



The Maritime Branchline

2008 Convention Highlights

Trains Across the Tantramar, Amherst, Nova Scotia

Convention Contest Winners

Winners in the Craftsman and Regular Classes



Raw Materials for Module Building

How to work with basic module materials



Photo: George Sabean.



The Maritime Branchline

Table of Contents

Message From The President.....	2
Membership Report.....	2
Club News.....	3
2008 Convention Highlights.....	7
2008 Convention Contest Results.....	8
Raw Materials for Module Building.....	10
August On-Line Photo Contest Entries.....	11
This Page Could Be Your Article!.....	13
Maritime Timetable.....	14

Publishing Schedule for

The Maritime Branchline

Please note the submission deadlines for each issue is the 15th of the previous month:

- Issue 2008-004 - December 2008 --- Deadline Nov 15, 2008
- Issue 2009-001 - March 2009 --- Deadline Feb 15, 2009
- Issue 2009-002 - June 2009 --- Deadline May 15, 2009
- Issue 2009-003 - September 2009 --- Deadline Aug 15, 2009
- Issue 2009-004 - December 2009 --- Deadline Nov 15, 2009

Trains & Planes

A large, double-engined passenger train was crossing America. After they had gone some distance, one of the engines broke down. "No problem," the engineer thought, and carried on at half power.

Farther on down the line, the second engine broke down and the train slowed to a dead stop. The engineer decided he should inform the passengers about why the train had stopped and made the following announcement:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for some time. The good news is that you decided to take the train and not fly."

From the Coal Bunker

*It's a dirty job,
but someone's gotta do it!*



Welcome to the "new" Maritime Branchline!

This year heralded a change in the office of this fine publication with the retirement of Ric Hamilton from the position of Editor. As evidenced by the lack of response to his calls for replacement, and the fact that the position was eventually filled by not one, but two people, it is clear that Ric leaves some pretty large shoes to fill.

So, who are the two sucke....er.. volunteers who have taken on the job? A couple of relative newcomers to both the Federation and the hobby: Mike Gerrits and Lawrence van der Meer. Yep - we didn't know any better. In all seriousness, we found ourselves inexplicably drawn to the unanswered (read, "borderline desperate") calls to fill the post earlier this year. We hope that new blood brings new ideas and that we can build upon the success of all previous Branchline editors. While we're relative novices at the art of publishing, what we lack in experience we are going to, with a great deal of naivety, make up for in enthusiasm.

First - we wish, once again, to extend a heartfelt thank you to former editor Ric Hamilton for his years of service and dedication to the Branchline over those years. Thanks again, Ric!

Second - send us your articles, photos, events, and above all, any ideas you have for the next edition of the Branchline! This is your newsletter and it exists because members of the Federation take time to share their enjoyment of the hobby. So, please embrace the Branchline and participate in the creation of its content!

Release the brakes; we're highball on the main!

Mike & Lawrence

Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders

The intent of the Federation is to promote and enhance the hobby of model railroading throughout the Maritime provinces of Canada and to encourage fellowship and interaction among model railroaders.

Executive and Appointees

President: Jim Taylor
 Vice President : Jeff Skaling
 Secretary: Barry Wile
 Treasurer: Pierre Lanctot
 Membership Coordinator: David Fullerton
 Contest Coordinator: Marc Hemphill
 Branchline Editors: Mike Gerrits
 Lawrence van der Meer
 Website: Bob Boudreau

Memberships

Send your membership application with annual dues of \$20.00 to the Membership Coordinator. Send \$5.00 per extra member residing at the same civic address.

MFMR
 % David Fullerton
 22 Harry Elliot Road,
 Belmont, NS
 B0M 1C0

Website

www.geocities.com/mfmr

The Maritime Branchline

Official Publication of the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders

Published four times per year.

Editors

Mike Gerrits, Lawrence van der Meer

Printing & Distribution

Yarmouth Model Railroad Society

Submissions

Previously unpublished contributions are welcome. Please contact the editor for requirements. Submissions can be done electronically to mfmr.branchline@gmail.com or by mail to:

The Maritime Branchline
 % Mike Gerrits
 8 Breakwater Rd
 Chance Harbour, NB
 E5J 2B1

SEPTEMBER 2008
 Issue 2008-003

Message From the President



The summer is now on the down hill slide and before you know it the first train show of the fall season will be upon us. Although many of you find the summer a great time to railfan, I myself find it a challenge just to keep up with household chores and family responsibilities to even think about my hobbies. But, the good news is the evenings are getting shorter and the kids will be back in school. Soon we can all look forward to some quality time to plan and work on this winter's projects.

Planning for another great convention is underway. I look forward to hearing what Scott and his team will have in store for us for the upcoming Summerside Convention. Hopefully they will have some information available for us to peruse in Truro.

As I approach another birthday, I ponder my own age and look around our hobby and I see an aging membership with few young faces taking a serious interest in model railroading. We, as federation, need to encourage and embrace the younger generations at shows and in doing so will be recruiting the next generation of model railroaders. This is a challenge that I plan to put upon this year's board of directors.

We, as federation, need to encourage and embrace the younger generations at shows and in doing so will be recruiting the next generation of model railroaders.

In closing, the Board of Directors with Marc's leadership plan to have the issue of the club registration behind us by the Truro show. This will allow us to concentrate on building a stronger and more active Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders

I look forward to seeing everyone in Truro and hearing from the Membership on the above items at the meetings.

J.W. Taylor

Membership Report

by David Fullerton, MFMR Membership Coordinator

The membership of the Federation is steadily growing. As of the end of August, we have 192 members for this issue. Unfortunately, 67 people need to renew. This will be the last issue you receive if you do not renew. Remember that memberships expire on June 30 of each year and we give only the September issue as a freebie, in case you have forgotten to renew. As a reminder, I put the expiry date on the mailing label of each issue. I will be attending the Truro show so you can renew there or mail it to me at my new address:

22 Harry Elliot Road, RR#1, Belmont, NS B0M 1C0

Please remember that the membership cost is \$20 annually.

Finally, welcome to our new editors and thank you to Ric for many years of effort in making a great Branchline. And welcome to all 13 of our new members.

Members, by Province

NS	119	62%
PE	8	4.20%
NB	54	28.10%
NL	2	1%
PQ	1	0.50%
ON	4	2.10%
MB	0	0%
SK	0	0%
AB	0	0%
BC	1	0.50%
YT	0	0%
NT	0	0%
NU	0	0%
ME	2	1%
RI	1	0.50%
Total	192	100%

New Members

Abel Bastarache, Kingston, NB
 David Fifield, Moncton, NB
 Steve Stapleton, Charlottetown, PE
 Ian Dryden, Moncton, NB
 Albert LeBlanc, Scoudouc, NB
 Mathieu Leblanc, Scoudouc, NB
 Jennifer Young, Halifax, NS
 Carlo Mancini, Lower Sackville, NS
 Detlef Rudolph, Fredericton, NB
 Marlene LeLacheur, Bedford, NS
 Doug Key, Sackville, NB
 Matthew MacIntosh, New Glasgow, NS
 Rick Doucette, Charlottetown, PE

Club News

Half Nuts Model Railroaders

-Scott Jay

Summer is usually a more laid back time of year, with little modeling activity and scaled back operations on the group's layouts. However, this has been an extraordinary summer for visitors and guest operators.

We hosted a group from Moncton in late July. Jim McMahon, James Whatley (from Ontario), Dave Wood, and Milne Hall made the trip for a full day of operating and overall good times. We started out the day at Derwin's Canadisle Rail, then to Brian's NeverDone. After that, it was back to my place for supper and operating on the Bayside & Tidewater.

Ed Cook also joined us at Brian's that day. Ed contacted me via email a couple months ago; he has a summer home on P.E.I. and wondered if he could drop in for a visit. Well, he operated on the NeverDone and BS&T with the Moncton crowd and then on the Canadisle Rail the following Sunday before heading back home to Ontario. I think he'll be a regular operator two or three times a year or anytime he's on the island.

Shawn Naylor is also home after a winter of trekking through Asia. He operated with us a few weekends and filled us in on his adventures. He showed us some great video as he rode trains throughout Asia.

Steve Dickie also joined us for a couple of weekends in August. I can't remember the last time Steve was able to make it to an operating session while home visiting his parents. It was nice to see him again.

It's August as I write this, but I know it will be September when you read it so I can only let you know what we have planned for this month.

Another fellow from Ontario is planning to operate with us this coming Sunday. He was hunting on the web for train related activities on P.E.I. for his upcoming vacation, when he came across my blog. He sent me an email wondering if he could stop by for a visit.

Jean Cormier (Moncton), and Steve McMullin (Saint John) are planning trips to the Island in August and they hope to drop by for a visit or some operating. If it's a non-operating evening, I'm sure we can arrange an impromptu session. The guys are always up for an excuse to run trains!

September is shaping up to be another busy month with more visitors. Two Moncton groups are talking about a trip over sometime this fall, possibly September. Brian and I have some work to do on our 5th Street UMG modules, and there's planning for next year's convention in Summerside. The list grows almost every day!

We'll see most of you in Truro in October and some before that. Until then, have fun!

WCR GROUP (Western Counties Railway Group)

- Don Parnell

It is time again to put some thoughts together for the first Branchline of the 08/09 season. It seems so long ago that members of the WCR Group made the journey to Amherst for the final big event of the 07/08 season. As usual, it was an enjoyable occasion for everyone - well almost everyone. One of us made quite an adventure of it, but thanks to the help of many friends, it all ended successfully. An interesting fact: The price of the gas that remains in the fuel tank of the vehicle we towed home that day cost about what the current price of fuel has dropped down to.

Changes have been ongoing over the last number of months to most of the WCR subdivisions. A major reconstruction project is about 50% complete on the Portland Terminal Railway owned by Stan Jones. The redesigning of Rigby Yard is in progress and the expansion of the Grand Trunk area is soon to be started.

Ray Franzen continues to pick away at improvements to operations on his East/West German layout. The new home that will house the Digby Sub is 95% completed. Owner Wally Howard is setting a goal of a start date of later this fall for construction.



WCR Members - pose with friends from Germany before operation session. (L-R) Ed Cleveland, Ray Franzen, Stan Jones, Ulrich Groeschel (Jan's father), Wally Howard, Jan Groeschel (group member from Germany) and Don Parnell. Missing from group were Ron Day and Dave Marling.

A former member of the WCR crew, Jan Groeschel from Germany, made a return visit to Canada along with his parents. As he did many times while he lived here the year before, Jan took time to re-join the weekly running session. (Ray still has not noticed the furry gifts that were left.) It should be noted that even his parents joined



Check out our website at

www.maritimehobbies.com

We are at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Grafton Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Check us out first for all your hobby needs.

Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30am to 6pm

(902)423-8870

Email: marhobbies@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Club News (continued)

in, taking the controls in East Germany. The Lake Annis Sub, owned by Ron Day, has shut down construction for the summer months but it is hoped that things will restart soon. A new member, Dave Marling, joined the group this past summer and is presently erecting bench work for a new layout.



Overview of Ray Franzen's East/West Germany & Switzerland Layout. Dispatcher Ray is keeping an eye on East Germany Yard Master Don Parnell as he works with the yard switcher Engineer (Jan's mother, Renate Groeschel).

Ed Cleveland, owner of Cleveland Steel and Port Terminal, got down his modules and set them up so we could have an additional operational railroad for a month or two while other operations were shut down. After a lot of fine-tuning the first wheels started to move and freight moved from industry to industry.

Plans are in the works for members to attend the fall show circuit with accommodations having been secured for Truro and Saint John. We look forward to meeting everyone and getting caught up on what has been happening.

Time to refuel and get back to more operations.

Saint John Society of Model Railroaders

- Bob Boudreau

The big news coming from the Saint John Society of Model Railroaders (SJSMR) is a new date and location for our annual show! While the gym at St. Malachy's High School is big and central in the city, there have been problems with parking and, worst of all, the unpredictable weather around the first of March. The past two years were plagued with snowstorms just before or during the show, which didn't help the attendance at all.

Our new show will be held at the Islandview Lions Club building on 8 Market Street in the city's eastern suburb of Quispamsis. This is a really easy site to access, as it is only a few minutes off Highway 1 from exit 141. Info on the show, as well as maps showing the site, are on the new show website for those needing more info:

<http://sites.google.com/site/sjfallshow>. The date for the first show at this new location is Saturday, November 8 of this year. Hopefully, this date will be snow free! The building started out as a roller skating arena so it is a good size, at only a few feet smaller in both directions than the gym at St. Macs. We should be able to accommodate all the usual layouts, displays and sales tables. The building has plenty of parking all around it with separate straight-in loading doors for vendors, a modern canteen and great washrooms. Anyone interested in reserving tables for the show can contact us at sjfallshow@gmail.com.

The SJSMR annual barbecue was held on August 9th this year, hosted by Randy and Josie Pike at their lovely place overlooking the St. John River at Westfield Beach. The day was perfect, the steaks, chicken and fixin's were great, and the air was often filled with flying metal - some of the members tried their luck tossing horseshoes on the Pike's lawn. Some even made it to the pits! Others sent theirs into the nearby bushes. A special thanks to Randy and Josie, as well as to Don and Beth Fitzpatrick, for their help with the grilling and for providing extra tables and chairs.

The organizing committee for the 2010 MFMR convention, which the SJSMR will be hosting, has held several meetings in the past few months. This event will be combined with the annual event of the Northeastern Region (NER) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The NER stretches from New York State, up through the Maritimes and into Quebec, with over 1800 members.

Annual Model Train Show
PRESENTED BY MIRAMICHI CRIME STOPPERS
Two Days to Enjoy! - September 27 & 28, 2008
Northumberland Square Mall - 2441 King George Hwy.

Saturday - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. & Sunday - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Admission - \$3.00; Ages 5-12 - \$1.00; Children under 5 - FREE! (when accompanied by an adult)

You will see eight operating layouts with over 20 displays, including G, O, HO scale and LEGO®

Check out our railroading sales & display table and get your model train collection started.

For your convenience, this event is wheelchair accessible.

Club News (continued)



Foster Parfitt tosses some iron at the SJSMR barbecue.

Committee Chairman Steve McMullin has been hard at work dealing with many aspects of the event, as so much has to be lined up well in advance. Prominent NER member Larry Cannon, from Maine, was in our city on vacation in July so the committee met with him at Steve's home to get pointers and advice on hosting the event. The SJSMR hosted a joint convention with the NER way back in 1988 and there have been many inquiries over the years, asking if we might do it again. So we are! Although there are no firm plans yet, we hope to be out in force at the 2009 MFMR convention in Summerside with lots of info and propaganda on our 2010 event.

The SJSMR doesn't have regular meetings during June and July but our first fall meeting in September will be at the Lakeview Lions Club building in Quispamsis, to give all members a look at our new show site. There is not much to report on modeling activities by members during the summer. I've personally been poking around with some O scale items, such as assembling a small stone station, detailing resin castings and such. The long standing custom of SJSMR members meeting for Sunday breakfast continued through the summer, with as many as 10-12 at times and as few as 3 at other times. It's one way of keeping in touch through the slow season.

So, please make plans to attend our 24th annual model railroad show on November 8th. Hope to see you there!

Campbellton Model Railroaders

- Ronald Grandmaison.

By the time you read this, summer will be long gone and so will the vacations of most members. It will be time to get back to serious train business. On another front, by this time next year, I could be retired. Should I keep working another year? There are so many questions, yet so few answers. It would be nice to be able to plan to attend the Annual Amherst Train Show in Springfield, Mass., and be able to devote more time to this hobby.

Work has progressed on Marc Hudon's Chemin de Fer Baie-des-Chaleurs. Marc has been working on structures these last few months and he plans to invest more time in model railroading when his work load winds down this fall. At this rate, we should be operating on his layout sometime this year!

Operations on the Chaleur & Restigouche have been scarce since my last report. Our schedules haven't allowed us to meet for operations; this should improve in the fall when everything and everybody gets back in a regular routine. Weathering of rolling stock has been a priority and with more than half of the fleet done, the unweathered cars tend to stand out more.

Improvements have been made on some areas of the layout that already had scenery. I have been experimenting with "Scenic Express" trees and these are great. They do require a lot of time but the end result is worth the extra work. These are not trees that one would use on a whole layout, but only in specific areas. I have decided to add these to the farm scene in the Charlo - Jacquet River area.

The purchase of a Noch Grass Master has allowed me to add more realistic grass and vegetation to the layout and improve some areas. I should be experimenting on a broader scale in these coming months. Acrylic Matte Medium is the glue of choice if you plan to use this device.

If you are in the Campbellton area don't hesitate to give me a call (506-753-7862). Marc and I are already planning to attend two fall train shows. We hope to see you there.

Have a great model railroading season!

Truro Model Railroaders Association

- Bernie MacDonald

In mid-June, we traveled to the historic Train Station Inn in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia for our AGM. As usual, we had our dinner and dessert in the dining car followed by our AGM in the Alexandra car, built by Rhodes & Curry in Amherst in 1905. Proprietor and host, Jimmie LeFresne, welcomed us and expressed his pleasure that we again chose to meet at his facilities for our meeting. A new TMRA Executive was elected for the ensuing year consisting of Bernie MacDonald, President, Roddie Norrie, Vice President, Howard MacLellan, Secretary, Jamie Richards, Treasurer and Barry Wile, Yardmaster. Directors appointed included Murray Wood, Chair, and members Rolf Baune, Les Waller and Andrew Blackburn. Bernie MacDonald and Barry Wile were reconfirmed as TMRA's representatives to the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders.

Following our meeting, we traveled another few kilometers to visit Dave Gunn's home and layout. Dave continues to rethink the design of his layout and he is still in the early construction phase. In that context, he carefully reviews his plans and makes modifications as he visualizes changes for his layout. Thanks to both him and his spouse, Pam, for their generosity and hospitality.

We held a barbecue at the home of Howard MacLellan in July and enjoyed a pizza get-together at the clubhouse in August. We are planning a barbecue at the home of Andrew Blackburn in September to kick-off the fall model railroading season. These gatherings serve to keep us focused on model railroading during the summer months. As well, they provide us with an opportunity to discuss what's new in our hobby and to review any changes which may be taking place in prototypical railroading. We especially appreciate the efforts of those who organized such events for our members to enjoy and thank them for their contributions.

TMRA members continued to improve and upgrade our DCC modular layout. For example, Rolf Baune conducted a workshop on how to install bus wires for improved DCC operation. This resulted in making significant improvements to the wiring system of our layout. Jamie Richards, Murray Wood and Dave Buck filled holes and painted the fascia resulting in an enhanced appearance. Rod Norrie has added another excavator to his expanding junk yard in order to double its loading capacity. With the continuing robust prices for scrap metal his yard is under an increasing demand to move additional product to market. This measure has temporarily solved his yard's capacity problem.

Dave Buck recently joined our club and he has been busy building an N scale layout over the past several months. He has acquired a broad array of knowledge and skills in modeling techniques in a short period of time through his reading and networking with other modelers. As well, he has developed and refined his practical skills through trial and error by using the tools and materials of our hobby. His layout is named the 'Hubtown Loop' which is loosely based upon an imaginary railway in the Nova Scotia. It measures approximately 3 X 5-foot with features that include a lumber yard, metal forge and propane depot. The design is for a diesel-era three-loop track plan that links a small town with an agricultural rural community. He has incorporated 9 1/2 "and 11" curves and uses DC control with nine blocks to manage train operation. Structures include a fire station, bank, service station and several country stores. At this point, his motive power and rolling stock consists of three diesel engines, twelve freight and three passenger cars.

This fall TMRA will be hosting our 31th annual model train show on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Nova Scotia Community College's gymnasium on Arthur Street. (See ad on page 12.) We expect to have several layouts on display representing at least three scales. These include HO layouts from our own club that has DC control, UMG and Dartmouth. N scale will be represented by Dave Buck's table layout and EasterN BeNdeRRS' modular layout. As well, we hope

Club News (continued)

to have Errol Mitchell's Z scale on display. There will be vendors offering both new and used items and supplies for purchase. If you have not already done so, please contact Howard MacLellan at: pai@eastlink.ca or Jamie Richards at: jman2@eastlink.ca for information or to book tables.

Hope to see you all at the show!

The next time you make a mistake on your layout, think of this:

Builders bungle train tunnel

Bungling engineers have been left red-faced after building a railway tunnel that's too small for trains to actually fit through. The costly mistake was only discovered when inspectors measured the finished tunnel in the Polish capital, Warsaw, and realized the roof was so low that no trains would get under it.

Rail bosses claim the mix-up happened because workers who were laying new tracks didn't talk to the team that was building the tunnel. "During work on the tunnel, tracks were laid down on newly-raised ground which meant the distance between the tracks and roof of the tunnel became shorter," said Polish Railways spokesman, Marta Szklarek.

Last year, the Polish road authority produced plans for two sections of major highway that would have missed each other by five miles - each coming to a dead end in the middle of the countryside.



SAINT JOHN SOCIETY OF MODEL RAILROADERS

MODEL TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY
8 NOVEMBER 2008

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

- LARGE Operating Model Railroads, in N, HO AND O scales - Dealer & Private Sales Tables

Operating Thomas the Tank Engine Display



**NEW DATE!
NEW LOCATION!**

ISLANDVIEW LIONS CLUB

8 MARKET STREET, QUISPAMIS, N. B.
(BEHIND THE KEN VAL CO-OP)

ADMISSION \$5.00 PER PERSON. KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

WEBSITE: [HTTP://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/SFALLSHOW/](http://sites.google.com/site/sfallshow/)

FOR ALL YOUR MODEL RAILROADING NEEDS

SPECIALIZING IN "N" SCALE AND DCC

- ★ HEKI SCENERY
- ★ MOCALOVA MODEL WORKS
- ★ ESU LOCSOUND & DIGITAL PLUS BY LENZ
- ★ ATHEARN, KATO, ATLAS, MODEL POWER
- ★ DECODER INSTALLTION, MILLING & CUSTOM PAINTING
- ★ MONTHLY E-FLYER SPECIALS
- ★ PRE-ORDER FOR FOX VALLEY MODELS ROLLING STOCK
- ★ OTHER MAKES & MODELS AVAILABLE

www.bntrains.com

tjones11@nb.sympatico.ca

506-850-4783

RIVERVIEW, NB, CANADA

2008 Convention Highlights

by Mike Gerrits

photos by Bob Boudreau



The 2008 MFMR convention in Amherst, Nova Scotia, was a great success. The convention boasted excellent facilities at the Wandlyn Inn as well as plenty of nearby railfanning possibilities.

The convention kicked off on Friday afternoon with event registration and the arrival of the VIA Rail train at the Amherst station from Moncton at precisely 1:07 PM, in an unprecedented display of near schedule adherence. Friday evening started off with setup downstairs for the train show and the first of two hands-on sessions presented by Maritime Hobbies and Crafts on weathering with Bragdon powders in a specially prepared room upstairs, as well as an NCE product demo in another room. Those not attending the demonstration that evening congregated in various hotel rooms for refreshments and general banter that may, or may not, have included trains.

The next day started bright and early with additional conventioners arriving on site and everyone heading down to the train show after breakfast. Once the show was under way, a lot of traffic was seen around the contest entry display rooms where votes were placed for favourite models. The train show itself was well-attended by the public, who navigated between three different display rooms and a large hallway in order to see everything. While this arrangement was unconventional, it did provide for more of an intimate environment in which to display wares and modules. During the morning, various persons disappeared to conduct the Annual General Meeting while those remaining, who were not actively engaged in the show, also attended a number of clinics on everything from various aspects of railway history to scenery to airbrushing, railroad simulators and train operations. Towards the end of the day, the NS Railway Heritage Society also conducted their AGM.

That evening, naturally, was the banquet with presentation of awards for the model contest (see the next section for the model contest results) and the ever-popular draws for door prizes. The highlight of the banquet was a presentation on the railroads of Cumberland county, by Jay Underwood.



2008 Convention Model Contest Results

photos by Ric Hamilton.

Craftsman Class - Diesels



1. Brent Norton - CN RS18
2. Ric Hamilton - CN Sweep 7101
3. Andrew Castle - CN GP38-2 - 3rd Place

Craftsman Class - Steam



1. Don Shouldice - CNR 5098 Pacific
2. Bob Boudreau - 0-4-2 Porter

Craftsman Class - Freight



1. Pierre Lanctot - THB Flat w/ Tractors
2. James Whatley - CP Fowler Boxcar
3. Jim Taylor - CP Reefer - 3rd Place

Craftsman Class - Caboose



1. Brent Norton - CP Van
2. Pierre Lanctot - CN 77859
3. Bob Boudreau - Fundy Northern

Craftsman Class - Passenger



1. Ric Hamilton - CN Obs Car 'Nova Scotia'
2. Bob Boudreau - UPRR Photo car
3. Pierre Lanctot - CP Budd Sleeper Montcalm

Craftsman Class - MOW



1. Dan Conlin - DAR Boom Car
2. Bob Boudreau - Saw Filer's Car
3. David Gunn - CN Spreader 569

Craftsman Class - Diorama



Gerry Gilliland - Norm's Landing

Craftsman Class - 1st Place & Best In Show



Ross Young - Wrong Side of the Street

Craftsman Class - Structure



1. Don Shouldice - O Scale Saw Mill
2. Dave Gunn - Winlow's Mill
3. Dan Conlin - Ice House

2008 Convention Model Contest Results (continued)

Regular Class - Diesels



1. Trevor Jones - CP AC4400
2. David McMahon - N&W RS3

Regular Class - Steam



1. Dan Conlin - DAR 0-6-0 6227
2. Jeff Skaling - CP 2-8-0
3. James McMillin - HOn30 0-4-4

Regular Class - Freight



1. Andy Small - Moose Juice Tank Car
2. Bruce Castle - NAHX Covered Hopper
3. Peter Mesheau - Monson Flat Car

Regular Class - Caboose



1. Andy Small - Rhode Island Central
2. Ric Hamilton - CN Hawker Siddeley
3. James Mc Millin - On30 2' Caboose

Regular Class - Passenger



1. Peter Mesheau - Monson Combine
2. Doug Murray - On30 DSP & P Coach
3. Brent Norton - VIA

Regular Class - MOW



1. Jim Taylor - Steam Pile Driver
2. Andy Small - 34 Ford Rail Truck
3. Bruce Castle - CR Snow Plow

Regular Class - Diorama



1. Pierre Lanctot - Beacon Feed & Seed

Regular Class - Structure



1. Jim Taylor - Kentville Station
2. Lou McIntyre - IGA Grocery Store

Raw Materials for Module Building

by Andy Small

photos by the author



When building a modular layout, I highly recommend four common materials found at your local home improvement store: pink/blue foam, lightweight joint compound, cement dye and furniture grade plywood. When used together, you'll be able to easily produce some tough and very lightweight modules that will be able to withstand the tests of time.

Colouring Plaster

I have found that cement dye is a fantastic product for killing the bright white of plaster. Especially important on modular layouts that get moved and exposed to the elements. If the plaster is already dirt coloured, than a chip or crack is almost invisible. Cement dye can be found at all major home improvement stores. The colors I use are buff, brown, and charcoal. The buff and brown are mixed to make the base of my module's dirt. I use the charcoal when I'm making rock formations. I apply a squirt (a standard Rhode Island liquid measurement) into the top of the joint compound and stir it in making colour adjustments as required. Remember it'll dry a lighter shade and if sanded, lighter still. You can paint with latex paint if you want.

Surfacing Modules

Pink/blue foam is one of the wonder products of model railroading. I use it for module bases, hills, and rocks; you just have to remember that it doesn't take kindly to solvent-based paints. Also make sure you wear a mask when sanding or sawing the foam. To glue foam together and cement it to the wood frame and fascia, I use either DAP adhesive caulk, hot glue or Great Stuff spray foam insulation (in the red can). Some members even use the Great Stuff to make hills.

Lots of plaster materials are out there. My club uses two cheap ones, the primary one being lightweight joint compound and some of the On30 guys use good ol' base plaster, which is the plaster applied over wood lathe when building a plaster wall. The base plaster dries with more



Figure 2: Lightweight Joint Compound

texture and usually just requires weathering and some dry brushing. The lightweight joint compound is lighter (duh), shrinks less and tends to be more forgiving than the regular joint compound. It also has a few more synthetic polymers in it for strength.

I have found that by using furniture grade plywood (including bendable plywood), the cracks between the fascia and module tend to either be non-existent or very small. On my home layout I've had no cracks with the lightweight joint compound.

I've had a couple small cracks form on my road modules due to travel abuse. If you want to guarantee no cracks, just use some Bondo car body repair resin along the edges, sand and paint!

Making Rocks

To model the rocks that grow everywhere, I use the same pink foam with thick coat of lightweight joint compound. Cracks will form as it dries which I just leave.

Also, just prior to the joint compound drying, I carefully use a tooth brush to stipple the still-pliable joint compound and make the texture look more rock like. Once dry I carve, sand and stain with an ink wash and dry brush. Just like the module, it's light weight, easy to make and if chipped it doesn't show!

Hope you'll give these ideas a try. Have fun!



Figure 1: Quikrete Cement Colour



BLAKE'S PLATES
TRAIN PLATES OUR SPECIALTY

18 Lobban Avenue
Miramichi, New Brunswick
E1N 2W5

506-773-6859

or email blakeal@nb.sympatico.ca



Andy lives in Westerly, Rhode Island and is a member of the On30 and HO

modular groups of the NMRA Little Rhody Division. He and his family spend time in the Spring and Fall at their farm in Cape North, Cape Breton.

TRURO MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL FALL TRAIN SHOW

October 18, 2008,

Nova Scotia Community
College - Truro Campus
36 Arthur Street, Truro, NS

Time 9:00am To 4:00pm

*Admission: Adults \$5:00;
Students \$3:00*

*Children under 12 Free,
if accompanied by parents.*

You will see Operating
Layouts in N, HO & Z
scales, as well as rail-
roading sales and a vari-
ety of display tables.

For information or to book tables, please
contact Howard MacLellan at:
pai@eastlink.ca or Jamie Richards at:
jman2@eastlink.ca.

August On-Line Photo Contest Entries

Photo A: Ronald Grandmaison



Photo B: Bob Boudreau

*Taken on Bob's original Mansfield Junction shelf layout, with
the sun shining in. The locomotive is a modified Athearn SW-7.*



THE WINNER! *Photo C: Derwin Cole*

This photo was taken on Scott Jay's Bayside & Tidewater Layout.



DON'S "HO" SERVICE

www.geocities.com/donshoservice

25 Teakwood Way, Moncton, NB E1G 1T3

Phone (506) 384-3355 Fax (506) 853-0550

Email: cpkinney@nb.sympatico.ca

Wednesday 7pm to 9pm Saturday 9am to 5pm

(closed Saturdays in August)

QUALITY MODEL RAILROAD SUPPLIES FOR BEGINNERS TO EXPERTS

Including
Digital Command Control

We Stock:

- ✓ North Coast Engineering DCC systems and decoders. Other brands and decoder installation available
- ✓ Regular power packs by Model Rectifier Corp.
- ✓ HO track, turnouts, turnout motors and rail joiners for Code 100 and 83 track by Atlas and Peco. Other brands and codes are available.
- ✓ Roadbed by Midwest and Woodland Scenics
- ✓ Detail parts by Detail Associates, Details West and others
- ✓ Replacement wheelsets by Intermountain and Kadee
- ✓ Full line of Kadee couplers with McHenry also available
- ✓ Building kits and built-up buildings, liquid cements, paints, decals, scale rules, pin vises and miniature drill bits
- ✓ Locomotives and cars by Athearn (kits and RTR), Atlas, Kato Pro 2000 and Walthers

Orders accepted by email, phone or fax

We are an authorized Walthers dealer and have orders arriving weekly

THIS PAGE COULD
BE YOUR ARTICLE!

Please support *The Maritime Branchline*
with your contributions.

Without your help, the entire issue
could look like this!

Model Train & Hobby Show !!

Saturday
Nov. 15, 2008
9 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday
Nov. 16, 2008
10 am - 3:00 pm

Dartmouth Sportsplex

Wyse Road near the MacDonald Bridge
Dartmouth, N.S.



Public Show admittance:
Adults \$5
5-12 yrs \$2
Under 5 Free
Family \$10

Sales Tables \$20 Approved Exhibit Tables Free
(Provide your own table covering)
Limited Availability - Book Soon!

Setup Friday Nov 14 Noon to 10PM - earlier by arrangement
Contact: Marc Hemphill capcitymrc@ns.sympatico.ca
(902) 426-8812 (workdays) (902) 465-2983 (evenings)

Maritime Timetable

September 27 & 28

Miramichi Annual Model Train Show
(see ad on page 4)

October 18

Truro Model Railway Show; NS Community College
Truro Campus; Arthur Street, Truro, Nova Scotia
(see ad on page 11)

October 25 & 26

OrangeRail - Work Day and Slide Show, Orangedale
Station Association, Orangedale, Cape Breton.
Contact Martin Boston at 902-756-2539

November 8

Saint John Annual Model Train Show
(see ad on page 6)

November 15 & 16

Dartmouth Model Train & Hobby Show
(see ad on this page)

Email your event information to:

mfmr.branchline@gmail.com

Or send mail to:

The Maritime Branchline
% Mike Gerrits
8 Breakwater Rd
Chance Harbour, NB E5J 2B1

Parnellrail

*Full line Digitrax system dealer
with decoder installation service!*

Email: dparnell@ns.sympatico.ca
Phone: (902) 749-8981



Sampling of some recent on-line photo contest entries.

To see the current contest, go to <http://geocities.com/mfmrctst>



Brent Norton



Jim Gunn



David Gunn



Lou McIntyre



Mike Gerrits



John Miller



George Sabean