



# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division II,

Volume 30

Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA

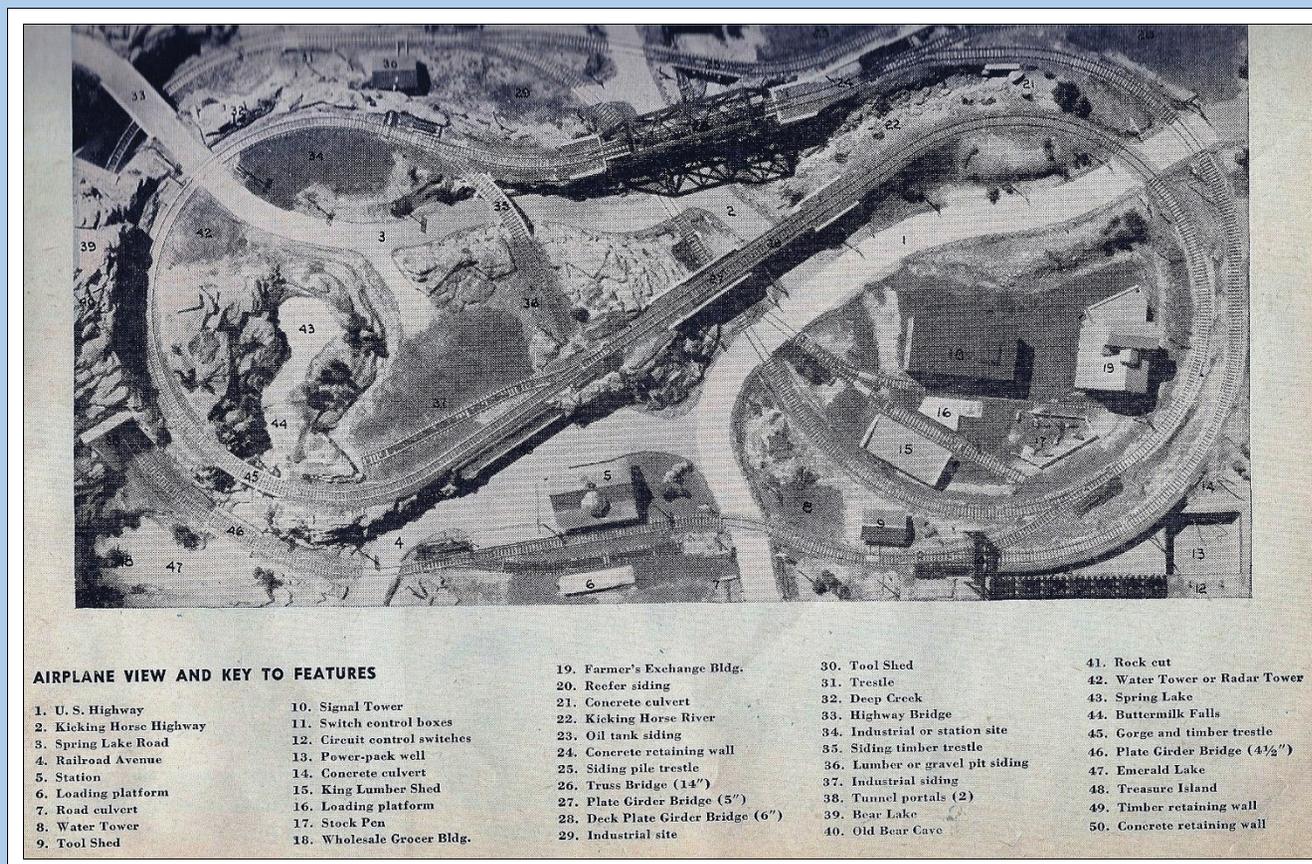
Number 5

## Ed Horvath's 30 year Quest

When I was a Boy Scout in the fifties and sixties, Boys' Life magazine was full of articles about hobbies. My interest in machinery caused me to focus on the numerous hobby features. In December 1959, I saw the Glen Wagner article about building an HO model railroad layout. For the next two years I worked on the bridges and bought the plywood for the platform. The track was laid, and an engine was purchased along with a power pack. I financed my model railroading by earning money working as a farm laborer during the summers.

After my senior summer, I enlisted in the USMC and off I went to camp and assignments for the next 4 years. When I returned home, the layout was gone. At that point I started working multiple jobs and left HO trains behind.

continued on page 19



Boys' Life model railroad layout plan by Glenn Wagner featured in the December, 1959 issue.

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# From the Superintendent's Desk

## Superintendent's Corner

It is amazing how fast the summer has gone by. We are quickly approaching September. September 17th & 18th is the Mainline Hobby Open House Tour in Blue Ridge Summit, PA. In addition to layout tours there will be discounts offered to Main Line Hobby customers.

LSOP or Lehigh/Susquehanna Operating Weekend is scheduled for Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st.. Wayne Betty has submitted detailed information regarding the sessions which can be viewed on page 8. Later in October is the MER Regional Convention in Charlotte , North Carolina. Further information and registration details can be found on pages 6 and 7.

During the month of November division-wide open house tours (includes New Jersey, Philadelphia and Eastern Maryland) will take place. Check out the website noted next to this event on the Division Calendar on page 5. November 5th is the joint division meet in Warrenton, VA. We have been invited to join the Potomac Division and other MER divisions for this unique event. More information can be found on page 10.

There are plenty of activities for this fall, and I am looking forward to seeing you at one or more of them. Slowly we are returning to 'normal'.

Jerry Lauchlie has been very busy working on 2023 Convention. He is still looking for people to help with the Convention. There are a variety of positions that need volunteers. Page 8 contains the convention website. You can access the site to see developments and to contact Jerry to volunteer your services.

The Division has some positions that need to be filled. The first is the Model Showcase Chair. John Wissinger has stepped down from this position after serving many years in this capacity. If you have any questions about the duties of this position please contact me. Also, David Collison, our current webmaster, is still seeking help managing the Division's website. The position would be an assistant webmaster. Contact David for specific tasks and duties.

I am looking forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events.

It is time to go back to the basement and work on the trains.

Tim



# Second Section

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division  
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA  
5 Hardy Court, Lancaster, PA 17602

Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks:

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from the Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be sent to the Editor at the e-mail address listed below or the street address above. Deadline for submission for the next issue is October 15, 2022.

### Superintendent

Tim Himmelberger

[super@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:super@susquehannanmra.org)

### Assistant Superintendent

Rich Wurst

[assist-super@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:assist-super@susquehannanmra.org)

### Chief Clerk

Dean Johnson

[treasurer@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:treasurer@susquehannanmra.org)

### Director

Pat Mulrooney

[pmulrooney@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:pmulrooney@susquehannanmra.org)

### Director

Lee Rainey

[lrainey@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:lrainey@susquehannanmra.org)

### Director

Ken Roth

[krath@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:krath@susquehannanmra.org)

### Director

Jeff Thompson

[jthompson@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:jthompson@susquehannanmra.org)

## Committee Chairmen

### Achievement Program Chairman

Robert Charles, MMR

[achievement@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:achievement@susquehannanmra.org)

### Model Showcase Program Chairman

vacant

[showcase@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:showcase@susquehannanmra.org)

### Membership Chairman

Howard Oakes

[membership@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:membership@susquehannanmra.org)

### Training

Alan Mende

[training@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:training@susquehannanmra.org)

### Sidetracks Editor

Richard Wurst

[editor@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:editor@susquehannanmra.org)

### Webmaster

David Collison

[webmaster@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:webmaster@susquehannanmra.org)

## EDITOR'S Message

Fellow Model Railroaders,

Ever since the pandemic arrived the normal model railroading events and related activities ceased. As a result, Sidetracks began to focus on featuring model railroad layouts that could be featured each issue and somehow take the place of real, in-person activities.

In order to continue featuring layouts I need fellow members to step forward and volunteer access to their layouts. Layout photos and written background information would be required.

Please contact me by email [rjwurst@comcast.net](mailto:rjwurst@comcast.net) if you are interested and/or have questions.

Best Wishes,

Rich

# Division Calendar of Events

September 17 & 18– Blue Ridge Summit – Mainline Hobby Open House Tour

October – LSOP – Wayne Betty

<http://www.wsbcos.com/Div11/LSOP/LSOP%20Current/default.htm>

October 20 – 23– Charlotte, NC, MER Convention, Carolina Southern Division (see page 5)

November – Division-wide Open House Tour

<http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com/>

November 15– Warrenton, VA – Joint Meet with Potomac Division (see page 6)

Norfolk Southern SD50 #6326 sits on a siding in Leola, PA. This unit was parked by the crew at the end of their shift. A NS van then picked up the crew for their return to Lancaster.



# NMRA/MER Convention



## Mid Eastern Region National Model Railroad Association Charlotte, NC



## **Carolina Special, 2022 MER Convention update The Carolina Southern Division is looking forward to hosting the 2022 MER convention, 20-23 October, in Charlotte!**

Be sure to register soon as the registration cost goes up on September 1<sup>st</sup>! Here are highlights of the latest Convention information.

The website has been updated several times since the last email I sent about this fun event. The 2022 MER convention website is <http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022.html> where all the information you need can be found.

The Banquet will be a great meal with an exciting guest speaker, Shane Wilson, President of Scale Trains. Be sure to sign up.

There are Layout Operating Sessions and information on these can be found at: <http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022tours.html>

A full clinic schedule, with a broad range of exciting topics, with 4 Make-and-Take clinics of which three of these clinics are conducted in two sessions and information can be found at: <http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022clinics.html>

We have three special tours before and during the convention.

## NMRA/MER Convention (continued)

**Tour #201** is a pre-convention backstage tour being held at the North Carolina Transportation Museum at 1 Samuel Spencer Drive, Spencer NC. Don't worry about checking into the convention hotel until after the museum tour. The private tour takes place on Thursday, October 20, 2022 starting at 12:30 pm. Try to be in place at noon. Information can be found at: <http://www.carolinasouthern.org/2022%20Convention/NCTM%20Tour%20Notice-V3.pdf>

And a map of the Museum grounds can be found at:

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/2022%20Convention/NCTM%20Tour%20Map-r.jpg>

After the tour you can visit [The Little Choo Choo Shop](#), the largest model railroad hobby shop in NC across the street from the museum.

**Tour #202:** The second special tour is the UNIFOUR SPECIAL which includes the Southeast Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum in Newton, NC and six very nice layouts in the Hickory, NC Metro Area. This is a Friday all-day mini-bus tour and will leave the convention hotel on Friday morning and return about dinnertime. Information on this tour can be found at:

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022unifour.html>

**Tour #203:** The third special tour is of Lionel Corporation Headquarters. This will be a self-drive tour on Friday, October 21, 2022 starting at 9:30 am at 6301 Performance Drive, Concord, NC. The Lionel Headquarters is approximately 5 miles from the convention hotel.

A Carolina Special Look South in 2022 convention shirt is now available to purchase during early registration.

One Day Registration is now an option.

We will have hand sanitizer in the clinic rooms and masks are welcome if someone feels safer wearing one.

For our friends in the Southeastern Region, a home layout in Greenville SC will be open on Sunday Oct 23 for our SER visitors returning home!

# NMRA/MER Convention Announcement

## *Round the Curve to Altoona 2023*

### Mid-Eastern Region Convention



Photo courtesy of Explore Altoona



**October 19-22, 2023**

**Altoona Grand Hotel**

**Hosted by the Susquehanna Division 11**

<https://mer2023.org/index.html>

# NMRA Event

## Lehigh and Susquehanna Operations Weekend 2022

This is the twelfth running of the LSOP. We are featuring five layouts for this year's Operations Weekend. The sessions will be held Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. These sessions are designed to give operators and/or non-operators a chance to participate in the wonderful world of operations.

The LSOP is divided into two sections, Lehigh and Susquehanna. The Lehigh section features the PRR Altoona Area layout of Larry Reynolds and the RDG Shamokin Division of Jim Hetzog. The Susquehanna section features the Quaker Valley of Bob Bucklew, the Lancaster & Atlantic Railroad of Wayne Betty and the PRR Buffalo Line of Steven Mallory.

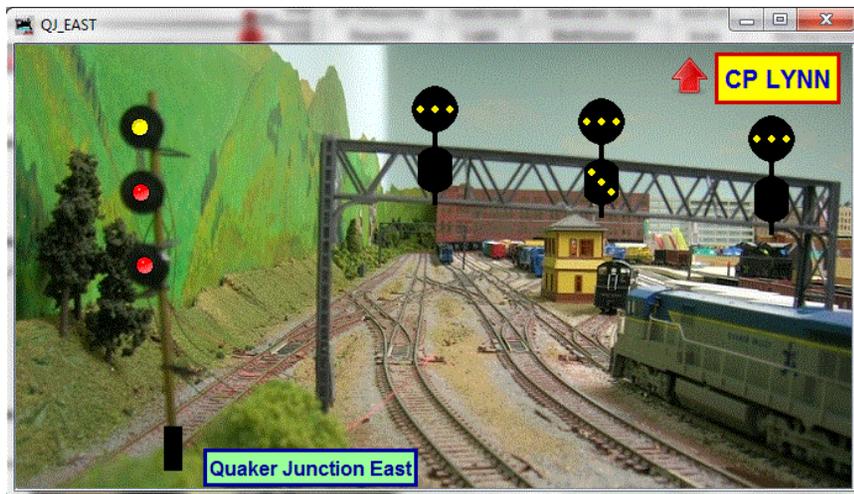
As of this writing, there is only one spot left for the Lehigh sections and several for the Susquehanna section.

If you have ever wanted to try operations, this is your event. All the layouts will have plenty of local crews available to assist.

Please check the web site for more information and to sign up.

<http://www.wsbcos.com/Div11/LSOP/LSOP%20Current/default.htm>

Wayne Betty



Bob Bucklew's Quaker Valley Railroad



Wayne Betty's Lancaster and Atlantic Railroad

## **Potomac Division Joint Meet with other MER Divisions November 5, 2022**



The Potomac Division's annual Joint Meet with James River has expanded this year to include the Tidewater and Susquehanna Divisions (and anyone else interested). The meet will take place on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Battlefield Baptist Church in Warrenton, Virginia, starting at 9 AM.

There will be door prizes, a white elephant table, a planned auction of railroad memorabilia and model judging. The centerpiece of the event will be clinics. Three are already locked down:

Ken Wilson- Rolling Stock Brake Systems

Brian Sheron, MMR- Making An Operational Grade Crossing Signal

Norm Reid- Model Railroad Photography

Other clinics will be announced as they are scheduled. There are also plans for layout open house visits in the afternoon.

Admission is free as is the parking. We will pass the hat to take up a donation for the church. Past donations from the Joint Meet have helped build a kids camp for inner city children and a feeding program for children in the U.S. and around the world.

The Church is located at 4361 Lee Highway in Warrenton.

# NMRA Event Recap

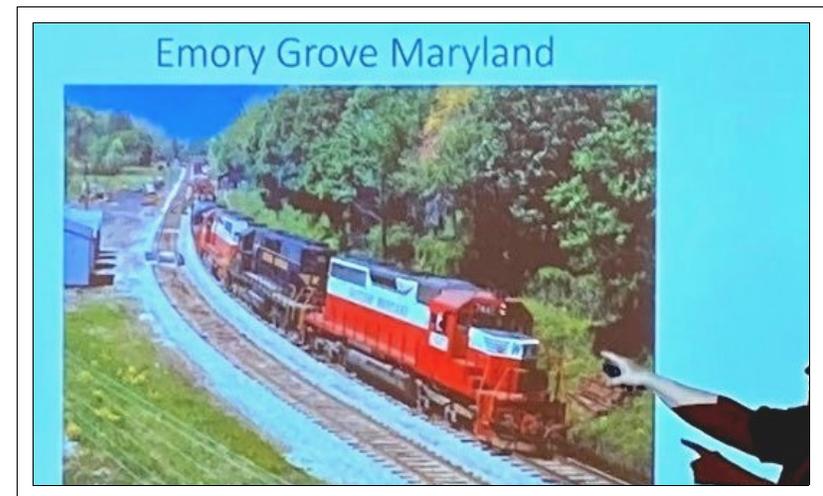
## NMRA Event Recap June 18 After Event Report

Our Division's June 18<sup>th</sup> event in New Oxford featured three varied and interesting presentations in the morning. Our original featured speaker was not available due to work travel. Dan Horting graciously agreed to fill that spot in the lineup.

Dan built a working live steam locomotive. He spent several years faithfully building a model of a Pennsylvania K4s Pacific in 1/8 scale. His slide presentation took us through the steps it takes to build such a locomotive, and the trials and tribulations that come with undertaking such a project. He discussed the machines he used to build the loco and his work space which is smaller than you would think. He also had short videos of the first steam up and other important milestones. Dan showed us how he modified the bed of his pick-up truck to transport the engine. Look for continuing updates on the progress of this locomotive.

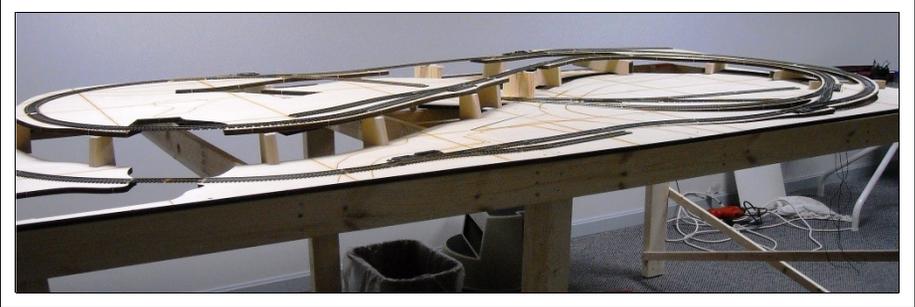


Howard Oakes presented a short history of the Dutch Line which diverges from the CSX mainline at Glyndon/Emory Grove MD and reconverges at Highfield MD/Blue Ridge Summit PA. The former Western Maryland Dutch Line (now CSX) runs through New Oxford PA next to the train station museum which we visited in the afternoon.

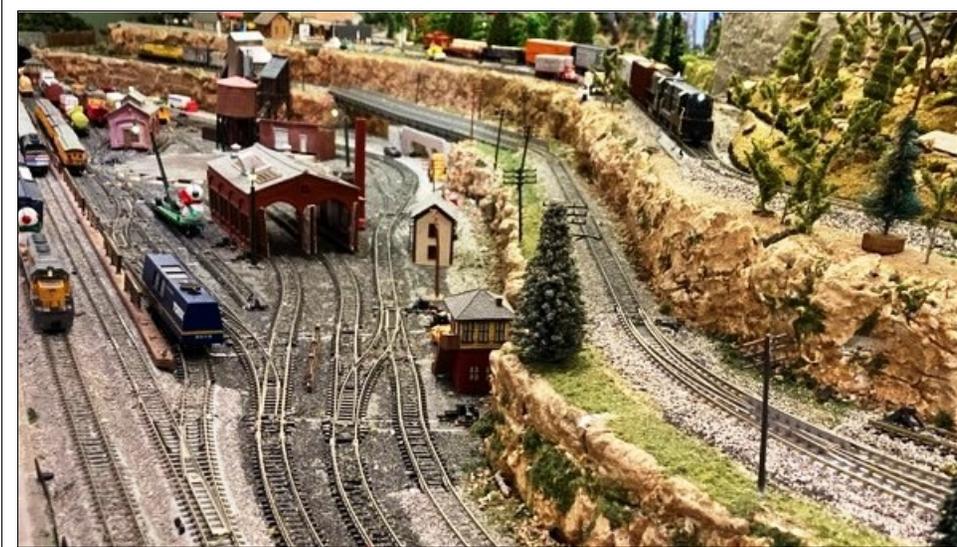


## NMRA Event Recap (continued)

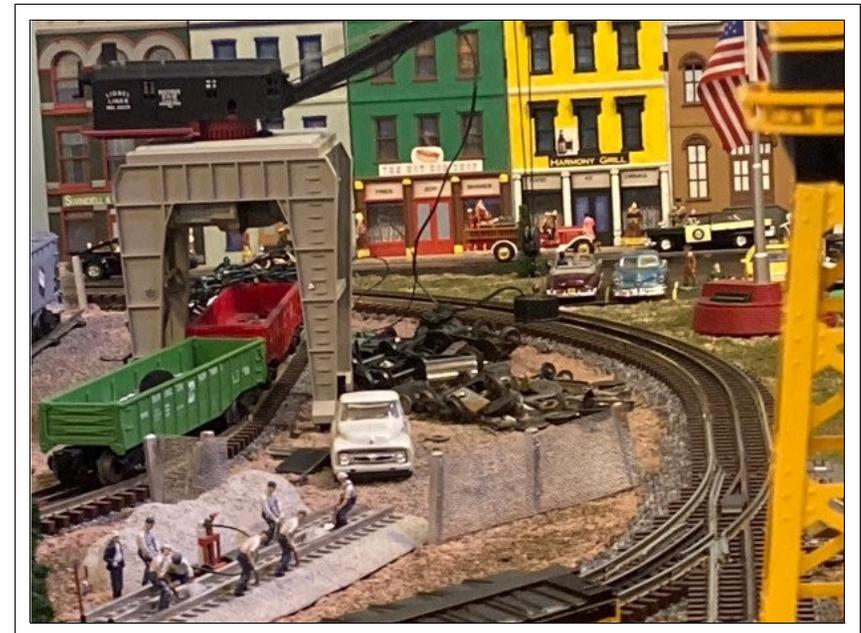
Our third presenter of the day, Ed Horvath, constructed a 4' x 8' HO railroad based on an article in a 1959 edition of **Boys' Life** magazine. He built a 2' x 8' yard and engine servicing addition from a subsequent issue. He also built and installed a girder bridge and trestle from other **Boys' Life** magazine articles. Ed's slide program explained why and how he built this layout which has a laser cut sub-roadbed sheet. Ed's layout was open for viewing after the morning presentations and is also featured in this edition of **Sidetracks** on pages 1, 19-26.



Before leaving the Brethren Home we took a visit downstairs to the community model railroad layouts. Three complete layouts are set up in O, HO and N scale. Members are constantly updating and enhancing these layouts



Brethren Village HO scale layout engine servicing area



Brethren Village O scale layout industrial area

# NMRA Event Recap (continued)

The Western Maryland New Oxford Train Station Museum and next-door club layout was open for us after lunch. Visitors were able to view the many lanterns, signs, collectibles, a PRR caboose and other fascinating railroad artifacts in the museum. The adjacent Conewago Valley Model Railroad Club recently updated its track and wiring and gave us an opportunity to see a large layout under re-construction in their baggage car.

New Oxford Station with CSX Dutch Line in foreground and baggage car in background.



PRR bobber caboose #476582



station interior

## NMRA Event Recap (continued)



The Conewago Valley Model Railroad Club's HO layout under construction inside the baggage car.

The Division graciously extends its thanks to the Brethren Home Community for the use of their facilities.

article by Howard Oakes, photos by Howard Oakes and Rich Wurst

# Non-NMRA Event

## READING RAILROAD MODELERS MEET



**SEPTEMBER 16-17-18, 2022**



**Reading Railroad Heritage Museum  
500 South 3rd Street Hamburg, PA**

### READING RAILROAD MODELERS MEET X OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Please PRINT the information below and mail with proper fees to:

**READING RAILROAD MODELERS MEET X  
PO Box 15143 Reading, PA 19612-5143**

A confirmation letter with your official entry number and final event outline, will be mailed/emailed to you in mid-September 2022. All entries MUST be postmarked by September 1, 2022. You CAN register AT the Meet!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### READING RAILROAD MODELERS MEET X ENTRY FEES

Please make checks and/or money orders payable in US FUNDS to: **RCT&HS** Children under 16 are FREE with a paid adult entry for Wall Street or Crusader entry only.

**The Wall Street**  
attending WITH Model Display - \$30 (4' table space)  
Early bird registration \$20 BEFORE August 15

**The Crusader**  
attending WITHOUT Model Display - \$40  
Early bird registration \$30 BEFORE August 15

**Reading Terminal Service**  
attending ONLINE - \$15

**The BeeLine Service**  
vendor table \$15 each (8 foot table - limit 2)

Reading Railroad Modelers Meet X Event T-Shirt is available PRE-ORDER ONLY by September 1, 2022

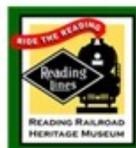
	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
WALL STREET		\$20/30	
CRUSADER		\$30/40	
BEE LINE SERVICE		\$15	
RDG TERM SERV		\$15	
Event T-shirt			
small		\$22	
medium		\$22	
large		\$22	
X Large		\$22	
XX Large		\$25	
XXX Large		\$25	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS and FEATURES

displays of Reading and Anthracite Railroad modeling  
Reading and Anthracite Railroad inspired layout tours  
clinics on Reading & Anthracite Railroad modeling & history  
social hour to meet-greet your fellow modelers  
vendors selling Reading Railroad & other items

Door Prize raffle from major sponsors!!  
Certificate Awards for popular vote models  
event t-shirts for sale (pre-order only)  
make great new model railroad friends!  
"White elephant" sales table for registered modelers

More Information and Updates Go To [www.ReadingRRMM.com](http://www.ReadingRRMM.com)



Hosted by: **The Reading Railroad Heritage Museum,  
Reading Company Technical & Historical Society  
and Anthracite Railroads Historical Society**



#### OTHER EVENT SPONSORS



# Garden Railways Tour

Railroad Museum  
of Pennsylvania

Sunday, October 9, 2022

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Rain or Shine



Get your [tickets](#) today for the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania's [Garden Railways Tour](#) on Sunday, October 9, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It's a train family fun outing for all ages!



## Non-NMRA Event (Garden Railways Tour continued)

Choose from among the seven stops on this year's 15th annual self-guided tour of operating model trains in various outdoor and garden settings, located in Wrightsville, Lancaster, Coatesville, Lititz and Manheim.



Tickets are just \$10.00 per person for ages 6 and over. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free of charge. All attendees must be ticketed. Tickets are on sale only on [Eventbrite](#) and will not be sold at the individual tour sites.

Masking and social distancing may be required at some/all of the garden railways tour sites.

Non-NMRA Event



# FIRST FROST<sup>®</sup> TRAIN MEET

**November 12 & 13, 2022 · Saturday 9-4 · Sunday 9-3**

Train Races · Test Track · Switching and Operating Layouts

Adults **\$10.00** · Children under 12 **FREE!** w/adult

Allentown Fairgrounds Agricultural Hall

1925 West Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Visit our website for more info or contact us at (610) 442-2859

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



## Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued from page 1)

30 years later my wife, Kathy, wanted a hobby for the both of us. So together we built our first 4' X 8' table. Being self-employed and working out of my home, my office took up most of the work space. I started to consolidate areas so that room was available to build the Boys' Life plans again. By buying back issues, I accumulated the old plans. Together, Kathy and I now have the existing table in our new home.

Ed Horvath provides more information about his layout:

- 1. What is the name of your layout?** No name was attributed to the 1959 Boys' Life published layout as it was designed by Glenn Wagner.
- 2. What scale is your layout?** It is HO scale ( 3.5 mm equals 1ft or 1/87)
- 3. Does your layout have a specific era and/or location?** Originally, no era was noted, but I can put era buildings and train stock to any era I wish.



4' x 8' benchwork frame



laser printed track plan added to plywood

## Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)

4. **What are the overall dimensions of your layout?** The overall dimensions include original 4' X 8' plus additional 2' x 8' for the rail yard and turntable, thus 6' X 8' is the final layout size.



The elevated sections of the track plan were cut through the plywood using a laser. The cuts allowed the elevated portions to be raised from the base elevation.

Ed Horvath working on the Boys' Life model railroad.

The laser cut elevations can clearly be seen with their various risers.



## Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)

- 5. By what means and brand of equipment do you control your layout?** Most of my electronics were acquired from auctions and yard sales. I had MCR controllers, Atlas snap track and Atlas turnout switches. I have converted to NCE DCC control in the past year.
- 6. When did you first begin construction of your layout?** Kathy and I started the layout in 2012.



aerial view of layout with the additional 2' x 8' section

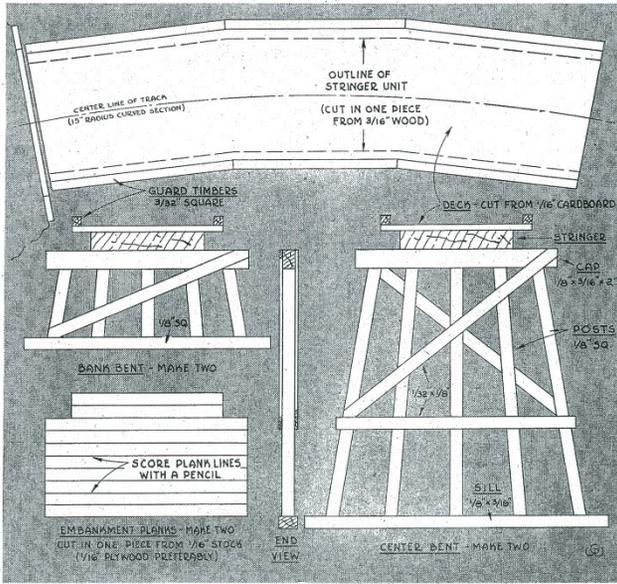
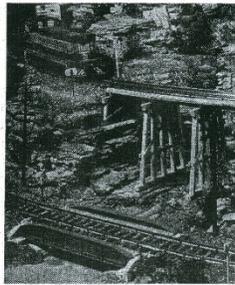
# Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)

For Your HO Model Railroad

## A TIMBER TRESTLE

By JOHN TAYLOR

EVERY MODEL RAILROAD needs at least one timber trestle to give it that "real railroad" look. Here's one you can make that will "steal the show." Scaled 22" high, it is just the right size to span a canyon or gorge. The drawing is full size for HO; deck outline fits a 15" radius curved track section. Cut timbers from pine, basswood, or balsa strip-wood (hobby shop); braces from 1/32" thick wood laboratory splints. Assemble with cement. Deck and stringer are solid to simplify construction.



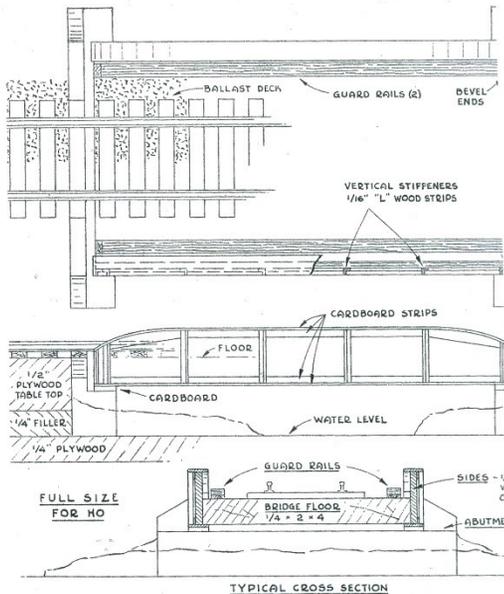
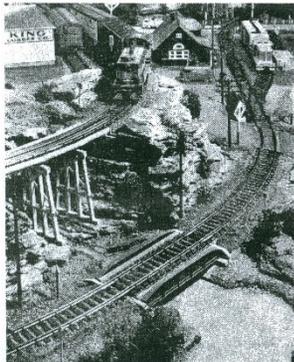
BOYS' LIFE for APRIL, 1961

FOR YOUR HO MODEL RAILROAD

## A Plate Girder Bridge

By GLENN WAGNER

BRIDGES DON'T have to be big to be effective on a model railroad. In fact, small bridges make any layout look larger. This one is only 4 1/2" long, including abutments! It is made of wood and cardboard strips, assembled with model cement. Drawing gives full size top, side and section views for HO. Paint bridge charcoal, silver, or green; abutments cement grey.



Timber trestle bridge plan featured in the Boys' Life issue (top left page) and the constructed trestle on the layout (below).

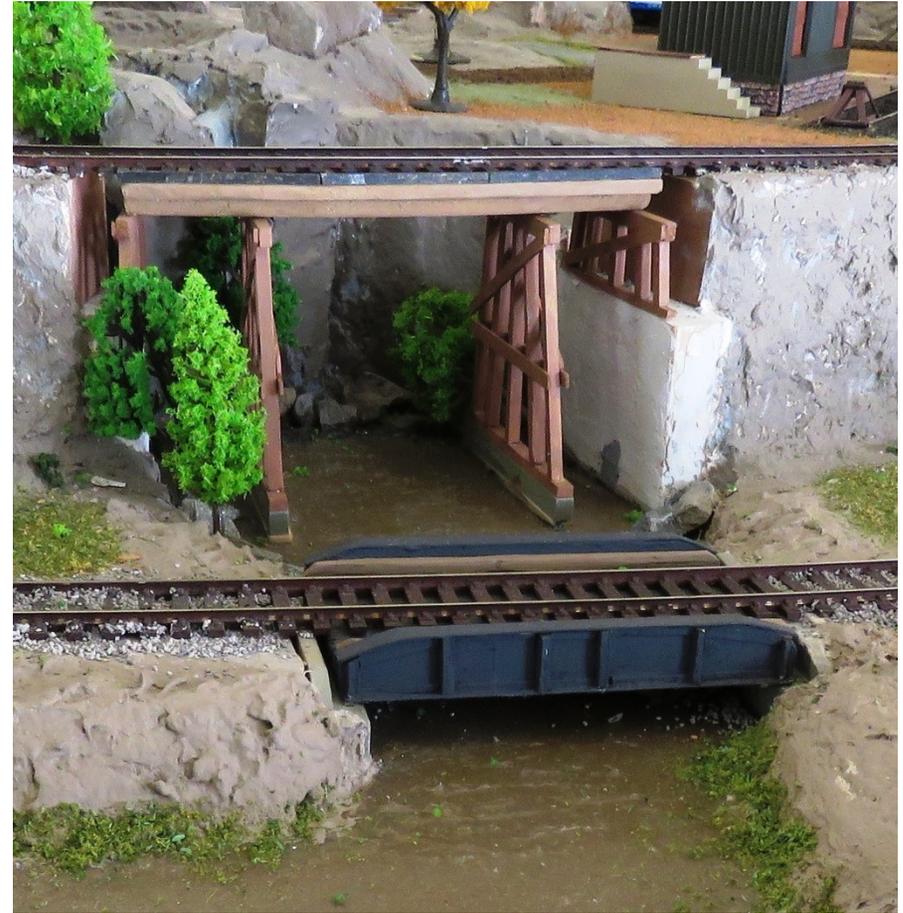


Plate girder bridge plan featured in the Boys' Life issue (bottom left page) and the constructed bridge on the layout (above).

# Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)

7. **Do you sponsor Operating Sessions on your layout?** I do not have other people running the layout. But that is an interesting idea since I keep updating areas. So far I only demonstrate to small groups or individuals.
8. **Do you have a track plan diagram for your layout (i.e. JPEG or PDF format)?** I have the original track plan as presented in the December 1959 edition of *Boys' Life*.
9. **What type of track (sectional, flex track or hand laid) and switches are on your layout and what is its code?** The layout has flex track, snap track and Atlas switches.



## Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)

10. If you were to brag about your layout what would you describe as its outstanding feature(s)? Lots of interesting views for videos can be observed. The variety of settings, such as a ravine, many bridges, various grades, sidings, add interest wherever you look. There are limited open areas which allow many structures on the layout.



## Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)

11. **Approximately, how many engines and rolling stock are in your collection? Also, what brand of engines do you run on your layout?** I do have two DCC engines and about six or more DC engines. I am converting several DC engines over to DCC. My collection of rolling stock is extensive in that I have collected many car types, road names and MOW equipment over time. Examples are: MOW equipment, CNJ, Ma & Pa, Western Maryland, PRR, P&LE. I also have many tankers, heavy equipment, and coal cars in my collection.



# Ed Horvath's Boys' Life Layout (continued)



# The Tool Maven

As a person who has an intense interest in tools, I am always on the lookout for new and innovative items. However, I am not confined to tools designed for model railroading. I gladly adopt a tool designed for other crafts and purposes. Usefulness for my modeling needs is the paramount concern. Such is the case of the sewing and knitting gauge.

According to Wikipedia: “A **sewing gauge** is a ruler, typically 6 inches long, used for measuring short spaces. It is typically a metal scale, marked in both inches and centimeters with a sliding pointer, similar in use to a caliper. It is used to mark hems for alterations as well as intervals between pleats and buttonholes and buttonhole lengths. It can be also used as a compass to draw arcs and circles by anchoring the slider with a pin and placing the tip of a marking pencil in the hole located at the end of the scale. Some models also incorporate a button shank and a blunt point for turning corners right side out.”

I first came across the sewing and knitting gauge while rummaging through my wife’s sewing box. I was actually looking for some straight pins. The small ruler intrigued me as to its true purpose. After some research I discovered that the original sewing and knitting features could be applied to model railroading.

There are several variations of the standard sewing and knitting gauge (figure 1). I use a sewing and knitting gauge (figure 2) and a seam gauge (figure 3). Besides the inch and centimeter ruled edges the movable double-edged pointer (figures 4 and 5 on next page).



figure 1

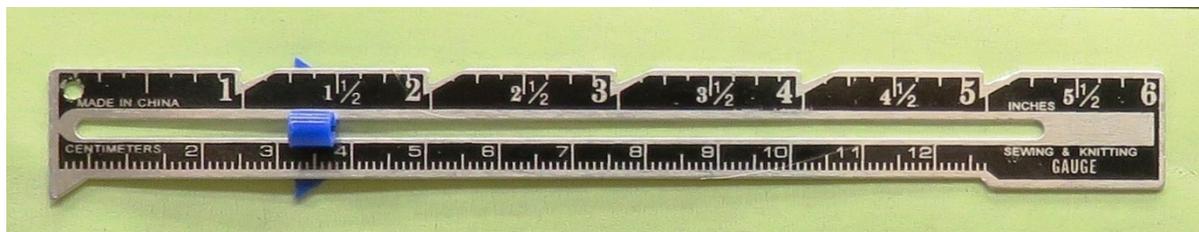


figure 2

figure 3



# The Tool Maven (continued)

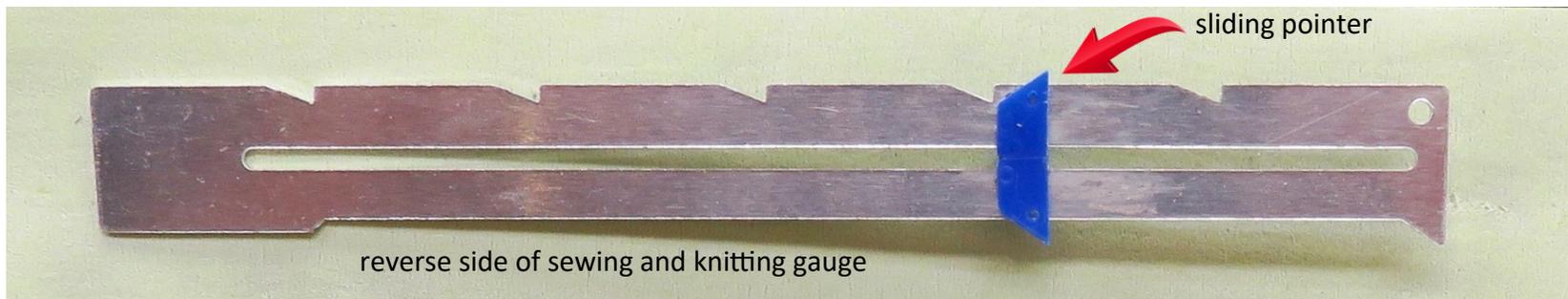


figure 4

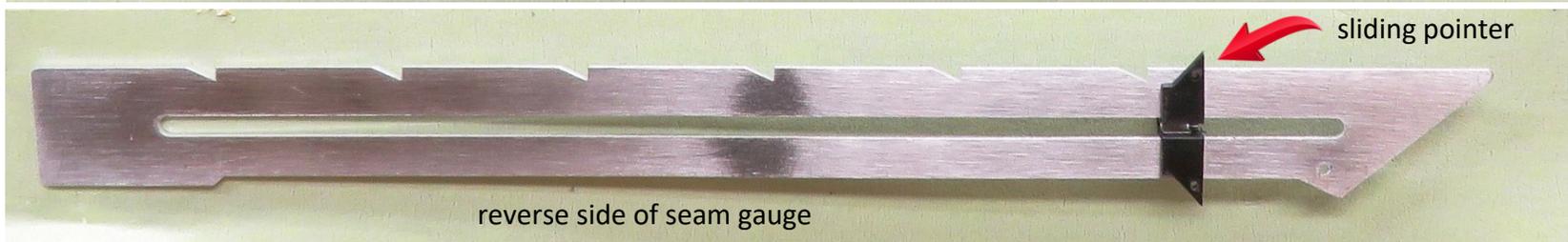


figure 5

I have used the gauge to mark parallel lines on masking tape before cutting the narrow tape strips for various masking jobs (figures 6 and 7). I also find the gauge very useful for determining clearances during the conversion of a DC engine to DCC. Using the movable pointer as a depth gauge I can determine whether there will be enough clearance for the new decoder between the engine shell and the chassis/motor structure (figures 8 and 9 on next page).

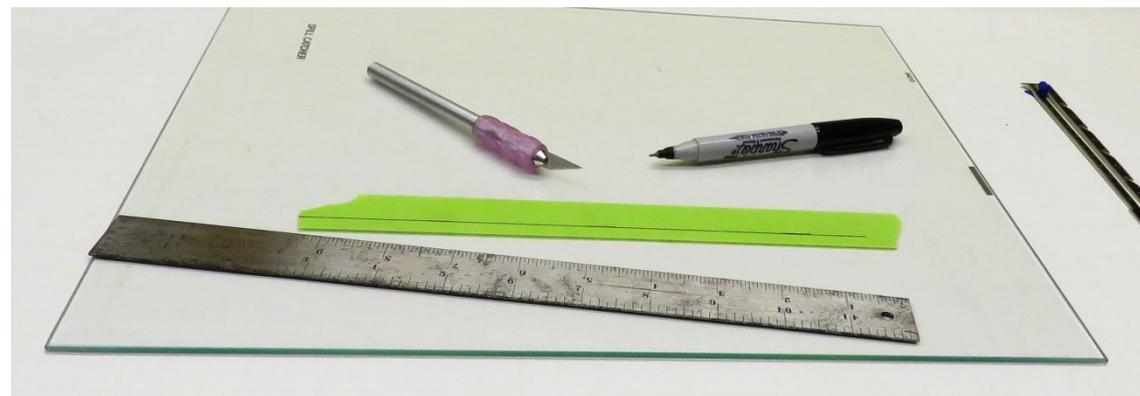
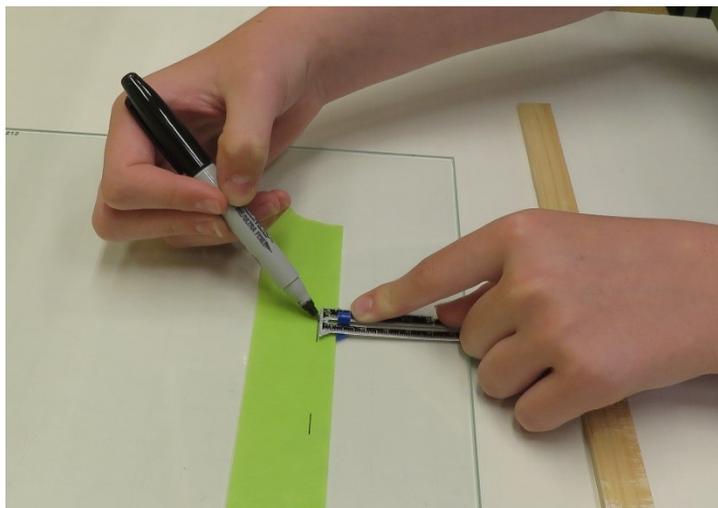


figure7

figure 6

## The Tool Maven (continued)

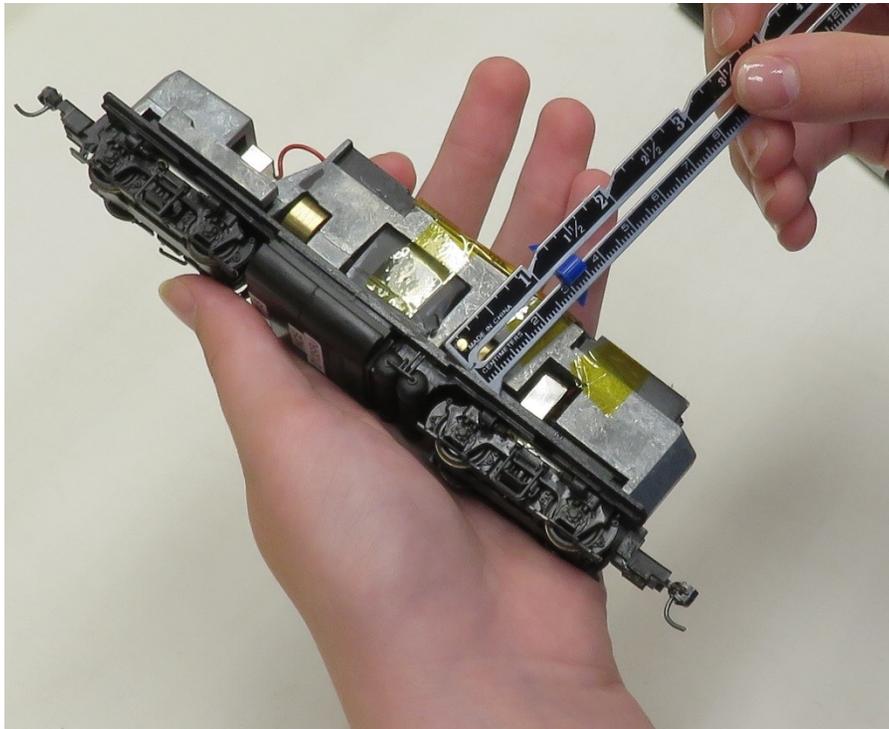


figure 8

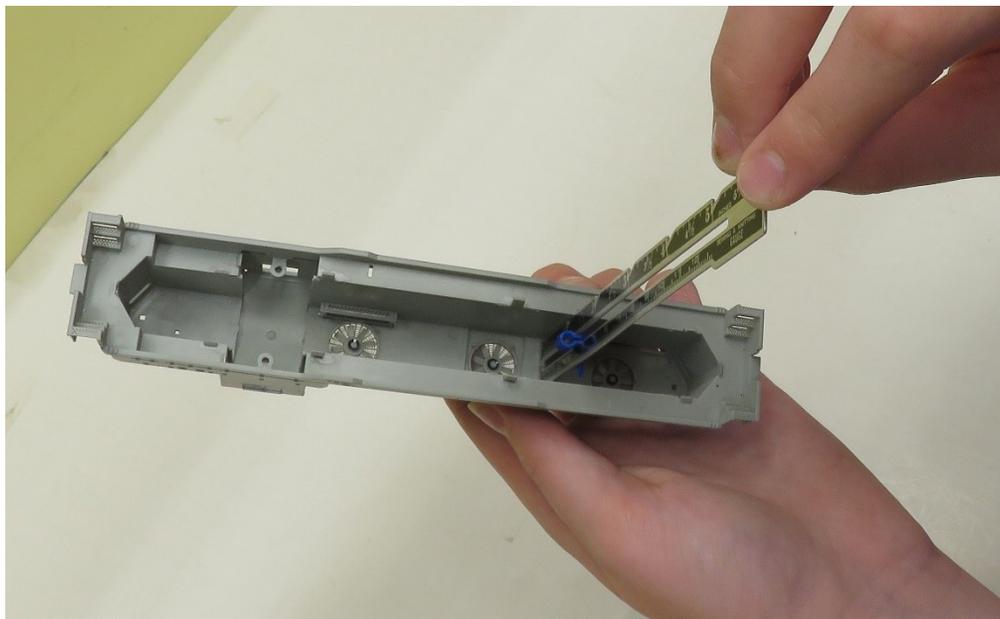


figure 9

I'm sure there are other uses for these gauges in model railroading. Use your imagination and come up with additional applications. Happy tools (trails) to you!

article and photos by Claude Hammer

# New Model Announcement

It is not a practice for Sidetracks to announce, nor endorse model railroad products announced by major manufacturers. However, in this case, the uniqueness of an engine warrants announcing this upcoming release.

Bowser Manufacturing Company has just released a pre-order opportunity for purchasing an HO scale ALCO RS-3 “Hammerhead” diesel locomotive. This engine was produced in small quantities for the PRR and Western Maryland Railway (one was eventually sold to the Lehigh Valley Railroad and subsequently became a Conrail unit). This locomotive is unique in that it has a raised short hood used to house the dynamic brakes and a steam generator for heating passenger cars. For obvious reasons it soon got the nickname “Hammerhead.” The steam heater and dynamic brake features allowed this RS-3 to move passenger trains and assist as helpers on steep grades.

Bowser is now taking pre-orders for delivery of this model in the Fall of 2023. For further information on this engine go to: <https://www.bowser-trains.com/new/hammerhead.html> . If you would like additional background on the Lehigh Valley engine check out the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum site: <https://www.rgvrrm.org/about/railroad/lv211/> . The R&GV has the only operating hammerhead in existence.



The photos above are courtesy of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum.

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