



# THE LANTERN



JANUARY 2009

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

READ ABOUT ROCKS ON PAGE 4

## The Super's Column

By Bill Paulsell

Thanks to Fred Plymale for his program on rock casting. He showed us a variety of ways to do it, recommended materials to use, and brought along a model to show the results. There were many questions from the group which indicated that Fred stimulated a lot of interest in the process.

I enjoyed having the group at my house. Like almost every layout, mine is a work in progress. I hope the next time you come it



will be farther along in its development. There is always more to do on a layout, and nothing spurs you along like having a group come visit!

Next month we will go back to the Eagle Creek library for a program by Ray Persing on scratch building with wood. Scratch building is what makes a layout truly unique. I have visited many layouts at conventions and so many of them have all the same structures. Scratch building is not my best talent, but that is what I am going to do from this point on. So, I look forward to Ray's presentation and hope you will also.

Ray's layout is called the Cincinnati and Western and occupies a 14 by 30 foot base-

ment room. It has a number of award winning models, including structures, locos, and rolling stock. He is a highly skilled modeler, and we are sure to learn much from him. See the bottom of page 8 for his web site address.

The next Regional Convention [see page 6 in last month's *Lantern*] will be in Columbus, Ohio, April 30-May 3. Registration is \$60 before February 28, \$70 after. It will be held at the newly remodeled Ramada Plaza Convention Center. There will be contests, prototype tours, and many workshops on a variety of topics including scenery, DCC, craftsman kit techniques, laser kit assembly, painting backdrops, photographing layouts, and other subjects. On Sunday there will be layout tours which will include the 40 x 40 Columbus Model Railroad Club layout, a double deck layout, a 30 x 70 O Scale layout, and Dean Freytag's famous South Ridge Lines which features award winning heavy steel industry structures, among many other outstanding pikes.

Pete Birdsong has created and Bill Robbins has delivered flyers to hobby shops describing our activities for the next three months. If you know other model railroaders, encourage them to join the NMRA and come to our meetings.

I look forward to seeing you on the first Sunday of the New Year.

### Treasurer's Report Nov. 30, 2008

Beginning balance 10/31/08	\$3206.34
Expenses (230.50) + Deposits	227.00
Ending balance	\$3202.84

### Division 10 NMRA Member receives Regional Appointment

Dick Briggs, MMR President of the NMRA Mid-Central Region, has appointed Tom Miller chair of the Regional Education Committee. The role of "Education Managers/Chairs" at any level of the NMRA is less of a "doer of things" and more of a "catalyst" to see what's being done and encourage things that need doing get organized, staffed, and initiated. Tom has recently retired from a thirty six year career in education and during that time was awarded the Master Teacher Award at the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine and is a Teaching Fellow of the University of Connecticut. He currently serves as secretary for NMRA MCR Division 10, the Central Kentucky division.



Tom Miller

### VISIT BOB WEINHEIMER'S LAYOUT

IN CHARLESTON, W.V.

[www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com](http://www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com)

Anyone interested in this overnight trip to Charleston on Friday, February 20, to Saturday, February 21, contact **Pete Birdsong** to get more details and to let him know (his cell is 859 552 5467).

The Pennsylvania Southern Railroad is a 1980 era HO scale DCC layout spread across two rooms with a staging yard in the garage.

Trains are dispatched with a modified train order system that is a hybrid of classic train orders and more modern track warrants. Train crews receive switch lists.

Call Pete and spend a Friday night in WV.



# National Model Railroad Association

*The Lantern* is a monthly (except July) publication of Division 10, Mid Central Region (MCR), National Model Railroad Association. All opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of Division 10, the MCR, the NMRA, or anyone else.

## Mid-Central Region Officers

Dick Briggs, MMR, President  
 Merlyn Jarman, Vice President  
 Gary Sole, Treasurer  
 Tom Atherton, Secretary



## Committee Chairs

Achievement Program	Wendell Greer
Community Activities (open)	
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Contests	Ron Kercheval
Conventions & Shows	Ed Butcher
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Member Database	John Gorman
Newsletter & Photography	Stew Winstandley
Webmaster	Pete Birdsong

<http://nmra-division10.railfan.net/>

## In Recognition...

Many thanks to folks listed in the column below. They have given their time, materials and/or money to support our club. We encourage all members to help with financial support to The Lantern and our website and the Division 10 train shows. **Send your monetary contribution to our Treasurer.**

To be listed here your contribution needs to be at least \$20 in cash or material valued at \$50 or a total of 20 hours time within the last year. Division 10 receives NO monetary support from the NMRA or the Mid Central Region. Division 10 is recognized by the US government as a 501c3 corporation and your cash or material donations may be tax deductible.

Contributions of materials or time should be reported to John Gorman so that he can keep track of them.

To the right of each contributor's name is the date of his or her latest contribution. Whenever one makes a contribution of money, material or time, his or her date will be updated and for new contributors, their name will be added. Folks who have not made a contribution in one year will be dropped from the list.

## Division 10 Officers and Board

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Don	Burris	12/7/2008
Chris	Cord	12/7/2008
Tim	Day	12/7/2008
Irv	Frary	12/7/2008
David	Oswald	12/7/2008
Fred	Plymale	12/7/2008
Tom	Wilson	12/7/2008
John	Deville	11/4/2008
William	Paulsell	11/4/2008
Ron	Kercheval	10/9//2008
Louis	Jaquith	10/7/2008
Phil	Lester	10/6/2008
David	Battin	10/5/2008
Orville	Boes	10/5/2008
Alan	Bourne	10/5/2008
John	Gorman	10/5/2008
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Stewart	Winstandley	8/6/2008
Jim	Campbell	7/2/2008
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*If you have made a donation of money, materials and/or time that is not reflected on this list, please notify John Gorman. **THANKS!***

## Scale Reproductions Hobby Shop

3073 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville, KY 40220 502 459 5849 [www.srihobbies.com](http://www.srihobbies.com)

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"Railroad" Pete

## Witless & Clueless: The Continuing Saga of Larry Loungecar and Rivets O'Reilly

Created by "Railroad" Pete Birdsong

Written by Mike Armstrong



Mike Armstrong

- Rivets: Hi Larry, how was the trip to the World's Greatest Hobby Show?
- Larry: Terrific, Rivets. You know me...even a bad show is a good show when it comes to trains. Even if I don't buy nothin', I still like to look at the layouts and see what's for sale.
- Rivets: What do ya mean, "even if ya don't buy nothin'." You always buy somethin'! What did ya buy this time?
- Larry: Well, that is a bit of a story, Rivets.
- Rivets: Larry, with you, if it ain't a story, it didn't happen. What did ya buy?!
- Larry: I'm getting' to that, Rivets. I was standin' buy the booth for Model Railroader and the guy asked me if I wanted a free copy of this month's issue. I told him, no thanks.
- Rivets: Larry, I have never known you to turn down anything free, even if ya have twenty of 'em.
- Larry: Well, I had my latest copy at home, but I just bought another copy of it at another booth.
- Rivets: Why did ya do that?
- Larry: Rivets, it's kinda embarrassin', but I needed something to read when I went to the restroom. But anyway, we got ta talkin' and I told him all the magazines I subscribe to. A lot of them were Kalmbach, but ya know I try to get every magazine there is.
- Rivets: I know. I keep tellin' ya, ya don't need all those magazines. Ya got closets full now.
- Larry: Yes I do need 'em. And I have ta subscribe, because they wouldn't let me read 'em at the hobby shops any more. The guy said, "Hey, this ain't no library. Buy it or put it back on the shelf!"
- Rivets: Boy, he didn't seem very nice about it.
- Larry: Actually he was nicer than the other guy who told me that I sweat so much in my hands that the print gets runny and blurring on the page.
- Rivets: Your hands sweat?
- Larry: Yeah. When I see all the stuff there is to buy and all the good articles on modelin', I just get the "sweats" I want it all so bad.
- Rivets: Ya probably shake, too.
- Larry: A little. But the guy at the show couldn't believe that I subscribed to all those magazines in all those scales. And all those prototype magazines are great, too. There are so many out there. And then I found one I had never subscribed to...it is a magazine about British Garden Railroadin'.
- Rivets: Ya didn't subscribe did ya?
- Larry: Rivets, I'm not that nuts. It was a hundred twenty bucks a year. I asked Bonnie to get it for me for Christmas.
- Rivets: And just when I thought there was hope for ya!
- Larry: Aw, don't be worrin'. She wouldn't do it. Instead, I came home from work and she had emptied three closets of all my railroad magazines in the middle of the livin' room floor. All over the tables and furniture. There was no place to sit! Then she said, "A lot of those magazines you didn't even get past the cover. When you read all of those, then I *might* consider this new magazine for next Christmas.
- Rivets: Well, I guess she is safe. You'll never get all those read.
- Larry: Hey, don't be such a pessimist. I took a month's vacation and I'm already through every issue of Model Railraoder back to 1976. It is a bit depressin' though.
- Rivets: Why's that!
- Larry: Lookin' at those old adds...makes me wish I had bought it all back then when prices were lower.

Fred Plymale presented a clinic about rocks at our December meeting. Read his content about making your own rock molds on page 4. A rubber rock web link is <http://www.cripplebush.net/notes/rubberrocks.pdf>.



## A Rock Clinic

by Fred Plymale



Using commercial rock molds is the easiest way to make rocks, but the disadvantage is the duplication of rocks. The way to avoid this is to make your own molds and cast your own rocks. To make molds you need masters to copy, such as rocks, coal, wood, or a borrowed casting. You will also need:

- Latex rubber
- Cheap 1” brush
- Cheesecloth
- Mold release, such as Pam or WD40



Spray your master with mold release and let it dry a little.

Brush on a coat of latex rubber and let it dry. Brush on a second coat of latex and let it dry. Cover the second coat with cheesecloth and put on a third coat of latex. Add additional coats (two or more) of latex over the cloth and let each dry.

Carefully remove the mold from the master. Most molds will require support to prevent distortion from the weight of the plaster that you add in the next step. Sand is the easiest to use.

Mix molding plaster to the consistency of pancake batter and pour it into your supported mold. Let it dry before removing.



Install your rocks using Liquid Nails, hot glue, etc.

and fill any gaps with molding plaster. Just before it sets up, carve, cut, and chip to match the adjoining surfaces. It’s possible to install rocks on curved surfaces if the plaster is not completely hard. The surface must be wet where the rock is to be placed and attached. This requires practice and patience.



First use a dark paint or stain on the placed raw rock plaster surface using black or dark brown India ink and alcohol. Then highlight the edges with a fan brush using an acrylic paint that is diluted to a wash in light gray or light brown.

Blend your new rock surface into the scenery by mixing a light wash made with the powdered dirt or clay used on the layout near the rocks. Pour it on top of the rocks and let it



## NMRA MCR Division 10 Shares the Joy of Model Railroading at Southern Lights

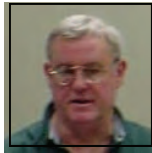
by Tom Miller

Every Christmas holiday season brings the best of model railroading to the Kentucky Horse Park. This once a year opportunity brings our NMRA Division 10 model railroaders together with the Bluegrass Railroad Club's model train display. Featured at the Horse Park display are N scale, HO scale, O scale and G scale layouts. Our members are primarily involved with the N and HO scale layouts that feature several modular scenes and both diesel and steam locomotives rumbling down the tracks. Freight and passenger trains weave through detailed layouts that can be viewed from all sides. Southern Lights on Holiday nights has been designed to appeal to every age group. Thanks to all our Division 10 volunteers who have taken the time to share their expertise and joy of model railroading with the thousands of people who come to Southern Lights to enjoy the spectacle of thousands of twinkling lights, a driving tour through lavish displays, reminding visitors of the splendor and traditions of the season. Brightly lit arches and snowflakes guide visitors along the route between animated displays of the Keeneland racecourse, show jumping, steeplechase and the spires of Churchill Downs. Life-like horses on all sides depict the majesty and beauty of the pride of the Bluegrass, and the model railroading featured during this holiday season!



stream down as it would in a natural rain.

## Off-line Structures for Bring n' Brag in January



Ron Kercheval

Wow! That's the only word I can use to describe the bountiful table of entrants for freight car Bring n' Brag. A couple of the entries that did not place would have won first place in other contests—that sums up the depth and quality of the models that we had.

Tim Day entered two terrific L&N bay window cabooses made from WrightTrak resin kits. These are seen at many prototype modeler meets and rival brass in appearance. Dave Battin shared two nicely weathered Chessie System covered hoppers, then Pete Birdsong pulled out the stops with an awesome array of On30 work and box cars from his Mississippi logging railroad. Lou Jaquith brought an interesting batch of old Comet 1940's cardstock reefer models. Tom Miller had a great American Flyer woodrack and log flat car with hand made loads, while Don Burris brought an antique ballast gondola. Tom Krill rounded things out with a beautifully finished On30 baggage-mail-express for his Hautusquito Mexican railroad.

Pete's On30 cars took first place, Tim's L&N cabooses came in second, while Lou's set of reefers were third. Congratulations to all who entered and a tip of the hat for the great participation!

The next contest will feature **off-line structures**. Hope you had a happy holiday and here's to a healthy and successful 2009. See you January 4th.

### Bring n' Brag Rules

Points are awarded for models as follows: One point is given for your first entry; a second point is given if that entry is "On Topic". You can have additional entries but you can only be awarded "entry" points for one item each month. Following peer judging, three points are awarded for First Place, two points for Second Place, and one point for Third Place. Multiple entries can each win points for placing.

### Future 2009 Bring n' Brag Schedule

- February . . . . . Locomotives (Including traction)
- March . . . . . On-Line Structures
- April . . . . . Passenger Cars (Including Non-revenue)

<http://www.palrr.com/>

## 2008-09 Bring n' Brag Standings by Total Points High to Low

	Dec. 2008	Total
Pete Birdsong	5	5
Stew Winstandley		5
Tim Day	4	4
Phil Lester		4
Tom Krill	2	4
Don Burris	2	4
Lou Jaquith	3	3
Dave Battin	2	2
Tom Miller	2	2



Pete Birdsong's winning December Bring n' Brag entries

The tour after January's meeting is Lou Jaquith's Paducah and Louisville HO layout. Come see his Green River bridge at Rockport, Ky., et al. The photograph directly below is the east end of Central City's West Yard.



Cecilia, Ky. on the Paducah & Louisville RR



# Steven Mallery's PRR Buffalo Line

## About the Model Railroad

Steven Mallery, who just happens to be a prototype Dispatcher for Norfolk Southern working the same geographical area that he models, runs his mid 1960's era PRR Buffalo Line from South Williamsport, PA, to GJ interlocking outside of Buffalo, NY, as a point to point model railroad with three staging yards representing Enola, PA, Buffalo, NY, and Erie, PA. The principal classification yard at Renovo is supplemented by four small local yards. Half of the 230 feet of HO scale single track mainline with passing sidings is on two levels allowing plenty of space on the center peninsula single level half for the main physical model railroad feature, the heavy helper grade necessitating helper assistance for both up hill shoves and down hill braking. Depending on traffic, two helper crews are often required.

A staging yard with a 140-car capacity represents Harrisburg (Enola) on the east end of the railroad. Cars routed via PRR to eastern and western destinations travel on trains destined for Enola (staging). Also on the east end is a smaller 68-car staging yard representing Newberry PA, the connection to the Reading and New York Central railroads. Mid point on the line and half way up the helper grade is the Emporium cut off to a 104-car staging area representing PRR's line to Warren, PA, and Erie, PA. As we proceed westward, Olean, NY, has an 80-car interchange with the Erie railroad. Finally, on the west end is another 140-car staging area representing Buffalo, NY, where the line connects to the Lehigh Valley, DL&W, NYC and South Buffalo railroads. The one main yard on the model railroad at Renovo, PA, does all classification work for the entire line. A normal operating session takes about 3 1/2 hours to complete during which approximately 27 trains run, not counting helper movements. In addition to the through freight traffic, at least five local freights originate out of Renovo serving eight stations. Several passenger trains mixed between the freights keep the Dispatcher on his toes.

Even since the days of the first operating sessions in 2002, from his CTC panel, the Dispatcher (who else but Steven himself) controls all mainline switches. Steven built the model railroad with full electrical track circuit detection between and at all interlockings. He put resistors on the wheels at both ends of every single car on the model railroad, so his system can tell immediately whether interlockings and mainline tracks are occupied or clear. Not only can he tell where trains are, but also his safety circuits

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won't let the switches move while an interlocking is occupied. After starting to install some Chubb SMINI boards in late 2003, Steven held his first session using some signaling in February 2004 with three adjacent interlockings fully signaled. The effect on the background noise level just from reduced radio chatter because these signals eliminated need for as many dispatcher contacts was so noticeable that the room seemed almost too quiet to his regular crew.

Work on scenery is progressing as the electrical work has been completed. A total of 15 SMINI boards are installed to handle the 170 inputs and 380 outputs needed to control the complete railroad. All interlockings are now completely signaled via a computer interface with the CTC panel. The computer program accepts the CTC lever positions set by the Dispatcher and the track condition indications as input. To supplement the detection-triggered switch movement protection, the program also provides software interlock protection for switches when signals clear not-yet-occupied routes across those switches. Not only are switch movements locked when a car actually occupies an interlocking, they are also locked when a signal gives permission to occupy that interlocking. The program also allows the Dispatcher to set the signal for the Renovo yard lead in fleet mode so that he doesn't have to micro-manage that track while the Yard Master needs headroom for some classification moves. Full software traffic locking in both directions is also in place!

The signal aspects displayed are Clear, Approach, Stop, and Restricting, an adequate subset of the full PRR signal aspect set. When the Dispatcher selects a route and requests a clearance from his CTC panel, the program evaluates the route, currently active traffic locks, and the settings on all other signals. It then selects which signals and aspects to display if it can safely honor the request. As trains pass signals, the program makes their aspect revert to Stop. As trains vacate locked tracks, the program releases appropriate traffic locks for trains in the opposing direction.

A card style waybill system dictates car movements and thereby randomizes train lengths, with the resulting train sizes ranging from 25 to 55 cars. The Dispatcher communicates with the yard via telephone, but he uses radio to contact the road crews operating their trains with NCE DCC. The main PURPOSE and GOAL of this CTC controlled rail system is: PROTOTYPICAL OPERATIONS, including everything from operating rules, signal rules, car movements, train scheduling and blocking. Making this happen consumes a staff of 7 to 9 road crews, two yard crews, one Yard Master and a Dispatcher. The objective is to be as realistic as possible, and use of the CTC system contributes to that realism. Steven currently schedules sessions monthly on Tuesday nights starting at 6 PM (usually the LAST Tuesday). Please join us for realistic operating sessions. We train newcomers. Contact Steven

THESE TWO PAGES  
ARE FROM HIS  
WEBSITE.  
SEE MUCH MORE  
ABOUT STEVE'S  
LAYOUT BY  
VISITING HIS  
WEBSITE AT [HTTP://  
PAMODELRAILROADS.  
COM/SMALLERY/](http://PAMODELRAILROADS.COM/SMALLERY/)

**THE LANTERN**  
NEWSLETTER FOR NMRA DIVISION 10

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*NEXT MEETING*

BUILDING WITH WOOD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH AT  
EAGLE CREEK LIBRARY

*BRING & BRAG*

OFF-LINE STRUCTURES

*TOUR*

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**AROUND THE BEND**

MON.	DAY	HOST	PLACE/TIME	EVENT / PROGRAM	TOURS	BRING & BRAG
Jan.	4	Div 10	Eagle Creek Library, 2 PM Lexington	<b>Ray Persing</b> <b>Scratch Building with Wood</b>	Lou Jaquith	Off-line Structures
Feb.	4	Div 10	<b>Beaumont Library</b> <b>2 PM, Lexington</b>	Wendell Greer Signs	<b>Bill Crace</b>	<b>Locomotives</b>
Mar.	1	Div 10	<b>Beaumont Library</b> <b>2 PM, Lexington</b>	<b>Pat Gerstle</b> <b>Scenery</b>	<b>Pat Gerstle</b>	<b>On-line Structures</b>
Apr.	5	Div 10	Lexington	Pete Birdsong Logging	Tom Miller	Passenger Cars
Apr.-May	30-3	Div 9	<b>Columbus, Ohio</b>	<b>MCR Convention</b> <b>The 21st Century Limited</b>	<b>Layouts and Prototype</b>	

Ray Persing's layout (January) at <http://www.modelraildayton.com/div3lpix10.shtml>

MCR's Spring convention website link is <http://mcr09convention.dwilke.org>