



The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 51 – November 2008

St. Lawrence Division web site: www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld_index.htm

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

Our September meet in Merrickville saw most of us examining our “KitBusters: Laser Structures 101” kit: for many it was their first time opening a laser kit with less than clearly written instructions. However guided by Grant we all survived the event, and happily thought about doing our homework! I for one was very pleasantly surprised by the large number of participants – it’s fair to say that we exceeded the executive’s expectations, and happily so!

Unfortunately the afternoon visits program was cancelled due to weather (no outdoor running in the rain) and the absence of another host, but everyone got a chance for a leisurely visit to Lark Spur Lines and some train watching. November’s meeting will include (but not be limited to) a clinic by Bob Farquhar on assembling the Silver Plume Bakery and how to add some additional details to the structure, and the afternoon will include at least a visit to David Steer’s layout.

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The first instalment of this years KitBusters Workshop “Laser Structures 101” saw close to 40 happy modellers turn up to learn about distressing wood and painting techniques. A detailed report can be found on page 4.

Photo: Andreas Mank

St. Lawrence Division

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Copy Deadlines

January Issue - December 15
March Issue - February 15
May Issue - April 15
September Issue - August 15
November Issue - October 15

Special thanks to Beate Herzig for proof-reading and general nit-picking

Continued from page 1 "From the Superintendent's Desk"

Our first workshop on our modelling project was held on October 25, and it is safe to say that everyone attending found it to be interesting and worthwhile. A more detailed report on the day can be found elsewhere in this issue. I can hardly wait to see the faces at next year's convention when (hopefully) most of us enter our project in the Appearance contest. Perhaps a few might even consider the Judged contest!

Railfair once again was a success; while a report is included elsewhere in this issue, let me pass on my thanks to all the volunteers that shared the load.

Remember our raffle of an Athearn SD 40 in CP colours, ready for DCC: the draw will be held at the end of the November meet. Tickets will be \$1.00.

So, until November 29, or OVAR on November 11, happy modelling!



Jordan VanBlitterswyk interacting with some future engineers.

Photo: Paul Bullock

Railfair 31

By Paul Bullock

On October 18 and 19, Railfair 31 provided a good opportunity for the club to interact with the public. We had a steady stream of people, mostly parents with their children, who took great delight in operating the switching module. This year we gave out a new brochure to advertise our club. Hopefully this will result in an increase in membership.

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Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet

By Bill Meredith

On the October 31 and November 1, 2008, the 15th Annual Railroad Prototype Modeller's convention was held in Naperville, Illinois. The event is organized by Sunshine Models and brings together serious modellers from all over North America. This year more than 400 were in attendance.

The concept is relatively simple: people bring out their models that are typically extremely accurate for show and tell. There are no contests. Builders are requested to stand by their models to answer questions that anyone may have on them. There are however clinics, and a room set aside for vendors to peddle their goods on Saturday. The Naperville show is arguably the father of all such events. These shows are now put on all over the US and have become very popular and an alternative to the standard NMRA show format.

This year, David Steer, Doug Pelkola, Bill Scobie and myself made the trek to the Chicago area for the event. There were 46 clinics presented covering a broad range of high end topics from presenters such as Tony Koester, Lance Mindheim, Jack Burgess, Paul Dolkos, and Andy Sperandeo. To be honest, I did not attend many clinics as I was really only there to check out the display models and work our table in an effort to promote my company's resin kits. That said, those that I did attend were top notch. Other reports have it that the content was very technical and thoroughly researched.

The vendor hall was open on Saturday and was a busy place. It was a great opportunity for us to meet up with like-minded individuals and touch base with market trends. The models on display were all inspiring. Some beautiful models were on hand, and all were wonderfully finished.

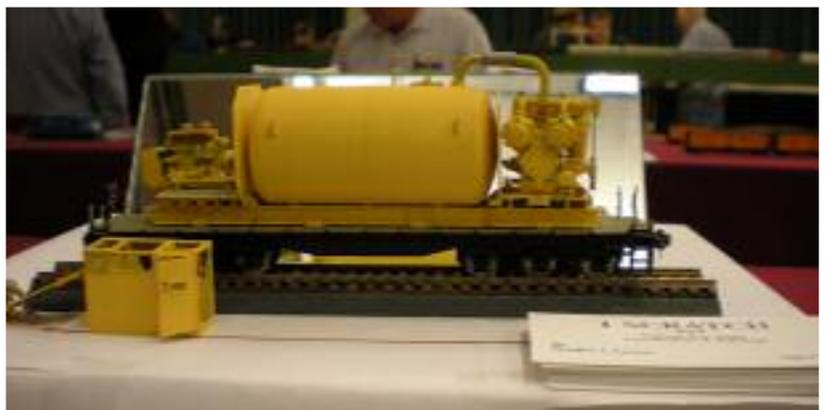
To those who can get away, it makes for a nice diversion. The clinics are tremendous and the models inspiring.



Accurate model of a CN boxcar based on a Red Caboose body, Sylvain ends, DesPlaines Hobbies Canadian 8 rung ladders, Detail Associates brake steps and decals by Black Cat Publishing.
Photo: Bill Scobie



Two Rio Grande cabooses, assembled from Protowest Scale Models Kits (Bill Meredith's company).
Photo: Bill Scobie



HO scale model of a spill recovery car. It functions like a super "vacuum cleaner" for big spills beside the track. It is built largely from styrene bits and some model auto/truck parts, and is mounted on a frame on a flat car for easy dispatch to spills on the railroad or nearby. The flat car is detailed as well.
Photo: Bill Scobie

KitBusters: Laser Structures 101

By Grant Knowles

We are off to a great start with over 40 enthusiastic members taking part in the October 25 KitBusters session! I could not help but notice a number of new faces in the group to whom I extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard".

With such a large number of participants, we were forced to divide the group across two rooms. Whether it was intentional or not, the HO scalers ended up in one room while the "other" scales (and gauges) in the other! None the less there was a lot of cross traffic between the rooms and healthy discussions all day long. This is certainly a "social" hobby.

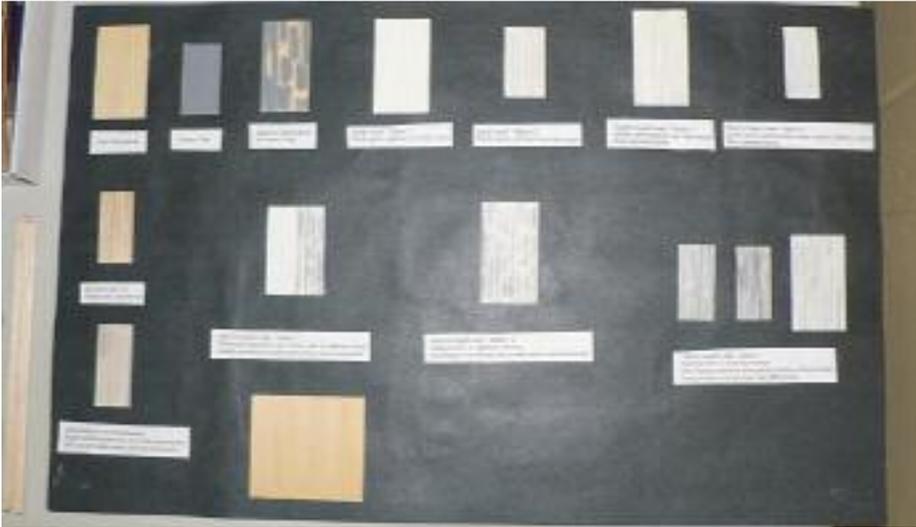
The October KitBusters kicked off with a short presentation by yours truly on adding additional texture to the wood parts through the use of wire brushes and a pin to simulate nail holes. Mike Hamer once again gave us an enjoyable presentation, this time on how to paint the kit with a number of different techniques. The balance of the day was given over to the club members to practice what they had learned on their kits.



A collection of tools and paints for preparing and painting wood kits. The models are by Mike Hamer and are destined for the extension of his layout into the crew lounge, a project he has been working on for a while. The cardboard shows samples of different techniques and is shown in detail in the next picture.

Photo: Andreas Mank

It appears everyone had completed their homework prior to arriving - kudos to you. Also everyone shared my thoughts on the quality (or lack of) of the instructions. I am in the process of assembling a new set based on my experience with the kit. I had planned to distribute these at the November meet but since a number of people are well into their kits, the need for these instructions has moved forward. So I will have these posted on the web site by the time your read this article. The issue here is: The kit is well made, but the instructions are not, so it is only a matter of bringing them up to standard.



Samples of different techniques for distressing and painting of wood.
Photo: Andreas Mank

I am also posting the clinic material on the web site after each meet. This will make it available to those who missed the last session and for those who would like a refresher. So visit the site on a regular basis to catch the latest updates.

The schedule for the next KitBusters events is included in the NMRA dates table on page 7. Our next gathering is the SLD Meet on November 29. We will have a clinic presented by a famous hobby notary on how to assemble the pieces and adding additional details to the walls. The next KitBusters will be on Saturday January 10th. We expect to be upstairs at the church which means we will all be in the same room!

Your homework for the next

workshop is to complete your wood texturing and painting. You may also take the opportunity to add some interior bracing if you wish. We will commence assembly of the structure at the January workshop.

It was delightful to see everyone digging so enthusiastically into their kits, each person with their own "vision" of what they want the finished product to look like – we will certainly have some interesting and diverse paint schemes. I also noted at least two people have taken on the challenge of modifying their kits. One is making a mirror image while the other has rotated the floor foot print by 90 degrees. Of course, do not feel you are obligated to do likewise.

Remember to keep an eye on the SLD Web site for updates on the project and upcoming events:
http://www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld_index.htm

It certainly was a lot of fun at the workshop and I am looking forward to the upcoming sessions.

Continued from page 2: "Raifair 31"

A thank you goes to the following members who gave part of their weekend to supervise the module: Paul Anderson, Alex Binkley, Stanley Conley, Brian Earl, Greg Gee, Mike Hamer, Tom Hood, Grant Knowles, Don Leger, John Licharson, Andreas Mank, Greg Montague, Bill Meek, Peter Nesbitt, Dave Primeau, Michael Rozeboom and Jordan Van Blitterswyk.

A special thanks to Grant Knowles for delivery, setup, maintenance and pickup of the module and to Greg Montague for duplicating the handouts. Additional recognition should go to Peter, Greg, and Michael who returned to supervise for more than one session.

Display Table

By Andreas Mank

The theme for the first display table of the season was “Summer Projects” resulting in a wide variety of showpieces.

Michael Rozeboom showed his “Royal Hudson” CP2860 in HO scale. Michael converted the Tenshodo brass model to DCC and fixed the pilot. Together with the steamer, he also showed covered hopper, lettered for Credit Valley Rwy Co., a Bowser limited edition model. Michael vacationed at Steamtown this summer, where he got his hands dirty, as attested by the picture of CP2317.

Paul Anderson spent the summer working on the scenery on his modules. Greg Gee brought out a sample of the benchwork for his HO-scale layout, which is constructed from foam on steel studs. Greg builds his turnouts using the FastTracks jigs.



John Licharson dropped in and displayed his summer project, which he describes as “comic relief”. John modified an Atlas N-scale 2-6-0 to closely represent a CNR prototype by applying front coupler, a step pilot, new headlight, new stack, and cleaning up the lines of the tender. He also installed a Lenz decoder and other stuff that he forgot.

Alex Binkley contributed the usual collection of S-Scale equipment. Two of the boxcars are new DesPlaines Hobbies plastic kits, including the Ontario Northland one shown here, the third one is a vintage kit. The flat car and the gondolas were scratch build.



In keeping with the theme for the year, David Steer showed a 1/4:” scale model of the “Brunswick Saloon”, a wood laser kit build by Bill Meredith. Bill had a busy summer, in addition to the laser kit for Dave Steer; he also showed the decals and the master for a Colorado Midland Pullman Reefer. The decals took a year to



design and were printed on an Alps printer. Bill hopes to have production samples in time for the Naperville RPM show, details of which can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Don Leger brought a sound equipped HO-scale Kato RSC-2 custom painted for his “Shadetree and Nepean”. Gary Baillargeon displayed a DCC equipped HO-scale track mobile, which is similar to the one used by Winchester Seed Ltd. in his hometown.

Normand Levert worked on special freight cars. He showed two depressed center flat cars, which he is detailing and setting up to carry bulldozers.

Grant Knowles picked up the core of his latest “multi-year” project, the restoration of a 12” to the foot 1937 Chevrolet Sedan. If anyone is interested in his 1935 Hot Rod, contact Grant. Grant also showed a 1:32 scale plastic model of a 1932 Ford Coupe Hot Rod, which he assembled while on a camping trip in the summer and spray painted on a picnic table. Maybe Grant should explain how he manages two time consuming hobbies, where others can barely manage time for one?

Stan Conley identified “buying stuff” as his summer project, and showed a Full circle Models boxcar kit consisting of lasered card board sides, resin under frame and metal detail parts. We are looking forward to see the assembled model.

Thanks to all who brought out their projects and favourite models. The theme for the November Display Table is Passenger Cars!

NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings		NFR-NMRA Convention	
			April 17 – 19 Quality Inn & Suites Woodstock, ON
			SLD Workshops
November 29, 2008	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road		Detail part preparation, preparing windows and doors, wall signage
			January 10, 2009 Wall and window assembly, create interior walls
January 31, 2009	Emmanuel United Church		Roof types, interior lighting
			February 28, 2009 Assemble roof, install lighting and additional details
March 28, 2009	Emmanuel United Church		Scratch building additional details, add finishing touches.
			April 25, 2009
May 30, 2009	TBD		



Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, November 29, 2008

Where:

Emmanuel United Church

691 Smyth Road,
Ottawa

East of CHEO at Dauphin Road

Doors open at 9:00 am -- Admission \$5.00

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Clinics

- Bob Farquahr
- Tbd.

Display

- Passenger Cars

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Layout Tours:
David Steer
Tbd.

