

From The Conductor's Desk...

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Fred Alsop

Vice-President:

John Carter

Secretary:

Mary Doran-Bleck

Treasurer:

Duane Swank

Newsletter Editor:

Ted Bleck-Doran

Webmaster:

John Edwards

LOCATION

ETSU Campus, George L.
Carter Museum

HOURS

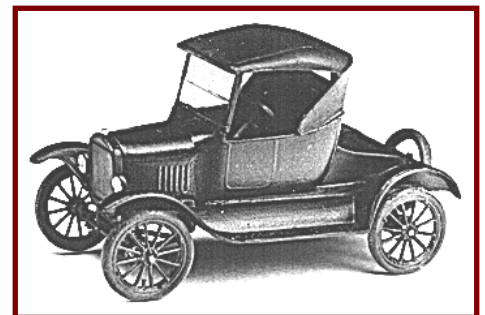
Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Bldg, Room 312, Johnson City, TN.

- A social gathering is held prior to the business meeting at **RUBY TUESDAYS** on State of Franklin across from ETSU starting at 5:45 PM. Visitors and those interested in joining MEMRR are invited to attend.

- Work nights are held weekly on Thursday evenings starting at 5:00 PM and lasting until ???

- Open viewing and work sessions on the layouts are every Saturday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Just unpacked a box of kits I purchased before our move to Tennessee back in 2005. Things take a while to germinate (but that's another story). In the box were a number of Jordan Miniatures vintage vehicles. You know, those wonderful Model T's and A's... the ones with the tiny parts (that's also another story...) Anyway, they all come in a monotone black or grey plastic. I got to wondering how the real ones looked fresh off the factory floor. So I cruised the web searching for antique automobile and truck sites. Just like the hobby of model railroading there are antique car enthusiasts who count bolt heads and rivets with the best. They are sticklers for details and the closer to a factory model a car comes the better. Here are some photos to wet the appetite. I downloaded them from a Ford Model T collector's website.



The Jordan 1925 Model T comes with parts to make the coupe or a pickup with rag top up or down. The photos proved to be a great source for ideas on how to finish the models.



The photo (top left) shows the Model T pickup with a wooden box for the truck bed. The wheel spokes are a natural wood grain finish. The middle photo shows a Model T with stake bed. There's also a toolbox on the running board of both models which offsets the spare tire forward on the pickup.



The stake bed along with the hard top Model T (bottom) would have to be kit bashed. But that should not be too great a deal. Jordan makes a hard top Model A that could be salvaged for parts.

These kits can often be found on sale at Walthers. They provide a couple of evenings' entertainment with painting and assembly. And they look good on a layout set in the 20's-early 40's. For modern layouts, how about an antique car show on Main Street or a farmer's field?

The Cowan Railroad Museum is Growing!

Actually it has had growth over the years since inception (1976) with the moving of the depot, acquisition of displays large and small, repainting in near- NC&StL colors and stabilization of the depot and so forth. Growth in “spurts” as money, time and personnel allowed. Recent growth has been difficult to see from the outside, since it has largely been indoors and behind doors in recent years. There have been some excellent directors and officers who laid the groundwork for the future. The current board and officers have adopted a “can-do” attitude.

In a forward thinking move, the Museum’s management team has acted positively on an opportunity that will be more visible: The original GE 44 ton locomotive acquired new (in 1950) by the NC&StL as number 100 is being moved from its resting place on the Tennessee Southern at Mt. Pleasant Tennessee. Such a place was just storage anyway, and the owners of NC&StL 100 wished to have an accessible place to display and repair their engine. It’s twin V-8 Diesels were last run in 1997, but is in immediate need of cosmetic restoration (to NC colors) and restoration of manual cab controls.

Its appearance is rather rough at the moment, but is a diamond in the rough. NC&StL colors were an Ox-blood Maroon and bright yellow triple-swath lengthwise stripe. Museum and other volunteers are ready to prepare the engine for repaint as soon as it hits the property! A nice shiny new-looking engine on display will greatly enhance the invitation to Cowan and the Museum.

The locomotive is semi-famous as being the very first ever to have been fitted with remote controls by radio for use in moving hopper cars without a man in the cab. It is rated at 400 HP and capable of moving twenty loaded cars on level track. The 44 ton rating was a design feature that allowed by Union agreement the engine to be operated by one crewmember, the agreement being that locomotives 45 tons or more required two persons. In running condition, this is an ideal and attractive Museum locomotive with high availability.

NC 100 was moved by truck from Mt. Pleasant and was placed on its newly acquired extension of display track on Friday the 8th of June.

When finish work and painting are complete, it will look



similar to this G scale model:

Story from NC&StL Ry Preservation Society website: <http://www.ncps-576.org/>

**Diesel #100 being set in place at Cowan, TN,
June 8, 2007. Photos by Tom Knowles**





Derail Tips

- Always install a derail on the outside rail on a curved track
- Always size the derail for the rail on which it will be used
- Always install a permanent derail on new, grade 5, wood ties
- Always install derails away from paved areas
- Always keep a derail well lubricated
- Always install a derail on the gauge side of the rail
- Always drain water away from the derail site
- Always add a Wheel Crowder to derail on a downgrade
- Always use all the mounting holes when fastening a derail
- Always make sure the derail ties are straight and level
- Always crop any tie plate at a derail location on the gauge side
- Always use Western-Cullen-Hayes Derails

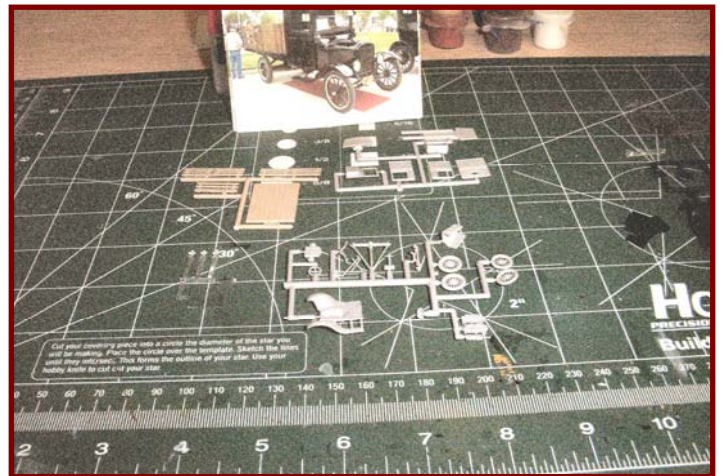
From Western-Cullen-Hayes, Inc. add

Modeling Tips for Jordan Highway Miniatures



Building a fleet of vehicles for your model highways and back roads is not all that complicated. Any number of model manufacturers make nicely detailed models of vehicles from the turn of the 19th-20th centuries right up to the present. Many are ready-to-run and can be placed on the layout right from the box. Others like Jordan Highway Miniatures, GHQ and Woodland Scenics kit require some investment of time and energy to assemble. Here are a few tips for assembling these kits...

1. Lay out all the parts on the work bench and familiarize yourself with the various parts locations on the casting sprues.
2. Keep the instruction sheet(s) handy.
3. When working on several kits at the same time keep the parts separate - clear plastic or Styrofoam trays are handy.



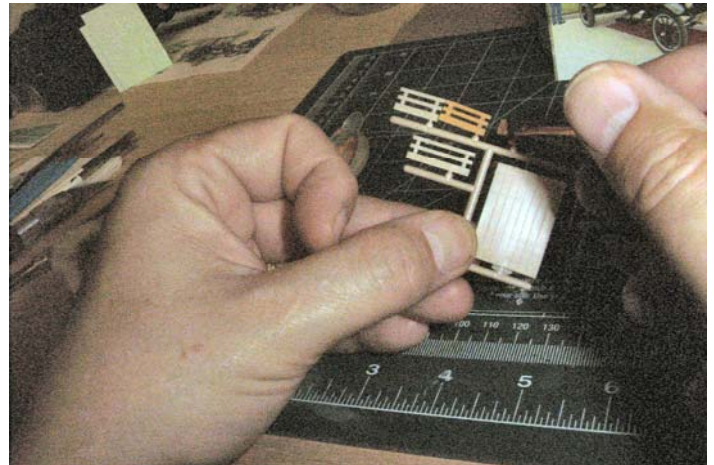
4. Trim the flashing and small imperfections left from the casting process. Most of this can be done while the parts are still attached to the sprues.
5. A sharp hobby knife (use a fresh blade at the start of a project) or jeweler's file can be used trim the excess material away. **(NOTE: emery boards can be cut-to-fit for virtually any filing or sanding task- besides they are cheap and disposable).**
6. Paint the various parts while on the casting sprues. Small parts are easier to handle and require only minor touchup once assembled.
7. Filing the surfaces to be cemented helps insure a solid bond and good fit.



9. **Squadron Green** or **Teastors** gap filler can be used to fill in any gaps left if the parts fail to mate properly.



8. Solvent type cements can be applied with application brushes or needle tipped dispensers.



10. Once assembled touchup the sprue-separation and glue marks with paint.

11. Decals and other details to further customize the models can be added.

(NOTE: the sprues left over can be cut and trimmed to make cast iron or concrete pipes and elbows for junk piles, construction sites or a building supply warehouse).

12. When applying decals make sure to use a decal setting solution to help the decal conform to the model surface.

13. Also when applying decals allow the model to dry overnight and use a clear mate overspray to seal the decal to the model. This will prevent drying, cracking and peeling

PRODUCT REVIEW

MODEL RAILROADER has just posted to their web-site a 2001 reprint of a how-to article on improving the appearance of Rix Telegraph Poles.

Improved Telegraph Poles
By Jeff Wilson

Follow the link below
<http://www.trains.com/mrr/default.aspx?c=a&id=320>

Next Meeting: July 17th, 2007

Location: ETSU, Brown Hall Science Building, room 312

Time: 7:00 PM

Dinner: 5:45 PM Ruby Tuesdays

Across from ETSU on State of Franklin

Program: Weathering With Acrylics
Ted Bleck-Doran

JOIN THE FUN

THURSDAYS ARE WORK NIGHTS BEGINNING AT 5:00 OR SO...

SATURDAYS WE ARE ALSO OPEN

COME JOIN THE CREW

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LEARN - SEE - OR - DO

**SIGNAL BRIDGE
MEMBER-OF-THE-MONTH
Duane Swank**

Email: duaneharriet@charter.net
 Home Layout: **Yes**
 Visitors Welcome: **Yes**
 Occupation: **Manager, President of Prestige Remodling & Sales**
 MEMRR Module: **Yes**
 Favorite Railroad(s):
Pennsy – Norfolk & Western – Baltimore & OHio

Favorite Aspect of the Hobby:
Just about everything

Least Favorite Aspect of the Hobby:
Nothing

How Did You Get Started In the Hobby:
Around Trains since a kid

How Long Have You Been a Member of MEMRR:
Almost 2 years

What Got You Started with MEMRR:
Ad in the newspaper

What Dreams Do You Have for Your Layout of Module:
Just to complete it

What Other Model Railroad or Railfan Activities Do You Participate In:
National Railway Historical Society

What One Thing Would Improve MEMRR:
Better participation from all members

PROGRESS ON THE MEMRR...



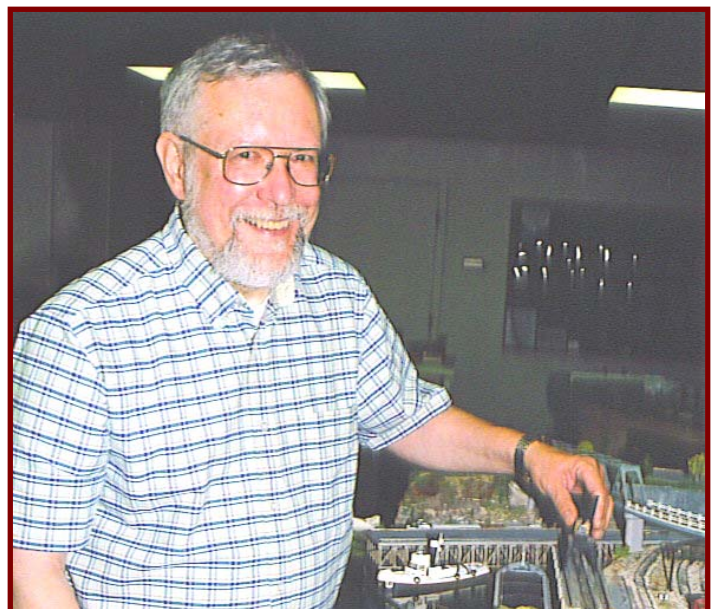
The crew discuss an electrical problem on the N Gauge...



Fred works his magic in plaster and fiberglass...



The modern day Over Mountain Men...



Your *Signal Bridge* editor at play...

Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders
Minutes
June 19th 2007

Fred Alsop Presiding:

Meeting was held at Russo's Restaurant in Johnson City and called to order by President Fred Alsop 8:05 PM with 20 members and guests present.

Officers' Reports:

- All officer reports were deferred until the July meeting

Old Business:

- It was reported that the Digitrax system and Presidents' Train locomotive and cars have been ordered.
- Work on the N gauge layout continues with work sessions held both Thursday nights and Saturdays. Members were encouraged to come and join the work sessions and work on either the N Gauge or HO layout.

New Business:

- A life membership was voted by the members present for Penny McLaughlin in recognition of her significant contribution to the MEMRR Club.

Announcements:

- Hobie announced the sale of the collection owned by Jim Milhorn. Jim has lots of Athearn car and loco kits, most undecorated and unassembled.

Program:

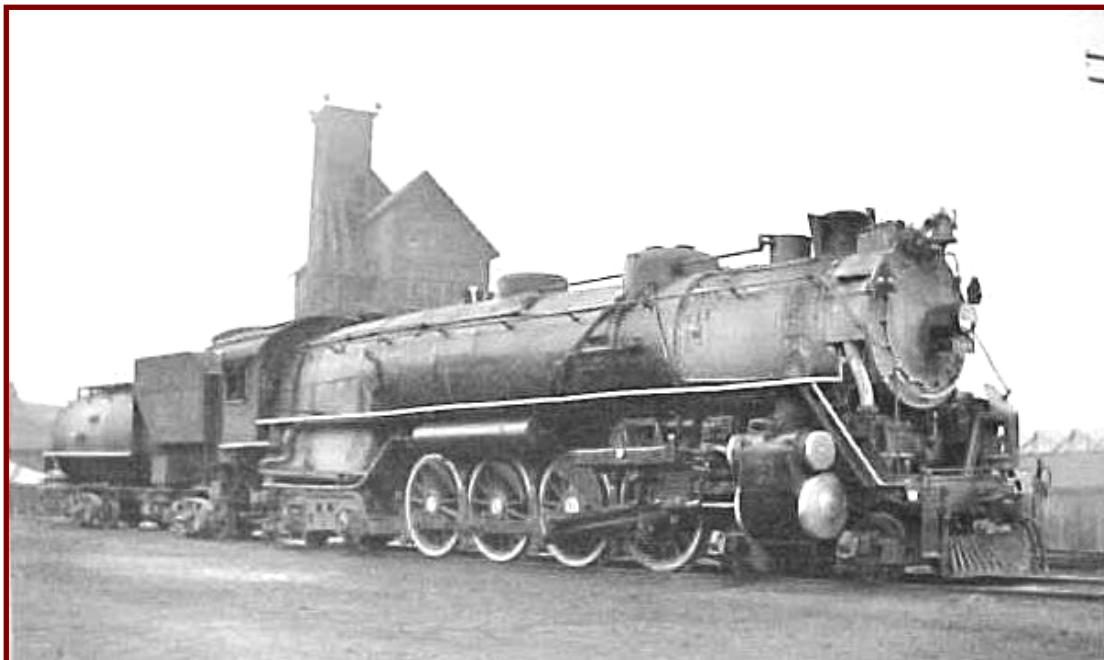
- The focus of the June meeting was a "Thank You" for Penny McLaughlin's support while the club layout was on display at Tipton-Haynes Historic Site (See April issue of the **Signal Bridge** for Fred's comments). A presentation plaque and decorative bowl were presented as mementos of the occasion.

July Meeting:

- Tuesday, July 17th, ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Bldg, Room 312, Johnson City, TN.

TREASURER'S REPORT		
May 2007		
As reported at November's meeting:		
05/01/07	Balance on Hand	\$ 1,245.48
	Income	\$ 0.00
	Expenses	\$ 5.00
05/31/07	Ending Balance	\$ 1,240.48
	Obligations	\$ 259.55
	Balance Available	\$ 980.93

TREASURER'S REPORT		
June 2007		
As reported at November's meeting:		
06/01/07	Balance on Hand	\$ 1,240.48
	Income	\$ 12.00
	Expenses	\$ 347.66
06/30/07	Ending Balance	\$ 904.82
	Obligations	\$ 360.67
	Balance Available	\$ 544.15



Can You Identify The Loco Above And Its Railroad?