



# The Semaphore

LAND-O-SKY  
DIVISION 15, SOUTHEASTERN REGION  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
AND  
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.



FRED COLEMAN, SUPERINTENDENT  
ROBERT BELL, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT  
BILL SIBERT, COMPANY CLERK  
PENN BULLOCK, BARNMASTER  
JIM FIQUA, PAYMASTER  
DAVE ANDERSON, WEBMASTER

## February 2008

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

Send comments about and contributions to this newsletter to [chsmoke@bellsouth.net](mailto:chsmoke@bellsouth.net).  
Please keep us informed of changes in your address, phone number or email address.



Jack Mershon's Contest Entry at the December Train Show

Please see pages 4 and 5 for pictures of more entries



# The Fireman's Seat

By Robert Bell, Division 15 Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Robert Bell, author the "The Fireman's Seat", has the month off. *Until then, remember: It's your club - get involved: Become a convention volunteer!*



**Let's play trains!**



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## From the Superintendent's Desk

Submitted by Fred Coleman

As we are getting closer to Smokey Mountain Rails, several people and committees have things really rolling well, although we can still use an extra hand here and there. The Pre-Registration event should be on the web-site by the time you receive this issue. There will be an operating session with the LOST RR at the fair grounds on Thursday night. We already have several people that have signed up any of you that would like are of course welcome and would be appreciated to work with guide some of the visitors on the layout. It should really be a great chance to get to know other modelers.

The group from Lake Junaluska are starting to roll down the track on their reassembled layout at the Terrace Inn. Kent Roberts, Bill Seibert and I met with them on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January to help prioritize their needs for the layout which is starting with electrical. Kent helped them with soldering techniques using resistance soldering. They are now running a bus line for one track, replacing some track and moving along.

Bill Seibert and I met with the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority that was very responsive to help getting the word out for the convention and train show. They also are going to furnish for the convention attendees several brochures, maps and listing of local restaurants that will be in a tote bag donated by the Haywood Electric Membership Corp.

Northeast Steam Tourist Trains slide show will be our program at the Feb 7<sup>th</sup> meeting by Gordon Fewster. Also there will be awards presented to several members.

Keep on the track.





## **Important stuff for members!**

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

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## **Operating Sessions Scheduled for February**

The dates for February Operating Sessions on the LOST RR are Feb. 9th at 2pm and Feb. 24th at 2pm.

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## **The N. C. Transportation Museum in Spencer is having a model train show**

The North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer will be holding a model train show and sale as part of the Rail Days event April 26 & 27, 2008.

Vendors interested in tables should contact Larry Neal at [larry.neal@ncmail.net](mailto:larry.neal@ncmail.net) or 704-636-2889 x 227. Table prices have not been set, but should be in the \$20-25 dollar range. The amount of tables will be set by vendor interest and space availability in the roundhouse, which will be near a maximum of 80 tables.

All model train scales, railroad art, and general railroad collectibles will be part of the show. Model train layouts will also be set up beside the show. Show setup Friday afternoon; teardown late Sunday afternoon after 3:00 PM. Security will be provided. Train meet operates 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM both days

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## **We don't want to lose you: Keep I us informed of changes in address, etc.**

Please keep us informed of any changes in your address, email address, phone number, etc. Each month we get mail and email returned because an address is no longer correct. As a result we lose contact with you. The name of all club officers is on the back page, along with the editor's current email address.

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## **Dues and Name Tags**

Dues are past due. If you don't have a 2008 dues card, you probably haven't paid your dues for the year. Check your card; If you are not current, please send your check for dues to Jim Fuqua at 2813 Hampton Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28791.

We should also be getting name tags for all hands so that we will have them for the Train Show in May. Name tags are \$5.00. See Jim Fuqua at the next meeting to order yours.





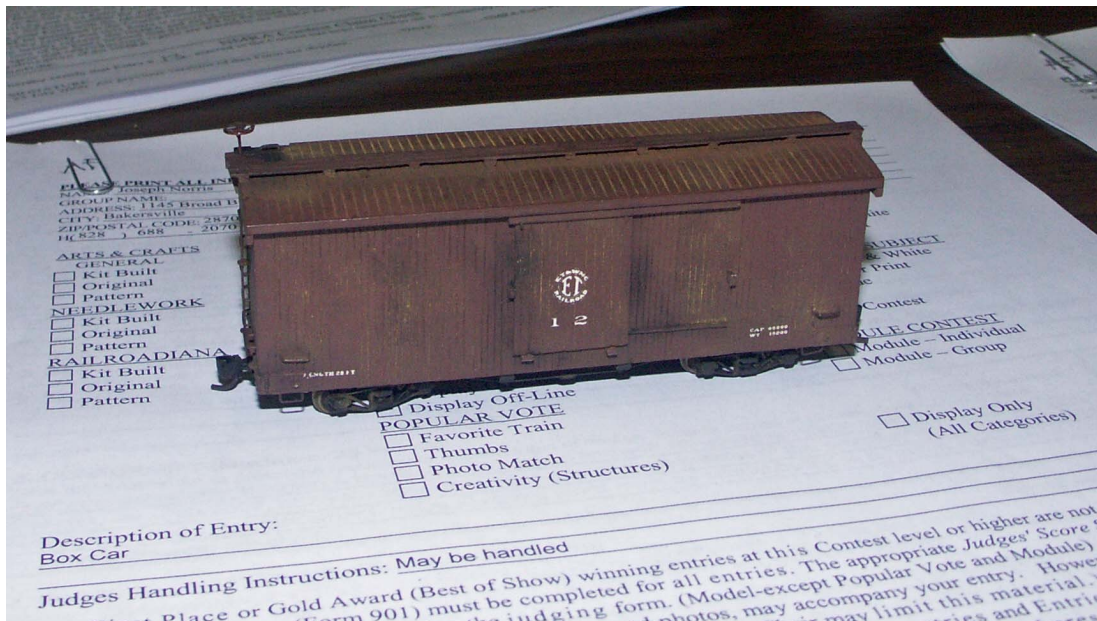
## Joe Norris' entries



**Editor's note:** These photographs are of Joe Norris' entries into the model contest held in at our Train Show in December. We asked Joe to write a few comments about the barn.

**Joe Norris:** My layouts are small and reflect small-time operations. This stable is part of a saw mill and logging complex served by a short-line branch of the ET&WNC in the years from 1890-1910. The controlling company requires a place to stable the horses that drag the timber from the surrounding mountains to the saw mill for processing. (It is of interest that few models of logging operations include facilities for care of the horses.) The Internet provided photos and drawings of stables of this era, both interior and exterior, and I freely adapted features from several photos to design this model. It is entirely scratch built, including the strip wood, and is constructed board-by-board throughout. The 'tin' roof is made from aluminum foil, etched lightly in spent ferric chloride solution and finished with a light white wash.





**Editor:** These photographs are of Joe Norris' entry into the model contest held in at out Train Show in December. We also asked Joe to write a few comments about the box car.

**Joe Norris:** I model in HOn30, a scale for which few commercial kits are available therefore it is necessary to scratch build most rolling stock. This box car was patterned after a drawing of a two-foot scale box car in the *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette* which I rescaled for HOn30. (HOn30 dimensions for rolling stock are about 0.7 the dimensions of HO.) Car details, with the exception of trucks and couplers (N scale components), must be hand made. Wood parts were all cut from a piece of 2 X 4 stud material. This is one of nine cars I have scratch built to date and the second to earn a Merit Award.

**Editor:** We are especially grateful to Paul K. Voelker, editor of *The Southerner*, the magazine published by and for the Southeastern Region, NMRA, for all of the wonderful photographs used in this issue.



## Earning those certificates

When you think of "structures" don't just think of buildings and bridges. Structures are just about anything on the layout that was man made and doesn't fit into one of the other Master Builder categories. These are just some examples of the types of 'structures' that you could build to earn this certificate: buildings (all kinds), factories, bridges (all kinds), signal towers, oil derricks, docks, power line towers, cranes (stationary or mobile), ships, etc. Of course, there is a certain level of complexity expected to qualify for a merit award. If you take a plank and put it across a drainage ditch and call it a bridge, it is unlikely to score 87-1/2 points no matter how nicely mod-

eled a plank it is!

To qualify for the Master Builder - Structures certificate: You must construct twelve scale structures: At least six different types of structures must be represented in the total.

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety of types of structures, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a wood frame station and a brick station would be different types, but a wood frame station from Kansas and wood frame station from California would probably not, unless you could show that there was a substantial difference in the construction. When in doubt, why try and split hairs? Instead, try your hand at building something completely different. You might learn some new modeling skills in the process, and who knows? You could even have fun doing it!

One of the six types must be a bridge or trestle.

Before you panic with visions of elaborate wooden trestles dancing in your head, stop for a moment and consider just how many different types of bridges and trestles there on or around a railroad. Remember, your bridge doesn't have to span the Grand Canyon; a short span over a creek or dirt road may be enough. The point is to demonstrate that you know how to build a bridge that is appropriate and will support the load that it has to carry. If there is no place on your layout for the tracks to cross a bridge, how about a bridge that carries something else? You could replace a grade crossing with a bridge that carries the road up and over the tracks (as many prototype railroads have been doing in recent years), or build a foot bridge like the ones over many rail yards. Finally, remember that you can even build the bridge as a separate model - it doesn't have to go on your layout.

At least six of the models must be scratch built. The following parts are specifically excluded from the scratch built requirement (although you may scratch build them for additional points): Light bulbs & electronics; paint, decals, figures; and basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc.

Something that you should remember if the idea of "scratch building" intimidates you: There is very little difference between scratch building and building most craftsman kits. The big difference is that in a kit the manufacturer has assembled the materials that you will need, for you. Only the construction needs to be done from scratch. If you take someone else's plans and instructions (even those from a kit) and go to the hobby shop and buy the materials yourself and assemble them, that qualifies as scratch building. On the other hand, if you do develop your own plans, make sure that you tell judges that, as it will earn you extra points.

Continued on page 7.



The remaining six, if not scratch built, must be super-detailed with scratch built or commercial parts (for extra points).

There are all sorts of ways to super detail structures. Look closely at what you are trying to model, and see the little details: signs, ladders, electrical fixtures, window details, roof details, etc. For buildings, including an interior (and a way to see it) is definitely recommended, with as much of it as possible scratch built for extra points. Including some sort of "scene within a scene" is a good way to catch the judges' eye. Adding detail to your structures will not only meet this part of the requirements, but will also add to your score, and to the overall appeal of your model.

One way to save money and increase your scratch building score is to buy only one of a particular detail part, and use it as a model to make the rest yourself. This means build the others yourself from scratch, NOT to use the commercial part as a master to make a mold to cast copies of it.

You must earn a score of at least 87-1/2 points on six of the twelve models in either an NMRA sponsored contest or in AP Merit Award judging.

Note that only six of the twelve must earn 87-1/2 points. The others don't even have to be judged! They do all have to be described on the Statement of Qualification (see below).

You must submit a Statement of Qualification (SOQ - available on the web and from the Regional AP Manager) which includes the following:

- An attachment giving a detailed description of each of the twelve models, including:
  - Identification of all scratch built features
  - All commercial components used
  - Materials used in building the model
  - A notation that the model is operational, if it is intended to be
  - If the model is a kit, whose kit is it?
- Verification of the Merit Awards (photocopies of the certificates or signed Judging Forms) Photos of the model are helpful, though not required.

Your twelve structures do not all have to be of the same scale or era, or on the same layout. In fact, in most cases, it's better to build the structure separately, have it judged (either in a contest or in separate Merit Judging), and then install it in its final location. In this way, the judges can get a better look at it. Note: Many contests require that structures NOT be mounted on any kind of sceniced base, or they will be considered "Displays". However, for separate Merit Judging, they can be part of your layout.

This information was adapted from the NMRA website and is offered for the information of our readers. For the most complete and current information, go to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). Additional information is part of an ongoing series in *Scale Rails*, NMRA's membership magazine.



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