

Trainfest EXPRESS

www.trainfest.com



Evolution of a Railroad

Model Railroading For The Fun Of It

By Angela Podewils

As original railroads stretched across the United States, they evolved and changed in accordance with the vision of their builders and the landscape of the country. Similarly, model railroads grow and change over time as they become the world in the modeler's mind.

The layout of the Lake County Society of Modular Engineers captures the expansion of the railroads across the US and time. The club's modular HO scale railroad is a collaboration of all its members. While each member is responsible for their own module, they

work together in gathering ideas and techniques for each section of the layout.

Lake County Society of Modular Engineers was formed in 1984 by Ron Price, owner of Ron's Mundelein Hobbies in Mundelein, IL. In response to customers interested in a modular club, he posted a notice in the store for the first meeting.

Over the subsequent twenty eight years, the membership of the club has grown and changed from the twelve original members.

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2012
Trainfest
November
10th - 11th

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SPREAD THE NEWS!

Check out the back cover of this issue of Trainfest *EXPRESS* for the new 2012 Trainfest poster. Print it out and share the poster with your friends and community. It's time to start getting ready for Trainfest!



DID YOU KNOW?

In this issue, you will see interesting tidbits about Trainfest and model railroading.

Have an interesting fact to share? Send it to us at: John@trainfest.com

From the Caboose

Memorial Day is past, I know I join many of you in saying, "Many thanks to our military."

Summer is now here — if only the Wisconsin weather would cooperate. (With temperatures in the upper 80's this March and only 47 degrees this morning, Mother Nature isn't being kind!)

Last summer I commented on our pet Weimaraner, Maggie, being injured. Good news is that she has recovered from her injury, and is again romping, playing, and running like the wind.

My 2012 yard project is underway with reconstruction of a patio, and then new landscape plantings around the house. Between landscaping and Trainfest paperwork, I'll be kept busy for the summer.

Trainfest registration and planning is swiftly moving forward, with several new layouts, manufacturers and hobby dealers joining Trainfest this year. We have confirmation that clinicians from the Niagara Frontier Region of the NMRA will return to share their model

railroading expertise in our Craftsmen's Corner! More updates on Trainfest 2012 to follow in the October issue of **Trainfest EXPRESS**.

We continue to look for your input on articles you would like to see in the **EXPRESS**. Send them to us at john@trainfest.com or editor@trainfest.com.

Clear Signals Always,

John

John H. Tews, MMR
Executive Director – Trainfest

Trainfest EXPRESS is sent free via email as a PDF or can be viewed on the Trainfest website in an interactive, online paging-style format. You can also print out the pages or articles you desire.

Trainfest EXPRESS

Sponsoring Publisher
Wisconsin Southeastern Division, Inc., NMRA

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Newsletter Design, Web & Advertising
Mercury Communication Partners, LLC
262-782-4637
www.mercuryww.com

Photos Contributed by
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DID YOU KNOW?

Benefits of Scratch Building:

- Less expensive than kits and ready-to-run products
- Freedom to create unique or obscure cars and structures
- Develop skills toward becoming a Master Model Railroader through the NMRA Achievement Program

Scratch Building – Bring Your Imagination

Imagination is a key tool in model railroading. This is especially true when a modeler desires to add a structure to their layout which is not readily available as a kit. To meet this challenge, scratch building is often the answer for modelers. With a vision, building materials, and a bit of know-how, the possibilities are endless when building the railroad of your dreams.

Niagara Frontier Region (NFR) of the NMRA member Les Kauffeld has been modeling for over 30 years and attends Trainfest with the NFR each year to present in Trainfest's Craftsmen's Corner. When he first began modeling, Les built cars and military models. He got into model railroading when a co-worker lent him a copy of the Walther's catalog and he was hooked.

Les began scratch building models based on projects he found in magazines. When he moved to Ontario, Canada he became involved with the NMRA through the NFR

Les advises beginning scratch build modelers, "Know how to handle your tools, and start with simple projects gradually working your way up to complicated pieces. Yet do not be afraid to try something new each time you build... you may be surprised to find what you are capable of doing."

where he worked alongside other members learning their techniques, as well as sharing his own.

In some cases, a structure or car or modeler wishes to have in their layout may be obscure or not available as a ready-to-run product or in a kit. Plus, kits and ready-to-run products can be rather expensive. Les has found that scratch building is a cost effective way to create the structures he needs.

Being prepared for your scratch building project is essential to success. Once you have envisioned what you desire to build, Les stresses the importance of having a plan for your structure. "You can find plans for scratch building in model railroading publications, society newsletters, and websites, says Les. If your project is completely unique, computer programs can help you create your own plan."

Once you have a plan, it's time to gather your supplies and set up your work station.

In scratch building, many materials are available to be used from wood to metal to plastic. In this "How to," Les has shared his techniques for modeling with styrene plastic.

When it comes to selecting styrene materials for your project, Les recommends white styrene pieces from Evergreen Scale Models. There are many varieties of styrene sheets from patterns such as; brick, sidewalks, clapboard, siding, and metal sheeting. In addition to styrene coming in sheets, different shapes and stripping are available for detail work.

*see Scratch Building
Continued on page 4*

SCRATCH BUILDING
Continued from page 3

The next step for a scratch building project is preparing your workspace. Many of the tools Les recommends are the same as those you may use to put together a styrene kit:

- X-Acto® blade
- Squares
- Files
- Nibblers
- Scale Ruler
- Solvent
- Glass work surface
- Self healing pad (cutting surface)

Les recommends the #11 X-Acto Blade, and advises to be sure to have extra blades on hand to be able to change them frequently. Otherwise, as blades dull they are more likely to slip up.

Styrene compatible solvent is an essential element for scratch building. The solvent melts the pieces together forming a solid bond. Different solvents work in different ways, and it is important to find one you like. One main differentiation is how long it takes the solvent to set. Depending on the strength of the solvent, bonding time can range from seconds to hours.

In setting up your work station, use a good base to construct your structure. Les recommends a rectangle piece of glass, because the solvent will not bond to the glass. For a cutting surface, Les recommends a self healing pad which best fits your work space.

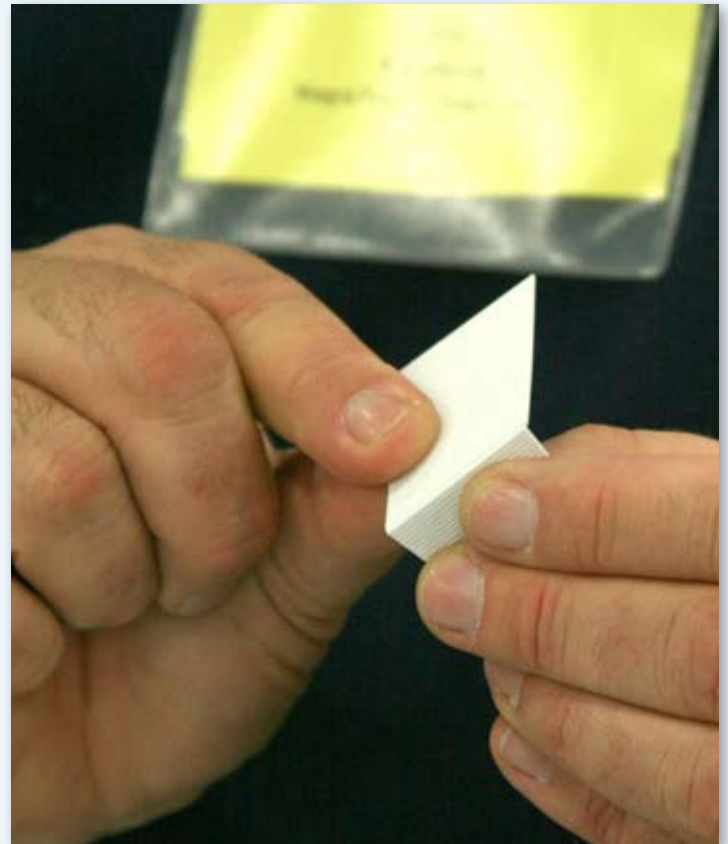
Once your work space is set, you are ready to begin your scratch building project. Les shares his step-by-step process below.

*see Scratch Building
Continued on page 13*

Styrene Scratch Building Step-by-Step Process

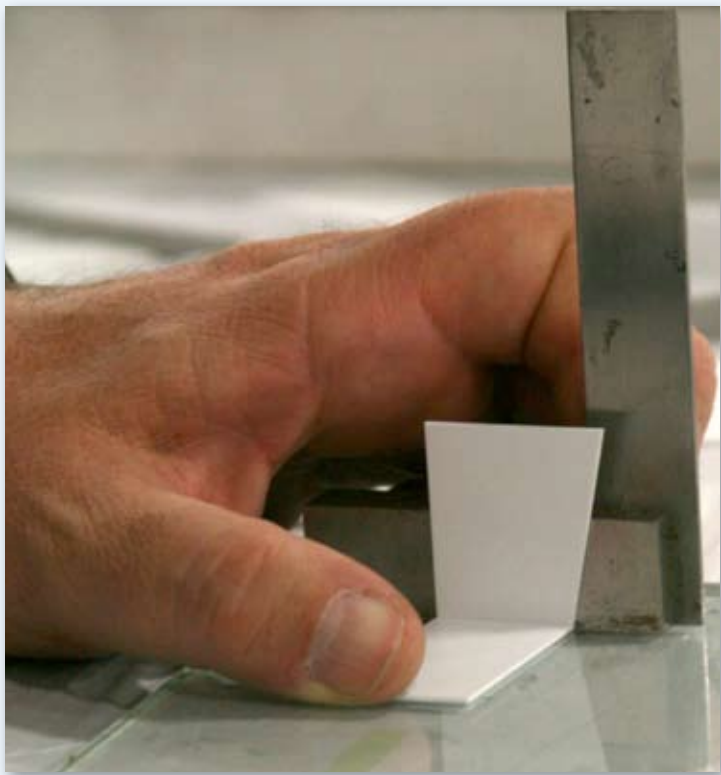


▲ **Step 1:** Cut the sides and base of the structure to size. Cut on the back side of the piece in case the knife slips, that way the good side will not be marred. When cutting through styrene, make several light passes over the piece rather than forcing your blade through the styrene in one cut.

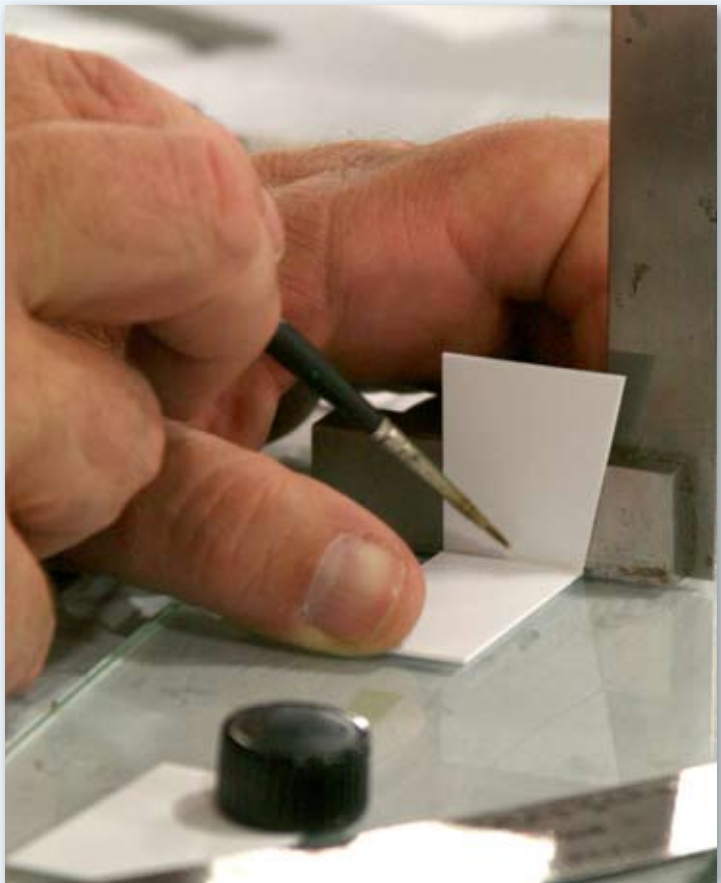


▲ **Step 2:** Once several passes have been made, the piece can be folded and snapped apart.

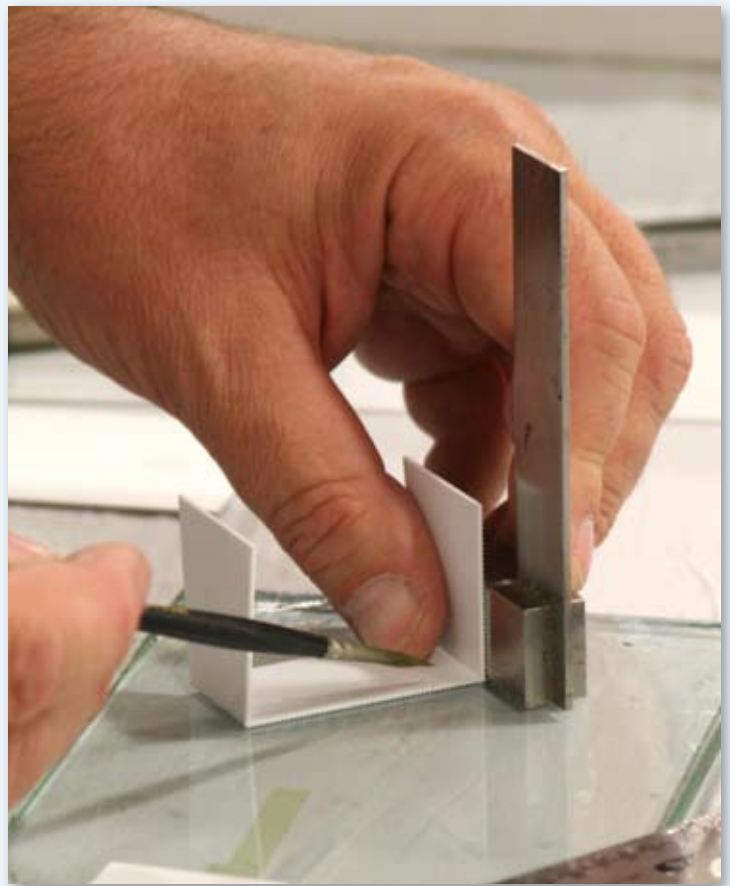
***Bonus Tip:** Do not throw away your scrap pieces of styrene, these pieces may become useful in other projects. Also scrap pieces can be used when trying out new techniques.*



▲ **Step 3:** When assembling your structure, attach the back and sides first. When attaching the pieces, use a square to help form a square joint.



▲ **Step 4:** With the edge of a natural fiber brush, apply solvent to the backside of the piece. If you have to work on the front side, be careful not to mar the plastic. Try not to scrub in the solvent as that may leave brush marks on the styrene.



▲ **Step 5:** Once the sides and back of the structure are assembled, attach the base to the structure using the same process as attaching the sides. While a base is optional, it squares up the building and provides stability.



▲ **Step 6:** Before attaching the front piece of the structure, create the openings for windows and doors. First measure and mark the desired openings. When cutting holes, cut all the way through the styrene on two sides for door openings, and three sides for windows. Then on the final side, the piece should snap off after a couple passes.

Bonus Tip: When creating the openings for windows and doors, a nibbler can also be used.

*see Scratch Building
Continued on page 12*





▲ A number of modeling techniques have gone into creating the detailed landscape of the layout, especially in the vibrant John Deere Dealership scene. For example kitty litter used as gravel and ground cover, sprinkled on wet latex paint for grass.

EVOLUTION OF A RAILROAD

Continued from cover

However, some of the original members are still active in the group, including Jeff Varney who joined the group after seeing that first notice in the shop. Jeff was drawn to the modular group as he was living in an apartment at the time and this was the only way he could continue his model railroading hobby.

The structure of Lake County Society of Modular Engineers Club is unique as there has never been elected officers, dues, or admission fees. The only obligation for membership is to build a module which conforms to the requirements of the layout.

Two simple requirements for their modular railroad were determined by the club. First, a standard size for the modules and second, the designs must accommodate the two main tracks which run through the whole layout. The layout is run by DC Throttle and DCC. Beyond these requirements, the possibilities for the scenes of the layout are wide open.

Varied scenes create the experience of traveling across the US by train. The railroad is not held to any particular time

◀ The sea port module is always a popular feature for visitors.



▲ A train on its cross-county trek through the Lake County Society of Model Engineers layout, rushes past a downtown scene.

period and the members will run a variety of trains from early steam engines to modern day diesel.

The true pay-off of their work is seeing visitors reactions to the scenes of their layout.

For Lake County Society of Modular Engineers, enjoyment of the hobby is an essential element to their layout. "You may see Amtrak® on one track and Thomas and Friends® on the other... or trains from opposite ends of the country passing, says Jeff. That is part of what makes operating our display fun. No matter what trains we operate, there is always someone in the crowd that can identify with our display."

The club attends around four shows a year. The layout takes visitors coast to coast, and past some regular favorites include a sea port, western ranch, and John Deere dealership. "Kids always seem to be drawn to the construction scenes," adds Jeff. The true pay-off of their work is seeing visitors reactions to the scenes of their layout.

*see Evolution of a Railroad
Continued on page 10*

TRAINS

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READY TO ROLL
TRAINS
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IN
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ROUNDHOUSE

Six Decades of Detail

Since 1943, Athearn has been producing model railroading products with a focus on detail and accuracy. From ready-to-run trainsets to their highend Genesis product line, Athearn is dedicated to delivering high quality locomotives and rolling stock with prototypical accuracy and features to model railroaders.

Contributions through the Years

Athearn was established by Irv Athearn in 1943. By the 1950's, Athearn had introduced several locomotives and rolling stock in both die-cast metal and plastic. In 1957, several plastic car kits were released, including the Cupola Caboose, the 40' Box Car, and the 3-Dome Tank Car.

During the 1960's Athearn continued to make improvements to their products by offering the latest in model railroading technology. Some of these advances included a gear-drive version of the 4-6-2, freight cars with RP-25 wheels, and a "ring-magnet" motor for diesel locomotives.

In 1973, Athearn introduced its first flywheel drive which was added to most of the Athearn locomotives. Athearn enhanced its locomotive line in 1984 with new narrow motors.

Athearn began to expand its product lines in the 2000's, with the introduction of the "Ready to Roll" line in 2001 and its N-Scale line in 2002. Purchased by Horizon Hobby in 2004, Athearn continued improving their sound offerings through a relationship with SoundTraxx® in 2009.

Product Lines

Athearn's six product lines, which span a wide range of time periods and railroads, is evidence of their dedication to providing all modelers with high quality products. The top end of the Athearn brand is the HO-Scale Genesis line. These locomotives and rolling stock demonstrate Athearn's attention to detail and prototypical accuracy.

The "Ready to Roll" HO-Scale line offers fully assembled locomotives, rolling stock, and vehicles. It focuses on diesel locomotives from the diesel transition era to modern day. The Athearn N-Scale line brings the same level of precision and features one expects from Athearn. Many of the N-Scale locomotives are DCC-ready with SoundTraxx® Tsunami® sound.

Athearn's Roundhouse products focus on pre-WWII railroading and steam locomotives. Athearn Precision Die Cast models are 1:50 scale licensed vehicles. In addition to locomotives, rolling stock and vehicles, Athearn offers model railroading parts including HO and N Scale couplers through its McHenry line.

*see Six Decades of Detail
Continued on page 14*

Hobby Shops are Your Ticket Resource

All three ticket types (Early Bird, Advance and Friday Product Showcase) are available at the following local hobby shops.

Greenfield News and Hobbies

Greenfield, WI
(414) 281-1800

Silver Spring Hobby & Games

Milwaukee WI
(414)352-3000

South Side Trains

Milwaukee, WI
(414) 482-1566

Walthers (Terminal Hobbies)

Milwaukee, WI
(414) 461-1050

Jetco Hiawatha Hobbies

Waukesha, WI
(262) 544-4131

Sommerfeld's Trains

Butler, WI
(262) 783-7797

Madison Hobby Stop

Madison, WI
(608) 829-3820

Engine House Services LLC

Green Bay, WI
(920) 490-4839

Lombard Hobbies

Lombard, IL
(630) 620-1084

Park Lane Hobbies

Dyer, Indiana
(219) 322-1123

EVOLUTION OF A RAILROAD

Continued from page 7

Jeff has found the features that stand out to visitors differ with each audience they encounter. A close look at the layout may be well worth it, as the Lake County Society of Modular Engineers utilizes any opportunity to bring fun into model railroading. "Sometimes you might see a piece of modeled equipment that never existed in real life. It is fun to see if anyone picks it out and comments as that piece passes by," says Jeff.

Club members joy found in modeling goes beyond displaying the layout for visitors. Whenever the club comes together there always seems to be an endless exchange of ideas and information, all directed at updating and improving the layout design. While each module may belong to an individual member, the railroad as a whole is truly a group collaboration.


The membership of the Lake County Society of Model Engineers is a varied group of new and veteran modelers. Each member is respected for his/her ideas and contributions, from the experience of knowing which techniques work best to a fresh perspective on module ideas and creative solutions.

Part of the club's mission is to inspire young rail fans to become model railroaders. When visiting the layout, one

may see younger club members running the trains—it's a simple way to demonstrate to young visitors that it's a hobby for all ages.

...His [Jeff's] last piece of advice is to always remember, model railroading is supposed to be fun.

In his time as a modeler, Jeff has noticed the disappearance of inexpensive kits and cars, replaced by more and more ready to run products. He's concerned since this trend ultimately increases the financial commitment when getting started in the hobby.

Jeff encourages new modelers to meet with other modelers to ask questions and visit other layouts to get a true sense of the hobby. His last piece of advice is to always remember, model railroading is supposed to be fun. 

DID YOU KNOW?

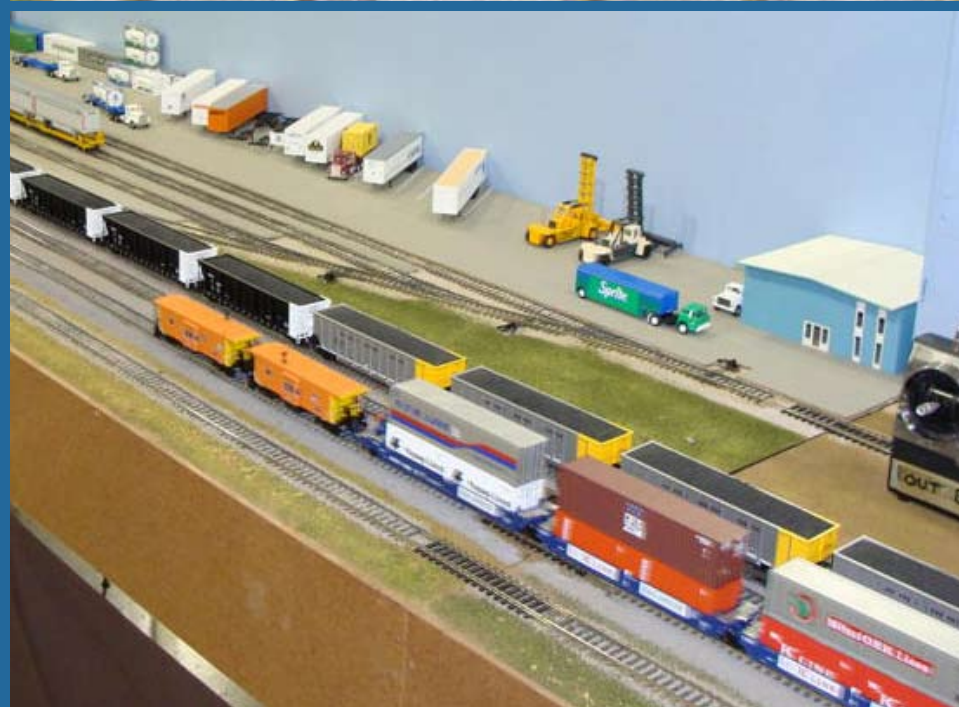
A cross-county train voyage today traverses over 3,000 miles, taking nearly four days to travel from coast to coast.

The cross-county trek continues past a cattle ranch, through Packerland, and past an industrial scene. ►

A Look Back

In 2010, Lake County Society of Model Engineers received the Trainfest Best of Show – Layouts Award for overall layout scenery and display.





Trainfest is sponsored by the Wisconsin Southeastern Division, Inc. of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

WHAT IS NMRA?

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) was established in 1935 in Milwaukee, WI to bring model railroaders together and develop standards for the model railroading industry. Today the NMRA is a worldwide non-profit educational association. Headquartered in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the NMRA promotes the hobby of model railroading through fostering fellowship among modelers and providing resources to hobbyists everywhere. This global organization is divided into 17 geographic regions. The regions are broken down into divisions which provide local support and camaraderie to modelers along with the resources of this worldwide community of model railroaders.

WHAT IS WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION, INC.?

The Wisconsin Southeastern Division of the NMRA serves seven counties in southeastern Wisconsin – Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha. Dedicated to its educational mission to promote the hobby of model railroading, the Wisconsin Southeastern Division creates opportunities for modelers (new and not-so-new to the hobby) to come together and share new ideas and information. Wisconsin Southeastern Division also offers a youth group for younger modelers and train enthusiasts to get started in the hobby.

WHY TRAINFEST?

One way the Wisconsin Southeastern Division pursues its educational mission is through its annual event, Trainfest.

At Trainfest, hobbyists, hobby dealers, manufacturers and rail fans of all ages, come together for two days to celebrate everything trains. Trainfest has become a hub for bringing together new and experienced modelers to grow the hobby through the sharing of ideas and by passing on the passion for modeling to the next generation.

If you are interested in learning more about the Wisconsin Southeastern Division or becoming a member, visit www.wisedivision.org.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the NMRA and do not live in Southeastern Wisconsin, please visit www.nmra.org for information about your local NMRA Division.

If you want to learn more about Trainfest or wish to attend, visit www.trainfest.com.

Calling All Volunteers! Looking to get more involved with Trainfest?

A huge part of making Trainfest America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show is due to the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. In 2012, Trainfest is especially looking for Family Activity Area volunteers. Meet and inspire the next generation of model railroaders and be a part of making Trainfest happen.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact us via email: volunteer@trainfest.com.

SCRATCH BUILDING Continued from page 5



▲ **Step 7:** When creating the doors for a structure, scrap pieces of styrene may come in handy as you may already have a piece that is close to the dimensions you need. After cutting the door to shape, compare the door with the opening to make sure they are the same size. If needed, file the opening to fit the door.



▲ **Step 9:** When all sides are attached to the structure, it's time to make the roof. Be sure to determine the dimensions of the roof pieces in your plan for the structure. After cutting the styrene piece(s) to the desired roof size, attach it to the rest of the structure. Apply the solvent to the undersides of the roof.



▲ **Step 8:** To set the door, attach the door from the inside of the opening so that the door appears to be inset. Apply solvent and let it sit. Once you have attached the windows and doors to a side, affix that piece to the rest of the structure.

***Bonus Tip:** If solvent drips onto the piece, it is best to leave it alone and set. While this will alter the look of the piece, wiping the solvent will mar the surface even more.*



▲ **Step 10:** Once the structure has been completed, it is time to add realistic detail to bring the piece to life. Apply stripping to the structure to frame out the door and to add further detail to achieve your desired look.




▲ **Step 11:** Once all pieces have been attached, lightly wash the completed piece with water and dish soap to remove any oils. When working with styrene acrylic paints, apply them with either a brush or using an air brush.

SCRATCH BUILDING *Continued from page 4*

According to Les, the length of time to complete a scratch built project depends not only on the size of the structure but also the motivation of the builder. For example, Les can build a simple structure in about 45 minutes. In contrast, larger elaborate structures can take a while to complete. It took Les three years to build a station.

Since the length of time to complete a scratch build project can vary, many modelers choose to work on multiple projects at once. For Les, this is especially true when he is building multiples of the same pieces, such as cars. He has found that

he saves time and effort creating the pieces when building in stages. By replicating the same action, such as making the same cut several times in a row, Les is able to create uniform pieces and save time.

Les advises beginning scratch build modelers, “Know how to handle your tools, and start with simple projects gradually working your way up to complicated pieces. Yet do not be afraid to try something new each time you build... you may be surprised to find what you are capable of doing.” 


Dedication to Detail

When it comes to developing new models for any of Athearn's product lines, both prototypical accuracy and detail are most important. "Our painstaking attention to detail, down to the road number level, is unmatched in the plastic model railroad market," says Victor Audo, Interim Director of Proprietary Railroad Products.

As model railroading technology has developed, Athearn has utilized the new features to take their models to the next level. Many of their highend models are available with the option of factory installed SoundTraxx sound system and are DCC and DCC decoder ready.

"Our painstaking attention to detail, down to the road number level, is unmatched in the plastic model railroad market"

Looking Forward

For over 60 years, Athearn has worked to continuously improve their locomotives and rolling stock. They have accomplished this by utilizing new technology not only for production of the trains but also in adding new features. "We are constantly evolving to best fit the needs of our customers, says Victor Audo. We are listening to modelers for new ideas and trends, and applying new technologies to everything we do." 

DID YOU KNOW?

The origins of Athearn Trains began in 1938 when Irv Athearn began building an O-scale model railroad at his mother's home. He would later establish the company after selling this layout in 1943.



Summer Railroad Attractions

Summertime brings great opportunities for rail fans to experience both model and full size railroads. Many historical societies and museums have worked to preserve the history of the railroad industry and share that history with the public.

Heritage Historical Village / Railroad Museum

Five historic buildings that were moved to the village for preservation. Included is a Triangle School (1857), an Octagon House (1867), Chicago & North Western Railroad Depot (1923), a Chapel, and a Log Cabin (1850). Many have original or period furnishings. Examine rail equipment that includes a locomotive, boxcar, and cabooses, or browse a collection of railroad artifacts and memorabilia. Hosts an annual 'Heritage Days & Rail Fest'.

Phone: (920) 982-8557

Web: www.historicalvillage.org

Address: 900 Montgomery St, New London, WI 54961

Chippewa Valley Railroad

A 1/4 size working railroad. Coal fired steam locomotives, a diesel locomotive, wooden 1880 style passenger coaches, streamline passenger coaches, a gondola car and one caboose. Depot, passenger waiting canopy, round house, turntable, switch yard and the oldest interlocking tower in the state.

Phone: (888) 523-3866

Web: <http://www.chippewavalleyrailroad.com/home>

Address: Carson Park, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Little Falls Railroad & Doll Museum

Located in 3 large buildings encompassing 3 acres, near Cataract, midway between Sparta and Black River Falls, displays 1,600 dolls from the early 1880's through the present. Railroad memorabilia, operating model trains, a large garden railroad, a Milwaukee Bay window caboose on display, a 40ft train for kids to play on and a 12" scale train and a picnic area.

Phone: (608) 272-3266

Web: www.raildoll.org

Address: 9208 County Highway II, Sparta, WI 54656

Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway

Diesel-powered trains with vintage cars. Begin your rail experience by purchasing a ticket at the fully-restored, 1916 SOO Line Depot in Osceola. The 11am & 2:30pm trips take you on a 20-mile journey along the sandstone bluffs of the St. Croix River. You'll cross into Minnesota on the Cedar Bend Draw Bridge, stopping in Marine on St. Croix, then returning to Osceola.

Phone: (715) 755-3570

Web: www.trainride.org

Address: 114 Depot Rd, Osceola, WI 54020

Soo Line Depot

Re-built in 1916 following a train collision, the depot played an important role in the development of Osceola. Experience the heyday of passenger train travel aboard excursions offered by the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway. Train rides offered weekends and holidays April through October. Call for departure times.

Phone: (715) 755-3570

Address: 114 Depot Rd, Osceola, WI 54020

East Troy Electric Railroad and Museum

Ride a ten mile scenic trip aboard restored trolleys through Southeastern Wisconsin's beautiful countryside and visit the remodeled museum. As part of your train excursion, enjoy the stop at Elegant Farmer.

Phone: (262) 642-3263

Web: www.easttroyrr.org

Address: 2002 Church Street, East Troy, WI 53120

National Railroad Museum

Railroad history comes to life with over 70 pieces of vintage rolling stock including Eisenhower's WWII command train, the Union Pacific "Big Boy" and the Rock Island "Aerotrain." Enjoy a train ride behind a vintage diesel locomotive (May-Sept only).

Phone: (920) 437-7623

Web: www.nationalrrmuseum.org

Address: 2285 S Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304

Kenosha Electric Streetcar

From 1903-1932, Kenosha's primary downtown transportation was an electric streetcar system. Now, five beautifully restored electric streetcars travel a 2-mile loop, providing a scenic tour of the Lake Michigan shoreline, HarborPark, two historic districts, downtown business district and the METRA train station. Stops include the McCarthy Transit Center, 8th Ave. and 54th St.

Phone: (262) 653-4287

Web: www.kenoshacvb.com

Address: 724 54th St, Kenosha, WI 53140

Lumberjack Special Steam Train & Camp Five Museum Complex

Ride the rails of yesteryear aboard the "Lumberjack Special" steam train to the site of the original Connor Lumber and Land Company's 1902 logging camp #5. Enjoy a unique mix of history, steam railroading, logging, and ecology at the Camp Five Complex. See logging artifacts, an active blacksmith shop, and a video about old-time logging operations.

Phone: (715) 674-3414

Web: www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com

Address: 5480 Connor Farm Rd, Laona, WI 54541

Mid-Continent Railway Museum

World-Class railroad museum with extensive collection of locomotives and rolling stock. Enjoy a seven-mile, 50-minute round-trip train ride through the beauty of the scenic Baraboo Hills. Museum displays of historic steam railroad locomotives, passenger cars and freight cars. Visit the historic depot constructed in 1894 and gift shop.

Phone: (608) 522-4261

Web: www.midcontinent.org

Address: E8948 Museum Rd, North Freedom, WI 53951

Riverside & Great Northern Railway

The R&GN is a 15-inch gauge railroad living museum offering fun for young and old. Ride our live steam trains along a 3 mile roadbed winding through scenic canyons, beautiful wooded areas, and majestic rock cuts beside the Dells of the Wisconsin River. Watch the locomotive being turned on a hand operated turntable at Western Springs, and turned again at the final stop at the Hyde Park depot.

Phone: (608) 254-6367

Web: www.dellstrain.com

Address: N115 County Road N, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad Excursion Train

Tour a 15-mile stretch of the old Chicago & Northwestern track between Spooner and Springbrook, laid more than 100 years ago. Historic diesel locomotives plus vintage Pullman passenger cars. Trips generally up to 2.5 hours. Group rates are available, as are private bookings. Reservations are encouraged, but only required for dinner trains.

Phone: (715) 635-3200

Web: www.spoonertrainride.com

Address: 426 N Front St, Spooner, WI 54801

Illinois Railway Museum

The Illinois Railway Museum (IRM), open from April through October, celebrates railway preservation with electric cars, steam trains, diesel trains, trolley buses and motor buses operating throughout the grounds.

Phone: (815) 923-4391

Web: <http://www.irm.org/>

Address: 7000 Olson Rd. Union, IL 60180

Trainfest®

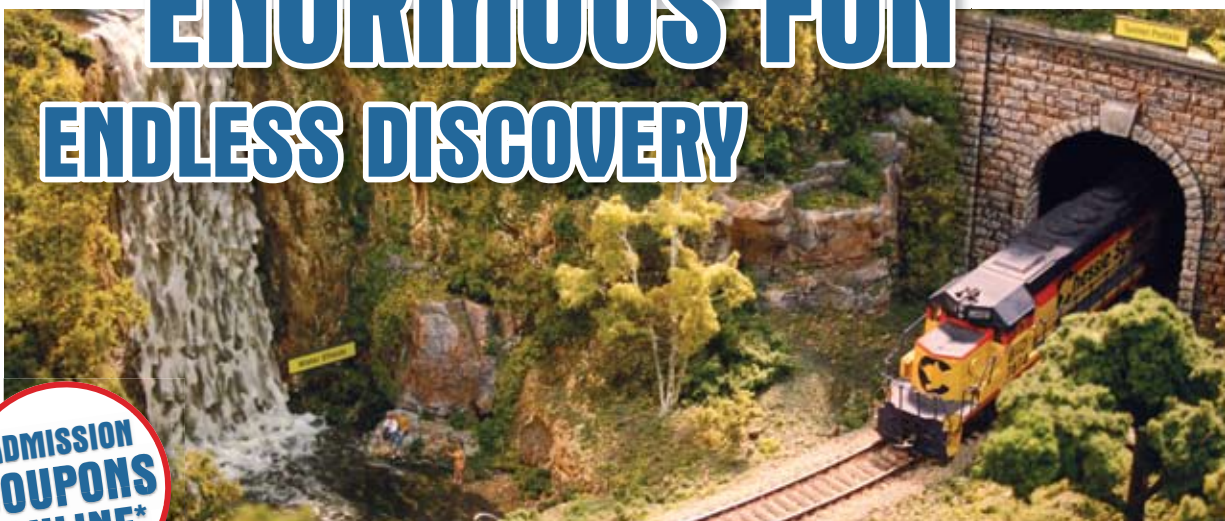
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