www.smrtrains.com (Figure 16).

TrainWorx has released its **N scale** D&RGW style general service all-steel drop-bottom gondola decorated for Illinois Central/Illinois Central Gulf and several other roads Chicago and North Western; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha; Minneapolis and St. Louis; and Norfolk and Western.

The car features a cast metal underframe and a plastic body with brake wheel, brake stand, shafts and underbody brake details cast in tough engineering plastic. Metal stirrups and grab irons are applied along with

a fine-etched metal brake platform. The cars are available ready to run with Micro-Trains trucks and couplers. Visit www.train-worx.com for ordering information.

At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society earlier this month, **Westerfield** introduced four new **HO scale** resin kits for historically important PRR class XG and XH box cars. The wood-body truss-rod prototypes were built between 1895 and 1900 with some cars remaining in service as late as 1929.

The class XG was built with wood body bolsters and used 30-ton capacity trucks. Class XH cars were built with steel body bolsters for 40-ton capacity trucks.

These cars are offered in two kits covering Pennsylvania Railroad and Pennsylvania Company. A third kit



Figure 17: New Pennsylvania Lines class XH car lettered for subsidiary Union Line is now available in a one-piece urethane body craftsman kit from Westerfield.

covers the 1905 and 1909 lettering styles, including lettering and billboard heralds for Anchor Line, Empire Line and Union Line. A fourth kit (Figure 17) models the cars after receiving safety appliances in the late 'teens. Go to www.westerfield.biz for additional information.

Wiseman Model Services is now producing several **On30** items formerly manufactured by Thomas Yorke, including Ely Thomas camp cars, Bachmann trolley conversion castings, Gable bottom hopper cars and 18-foot stock and flat car kits.

Wiseman also has the former On-Trak Models product line of over 200 **HO** and **O scale** vehicle and truck kits, including the former S.S. Ltd truck kits and the Walker Models kit line of trucks and detail parts. For a full listing visit [this web link](#).

Industry News...

CONCORD, ONTARIO. Bill Schneider, the creative force behind Branchline Trains passenger and freight car kits, has joined the product development team of Rapido Trains, Inc.

Based in Toronto, Rapido's previous focus on Canadian rail equipment is expected to broaden under Schneider. According to Jason Shron, Rapido's founder and president, Schneider's immediate focus will be on filling gaps in the current market for American passenger equipment.

During his years at Branchline Trains in Hartford, Connecticut, Schneider was responsible for product development, including the ground-breaking heavy-weight passenger car kits introduced in 2003 and the critically-acclaimed Blueprint and Yardmaster series of freight car kits.



Figure 16: Pilot model of V&T Mogul uses 3-rail type wheels with the typical oversized flanges. The 2-rail models have standard R-25 wheel flanges.

Briefly noted at press time...

Look for **Athearn** to introduce factory-weathered versions of its Genesis series 4-8-8-4 Big Boy locomotive early in 2010.

Digitrax is recommending its new 14 volt DC power supply (Model PS14) as a replacement for the older 12 volt supply to power accessories including Digitrax UP5, SE8C, LNRP, BDL168, UR90, UR91, DS54 & PM42.

Imperial Hobby Products has released a new **HO scale** resin kit for a 1948 Shaker Heights Rapid Transit PCC.

New from **Rusty Stumps Scale Models** is a laser-cut 8 x 12-inch sheet of common red brick or cement block with either a self-adhesive or plain back.

After announcing last month the discontinuance of its entire line of 23 **HO scale** steam locomotives due to weak sales, **Bowser** received a flurry of new orders and will now make at least one final production run of some models. ■

In a conversation with The Old Yardmaster, Schneider said he enjoyed his time at Branchline and is looking forward to new challenges with Rapido. He does not plan to relocate, and while there may be periodic trips to his new employer's Canadian headquarters, Schneider expects to accomplish most of his work from his Connecticut home.

In acknowledging the contribution Schneider made to the growth of her company, Branchline owner and president Marilyn Kurtt said they will continue moving forward with their established development plans.

Production and product development will come under Sam Kurtt, with Robert Bickley handling advertising and assisting in marketing efforts. Brian Thone will continue as product designer for the Laser-Art product line.

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS. The Prototype Modelers Symposium held annually in Naperville, Illinois for the past fifteen years and arguably the most important and influential of such gatherings, seems to be coming to the end of the line.

Although no formal announcement has been issued, Martin Lofton, owner of Sunshine Models and founder of the Naperville event, has let friends know that the 2009 meet scheduled for late October will be the last event he plans to sponsor.

Lofton launched the original event as a brief one-day affair in October, 1994,

selecting Naperville for its proximity to the annual National Model & Hobby Trade Show at nearby Rosemont.

The concept of prototype modelers gathering to display their work and share technical knowledge with less infrastructure caught on, and similar events were held around the nation.

Some RPM junkies who attend several such gatherings each year consider Naperville to be consistently the best of the lot, attracting many of the hobby's finest craftsmen and most knowledgeable individuals in the field of prototype railroad modeling.

Although he will conclude the Naperville program and reduce his overall travel schedule, Martin plans to continue participating in a few selected events each year.


Some Chicago-based groups, as well as individuals who have worked with the Lofton family in the past, are exploring the possibility of continuing the Naperville event.

Although other locations are under consideration for 2010, the momentum of the long-time location, the variety of other model and railroad oriented attractions in the area, and the relative ease of access to national airlines, all coupled with the name-value of Naperville, make the founding area a logical contender for future gatherings.

LONGMONT, COLORADO. Effective May 1, 2009, InterMountain Railway Company has agreed to assume

responsibility for production and marketing of Red Caboose N and HO scale products. Although advertising, sales and manufacturing will be handled by InterMountain, future RC products will remain in Red Caboose packaging.

According to the surprise announcement, existing Red Caboose inventory has already been moved to InterMountain's facility in Longmont. The announcement made no mention of a change in the status of O scale products.

Red Caboose has closed its offices during the transition period and is scheduled to reopen the week of May 11th. For additional information visit www.intermountain-railway.com and www.red-caboose.com. 

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Selected Events

May 2009

COLORADO, GREELEY, May 21-24, Rocky Mountain Region NMRA Convention, Clarion Hotel. www.2009-rmr-nmra.org

CONNECTICUT, COLLINSVILLE, May 29-30, New England/Northeast Prototype Meet, Canton Community

Center. www.neprototypemeet.com

FLORIDA, FORT MYERS, May 8-10, Gulf Coast Express NMRA Sunshine region Spring Convention, May 8-10, Clarion Hotel. www.scalerails.org

NEW MEXICO, ALBUQUERQUE, May 16, 14th Annual Albuquerque Railroad Fair.

WEST VIRGINIA, CASS, May 15-17, Cass Railfan Weekend. www.msrlha.org

June 2009

TEXAS, IRVING, June 3-7, NMRA Lone Star Region 2009 Convention, Sheraton Grand Hotel at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

MARYLAND, TIMONIUM, June 27-28, The Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds.

Future 2009

CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD, July 5-11, 2009, NMRA National Convention, Connecticut Convention Center. www.hn2009.org

CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD, July 10-12, 2009, National Train Show, Connecticut Convention Center.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, August 4-8, 2009, National Association of S Gaugers Annual Convention.

COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS, September 16-19, 2009, 29th National Narrow Gauge Convention. www.ngconvention.com

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, September 19, 2009, Western Prototype Modelers Meet.

MASSACHUSETTS, MANSFIELD, November 12-14, 2009, Craftsman Structure Show. www.css09.com. ■

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Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine™

Issue 3 sneak peek ...

AccuLites, Inc is a new *Model Railroad Hobbyist* sponsoring advertiser, and we're delighted to tell you a bit about them!

AccuLites focuses primarily on model railroading electronics and DCC products. Their own AccuLite product line includes some great speaker options for adding sound to your locos.

AccuLite carries some lesser known products too, like Team Digital, Ring Engineering, and New Rail Models.

Product Image	Item Name	Price
	ACCU-LITES .50 inch Speaker 0.50 Diameter Speaker • 0.50" diameter (13 mm) speaker, 8 Ohm	\$7.99 Add: <input type="text" value="0"/>
	ACCU-LITES .63 inch Speaker 0.63 Diameter Speaker 16 mm (0.63") dia 17.9 mm (0.7") with enclosure 3.5 mm (0.14") H 7.4 mm (0.29") with 1/2 enclosure 12.5 mm (0.49") with full...	\$7.99 Add: <input type="text" value="0"/>
	ACCU-LITES .75 inch Speaker 0.75 Diameter Speaker 20.00 mm (0.79") dia 22.2 mm (0.87") with enclosure 3.4 mm (0.13") H 6.9 mm (0.27") with 1/2 enclosure 12.1 mm (0.47") with...	\$7.99 Add: <input type="text" value="0"/>
	ACCU-LITES 1.00 inch Speaker 1.00 Diameter Speaker 25.9 mm (1.02") dia 28.5 mm (1.12") with enclosure 4.7 mm (0.185") H 8.1 mm (0.32") with 1/2 enclosure...	\$7.99 Add: <input type="text" value="0"/>

Besides all the DCC and electrical products AccuLite offers, they also do DCC decoder installs – be sure to check out this service!

[Click here to visit the AccuLite web site.](#)

Deluxe Track-Cleaning Slider Car

Always be cleaning the track with this car in your train – Mike Ruby

Photos by the author

My layout consists of a lot of hidden storage tracks and some tunnels, and I needed a method of cleaning the track which was relatively easy to do, yet did not require me to scrub the rails with anything too abrasive.

I considered the various commercial track cleaning cars, but decided to try a Masonite slider car. These have been in several magazines over the years. Normally a pad is just slung beneath a car, I decided that additional weight would help the cleaning process. Adding weight to the pad is difficult because of the lack of space under the car, so I decided to add it inside the car.

The car I came up with is built on a 40' Athearn HO "shake the box kit" of many years ago. I have several left over from my early years of modeling. I thought a shorter car would handle the weight better and would have less problems with overhangs on curves. The car is built as normal, although I fitted Kadee couplings, but then I fit Kadees to all my stock.



FIGURE 1: Finished Slider Track Cleaning car.

STEP 1: Making the Cleaning Pad



Figure 2: The plastic base for the cleaning pad with threaded rods flush with the sheet.

Rather than mount nails into the pad, as in many designs, I fitted a pair of threaded rods through a plastic sheet. I used 4 mm diameter rod. The rods have to be long enough to extend up into the car far enough to give enough space to mount the weights. I made them 35 mm long.

I used 2 mm acrylic for the plastic sheet. It is stiffer than styrene. I cut the sheet to 60 mm x 25 mm. I drilled two 3.2 mm holes along the sheet centre line approximately 35 mm apart and tapped them out for 4 mm. This spacing may be affected by parts of your chassis, so check it out before drilling. Also make sure your holes are perpendicular to the sheet, so that the top of the rods are the same distance apart as the bottom. As can be seen in the photo, being spot on the centre is not critical. Most important is that all the holes through all the components line up.

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Issue 3 release date:
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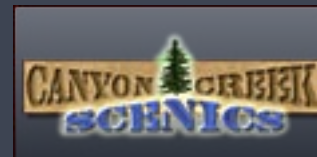
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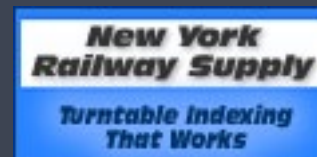
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