



*The newsletter of
the Central Indi-
ana Division of
the Midwest Re-
gion, National
Model Railroad
Association*

Volume 44 – Number 4 August - September 2014

Build An Inexpensive Wood Chip Load

This very simple project shows you how I made practically free removable wood chip hopper loads. All you need is some scrape foam insulation, some fine sawdust that represents appropriate scale woodchips, a metal screw to imbed in the center of the foam, tacky glue, white glue, a little touch up paint and a magnet.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Photo 1 shows the load installed in the car while photo 2 illustrates how the load is removed with the magnet and also shows a glimpse of the spacer block that is used to raise the load to its proper height..

Photo 3 shows the block of foam which will be covered with sawdust cut to the width and length of the interior of the car. Then the spacer block(s) (smaller pieces) used to raise the block to the height you want. Also, it shows a magnet with the screw stuck to it.

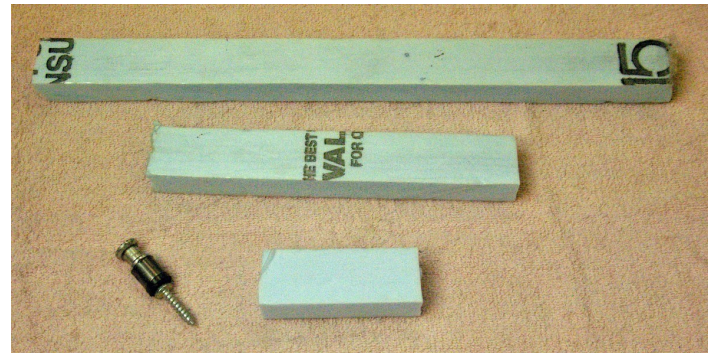


Photo 3

The screw, and a little glue, holds the spacer and block of foam together and becomes the

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The **RUSTY SPIKE** is the official publication of the Central Indiana Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published at least five times a year just prior to meets. It is sent FREE to all N.M.R.A. members in the C.I.D. and nonmembers may subscribe for \$6 per year. Articles for publication are welcome for the benefit of the readers and the hobby but cannot be paid for. Submit articles for publication to the Editor; address changes or mailing problems to the Circulation Manager; and advertising or advertising inquiries to the Publisher.

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Modeling An Inexpensive Wood Chip Load

Continued from page 1

point of lifting. As seen in photo 2 a little pressure on one end helps over come the slight vacuum effect of lifting.

The tools for the project, a flat file and a rat tail file, are shown in photo 4.



Photo 4

Photo 5 shows how the surface of the block of foam was defaced to achieve a uneven surface due to loading inconsistencies.



Photo 5

The flat file was used to form the sides and ends with a slight bevel. The rat tail file is used crossways to make the groves. I used a sawing move left, right , and across back and forth several times.

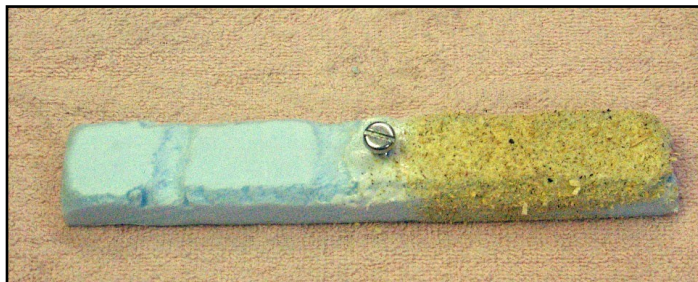


Photo 6

Tacky glue is smeared on the foam and then sawdust is sprinkled over the glue as shown in photo 6. (The screw is actually down about an 1/8 to 1/4 inch into the foam. It is shown here in the unfinished position for clarity.) A strong magnet works with the sawdust over it without any problem.

As the tacky glue sets up wet water (White glue diluted with water at a ratio of 50/50) is sprayed over the "load" and more sawdust is applied.

The next day craft paints are mixed to match the color of the sawdust and painted the edges as can be seen in photo 2 in the first part of the article.

It took less than an hour to do 10 loads. Let the "loads" dry overnight before doing the paint touch up.

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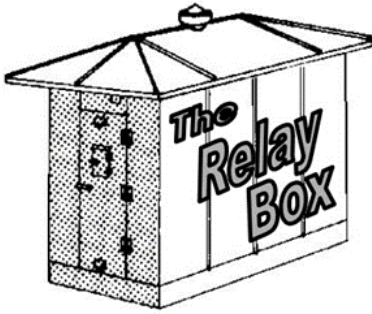
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Crew Change

Where to start with my first article as Superintendent of the CID. I am used to pasting your former Superintendent Steve Studley's *Interchange Track* here and not worrying about having to write something to fill an entire page with important timely information about what is happening within our division. Steve's shoes will be big ones to fill as your Superintendent but assure I will do my best. So with that said I will try to keep you abreast of things that you should be aware of in regards to the functioning of the Central Indiana Division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

We have currently have three new members serving on the board. Doug Rolfe comes aboard as our new Paymaster and Matt Ahlbrand and Kirk Wakefield are serving as Trainsmasters.

In welcoming them, I am looking for a couple of people who would be interested in serving one year appointed posts as Trainmasters on the CID board. If you think that you would like to help the division in guiding its future I would like to hear from you. I will guarantee that the work load is lite and we can make it fit your time and availability and I would love talk to you about getting involved. We have a great group working to make the CID a positive organization for its members and would love for those interested in the workings of the CID get involved. It takes a core of people to make good things happen and we need those people to come forward. Things just don't happen by themselves. My information can be found on page 2 of this publication or on our website at <http://cid.railfan.net>

In a different direction, I have just returned from the NMRA National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio where I helped man the CID's booth for the 2016 Convention in Indianapolis. It was certainly a very different convention for me as I

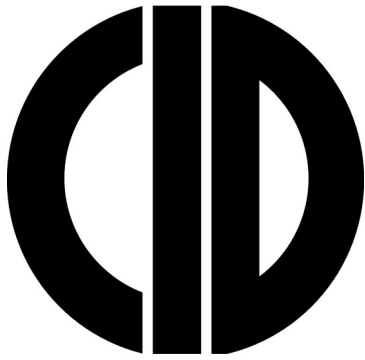
have been used to attending clinics, going on layout tours and doing some site seeing with my wife. This time it was a lot of sitting and urging people to sign up to come to Indianapolis in 2016. I did however make it to one clinic on one of my favorite subjects, that being open loads, and came away with ideas for making new and interesting loads for cars on my hopefully soon resurrected layout. Another bright spot was that the end of the convention center hall looked out over the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks which ran right next to the building. So for breaks from the booth I sat looking out at the trains which passed on the average of about 4 to 6 an hour.

Upon departing Cleveland on Saturday my wife and I went to Berea, Ohio, a suburb about 20 minutes southwest of Cleveland. It was supposed to be the best train watching site around and also had a restaurant in the old depot there. We were not disappointed as we had 14 trains in approximately two and a half hours and ate lunch with them running past us just 40 feet outside the window of the restaurant.

Now the great news about people signing up in advance at Cleveland and I hope that I am not stepping on Steve Studley's toes here in saying that we got 113 people to register for 2016. That does not include any spouses that may have been included. So we are off to a fantastic start as we exceeded our goal. We hope that many of you will be able to spare a few hours to help during the convention in 2016. Be sure and check out the convention website at www.nmra2016.org/ and start making your plans to attend. If you have never attended an NMRA Convention there will never be one any closer.

In closing my first Relay Box I hope that you will look for up coming events and make your plans to participate. Whether it be a Modeler's Meet, one of our three Vendor's Meets or a Layout Tour. And don't forget all NMRA members are welcome to attend CID board meetings.

Keith Clark
CID, Superintendent



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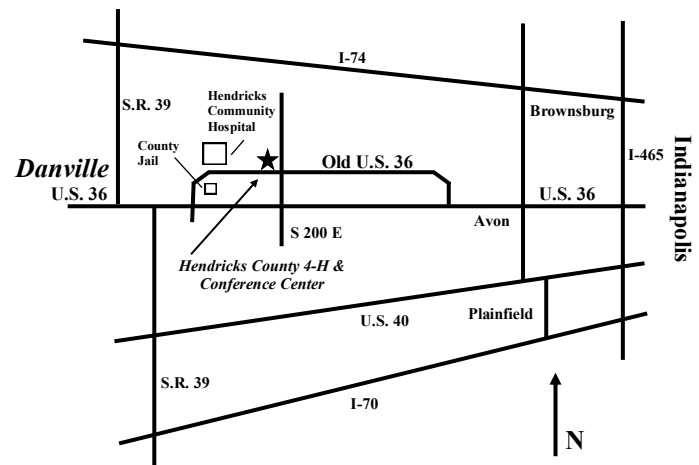
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Check out our website at <http://cid.railfan.net/>



Mark your calendars for the Noblesville Train Show on January 25, 2015. Also look for us at the Great Train Expo Shows. Martinsville Train Show in April. In 2016 the CID will host the National Convention for the NMRA in Indianapolis.

Upcoming Events

– Division Schedule –

Fall Modeler's Meet – October 11, 2014 – Beford, IN

First United Methodist Church, 1409 K Street
10am to 3pm—CID/NMRA members only
Bring current work for display & discussion

For more information: Steve Studley at studley@indiana.edu



Carmel Library Train Show – November 8, 2014 – Carmel, IN

Operating Layouts & Circus Displays (No vendors)
10am to 3pm—Admission is FREE

For more information: trevjn@sbcglobal.net

Danville Train Meet – November 22, 2014 – Danville, IN

Hendricks County Fair Grounds, Danville, Indiana

Dealer Show & Meet – 10am to 3pm - Admission: \$3.00 per person- \$5.00 per family

Operating layouts, vendors, door prizes, contests, food and free parking

For more information: John Pancini at (317) 272-3796 or jpancini@indy.rr.com

– Extra Board –

Alleghany & Western Model Railroad Club Open House – August 16 & 17, 2014

3139 Allison Ave., Indianapolis, IN - Free Admission

Come see our operating layout featuring the Cass Scenic Railroad in West Virginia circa 1959

Saturday 11am–6pm, Sunday 12:00pm–6pm —There will be vendors and food

For more information: Bill Moore at (317) 997-7964 or Trainman01@gmail.com

Great Train Show – December 6 & 7, 2014 – Fort Wayne, IN

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Admission-Adults: \$7.00, Kids under 12: FREE - 10am-4pm both days

For more information: <http://trainexpoinc.com>



The Great Train Expo
America's Coast to Coast Train Show

Upcoming CID Board Meetings

Date: August 17, 2014

Location: Columbian Park
Lafayette, IN

Time: 12:00 PM

*Note: This is a closed meeting for board members only.

Date: October 12, 2014

Location: Indianapolis Marion County Library
Wayne Branch Library
198 S. Girls School Road
Indianapolis, IN

Time: 1:30 PM

CID members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
Board members can confirm location and date.

Rusty Spike Closing Dates

Volume 44 Issue #5 - September 14, 2014

Volume 45 Issue #1 - December 7, 2014

Dates are tentative and subject to change.

Attention – All notices of club open houses, or other shows & meets will be included in the **Extra Board** only if the official request form is used. This form may be printed off the CID website at:

http://cid.railfan.net/Extra_Board_Request_Sheet.pdf

Fill out the form and send to the address listed on the form. Upcoming deadlines for each Rusty Spike are listed in the Spike or may be obtained from Keith Clark (see pg. 2). Events not sent on the request form cannot be included.



Images from Cleveland



Steve discusses 2016 planning with Ed Slintack.



Tom, Steve & Keith working the NMRA Indy 2016 Convention Booth.



The 2016 Non-Rail committee discusses possible program ideas for 2016.



A diorama entered in the Contest Room.



A peek at one of the over 250 clinics presented.



The Operations Roadshow Layout drew operators and while was to be the last appearance of the layout, they have promised to bring it to Indianapolis for our convention.



(Above) Possibilities are endless for open loads on freight cars but there may not be a "prototype for everything"!

(Left) A bird's eye view of the floor of the National Train Show prior to its opening to the NMRA Convention Participants.



An HO CN SW1200RM switches a modular layout at the National Train Show.

This module was part of the FREE-MO modeler's modular layout at the Nation Train Show.



Just a little time for some prototype train watching at Berea, Ohio on the way home as a unit tank car train of oil speeds by.

The end of the line

Article by John Pacini and Kirk Wakefield

After 18 years in business, the lights are off and doors are locked at another local hobby store. It was around March 2014 when Zach Scellato, proprietor of Big 4 Hobbies in Plainfield, decided it was time to move on and placed the “going out of business” sign at the front door. It was a difficult decision but one that was forecast long ago as sales had sagged for the last 3 or 4 years. Sales is key and with the poor US economy and the fierce internet competition, there seems to be a routine that we see too often, many small “bricks and sticks” businesses, especially local hobby stores, closing.



Zach, now 47, had an interest kindled in trains when he was just three years old. In 1971 his parents gave him a Marx train set, which started his model railroading career. It also inspired Zach to one day own and operate his own hobby shop.

At the age of 21 and finishing up a college degree, Zach worked on his family farm and also worked for Tom Metzger's Hobby Shop on South Madison Avenue. After spending 9 years learning the business and getting to know customers, Zach was finally ready to open his shop. The day after Thanksgiving in November 1996, Big Four Hobbies opened in Plainfield Indiana. He chose the location primarily due to Indy lacking a hobby shop on the west side of town. The shop name was developed by his Real Estate Broker and its proximity to the major rail yard of the same name. The location on US 40 is near downtown Plainfield. Big Four was truly a model railroaders dream, aisles and aisles of rolling stock, engines, scenery, and detail parts. A modeler could purchase just about any item in any scale, “Z” to “G”. If a particular part wasn't in stock, it was special ordered and usually available in just a week or two.

Zach likes to model the Norfolk & Western Railroad in HO scale. If you have ever visited Big Four it is quite obvious, he has a layout in the front of the shop and you will see plenty of N&W rolling stock and engines. He is also big into rail fanning in West Virginia where he has captured a countless amount of Norfolk & Western imagery. Free from the rigors of running his own business, he hopes to see more of his cousin, a dispatcher for the Norfolk Southern Railroad, and have time for much more coal country railfanning. Don't worry, chances are good you might bump into Zach as he likes to and plans to continue rail fanning around central Indiana.

Having recently completed his theology education, Zach plans on working full-time as an Associate Minister with Grace Point Church in New Whiteland. Being married with three daughters he is very busy with family and church. When asked about whether or not he would ever get back into the hobby business, Zach replied, “I kinda doubt it, but if I ever did, I would have a much greater internet presence and a much smaller retail space. It is just the way things are going.” He states the obvious. A hobby shop is a big undertaking it takes several hundreds of thousand of dollars to stock a shop that has four thousand square feet with most of it dedicated to model trains. Zach says that overall the shop was a success for many reasons. There are personal stories he chose not to share, but the look in his face made it obvious the joy those experiences brought. One of the most remarkable parts is getting to see generations come through the stores and share this great hobby with each other.

The CID chose to write this article as we discussed how to handle the advertisement space paid for but not used by Big4 Hobbies. As the Board discussed options, we realized Zach always supported us by donating excellent door prizes for the Danville show and purchasing advertising space in the Rusty Spike. Thanks Zach for your support. You helped make the Danville show a success. The CID is very grateful. **Zach, you will be missed.**

Fall Modelers Meet October 11, Bedford IN

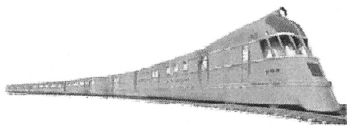
The 2014 CID fall Modelers Meet will be held in Bedford, IN on October 11, 2014. The location will be Fellowship Hall in the First United Methodist Church, 1409 K Street. The times will be from 10A to 3P. As usual, this will be a meet for CID/NMRA members (members only, please) who are more experienced modelers. Modelers attending should bring along some of their current work for display and discussion. The subject for this meet will be Structures. Information on modeling techniques used will be shared among the modelers and there will be a clinic presentation. Marty Witkiewicz will be our clinician and his clinic will be on building, painting, and weathering large plastic struc-

tures. Marty's layout has many structures that were kitbashed from multiple plastic kits. He'll tell us about the techniques he uses to produce these large buildings. Although the subject for the meet will be Structures, you may bring any modeling project you wish to share with others. Remember, the model does not need to be completed.



This model was built and displayed at a previous Modeler's Meet by Doug Rolfe. Photo: Rich Seymour

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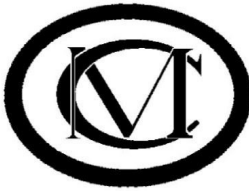
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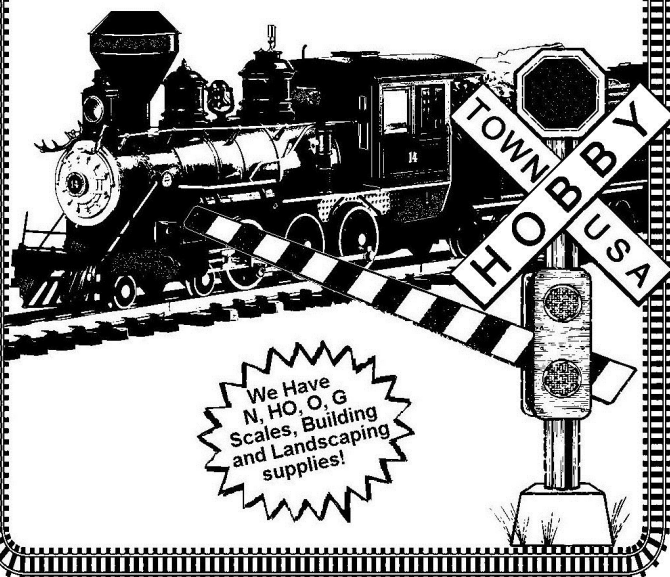
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