



The Lantern



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Division 10, Mid Central Region

April, 2004



**National
Model
Railroad
Association**

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Message From The Superintendent

I would like to welcome our guests at the March meeting: Bill Van Dyke and Robert Osburn. We were happy to have you and we hope that you both shall return and become regular attendees.

Mike Baskette presented an excellent program on diesel painting and decaling. As he showed us, it is a very intricate process. Thank you Mike. Also I would like to thank Alan Brock for inviting us to see his Monon layout. It is a great layout and those of you who couldn't see it, missed something that is really nice.

The Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting will be held May 14th at 'Three Rivers Transfer 2004' the

(Continued on page 6)

Blue Grass Railroad Club April Program

The April Program will feature 'Short Line Steam Operations in Kentucky'. A 16mm movie made by the late Blue Grass Club member David Williams will be presented. It explores the short line steam operations in Kentucky and Tennessee in the 1950's. Railroads featured will be the Emory River Railroad, the Flemingsburg & Northern, the Morehead & North Fork, the Kentucky & Tennessee, the Brimstone, and the Cadiz.

The Kentucky & Tennessee shots include K&T Number 11 which later operated as the Southern Railway's 4501 on a number of Fan Trips, some of which were operated by the Blue Grass Club.

-Wes Ross

New Location for April Meeting

The April NMRA meeting will be held at Arlington Christian Church. It is at 1206 North Limestone Street in Lexington, Ky., about 1/4 mile south of New Circle Road. It is a red brick building with white pillars on the front porch. It is on the east side of North Limestone. Parking is in the lot on the NORTH side of the church. Enter the building by coming down the stairwell on the parking lot side of the building and enter the door to the Fellowship Hall.

The meeting is on April 4th, at 2:00. The program will be Tony Luccio presenting Videos of The Chicago Museum of Science & Industry Model Train Layout, The B&O Museum and The CSX Museum. There will be no tour. The Bring & Brag topic will be Stations: Passenger or Freight and Photographs. There will also be a table provided for our Swap Meet.



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“STUFF” & OPPORTUNITIES

Mike Armstrong occasionally knows of *members' overstock* situations and other opportunities to acquire or dispose of “stuff.” Get in touch with him to find out what’s currently available. These liquidations, generally via a web auction, bear a 15 to 20% fee.

In addition, *The Lantern* is in a position to advertise your “overstock” items, for a fee of 10%.

Contact Mike Walter to arrange for an ad, or Mike Armstrong for liquidations.

Committee Chairs

Achievement Program	David Greer
Advertising	Mike Walter
Community Activities	Open
Company Store	Ron Kercheval
Contests	Ron Kercheval
Conventions & Shows	Fred Plymale
Editor & Webmaster	John Gorman
Estate Liquidations	Mike Armstrong
Member Aid	Wendell Greer
Membership	Wendell Greer
Photographer	Pete Birdsong
Programs	Fritz Dutro

Witless vs. Clueless

The Continuing Railroad Adventures of Rivets O'Reilly and Larry Loungecar



Created by ‘Railroad’ Pete Birdsong
Written by Mike Armstrong

Rivets: Hi, Larry. What are ya doin’?

Larry: Well, Rivets, I’m writin’ a sad song. It goes to the tune of Hot Time in the Ol’ Town Tonight. What do ya think?

One fine day, in the garden in the yard
I burned up my railroad, I took it kinda hard.
I was only tryin’ to get the smell of coal,
And now I ain’t got no railroad no more.

Rivets: What the heck kinda song is that?

Larry: Well, it oughtta be a country and western song because it sure tells a sad, sad story, Rivets.

Rivets: Alright, let’s have it! What happened?

Larry: Well, I got my latest issue of Garden Railways magazine. And there was this article about this live steam engine, G gauge, that burned real coal! It was pretty cool! It was like runnin’ a real train. You had to tend the fire, keep it all burnin’. You crushed up this coal into a fine pieces and got it started with lighter fluid or charcoal lighter. And once the fire was going well, you just kept feedin’ it coal. But you had to do it right to keep it all burnin’. And the best thing about it was that you had the smell of burnin’ coal on your railroad.

Rivets: Larry, that sounds neat. I’ll have to pick up a copy of GR.

Larry: Well, I don’t have a live steam engine that is a coal burner. But I had a great idea.

Rivets: Uh-oh.

Larry: Well, I thought it was a great idea. I thought if I make a small coal fire in a prototypical size container, usin’ fine coal, I could have the smell of coal while I ran my steam engines. So, I built a small stove for inside one of my buildings. There was nothin’ to it . . . a little poundin’, a little

solderin’, and I even put a little fire brick in the buildin’.

Rivets: Larry, I’m startin’ to get sick.

Larry: You!? It was my railroad that went up in flames. The fire must have melted the solder and the stove fell apart. The first thing to go was the building. I scratch built it out of wood. Then there was this dead tree that I was gonna take outta the garden and it was beside the oil soaked trestles that most of my railroad was built on. I had gone into the house for a cola and smelled something burnin’. I thought “That sure don’t smell like coal.” And then I looked out the window and my whole railroad was lit up like the grand finale of the Fourth of July fireworks.

Rivets: Did ya save anything?

Larry: Well, at first I tried to put it out with the hose but it got all tangled. So I grabbed a bucket and headed up and started dippin’ buckets of water outta the pond. That was a bad idea, because before I knew it I had dipped a couple of fish and they went flyin’ through the air into the fire.

Rivets: What happened to ‘em.

Larry: Well, one I ate and the other I got back to the pond, ‘cept now I call ‘im “Popeye”. Man, Rivets, all the plastic ties melted and all the track warped and the dry grass caught fire. When the fire department got there, I was sittin’ in the pond in the middle of the fire cryin’ like a baby, and poor ol’ pitiful Popeye just lookin’ at me from the bottom of the pond. Not only was it a sad time, it was humiliatin’.

Rivets: Well, Larry, you can start over and do it right this time, work out the kinks.

Larry: Yeah, you’re right. I think I just need a bigger stove and a little more solder.



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In Recognition....

Many thanks to our Patrons and Sustaining Members listed below. (Sustaining Members contribute \$10.00 per year, and Patrons \$20 or more.) We encourage all members to help support *The Lantern* and our website. Division 10 receives NO monetary support from the NMRA. Division 10 is recognized by the US government as a 501c3 corporation and your donations may be tax deductible.

2004 PATRONS

Alan Brock	Ed Butcher	John Deville
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Scale Reproductions

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Our advertisers are supporting us with their ads, so let's support them with our business! A strong retail network is vital to keeping the hobby visible to the public, and provides valuable help to newcomers. By our patronage of their stores, they are able to continue bringing more people into the hobby, and promoting our organization.....

win-win!!

PRODUCT REVIEW:

FAST TRACKS TURNOUT ASSEMBLY FIXTURE

By Pete Birdsong

While not a mass appeal product, the new Fast Tracks products to facilitate scratch-building turnouts have received a lot of attention lately. I've seen announcements or reviews in just about every magazine and on-line discussion group I belong to. Tim Warris, a Canadian, is the man behind the company and its products, which feature the turnout assembly jig, shown below, and related products—Frog angle grinding jigs, PCB (Printed Circuit Board) ties, and turnout templates for laying out tie patterns. The latter are offered free to download from the company's internet Web site:

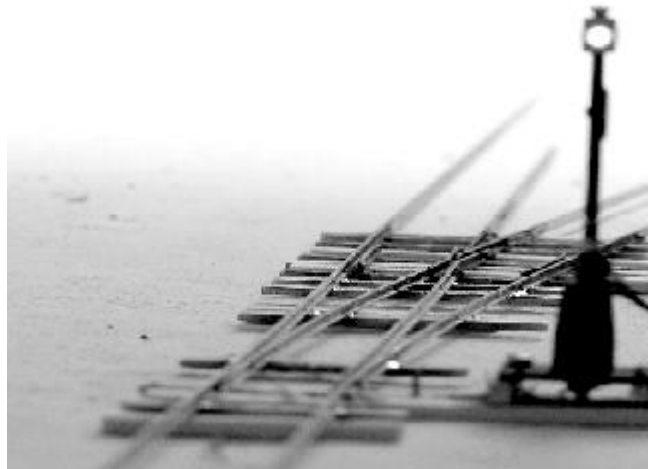
(<http://www.handlaidtrack.com/>)

The jigs are offered in standard configurations (in terms of scale, frog size, track code, etc.), as well as models custom-built to your specifications. A standard configuration fixture will build a left and right-hand turnout of a single size, with some allowance for rail size and tie size and placement. For example, the one shown is for a number 6 On30 in code 70 to 83, but will work for a number 6 HO using smaller ties spaced closer together. (Only a few ties—those needed for structural integrity—are put on the fixture.)The rest are placed when the turnout is installed on the layout.



I'm convinced, though I haven't tried it, that these fixtures can also be used to build curved turnouts, by assembling them straight, then unsoldering a few ties from one rail, curving the rails, and resoldering the ties, also adjusting the point to stock rail fit.

How do they work? In a word, great! This is a product whose quality speaks to you at first sight. And after using it, you know your first impression was right. My first turnout was in total gauge and standards compliance with no effort on my part. Having scratch-built a couple of turnouts in the past, I can truly appreciate how much these jigs contribute to the quality and ease of your effort. For example, as the picture below shows, you can make the stock (outside) rails very long, eliminating any joints near the turnout. I set a Bachmann



truck on it, and was able to move it through both legs in either direction just by blowing gently on it! I put vertical pressure on the truck as I moved it through, and the only thing I could feel was a very slight bump when a wheel went over the gap at the frog.

What about cost? Another word: expensive. The fixture, frog jig, and some PCB ties cost me \$122, including shipping. It'll take about 5 to 10 turnouts or so to break even over commercial turnouts. But I'll have a much better product. And I expect to reduce my out-of-pocket costs by either splitting it with someone else who may want it when I'm done, or selling it on E-Bay.

Is it for you? If you've ever thought of building your own turnouts, you ought to consider it, especially if you can share the cost. If you haven't thought about it before, but you are now, you still ought to try it, or at least find out more about it.

Super's Message (Continued from page 1)

Mid Central regional convention. In that meeting two awards will be given. The "Russ Wenderfer Award" will be for promotion of the hobby of model railroading. The second award is the "Directors Award" for unsung service to the MCR. If any members feel that someone in Div 10 may qualify for either of these awards, let me know their names and we can put together a presentation. It would be nice to present someone from our Division.

The National NMRA ballot is about to be mailed to you. It will ask you to vote on the long range plan proposal. It is important that you vote, for it will affect the future development of the NMRA. The writers of the LRP say the plan:

- ◆ Rededicates the NMRA to its primary purpose of setting and enforcing standards.
- ◆ Encourages manufacturers to adopt the NMRA conformance warrants program.
- ◆ Allows introduction of product testing and reporting.
- ◆ Expands the consumer protection role of the association.
- ◆ Re-emphasizes the NMRA as the voice of the hobby.
- ◆ Re-emphasizes the NMRA as the repository and source of information for the hobbyist and others.
- ◆ Allows expansion of the headquarters record keeping facilities to serve other organizations for a fee.
- ◆ Strengthens the national convention and train show organization allowing a second annual train show in a location other than the convention area.
- ◆ Improves the profit making abilities of the Kalmbach Memorial Library.
- ◆ Continues development of the Howell Day Scale Model railroad Museum.

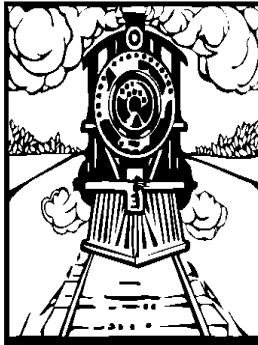
Be sure to vote!

Keep in mind that our next train show is November 13th at the Knights of Columbus Hall. It's going to be another great show.

Be sure to come to our April meeting. Tony Lucio has some great videos: Model train layout at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the B&O Museum, and the CSX Museum. The meeting will be at Arlington Christian Church. This is another "can't miss" program.

-Bill

Hiwassee River Rail Adventure



Travel on vintage rail equipment alongside the Hiwassee Scenic River in Southeast Tennessee. The trip begins in Etowah, TN where passengers will park and travel on shuttle buses for a short ride to the train boarding area at Gee Creek State Park.

The vintage passenger train is owned and operated by Tennessee Valley Railroad. Seating on the fully restored coaches is by reservation only, and only a limited number of seats will be available to this potentially last opportunity to ride the Historic Old Line.

Come and enjoy a pleasurable twenty-six mile, 2-hour roundtrip rail excursion alongside the Hiwassee Scenic River as it winds through the Cherokee National Forest to the TVA Apalachia powerhouse.

Trip Dates and Departure Times for 2004:

<u>Saturday:</u>	<u>Sunday:</u>
May 15, 22, & 29 ~	May 16, 23, & 30 ~
9:00 am & 11:00 am	9:00 am & 11:00 am
1:30 pm & 3:30 pm	1:30 pm

All seats - \$29.00

For **reservations**, call

Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum
ticket line at 423-894-8028
or
L&N Depot Museum
after mid-April at 423-263-7840

For **ticket information**, log on to Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum web-site www.tvrail.com

For lodging and visitor information contact:

Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce at 423-263-2228 or online at www.etowahcoc.org

Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association at 423-263-7232

or online at www.tennesseeoverhill.com

NOTE: Buses will depart the Etowah Depot at the times listed above, therefore it is advisable to arrive 45 minutes prior to departure to allow time for parking and other needs.

The above flyer is about excursions that will be run over a portion of the L&N "Old Line". I have been working with the people in southeastern Tennessee to save this line from the scrapers. This is a very historically significant section of railroad. These excursions will operate over a 13 mile section of the line along the Hiwassee River. They will originate at Etowah, TN. While these trips will not cover the fabulous Hiwassee Loop (also know as Bald Mountain Loop), hopefully if these trips are successful, future trips can be made over the loop. Since there are many L&N fans in the group, I thought that it would be of interest to them.

- Franklin Miller



AROUND THE BEND

MON	DAY	EVENT	PLACE/TIME	PROGRAM	TOUR	CONTEST
APR	4	MCR DIV 10	Arlington Christian Church 1206 North Limestone Street Lexington, Kentucky 2:00 PM	Tony Luccio with Videos of Chicago Museum of Science & Industry Model Train Layout, The B&O Museum and The CSX Museum	No Tour	Stations: Passenger or Freight
APR	9	BGRRC	Medadowthorpe Community Center 333 Larch Lane, Lex. Ky 7:30 PM	Wes Ross presents a film on 'Short Line Steam Operations in Kentucky'		
MAY	2	MCR DIV 10	Beaumont Library 2:00 PM	Randall Coffman Photography and Clamps	Mike Armstrong Potluck Picnic Bring Your Wives (more information later)	Freight Cars
MAY	13-16	MCR Convention	Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA	Contact Div 2 for more information or see http://cjerry3.home.comcast.net/ html/convention.html		
MAY	14	BGRRC	Medadowthorpe Community Center 333 Larch Lane, Lex. Ky 7:30 PM	TBA		
MAY	15-30	Hiwassee River Rail Adventure	Etowah, Tennessee Saturdays & Sundays Time Varies	For ticket information , log on to Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum web-site www.tvrail.com	Hiwassee Scenic River in Southeast Tennessee operated by Tennessee Valley Railroad	
JUNE	6	MCR DIV 10	Eagle Creek Library Lexington, Kentucky 2:00 PM	Pete Birdsong Operations	Pete Birdsong N Scale Layout	"Anything Goes" All classifications
JULY	4-11	NMRA Nat'l Convention	Seattle, WA	See Website for full details: http://www.nmra2004.org/		
JULY	11	MCR DIV 10	Ray & Renee Grosser's Eubank, KY Map will be available later Time to be determined later	TBA	Ray & Renee Grosser's Nostalgia Trip Soo Line HO Railroad	Infrastructure: Trackwork, Signals and Bridges
AUG	1	MCR DIV 10	Danville, KY Map will be available later Time to be determined later	None	Bob Lawson Robin Grider John Bowling	On-line Structures (except stations)
SEP	12	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Mike Armstrong Gadgets	Bob Larger	Diesel Locomotives
OCT	3	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Mike Baskette: Assembly & Weathering Plastic Structure Kits	Bill Paulsell	Commercial Struc- tures: Industrial, businesses, munic- pal, etc.
NOV	7	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Bill Hammer: Anatomy of a Private Road Name Railroad	David Greer	Passenger Cars
NOV	13	Division 10 MCR NMRA Train Show	Knights of Columbus 1604 Versailles Road Lexington, KY 10:00am to 4:00pm	Adm \$5.00, \$4.00 with coupon. Children under 12 free. Table rental \$15.00.	For reservations contact Fred Plymale, 3463 Snaffle Road, Lex., KY 40513. (859)223-7270 F.Plymale@insightbb.com	
DEC	5	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Tom Wheeler on Working with Styrofoam	Morgan McIlwain	Open Loads: Flat Cars, Gond- las and Intermodal
MAY 2005	12-15	MCR Convention	Comfort Inn, Austinburg, OH	Contact: Matt Kross e-mail mkross@earthlink.net		
JULY 2005	TBD	NMRA Nat'l Convention	TBD, Cincinnati			

Next Meeting:
Sunday, April 4th.
2:00 pm
Arlington Christian Church
1206 North Limestone Street
Lexington, Kentucky

Program:
Tony Luccio presents
Videos of Chicago Museum
of Science & Industry
Model Train Layout,
The B&O Museum
and
The CSX Museum

Tour: None

Bring & Brag:
Stations -
Passenger or Freight



*Don't forget the
NEW
Show 'n Tell
and
Swap Meet
events during our
regular meetings.*



The Lantern

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STAMP

*New Location for
April Meeting*

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See Page One
