



The Hot Box

*The Newsletter of the
Eastern Canada Division
of the NMRA*



Issue # 24 June 2024



CN 507 rounding the curve outside of Enfield, NS. 507 is a daily train from Dartmouth, NS to Moncton, NB. Photo by Bruce Castle

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President's Message



Greg Williams (President, Eastern Canada Division)



Staying (getting) on Track

As I write this, I am in the final days of preparation for the MFMR convention. As usual I have too much to do and not enough time to do it in. Now, this isn't new for me. From my first job to now, a performance review has always included:

"Greg does good work; however, he needs to stay focused and manage his time better."

Ha! Like I'm going to change now! Well, I think I need to. If you're anything like me you have multiple projects on the go at one time. I'll start something with great excitement and enthusiasm and then abandon it when something new and shiny comes along. I am forever being inspired by a variety of sources to start something new.

I don't know how to say no. If someone asks if I can help with something, I say yes first and sort out how I'm going to manage to make it happen later. I like doing DCC installs and I accept the craziest challenges. I'll spend HOURS trying to fix something when the proper solution is to replace instead of repair. I don't know when to stop attempting one method to find a better solution.

So, you ask, what's the solution. Well, my wife tells me all the time: MAKE A LIST! I've made a list of what I want to get done this summer. I know summer is filled with distractions from my workbench so I've tried to be reasonable with my goals. I know where I want to be as fall and modelling season hits. If I keep at it, and keep my eye on the ball (the list) I know I can get it done.

This hobby is about many things, one of them is the self satisfaction of completing a project to the best of our abilities. You won't feel that sense of accomplishment if you never complete anything. Stay focused or get focused, make a list, refer to the list often. Most of all, have fun and have a great summer.

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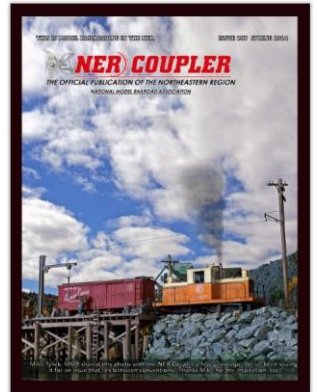
The **NMRA Turntable** newsletter continues to be a great source for modeling how-to videos, layout tours, prototype visits.

As an NMRA member, you should receive the Turntable in your inbox each month. Every issue runs the gamut from planning a layout, to layout tours, wiring for DCC and everywhere in between.



The Spring 2024 issue of the **NER Coupler** is now available. One of the features is a great article promoting the NER Lakeshores '24 Convention

NER President, Ed O'Rourke has a positive message about our model railroad hobby and the many approaches, interests and opinions that come with it.



Mike Wheeler has contributed an excellent article about kitbashing a pulpwood truck

<https://nernmra.org/ner-couplers/>



You should also be receiving a monthly e-newsletter keeping you up-to-date on what's happening in the Northeast Region and the Divisions. If not click here and sign up for the NER News:

<https://nernmra.org/>

Balloon Track – News around our Division

Monthly Workshops

After another very successful 3rd season, we are taking the summer off. The September Hot Box will announce an exciting lineup for the 2024-2025 season of the Eastern Canada Division's presentation series, via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month.

Our thanks go out to presenters we have had the pleasure of seeing over the past 3 months – **Luc Nowlan**, **Greg Williams**, **Will Lawrence** and **James Whatley** (via the NERx)



We extend a warm welcome to the Eastern Canada Division to **Nicholas Gaudet** of Oromocto NB

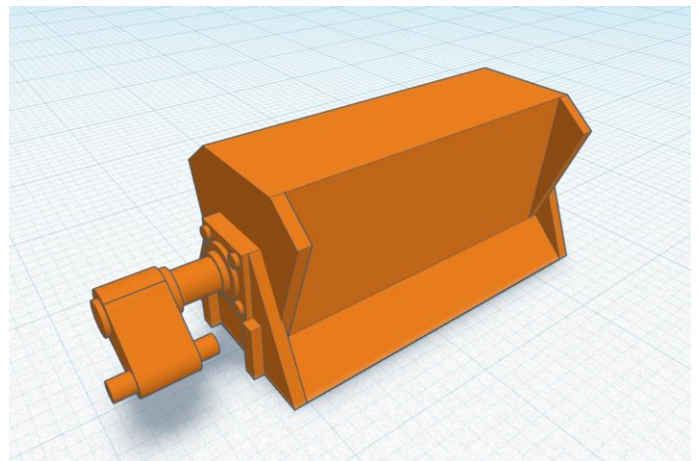
In the September and December 2023 issues of the Hot Box, we featured railway stations and railroading in the Annapolis Valley. Recently, we received more photos from the collection of the late **Don Bowlby**. This is of the 1958 Royal visit at Annapolis Royal NS



3D Printing

Steve Hill of Quispamsis NB has been working furiously on designing and creating 3D printed items for his and other friends' model building.

We share this short story about some of his recent work - a 3D print job he did for Don Fitzpatrick. "Don was scratchbuilding new ballast cars and needed a set of drop gates for it. The first photo is of a drop gate on a ballast car that Don recently completed. The second photo is of the 3D software generated drawing Steve created and the 3rd photo is the set of drop gates that he printed for Don. Time taken to design was 1hr36m. Time to print was 1h38m. Cost of filament was about \$0.07." Steve suggested I ask Don about the story behind his original set of drop gates and why he decided to see if he could make the new set for him. Don's response was that for the number he needed, it would have cost him over \$100 to get the gates from a commercial producer. Gotta love technology!



A Visit to the Middleton Railway Museum

By Chris Lyon

What a wonderful museum adventure to see a model railway of the Annapolis Valley Dominion Atlantic Railway in HO Scale. The museum is located at the Station in down town Middleton just one hour and thirty minutes from the Halifax/Dartmouth area.



Arriving, you can see two full size Steam Engines under restoration, as well as a box car and a couple of industrial locomotives and a 19th century truck wheel. On the freight shed side there is also a vintage truck trailer which completes the representation of the shipment of goods.

Proceed up the ramp of the station freight shed. This is where the model railway is located. It is still under construction, but then again, what layout is ever finished.

It has DCC command control, an Arduino based system that also has turnout control. And maybe there will be signals in the future. Code 100 rail is used throughout. What is really notable is the level of detail put into the scenery and in particular the scratch-built structures. The true focus was on creating a true representation of Annapolis Valley towns and villages. The track leads you through many of the valley towns where there are stations, freight sheds and points of interest.





The towns are all connected through steam era scenes of farms, home steads, fishing piers, gypsum mines and more.



Balancing rock is modelled and there are lighthouses and the old Windsor Fort Edward. Mini scenes of fire burning stills and hobo camps as well.



The museum is staffed by volunteers that are hard at work restoring the artifacts and building the model railway. They are also there to meet and greet you and are glad to take you around and point out all there is to see. On my visit I had the pleasure of chatting with the members and the enthusiasm and initiative is very high. So welcoming!



To get more information go to <https://middletonrailwaymuseum.ca/>

Their summer hours are **Wednesday – Friday 10 am – 5 PM from June 30 – Aug 24th.**

The model railway work sessions are Wednesday and Friday mornings usually between 9 and 12.

Partnership Program

The companies listed below give discounts to NMRA members when orders are placed using a special discount code. Newly added companies are in **bold red**. Check them out! You can find descriptions of these companies and their products, links to their websites, and the discount codes on our Partnership Page at nmra.org/partnerships. Remember you need to be logged into our site as a member to see the codes! Go to nmra.org/user/register to register your name on the website.

Bespoke Rail	Highways and Byways Model	Old Depot Gallery
CatzPaw Innovations	Railroad Graphics	Old West Scenery
CB Train Junction	Hot Wire Foam Factory	R & J Details
Clever Models	ITLA Scale Models	Ram Track
Custom Model Railroads CMR	K.I.S.S. Method	RR-CirKits
Coastmans Scenic Products	LaBelle Woodworking	Scale Model Plans
Composite Designs	LARC Products	Scale Railroad Models
Conowingo Models	Logic Rail Technologies	Scenery Solutions
Cowcatcher Magazine	MAC Rail	Showcase Miniatures
Daylight Sales	Micro-Mark	Team Track Models
Deepwoods Software	Mine Mount Models	The N Scale Architect
Deluxe Materials	Miniprints	Tichy Train Group
Diorama Hobbies	Model Train Catalogue	Touch of the Brush Weathering
Dwarvin Enterprises	Modelers Decals & Paint	Train Installations
East Coast Circuits	Motrak Models	Train Show, Inc.
Enterprise&National Car Rentals	MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)	Trainmasters TV/MRH Store
Evan Designs	Mudd Creek Models	Trainz
Feight Studios	New Creations Victorian	TSG Multimedia
Fusion Scale Graphics	Railroad Building	UGEARS
Gatorfoam	Nick and Nora Designs	USA Airbrush Supplies/Badger
Great Decals!	Northlandz	WiFi Model Railroad
Green Frog Productions	NScaleWorks	Yelton Models

For details about each vendor, their products and the discount they offer to NMRA members, go to:

<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>

Remember, only NMRA members who are registered and logged into the NMRA website will see the discount codes.

Through the Wall

Revamping a part of my layout, I had an opening in a wall that needed some kind of logical way to mask it. My first thought was a tunnel portal. However, two things bothered me, 1.) How to surround the portal to make it look like the tunnel was actually cut into the side of a hill, and 2.) We don't have many tunnels around this neck of the woods.

So, my next idea was to use stone abutments on both sides and have a bridge span the gap. The backdrop could be painted to simulate a valley in the distance through which the tracks flowed.



I built a King Post bridge representing a lightly used bridge with little traffic. I thought it looked cool, that is until I placed it on the abutments – the stonework was just too massive and made the bridge almost disappear.



Digging through my parts boxes looking for any inspiration, I stumbled on to a few pieces of "concrete" bridge railing made by RIX Products.....this seemed more correct to my eye. I then added understructure to give the bridge a more solid look and a roadway across the top.



Next came the terrain, part of which would be modeled in front of the bridge and abutments; another part would be painted backdrop





Now that the scenery is done, the abutments largely disappeared in the hillside and the foliage..... maybe I'll rethink the king post bridge in this location.....NOT!



Events

Amherst Show
March 9



Moncton – Riverview Show March 30



Photos of Amherst and Moncton shows by Roy Hobson, Scott Jay, Ron Grant, Louis LeBlanc and Malcolm McKay

Modellers' Day Saint John April 13



Photos by Ron Grant, Rob Leathley and Lou McIntyre



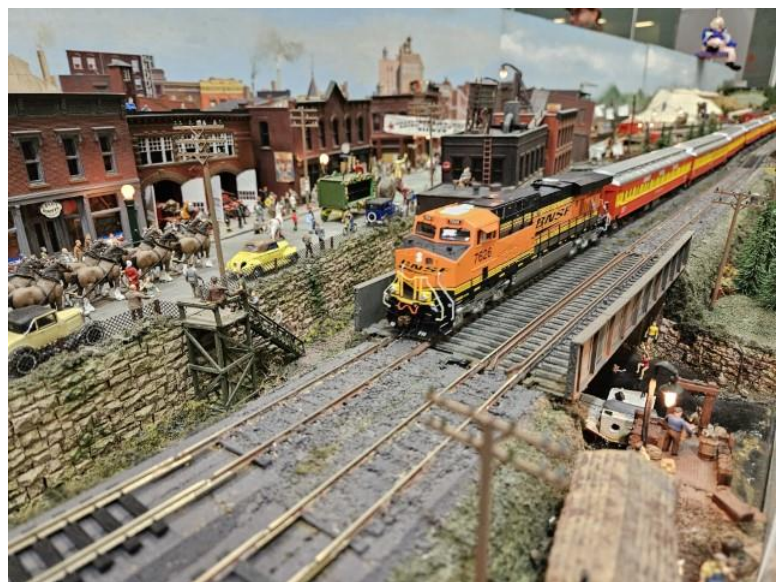


Best-In-Show – Steve Hill



(Ric Hamilton's photos from the model contest)





Photos by Ron Grant, Lou McIntyre and Ric Hamilton

Railway Weekend

Saturday, September 28, 2024 – *Modelling Day at Riverview Lions Community Centre, 701 Coverdale Rd, Riverview, NB, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.*

Cost \$ 15 per person. Bring a project and some models! Slides or videos after lunch. Restaurants nearby.



Sunday, September 29, 2024 – *Private Guided Tour of New Brunswick Railway Museum, 2847 Main Street, Hillsborough, NB, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. BBQ Lunch.*

Admission with a donation to the Museum of \$ 25 per person; BBQ lunch included.



For more information, Please contact:

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<https://maritimehobbies.ca>

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The F.R.E.D.

The narrow gauge Newfoundland Railway has a faithful group of followers

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2320589979>

The rich history of the Newfoundland Railway and the coastal boat services is celebrated at the Railway Coastal Museum in St John's NL

<https://www.railwaycoastalmuseum.com/>



Look who Steve Hill found in the March/April '24 edition of Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette. Steve says, "Musta pulled that load in from Albert County 'cause trees don't grow that big on the Tantramar. Well done Mr. Mesheau."

Dear Bob,

I recently built two 1:48 scale truck kits from CIP Models. I found them on eBay, where they have a storefront. The Freightliner COE logging truck was a cab-only model and came with an engine. I added the trailer, and a friend 3D printed the logs. I've got another 24 to finish!

The Dodge stake truck was built up with the only addition being the sign. Trueman's is a local outfit and makes wonderful ice cream. They also have a two-foot RR running around their park.

It was a lot of fun building and finishing these kits and nice to see them in 1:48.

Sincerely,

Peter Mesheau

Via email



IN THE EYE OF THE BL2HOLDER

Last Fall, our ECD President, **Greg Williams**, posted an e-mail to a local modeling group, "Bachmann has released pre-production samples of the BL-2. They promise road specific details. One criticism posted on Facebook and I had to zoom in to see...the grab irons are molded into the body! Unless this is going to be a \$100 loco, they need to improve." Add to that, Bachmann wasn't going to introduce it in Bangor & Aroostook road name which remains near and dear to many of us in Atlantic Canada.

That started one of the most furious email exchanges seen in a long time - not about Bachmann, or its version of the BL-2, but about the aesthetics of the locomotive itself.

Greg W – "I like anything unique. I'm an odd ball and am attracted to other odd balls"

Rob L – "I'm one of those nuts who also likes the BL-2. It is ugly in some ways but a unique beauty in others."

Mike G - "The BL2 has a European look to it, in my eyes, which is fine. It also looks like a Raymond Loewy design gone wrong. I happen to like oddball designs and think this one is interesting."

Steve O – "Hmm, don't know why I like the ugly duckling, but I do."

Bob K - There is an adage that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. In the case of the BL-2, it seems selective blindness has overtaken some of our members. When I first beheld the BL-2 at Coles Museum some 10-15 years ago I was struck by it's beauty and wondered why such a work of art was in the Coles Museum rather than the Louvre.

Steve H - Fortunately the French at the Louvre have a much better definition of beauty than to put a BL-2 in their magnificent museum.

Bob K - The ugly duck, I like it, I have them in BAR grey and B&M, Burgundy & Gold. BL2 American Railfan, sitting in the Cole's museum does look good.

Peter M offered his view of the BL-2. "I happen to be one of a handful that kind of liked it. Not the most practical locomotive for short runs and switching. I find its sleek "modern" look out of sync considering that it was pretty well on the front end of diesel locomotive design. Not the most successful locomotive perhaps, but certainly the forerunner of many popular



designs that have been with us for years.

Well, I found a Williams Trains 3-rail O27 version for a decent price and decided to re-jig it to 0 scale 2-rail. Not sure how smart that was, but in February 2023 I started the journey. The original guts were removed (anyone interested in these?) and a brass plate installed to fix a couple of Stanton drives to. To dress the motor blocks up, I obtained four suitable side frames. **Don F.** and I had visited the Coles Land Transportation Museum in Bangor last June and saw the for real locomotive.

Today I finished installing the crew, extra details, glazing, and weathering. It runs very nicely, proudly pulling a dozen Maine cars.

Bob K. added his recollections from his time in Europe and provides the definitive assessment of the BL-2, "While living in France from 64-67, I had visited the Louvre on many occasions. As a member of the Franco-Canuck model train club, (we modelled French and German trains, Flieschmann and Marklin and sometimes Jouef). At the Louvre we would often get asked by staff to get them a BL-2 because it was "tres beautiful!" At the outset I had no idea what a BL-2 was. However as time went on I was able to see one at an American PX. They couldn't keep them on the shelf! I regret I did not buy one at the time. I now have a couple of them, under lock and key lest they be stolen. My wife has a photo of me standing beside the real one at Cole's museum - she calls it her two beauties (*ed. note: some parts of this story may be whimsical*).

As an aside did you know that the BL stands for Beautiful Locomotive!"

We need your input! If you want stories or history from your local area, it's up to you to share them. Send any projects, stories or reviews you want to share to us at our e-mail address: easterncanadadivision@gmail.com or to louismca2012@gmail.com

