

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 *EL TORITO* on State of Franklin near ETSU in the Kroger Plaza 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 4:30 PM and lasting until ???

- Open viewing and operating layout is available every Saturday from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

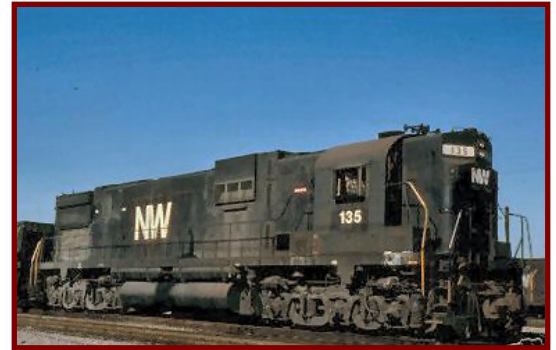
From the Conductor's Desk...

Norfolk & Western Oddball Diesels - Part 9 The ALCo Roster and Painting Guide

Norfolk & Western Diesel Roster

Road Numbers	Former Road Numbers	HP	Builder	Builder's Model	Wheel Arngt.	Date
10-11		1000	Alco Pr.	T-6	B-B	1959
12-21		1000	Alco Pr.	T6	B-B	1959
22-49		1000	Alco Pr.	T6	B-B	1959
300-303	N&W 99-96	1600	Alco Pr.	RS-3	B-B	1955
304-307	N&W 95-92	1600	Alco Pr.	RS-3	B-B	1956
308-318		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1956
319-324		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1956
325-333		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
334-340		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
341-343		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
344		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
345-350		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
351-364		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
365-376		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1957
377-380		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1959
381-392		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1959
393-400		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1959
401-406		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1961
407-412		1800	Alco Pr.	RS-36	B-B	1962
413-420		2000	Alco Pr.	DL-721A	B-B	1964
1000-1006		2500	Alco Pr.	DL-425	B-B	1964
1007-1016		2500	Alco Pr.	DL-425	B-B	1965
1100-1109		2750	Alco Pr.	DL-628	C-C	1965
1110-1129		2750	Alco Pr.	DL-628	C-C	1966
1130-1134		3000	Alco Pr.	DL-630	C-C	1966
1135-1139		3000	Alco Pr.	DL-630	C-C	1967

	NKP 1-6	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1942
2025-2026	NKP 25-26	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2027	NKP 27	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2028	NKP 28	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2029-2030	NKP 29-30	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2031-2033	NKP 31-33	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2034-2035	NKP 34-35	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2036-2042	NKP 36-42	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2043	NKP 43	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1947
2044-2045	NKP 44-45	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1950
2046-2058	NKP 46-58	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1951
2059-2060	NKP 59-60	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1951
2061	NKP 61	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1952
2065-2073	NKP 65-73	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1952
2074-2077	NKP 74-77	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1953
2078-2083	NKP 78-83	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1953
2085	NKP 85	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1950
	NKP 180-186	2000	Alco-GE	PA-2	A1A-A1A	1947
	NKP 187-190	2000	Alco-GE	PA-2	A1A-A1A	1948
2325-2332	NKP 325-332	1800	Alco Pr.	RSD-12	C-C	1957
2333	NKP 333	1800	Alco Pr.	RSD-12	C-C	1957
2535-2557	NKP 535-557	1600	Alco	RS-3	B-B	1954
2558-2562	NKP 558-562	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1956
2563-2567	NKP 563-567	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1958
2568-2572	NKP 568-572	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1958
2573-2575	NKP 573-575	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1960
2576-2577	NKP 576-577	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1960
2578	NKP 578	2000	Alco Pr.	DL-721A	B-B	1964
2850-2863	NKP 850-863	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1959
2864	NKP 864	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-11	B-B	1959
2865-2868	NKP 865-868	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-36	B-B	1962
2869-2870	NKP 869-870	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-36	B-B	1962
2871-2873	NKP 871-873	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-36	B-B	1962
2874-2875	NKP 874-875	1800	Alco Pr.	RS-36	B-B	1962



	WAB 1	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1940
	WAB 2	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1940
	WAB 100	600	Alco	HH 600	B-B	1939
	WAB 150	600	Alco	HH 600	B-B	1940
	WAB 151	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1941
	WAB 152	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1942
	WAB 153-154	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1944
	WAB 155	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1944
	WAB 156-157	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1947
	WAB 158-159	660	Alco-GE	S1	B-B	1948
	WAB 310-311	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1942
	WAB 312	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1943
	WAB 313	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1944
	WAB 314-315	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1944
	WAB 316-317	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1944
	WAB 318-319	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1946
3320-3321	WAB 320-321	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1949
3322-3324	WAB 322-324	1000	Alco-GE	S4	B-B	1953
	WAB 325	1000	Alco-GE	S2	B-B	1942
3725-3726	WAB 725-726	1500	GMD	F7A	B-B	1953
	WAB 800	1500	Alco-GE	FB-1	B-B	1949
	WAB 801-803	1500	Alco-GE	FB-1	B-B	1949
	WAB 804	1500	Alco-GE	FB-1	B-B	1949
	WAB 805-806	1500	Alco-GE	FA-1	B-B	1949
	WAB 807-814	1500	Alco-GE	FA-1	B-B	1949
	WAB 820,822	1600	Alco-GE	FA-2	B-B	1950
	WAB 821,823	1600	Alco-GE	FA-2	B-B	1950
	WAB 1050-1053	2000	Alco-GE	PA-2	A1A-A1A	1949
3900-3906	WAB B900-B906	2400	Alco Pr.	DL-640A	B-B	1964



Two pages above depict a variety of paint schemes. in use: Blue & Gold, Black & Gold and Black & White scheme. Heralds varied as well

Thursdays

Are Work Nights - Come join the Fun -
There's always a project going on from 4:30 to 7:30 or later

Saturdays

Are Open Sessions for Public Viewing -
Sign up to help out for 9:30 -12:30 or 12:00 -3:00 or stay the day

RR Museum Impresses (Johnson City Press Letter to Editor)

Wow. Guess where we went?

My granddaughter and I decided to go to the modular railroad exhibit at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. We didn't expect too much, but I wanted her to see some of East Tennessee State University.

Were we surprised. My granddaughter, Sydney, is 8 years old. Not an easy age to impress. She made donations and purchased a fundraising RR cap.

The docents were members of the Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders. All were knowledgeable and eager to help. The museum is a combination of art in some of the scenic displays, history and entertainment. It is without hesitation that I recommend it to all and particularly if you are from elsewhere and do not know of the debt of gratitude to the railroads and to George L. Carter for their part in development of the area involving several states. Currently it is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and on Saturdays there are no parking problems.

I would like to encourage our city commissioners to visit this museum. Perhaps it would entice them to take a second look at preservation of the rails between Johnson City and Elizabethton. I am sure this organization, as well as the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, will assist in getting a train up and running for this area. I think in the long run it will be more of an economic boon to both Johnson City and Elizabethton than a bike trail. Demographics are changing on both ends of the line and I personally think it would be a win-win.

HAROLD BURNETTE
Johnson City

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS Minutes September 16, 2008

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by club president F. Alsop with 16 members present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary's Report: Minutes were published in the September issue of *The Signal Bridge*. One correction was noted in the reporting of the Webmaster's report with a change to read: "the club saved \$24 by renewing its agreement with the server provider for two years; cost for the two year agreement was \$96 instead of \$120.00." Secretary's Report was approved as amended.

Newsletter Editor's Report: T. Bleck-Doran reported that September issue of *The Signal Bridge* has been distributed by mail and email. The publication schedule is set for mid-week before the week of the meeting. Due date for article submissions for the remainder of the year are **October 12th, November 9th, December 7th.**

Treasurer's Report: D. Swank reported a balance forwarded for the month of \$1,094.17. Income was reported as \$172.00 with expenditures of \$82.00 for an unobligated balance of \$1,183.85. There are obligations of \$767.39 leaving an available balance of \$416.46. Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Webmaster's Report: J. Edwards reported that the Watauga Valley Chapter - National Railway Historical Society has been added to our email distribution list and we have started to exchange newsletters.

Vice-President's Report: J. Carter reported the following lineup of programs for the remainder of the year:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| - September | H. Hyder - "Favorite Railroad Websites" |
| - October | D. Swank - "Wreck of the 611" (Video) |
| - November | T. Bleck-Doran - "RPO Service - When Rails Moved the Mail" (video) |
| - December | Club - Holiday Party |

President's Report: F. Alsop provided a follow-up report on the Johnson City Rail Festival. Highlight of the Festival was a meeting of club presidents and officers with clubs from Johnson City, Knoxville and Oakridge present. The officers discussed ways to foster greater interclub activity and to encourage greater participation in the hobby generally in east Tennessee. He also reported on his exploring possible fundraising through the ETSU Foundation. Want list of items include several flat screen TVs for the train mounted video camera and video clinics.

Old Business:

1. Children's Activity Sheet for "Seek and Find": F. Alsop discussed developing a Children's "Seek and Find" activity sheet for the museum. Initially the sheet would emphasize the modular HO layout, but would be expanded. Module owners were encouraged to submit 4-6 descriptions of things found on their modules and submit to the Newsletter Editor T. Bleck-Doran. We had a basic activity sheet developed while at Tipton-Haynes.

2. Tee-shirts with embroidered logo: H. Hyder is taking orders for heavy duty tee-shirts with an embroidered club logo. He needs 25-30 pre-ordered in order to proceed. Tee's are \$8. Polo shirts are also still available for \$16.

3. Permission to sell tee-shirts & caps: The club has permission from the bookstore to sell caps and tee-shirts with George L. Carter Museum and club themed items. Railroad caps for children appear to be in demand. Motion: to purchase 36 hats with adjustable bands and George L. Carter Railroad Museum patch. Passed.

Additional discussion regarding a Carter Museum logo occurred. Motion: to sponsor an art class logo contest for design of a Carter Museum themed logo for a tee-shirt and or patch, prize to be determined. Passed. Several prizes were discussed including train set, certificate, pizza party for winning class, etc.

4. Club Brochures: Deferred to October meeting.

5. Roundhouse Payout: M. Buster has requested an earlier payout for the items purchased for the roundhouse project. Motion: to pay \$400 on the remaining balance with the remainder paid out when a final price from the code-83 rail has been determined. Passed.

6. Safety First: Several visitors were noticed to have brought stools to the club to facilitate viewing of the layouts. Members were reminded to remind visitors who bring their own risers that they are responsible for their child's safety. Club stools and chairs should not be loaned to visitors for their children to use..

New Business:

1. Layout Reports:

G-Scale: No report of activities or projects.

N-Scale: Track work and electrical problems continue. Improvements can be made using dedicated museum funds.

HO-Scale: The roundhouse project continues with M. Buster, D. Swank, J. Carter, F. Alsop and others lending a hand. Outer loop electrical needs work. Problems reported with N&W J #600, one club owned DT400 (sticky buttons). Second track cleaning car has been received. Personal Digitrax controllers should be marked before being used at the club.

Jack Cope Layout: Scenery "footprint" bases need to be designed. Several themes for scenery modules were discussed: Thomas the Tank Engine, Deep Flange

equipment, "Green" friendly railroading, and Harry Potter/Hogwarts Express, Polar Express. New member were encouraged to consider developing scenic modules and participate in the development of the layout

2. Kingsport Rail Grass Festival: Dan Jones, chairman of the Kingsport Railgrass festival in Kingsport has asked the club for support. The festival is September 26-28. He'd like a portable layout or rail related memorabilia for display. Motion: to table participation to 2009 to allow the Cope Layout to be developed for display. Passed

3. Hobbytown Shelving: B. Bennet of Hobbytown is merging two stores and has extra display cases he wishes to donate or sell to the club or museum. F. Alsop will discuss with him items and options.

4. Member Participation: Saturday participate was discussed. Noted was the participation by a few to open and operate the club. Members were reminded that they are responsible to donate one Saturday a month to operate the museum. To better anticipate who will be present, members should sign up in advance. Rosters are published on the Club website WWW.MEMRR.ORG.

Volunteers for Saturday Operating Sessions: Volunteers were solicited for the remainder of September and early October. Those signing up to open and operate the museum Saturdays will be posted at the club and on the website.

Announcements: J. Pahr announced the need for help opening the museum and operating the layouts for a group of senior citizens on October 7th, starting at 10 AM. Members should arrive by 9:30 for setup. The seniors will tour the museum for approximately 1 hour.

Program: "Favorite Websites: Model and Real Railroading on the Web" was presented by Hobie Hyder. Hobie explored using the internet as a source of information on prototype and modeling information. Members were able to view selected sites using the audiovisual capabilities of an ETSU classroom.

October Meeting: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 21st, Room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU. Dinner for those who want to dine and socialize earlier at 545 at El Torito Mexican Restaurant on State of Franklin in the Kroger shopping center complex west of the ETSU Campus.

Submitted on behalf of the Secretary
Ted Bleck-Doran

SEEK 'N' FIND

Big Bridge Module
Fred Alsop

- Bald Eagle Nest
- Black Bears (Mama and 2 Cubs)
- Turkey Vulture Perched on a Tree Snag
- White Ducks
- Beaver Pond, Lodge and Dam
- Fat Man Fishing
- Young Boy Fishing
- Pigeons on a Rooftop
- Woman Milking a Cow
- Dog Trees a Cat
- Man Plowing a Corn Field

- Hobo Camp
 - Woman Hanging Out Clothes
 - Woman Washing Windows
 - Woman Sweeping
 - Birdbath
 - Old Push Lawn Mower
 - Man Working on Car
 - Rusty Junked Abandoned Car
 - Great Horned Owl in Hole in Tree
 - 2 Mirror reflecting Scenery
- Smiley's Towing & Coal Company Module
Fred Alsop
- Clinchfield Hopper Car
 - Smiley's Dog
 - Smiley's Grandpaw Reading a Book

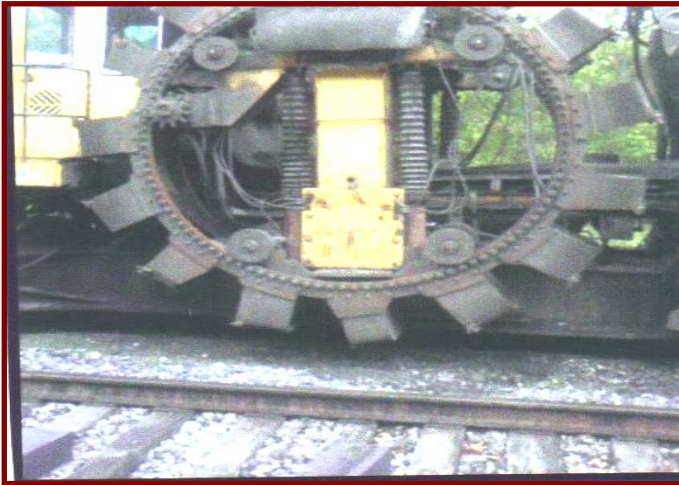
- Smiley's Mule
 - Smiley's Red Wagon
 - Smiley's Chicken Coop
 - 1956 Ford Hardtop Victoria
 - Mirror Reflecting Scenery
 - The Title of a Nursery Rhyme
 - Coal Conveyer
 - Man Cutting Pipe
 - Man Sitting and Talking with A Man Standing
 - Old time Chain-driven Dump Truck
 - "Lay or Bust" Chicken Feed Sign
 - German Shepherd Riding in Truck Bed
 - "See Rock City " Sign
- What else can you find?

Norfolk Southern's New Ties

From Watauga Chapter – NRHS Newsletter

Brand new steel ties are being used for the sidetracks at Progressive Park in Wytheville, VA. This is becoming a standard for the NS system-wide.

Below is a picture of the NS's ballast undercutter, used by the maintenance of way crews on work recently in four tunnels on the Virginia Division of the Norfolk Southern. See Gary Price's column for more information on the tunnel work.



Photos by Gary Price, Keeping the ole' N&W safe...one tie at a time.



Arrests Made On Rocky Top

County, State and Federal law enforcement officials were called to the Miller farm on Rocky Top yesterday following a routine investigation involving and alleged out-of-season poaching incident. Benjamin Miller, age 52, had been witnessed driving his pickup truck with a deer strapped across there hood. "What's wrong with taking road kill home?" Miller responded when questioned about the buck in his possession. DEC Agent Firestine indicated that the deer appeared to have been shot prior to being run over by a heavy vehicle. "There was no apparent damage to Miller's truck but fur and blood was fond on his fenders and wheel well.," Firestine said. That's when I called in Deputy Sheriff. The story took on a surprising twist with the arrival of Deputy Frazer. "While waiting for Agent Firestine to complete his paperwork, I smelled the order of cooking corn mash," Frazer stated. "I followed the aroma and happened upon a sleeping Ben Miller Jr.," he continued. Miller's son was caught napping at the family still. Federal ATF agents were called to the scene. The Miller's were taken to county lockup and are awaiting arraignment.

From the Engineer's Side of the Cab:



A special thanks to all of you who volunteered to come over to the Carter Railroad Museum on Tuesday, 7 October, hunt to find a parking space on a crowded college campus, operate the layouts and host Jim Pahr's special group, the class of '46 of Bluefield, West Virginia. We all have a very big event coming up so mark Saturday, 18 October on you calendars. That is the "Homecoming Celebration" on the ETSU campus and hundreds of alumni and their families will be

visiting. The G.L. Carter RR Museum is one of the featured destinations and we can expect lots of visitors. We need a bigger than normal hosting/operating group that day. We will operate our normal hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your favorite locos and rolling stock and let's have a great time interacting with our visitors.

Club business includes the following: We have ordered 36 engineer hats (12 childrens/12 adults) from Bob Barrett at HobbyTown USA. When they arrive Hobie will get the museum patches put on them. Bob has also donated some wonderful, glass-enclosed display cases that we will bring to the museum later and some Thomas trains/accessories and train table for the planned children's room. Thank you so much Bob! Hobie needs

more club tee-shirt orders in order to have the minimum number required to place an order and he can still take orders for the club polo shirts. Please contact him. Hobie also has some important information to tell us at our October meeting about glossy brochures for the club and a way to obtain them. Duane Swank, our treasurer, will present our next program and John Carter will be asking for volunteers and ideas for future programs so please help him out. November is the month when we elect our club officers for the coming year. I will be asking for a nominating committee to be formed at our October meeting that will have the charge of talking with the current officers about their willingness to continue in their elected roles for another term, or not....and to solicit nominations for any vacancies that may need to be filled. All officers' terms come to an end annually and they can stand for re-election if they so choose, but any member can put their hat in the ring for any position. Mike Buster, had a pace-maker successfully attached to his prime mover on Monday, 6 October, and seems to be recovering nicely. Please wish him well and keep him in your prayers.

Museum Business that includes us all. On Tuesday, 7 Oct., I met with the university Provost (who handles our operating budget) and Vice-President Manahan who is in charge of many things, including the University Foundation. We have developed a plan that will be soon initiated that will seek to find the additional operating funds we need to refurbish the two additional rooms, 110 and 100B, that we recently acquired. The Provost will provide the funding up to \$5,000 for the renovations and VP Manahan will work with me to launch a giving campaign for the

operational needs of the museum including the creation and maintenance of exhibits that will seek to initially match the renovation funds from the Provost's office and exceed them. The idea we had for a museum logo contest will be a part of that campaign. If any of you know local citizens who may have a combination of a strong interest in local railroads and deep pockets please provide me with that information and we will contact them through the university. We will do the same for anyone with railroad memorabilia that may want to donate it or display it in the museum. Part of our effort may be directed toward the establishment of a "Friends of the G.L. Carter Museum" group that may help us do many things including helping us to be open for some hours during the week when most of us are at work. We will explore this and much more at our next meeting and I may have more information for you then.

So, its been another busy month in the life of the MEMRR and the GLCRRM and we are not even beginning to slow down. Lots of work has been done on our layouts, folks are working on ideas for the "Cope" layout, and the roundhouse is slowly coming along. I look forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting on Tuesday, October 21st, 7:00 p.m. room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU, and come early and eat dinner with us at El Torito Mexican Restaurant around 5:45. Hear the whistle blowing and think of all the destinations yet to come.

Fred Alsop
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum

PRODUCT REVIEW

Dream-Plan-Build: Real Rails Edition

Kalmbach has produced a new edition of videos in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **Real rail Edition**. This is the latest volume, **First-Generation Diesels**. The subject of the video is an historic overview of the diesels that edged steam out of the picture and changed railroading forever.

The video adds an extensive array of classic motive power using vintage 8 mm and 16 mm film along with contemporary video shots from a variety of collections.

Chapters include:

- Locomotives that Changed Railroading
- EMD
- Alco
- Baldwin Locomotive Works
- Lima-Hamilton Works
- Fairbanks-Morse Co.

The video also contains 30 minutes of video focusing on second- and third- generation motive power from across the nation.

If you like classic diesels and early power with historical commentary, then sit back and enjoy the scenes. You can borrow the club's copy and enjoy an hour or so of watching the big boys operate.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

PRODUCT REVIEW

Dream-Plan-Build: Real Rails Edition

Kalmbach has produced a new edition of videos in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **Rails Across America**. This is the latest volume, **Union Pacific Over Sherman Hill**. The subject of the video is a look at UP operations over the Continental Divide from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Laramie, Wyoming. The scenery is spectacular and the action continuous. According to the jacket notes many of the scenes are available only by packing video equipment in by foot.

The video adds an extensive array of modern motive power challenging stiff grades with long drags. Intermodal, merchandise, unit trains all parade by in this video.

Chapters include:

- Leaving the Yard in Cheyenne WY
- The Borie Cut Off
- Struggling Up the Grade - Granite to Buford
- Crossing Over the Summit at Sherman
- Hermosa Tunnel
- End of the Journey: Laramie

If you like modern diesels and heavy power with plenty of action amid awesome scenery, then sit back and enjoy the scenes. You can borrow the club's copy and enjoy an hour or so of watching the big boys operate.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

BUILDING A BLAIR LINE "TOM'S CORN CRIB"

A Step by Step Look At Building A Laser Cut Wood Kit

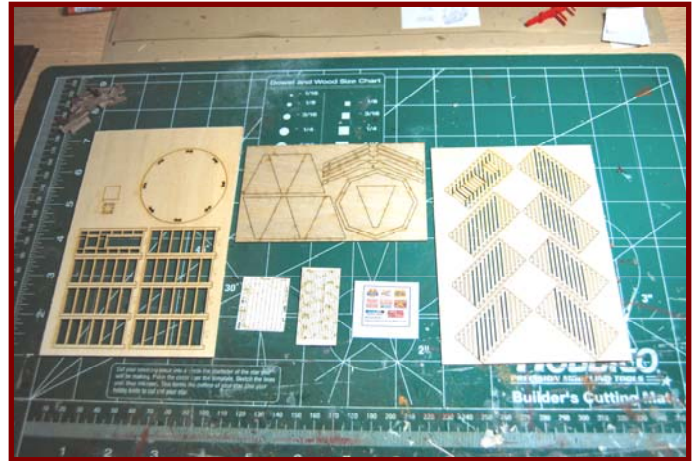
By Ted Bleck-Doran



damaged or missing pieces as well.

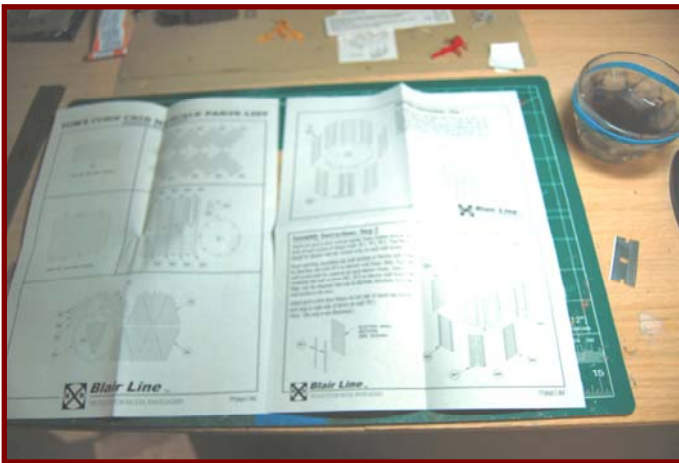
1. Building wood kits is easier than working in plastic these days, especially when working with the wide variety of laser cut kits on the market. Gone are the days of measuring dimensional wood strips, trimming and filing walls, and notching window and door openings. With laser cut models it's almost shake it out of the box. While cruising the Hobbytown shelves I came across a real gem for the layout. My "Rocky Top" module needed someplace to store all that corn for the still that didn't take up too large a footprint. Blair Line (www.blairline.com) produces a sweet little corn crib that sells for around \$20. Don't forget to use your club discount and trade in one of those \$5 coupons... then the model is even more reasonable.

2. A good starting point when you get the kit back home on the work bench is to set the parts out and familiarize yourself with each component. This is a good time to inspect the parts for



The kit comes with interior frame panels, diagonal lattice panels, base, roof supports, roof cap, wood shingle panels, pre-glued hinges/hasps/flashing, and a variety of "sheet metal" signs. All are marked for easy identification.

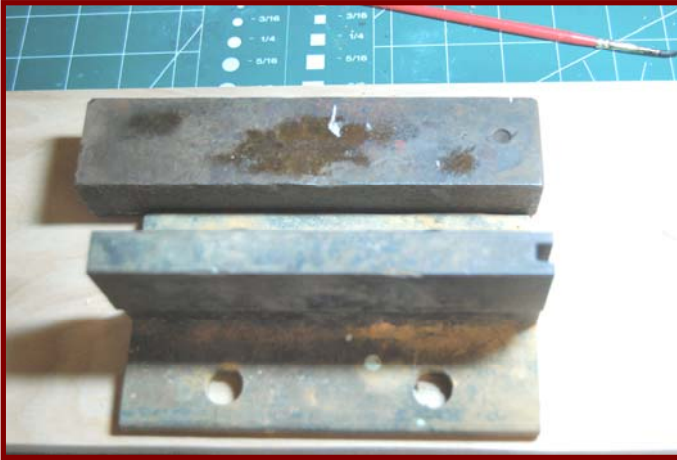
3. This is also a great time to pull out the instructions and plan out the stages of the project. Blair Line does a good job on providing exploded drawings of the corn crib depicting the stages of construction and clearly identifying the various parts needed for each stage. Helpful hints and instructions (e.g., reminders that the direction of the diagonal lattice panels needs to be alternated as they are installed around the inner frames) are crucial to producing a quality model.



4. The first real construction step was to stain all the parts. I wanted the crib to look weathered but not entirely run down. Aged wood peaking out from under a weathered coat of paint was what I was after. I used a mixture of 10-20% indie ink in a 80-90% solution of 73% denatured alcohol. The wood surface takes the staining solution well. The laser cut edges are heat sealed in the cutting process preventing the stain from penetrating the wood. Surfaces that might be visible after construction may need a stronger ink solution, say 40% ink – 60% alcohol. You'll want to work fairly quickly since the bass wood pieces have a tendency to bow and curl.

If you wish to build a newly installed crib skip the staining step and seal the wood pieces with a spray such as Dulcote.





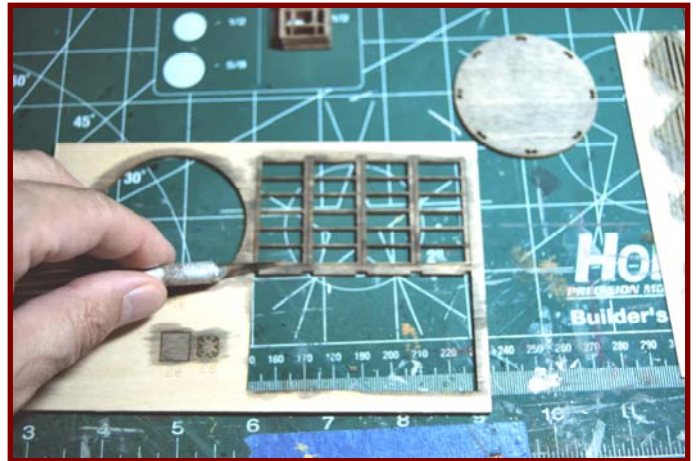
5. Getting to this stage is enough for a first night. To flatten the curl I set the parts under weights to dry overnight.

If you sealed the parts with Dulcote or other model sealed you'll still want to weight down the pieces while they dry as the wood will still have a tendency to warp.

Once dry the paint of choice can be applied. Spraying the pieces and touching up the model as construction proceeds is probably best for a great looking model. This model has lots of nooks and crannies with the open lattice panels.

6. Once the parts have had a chance to dry thoroughly, construction can begin. A fresh blade is always called for when working with wood. A dull blade will crush the wood fibers and dent the surface near the cut. I will use either a No. 11 Xacto blade or a fresh single edge razorblade, the kind used in box cutters and window scrapers.

The kit pieces are pre-cut except for a small tab or two. Locations for the tabs are indicated by "V" carrots burned into the scrap side of the wood. All the parts separated easily without any difficulty.



7. The first subassembly is attaching the interior framing panels to the base. The framing is dimensionally correct with properly placed studding and bracing. One could build the model with only the interior framework and roof struts to depict a crib under construction. The kit lends itself to a myriad of diorama possibilities.

Hint A: the roof bead attached flush to the interior surface of the side panels.

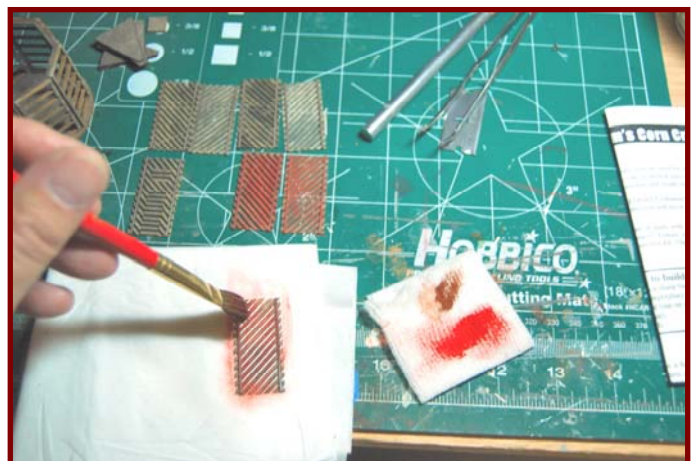
Hint B: If there is still some bowing of the panels, now is the time to drop a bead of glue along the interior edges where two panels abut one another,

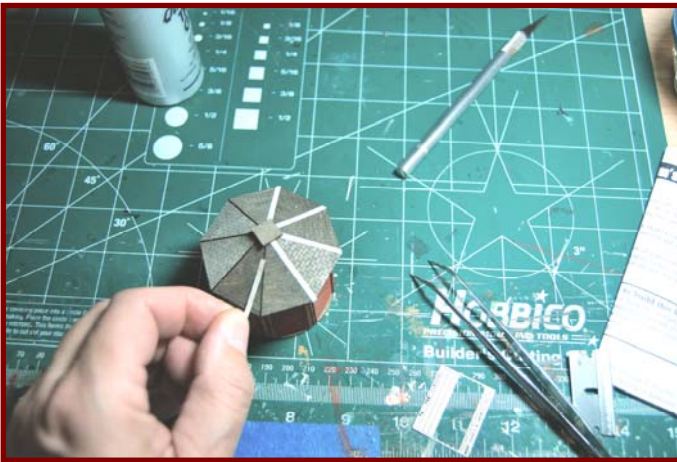
8. While the glue on the frame assembly dried I proceeded to weather the lattice panels. Here I used a dry brush technique. The picture of the finished model hinted at barn or firehouse red. I used some firehouse red craft acrylic I had on hand.

Make sure that the brush is fairly dry after loading the brush lightly with paint. Dab most of the paint off the brush onto a paper towel or cloth. Then scrub the remaining paint onto the part. A slight hint of color should show.

Continue the process – load brush – dab off most of the paint – scrub the color off the brush until the color has the depth and intensity desired.

The parts can be handled almost immediately and glues to the frame.





9. The construction from this point is fairly straight forward. A word about glue: I used both Ambroid Wood Glue and Arlene's Fast Drying Tacky Glue. Both leave a surface sheen that is impossible to stain and sometimes leaves a smooth glue mark if painted over.

To control the bead of glue a place a small amount of glue on a piece of scrap wood or the clear plastic cover from a blister pack. I then take a toothpick or piece of scrap wood to apply the glue to the part.

Hint C: Ambroid Wood Glue is solvent based so use in a well ventilated area. Because it is solvent based you do not have much time for parts to adhere. You can build up layers of glue which seems to retard the drying time since in the first

application the solvent is drawn into the wood grain sealing the grain and retarding the additional application's solvent from absorbing into the grain.

10. The roof was done with a combination of washes and dry brush techniques. A rust color was used on the flashing. Paint here was applied full strength. The shingles were dry brushed with a forest green and layered to achieve a more solid color. The roof was then highlighted with a weak wash of black acrylic.

Final steps included applying and painting the hinges and door hasps. Each were painted a rust color and highlighted with a black wash.

Total time invested: 3 evenings. Results: A good looking model I believe!



Railfanning with John Edwards



The photos above and right were provided by John Edwards. A small switcher awaits the scrapper's torch while a CXS locomotive idles at Spruce Pine.



Share your favorite photos with the rest of the crew. Digital or print... it doesn't matter.