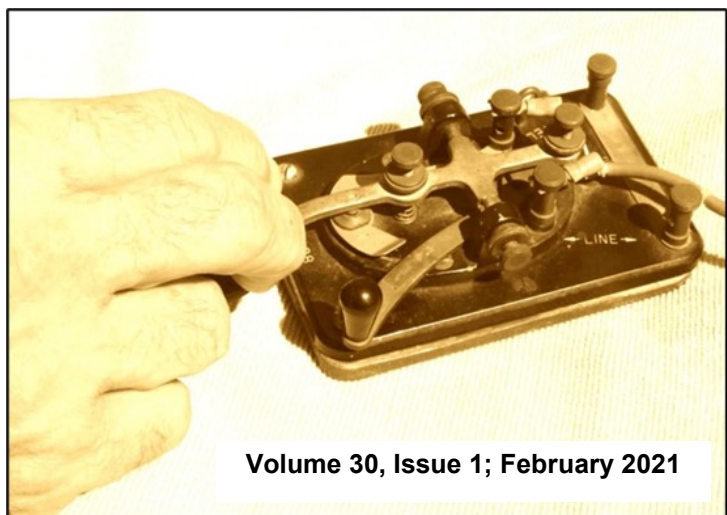


THE BRASS POUNDER



Volume 30, Issue 1; February 2021

***Official Publication of**

Kansas Central
Division NMRA

Mid-Continent
Region NMRA

National Model
Railroad Association



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Upcoming Meetings

ZOOM KCD Business Meeting and Clinic

Saturday, February 6, 2021

ZOOM KCD Turntable Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

ZOOM KCD Turntable Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

ZOOM KCD Business Meeting and Clinic

Saturday, April 10, 2021

ZOOM KCD Turntable Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

[Join the KCD on Facebook](#)

Kansas Central Division-NMRA has a Facebook page and is for NMRA members only. It is a place to share model railroading adventures, post pictures, tell tales of woe in building your empire, post obstacles you have overcome, and ask questions. Have Fun. Simply enter "KCD" in the Facebook search block and select "request to join". See you there.

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Superintendent News

By Ross Boelling

As I write this, 2020 is receding in the rear-view mirror. 2021 is here and I am not particularly seeing any great improvements so far. I hope this finds you all forging ahead on your rail projects. I have thought about doing some and have ordered a few supplies. Yet I have not cut a sprue. This week...

We are in the middle of model railroad season. I just picked up ANOTHER hat to wear as I was just elected to a three-year term on the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad Association (ASVRR) Board of Directors. I really need to take a class on how to say "NO!" If any of you want to be a conductor or engineer, let me know. We are always looking for volunteers.

This ASVRR "job" now means I have associated myself with six railroad-related groups: Board member of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, ASVRR Volunteer, ASVRR Board Member, Kansas Central Division NMRA Superintendent, Herington Railroad Days coordinator, and General Manager of the Lyona Valley Railroad. Those, plus Woodbine Lions Club President, Kansas Silver Haired Legislature 1st vice president, and service on a few other committees round out my retirement.

I say this not to brag, but to explain my retirement!! And I am also in a 6-week round of daily radiation as a precaution for a basal cell melanoma I had removed from inside my ear which adds a daily 80-mile Manhattan round trip. Oh, and Lynnette always adds a few commitments to my life as well. And I am in my Medicare Initial enrollment phase. I have always been pretty-easily bored with life, so these things keep me challenged and motivated. That said, you can see why I have a hard time finding time to work on my LVRR. But I plan to change that this month.

Everyone has a life outside of Model Railroading. But there is something soothing about running trains, switching cars, and building models, track, or scenery. It lets us escape from the realities of life. After recent

events on the National stage, we need this escape now more than ever. It is so relaxing to focus on the hobby. Well, usually until that ONE engine decides to act up or those cars continue to derail for no reason... But even those problems are a blessing these days.

I have **another** confession to make. I also have a video game addiction. I am addicted to Sid Meier's PC-based Railroads game. If you have not played it, it is an older but excellent simulation game that lets you build your railroad empire, work towards completing a set of challenges while fending off one or two rail barons that want to take over your railroad and steal your business. It is easy for me to sit down and spend an hour or longer completing a game. You build your railroad track where and how you want; you build your trains to take raw materials to towns that process it and make it into products; then your trains take those products to another town to sell. Your net worth grows. The towns grow to accept other products. New locomotives come along to purchase that are faster. The towns you bypass do not grow, towns you supply grow and grow. As you can afford, you upgrade your stations from depots to stations to terminals which helps your trains load and unload faster. You buy stock in your competitors and can eventually take over THEIR railroad too. It is a great operations game and helps you see how vital the railroads were to growing America. Each time you play, your game starts at a different town and you face a different set of competitors. It is FUN.

Back when I worked as a programmer-analyst in Manhattan in the mid-80s, I purchased Sid Meier's Railroad Tycoon when it first came out in 86-87. It was so far advanced of other gaming for its time. I admit there were times I would start to play it at work (after hours) and Lynnette would call me at 10:30 to find out when I was coming home. It was nothing for me to spend 6-8 hours playing at times.

I tell you this because, even though I have not done a lot of actual work on the LVRR, I am still railroading. While it is virtual, the same pleasure is there even though I do not pound a nail or physically glue down track. Is this model railroading? The future possibilities of our hobby are huge. That is why I am so excited about the NextGen Model Railroaders group that has arrived.

So, as we enter 2021, I have to say I think the state of the hobby is good. I continue to be amazed at the quality of models being produced these days. I am sometimes aghast at the prices, but the quality is fantastic, nonetheless. The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought us closer together with video conferencing via ZOOM. My recent virtual meeting presentation on Dispatching was seen by 100 participants from all over the world. Our participation in the virtual meetings has allowed us to see and

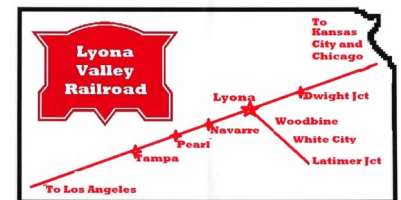
converse with modelers all over the world as well. Astonishing! Our KCD ZOOM Turntables have allowed us to visit each other from the comforts of our home. Convenient and helpful!

In summary, I look forward to the day when we can again meet face to face. Even though the Pandemic has changed our world if we can avoid catching it, responding to it has brought us some benefits.

As we enter the dark days of winter, do not forget to railroad, no matter how busy you are. I have heard folks say: "Even 10 minutes a day makes a difference!" I think I will try that for my one 2021 resolution. What about you?

Be safe, get vaccinated when you can, and Model On!!!

Ross



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the trains
show is
still
ON !!!**

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Director/Editor/Modeler Comments

By Ray Brady

Happy belated New Years to everyone! 2020 was quite a year, and 2021 has promise of getting back to “normal” now that the COVID vaccine is being rolled out. I am still waiting to hear what north central Kansas has for a schedule for getting the vaccine into our arms, but I am confident that it will be happening this spring.

Director’s Comments: On January 9, the winter meeting of the Mid-Continent Region NMRA Board of Directors was held via ZOOM and we were about the business of the Region. The Wichita Train Show (Chisholmn Trail Division) is still on for February 6-7 as noted on the previous page, The 2021 Region Convention is still contemplated for June 17-20 as noted on page 14 of this issue of the Brass Pounder. As of the BOD meeting Jan 9, there are approximately 30 people pre-registered for the MCoR convention. The committee estimates that they will decide by Mar 1 whether to go forward with the convention if they can get 50 pre-registrants. Obviously, each member’s comfort zone with COVID and vaccination will enter into each decision to register and/or attend. They also indicated they may delay the Region Convention to October to allow more people to get vaccinated and hence feel more comfortable attending. And the National convention is still scheduled for Santa Clara for July 4-11 as indicated on page 11.

Personally, until I get the vaccine, I am not planning on anything but self isolation here at home. Hopefully, by the MCoR convention, I will be able to be seen in public. But, we’ll see....

I reported to the Board that KCD had 7 interactive ZOOM get-togethers in the last half of 2020 (Directors report semiannually to the Board). We had our 3 normal business meetings, held 2 supplemental “Turntable” meetings, and participated in 2 interdivisional meetings with NMRA members (as many as 100 participants) world wide. Not bad for being isolated by the pandemic. And there are the NMRA-x meetings

that you all have received notification about. And many, many more opportunities that I don’t even know about. Opportunities are abundant to “socialize” with fellow modelers....

Modeler’s Comments: On the home front, I am enjoying the benefits of ZOOM-ing with everyone. The COVID isolation has brought on a whole new sense of world community via the internet. We all have incredible opportunities to see people from all over the world, see what they are doing, and learn from them - opportunities that previously were only available via conventions or travel to far off places.

As to my modeling activities, the self isolation has brought me face to face with a new species associated with model railroading. While I set sticky-traps for *Orthoptera Ensifera Grylloidea* in the train room every fall as they mature and migrate inside to warmer temperatures, I have also had an infestation for the last few months of *Joannus Hobbius Lobbius Michaelis Cricutus* on my dining room table. I will be writing more about that in the next issue of the Brass Pounder.

Editor’s Comments: Speaking of writing for the Brass Pounder. We are always in need of articles for our publication. The publication can only survive with *everyone’s* contribution. Otherwise it will devolve into a meeting announcement email. While we seem to have the same contributors each time (and I appreciate their faithfulness), with 20 or so members of the Kansas Central Division with each having their own way of expressing “model railroading”, we have a wealth of diversity here in north central Kansas that we could hear about. I encourage you to submit what you are doing. It is definitely of interest to the rest of us.

Ray Brady



Minutes of the Last KCD Meeting

December 5, 2020

The December 5, 2020 meeting of the KCD was a virtual ZOOM meeting due to Covid-19 limitations. The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm by Superintendent Ross Boelling. Those in attendance were Ray Brady, Larry Tiffany, Ross Boelling, Greg Schneider, Alan Meinholdt, David and Chris Heinsohn, Larry Shankles and Tom Katafiasz. We did introductions of each member present.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as read. The treasurer's report showed a total of \$113.00 in the bank.

Director Brady is currently Editor for the Brass Pounder (KCD) and the Caboose Kibitzer (MCoR Region). Ray mentioned that he needs articles for the publications. He also discussed copyright properties and what to be careful of.

If we do not have sufficient registrants by March 1, there may not be a Regional convention in Tulsa. Ray brought up the point that if you register and don't attend the convention because of COVID, the committee is addressing the issue of refunds. That has not been answered! The convention may be dependent on the vaccine availability.

Superintendent Boelling mentioned that he needs to get busy with the Herington Train Show. February would be the last date for advertising. The Covid-19 situation was mentioned again in how it would affect future conventions. The Chisholm Trail Train Show to be held February 6-7, 2021 was also mentioned.

Under New Business, the election for treasurer, which is a three-year term, is coming up. Larry Tiffany was nominated with David motioning and Tom seconded. Larry accepted the nomination. Electronic Ballots will be sent out by the clerk by December 19, 2020 and are due back to him by Jan 11, 2021.

Ross also mentioned a multi division Zoom meeting on December 13 at 1pm; he will send out the necessary information for that.

Ross gave a video presentation of track warrants. He was a dispatcher for the BNSF Topeka Sub, Strong City sub, Newton to Peabody, and the La Junta Sub west to Los Animas Jct. and showed a video of his area that he was dispatching.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Katafiasz, Clerk, KCD

Next Two KCD Meetings via ZOOM

January 13, 2021 @ 12:00PM; Interdivisional

February 6, 2021 @ 7:00PM; KCD

Mark your
calendars

Mark your
calendars

Because of the Covid-19 virus, KCD will teleconference our next meetings via ZOOM. For those that have not used it, ZOOM uses the internet to allow us to see and talk to each other on a tiled screen. All that is needed is:

- A Mac or PC computer, an iPhone or Android phone, or an iPad/tablet.
- The Zoom Application on your device. (<https://zoom.us/download>) and highspeed connection.

Once you download the ZOOM Application, you are good to go. Ross will be hosting the session and will be sending out the internet connection meeting ID and pass code via email. The second level of security will be as follows: once you enter the passcode and press "join meeting" you will be placed into the waiting room. When Ross sees you in the waiting room, he will authorize your request to join the meeting, thus weeding out any unauthorized guests. If you do not have an internet connection, talk to KCD members in your area about "carpooling" if you are comfortable with that much



social distancing...



Long Road to *Independence*

By Greg Schneider

I like to say I have been in the model railroading hobby for 40 years, but there was a long hiatus in between my first 4x8 **Wynot Central Railroad** (why not ship it our way?) in the early 1980s, to my intense modeling, painting and weathering in the mid-1990s, and the full realization of my layout in 2020.

I loved the Rock Island Railroad, even though I grew up in Brookfield, a western suburb of Chicago on the Burlington Northern. When the Rock Island was in its death throes and after it was liquidated, I begged my dad to bring me to Blue Island to photograph the dead locomotives in line there. Alas, I was too late, but I do have some good winter images of the yard, freight cars, cabooses, and assorted other cool stuff. I also attended the railroad's bankruptcy sale at La Salle Street Station where I was ready to spend--\$20 dollars which I had managed to save. But I still have matchbooks, menus and writing paper. I couldn't afford the Mother Of Pearl Rock Island sign which was auctioned off.

When I returned to modeling after college but before our first child, I painted and modeled lots of Athearn and Life-Like blue box locomotives. One was the Proto 2000 E-8, undecorated, which I proceeded to turn into the Rock Island Bicentennial locomotive *Independence*. I had big dreams—I was not only going to write books which sold and made money, but I would be the big academic star at What's a Matta U. Then I could build the Rock Island from La Salle Street station to Blue Island in the 1970s, running commuter trains, the Rockets and freights. Yup, it was all before me. But first, the *Independence* awaited.



I knew this would be a challenge. I had minimal experience with the airbrush but could get the requisite colors and decals (thanks, Polly-S and Floquil) and so set out to do it. The *Independence* was a product of Chicago's 20th Century Railroad club and they must have been on LSD when they conceived of the paint—Rock Island bankruptcy blue with The Rock logo and computerized “R” (on both sides), Rock Island red as the main body, with bankruptcy blue and a white (almost Dallas

Cowboys-like) star on the front, with another R. On the front side was the herald of the 20th Century Railroad club.

Painting this was a chore, but I masked and masked and masked (tape, not the masks we are wearing now), and somehow, I pulled it off. Even the white star came out perfectly (well, as perfectly as the Rock Island can be—it's a good railroad to model if you are not Rembrandt). I was incredibly satisfied. I even bought the Kadee couplers for it, tried to put them on, and then . . . my daughter was born, and I was moving to Kansas where I was sure to get back to it. That was 1998.

Flash forward 22 years, and *Independence* was resurrected. I had DCC and sound put on the unit and ran it for the first time on my layout and it looked and sounded like the real thing. I then decided to weather it and it is done. Save for those darn couplers. I have tried and tried to get them on without removing the trucks, but large hands and clumsy attempts have brought me little success. I won't wait twenty-two years this time. Each time I have some down time I try again, and since I haven't succeeded, I run it solo, and you know what? It looks good on the layout. Someday I will get those couplers on. My dreams have been scaled back a bit.

So, that's my long road to *Independence*, a bit shorter than the American revolution, and not quite as long as the Vietnamese revolution, and not really very revolutionary, but I declare that someday, in the course of human events, I will get those darn couplers on that locomotive.

Other Layout Updates

The long winter break this year will be conducive to getting some things done. I have built two background buildings. One will be the Emil Pardar Barber Chair Company which was in Chicago until the late 1970s. My timeline is 1975 (right before Conrail) but after the Rock Island had declared bankruptcy, so I have lots of bankruptcy blue and other strange locomotives. This winter I will weather all new rolling stock and locomotives and replace trucks and couplers. Too many derailments and lack of couplers hanging on. More next month.



Power short Rock Island has to press its bicentennial unit into weekend freight service. Here is the *Independence* switching the Emil Pardar Barber Chair plant. Two other trains wait for permission to run transfers through Pullman Junction and into Pullman Yard.

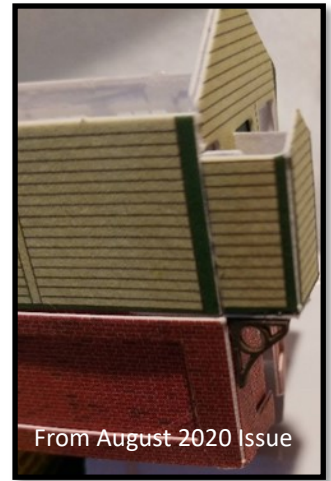
The *Independence* near Avenue Y and 103rd Street on its way to Pullman.



Modeling While Afloat—Part 3

By Christine Heinsohn

Ed. Note: This is part 3 of a series of articles Christine had started in the June and August 2020 issues of the Brass Pounder. We are glad she is recovering nicely and is able to take us through to her finished product. When we left off in August, she had gotten the building shell completed and was about to install the roof on the second floor toilet.



The third installment of my story of Modeling While Afloat was delayed as I encountered health issues. We had travelled back to Kansas in July as *Mollie*, our boat, was a going to spend some time in the boatyard and we needed to return our teenaged crew member to his home. About 36 hours after our arrival home, I was admitted to the hospital with what was later determined to be a Strep B infection manifesting as a blood infection, cellulitis, and diskitis. The recovery has been steady, but slow. I am grateful for all the support I have gotten from the professionals, my family, and my friends. I am nearly ready to get back aboard *Mollie*!

The next step in the Signal Box building was installing the roof over the toilet cubicle. The roof is a tiny piece (**Figure 1**) which is folded in half (**Figure 2**) and glued over the toilet space.

Next, the signal box's roof ends are then punched out of the card stock and glued to the building. These add structure and strength to the building top. In **Figure 3**, the red circle is drawn around the area where the roof ends for one side of the building have

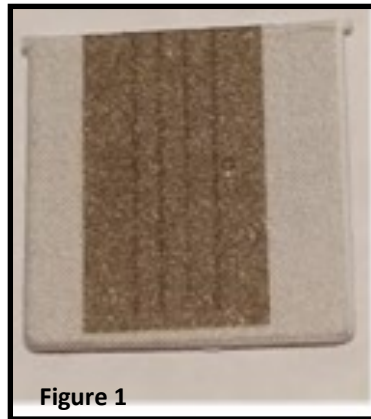


Figure 1

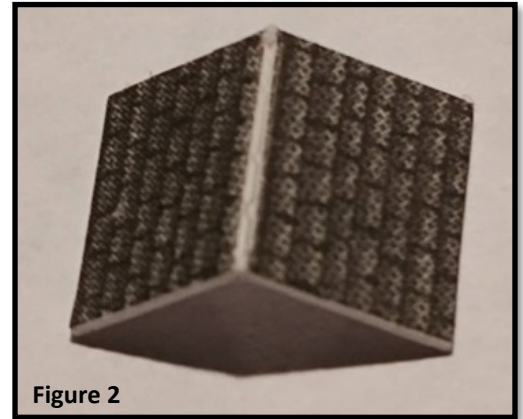


Figure 2

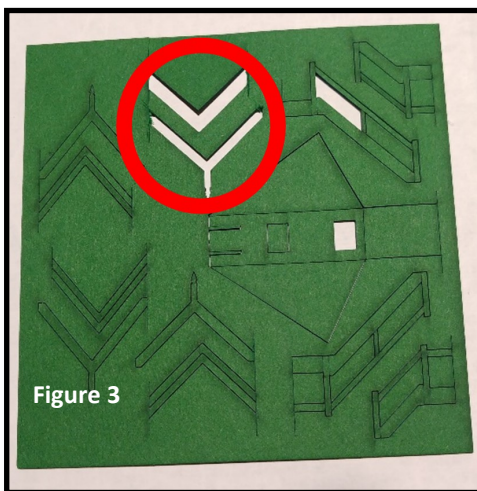


Figure 3

been removed from the card stock. The wider piece is first glued to the roof edge on each side of the building. This piece supports the roof. **Figure 4** shows the toilet roof and the first part of the roof end installed.

A bead of glue is run along the top edge of the green roof support. The roof piece is folded and laid atop the building. The spiked green decorative roof end is then glued over the previously installed green roof support. The spikey part of this piece helps lock the roof piece in place as shown in **Figure 5**. **Figures 6 and 7**



Figure 4



Figure 5

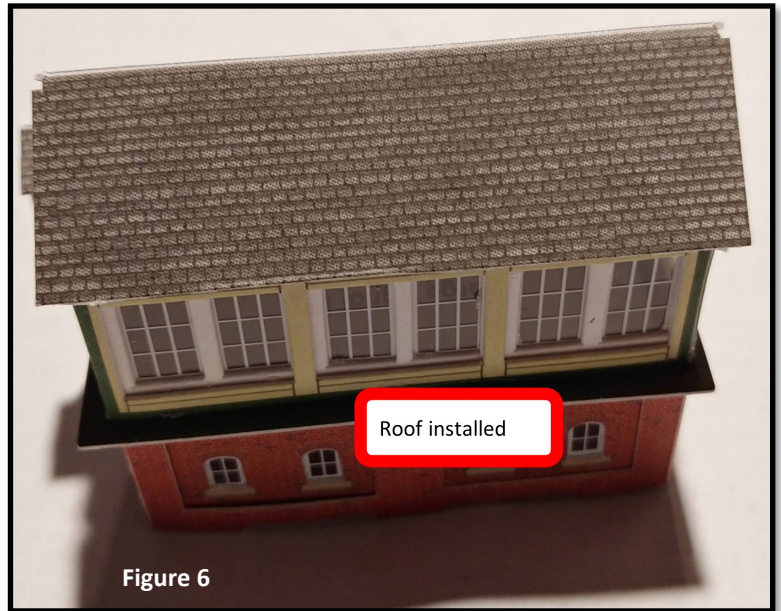


Figure 6

show the effect of adding the spikes ends as viewed from above with the roof installed.

The next assembly was one that I had been dreading from the time I opened the kit - the step assembly. To build the steps, one first had to assemble the step building jig. So, back to that small green square of parts to punch out the stair building jig. In **Figure 8**, I have masked out the parts on the green sheet that are not needed to assemble the stair building jig. **Figure 9** is the assembled jig.

I punched out stair pieces for the large signal box's stairs from the small gray piece of card stock shown in **Figure 10**. (Note: this kit includes a large and a small Signal Box. I am building only the large Signal Box for these articles.) I opted not to punch out the stair treads until it was time to glue them down due to my



Figure 7

trepidation about misplacing those tiny pieces in my crowded workspace. The jig made the assembly and gluing much easier than I had



Figure 8

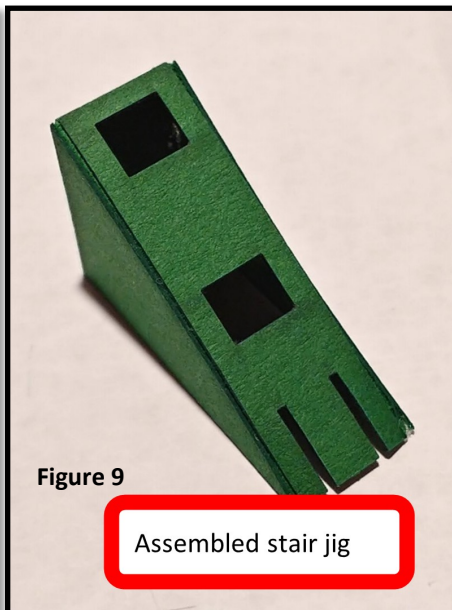


Figure 9

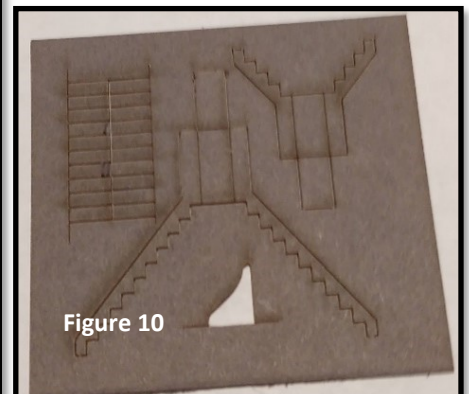


Figure 10

anticipated. Once the treads were glued on, I then glued the hand rails onto the assembled stairs. **Figures 11, 12, and 13** below show the stair risers on the jig, the stairs after the treads have been glued on and the stairs with the hand rails installed.



Figure 11

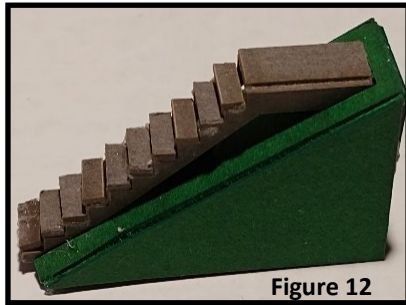


Figure 12

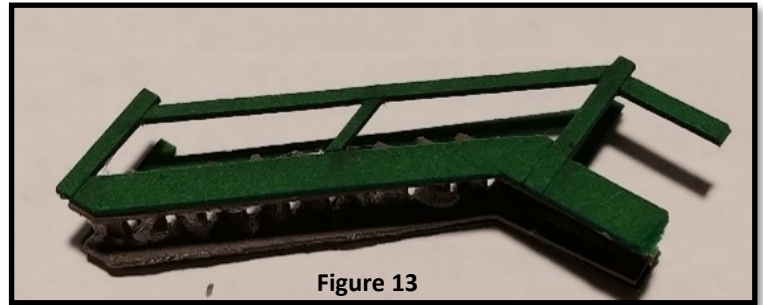


Figure 13

The stairs were then glued to the signal box. I had to do a bit of fiddling with the Xacto knife to achieve a cleaner junction under the upper door of the signal box. As designed, the landing on the stairs would have prohibited the door from swinging open. Well, in this model the door was not designed to swing open, but my OCD would not let me assemble the kit in a manner that would not represent a working door. I failed to get pictures of the stairs glued to the building, but that will be visible in later photos.

The next step was to place a strip of roof tiles along the top ridge of the roof. The kit came with two colors of ridge tiles; I tried both to determine which look I wanted (**Figures 14 or 15**). I preferred the monochromatic color scheme of **Figure 14** and glued down the gray strip of roofing tiles.

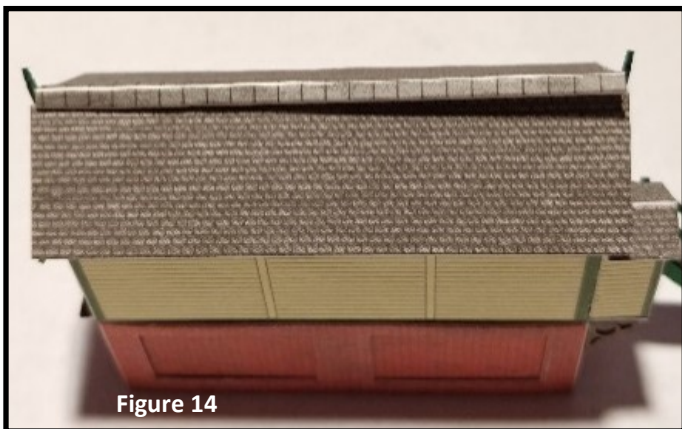


Figure 14



Figure 15

The bulk of the kit was now assembled, but it looked very unfinished due to all the white edges that showed where the unprinted paper was exposed. **Figure 16** shows the fully assembled signal box with all the white edges. The arrows point to some of the places where the white paper showed.

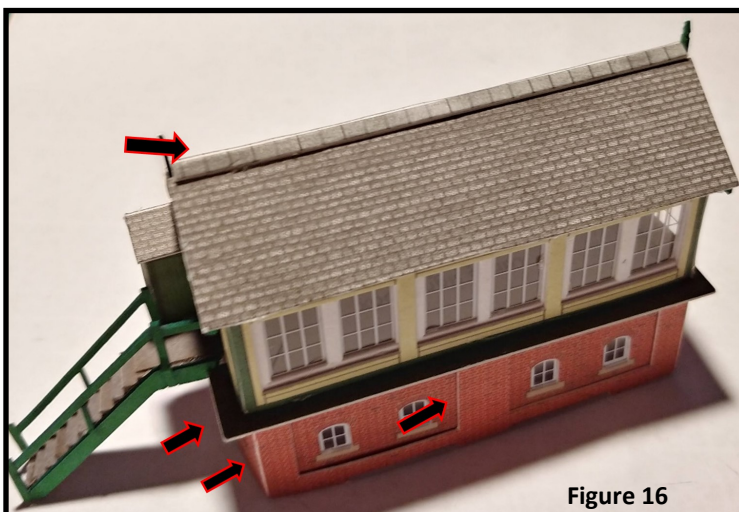


Figure 16



Digging in my art supplies I found a few pens and highlighters that did an effective job of knocking down the intensity of the white. On future buildings, I will not wait until all is

assembled to color the folds and edges. While this process will be tedious no matter when done, it would be more neatly done as the kit is being assembled. Using the same tools, I also added a bit of weathering to the Signal Box.

The completed Signal Box is displayed below.



Rails By The Bay – NMRA 2021 National Convention July 4-11, 2021

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Double Track Bridge Bents—Part 3 and More

By Alan Meinholdt

Along with my wooden trestle bridge, I started another project. Hopefully these two projects will go together as one.

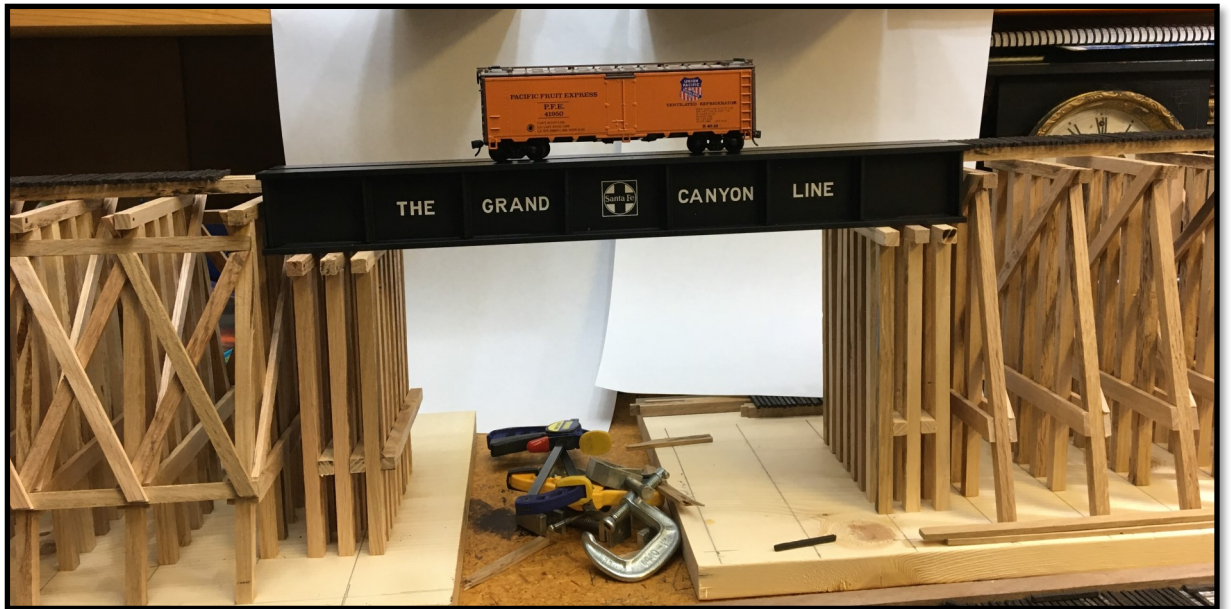
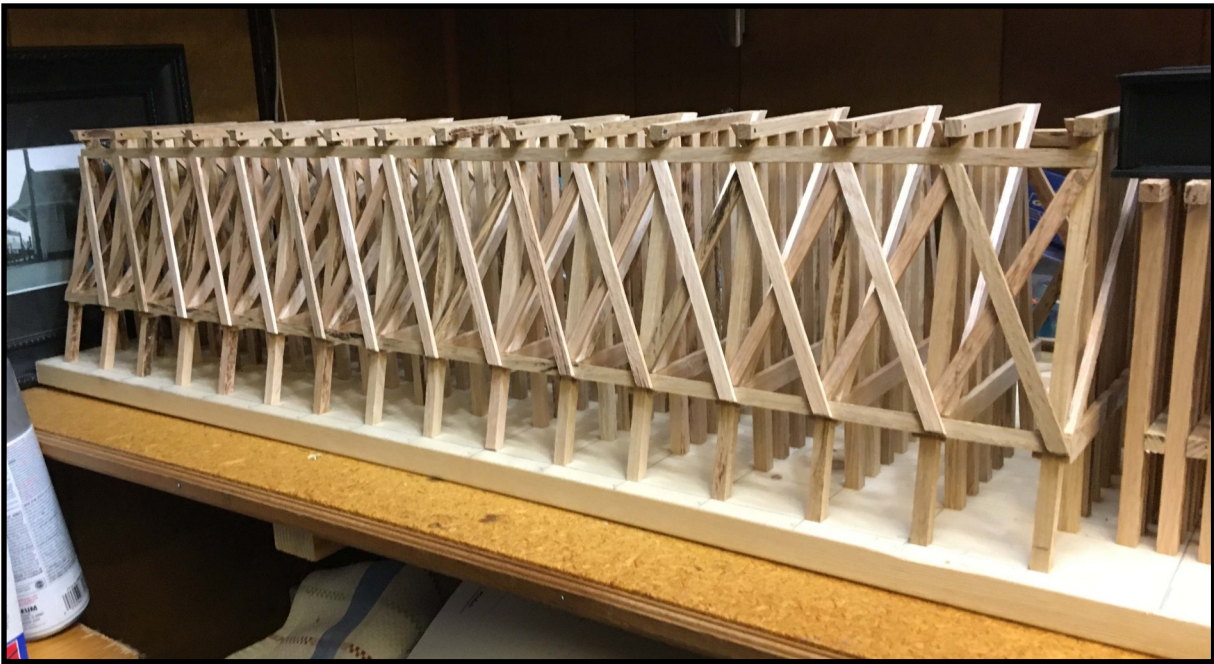
I found a set of Athearn ABBA Santa Fe F7's. These engines are missing a lot of parts so I ordered two Walthers dress up kits with all the grab rails and windows. A friend loaned me an AB set for me to use as a reference for painting and placement of parts. The attached figure shows the grab irons ready to paint.



On the bridge project I started putting the cross brackets on the sides. All together there are 120 pieces to cut. This part goes real fast. I made a jig to set the wood strips in to cut the angles. For all 120 pieces I figured there is 50 feet of wood for the two supports for the steel girders. I will finish cutting them to the correct height once I get the deck finished for laying the rail. So far, on the



bridge I have cut and assembled about 400 pieces of wood. That does not include the ties. I will save that number for last and the total length of the span will be about 78 inches.





THE TULSA UNION CONVENTION

2021 Midcontinent & Lone Star Region NMRA

June 17-20, 2021

<http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/>

Hurry Hurry Hurry

There are just a few slots remaining for Pete Leach's hands-on clinic on how you too can paint your own backdrop! For the low, low price of just \$10.00, you can learn from Pete how to create a backdrop for your layout with just a few tubes of paint! Sign up now for your chance to learn from one of Lone Star Region's newest Master Model Railroaders!

And if you are thinking about registering and attending the 2021 Tulsa Union Convention next June, sign up now and take advantage of the early registration rate of \$ 60.00 available until March 1st!

While we are mindful of concerns regarding Co-Vid 19, many of us will qualify for vaccinations based on our age. So, sign up now for the convention and get your vaccination! Registration numbers will be reviewed on March 1st so we can consider the financial viability of the 2021 Tulsa Union Convention.

Should a decision be made to cancel the convention due to low registration numbers, refunds will be issued to those who have registered. Sign up now and show your support!

The 2021 Tulsa Union Convention is the joint production of the Midcontinent and Lone Star Regions, NMRA.

Timetable



-Mark Your Calendar-

Future Kansas Central Division [NMRA](#) Meetings

ZOOM KCD Business Meeting and Clinic
Saturday, February 6, 2021

ZOOM KCD Turntable
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

ZOOM KCD Turntable
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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