

THE BRASS POUNDER



Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Division 12, Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

Volume 24 Number 8

August 2024

Division Coming Events

August Meeting:
**Northern Regional
Recreation Center in
classroom "A" located
at 18121 Old Statesville
Rd, Cornelius, NC
28031 on August 17th,
starting at 10am.**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

Why did you join the NMRA? There certainly are a myriad of answers to this question. Three that come to mind for me are the comradery it brings, service to the hobby, and to learn. Certainly, near the top for most of us that join in Division or Regional functions is enjoyment in being around fellow model railroaders. We are not found that commonly in society, and it is nice to be around folks who are interested when you want to talk trains or hear about modeling experiences.

Service to the hobby might sound odd but think about it. The members who work on the model train exhibits (including Train Town) at the Newton Depot spend an amount of their free time to devote to presenting our hobby to those who come to visit who are not familiar with model trains. Similarly, the members of the Metrolina club and the Central NC N Scalers spend a considerable amount of time each summer at the NC Transportation Museum providing their layouts for enjoyment and education to all that view them while touring the museum. And don't forget about our CSD members who are volunteers at both museums, as well as those of us who help man our display tables at the model train shows.

I think the main reason many of our members joined, however, is to learn new things about our hobby that will enable us to better our efforts. Whether it is fundamental things like benchwork or ballasting, or more intense subjects like JMRI, I think we can come away with some knowledge gained from each experience. Such is the case in our planned presentation by Jimmy Angel scheduled for the August meeting. In case you don't know who, he is, check out his YouTube channel DIY & Digital. Jimmy is well versed in many aspects of our hobby and is going to share a few of them when we get together.

In the coming months, CSD is going to hit on these reasons I mentioned. We will be having our annual picnic at the park in Kannapolis in September, be open in October for attending the MER convention in Durham, NC, and planning to have member layouts open for visiting in November. So, I close by saying I hope many of you will decide to participate in one or all of these events for whatever reason.

Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette



Hey everyone! How's it going today? Here's hoping this message finds you enjoying the sometimes slow, but rewarding process of piecing together your most recent model railroading project.

Today I choose to take pride in some small gains I've made since the last time we spoke. I have made some progress on a couple of structures and I am enjoying myself. I did snap a few photos a couple weeks ago to share on this page. The photos below are of my 3D printed windows. Why do I like them so much? I like that I can paint them separately – that's a major improvement on the appearance of the painting as I don't have that steady of a hand when it comes to windows that are molded as part of the structure.

The other small thing I love is that I took the time to get the dimensions just perfect so (typically) my windows almost work as a friction fit. I'll still use a tad bit of glue to make sure things don't shift, but truthfully it's not necessary unless someone picked up the structure and shook it vigorously. Not sure who would do that, but I imagine that's what it would take to loosen some of them! Below you'll see before and after spray painting shots.

Well, that's it for me for now. I told you I'm choosing to get excited about small gains, and for me...that's it. It's a mildly innovative thing that benefits me and my particular process. What's yours? I'd love to have you send it all your tips and tricks to be featured in coming issues!

- Chad



Division and Regional News

Wade's Train Town

Wade's Train Town – July Stats

Open houses: 4
Attendance: 66
Volunteers: Gil Brauch, Tim Rust, Bob Halsey, Keith Iritsky {2}, and Ed Smith



AP Awards from the Plywood RR Desk

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

Neal Anderson has provided the following updates for the achievement program activity last month.

1. No awards were handed out last month, because I took a month off.
2. The works are on the way to give Chief Dispatcher classes once again. I will need contact info for setting up the class. I give a class to four people at a time over two days (not in a row).
3. I will be setting up a team for Evaluating Structures, and more to travel to yourhouse if needed.

CSD July Meeting Minutes

Contributed by David Myers, Division Clerk

Carolina Southern Division, Mideast Region
National Model Railroad Association
Monthly Meeting
March 16, 2024

Mecklenburg County Northern Region Recreation Center, Cornelius, NC

The meeting was called to order by the Superintendent at 10:30 AM. Attendance included twelve members present and nine members online.

The Superintendent reported:

1. Meeting schedule for the remainder of 2024:

August 17 (tentatively), location tbd

September 14 (note-second Saturday), Kannapolis Park pavilion, Division picnic

October, no Division meeting, MER Convention Oct 17-20 in Durham

November, weekly "open house" tours of members' layouts

Nov 2, Gaston and west Charlotte area

Nov 9, south of Charlotte (Waxhaw, NC and Lancaster and York counties SC)

Nov 16, northwest (Hickory and surrounding localities)

Nov 23, northeast

December, no meeting

More information in future notices.

2. The next Annual Meeting will be held in January 2025. Planning for Newton Depot.

Jack Dziadal of the Central Piedmont Division of the NMRA presented, by Zoom, an information session on the upcoming MER convention in Durham, Piedmont Junction. Dates are October 17-20. The last day for hotel registration at the reduced convention rate is September 17. Detailed information on events, tours, clinics, other activities, and hotel registration is available on the convention website "PiedmontJunction.org".

Neil Anderson reported that all recently approved AP awards have been distributed. He is arranging evaluation visits for those who have applied for awards.

Ed Smith reported on Train Town. Discussions about conducting clinics there are continuing. Ed and others are working on a new promotional display for the Division. He asks that anyone with photographs of their layouts that can be included on the board forward them to him.

The Superintendent noted that the Division has two "timesaver layouts". He noted that it has been suggested that one remain a "timesaver" and the other be modified to a multi-scale/gauge test track that can support both DC and DCC.

Neil Anderson displayed a pair of sunglasses left at the June event. They were unclaimed. Contact Neil to claim.

With business completed, a short clinic/demonstration of helpful jigs and tools was conducted:

1. Andrew Stitt displayed and discussed how he uses corks from beverage bottles to hold trees and they are formed, painted, and receive foliage. Andrew demonstrated how he uses aluminum channel material with small clamps to produce perfect right angle glue joints. He displayed a small, "grabber" screwdriver and saber saw blade specifically for foam cutting he finds useful and recommends.
2. Tim Rumph displayed and demonstrated jigs he had made to facilitate hand-laying N-scale turnouts on his layout.
3. Ed Smith demonstrated an electrical rig for detecting shorts and improper solder joint when he solders feeder wires to bus wires. There followed some good-natured

discussion as to the provenance of the device. (Ed may have borrowed this from Keith Iritsky a year ago.)

There was general discussion of potential, future meeting sites.

The status of the P&W was discussed. Present intentions are to continue the operating sessions through December.

The Superintendent adjourned the meeting at 11:37.

Submitted by,

David Myers, Division Clerk

Help Wanted

Contributed by Andrew Stitt & Joe Skorch

The North Carolina Transportation Museum needs our help! Fellow CSD member Fred Miller MMR has graciously donated his Trolley display to the museum, and it has not had the care that it needs. Marcus Neubacher has asked for some help cleaning up the display to make Fred's work look as good as it was when delivered to the museum.

Please contact Marcus at 704-343-8292 if you are able to help.

The Barlow's BBQ Build – Part Two

Contributed by Keith Iritsky

Well, here's Part Two of the Barlow's BBQ build. We left off with all the walls assembled on the three sections of the building. The structural part of the interiors were built. I detailed the interiors with figures and plates of food, along with utensils, ketchup and mustard bottles made from styrene rod painted red and yellow. Napkin holders were made with styrene rectangle stock painted silver. I found an image of a BBQ joint interior on the internet, shrunk it down and printed it out, and glued it to the wall.



Photo 1: "Interior of (Right) section. With Menus, plates of food, and condiment bottles."

The roofs are cut from cardstock cut with an overhang of about 1/4". I scored the underside of the peaks with the back of an Exacto knife so that a straight bend at the peak will be assured. The two story building on the left was supposed to be covered with metal standing seam roofing, which was not in wide use in 1920, so I covered it with 3 scale feet wide strips of paper cut from a brown paper grocery bag, and lightly sprayed with black rustoleum primer. These strips were glued to the cardstock while flat from bottom to top overlapping by 1/32 of an inch. I used Tightbond II wood glue which was probably overkill, but I didn't want any softening of the glue when an India ink/alcohol wash was used. The edges of the strips showed the unpainted brown paper, so I touched these up with a black fine tipped sharpie. Tar lines were drawn around the strips with the same marker. Small squares of tarpaper were applied to act as patches on the roof. A wash of India ink and alcohol was applied to weather the roof and blend the marker lines, followed by a light dry-brushing of antique white craft paint. I wanted the 2-story building to have a re-roofing job in progress to add interest, so I glued on a few rows of Rusty Stumps cedar shakes. The porch roof is a laser cut piece with rafter tails. I covered this with Campbells corrugated iron sheets cut to 10' by 3'. These sheets were "rusted" before cutting to size with various burnt sienna, raw sienna, and burnt orange acrylic craft paints, applied by dabbing them on with a small piece of natural sea sponge held by tweezers.



Photo 2: “ 2-story (Left) section roof with partial cedar shakes being installed. The porch roof of corrugated iron rusted with acrylic paints.”

The roofs for the center section and the right section were done in the same manner. The roofs were then glued to the walls with wood glue. Flip the building upside down and make sure the exposed roof edges are uniform and even so You can make adjustments before the glue dries. It pays to paint any exposed areas underneath the roof, (Eaves), before installing the roof. I weighed down the roofs with a bag of dry beans to assure good contact and no lifting while the glue sets up. A thinner piece of rolled roofing covers the peak of the building after the glue has dried.



Photo 3 “1-story (Right) section with tar paper roofing installed. Note the “Patches” showing past repairs.



Photo 4 “ Center section with roofing installed. Note that the edges of the roofing extend past the edge of the roof to provide a sealing surface on the adjacent walls when installed.”

The 3 sections were then glued together with wood glue and left to dry overnight to form the whole building.



Photo 5 “All three sections glued together with small bump out addition on 2 story section.”

I wanted to add some more complexity to the section on the left, so I designed a dormer unit for the front roof. I made a heavy paper mock-up to check the fit and once satisfied, transferred the measurements to some of the leftover siding that came with the kit and cut these out with a hobby knife. I made a cardstock roof and glued it to the siding. The interior was baced with 1/8th “ square Basswood. Holes were cut out for 2 small Tichy Train Group windows. These were painted and installed with CA glue. Clear styrene was placed and held with canopy glue, and a piece of black cardstock was glued to this to block any light from showing.

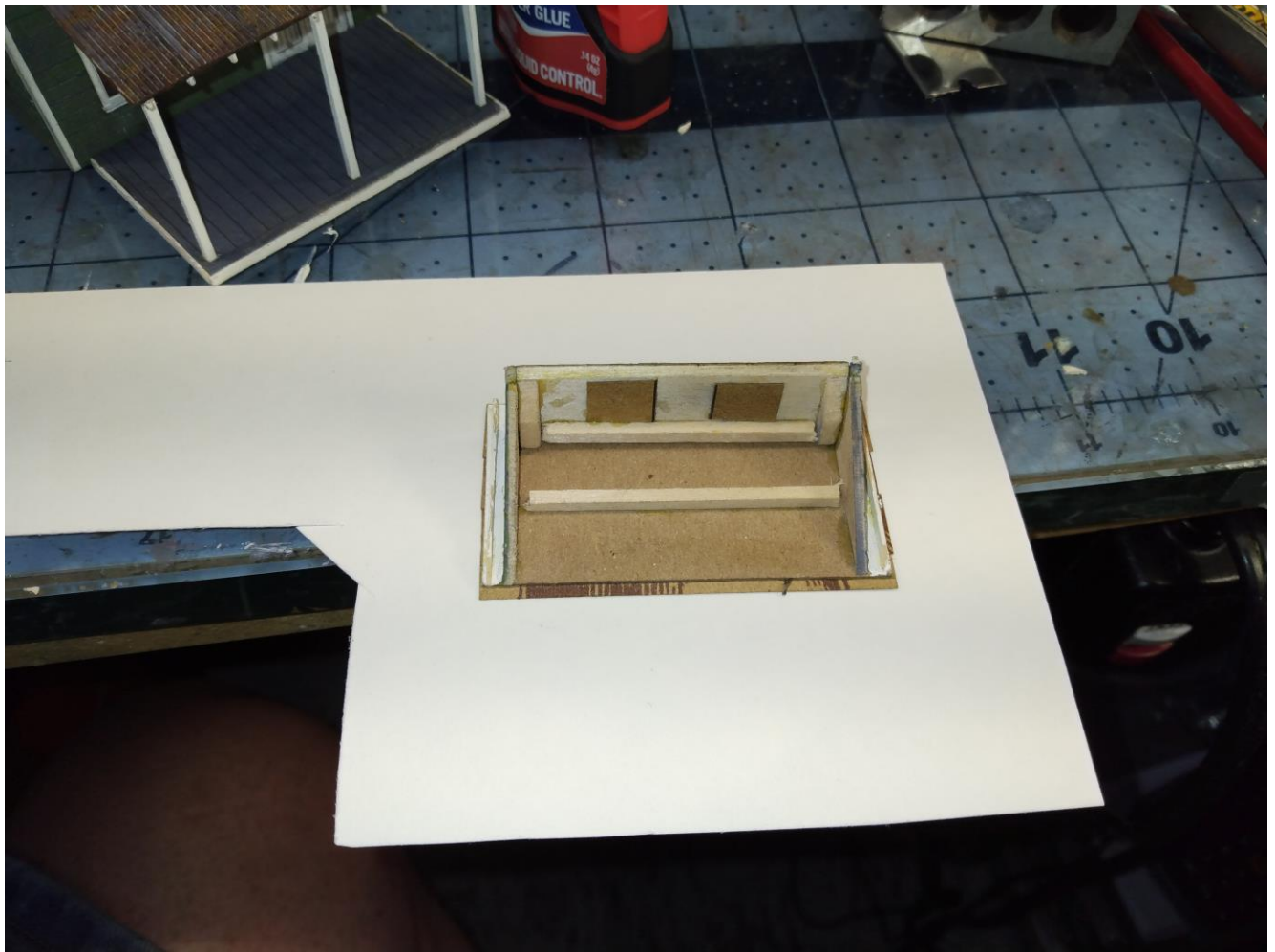


Photo 6: "The dormer addition with interior bracing."

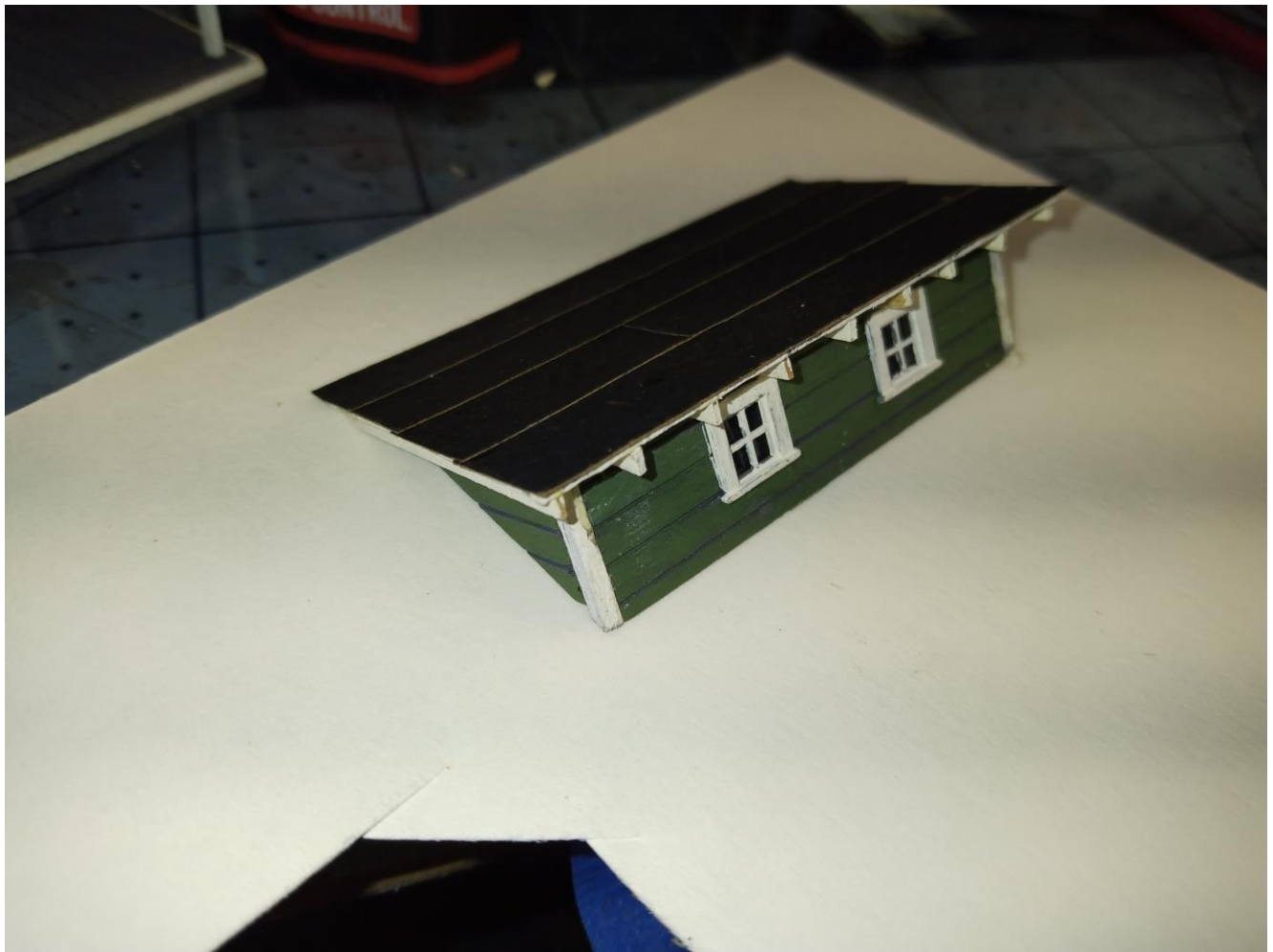


Photo 7: The dormer addition with roofing paper and windows blacked out and installed.”

Rooftop signs were constructed following the included instructions. The printed signs were included in the kit on a separate sheet. The signs were cut out and mounted to a piece of cardstock and then mounted to a basswood frame constructed separately. On the large signs,,which the instructions just left as cardstock, I cut scale 1”X8” sections of basswood and glued these to the back of the cardstock and stained with Hunterline black for a little more realism. To mount the signs and their wooden frames to the roof, I used wood glue for the wood to roofing paper joins, and AC glue for the wood to metal roof joins.



Photo 8: "All the rooftop signs installed."

A pink plastic pig was included in the kit, to be mounted to the small roof of the takeout window addition. It came very shiny, so I sprayed it with a couple of coats of Testors dullcote, followed by an India ink/Alcohol wash. When the wash was dry, I drybrushed him with some antique white craft paint, and he looked like he's been up there for a while. (See Photo 9) The 2 sided sign sign with the tall post was assembled by gluing the two laser cut pigs to a piece of cardstock, and trimming it to fit. The Bottom section was made by gluing two printed out signs to cardstock and then the top and bottom sections were glued together. A small piece of wire serves as a guy wire to support the sign. I later added another guy wire from the signpost back to the second story of the building. (Things I wake up, and worry about at 3 in the morning. "What if there's too much weight pulling on the post in real life.").



Photo 9: "¾ view, and the dirty piggie."



Photo 10: "Close up of the 2 story building signs."

I forgot to mention that I mounted an SMD LED in the ceiling of the two detailed interior sections. I also wanted one under the porch roof, and in exterior lampshades over the take out window, and the side door of the left section. Also a tall one on a pipe over the BBQ sign and pink pig on the takeout section roof. I ordered some prelit lampshades on EBAY, which are taking forever to arrive. They were probably in a shipping container that fell off a ship crossing the Pacific. Being impatient I skipped the lampshade over the porch which wouldn't have been seen anyway, and just glued a SMD to the underside of the porch roof after painting the black and red wires black and stiffened with AC glue, to act as a conduit. I guess I should have painted them galvanized grey. I got these prewired SMDs in 3 sizes from Amazon. The largest ones are about 3/32" long by 1/32" wide, and the smallest is about the size of a flea.

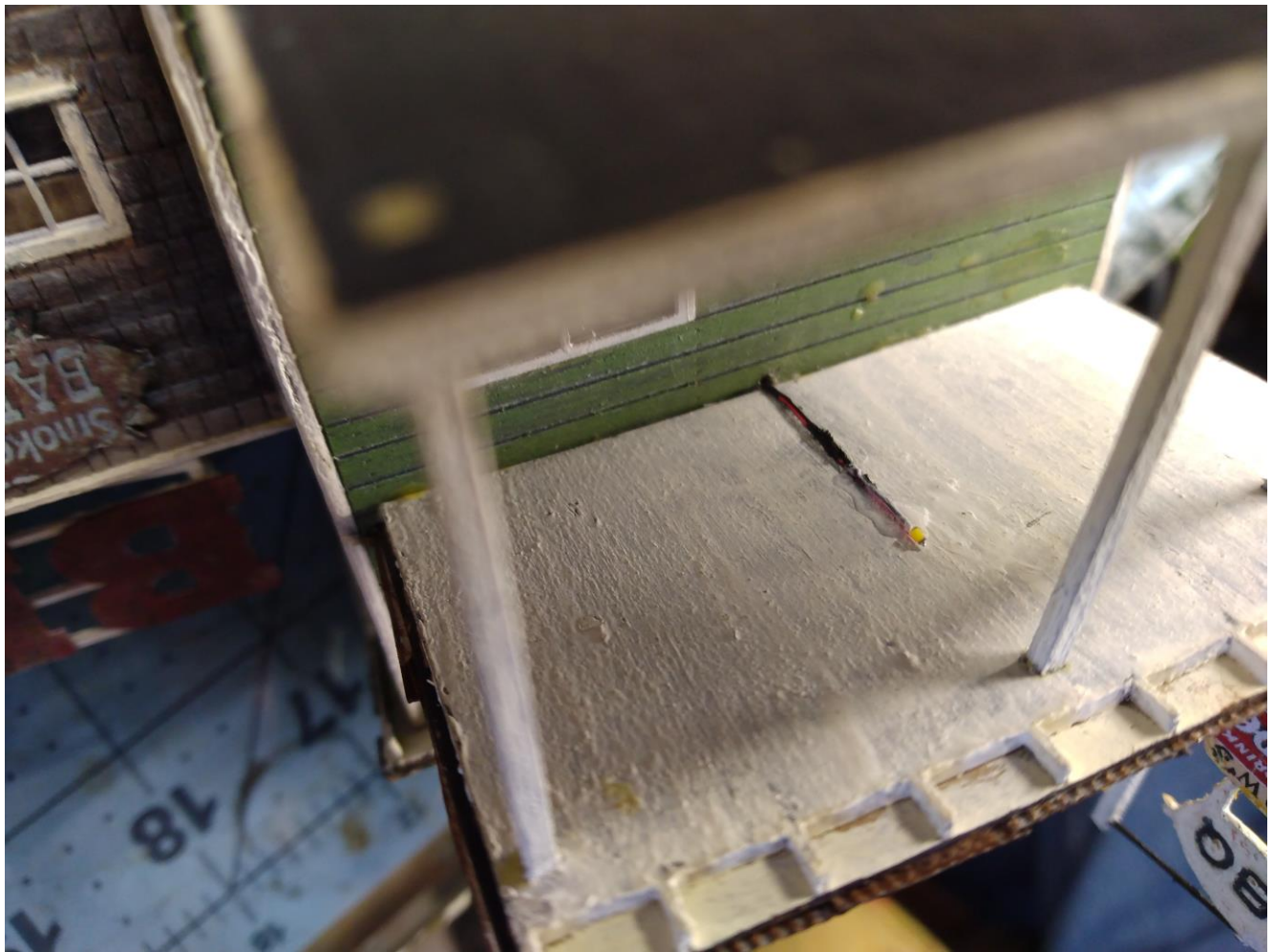


Photo 11: "The SMD installed under the porch roof."

OK, everything is cool, and pretty much done. How can I complicate things? I really think model buildings need foundations especially ones in New England with an average footing depth of four to five feet where I grew up, and am modelling. Wild West buildings can sit on the ground so rattlesnakes can have a cool place to sleep. I guess I could add a foundation and call it done. I had some styrene stock that was .060"X.250" which would give me a foundation with a 2' reveal. I made 2 Foundation rectangles for the left and right sections. As with wall construction make two halves of the rectangle, let dry, then join the two "Ells" to form the rectangle. I used 123 blocks to assure right angles and to weigh the pieces down until set. I then added corner braces of .060" stock for added strength. (See Photo 12) The foundations were designed to be set in from the walls 1/16th" to provide an overhang and shed rainwater. (Now I have to make it rain on my layout to justify this.) I installed the left and right foundations to their respective sections, and when dry, I measured and cut pieces for the center section foundation, to assure a tight fit. (See Photos 13 & 14) Textured stone block paper was used to simulate the stone foundation. Strips were cut and glued to the styrene with... with... What did I use again? Oh yeah, Rocket Glue by Deluxe Materials, an English company. When all the sections were dry, I used a grey watercolor pencil to touch up any exposed white edges of the paper. (See Photo 15) OK, the foundation is complete So that's it then!. NO, no it's not. Since I raised up the whole structure 2', the little HO sized buggers can't get inside to eat. Now I have to build stairs, and if I build stairs, I have to

make railings so no one falls off the porch or the stairs and sues. I started by making pilings to support the raised porch. This was done by cutting 1/16th" square stock with my NWSL chopper. Staining them and gluing to the underside of the porch floor. (See Photo 16) I made different stair types. I made stringer and tread/riser stairs for the porch board by board. Cutting HO sized stringers by hand is a pain. The stairs for the take out window were made of stacked RR ties. The railings for the porch and take out window are made from scale 4X4s for the posts, and scale 2X4s for the handrails and stringers. (See Photo 17) For the right side stairs, I made a 4'X4' platform from basswood, built board by board, and at this point I was getting tired, so I used a 3 step section of Central Valley stairs. (See Photo 18)

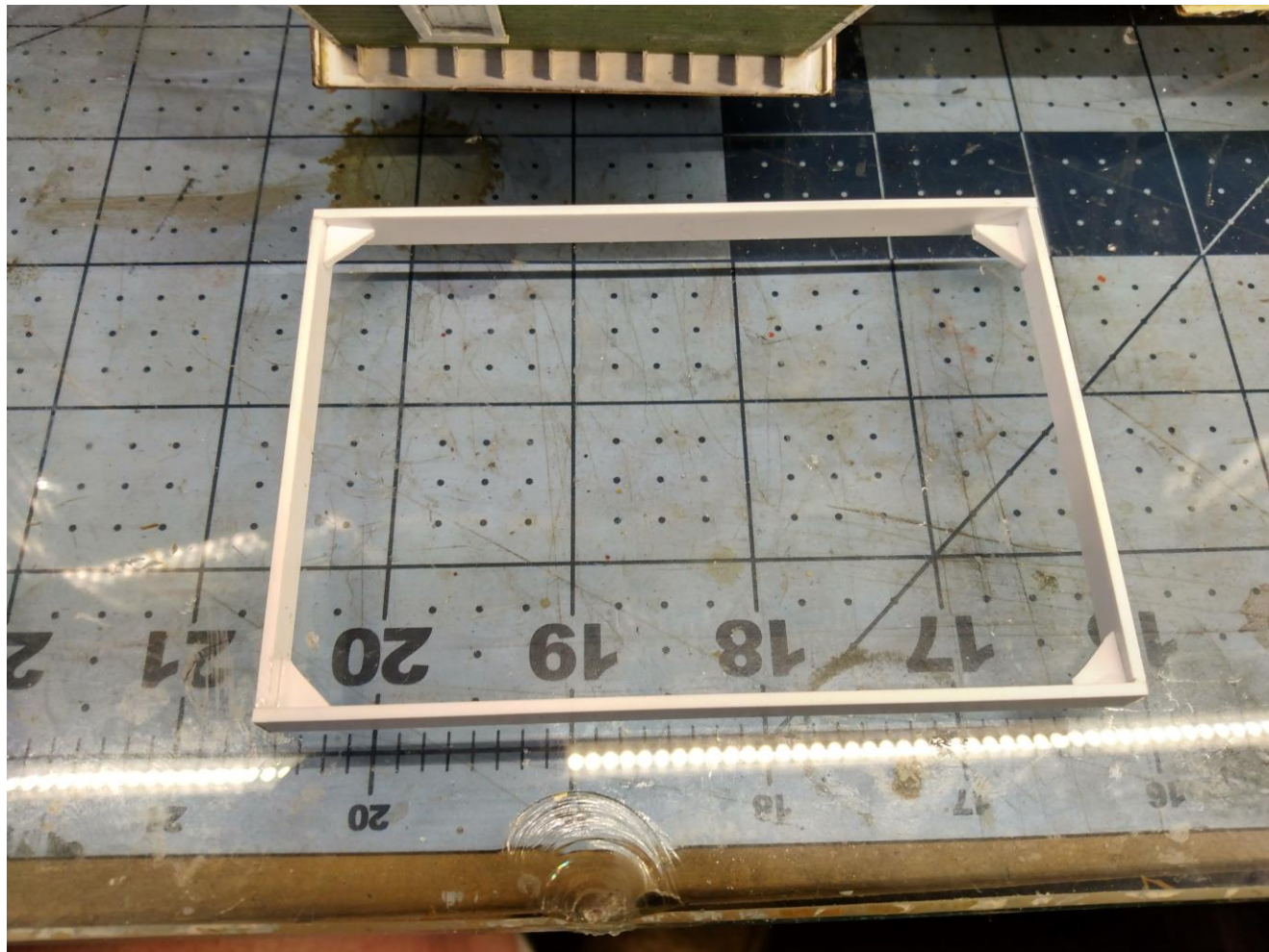


Photo 12: "Foundation walls of styrene for the 2-story building."





Photos 13 & 14: "Foundation frames installed. Foundations front view."



Photo 15: "Foundations with block textured paper installed."



Photo 16:” Pilings/piers on the underside of the porch.”



Photo 17: "Front steps and railings."



Photo 18: "Right side platform and stairs with railings.

OK, detail time. I needed a roofer to be working on, well... roofing. I found a Preiser figure swinging a hammer in his right hand. He was standing straight up with his left arm down at his side. He had no idea what I had in store for him. I used an Xacto knife to amputate his left arm. (The screams were horrifying.) Then I cut through both kneecaps three quarters the way through, and bent his lower legs back. (At this point he passed out.) I then glued his left arm back on to be supporting his weight on the roof. I then performed knee replacement surgery on both legs. This was accomplished by gluing tiny blocks of styrene to his open kneecaps and filing and sanding them smooth. A bit of paint while he was still unconscious, and he was right as rain, but a little sore. He appreciated it when I put a two by four along the roof edge so he can keep his footing. I built him an angled platform for his supply of shingles and a box of nails. The ladders from Central Valley helped him out too. Two rolls of roofing paper were made by cutting a strip of blue painter's tape to a 3' width, and rolled up with the end of the tape glued with AC glue to secure it and prevent unrolling. A quick coat of grimy black and drybrushing, and they were glued to the porch roof.



Photo 19: "Rolls of tarpaper, platform with shingles, and box of nails, with roofer hammering.



Photo 20: "Left side view of roofing job."

The BBQ place needed electricity so the next job was to install a weatherhead mast, conduit, and an electric meter. I found a metal casting of a weatherhead, in my details box. After painting, I used AC glue to secure three "wires" made of brown thread stiffened with white glue, to the weatherhead. These wires will connect to wires coming from a utility pole on the layout. The conduit is styrene rod painted a galvanized grey. The meter was a block of styrene with a styrene rod section glued to it, the face was painted silver, and a "Glass" cover was made with canopy glue.



Photo 21: "Weatherhead with conduit and meter."

So that was the build. I finished the building by placing benches with people on the porch. 2 chimneys, and various vents and smoke jacks on the roofs. Some barrels and garbage cans on the takeout window platform and porch. More details will be placed around the building when it is settled into place on the layout.



Photo 22: “Closeup of the sign with details and weathering. Note the “Tar” used to seal any leaks from the sign bracing.”

This was FOS Scale Models “Barlows smokehouse” kit # QK36 All sections and walls fit well, and the instructions were thorough. The printed signs provided were numerous, and I only used about half, leaving plenty for future builds. The amount of rooftop signs may seem excessive, but included in the instructions is a photo of an existing BBQ joint with just as many signs from the real world. Thank You for reading, and I cant wait to get started on the next one, which will be a scratchbuilt New England connected Farmhouse.

CLOSING PAGE

Our bonus content this week is none other than a wonderful surprise! This month's meeting will be featuring guest presenter and host of the YouTube channel DIY and Digital Railroad, Jimmy Angel. Jimmy promises to provide a variety of model railroad topics. Don't miss it!

[If you are not familiar with his site you can find it by clicking here.](#)



Division Brass

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