

Western Lines



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Who are we and what do we do?

We are the members of NMRA Australasian Region, Division Four. We live in Western Australia. The land of giant iron ore trains and an extensive open access railway system operating on standard gauge, narrow gauge and dual gauge track.

We meet monthly to share our hobby experiences. We range from keen scratch builders, through meddlers with equipment to open the box enthusiasts. Our layouts range in size from most of the back yard in G gauge to a HO scale layout in a walk in wardrobe.

Like the trains in our back yard our tastes in modelling vary. We model in N, HO, OO, On30 and G scale. The prototypes we follow are mainly North American with some local prototypes and just a touch of British Railways.

Our meetings include running days and operating sessions on member's layouts, modelling technique demonstrations and workshops and visits to kindred groups.

We have an active 16.5 mm gauge Modular Layout group. Our modules are based on the emerging Free-mo Australia standards modified to suit our requirements.

We will be displaying our modules at the AMRA WA Branch Model Train show in June 2013. We invite you to join us.

Future meetings

We usually meet at 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month. Future meetings are:

- April 2013 Operating session on Rod Tonkin's DCC controlled HO gauge layout using train authorities and car cards.



- May 2013 running day on Peter Scarfe's DCC controlled HO scale layout



- June 2013 running day on Garth Caesar's G gauge and On30 layouts.



What is Western Lines?

Western Lines is the Newsletter of NMRA Australasian Region, Division Four. It will report on our meetings, planned meetings, module group progress, members modelling efforts and local railway happenings.

Division Four Team

- Alan Burrough Divisional Superintendent
- Frank Godde Divisional Manager Achievement Program
- Rod Tonkin Western Lines Editor



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Cover photo: Slightly west of Perth, Guinea Bauxite SD40 106 moves a bauxite train through Kamsar yard in West Africa.

For meeting addresses please contact Alan Burrough at

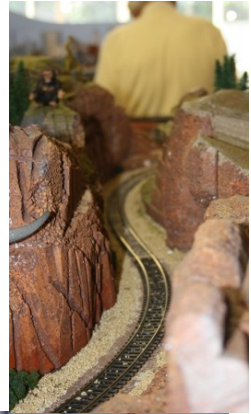
burrough@iinet.net.au

Please forward contributions to rjtonkin@iinet.net.au

Recent Meetings

January 2013

The January meeting was held at Ken Wyatt's. We were able to inspect Ken's extensive DCC controlled HO scale layout with well developed scenery.



After the formal meeting and a delightful afternoon tea we settled down to the main event, running trains.

Members trains in action varied from North American to British prototypes headed by steam and diesel locomotives.

The photos show Bob Kollwyn inspecting operations up close and Alan, and Garth operating



February 2013

Our February meeting was at Frank Godde's. After the formal part of the meeting we were treated to a delicious afternoon tea. Following refreshments we were able to inspect progress on Frank's city module to be displayed operating at the June long week end exhibition.

Frank then demonstrated how he builds pine trees from sisal fibres using wire twisted using a hand drill.

Unfortunately no photographs were taken at the meeting. Photos in other articles in this issue give an idea of Frank's modelling.

March 2013

A small group of members gathered at AMRA Western Australian Branch Clubrooms for the March meeting. The assembled members agreed on the division program through to December this year.

The photos showing division members models operating on AMRA WA Branch layouts, shows the range of modelling interests within Division Four.



Module Group

The attached photos show progress towards showing our modules at AMRA's June model Railway Exhibition. The modules cater for HO, OO and On30 rolling stock.

The modules will be assembled into an oval formation using the two 900 millimetre radius curve 180 degree bend modules Frank Godde has built. Peter Scrafe took the photos of Alan and Frank admiring their handiwork.

The modules are basically to Free mo Australia standards with code 100 track work , Peco point work, 900 millimetre radius minimum radius



curves , banana plug power bus connections and six wire DCC buss suitable for Digitrax or NCE DCC systems. The group have elected to only support single track between modules.

The photos were taken by Peter Jackson Division 6 Superintendent on a visit to WA

Member's modelling

Rod Tonkin detailed Bachman's HO scale Santa Fe SD40-2 5038 to match its early in service appearance. The model was fitted with scratch built air conditioner, radio antenna platform, cab sun shades anti climber and snow plough. The photos show the real 5038, the model with additional details added and the repainted weathered model.



So what's your poison?

By FJ Godde MMR #422

After changing from an HO outline layout, I like so many railroad enthusiasts became more settled and moved towards O scale narrow gauge. Mainly because the products were readily available and at a reasonable price, ran on HO track and was easier to see and work on. Little did I know that with scratch building



structures that I would use twice the amount of materials but I got over that with the use of home cut timber, small corrugated sections from boxes, and various small

materials that cost basically nothing, which gave the whole scene the look of time that had passed it by, this I had an unusual knack for.

Building a new On30 railroad at old blokes' height (when you don't have to bend over too far to reach your layout) and making it only 300 to 450 mill wide, all in boxes and at a reasonable length kept the amount of scenery to a minimum. Just two tracks running through the forest at different levels, with passing loops and some small yards. Bridges, mines and a saw mill are dotted along the way.

Detail was the big thing and many rubber moulds were made to reproduce the large amount of junk and clutter required to make the industries look good; the rest were purchased. Balsa, wire, flowers, foam rubber and rock castings all were added to make the layout look good and give its own characteristics. The whole scene is held together with gap filler.

Clinics are available on the various techniques.



Union Station

Ken Wyatt

A big city union terminal railroad station built over two levels and 3.6 metres long was fitted into a space only 300 mm wide. This diorama services four lower level tracks and two upper level through main line tracks. When finished it will include passengers waiting for their service as well as all the usual infra structure one would expect.



The scene has a third dimension, the city buildings are 30 mm and 80 mm from the backdrop. These distances create the three dimensional effect. The building spacing from the backdrop provide adequate space behind the fascia to install lighting using LEDs. This lighting shows through the fascia by strategically placed small holes within the window and door spaces of the buildings. The effect at night time with lighting along the station area as well as behind and inside the buildings does provide an impressive result. The LED strips were all bought from China, were surprisingly cheap and come with pre-installed resistors thus enabling quick and easy installation.

The layout backdrop is sheets of 6 mm MDF measuring 2400 mm x 1200 mm painted by hand. The big city area backdrop only has sky and clouds. All other areas were painted to represent country, mountains and residential clearings (not shown in these photos). Several backdrop sheets were obtained from the Backdrop Warehouse of big city buildings. These were spread out on a large table and cut using scissors all around the upper outlines. This profile was then traced by hand onto the prepared MDF sheeting which was then in turn cut by jigsaw right around these borders to shape the MDF to the building outlines. Once cut the MDF was then coated with wallpaper paste and the paper backdrops added to produce several sheets of 6 mm MDF (2400 x 1200 mm each). By lining these up in sequence and attaching each piece to the baseboard using double sided tape, the effect was created.

I then decided to add the Walthers Union Station kit - heavily kit bashed to fit - positioned in the middle as well as adding the lighting behind these boards and wiring up to a standard hobby power supply.

The project was a combination of scratch building and kit bashing which has seen the end result being one of personal satisfaction and that unique hobby feeling of "doing it my way", which is one of great pride and hobby associated fun!



Prototype happenings

Looking for something different to model. At work we recently carried out a study to upgrade a mining operation in West Africa. A colleague took these photos of the 160 kilometre long standard gauge railway system used to move bauxite from the mine to the coast for crushing and drying.

Boulders over a metre across are removed from ore cars at the mine by a fixed back hoe.



The railway workshops are located at the export port, Kamsar. The photo shows around half the main line locomotive roster outside the workshop.



Ore trains are hauled by pairs of SD40s like 108 shown on the right



The double sided car dumper lifts the ore cars and tips the



contents into a dump bin. The photos show the car dumper and an ore car on the car dumper hoist platform.

