



Volume 5, Issue 8
13 August 2016

From the Editor...



Welcome to the August edition of The Extra for 2016.

The cold days and nights of winter are really upon us now so it is time to rug up and stay indoors. This is

perfect modelling time so grab one of the many kits you have socked away and get into building it. There is nothing more enjoyable than working on a model in a warm room out of the cold, chilly winds of winter.

Like all magazine editors, I am always desperate for new articles and items of interest. As you can see, this issue is a little light on detail so please send to me any articles, either your own or even good articles found in magazines that you think others would be interested in reading. I am always seeking contributions for *The Extra* so please pass contributions to me at meetings or email them to me at:

dohearn@internode.on.net

All contributions will be gratefully accepted.

-by David O'Hearn

August Meeting

August Meeting—On Saturday 13th August 2016 at Rob Peterson's residence at 24 Meckiff Avenue, North Rocks commencing at 2pm. Rob models the Erie Lackawana in N scale.

Next Few Meetings

September Meeting—On **Sunday** 11th September 2016, Div 7 will be hosting the mini-Convention at Berowra Community Centre. Register on our NMRA.org.au web site which links you to the Trybooking.com site.

October Meeting—On Saturday 8th October 2016 at 2pm at David Howarth's Railroad Room at 7 Uralla Road, Dural.

November Meeting—On Saturday, 19th November at Bob Best's place at 34 Winnicoopa Rd, Blaxland commencing at 2 pm. **Note: This is the third Saturday of the month NOT the usual second Saturday.**

December Meeting—Our Christmas Party on Saturday, 10 December 2016 at the Waterview Restaurant at Berowra Waters commencing at 12 noon. Tickets will be available from Les Fowler or they can

be purchased at the sign in table at our October and November monthly meetings.

Other Notable Dates

- Marklin Model Train Exhibition at Thornleigh Community Centre, Corner of Phyllis & Central Ave Thornleigh, Saturday 13 August 2016 9:00—5:00 and Sunday 14 August 2016 9:00-4:00.
- NMRA AR Mini-Convention on Sunday 11th September 2016 at Berowra Community Centre. Register on our NMRA.org.au web site which links you to the Trybooking.com site
- AMRA Exhibition at Liverpool on 1 to 3 October 2016. Entry fee is adult \$15, Concession/Senior \$11, Child \$8, Family \$38 and Multi-Day pass \$30.

Division Seven Roles

Superintendent	Les Fowler
Treasurer	Sam Mangion MMR
Hospitality Manager	Jack Parker
Editor	David O'Hearn
Presentation Manager	John Sterland
Moose Wrangler	Paul Marrant MMR

Division Seven Meeting

July—Gerry Hopkins at Narara

For the July 2016 Division 7 meeting there was a short notice change of venue from John Saxon's layout to Gerry Hopkin's layout due to planned road works at the front of John's property. The numbers on the day were smaller than usual, probably due to the late change of venue.

Everyone had an opportunity to operate on Gerry's layout and all those who took advantage of the opportunity thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

At the business end of the meeting, Les Fowler thanked Gerry and Lauris Hopkins for hosting the meeting given the short notice. Les reminded everyone that the convention is only two months away so you need to book your tickets if you are coming along. Also, Les sought thoughts on a venue for the Christmas Party and all agreed that we should go back to the Waterview Restaurant at Berowra Waters even though the cost has increased to \$65 per head.

Discussion was also had about how the current \$2 meeting fee was no longer covering costs. It was agreed to increase the fee to \$3 in January 2017.

Gerry Hopkins discussed the Aps and encouraged

everyone to embrace the OPSIG activities as a way to gain their Chief Despatcher AP (which is one of the easiest Aps to obtain). Details about the OPSIG activities and layouts available for operation are on the AR web site.

David O'Hearn mentioned how a toy store proprietor was seeking someone to build a small layout for use in a toy store. All materials would be supplied and a modest fee would be paid. (Ed. Note: No one has volunteered so the toy shop proprietor has been reluctantly advised to contact other organisations.)

Photos from the meeting are below.

- by David O'Hearn



Gerry talking about the Chief Despatcher AP during the business part of the meeting



Three pictures of those who attended the business part of the meeting

The case for modelling your Proposed Layout

I have always enjoyed layout design and long been an advocate of building a model of a proposed layout once the two dimensional (2D) plan is completed. There are many guides and tools available for layout planning viz:

- NMRA guidelines (for spacing, clearances, grades, curve radii etc.)
- “How to” books such as
 - Linn Westcott’s “101 Track Plans” or
 - John Armstrong’s “Track Planning for Realistic Operation”
- Traditional pencil, graph paper, compass, curve templates etc.
- CAD applications such as 3rd Planet and Cadrail.

Using these guides and tools you can come up with a reasonable plan (see figure 1) that encapsulates most of your objectives/specifications and fits in the available space.

Specifications to consider

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Era | • Layout Base Height |
| • Location | • Minimum Mainline Radius |
| • Prototype | • Track |
| • Operational Objective | • Turnouts |
| • Industries | • Maximum grade |
| • Scale | • Minimum Isle Clearance |
| • Operating System | |

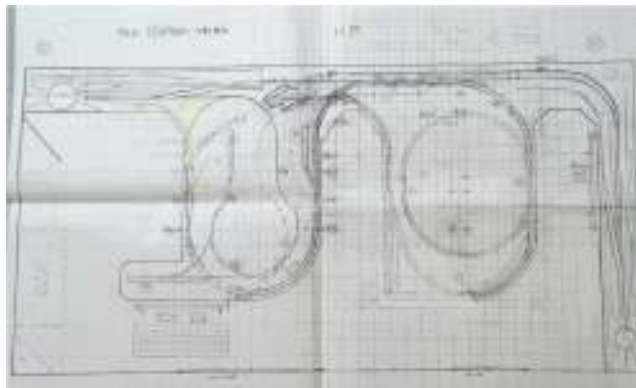


Fig 1: 2D Hand Drawn Plan

Using CAD you can do a better job because it is very accurate and using its 3D capability you can see those elevations that are hard to visualise in 2D (see figures 2 & 3). However you need to purchase an application and then learn how to use it. Unless you have had experience in this area this can take some time. Note figures 2 & 3 are of a different plan.

Advantages of Constructing a Model of the proposed layout

- 3D perspective
- Easy to spot potential problems (design flaws).
- Identify improvements and scenery opportunities.
- Get an appreciation of the “look and feel” of the layout.
- Test “people space” by using figures in the same scale.
- Give others the chance to better critique your plan.
- Avoid costly re-engineering during or post construction.

Constructing the Model (see figure 4 which is made from the hand drawn plan in fig 1)

1. Draw your plan in a convenient scale (use a scale you can source pose able figures in).
2. 1:10 is recommended as you can get pose able wrestling figures in this scale.
3. Make a 3 sided room in the same scale using plywood for the floor and foam board or plywood for the walls. Be sure to include windows and doorways.
4. Make multiple copies of your plan.
5. Paste each plan view (each level) to foam board.
6. Cut out each plan view including rising/falling grades, access holes etc.
7. Fit the base level to the room and draw the outline on the floor.
8. Use this outline to construct the supporting frame work using bass wood or heavy cardboard.
9. Glue the base level to the support structure then subsequent levels (where appropriate).
10. Join rising/falling grades – check equipment clearances.
11. Using pose able figures, test people clearances, reach and access with figurines..
12. Optional – fill in verticals with coloured cardboard.

After completing your model you can easily make observations that will improve your layout and spot problem areas. Typical problems that may be missed by 2D plans:

- Some grades may be too steep.
- Several horizontal level separations are too steep.

The case for modelling your Proposed Layout (Continued)

- People spaces are too tight (operators can't pass each other).
- Operator reach is too far in some places (limit should be 600mm/2 ft).
- Reduce/increase some curve radii to increase horizontal separation (dual lines).
- Insufficient space allowed for a proposed mine or industry.
- Main Line may need a gentler curve in some places. Some main line sections may need a bypass track.

In Summary:

- We have looked at the pro's and con's of CAD.
- We have seen the advantages of taking the time to model the layout.
- Layout models are quick, easy and cheap to construct.
- 1:10 is probably the best scale to use.
- You can quickly see problem spots and improvements.
- Scenic and operational opportunities can be identified.
- Using figures helps visualise people space, reach and congestion spots.
- Having a model of the layout "on site" whilst building the layout is a great aid and
- Costly and time consuming rebuilding of bench work can be avoided.

- by Peter Burrows




Fig 2: 2D CAD Plan




Fig 3: 3D CAD Plan



Fig 4: 3D Model



The National Model Railroad Association—
Australasian Region Presents
The 32nd Annual Regional Convention
"Modelling the Perway"




Berowra Community Centre
1 The Gully rd, Berowra NSW
Sun ~ Apr 11th Sept. 2016

Clinics on "Modelling the Perway"

- Bring and Buy Stand
- Self Drive Layout Tours
- Modelling Competition
- Photo Contest

For more information and tickets:
<http://www.nmra.org.au/Convention32/convention32.html>



Using Pan Pastels for Weathering Structures

The following article is a continuation of a web site blog by Rob Manley on the use of Pan Pastels.

I really haven't covered structures in my blogs. They are, in my opinion, one of the most important elements in model railroading. They are the setting for the trains we detail and weather. One of my favorite structures in the railroad realm is the country grain elevator. I have a nice collection of 35mm slides that I took starting in the seventies. I am sure many of these "Country Skyscrapers" are now gone. One of the best ways we can recapture those memories is by building a model of them. The model I chose for this portion is the [Walthers](#) corrugated elevator. I primed it with a Light Grey acrylic. Originally meant to be weathered with washes, I procrastinated long enough to discover [PanPastel](#) and use them instead. I am so glad that happened.

Grain Elevator weathered with [Sofft](#) Sponge Bar and random colors from the PanPastel Rust & Earth set.



Step 1. I started by using my Sofft® Sponge Bar by scrubbing on an overall covering of **Burnt Sienna 740.5** and **Burnt Sienna Shade 740.3**. You have to really push the color into the corrugated grooves. The overall effect is to have the rust in the recesses and the high spots to be slightly polished by the wind. I then used random swipes of **Burnt Sienna Tint 740.8**, **Raw Umber Tint 780.8**, **Red Iron Oxide Extra Dark 380.1**, to name a few. Honestly, I work so fast I barely remember what colors I used. If an area looks too heavily colored I will keep brushing it down with one of my Sofft® Sponge Bars. If I want to tone it down further, I use the PanPastel **Colorless Blender 010** as seen on the roof panel. The Colorless Blender will soon become one of your most used "Un-Colors". It can also be used as a primer for lighter colors.



Results of Steps 1



Step 2. Add silver and Pewter to tops of corrugations

Step 2. Next any stray excess color was blown off and a paper towel was used to lightly wipe the excess on the raised corrugations. This allowed the **Pewter 921.5** and **Silver 920.5** to accent the high spots as in real life. I then used the flat spongy side of the block to add the final overlay of Silver. This side took less than 5 minutes. Structures are not handled like rolling stock so a flat finish (spray) is rarely needed.

Well, as always, it's been fun sharing more techniques with you. I have more projects in mind to post about in the near future. ~ Rob Manley



N.M.R.A. A.R. Div. 7 2016 Christmas Party

December 10, 2016 @
Waterview Restaurant
199 Bay Road
Berowra Waters

12 Noon ~ 3pm
Price \$65.00 pp + drinks



Christmas raffle
\$5 per ticket
Available now

Christmas Modelling Competition

waterview
RESTAURANT
LANTANA WATERS

2016 Sample Buffet Menu

Menu & price may change without notice

Cold Buffet

Platters

Smoked salmon with red onion slices and capers
Sliced meats, Ham, Salami & Prosciutto
NZ Green Lipped Mussels with passionfruit and sweet chilli

Salads

All our salads are made fresh on the premises by our team of Chef's

Caesar salad
Potato salad
Strawberry, Pecan & Mizuna Salad
Italian Seafood Salad
Marinated Mushroom
Fresh Mixed Garden Salad
Prawn Noodle Salad

Fresh Seafood

Queensland Tiger Prawns
Freshly Shucked Sydney Rock Oysters
King Crab Legs

Hot Buffet

Soft Shell Crab with chilli & lemon grass dressing
Beef Stroganoff
Sydney Rock Oysters Kilpatrick
Seasonal Vegetable & Cheese Bake
Salt & Pepper Calamari
Beer Battered Flathead/Barramundi Filets
Chef's Jasmine Rice
Tandoori Chicken

Desserts

Freshly Cut Seasonal Fruit Platter
Chef's selection of gourmet cakes, Tortes,
Cheesecakes, Patisis, Mousses & Custards

FRIDAY NIGHT
*Wine
Tasting*

FREE WINE &
SOFT DRINK
with purchase of Dinner

Tickets \$65pp

Children up to 15yrs \$2.50 per year

Tickets from div7sup@nmra.org.au

Les Fowler 0411266196

Members Only Page on the US NMRA Web Site

Have you ever explored (gone web surfing) around the US NMRA web site? If you have, you will know there is a vast amount of very useful modelling information on the site.

Firstly, there are the web pages available to the general public at large. These pages address the Achievement Program, provide details of the standards and recommended practices published by the NMRA, provide details and links to annual Conventions and many more interesting pages.

Secondly, there is a members-only section that contains lots of really useful information. There are hundreds of clinic videos recorded at past National Conventions. There are web-based chat forums on numerous hobby and NMRA topics, there are pdf versions of old NMRA Bulletins and e-Bulletins and there is the ability to view your membership details held on file by the NMRA.

How do you access the members-only area? You need to register for the latest web site for access. To register, you go the NMRA.Org home page and click on “Member Login/Registration” on the right side of the red bar at the top of the page. This will open a new page called “Members Only”. Next click on the blue bar that says “Need a User name? Register Now?” This will take you to a page called “User Ac-

count”. Enter a username and your email address, then click on the blue bar that says “Create New Account”. You’ll see a message that says an email confirmation has been sent to your inbox. Follow the instructions in that email to set your new password. That’s it!

Now, whenever you go to the NMRA web page, you can access the Members Only content you want. Just click the “Member Log-In/Registration” heading on the red bar, enter your User Name and Password and click “Log In” and you’re there!

Once in the Members-Only area, try clicking on the NMRA@HOME blue box. This will lead you to a number of really great articles, including layout tours of Gerry Hopkins’ and John Saxon’s home layouts.

Have some fun on a cold winter’s night doing some web surfing and explore the power your NMRA membership gives you in accessing great model railroad information.

- David O’Hearn



NMRA Home Page available to the general public



Members-Only NMRA Home Page

Bringing Life to the Layout (the concept of static action)

The following is an article by Mark Cowles published in NMRA Magazine, August 2012.

When placing figures on a layout, as often as possible, try to avoid freeze shots, for example, people running, who aren't. Remember the 2 foot rule. We are usually looking at the layout from a foot or two away, In N scale, that is roughly 160' to 320' away. In HO, 90' to 180' and in O, 50' to 100'. Small movements are going to be inconspicuous, the frozen large movement may stand out.

An individual with a raised hammer is going to get a very tired arm after a second or two, however, a person who looks like they are loosening or tightening a bolt is going to be in that position for a while and will seem more realistic.

A person rolling a tire is supposed to move, but the person fixing the tire is going to be in that position for a few moments.

If you've got a ball game going on, a conference on the mound looks more realistic, as you watch, than waiting for the pitcher to finish the wind up.

An engineer oiling the steam engine looks better than one (not) walking along the engine. An engineer con-



versing with the conductor on the ground makes a better scene than climbing, but never getting into the cab.

Try having people in conversation groups. They are probably going to keep that position for a least a brief period of time. It looks like something is happening, even though the only movement would be their lips, which can't be seen from any distance.

The scene will generally look busier if you place several people in close proximity rather than taking the same number and spreading them singly across a large area.

Together, people look like they're "doing something", even if the only thing in action is presumed to be the mouth.

However, where a particular scene or idea calls for it, go ahead and put that action figure in. If it works, use it!

But, the layout will probably look more real, and for longer, if people are seen in a position that they would generally keep for at least a few moments.

The viewer's imagination will fill in all of the normal aspects of the scene that you imply, but don't actually model.

Life Around the Layout.

- People talking at the door, neighbors, salespeople.
- Working in the garden.
- Working on or under the car in the drive.
- Painting the house.
- Washing windows.
- Resting while working on repairs or a new addition to the house or garage.
- Pausing while sweeping the porch.
- Sitting and petting the dog.
- Loafing in a hammock.
- Sitting around the barbeque.
- In the larger scales, use items from the smaller scales for toys for the kids to play with.
- Kids sitting at their Kool Aid™ stand.
- Kids waiting, with eager anticipation, at the school bus stop.
- Checking the mail, and / or talking with the mail carrier.
- Watching the coal flow from the truck into the basement coal bin.
- Talking to the milk man making a delivery.
- Kids camping out back.
- Family sitting around a backyard campfire.
- Sitting on the porch swing, or couch.
- Sunbathing in the backyard doing the reading.