



# THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

June 2021

In this issue.

From the editor

At home and Meeting~ Show-n-tell The last say

## **COVID-19 ~ We are adhering to medical advices.**

The Div 2 June meeting was held on the South Coast NSW, Batemans Bay area hosted by the Eurobodalla Model Railway Club. This was full-on weekend, almost a mini exhibition where on entering the Maula Bay Community Centre greeted by George SAISANAS squirting with hand wash recording name as contact number, then signing the Div 2 attendance book



Several tables having lots of Freebies as sale items & two layouts a Z scale owned & operated by Peter ROBINS and the EMRC layout where one was able to operate the club's items as allowed to test 'visiting rollingstock'.

1000 to 1200 viewing and general discussions ~ 1220 to 1300 luncheon ~

# Peter ROBINS Z scale BELLRSCALIA





**Eurobodalla Model Railway Club**





Holding yard cassette from the Station.







1300 the meeting started with opening remarks by Ian BARNES, EMRC, welcoming Members to the venue, with the issue of handouts to venues available for Saturday & Sunday handing the meeting on to Stephen O'BRIAN who presented the EMRC with the HOST plaque.



First words spoken "Look under your seat for the lucky door prize" which Bill CHILVERS being the lucky recipient.

Stephen thanked the EMRC for the monthly venue with a motion: "that the NMRA Div 2 make a contribution of \$90.00 (ninety dollars) for the use of the Community Hall with the raising of hands".

Motion carried unanimously.

Membership renewals: Due 01 JULY grace period 90 days, if not paid by that time membership on renewal may revert to 0 year. ie: if \*\* / 24 and a half years restarts.

NMRAX: General discussion.

Hosts & Venues:

The Div 2 July meeting will be held 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at the Southern Cross Club, Philip ACT an email to confirm & advise to be distributed

August: Mal RISBY update to the workings on his N scale layout

September: John GILLIES

October: NO Div 2 meeting as this will be the ROSEHILL / Epping train exhibition

November: Jack CHILD

December. TBA

ARC update: Peter McGUIRE presented the happenings / reports on the AUS / USA situation to the secretary in QUEENSLAND & the Treasurer in SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CLUBS having NMRA affiliation must be 100% Membership

Questions on matters may be made to ARC welcome & thanked the EMRC for this meeting's venue.

Any comments / suggestions to Div. 2 super are encouraged & welcome.

Never a dull moment,

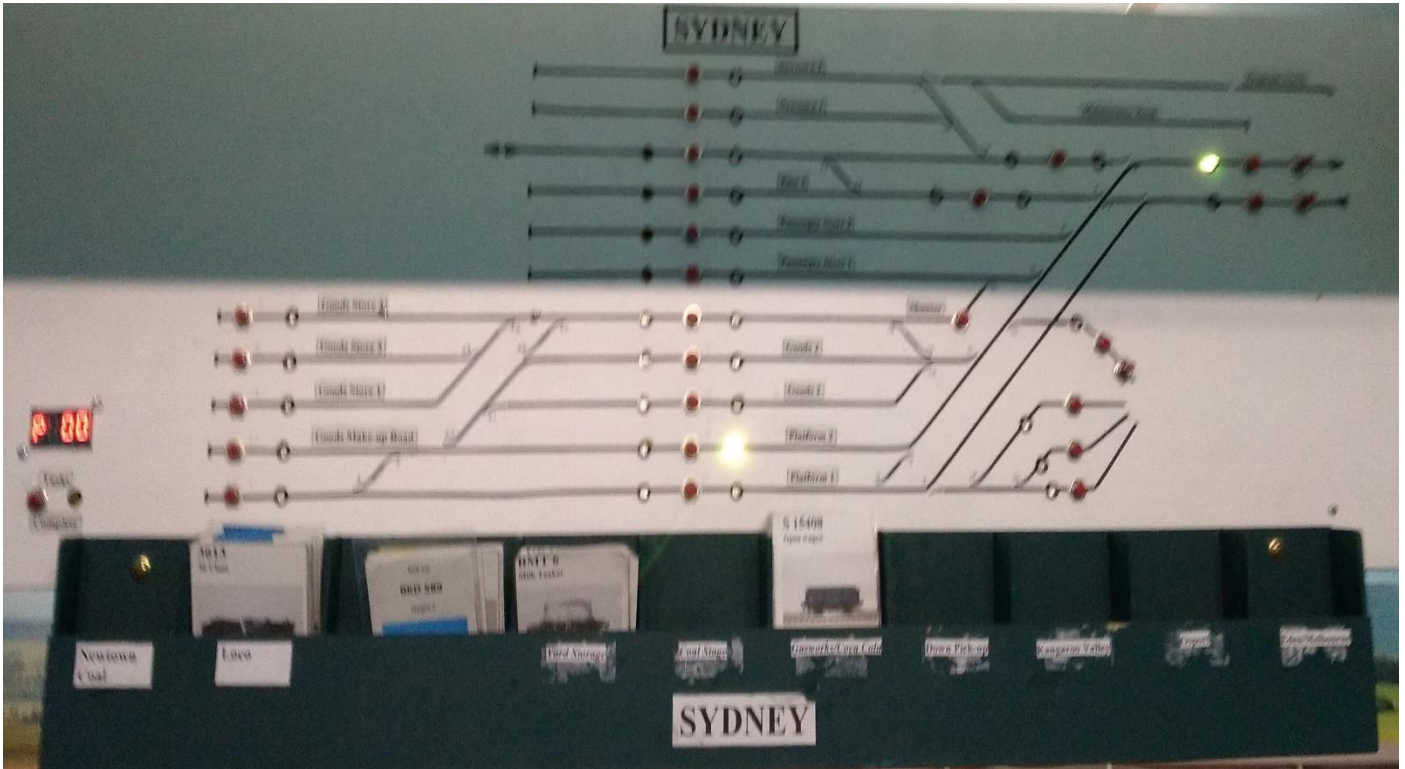
Stephen opened the Show-n-tell segment.

But first an omitted contribution by an email from last months May at home S&T

## At home ~ Show-n-tell.

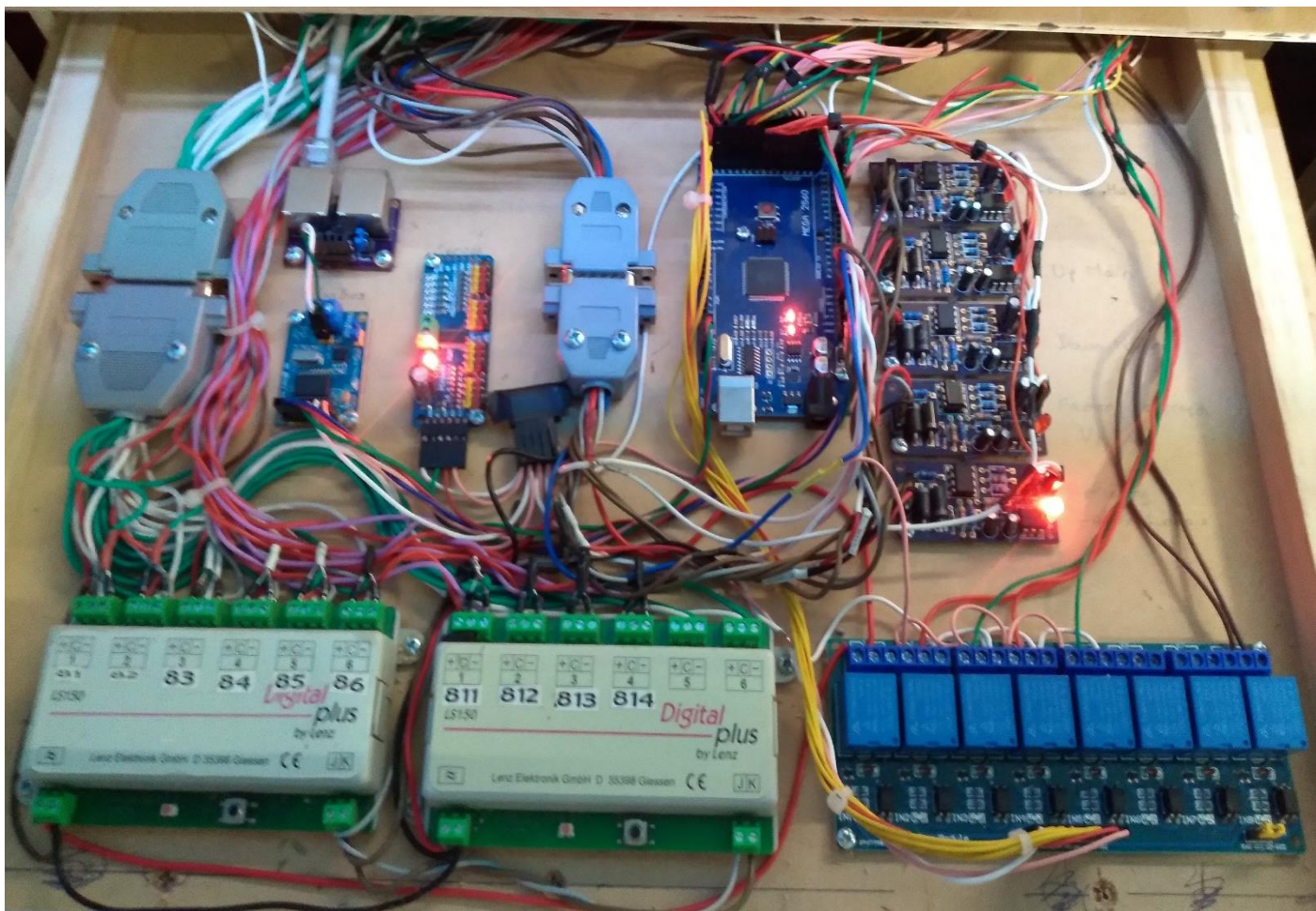
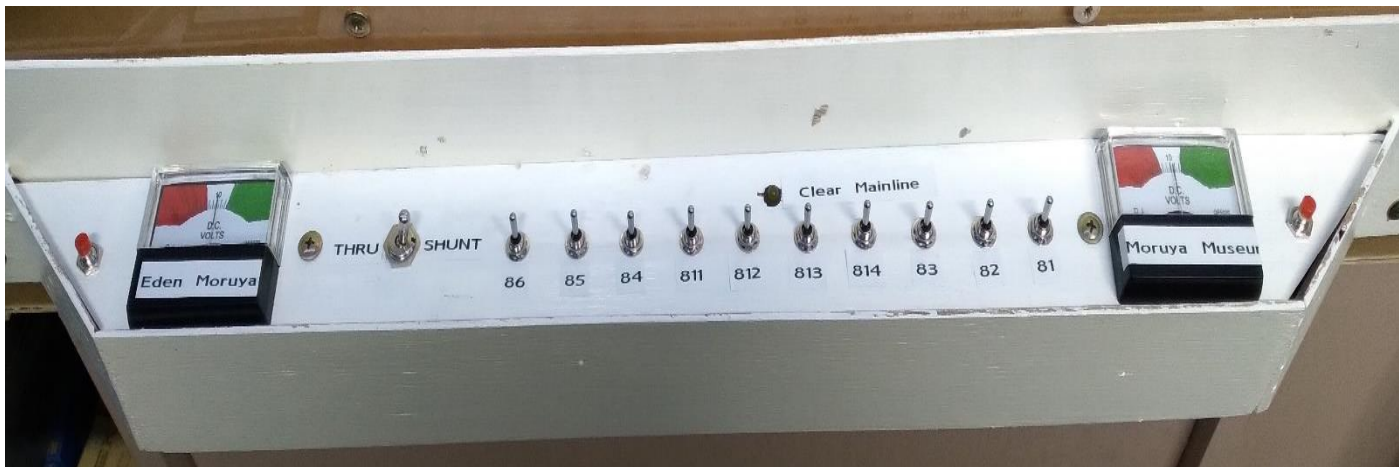
### Stephe JITTS:

Project 1: Sydney and Eden now have their new control panels working. If you press two (or sometimes three) buttons it will set all the points correctly and then set the ground signals appropriately. Five Arduino Megas are used, two to record the buttons pressed, one to talk to Lenz to set the points and two more to set the ground signals. In the future the Home and Start signals will be interlocked with the rest along with Eden being integrated with the single-track staff system used elsewhere on KVHR. It is also planned that there will be a clock repeater on each control board. Each Arduino in the system is linked to all the others using a CanBus.





Project 2: is the new signal box for the Moruya Industrial region of KVHR. The first picture shows the control panel that includes the “point levers” and the staff indicators and other equipment for both the Up (to Museum) and the Down (to Eden)) Staffs. The second picture shows the “brains” of the system. The Arduino is situated next to the 5 block detectors on the right. Bottom left the two LS150 points controllers



## Meeting Show-n-tell.

### John GILLIES:

This Rai Box model has not lived up to expectations as the manufacturers errors of this model may impact on their future reputation. The doors are incorrect being 'outside' rather than 'plug', with some time & patience this may be corrected to the correct this error.



Detail description of the model

Pullman Standard built 4,301 5077 Cubic Foot Plate-B Box Cars with sliding doors, between October, 1972 and August, 1979 for seven original customers. In addition, Pullman supplied a total of 300 superstructure kits (car bodies and doors - Berwick Forge and Fabricating supplied the underframes) to Golden Tye at Pickens, South Carolina for assembly during 1975-76, for the National Railway Utilization Company (NRUC). These kit cars were originally operated by St. Lawrence Railroad and Pickens Railway with NSL and PICK reporting marks during the Incentive Per Diem boom. This highly-detailed NARC replica of Pullman Standard's box car has been meticulously researched and designed, then produced with highly accurate details in plastic, wire and etched metal.

Entre octobre 1972 et août 1979, Pullman Standard a construit 4 301 wagons de 5077 pieds cubes à plaque B avec portes coulissantes pour sept clients originaux. En plus, Pullman a fourni un total de 300 kits de superstructure (carrosseries et portes seulement - Berwick Forge et Fabricating ont fourni les châssis) à Golden Tye à Pickens, Caroline du Sud pour assemblage en 1975-1976, pour la National Railway Utilization Company (NRUC). Ces wagons en kit étaient à l'origine exploités par St. Lawrence Railroad et Pickens Railway avec les initiales NSL et PICK pendant le boom d'indemnité journalière. Cette réplique NARC très détaillée du wagon couvert de Pullman Standard a été étudiée et conçue méticuleusement, puis produite avec des détails très précis en plastique, fil et métal gravé.

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**John MARTIN:**

The MRL box car from the same manufacture where raising the sides by 3mm is projected to allow for an updated version.



CAT HO Scale is a limited-edition having rail wheels, being uninsulated requiring some type of insulation to allow placement on the track.





**Jack CHILD:**

The latest project for the speedometer using a 3D printed body on a SEM U Wagon chassis. Speed can be Kmph or MPH



Paint is SMS German Red very close to the NSW red Livery.



**Rob NESBITT:**

Assistance in dismantling a NSW layout has been a bit of a disappointment as the owner is now in a nursing home and the items are being gradually sold off with the end being demolition to the baseboards & uncertainty of unsold items.

This RTV mould was obtained being of a NSW platform design, not sure if plaster or resin being used, something to experiment with.



**George SAISANAS:**

Wooden Staffs, there is a green in the making having a heart



**David VIRGO:**

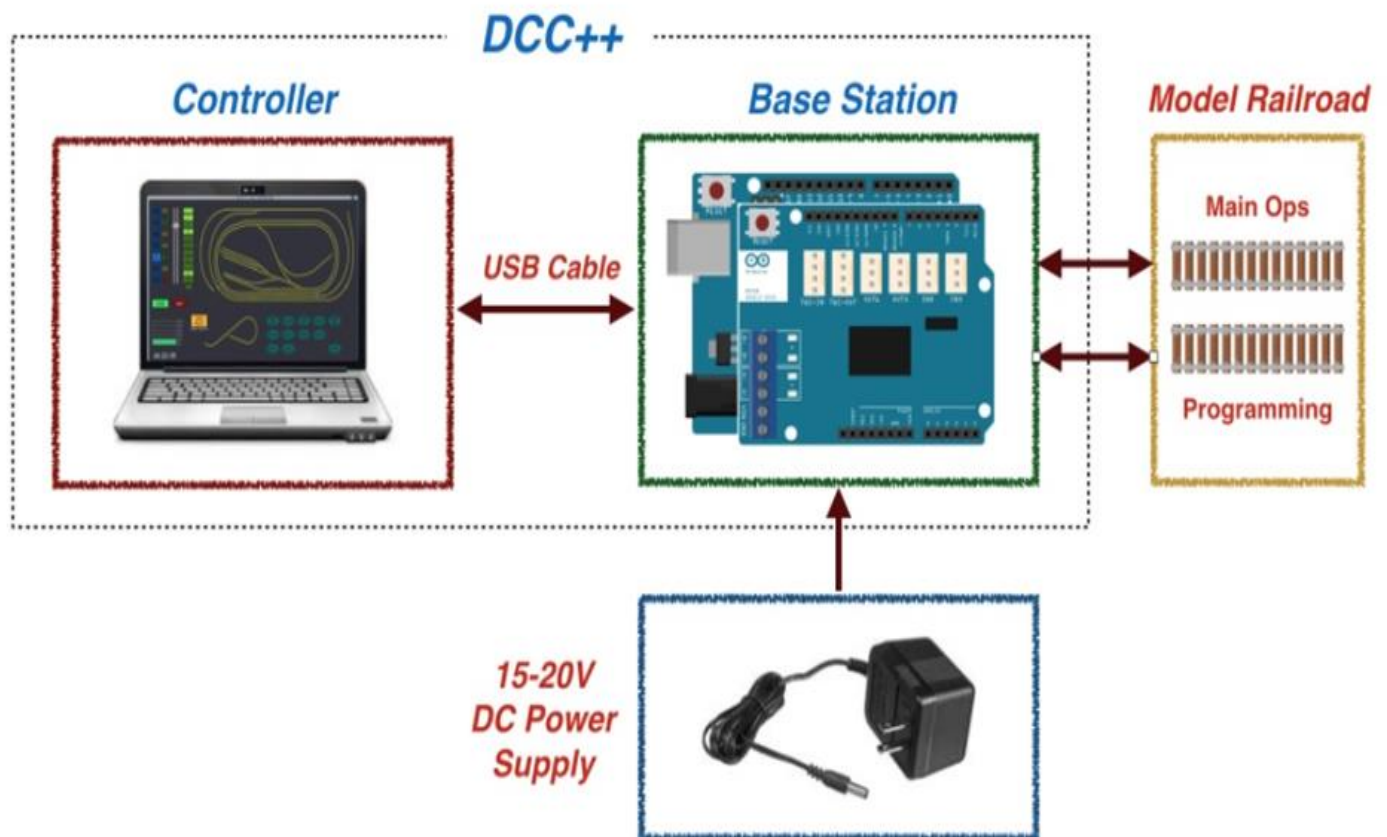
DCC++ - A cheap homebrew DCC system.

What is DCC++ ?

DCC++ is an open-source hardware and software system for the operation of DCC-equipped model railroads.

The system consists of multiple parts, the Hardware - DCC++ Base Station and the Software JMRI. (This is an easy-to-use option where you can use your smartphone as a controller)

The DCC++ Base Station as shown, consists of an Arduino UNO controller fitted with an Arduino Motor Shield R3 that can be connected directly to the tracks of a model railroad.



As displayed at the NMRA south coast meeting In June, the DCC++ system on David's workbench testing/programming track, consists of

- The base station built from an Arduino Uno and L298 Motor shield
- A generic 15V DC 2A power supply
- A raspberry PI 3B+ running Steve Todd's ready to run JMRI software
- A buck step down "transformer" to convert the 15VDC to the 5vdc required by the raspberry pi
- The approximate cost of these components is less than \$140, with the most expensive element being the Raspberry Pi at \$70.

The system as shown is a turn key operation, that is, after switching on it will start up the RPi as a wifi access point and load and start JMRI WiThrottle. Trains can then be controlled via a smart phone app or a compatible throttle such as the TCS UWT-100.

The DCC Plus Plus BaseStation

DCC++ BASE STATION is a C++ program written for the Arduino Uno and Arduino Mega using the Arduino IDE 1.6.6 or higher. It allows a standard Arduino Uno ( or Arduino Mega) with an Arduino motor shield to be configured as a fully-functioning Digital Command Control Command Station with integrated Booster that conforms to the current NMRA DCC standards.

The newest version of DCC++ BASE STATION supports:

- Two and Four Digit addressing
- Simultaneous control of multiple locomotives
- 128 speed steps

- Functions F0-F28
- Activate/de-activate accessory functions using 512 addresses, each with 4 sub-addresses
- Optional functionality to monitor and store of the status of turnouts
- Programming on the Main
- write configuration variables
- Programming Track
- read CVs

This link on Tony's Trains YouTube channel, gives a good overview: <https://youtu.be/aa18c0Do118>

Links:

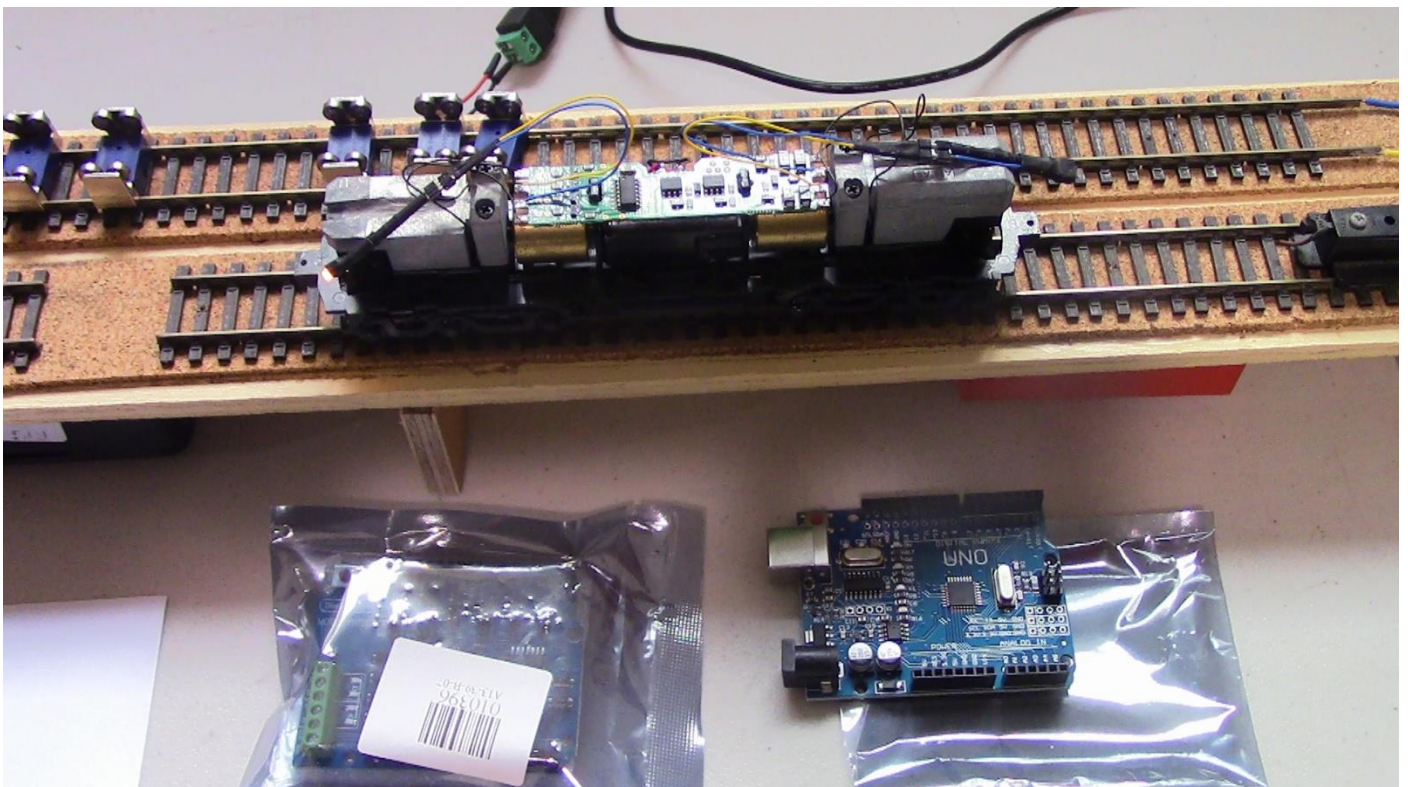
Raspberry Pi software: <https://mstevetodd.com/jmri-raspberrypi-access-point>

Engine Driver throttle APP: <https://enginedriver.mstevetodd.com>

A good starter page for DCC++: <https://sites.google.com/site/dccppsite/home>

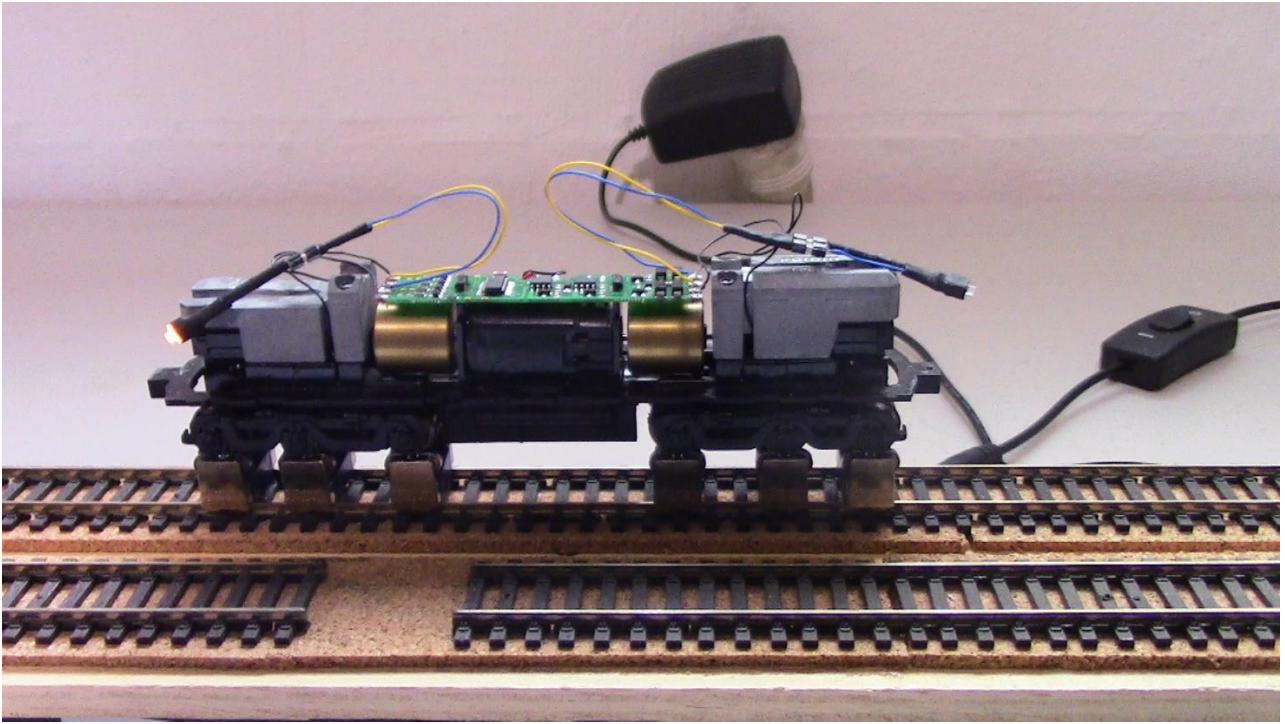
Note: The original DCC++ system shown here has been superseded by DCC++ Ex, which provides some additional functionality using the Arduino Mega instead of the Arduino UNO. If you are curious, it can be found at this link: <https://dcc-ex.com/>

DC test track





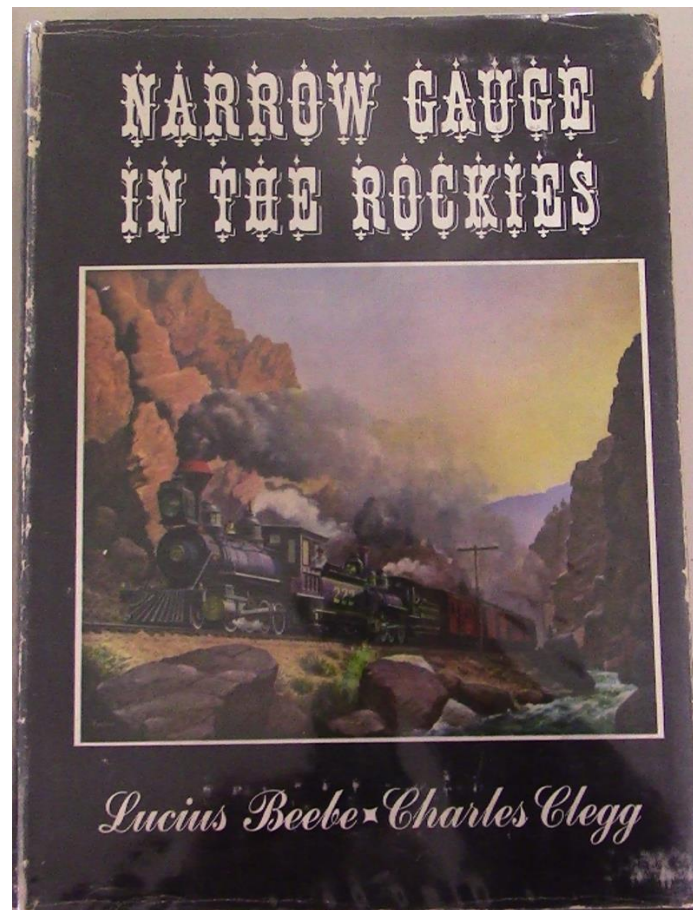
DCC on the rollers



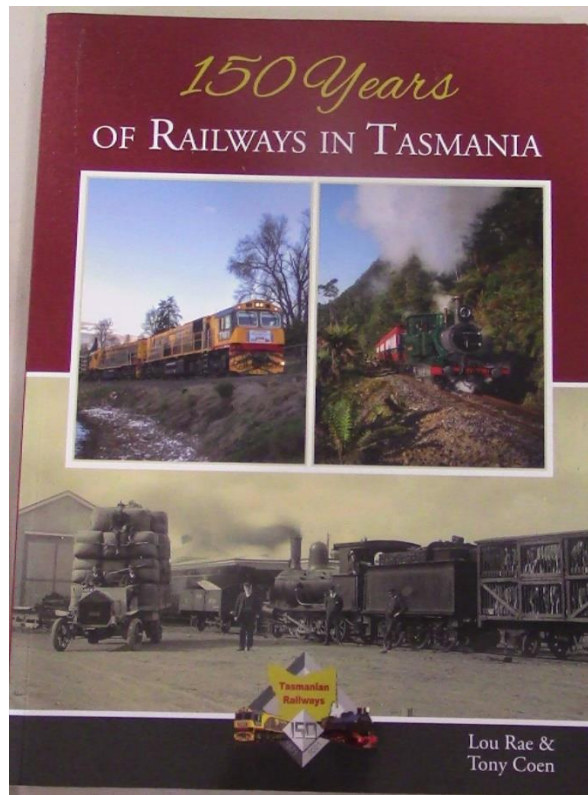
**Ian BARNES:**

The three books I unearthed during my recent meanderings through Tasmania:

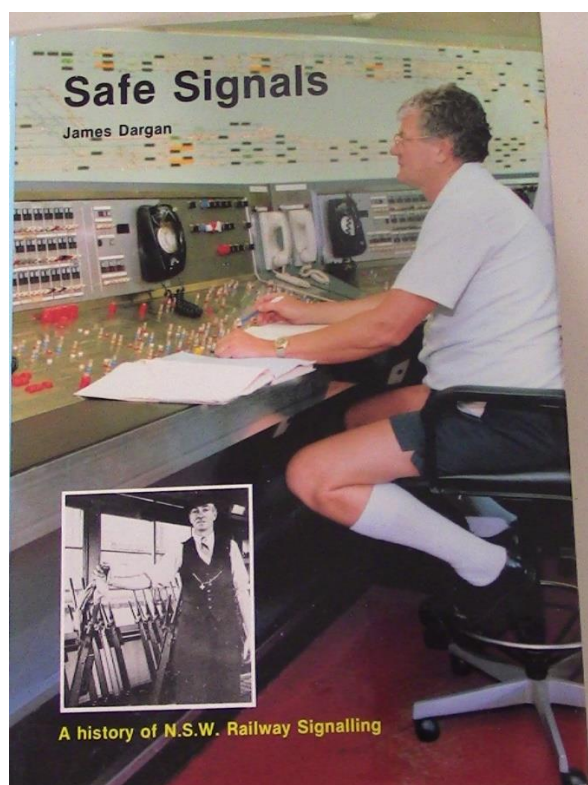
"Narrow Gauge in the Rockies" by Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg; 224 pages; published 1958 with reprintings since. An excellently written history of the development of the 16 narrow gauge railways in the American state of Colorado initially serving the extremely rich mining industry in the late 1800's. Great reading!



"150 Years of Railways in Tasmania" by Lou Rae & Tony Coen; 262 pages; published 2021 by the authors. This celebration of the 150th anniversary of Tasmanian Railways appears to be a comprehensive description of all the railways which exist, or existed, in the State, regardless of who owned them or what they were used for - from mainliners to the drabbest of small bush tramways. Well illustrated with photos, maps and diagrams. Promises to be an excellent read! You can obtain a copy through the Light Railway Research Society.



"Safe Signals (A History of NSW Railway Signalling)" by James Dargan; 225 pages; published 1989 by an unknown publisher. Despite the title, it falls short of expectations, however, there are vignettes of useful information on the technical evolution of NSW signalling with some handy photos of select equipment. An OK read.



**Pat GAGEL:**

All the following items are N scale

Top: Indian Pacific NR – Uses new decal technique

Middle: Pacific National AN – Experience with Geoff the Decal-man using Decal Fix and Decal Set, including a rolled up ball of wet tissue to assist decal conform to uneven surfaces.

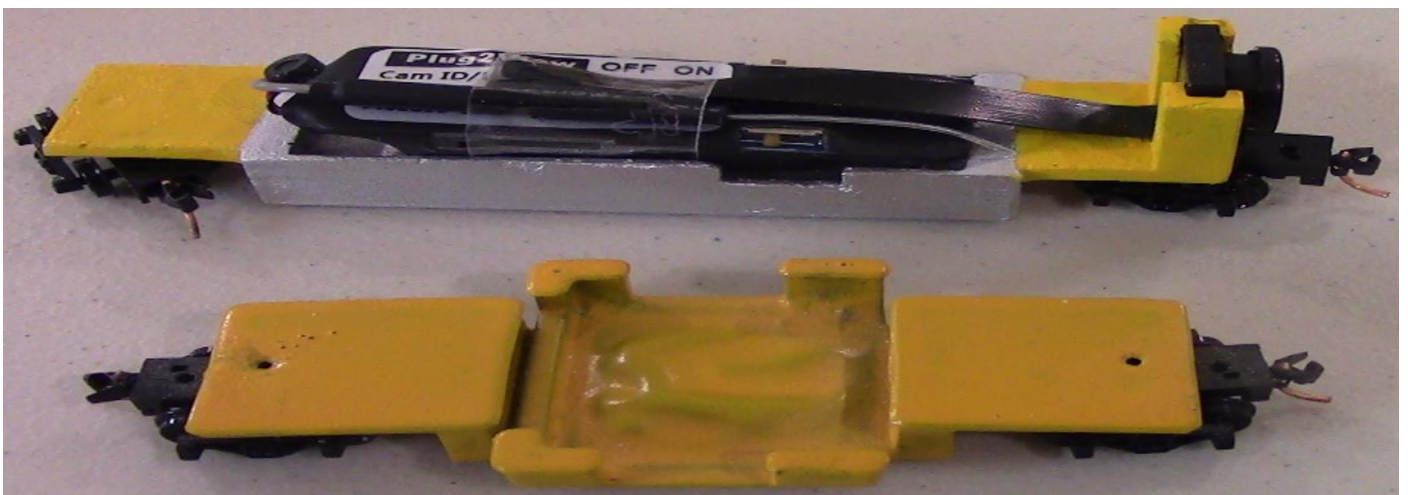
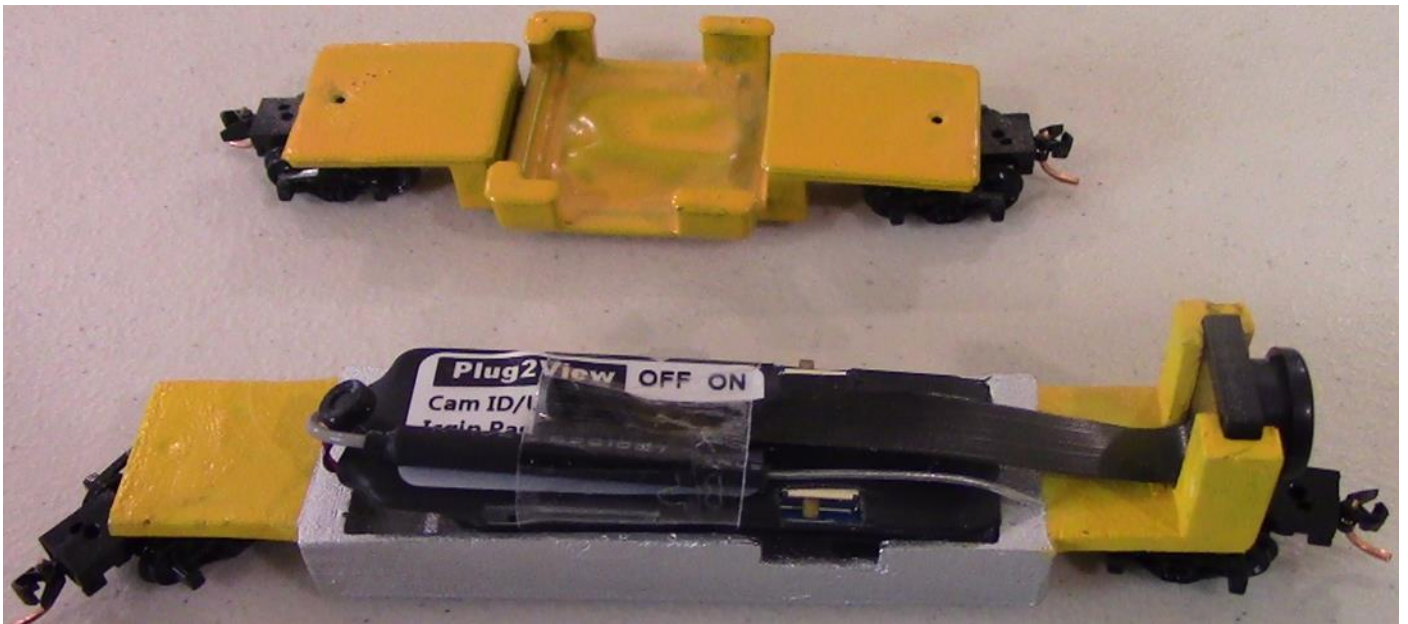
Lower: 3D printed 81 Class



NSWGR Ballast Plough



Camera Car using \$30 camera with 2k resolution, wifi and battery



Top: 38 Class Del Prado Kit, made as mobile model using a Kato C-57 mechanism, with white and lime green paint washes.

Lower: ANR S300 Guards Van



Scratch built Bacchus Marsh Station being built for fellow in the UK whose eyesight failed prior to completing the station building to finish his layout. Will be posted to the UK in the next few months. Rubber bands are temporary holding the roof in place



**Ross BALDERSON:**

A note on the brickwork to the above being duplicated one row at a time on coarse paper

**Peter ROBINS:**

Paint used on my Z Scale BELLRSCALIA is a solvent-based Stud Adhesive these come in various colours.

**Peter McGUIRE:**

Sheep wagons, painting perception / partitions sheep are white one side black the other, travelling one way 'full' other way look 'empty'



**Matt SEMENAS:**

Having purchased a BLI C&O Yellow Boiler it was time to purchase some C&O coaches, following an eBay purchase from a seller in the US the items arrived where on unpacking the items there was something amiss as the items were much smaller than expected. The listed were stated as HO but are in fact N scale, the seller had listed these incorrectly so following several emails to the seller & eBay to this matter for dispute.

Returning these would have cost more than warranted however eBay refunded my purchase costs & I keep the items.

Quote by Matt: "Now the start of my N scale layout"?

[I had a similar issue some time ago with an ATLAS SD24 listed HO but on arrival N scale] Robin FOSTER.

Pictures can also be deceiving



Top: ATLAS HO item and below: the three N scale

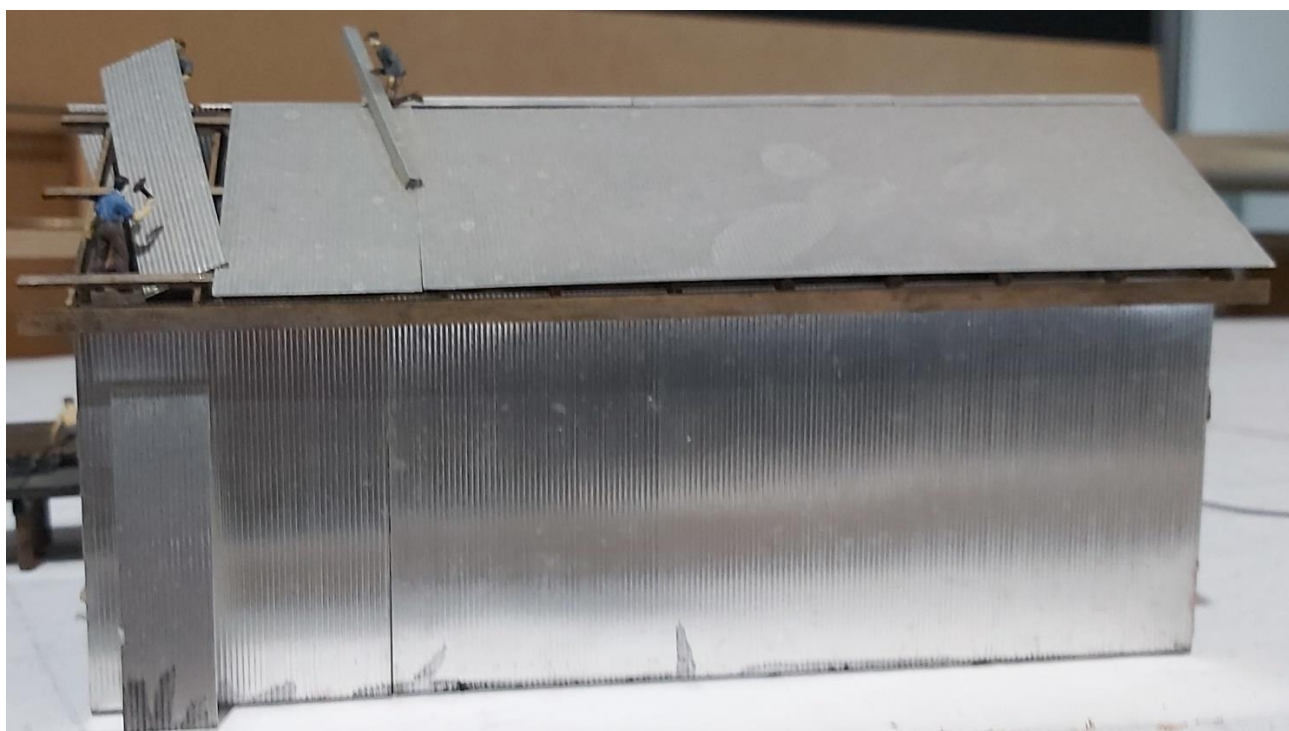


**AFTER THE DIV 2 MEETING THE WEEKEND ADVENTURES TO THE OTHER VENUES COMMENCED.**

**Ian BARNES Layout:**



Long before OH&S







**Matt SEMENAS Layout:**

Thunderbirds are GO.





BLI C&O Yellow Boiler readies for a run.



**Bill CHILVERS Layout:**

DC with blocks, was fun to run, some locations are named after their Grandchildren.









Corners & pipes blended into the Scenics



Some of the items one observes on layouts for interest to cap the weekend off.!



### **The last say.**

Austerity Frugal & Recycle.

### **Remember and adhere to the ~COVID-19~ medical advises.**

Watch emails for updates to Div 2 meetings & continue to 'bling' to my inbox to the activities of Div 2 members in modelling.

The June Div 2 meeting down the South Coast was something to attend where the hospitality given from the members of the EMRC must be commended to their venues as layouts, not only a fun time but a great break.

Keep on training

Robin.

To comply with current COVID-19 rules meetings will be advised.

**2021: a year yet to be determined for scheduled events.**

**Keep an eye on your in box for hosted Meeting notifications.**