



The Hot Box

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



Issue # 28 June 2025



It was May 1983 when I went to my first train show and first saw this **Bob Boudreau** model of an abandoned feed store. Some of you may remember the show at the City Road Armouries in Saint John, NB – I will never forget it because of this magnificent structure. The model still exists 42 years later safe in the hands of a member of the Saint John club

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President's Message



Greg Williams (President, Eastern Canada Division)



Summer has arrived once again! I'm not sure where the time goes. The MFMR convention is in the rear-view mirror. I didn't have the opportunity to attend but I hear the it was a good convention. Just around the corner will be the fall modelling season and along with it, the various fall shows. All of this is a reminder that despite our hopes, time marches on and it marches to a very fast drum beat.

It might do us well to inventory the materials and kits we have stashed away and decide what projects we will reasonably get to. I'm sure if I did this, I'd find some that, at the time, seemed to be something I really wanted to do but now, my interests may have shifted and I no longer have the passion for that particular project. I'll almost guarantee there's someone out there who would like to tackle it. This can be an opportunity to sell off, trade or even give away that project to another modeller who might just "git er dun".

I'd also like to mention that next week Will Lawrence is hosting the Truro Modelling Day Saturday, June 7, 2025, 10:15 am to 4:30 pm. At the Truro Public Library, 754 Prince Street, Truro in the J Harris Read Room (beside the main entrance). See the flyer elsewhere in this issue of the Hotbox.

Have fun and happy modelling.

Our ECD Executive and Board of Directors:

President:

Greg Williams - gregw66@gmail.com

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mcmulls@nb.sympatico.ca

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Call Board – NMRA and the Region

NER CONVENTION 2025



**THE
CONCORD
FLYER**
CONCORD,
NEW HAMPSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 11 - 14, 2025

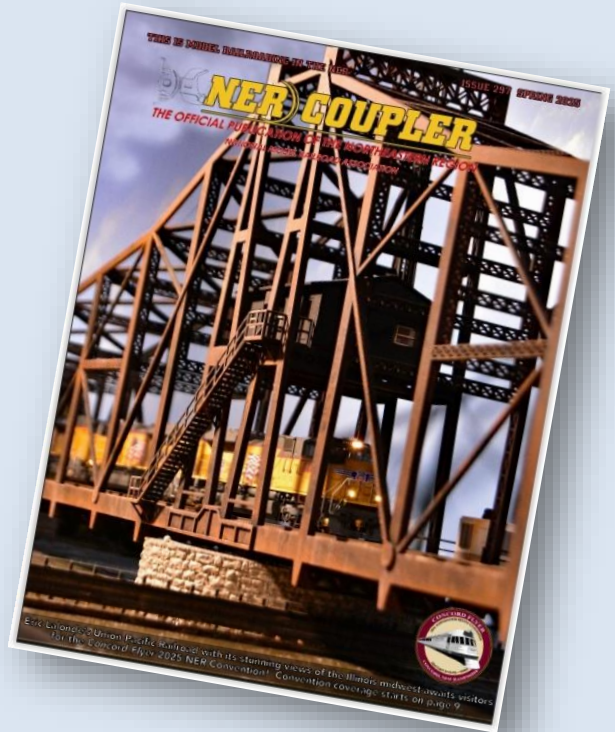


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- NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES • CLINICS • BANQUET •
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→ SCAN THIS CODE TO GET
TRANSPORTED DIRECTLY TO
THE CONVENTION WEBSITE!

THE NATIONAL MODEL
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



The Spring 2025 issue of the **NER Coupler** is now available online. In his editorial, Coupler Editor, **Chris Carfaro**, honours **Dave Gunn's** 40 years as an NMRA member and his contributions to the hobby.

This issue's feature article is of the Concord Flyer convention in September. Other articles include an approach to lighting your layout, and some ideas on painting and weathering models for you layout

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

Balloon Track – News around our Division

Monthly Workshops

After wrapping up a great 2024-2025 presentation series, we will be back in September. Watch the next issue of the Hot Box to see what treats **James Whatley** and our presenters have in store for us for the upcoming season.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to share their knowledge and interests



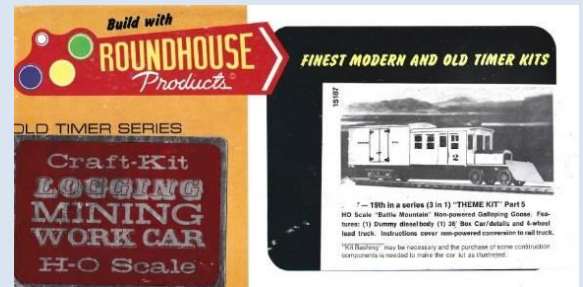
We extend a warm welcome to the Eastern Canada Division to **Martin Maillet** of Bouctouche NB

A Doodlebug's Multiple Personalities

Hot Box editor, Lou McIntyre shows how he used an MDC kit as the inspiration for two completed models

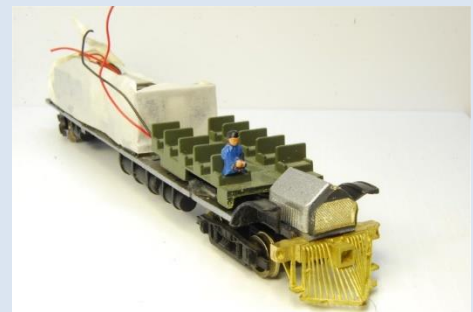
You never know what might inspire you to be creative. In this case, it was leftovers and a photo. Back in 2016, I acquired a bunch of parts in a used MDC 3-in-1 kit intended to create a Galloping Goose. The previous owner included an S-scale Model T and a cast brass “cow catcher”— someone had started a project, then apparently gave up.

I did want to power it and rummaging around the shop, I came across a Bachmann Doodlebug. I had three, so I could sacrifice one.



The MDC kit had a box cab shell, and a box car shell which I shortened (I should have shortened it even more) and glued together.

I then used the Doodlebug's motor and trucks and I shortened the metal frame and passenger seating to fit the MDC parts.

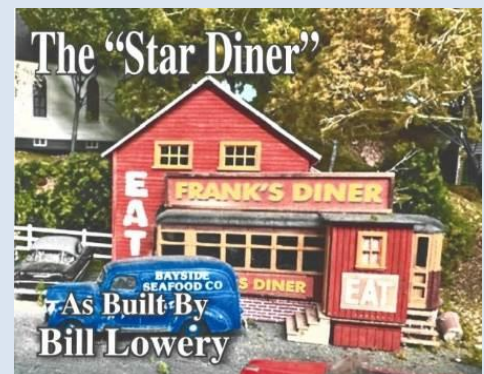


I didn't need the Doodlebug shell so I tossed it in the parts drawer. Here is the completed Galloping Goose with DCC Tsunami2 sound – “Aaaaooogah!”



Of course, I had forgotten about the Doodlebug shell until a few months ago when I saw a photo of a modified Bar Mills kit. Our local club was having a contest and the Star Diner was the inspiration I was looking for. I emphasize “inspiration” because my version bears little resemblance to the Bar Mills one

The “Star Diner”



For the diner, I shortened the Doodlebug by removing the baggage section and reattaching the head end to the coach compartment



The store was constructed from scratch using Northeastern Scale Lumber scribed siding. The first step was cutting the 4 building flats to size, then roughly positioning the doors

and windows and tracing out the window and doors using the Tichy windows I had on hand.

I then cut out each opening (Note some positioning changes after the initial layout)



After cutting, but before proceeding any further, I added bracing to the backs of each of the wall flats to prevent warping when stain / paint was applied.



I had a Bar Mills covered stairwell in my stock; I built it separately and added it to the left side during final assembly

All the plastic details (with a few extra pieces) were mounted on double sided tape and sprayed with the cheapest automotive red oxide primer I could find



Here's the result (*photo by Ric Hamilton*):



The removable roof was created using Masonite covered with Campbell shingles.

The interiors were created using scenery flats (printed photos) around the perimeter and infilling with counters and scenic details (barrels, boxes, tables and people). A dollar store battery holder was used to power three 3-volt LED's that light the interior.

Material Sources:

Northeastern Scale Lumber –
Freedom Miniatures,
Kentville NS

All other materials were from
my own stock acquired over
many years



The model received 1st place – Craftsman
Class – Structures at the 2024 MFMR
convention in Sackville NB

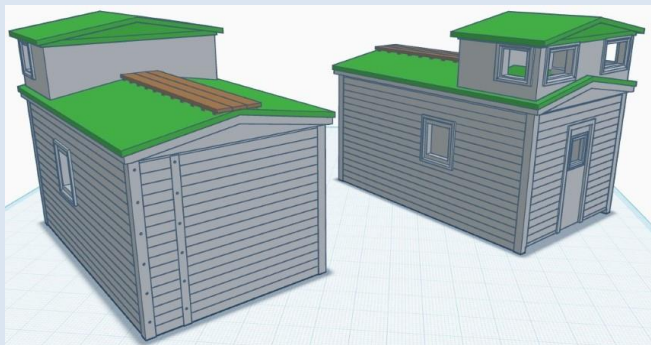
The Marriage of Traditional Scratchbuilding and 3D Printing

Don Fitzpatrick is well known for his scratchbuilding, especially for unique O-scale rail cars. This is a project where Don has recruited the assistance of **Steve Hill** and his 3D-printing skills to create parts of a boom car based on drawings Don had acquired years ago.

As Steve Hill pointed out, "It is a project that I have been helping Don with and it has a ways to go before completion. What I am enjoying most about it is that it's another great example of hybrid model construction using traditional scratch building methods and materials in coordination with the latest 3D printing technologies."



The scratchbuilt flat car

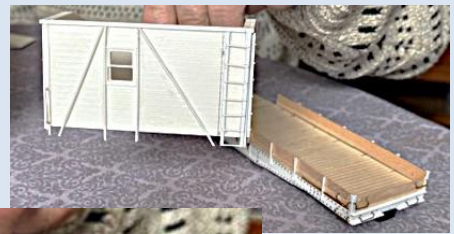


3D CAD rendering

The 3D print test fitted to the flat car



Ladders and Outside Bracing



Nearing completion – just a bit more decal work



Events

Upcoming Next Weekend !

The NRMA Eastern Canada Division
Presents

Truro Modelling Day

Saturday, June 7, 2025, 10:15 am
to 4:30 pm

Truro Public Library, 754 Prince
Street, Truro

J Harris Read Room (beside the
main entrance)



Join us for a relaxing day of building models, trading ideas and techniques, and general conversation.

Special Guest Andrew Blackburn will give a talk on ICR, CNR, and DAR operations in and around Truro.

There is **NO CHARGE** for this event; donations to support future NMRA events are gratefully accepted.

Please register ahead with Will Lawrence at:

902 890 6544

will.d.lawrence@gmail.com



REAL RAILS 2025 BURLINGTON

A joint Railway Historical Association 3 day convention.



Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo H.S.

VIA Historical Ass'n

**October 17th, 18th and 19th, 2025,
Holiday Inn and Candle Wood Suites, 3060 South Service Road,
Burlington Ontario. CANADA.**

Prototype Tours - Speakers - Hobby Manufacturers' Displays
Product Sales - Model Displays - Modular Displays - Huge Train Show
Banquet with Special Guest Speaker

Basic Registration fee - \$119. Does not include trips or banquet.
Registration Opens - April 1, 2025. **Discount of \$20 if registered before June 30.**
Additional \$20 Discount for members of CPHA, CNRHA, TH&BHS, VIAHA

NOTE: Registered convention guests will enjoy a one hour exclusive entry
to the train show prior to the general public opening at 10am.

For more **REAL RAILS 2025 CONVENTION** Info: contact Richard McQuade - secretary@cptracks.ca

For more **TRAIN SHOW** and **TABLE RENTAL** Info: contact Laura Spring - lauraspring66@hotmail.com

For more **REGISTRATION** Info or problems: contact - Larry Sebelley - RRB2025Registrar@outlook.com



www.cptracks.ca/realrails2025.html



*The Eastern Canada Division – NER – NMRA
&
The Saint John Society of Model Railroaders
INVITES you to ATTEND*

Modelling Morning

Quispamsis Lions Club

Friday October 24th, 2025 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Participants are invited to bring:

- A model project
- Small hand tools
- A cutting mat (or the equivalent) to protect the tables
- A small desk lamp
- A few additional completed or in-progress models for display
- Your lunch, water, and snacks (nearby restaurants are also available)

Please confirm your participation by contacting:

Greg Williams gregw66@gmail.com 506-279-2232

*This event is open to **ALL**, regardless of group affiliation. While the focus is primarily on railway models, model makers in any field are welcome! We are gathering to build and display a few models, exchange ideas, and chat. Enjoy an informal slide show or video in the early afternoon.*

Notes:

- Spray painting, including airbrushing; grit blasting; and the use of heavy-duty power tools is not permitted at the venue.
- Tables, chairs, and some extension cords will be provided.
- The venue has asked us to please clean up after ourselves and leave it as we found it.
- All participants are requested to practice handwashing / sanitizing immediately upon entry. Anyone with a cold, flu or other contagious illness is asked to please reconsider attending.

A Look back Over the Past Few Months

Amherst Model Train Show



Modelling Day – Saint John





Moncton Show-



MFMR Convention – Brookfield NS

From all reports, everyone in attendance had a good time at the convention. Thanks to **Holly Whittaker** and his team for putting on a great 2025 convention.

Fergus' Mira bridge under construction at Modellers' Corner



The **Best-in-Show** award went to **Steve Hill** for the second year in a row, this year for his ice house diorama

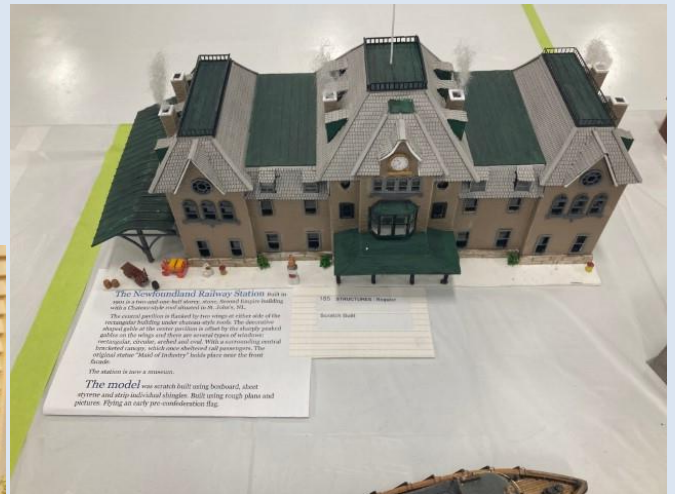


On Steve's diorama, Jed and Granny Clampett are going to board the next passenger train, but might be waiting a spell while that reefer is being iced



Annette Fougere showing some serious modelling skills at Modellers' Corner.

The beautifully crafted Newfoundland Railway station in St John's



Dave Gunn with his certificates for his photo work including "Best-in-Show – Photo"

Two anonymous CN fans:



Darren Landry's modules as part of the Cumberland Model Train Club



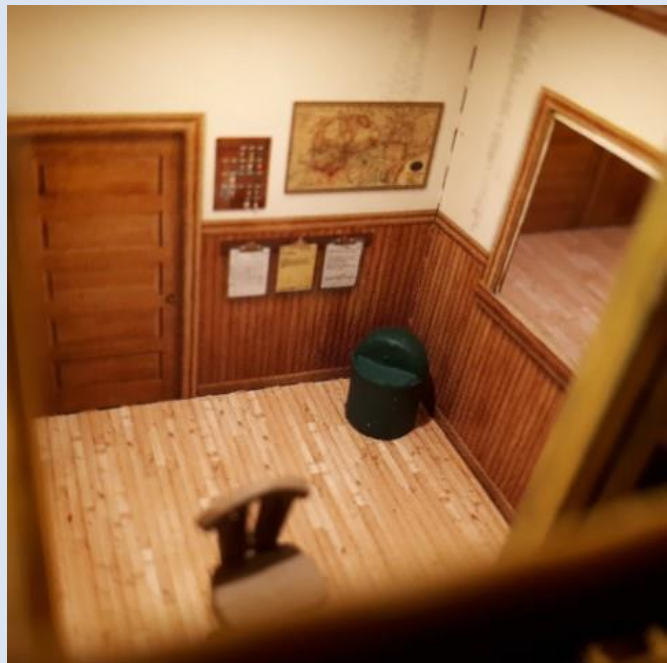
DAR - Canning NS

Dan Conlin has produced a stunning model of the Canning Nova Scotia station and here, he shares the results of that project. Dan is a maritime historian and museum curator in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is a published author, podcaster and has been a contributor to CBC programs including "Land and Sea".



"I finished my HO-scale model of the Canning Station, the village's heart of business and travel from 1890 to 1960. I've depicted the station as it looked before the 1926 rebuild which extended the freight shed and changed the clapboard to stucco. Making the DAR's unique gothic window and rosette braces was an interesting challenge. My thanks to **Tony Kalkman**, **Gary Hadfield** and the **Fieldwood Heritage Society** for photos which inspired the model. I used parts from an old Tyco kit for the roof, with Grandt Line architectural details and signs from Hamilton Model Works, along with a lighted interior from Roomettes, an innovative Canadian company that creates interior graphics. Lots of prototype details about this station can be found on the DAR website:

https://dardpi.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Canning_Station

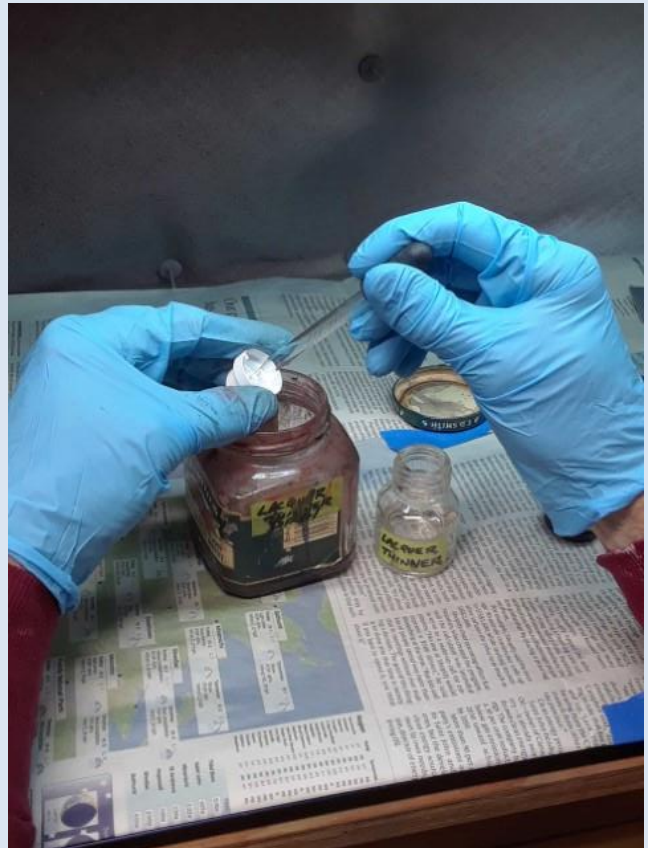


A Simple Way to Clean Spray Can Nozzles

by James Whatley, MMR

Traditionally, spray can nozzles could be cleaned by inverting the can and depressing the nozzle until only the propellant came out, but this no longer appears to work with newer products. Whether spraying directly from the can or decanting into your airbrush bottle (please refer to my article "Fine Modelling in a Rattle Can" published in The Hot Box Issue 21 for September, 2023), storing the can with the nozzle still loaded with paint only leads to frustration. However, I recently came up with a simple solution:

Pull the nozzle from the can and hold its outlet facing downwards over an old jam jar. Using a glass eyedropper, squirt clean lacquer thinner from *inside* the nozzle in a steady, continuous way, so the solvent only passes *out* through the nozzle in the normal direction and into the jar. Only a few passes should be necessary, and it will be obvious when clean solvent appears at the outlet. You may then (optionally) dry the nozzle with compressed air from your airbrush. Finally, store the paint can with its nozzle taped to the lid. Please see Figures 1 and 2. Be sure to use a properly ventilated spray booth or work outdoors for all spray painting and cleaning.



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 photos, stories or reviews you want to share to us at our e-mail address: easterncanadadivision@gmail.com or to louismca2012@gmail.com



Eastern Canada Division

NER - NMRA

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