



Welcome to the James River Division

CROSSTIES

Volume 42 Number 2 June 2012



JRD website: <http://www.trainweb.org/jrd/>

JRD Discussion Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JRD_Members/

Meeting Notice

SATURDAY June 30, 2012

Location:

NRAO Auditorium
520 Edgemont Road
Charlottesville, Virginia

Hours:

9:30 AM Registration
10:00 AM Meeting begins
12:00 approximate close of formal meet
1:00 – 4:00 Layouts open for visits

Contest:

Photographs; prototype or model

Clinics

Modeling a Soapstone Railroad
Mark Chase

Layouts:

Jerry Ritter's Hudson and Ohio; A large switching layout designed for operating sessions

Jim Mueller The concept is a freelanced New York, New Haven and Hartford line in the transition period, with some NYC.

Directions to NRAO:

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory offices are located on Edgemont Road on the University of Virginia campus in the southwest part of Charlottesville.

A map to the location is on the last page

Agenda:

No new business has been announced, so the usual officer's reports and the member discussions are the only additions to the panel at left.

Bob Minnis, our newly elected Superintendant has written the following introduction:

Hello! As the incoming Superintendent, I would like to introduce myself. I have been modeling in HO scale since age 14. I retired last August and moved from the Potomac Division area to the JRD. I have been President of two model clubs, Superintendent of the Potomac Division, A MER Director and member of the Potomac Module Crew for 22 years. I was awarded a MMR Certificate last May. I look forward to meeting all of you and hope to increase your interest and enjoyment of this diverse hobby of model railroading. See you in Charlottesville on June 30th.

In addition to Bob, Bill McMillan is also a MMR.

JRD Division News:

As a sign of our advancing age, several members are having medical issues. Please keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill McMillan:

Bill McMillan, MMR, is our former superintendent, Crossties editor/mailler, keeper of the Frank

Schwenk contest award program, and coordinator of the On30 modular groups. He has been suffering from heart problems for the last month. He was declining in his ability to do things. It's been a bit of a close call, but Bill got a replacement aortic heart valve at U. Va. Hospital on Tuesday, June 5, via an experimental technique called TAVR (the replacement valve is pushed up through the blood vessels to the failing valve rather than using open-heart surgery to make the replacement) because Bill would not have been a good candidate for open-heart surgery. He is recovering from the surgery. We don't know if he will be at the Charlottesville meet at this time, but we hope so. Please keep Bill in your thoughts as he recovers.

-Ken Montero

Update- Bill is recovering fine and says his heart is at 100%. He should return home about June 15

Mike Maloney:

Mike Maloney, who donated the books to start the Maloney Exchange Library, had to have brain surgery to remove a clot that covered over half of

his brain, and survival looked doubtful. Nobody told that to Mike, so he went ahead and defied the odds to survive the surgery (but it was a close call) and is recovering. You can't keep down those engineers from Auburn U. We will know more about Mike's condition later this month, and will report it at the Charlottesville meet.

Chuck Hladik:

Chuck wrote on June 13:

Got home today after 8 days in the Salem V.A. hospital, and they did have to amputate my right big toe, which I have learned is the "great" toe.. Guess I'll have to change my license plate from NMRA to MATER, for the Disney CARS character Tow-Mater.

Have had to give up my ballet slippers as I won't be able to "be on Pointe" anymore, However, I am keeping my tutu, well in my case my six-six.

Clerk Report: Minutes of last Meeting:

By John Siegle

Location:

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 10:00AM

Fort Hill United Methodist Church, 106 Oakridge Blvd, Lynchburg, VA

Membership as of 04/01/12: 124

Attendance 17 Including 1 Visitor

New Members since last report none

Clinics:

Gary Quale

History of Railroading in Great Britain and Modeling

Gary presented a comparison of British and American terms and design traits of railroading.

He noted that the first American railroad used a British locomotive. A significant difference is in the signaling practices. He also showed an example of an *Inglenook Sidings* which is a "shunting puzzle" similar to John Allen's *Time Saver*. He had a display of a selection of British locomotives. His presentation included a slide show of British railroading



Gary Quale Presentation



Gary's British model Display

Discussion and announcements

Election of officers who will take office following the June meeting;

Paymaster = Doug Barry;
Clerk = Jim Mueller;
Superintendent = Bob Minnis;
Asst. Supt. = Bob Carroll;

Members attending seconded and passed a motion by Jim Mueller that the James River Division proceeds with legal incorporation.

The Mike Maloney Circulation Library has books available for loan.

The MER convention, *Milepost 40*, will be at Hilton Garden Inn, Suffolk, VA, October 18-21, 2012. MER's "Pride of Dixie" award for 2012 will be a (bootlegger's) still.

Contest Winners on theme:

Small engine servicing facility (popular vote)

1st place: Jean Raas: O scale Gloorcraft Branchline Sandhouse

2nd etc. No other entries



**Jean Raas' small engine servicing facility
Winning entry**

Next Meeting:

June 30, 2012 at Charlottesville observatory

Next meeting contest: Photos

Show and tell projects, finished or in process:

Ken Montero: "Therapy Modeling C&O hoppers

Mike Garber: wood racks, (one finished and one in progress) Southern RR

Layout Tours (1:00-4:00)

Luis May's, HO layout developed from project at the former Hobby Shop (Lakeside Dr.)

John Siegle's *Shenandoah Southern RR* (O-hirail), DCS

Tom Nelson's, *Maine Central* (HO basement empire) DCC

Treasurer's report

No report from the April Lynchburg meet.

From previous Midlothian meet:

Paymaster's Report April 21, 2012

We last meet in Midlothian, VA on November 12, 2011. We started with \$1636.79 of which \$272.72 was in the Schwenk-Singer fund.

We have had deposits of \$18.00 from the 50/50 drawing. We have honored checks of \$24.58 to Bill McMillan and of \$5.67 to Robert Alvis. This resulted in us having on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank \$1624.54 of which \$248.14 was in the Schwenk-Singer fund.

Bill McGilvary, Paymaster

Model Tips

Conducted by Chuck Hladik

Following from Ken Montero:

Have some wood craftsman car kits sitting on your shelf? Here are some thoughts for building them:

1. All wood parts should be sealed with a sanding sealer before assembly to prevent warpage due to wood absorbing water in the air (humidity). Scale-Coat makes a sanding sealer, and a special sanding sealer both to thin the sealer and to clean any brush used to apply the sanding sealer. It may be easier to seal the wood before cutting a strip to the proper length or cutting a large piece of siding, but be sure to seal the ends or other cuts made in the wood that you sealed.
2. If you are sealing wood to resemble wood, apply only enough sanding sealer that you don't hide the grain of the wood. One coat of sanding sealer is usually enough to do this job.
3. On the other hand, if the wood is to simulate metal (as was done in some of the Quality Craft and Ambroid kits), be sure to apply enough sanding sealer to hide the grain of the wood and create a completely smooth surface. This usually takes several coats of sanding sealer. Don't apply it too thickly, as the sanding sealers will not dry well and be difficult to properly finish.
4. After applying a coat of sanding sealer and letting it thoroughly dry, use 0000 (4-aught) steel wool to create a smooth surface (sometimes, sanding sealer does not dry into even coats or smooth coats). If applying more than one coat (see # 3, above), be sure to not overdo it in trying to hide the wood grain - it will take the application and steel-wool finishing to get a smooth coat that hides all of the wood grain.
5. Instead of using the wood in the kit, use the plans (and get measurements of the wood from the kit if not listed on the plans) and substitute styrene plastic sheet, strips, etc., to build the model. By doing so, you avoid

all of the wood sanding described above and can build faster because styrene solvent cement cures much faster than wood glues in making strong joints (ACC cement generally doesn't hold up well for use in assembling wood parts).

Modeling video:

From Chuck Hladik via JRD_Members:

This has one really great tips and gadgets for anybody doing model railroading in any scale.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=SWnJ4bYGB3U>

You might have to stop the show a few times just to write down the stuff he is talking about and where to get it because he goes at it full bore but there are some really good ideas here:

Gluing Acetyl plastic-

Mike Garber via JRD_Members group

I swear by C-Pox, from Gowest.
<http://www.gowest2.com/>

This stuff will glue most anything to anything except recycled plastics. I use this and buy it on line when needed. A one oz bottle lasts about two years or so once opened. My bottle was opened January 2011 and still going strong. First time user should consider the kit or at a minimum, the bonder and debonder. Activator or accelerator is nice, but optional.

Another good one, same basic stuff is Cyanopoxy, from CoolChem.
<http://www.coolchem.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cyanopoxy>

I've used this one as well, but I think it's a bit more expensive than the C-Pox. I highly recommend either of these products. Not cheap, but works great.

Modeling rivets using decals

Chuck Hladik

www.archertransfers.com should get you in the ball park.

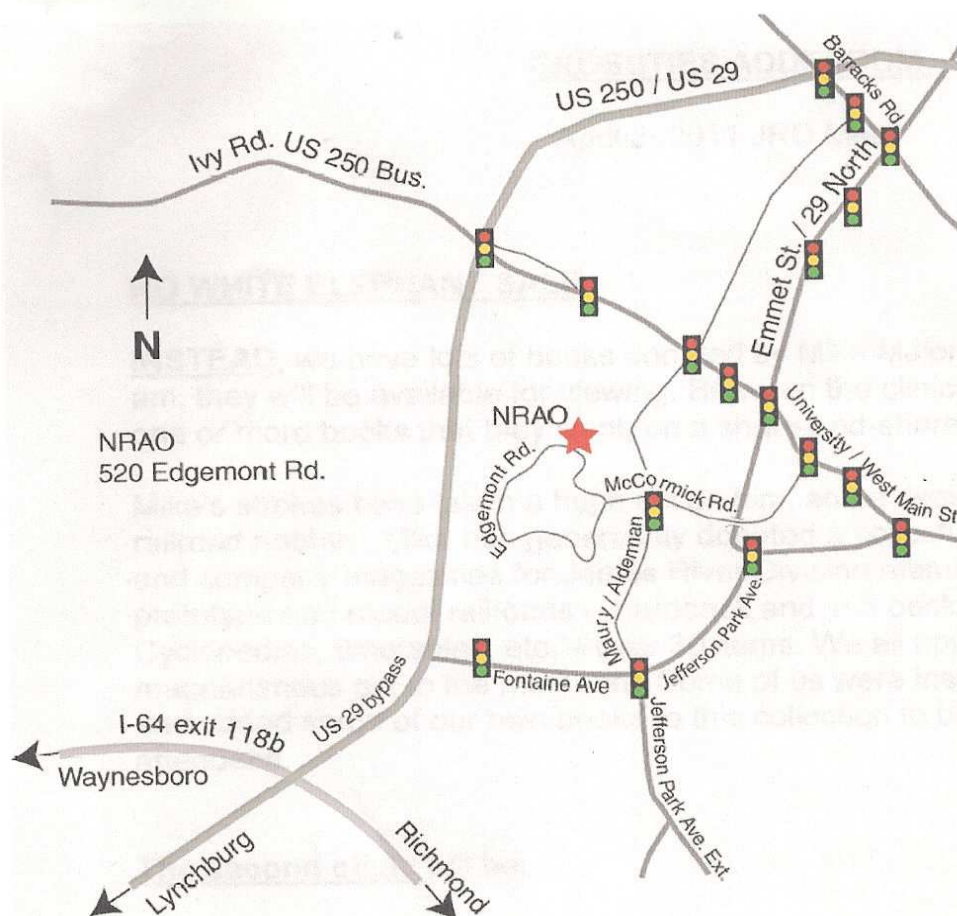
I understand that Micro-Mark has copied the rivets but they are not as good as the Archer brand. This is another product made in the MER.

Building and painting Woodland Scenics or DPM plastic structures:

Ron Gareis

There is an excellent series produced by the manufacturer on assembling and painting these buildings. The original source is http://woodlandscenics.woodlandscenics.com/show/video/Build_Paint_Detail_DPM_Kits However the last time I looked it would not open, however it can be found on You Tube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wd_ZI56xU4&list=PLAA3431B2F2688DDB&feature=plcp This link should open a ribbon with 21 videos, Some are elementary, however the ones on painting and weathering are quite good as are some of the ones on tools. Videos average 3 or 4 minutes each. If you get the play ribbon they will run straight through, but there is over an hour of playing. You can skip through the sessions, however.

Map to meeting:



Crossties is the official newsletter of the James River Division, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Division website: <http://www.trainweb.org/jrd/>

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