

Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division,
Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



January 2021

Volume 32 Number 1

January Meet By Bill Grosse

January means it is time for our Annual New Jersey Division Hosts Philadelphia Division Joint Meet. This will be on Saturday, January 9, 2021, with sign in starting at 8:30am, meet at 9am. Unfortunately, this will be in the virtual world yet again due to the current situation around the world.

We will meet using FreeConferenceCall.com as we have for our virtual meets this year, or the NJD Board of Directors may decide to try the Zoom service as recommended by a few members. The decision will be finalized at the December 22 Board Meeting.

Due to publishing requirements for article submissions, the decision of service being used will be made after printing.

The Superintendent will send an email update to all subscribers on our Mail Chimp email list, when the newsletter is sent, and again 1 week before the meet date as a reminder.

We will be supplying one Clinician for this meet, and Philly Division will supply one. See Assistant Superintendent John Gallagher's article for Clinic information.

Director position by the Board, following the NJ Division Bylaws.

Looking Ahead To March

March is usually in Hamilton, and is currently our best location to have the Works In Progress Clinics, but it

doesn't look as though the world will be cured quite yet by then. We will plan to have another virtual meet for then, on Saturday March 13, 2021 not something decided on happily.

Then On To May

This will be the 9th Annual NJD/GSD Joint Meet, hosted by the Garden State Division. If we are allowed out to a meet, it will be held in Hillsborough Township on May 1 or 8.



Winner of the November Virtual Contest



"No Skills"
Bill Howard

Next Division Meet

Saturday January 9, 2021
9 a.m. to 12:00 noon

This will be a Virtual Meet

Contest: This is a Virtual Contest :

Large Buildings such as
Warehouses, Factories, Refineries,
Breweries, etc.

Clinics:

Tom Neukirchen and Jim
Shepard will present a clinic on
Garden Railroading: Trials and
Tribulations, Continual Evolution
and Fun.

Mike Dettinger Live Streaming
video from inside an N-scale Train
Car.

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Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division
 N. J. Division, NMRA
 P.O. Box 276

Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276
[www.https://njdivnmra.org](https://njdivnmra.org)

Train Orders is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletter is always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$15.00 per year. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in Train Orders in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Contributing to Train Orders

Train Orders welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be submitted to the editor, Fritz Plenefisch, at fplen3@verizon.net or to 327 Sharps Lane, Hamilton, NJ 08610-1334. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for the next issue: February 11, 2021

Superintendent

Bill Grosse
njdiv.super@gmail.com
 609 532-3431

Clerk/Secretary

Joe Zebrowski
 609 268-9451
trackjack@comcast.net

Member Contact

Chairman
 Geert Marien
 732 757-1061
geert@mindspring.com

Director-Editor

Fritz Plenefisch
 609 585-7660
fplen3@verizon.net

Director-

Tom Neukirchen
 609 584-5184
t.neukirchen@aol.com

Asst. Superintendent and Director of Clinics

John Gallagher
Johnv.gallagher39@gmail.com
 856 228-2239

Paymaster/ Treasurer - Bookstore and Door Prizes

Mike Prokop
njwrr@aol.com
 609 586-9818

Director-Contest Chair

Jack Menaker
 732 908-6571
jackmenaker@yahoo.com

Division AP Chair

PJ Mattson, MMR
 856 467-0421
pjmattson@comcast.net

Visit us at <https://njdivnmra.org> and join us on
 Groups at <https://groups.io/g/NJDivNMRA>

Schedules

NJ Division January Meet
Saturday January 9, 2021, 9 a.m. to Noon
This will be a Virtual Meet
Check in starts 8:30 a.m.

Next Board February 23, 2021 7 p.m.
This will be a Virtual Meeting

2021 NER - NMRA Convention
Mill City 21, October 8 - 11
Westford MA

The Northeast Region is rescheduling
 Mill City 2020's convention to 2021.
 Visit - MillCity21.org - for more updates

2021 MER - NMRA Convention
Mount Clare Junction, Oct. 21-24

Marriott Delta, Hunt Valley, MD (Baltimore)
 Search - Mount Clare Junction on YouTube.com to
 see a preview and other information as it is added.

NEW JERSEY DIVISION ADDRESS CHANGE

The New Jersey Division has a new
 mailing address. The former
 Trenton PO Box is no longer in use.

The new address is:

New Jersey Division NMRA
P.O. Box 276
Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276

NJ Division Area Hobby Shops

* **AAA Hobbies & Crafts**
 706 N. Whitehorse Pike,
 Magnolia, NJ 08049
 (856) 435-7645
www.AAAHobbiesandCrafts.com

* **Sattler's Hobby Shop**
 14 Haddon Ave.
 Westmont, NJ 08108
 (856) 854-7136

* **The Train Room Online Store**
www.thetrainroomNJ.com
 e-mail thetrainroomnj@msn.com

* **Yankee Dabbler - Track 33**
 101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ 08031
yankeedabbler@aol.com

* **Offers discount to NMRA members.**
Must show Current Membership Card

Membership Information

Any person who is a member of the NMRA and lives within the boundaries of the NJ Division as defined by the NMRA is also a member of the division. Non member guests are welcome to attend three of our meets, after which they will be asked to join the NMRA.

NJ Division Annual Activity Fee:
 \$10.00 (optional and includes 5 meets) or
 individual meets \$5 at the door.

First time guests, no charge!
National Model Railroad Association
 P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328
www.nmra.org

View From The Cab

By Bill Grosse, Superintendent

Here I go again, a “View From The Cab” that looks the same as it did ten months ago, not much has changed for our model railroading group getting together and sharing our hobby.

I do know that quite a few of our members have put a lot of time into working on their railroads. I have seen pictures and read descriptions of the work being done through emails, and through video conferences using services like Zoom.

If you are one of the many who have able to add details and scenery, improved operations, or expanded your layout, please send pictures and descriptions. We will include what you send in our newsletter.

We can use pictures and a description in the “What I Did During Covid” section.

Or, if you want to write up more of an article style, explaining something you designed or a technique that you have learned, please do so and submit it. We have plenty of space to fill here, and your fellow modelers may like your idea enough to try it themselves. The longer we mostly stay at home, the more fresh ideas we need.

Another way you can show your modeling is to make a slide show or video that can be shown during our virtual meets for now, or work on one to present once we have live meets again. If you haven’t put together a PowerPoint presentation or video to show online, let us know, we have quite a few members that may be willing to help you get started.

Keep an eye out for the New Jersey Division

email updates, they include the Online Model Contest and that might be just the place for you to showcase a model you have worked on that fits the current theme.

I am trying to make sure the NJ Division stays active for our members. Please feel free to send me a note or call me to discuss any ideas you may have for adding something for us to do as a division.

I know a lot of you are over doing almost everything in the virtual world, it might have been new and different to start, now it has gotten repetitious. Just remember that for many it is nice to see a model railroading friend during the virtual meets. You can use the chat feature to communicate with specific individuals during these meets, without interrupting what is going on.

Garden RR Group Members Wanted

NJD Director Tom Neukirchen and Member Jim Shepard are looking for Garden Railroaders to start an active group in the central and southern area of NJ. Contact Tom for more information or to join them. Email - t.neukirchen@aol.com

If You Get A Chance To Get Away, Safely, I Recommend Doing It

Yes, I wrote the above sentence. I did get away on two, week long camping trips, saw trains and met new people. All done safely and stayed healthy. I would go again.

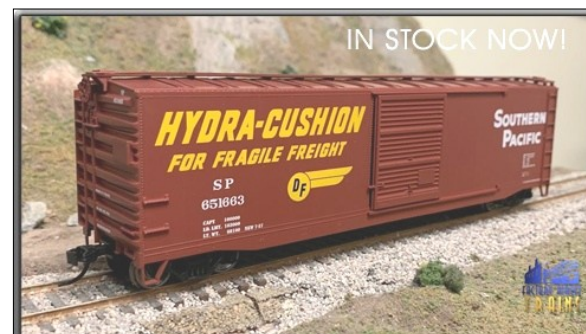
But now, where you think things would be kept clean, not so much. The virus has entered my home by way of my daughters (multi

practice) doctors office. As of writing this, it is into the third day of symptoms for my daughter, and my wife and I have been told we could see some any time. We’ll see.

Stay Safe Everyone.



Remember when you used to pay 99 cents for these after Christmas



50' Sliding Door Box Cars, HO

Rivarossi

Metal Wheels and Knuckle Couplers!
 Highly detailed and made with quality construction materials. msrp: \$21.95

\$16⁹⁹

These will go fast. Don't Miss Out!



4 Different Road Numbers for Each.

Model Contest News

By Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman

Gentlemen (and the Ladies that also read the Train Orders Newsletter), this is the results of the last NJ Division contest for 2020.

The contest was described as what on your layout

Does Not Belong?

There were some humorous entries submitted. See right.

Five Members submitted nine pictures. There were only 24 votes. Rather poor participation on the voting. Bill Howard was the winner.

Perhaps the next contest will bring more votes.

TO BIG TO CARRY TO A MEET

Large buildings that cannot be brought into a Meet will be judged.

Mines, Ore Processing facilities Refrigerated Warehouses, Steel Mills, Auto Manufacturing Plants, refineries, Breweries, etc.

Take a picture of what you have. Submit one picture. Perhaps you will win a certificate



"No Skills"
Bill Howard



"Little Squirrel"
John Swift



"Railroad Gun Fight"
John Swift



"Round Up"
John Swift



"High & Wide"
Mike Prokop



"Good Eats"
Jack Menaker



"Slithering & Hissing"



"Slithering & Hissing"

All Martin Brechbiel (MER Secretary)



"Checking the Coal Chute"

WINNER

Clinics for the January Meet

By John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

I wish all the best for the holidays and Happy New Year. I hope this finds you all well and practicing masking, safe distancing, hand washing, and staying home. This traditional season of gathering and celebrating will be different, a necessary condition to maintain the health of all who live with you. Next year, it must be better.

However, you must be making considerable progress on your layout and modeling. You have all this free time while staying at home. We have THE hobby for surviving a pandemic. Yet, you don't have to be completely disconnected from others, including your fellow model railroaders, especially NMRA members. Besides using the telephone, letter writing, and smoke signaling, there are other options. Many use email and read conversations on email sites and/or Facebook, etc. The NMRA web site offers options and connections for modelers to communicate and visit places where many topics are discussed and presented.

Without in-person conventions, the NMRA turned to the Internet to present "virtual" conventions. These online presentations of clinics in an organized format provide quite a few hours of entertainment and learning experiences. They come under the heading "NMRAX" and all are available free on YouTube. Regions got into the offering virtual conventions and the Northeast Region just completed a regional convention the week of

December 1 through 4, live in the evenings from 6:30PM through about 11:30PM. The clinics are worth watching. Previously, the Southeast Region offered a virtual convention around May, 2020. I recommend you visit the web site:

[http://www.youtube.com/c/
NMRAORGmodelrailroading](http://www.youtube.com/c/NMRAORGmodelrailroading)

and look around for NMRAX; SERx; and NERx for their conventions. It's free and you can watch the clinics at any time. Be sure to visit not only the "Home" on the site but also visit the "Videos" and "Playlists" and "Channels" to see an enormous number of options.

Finally, if that does not provide enough diversions from modeling activities, I recommend you explore "Virtual Railfan" by Goggling it. There are cameras in a number of locations around the USA and Canada [and some overseas locations]. Superintendent Bill Grosse got me to visit the one at Ft. Madison, Iowa where the BNSF operates a railroad and auto bridge across the Mississippi River into Illinois. There are about 60 trains per day operating on this line and a third track that stays on the western shore of the Mississippi. The interesting part is that the bridge is a swing bridge that opens to let river barges with tugs pass through the bridge. Finally, the holiday season provides additional viewing of a nighttime beautiful lighted display in a park to the east of the ROW near the river.

Besides the rail fanning of trains, you can study weathering of rolling stock. Frequently, when a train is stopped, waiting for the bridge to close, the camera operator will zoom in on the waiting power and rolling stock "examining" features such as labeling, trucks and couplers, side of the equipment, roof details and other details. It confirms that there is a prototype for everything.

For our virtual division meet on January 9th, Tom Neukirchen and Jim Shepard will present a clinic on Garden Railroading: Trials and Tribulations, Continual Evolution and Fun. Jim is a professional gardener and model railroader. Tom continues work on his garden railroad, solving many challenges of working in nature. The clinic will provide many photos to accompany a discussion of approaches to this aspect of model railroading.

Mike Dettinger will present "Live Streaming video from inside an N-scale Train Car."

Finally, have you considered presenting a clinic? Contact me if you need to discuss an idea or proposal.

WE NEED CLINIC PRESENTERS!
Remember, no clinics = no meet program!
You can't be a taker all the time. You need to step up and volunteer. Please.



BAGGAGE SMASHES

By Mike Prokop

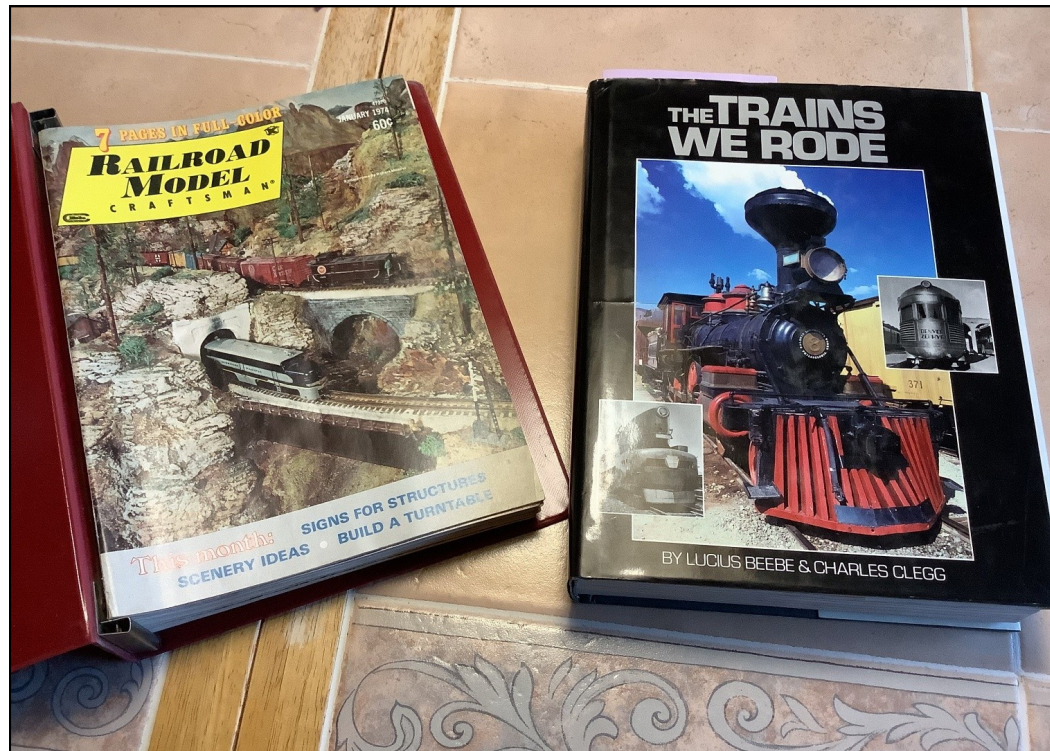
One of the perks of being in charge of the NJ Division bookstore is my responsibility to review and inspect all of the books, magazines and publications we receive from donations. It can be a daunting task at times and before these items are made available as raffle and door prize materials, I need to make sure they're appropriate and suitable for all of you. As I said it's a nice perk for me because I'm exposed to items I might not normally seek out or be interested in and find myself thoroughly enjoying. By the way, whoever donated the RMC binder with all the 1974 issues in it, thanks! It got me through months of the pandemic last winter!

So, anyway, on to the Baggage Smashes! The book, "The Trains We Rode", by Lucius Beene and Charles Clegg, was one of the books recently donated to the Division. The book being three inches thick in an 8X11 size format immediately drew my attention. I guess size does really matter! Even though all the photos were in black and white, and the authors have a very weird way of expressing the English language in the text, I found the book very interesting. It's formatted that in a paragraph or two, 2 to 3 photos are described with each turn of the page, so the reading isn't extensive and the photos show a very different world than the one we live in today. The book covers passenger travel and trains in the United

States from the beginning of railroads through the 1960's. It was originally published in 1965/1966 as two volumes, but the one I'm reviewing was republished in 1990 and combines both volumes into one. On page 119, I found this little blurb...read about Baggage Smashers Traquier and Riter and their quest to be, "Baggage Smashing Champion of America." See the text from the book on page 7.

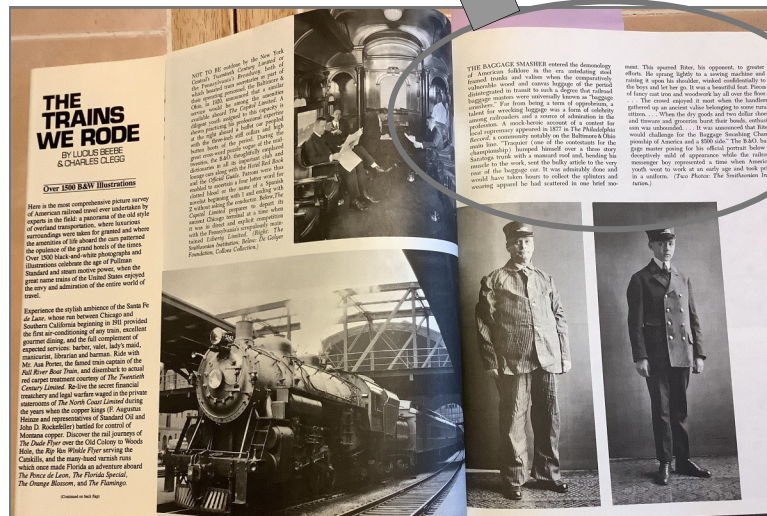
The book, "The Trains We Rode," and the complete "1974 RMC Collection" are just a few

of many publications that will be available as door prizes and raffle items when we return to our normal in-person division meets. Of course, besides the books and publications, there are many other modeling items in multiple scales for you to choose if you are lucky and have a winning ticket. Also, if you have something to donate to the Division raffle or door prizes, we gladly and thankfully accept your generous offering. Remember, I'm pulling for ya; we're all in this together!



THE BAGGAGE SMASHER entered the demonology of American folklore in the era antedating steel framed trunks and valises when the comparatively vulnerable wood and canvas luggage of the period disintegrated in transit to such a degree that railroad baggage masters were universally known as “baggage smashers.” Far from being a term of opprobrium, a talent for wrecking luggage was a form of celebrity among railroaders and a source of admiration in the profession. A mock-heroic account of a contest for local supremacy appeared in 1877 in *The Philadelphia Record*, a community notably on the Baltimore & Ohio main line. “Traquier (one of the contestants for the championship) humped himself over a three story Saratoga trunk with a mansard roof and, bending his muscle to the work, sent the bulky article to the very rear of the baggage car. It was admirably done and would have taken hours to collect the splinters and wearing apparel he had scattered in one brief mo-

ment. This spurred Riter, his opponent, to greater efforts. He sprang lightly to a sewing machine and raising it upon his shoulder, winked confidentially to the boys and let her go. It was a beautiful feat. Pieces of fancy cast iron and woodwork lay all over the floor. . . . The crowd enjoyed it most when the handlers gathered up an ancient valise belonging to some rural citizen. . . . When the dry goods and two dollar shoes and tinware and groceries burst their bonds, enthusiasm was unbounded. . . . It was announced that Riter would challenge for the Baggage Smashing Championship of America and a \$500 side.” The B.&O. baggage master posing for his official portrait below is deceptively mild of appearance while the railroad messenger boy represented a time when American youth went to work at an early age and took pride in a uniform. (Two Photos: *The Smithsonian Institution*.)



50th Anniversary Gondola Cars

by Mike Prokop

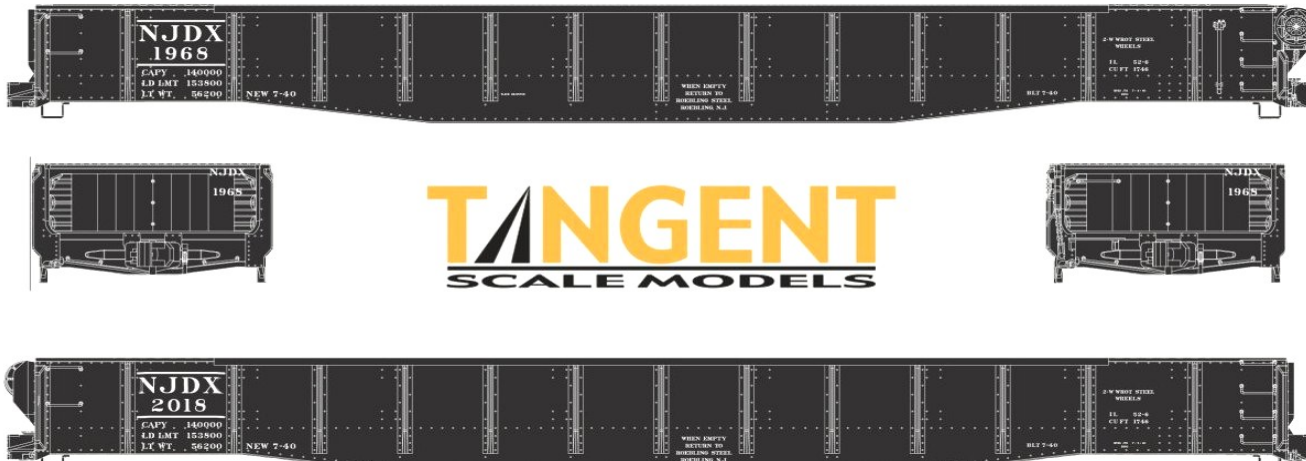
So, just a quick review about the cars. They are \$35 each, or a set of two for \$65. Car numbers are 1968 and 2018, which are the years that the New Jersey Division was founded and the year we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The gondola is from Tangent Models and is a superb model of a 70 Ton 52'6" Riveted Drop End Gondola. The placement of the brake wheel on the side is an identifying feature of a drop end Gondola.

They're ready to run out of the box and come with Kadee couplers.

We acquired 216 units with equal amounts of the two car numbers. Between pre-orders and sales, almost half are sold out so don't wait too long to get yours. See me at the division bookstore during the meet to buy some cars. Cash or your check will consummate the deal and you'll be hauling stuff around your layout in no time!

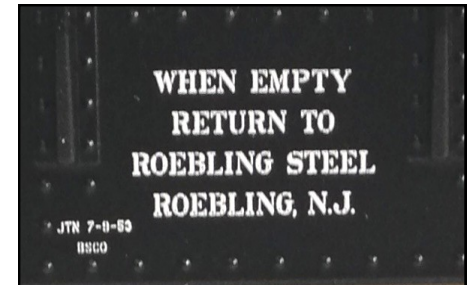
These are not only excellent looking and beautifully running cars, but, for a car obviously not decorated for a prototypical railroad, they do have the look of an authentic gondola that you might see in any train consist from the 1930's to the 1980's.

To order by mail see the Order Sheet on page 8. USPS Priority Mail postage is: \$9 for one car and \$10.75 for two cars.



The Reporting Marks "NJDX" for this car identify the owner as the New Jersey Division and the "X" designates a Private or Non-railroad owner.

This Stencil indicates the Gondola is in Assigned Service to Roebling Steel. It must be returned to Roebling after its load has been delivered.



New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Gondola

**Tangent Scale Models Bethlehem 70 Ton
Riveted Drop-End Gondola in HO Scale
The cars are In Stock and Ready to Run
They have been produced with two numbers
to Commemorate our 50th anniversary
1968 & 2018**

**The car body is black with white lettering
and data conforming to the 1950s
The cost is \$35.00 for one car or
a set of both numbers for \$65.00
A check made payable to the NJ Division
must be included with your order**

Name_____

Address_____

City, State and Zip code_____

Telephone_____Email_____

See Tangent website for more info support@tangentscalemodels.com

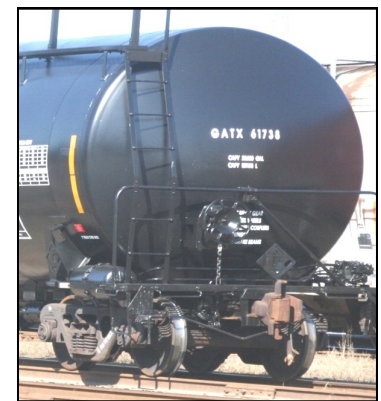
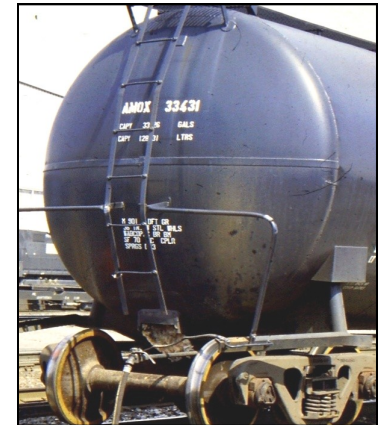
Return this form to N.J. Division NMRA, PO Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276

Less Than Carload (LCL) By Fritz Plenefisch

LCL was a railroad term for less than carload freight. Things were dropped off at stations along the line by a way freight. These were anything from a mail order store to small mechanical items that could be handled by the train crew. This column is similar in nature as the items in this edition, and future ones, are normally not articles but interesting items forwarded to the NJD. This edition has a cross section of items previously submitted; A prototype problem similar to the bane of all MR's, An unusual length of 3 rail track and A misspelled road name on a passenger car kit. (Good Luck on Finding the error.)

Your input for this column is requested and will be appreciated for any thing you find. Submit your items to me at fplen3@verizon.net or to any NJD Board Member.

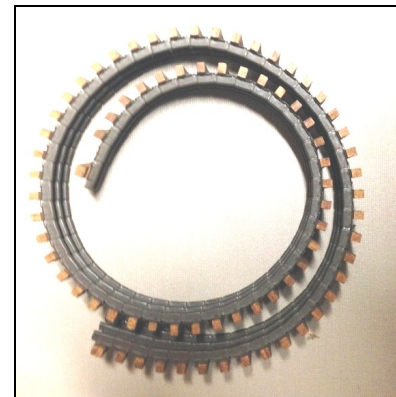
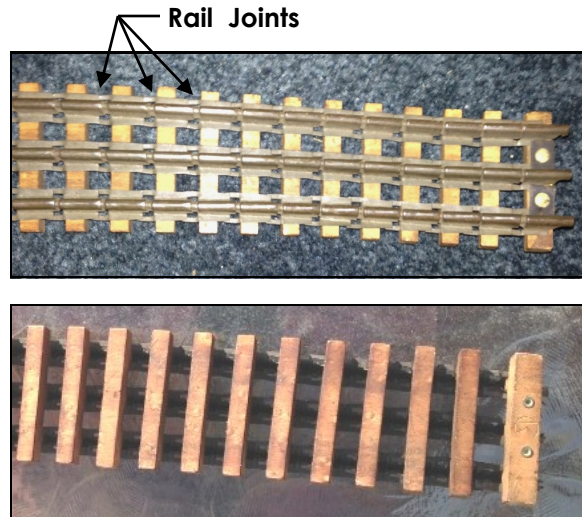
Contributors' to this issue are; Ron Baile, Fritz Plenefisch, Mike Prokop and Bob Vogel



Mystery Track

Can you identify this unique 3 rail track. It has wood ties and there is a flexible rail joint between each tie although it cannot be bent in any tight radius but is flexible for hilly roadbed. You can see this in the photo where it is rolled up.

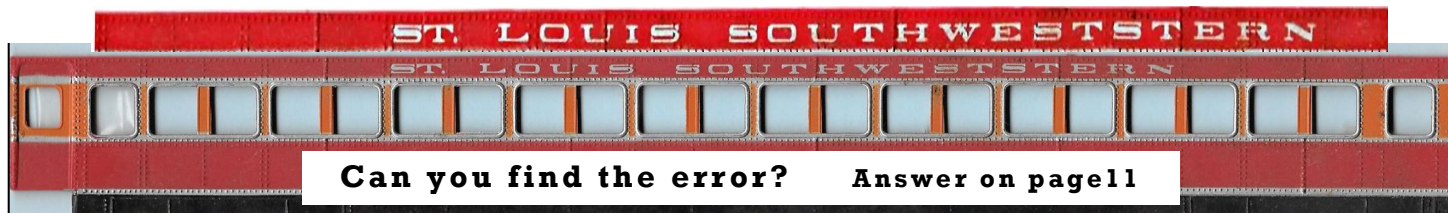
It connects easily with Lionel 3 rail track.



Think you Have Coupler Problems!

The car in the top photo has its entire center sill ripped off including the coupler. The lower photo shows a car with the end sill and coupler in place.

LCL Continued on page 11



LCL continued from page 10



Outhouses on Wheels

In view of current EPA and OSHA Regulations. The question is; does your Model Railroad work train have any sanitary facilities for the workers? The upper photo is a complete unit and the lower is an actual unit on site in a subway environment.

There is an extra **ST
 in SOUTHWESTERN**



Modeling Tip

By Ron Baile

Here is a modeling tip that I would like to pass along. As a long time judge I have learned much about model building from judging. (Try it sometime-they will team you up with some expert and I guarantee that you will learn something.)

My main reason to pre-stain or paint everything first is that the glue won't show. If it does then you are doing something wrong. Also, it is quite difficult to try and paint a scale 1x3 trim board by hand.

Another thing is that if you use some slight color variations it will show up in the finished model, i.e. barn boards. Then people will want to know how you did it. Check out some U-Tube videos on the subject. There are a lot of good ideas out there for the taking.

If worse comes to worse then you can call up an expert in the field. Many of us are here to help if you only ask.

I probably have at least six or more adhesives on my bench. The days of just using "Glue" are over. When I was coming up, the main adhesive was Duco Cement. The next one I came across was Ambroid (Amber + Celluloid) which was originally intended to be used to patch canoes.

In 1964 the late, Bill Walthers presented me with my first tube of GOO. It was great for wood to metal joints and metal to metal. I discovered not to use GOO with Styrene. A structure I built out of styrene was never right after the Goo had several years to sink in.

I added some much needed internal bracing to it and the solvents in that Goo lasted for years giving me ridges on the outside of the building clearly showing where the bracing was inside.

Next time you are in a hobby shop pick up some canopy glue if you don't already have some. Testors makes it as well as several other paint manufacturers.

Aircraft modelers use it to attach canopies. I built an entire structure with it once. It goes on thin and it dries clear.

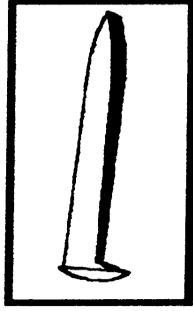
When it's still wet it can be removed with a tissue, paper towel or Q-Tip. If you just need to apply just a teeny bit of adhesive to a joint don't use those big bulky tips that come on the tube. Pour a few drops out on some waxed paper. Now take the smallest brass wire you have, such as .008 or .010 and dip it in the adhesive. Then apply carefully to the joint. Tooth picks also work as applicators.

This technique works well for ACC as well. If you're building a structure I recommend that you SEAL all wood and cardboard walls first.

Sanding sealer is intended for this job but many paints will do.. BEFORE you glue the walls together, you probably should add some inside bracing. I usually use 1/8 inch square stock if its available.

You should probably glue gussets in the corners of your structure to help keep it square and solid.





ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR

Member's Name _____ NMRA#: _____ EXP: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilding and superdetailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.

QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.

Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

Three types of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.

All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).

Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____