

Division 2 Newsletter

TRAVERSE CITY YARD EVENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

PENINSULA TWSP FIRE STATION

B150 CENTER RD, TRAVERSE CITY, MI, 49686

Our next Yard Event is just around the corner. So mark your calendars!

We have 3 clinics lined up for your education and entertainment.

First up will be "Scratch Building HO Buildings" by Dennis Bean-Larson (see page 2).

Next will be a demonstration of track ballasting (a tedious skill detested by many) orchestrated by Bill Horning and myself.

And last, a "hands on" clinic instructing how to make a scenery base called "Ground Goop", a homemade paper-mache filler. We will supply the basic ingredients, but we ask that you bring the following if you plan to participate: A heavy mixing spoon, or spatula, and putty knife for mixing and applying.

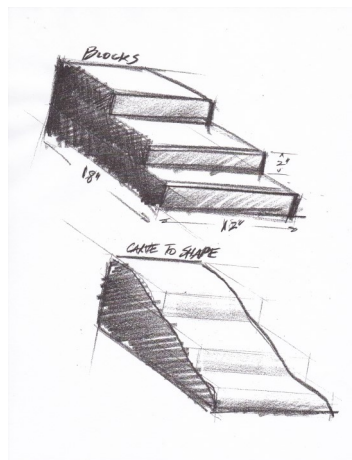
A large mixing bowl (your wife's finest Tupperware will do nicely!!)

1/2 to 1 gallon reasonably air tight container such as an ice cream bucket or the mixing bowl if it has a lid, so you can take "leftovers" home.

And most importantly, a base of wood, or better yet, construction foam approximately 12"x18" with smaller blocks glued on top and roughly shaped into a hill contour to apply your goop to. See the sketch to the right.

Don't forget show and tell.....bring your latest project and describe it. If you don't bring something you will owe the "kitty" at least fifty cents!! (Helps cover the cost of materials for future Yard Event clinics.)

See you in a week, Ernie Barry



Crew Call:

- 3/19/2017 - Mid-Michigan Train Show Mount Pleasant
- 3/25/2017 - Traverse City Yard Meeting Old Mission Fire House
- 4/2017—Petoskey Yard Meeting
- 5/6/2017—All Division Meeting Charlevoix

On the switch list:

- ◆ TC Yard Event 1
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Scratchbuilding HO Buildings Using Mat Board

Presentation TC March Event

Dennis Bean-Larson 231-342-1546 fixedgearwizard@yahoo.com



1. Selecting and photographing the prototype.
2. Calculating the building dimensions.
3. Developing and drawing the building elevations.
4. Scribing, scoring, and beveling cove and bevel wood siding.
5. Preliminary weathering
6. Cutting, assembling, and reinforcing the building.
7. Roofing, windows, doors, and details.
8. Final weathering.

Notes

- This is just a demonstration, it is not a hands-on demo.
- Specific tools and techniques will be demonstrated for each step.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring along a photo of a prototype building they are considering and a round-table (if time is available) will discuss merits and materials for each.
- Dennis has a background in engineering, drafting, fine art, and construction. He has a BA in Design and an MA in Humanities and Ceramic Design. He founded and currently owns a food manufacturing company.



Super Sez...

Believe it or not Division 2 is going on two years old and elections are coming up in May. As you know we set up the Bylaws to rotate the officers on our BOD. The following positions will be elected at our all Division meeting in May; Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the two Yard Masters. Our Bylaws are set up for a two-term limit so the current officials can run for a second term.

Contact our Clerk, Bob Crocker, if you would like to run for any of these positions.

Another bit of election news results needs to be updated. With my election as the North Central Region (NCR) Vice President that opens the Division 2's seat on the BOD. With the approval of your BOD I've appointed our Trainmaster Scott Pandorf to that seat. We will be going to the next board meeting in Lansing in April. Division 2 now has two seats on the NCR BOD. One of the agenda items the board is working on is our annual conventions. Please let me know of any thing we can do to encourage more participation at these conventions. The next is in Grand Rapids on September 14-17. The National Conventions are a week long and all over the country but our Regionals are 3 days and only a ½ days drive for us. They include clinics, layout tours, op sessions, prototype tours and a chance to spend time with modelers in our hobby. I encourage you all to consider going to GR. Once you make it to a Regional Convention I'm sure you will continue going each year.

The CMU swap meet and train show is coming up next month, March 19th. There are always great deals, last year a hobby store was going out of business and was selling their inventory at 85% off! We also see friends from other areas and spend the day with our friends enjoying our hobby. Some of us have been attending this show for 25+ years. Division 2 has a table that we will be handing out NMRA information and doing some demos for the attendees. Come and join the day with us.

My last request is two fold. First is we all know there are other modelers and layouts out there. We just need to find them. They are not all 'lone wolfs' and would like to come to a Yard Event and meet other modelers. Get the word out and let's find them. Lastly as your Yard Masters work on Events for you think about something you can expand upon from a simple 'show and tell' to a mini clinic. We all have that area that interests us more than others. It would help your Yard Master and all our members to put together a presentation of your favorite part of our hobby.

Thank you and happy modeling.

Dave

Traverse City Yard Meeting January 2017



Signaling System Presentation

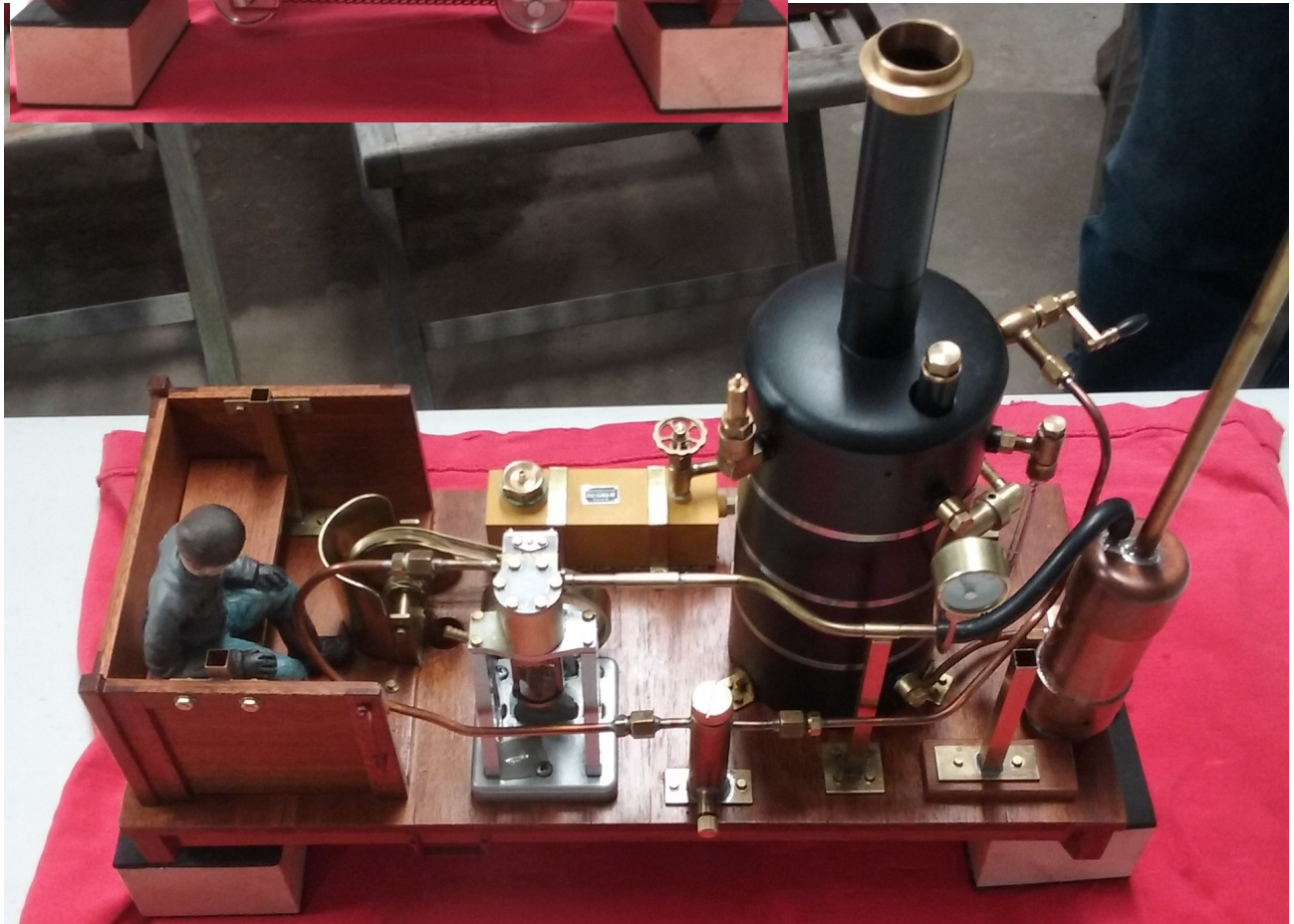
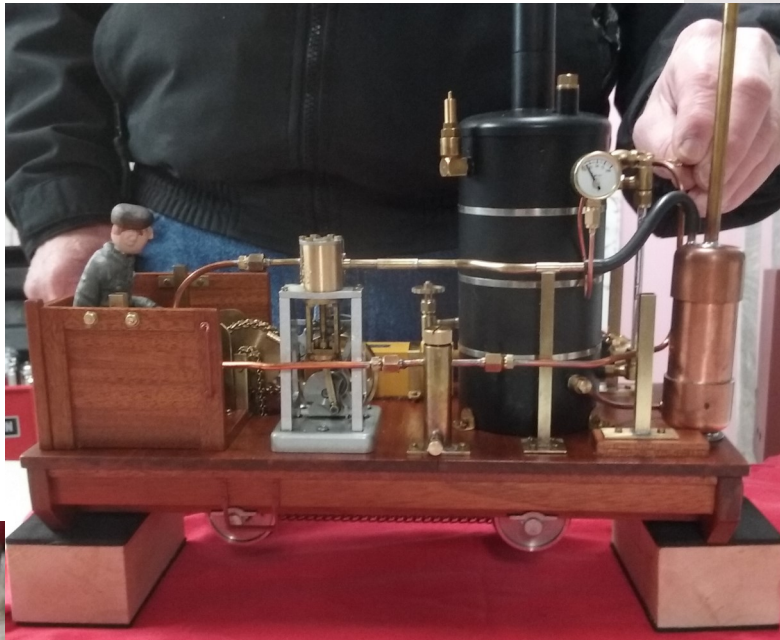


Show and Tell Table



Show and Tell

Petoskey Yard Meeting February 2017



DCC Decoder Installation in an Atlas N-Scale 2-6-0 Mogul

Jim Kurbel – Gaylord, MI

When asked “Jim, what scale do you model in?”, my reply most often is, “ I’m attempting N-Scale.” Except for a hand-me-down Lionel train set I had as a pre-teen, I have never modeled in any other scale than N. About 8 years ago, as I was beginning to wonder what I was going to do to keep myself busy in retirement during our long Northern Michigan winters, I picked up a copy of Model Railroader from a local chain store. Subsequent purchases of MR and an eventual subscription led to a number of years as an “armchair railroader.” Meanwhile, my wife and I have shared an interest in logging railroads and logging history in our area. Thus, my modeling focus turned to early steam locomotives in use during the first decade of the 1900’s. Not an easy one to find equipment for, especially in N. My visit to Dan Lewis’s Milwaukee Road layout early on in my venture opened my eyes to some advantages to working in N scale, at least for me. About the same time, Atlas came out with a run of 2-6-0 Moguls. The Atlas locos closely matched the prototypes of the locomotives I needed to model for the logging branch line that used to operate in the area where I live . The only problem was they weren’t DCC ready. If I did a layout eventually, I wanted to do it in DCC. I read a few things on the Internet where people had managed to install decoders in the Atlas Moguls, so I thought it was worth a try. I dove in!

After a some failures (some of which were catastrophic to both locos and decoders L), I had some success with the decoder installation. The following photos document one of those installations. I’m always open to suggestions, so please, if you have any, let me know.



Photo 1. N scale Atlas 2-6-0 Mogul. Each square on my pad is ½". The full length of engine and tender is about 4".

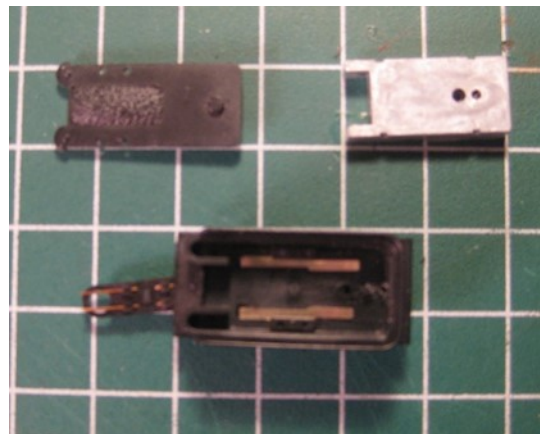
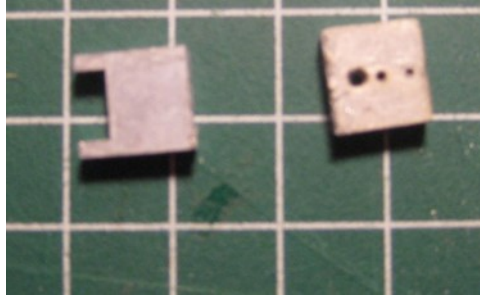
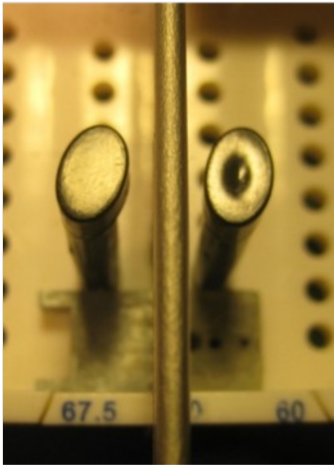
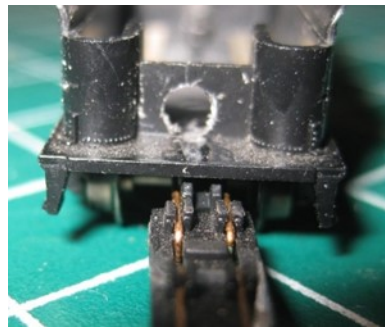


Photo 2. The disassembled tender. Weight in upper right.

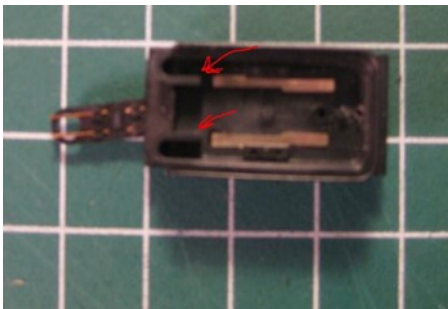
Kurbel—N Scale DCC Decoder Install (2)



Photos 3 & 4. Miter box with the weight and the cut weight needed to make room for the decoder.



Photos 5 & 6. Drilling a #36 hole in the tender for the decoder wires. There was no room underneath the tender or the loco to run the wires. This was the only option I came up with.



Photos 7 & 8. There were a couple of supports in the tender that I thought were unnecessary and needed to be removed to make room for the decoder (see red arrows at right). I did this with a sharp hobby knife.



Photo 9. The tender ready for the decoder. Note solder tinned to the wiper contacts. The Digitrax DZ126 is the smallest decoder I have found, measuring .455" x .369" x .126". What also makes it attractive to me is it is transponder equipped, meaning it can be used with a Soundtraxx Surroundtraxx System in the future if I desire. Note how the red shrink tubing on the decoder hangs over the sides of the decoder board. I trimmed the red shrink tubing back as far as I could to make the form of the decoder as small as possible.

Kurbel—N Scale DCC Decoder Install (3)

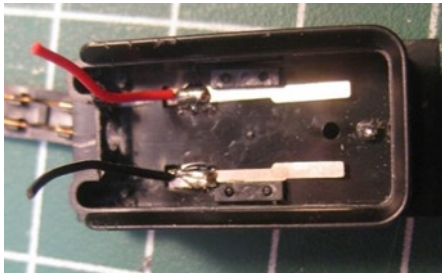


Photo 10. Leads soldered to wiper contacts. I chose to do it this way rather than solder the decoder leads directly to the wipers. The soldering to the wipers melts the plastic and I don't want to do this more than I have to.

Photo 11. Decoder all soldered in and shrink tube installed. I used kapton tape to insulate the weight from the wiper contacts.

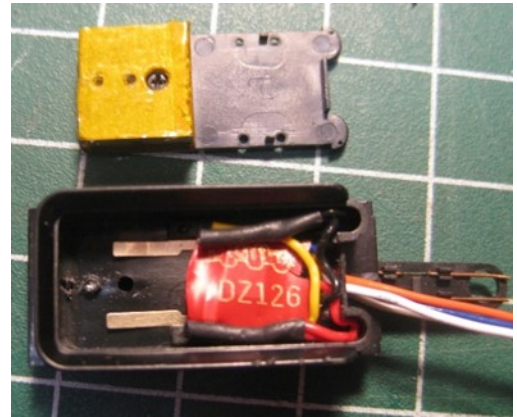
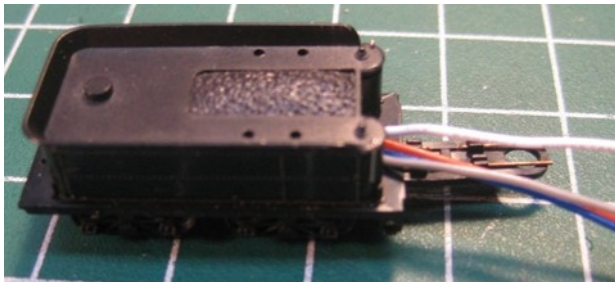
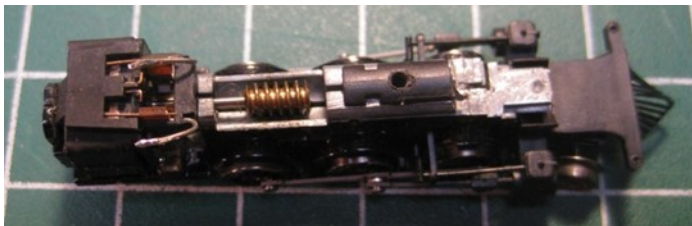
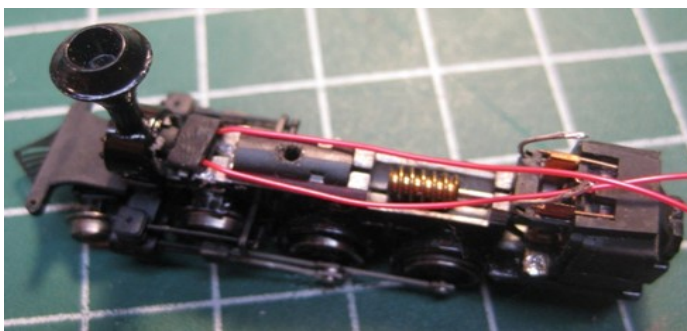


Photo 12. The tender all buttoned back up with the decoder inside!

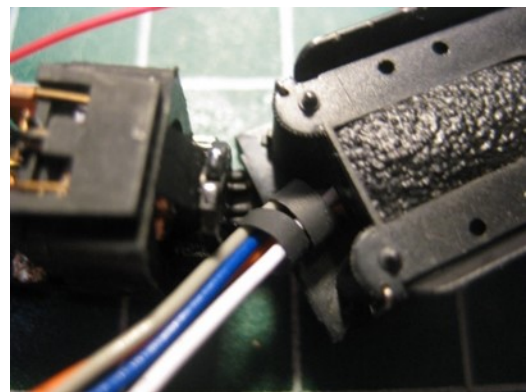


Photos 13 & 14. The locomotive ready for wiring. I needed to first isolate the motor from the frame by removing some copper electrical pickups that were connected to it. A capacitor was also removed from the motor leads. I wanted the headlight controlled by DCC, so I needed to saw away part of the frame to make room for wires and shrink tubing where the light was to go. I won't bore you with how I did all that!



The bottom photo shows the light installed and 30 AWG wire running back to the rear of the loco.

Photo 15. I slipped a couple of small loops of shrink tubing over the leads coming out of the tender. I later positioned them on the leads and shrunk them down in order to help keep the leads bundled together tightly.



Kurbel—N Scale DCC Decoder Install (4)

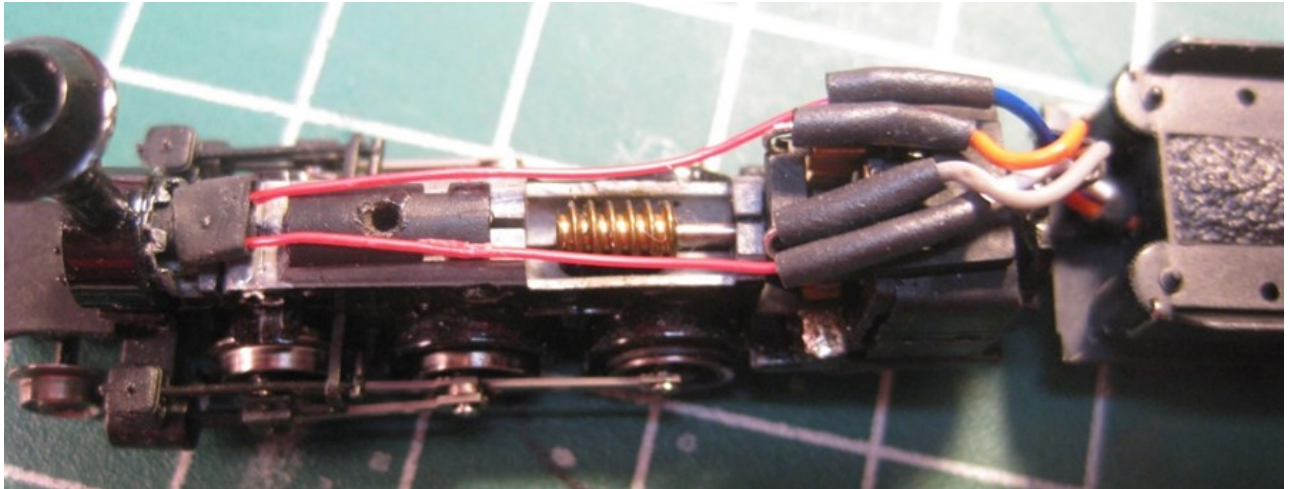


Photo 16. The loco and tender all wired and ready to test.

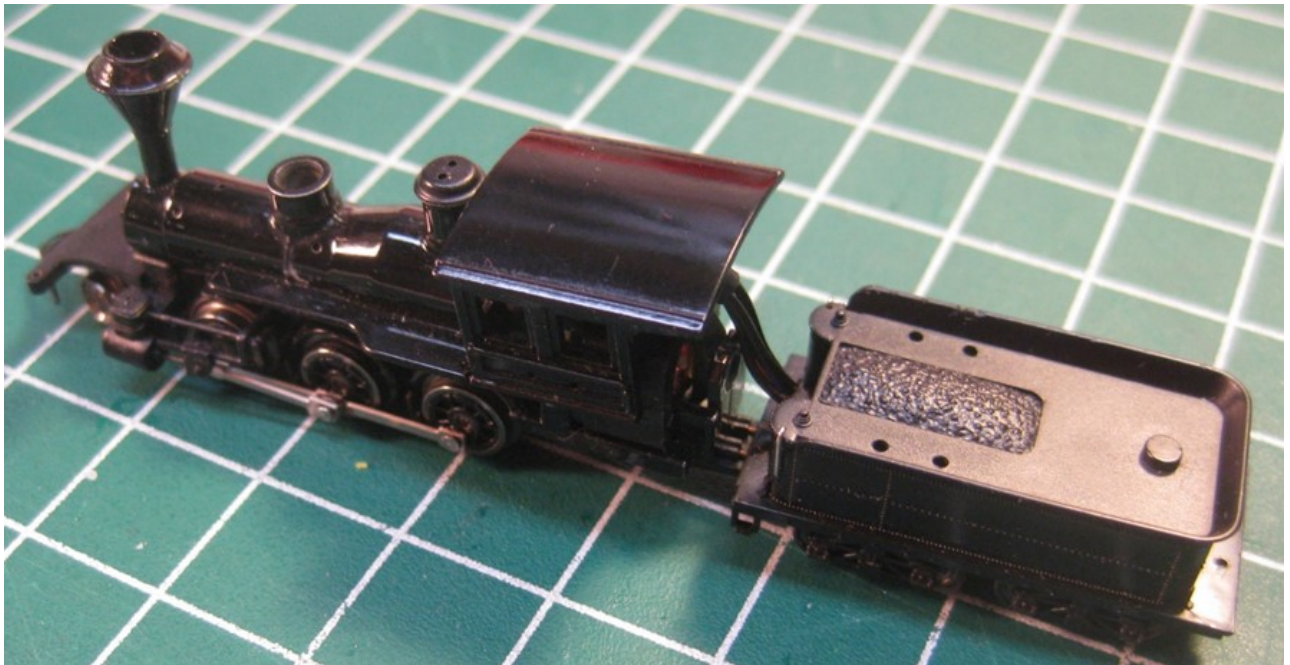
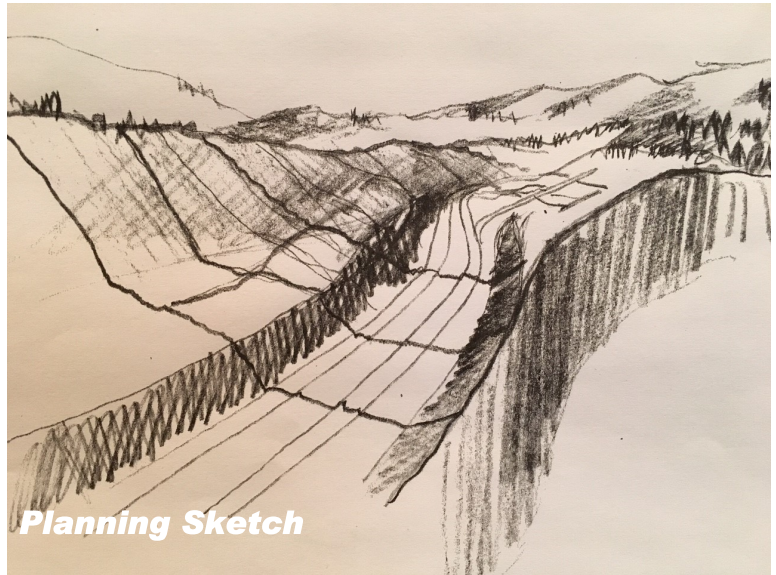


Photo 17. All put back together. I colored the decoder leads between the tender and locomotive with a black Sharpie. I still need to paint and decorate the locomotive and tender. This locomotive has presented new challenges, to be sure. Ever deal with N scale decals before? J

Progress on the East Raton and Santa Fe

Ernie Barry

For all who attended last year's Yard Event where I presented how I develop scenery starting with cell phone shots of track and bench work, you might be interested in seeing the completed scene of "Starkville" with all the finished terrain, backdrops, feed and equipment buildings, vehicles and inhabitants.....now on to Jansen and Trinidad!



AP Corner

Pete Magoun, MMR

There's been a lot of water over the dam here in the northern mitten over the last several months, and most of it has been in the form of White Gifts From Above, which depending on one's perspective may or may not be a Good Thing. But that hasn't kept Division Two from moving along.

Last summer David Zolnierек completed the requirements for his Master Builder- Structures certificate, which considering that he's a contractor in "real life," should have been a relative cakewalk. If you've had a good look at his structures, you'll understand how this stuff is supposed to be done. Due to a number of what can politely be described as Postal Fiascos, the certificate has finally arrived, and I will present it to him the next time we meet. Congratulations, David!

Awhile back I promised a look at the AP and its requirements, which you can find here: <http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program>

After the initial text, as I mentioned last April, have a look at Gerry Leone's article on "What I Learned by Becoming an MMR." It's buried in the "Master Model Railroader" section of the opening page. This is pure Gerry—I've known him for several years-- but it's also a really good overview of the program. And yes, you may find that the program is not of interest to you—that's OK. But if it is, it will help you be a better modeler and will increase your joy in this hobby. And yes, I know this....

The eleven certificates are divided into four general areas: Equipment, Settings, Engineering & Operations, and Service to the Hobby. To earn your MMR, you need seven certificates, including one in each of the four categories. The "Service" category has several offerings that are dependent on "Time Units," so when the Brass Hats come looking for volunteers, keep this in mind!

The requirements for each certificate are laid out on separate pages on the website, with links to the requisite forms/documentation required for submission. Read the requirements carefully—the NMRA changed its website a couple of years ago, and a lot of the AP information was only partially transmitted to the new site. That's the Bad News. The Good News is that everything of interest is there, but it's not easy to guess what is Official and what is Hints and Tips, which used to be contained in nice little yellow boxes. NMRA IT has promised to have at this at some point, but given the job ahead of the volunteers who do this stuff, it may be awhile. The website has over 2000 pages of data to manage....

So here's what we used to call the "Good Gouge" when I was in the Navy decades ago. If it sounds Official, it is Official ("to earn this certificate you must"), but if it sounds folksy, ("the intent of this requirement is to...."), it's Hints & Tips. These are also usually separated from the Official wording by a couple of blank lines. Understanding the Hints & Tips is as important as understanding the requirements, and should help understand the requirements as well. None of this is onerous, and none of it is worse than trying to write a paper for sixth grade right now. All it does is show the evaluators what you were doing and why.... The "how well did you do" part is fodder for the next column —Scott is telling me that I'm out of space.


High Green!

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OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI

"LINKING EAST AND WEST THROUGH CINCINNATI"

Scott Pandorf - Lake Leelanau, MI
spandorf55@gmail.com

Other Selected Events:

- 3/19/2017 Mid-Michigan Train Show Mt. Clemens, MI
- 4/8/2017 Grand Valley RR Club Wyoming, MI
- 4/23/2017 Spring Train Show Muskegon, MI
- 4/23/2017 Blue Water Area RR Show Port Huron, MI
- 7/30/2017 **NMRA 2017 National Convention Orlando, FL**
- 9/14/2017 **NCR 2017 Regional Convention (4 Days) Grand Rapids, MI**

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