

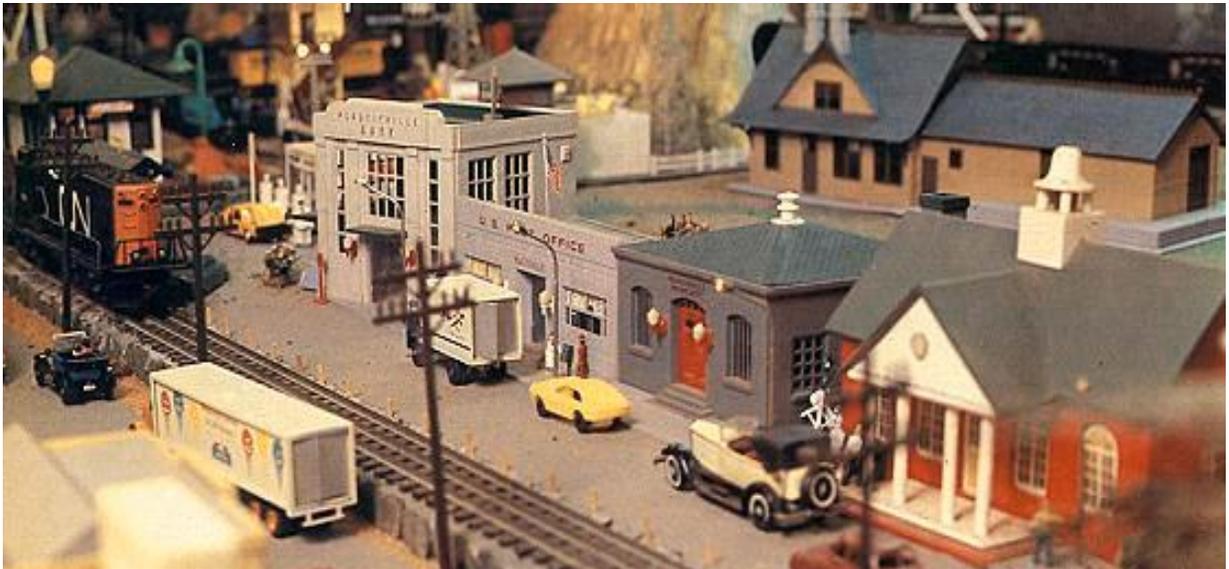
Rochester Model Rails

Dedicated to Quality Model Railroading

VOL. 3, NO. 14

ROCHESTER, NY

FEBRUARY 2004



MAIN STREET U.S.A. – a Lionel Canadian National GP-7 approaches the main business district after crossing the diamond at Genesee Junction on Norm Wright's NORMANED RAILROAD, a large O-Gauge hi-rail layout. Buildings (left to right) include the Bank, Post Office, Police Dept. and Town Hall. More of this extensive home layout may be viewed at: <http://home.online.no/~jdigrane/normaned/> (Photo by Ned Wright.)

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Editorial

Is the *National Model Railroad Association* Obsolete?

In observing the declining membership of the NMRA (10% drop in regular members last 12 months) and in talking to model railroaders throughout the country, it is obvious that the NMRA no longer is meeting the needs of today's model railroaders. The common cry is "What do I get for my \$45.00 per year? I am not rejoining."

What are the needs of today's model railroaders? It appears that there are three basic needs of the model railroaders today: (1) socialization with other modelers with similar interests, (2) model railroading information and (3) no politics. How do modelers get these needs met in the 21st century?

Local groups appear to provide much of the socialization needs of the folks today. There are many small groups of model railroaders that meet on a regular basis to work on their layouts, eat, talk, and have operations' sessions. They also hold model railroad clinics to share knowledge with the other members of the group. For example, in Rochester, NY, there is the *Tuesday Night Gang* (see article on page 7) which meets about 2 – 3 times each month. There are no dues, no formal organization, no rules, and definitely no politics. It works great.

How do the modelers get their technical and product information today? The *Internet*! This is the greatest thing to hit modern civilization since sliced bread. Anything one wants to know about any subject can be found on the *Net*. Modelers also get much information from their informal local groups when attending the clinics offered by the members of these groups at their weekly meetings and in informal discussions. Train shows are also very popular, e. g., 26,000 attend the Springfield, MA, show each year.

Politics – who wants it! In the local informal groups there appears to be little on no politics probably due to the loose organization or lack of any organization at all. With the problems of the world today and many of the modelers being retired, nobody wants politics to add stress to their life.

In defense of the NMRA, helping develop standards for DCC was useful. But layout insurance, estate counseling, collector cars, pike registry, and requiring NMRA membership to attend a national convention appear to have little use to modelers in today's world.

Coupler Replacement - Step by Step

Interview with Leo Adamski

Replacing Horn Hook Couplers with Kadee Knuckle Couplers

1. Remove the trucks from the car.
2. Remove the wheel/axle and set aside.
3. Remove old coupler (horn hook) by twisting 90 degrees and pulling out of the coupler pocket.
4. Select a replacement coupler (*Kadee # 58* metal scale coupler, for example).
5. Clean up the new coupler, burrs, etc. File back corners of shank. Burnish with powdered graphite.
6. On *Mantua* coupler pocket, trim off black plastic front small edges so that the new coupler has free swing left to right.
7. Bevel back of coupler pocket so that the *Kadee* coupler pocket spring can easily slide into to the pocket from the back.
8. Burnish inside of coupler pocket with powdered graphite.
9. Insert the *Kadee* copper metal spring into pocket from the rear.
10. Burnish the inside of copper spring with powdered graphite.
11. Burnish the knuckle coupler head.
12. Insert the coupler shank with air hose pointing toward the railhead with the coupler hole aligned with the plastic post.
13. Insert the *Kadee # 212* talgo truck adapter by placing it perpendicular to the coupler, inserting it into the coupler, pushing it down until it seats, turning it parallel to the coupler, and clicking it into place.
14. Place car on track and enjoy.

Penn Yan Privy

Text and Photos: Dick Senges

Drawing: Eccentric Rod

Want a nice little two-hole outhouse you can model? This might be the one you have been looking for. This little privy is located just north of Penn Yan, NY, on Route 14A, on the west side of the road, just south of Miller's Restaurant, between the red school house and the cemetery.

What makes this little privy unique? Well, it is very tall and slender, has a very nice slate roof, is plastered on the inside and clapboard on the outside making it a uniquely finished privy!

I have never seen such a nice slate on an outhouse. Every other row consists of a rounded convex shape and the other row is the reverse of this, i.e., a concave shape. I am guessing that this was done so to not waste any slate since these pieces nested together when cutting the slate.

The siding appears to have been painted yellow from the washed out color on the edge of the door molding. Also, it appears that clapboard was used from the markings on the edge of the door molding. The two windows, one on each side, are about 16" x 41", probably custom made. There is no window in the back. The door is 32" x 80" and the inside two-hole seat depth is 18". Even the inside of the ceiling was plastered.

Page 5 shows three photos of this structure. The upper left photo shows the back of the privy and the left side with the small window. Miller's Restaurant can be seen on the left and the edge of the old red schoolhouse on the right. Space under the two seats can be seen. The very weathered roof is shown without the slate covering.

The upper right photo shows the front door opening and the right side of the structure. Looking through the front door you can see the plastered inside wall and the inside of the left window. Look carefully at the right edge of the door molding and you can see the remains of the clapboard. A faint yellow color was visible. The doorframe and the two windows appear to be painted white. The slate roof can be seen with white fascia board.

The photo on the bottom shows a close-up of the slate roof and a portion of the doorframe. The convex and concave alternating pattern is quite evident in this photo. There also appears to be a metal bead on the ridge of the roof, which is damaged on the left side of the photo and missing in the middle of the roof edge.

Page 6 shows a drawing with dimensions that can be used for modeling this structure.

Penn Yan Privy



Rear View



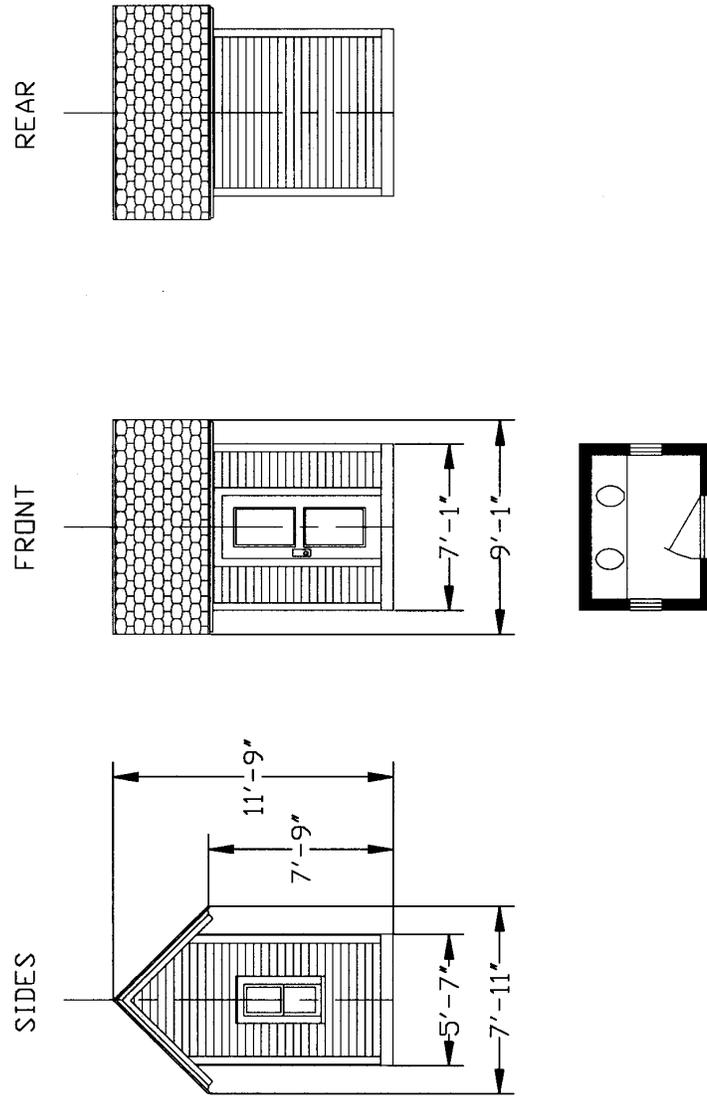
Front View



Roof & Top of Door

PENN YAN, NY

PRIVY



Tuesday Night Gang's

Philanthropy

The Tuesday Night Gang (*TNG*) goes back many years. The original *TNG* was started in 1975, in Rochester, NY, by four model railroaders as a round robin, meeting weekly to help each other construct or operate their model railroads. The original members were: Rick Koehler, Jack Matsik, Lou Nost and Stan Swackhamer. Within a few years, Don Wawrzyniak, Jim Scorse, Dave Luca, and Hank Wawrzyniak joined the group.

As time rolled on, the membership changed from all HO to a mix of HO, N, O, On3 and Sn3 scales/gauges and has swelled to the current ranks of about 38 folks. Members now come from as far north as Ontario, NY, south to Conesus, east to Palmyra, and west to Henrietta. Six folks are in Fairport and five live in the Penfield area. Some of the members have achieved national and regional acclaim with their modeling abilities.

The key organizers today are Lou Nost of Penfield and John Klahn of Fairport, NY. There are no rules, no dues, little organization, no

politics, and planning only for the short term. This works great and minimizes stress.

The only suggestion is that the host of each weekly gathering gives a clinic on a railroad-related topic. This has worked well and the members have all enjoyed these informative and entertaining clinics. Based on meeting about 2–3 times each month (except for July and August), this totals about 20 to 30 railroad clinics per year. During the summer months, the *TNG* usually goes trackside in Fairport, NY, to watch and or photograph whatever comes by.

One unique feature of the *TNG* is the special Christmas gifts that are given to needy children in December each year. This year the *TNG* will make up about 3 HO scale train sets, 1 N-scale and 2 G-scale sets giving them to youngsters who will appreciate this type of gift at Christmas. Each member of the *TNG* contributes to this effort by giving track, power packs, railcars, engines, time and/or money. John and Lou coordinate this effort and have been doing a bang up job!

New Railway Stamp Issued in U K

By Norm Wright

A 42-pence stamp issued in the U.K. on 9/18/2003 as one of a set of five "Transports of Delight / Toys," depicts a 0-4-0 Hornby M1 Clockwork toy locomotive & tender, c.1948. The other four stamps in the set feature transportation-related toys but are of no railway interest. An accompanying souvenir sheet (not pictured) contains all five values of the set, including the stamp with the toy locomotive. *(Stamp image enlarged)*





Ask Doctor Dick (The Scenery Doctor)

Hugh writes:

I will be installing a trestle and am wondering how to install the scenery under the trestle bents. It appears to be quite a task. Can you give me some simple steps on how to do this?

Doc:

1. Construct the trestle on a sturdy wood base.
2. Move the trestle module onto a worktable so it can be easily accessed from both sides.
3. Precut pieces of plaster cloth 8 inches larger than the widest part of the trestle wood base. So if the trestle base is 10 inches wide, then cut the plaster cloth pieces about 18 inches long. So each piece would be 8" wide and about 18" long. When installed, there would be about 4" on each side of the bents. Precut enough pieces to finish the job.
4. Enlist the help of another person and carefully place each piece of dry plaster cloth under each trestle bent and over the wood base or as close to each trestle bent as possible. This is done by each person holding the end of the dry plaster cloth and carefully sliding it through the trestle base area.
5. Carefully place the dry plaster cloth so that the bumpy side is up and there is a 50% overlap in the cloth – per the instructions on the plaster cloth package.
6. When all the dry plaster cloth is positioned exactly where you want it, use a bottle sprayer and soak the plaster cloth in place. Do not maneuver the cloth much after it is wet since it has lost all rigidity at this time and is very difficult to move around. Avoid wetting trestle.
7. Instead of applying Hydrocal plaster over the plaster cloth, consider applying a second layer of plaster cloth at this time. This would avoid the potential of splashing the Hydrocal plaster onto the trestle.
8. Then apply the scenery layers (paint, dirt, etc.) as you normally do.

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION.

or

HOW TO MAKE GOOD PHOTOS BETTER.

By Leaf Shutter

Guideline No. 4

Background Objects

The picture should not contain any objects that distract from the subject or the scene. Before you press the shutter, look carefully for any object that does not belong. Moving the angle in which you are taking the photograph can usually remedy this.

A good example of this is unwanted people or utility poles in a train action photograph. Look twice to make sure a tree is not growing out of your subject. Remember the photographic image lacks depth.

Don't forget to visit the



www.railroadmuseum.net

Next Issue:

Wheel & Car Maintenance

***Product Review -
Cache Creek Logging Cars***

***How to Make Good Photos Better
– Guideline #5***

***How to Make Good Looking
Structures – Fast***

***Ask Doctor Dick
(the Scenery Doctor)***

Model RR Post Office

Rochester Model Rails

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Rochester Model Rails

Recommended Train Events for 2004

February 7 – 8	West Springfield, MA - Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show
February 13 – 15	Pasadena, CA - 19 th Sn3 Symposium -
March 20-21	Rochester, NY - Rochester Model Railroad Club Open House
March 21	Rochester, NY – RIT Train Show & Sale
April 4	Batavia, NY – Train Show/Sale at Batavia Downs
April 24	Sonora, CA – 17 th Annual Logging Modelers Convention
June 11-13	Tacoma, WA – Northwest Logging Modelers Convention
July 3 - 4	Galeton, PA – PA Lumber Museum Bark Peeler's Convention
August 4-8	Chantilly, VA - N Scale Collector's Convention 4 th – 7 th - N Scale East Convention 5 th – 8 th - For details: www.nscalecollector.com
August 19-22	Durango, CO – Railfest 2004 – Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge RR
September 1-4	Santa Clara, CA - 24 th National Narrow Gauge Convention
October TBD	Rochester, NY – RIT Train Show & Sale
November 6 – 7	Syracuse, NY – Train Show at Fairgrounds
November 14	Batavia, NY – Train Show/Sale at Batavia Downs

For a detailed listing of events, go on the Internet to:

GATS.com

Great American Train Show
Show Schedule
Month of Year
Look for your city

Railroad.net

Events
Look for date and location

GSMTS.COM

Great Scale Model Train Show
Dates and Events

TTOS.org

Calendar
Month of the year
Look for your area

Modelrailnews.com

Events
Look for your area

Trains.com

Schedule of Events
Events
Look for your city by date