



***THE NORTH STAR CHRONICLES – a newsletter primarily for the model railway fraternity***

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***Editor: David Cairns***

***e-mail: [northstarrailway@gmail.com](mailto:northstarrailway@gmail.com)***

***Website for back copies: [www.northstarrailway.com](http://www.northstarrailway.com)***

***Phone: +27 82 653 5642***

***Editorial***

In last month's edition, reference was made to the state of the hobby in South Africa mainly from a main metropolitan area perspective. My knowledge of what is happening outside these areas is scant. One exception to this is Knysna, recently the scene of devastating fires. Thanks to Brian Messenger who fortunately escaped the fires I have become aware that there is a number of modellers in that area.

I first met Brian in the early eighties when he was based in Durban but lost touch with him when he moved to Port Elizabeth then the Reef ending up in Cape Town where he had a model railway shop.

Brian has now retired to Knysna and is well advanced on building a two tier Hon3 layout. His modeling is world class and to the best of my knowledge he is the only South African who has had an article published in the free American electronic publication – Model Railway Hobbyist – [www.model-railway-hobbyist.com](http://www.model-railway-hobbyist.com). (As an aside those who do not subscribe, particularly HO North American prototype modelers, are missing a treasure trove of information about the hobby). Brian's article on building a two stall engine house in the July 2014 MRH can be read

at <http://mrhpub.com/2014-07-jul/port/#148>

The photographs I took on a visit earlier this year do not do justice to his layout. A proper feature will have to wait for my next visit. In the meantime Brian has kindly described how he built a Finescale Miniatures sawmill which is featured below.

Before launching into Brian's article, there have been several interesting media articles recently on railways around the world. First China:

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170605-inside-chinas-incredible-train-network> and <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/peoplesdaily/article-4565992/China-unveils-track-train-runs-virtual-rails.html>

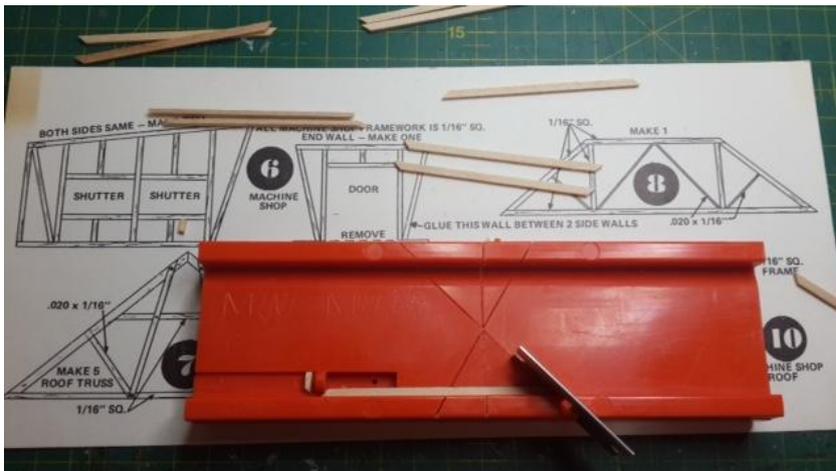
Next India and what will be the world's highest railway line:

<http://google.com/newsstand/s/CBlwltGOojU>. The world's 20 most spectacular stations <http://google.com/newsstand/s/CBlw4b63pzU>

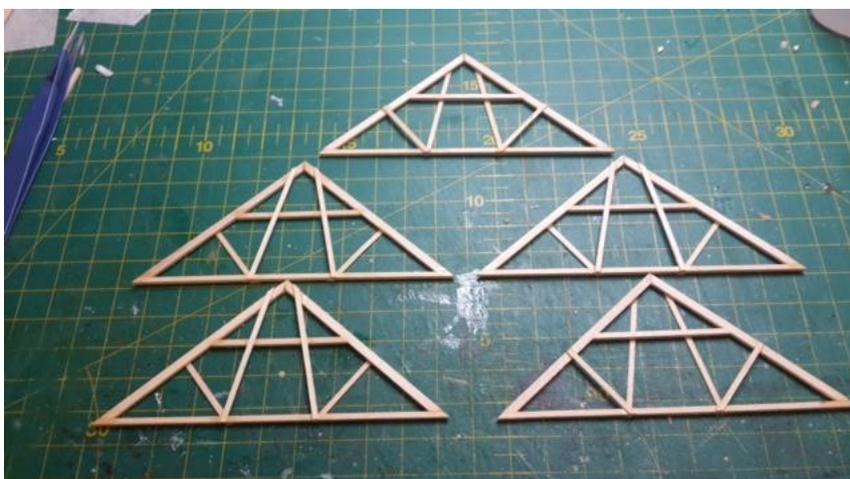
Finally, news on Hornby: <http://google.com/newsstand/s/CBlwn4SwojU>

### **Brian Messenger's Finescale Miniatures Sawmill**

***The mitre box used for cutting the roof truss pieces at the correct angle and length.***



***The five roof trusses assembled***



***Roof completed except for the roof walk and fire barrels***



***Test fit on the layout to make sure all is in the correct place. The crane will be used to offload logs from the log cars as well as the incoming logs by road on trucks.***



***Final test before continuing with the building at the workbench.***



*I spray paint all the metal castings with a light sand colour and when dry, I start picking out all the detail and colour on them. When this is complete, I then do a black wash over all the parts and do a final dry brush using white acrylic paint from a tube.*



*This is where a lot of time is needed in painting all the details. After the main colour, I used a wash to age it and add the used look to the parts. (Warhammer washes are used)*



**Same procedure used here as above.**



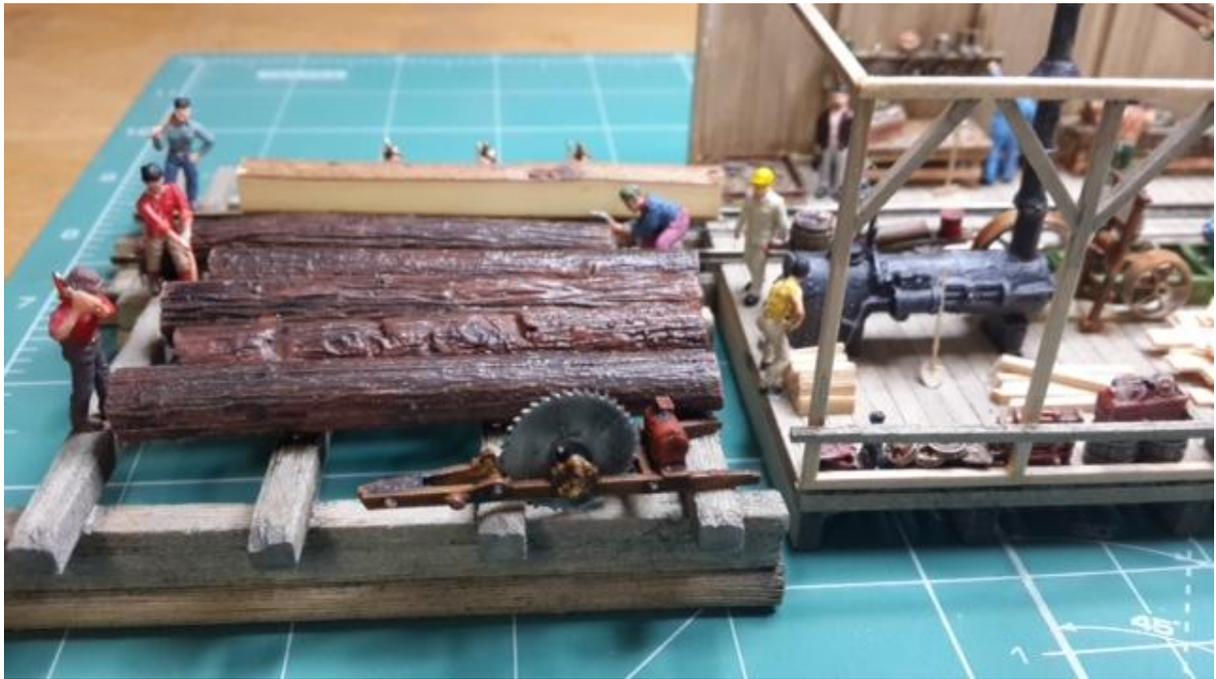
*I have used 12 volt grain of wheat bulbs in Campbell Scale lamp shades for the interior lighting and run them at 6 volts from a power source under the layout to ensure long lasting lights.*



*The fun part of the hobby is placing all the bits and pieces in the model.*



*Figures in (as close as you can get) positions are placed around the model to bring it to life. I placed 15 figures around this model.*



*Two night shots of the sawmill in action*



***Ready to despatch the first load of cut timber.***





*Total number of hours to build this model is 91. It is an HO Scale model used on my 3 foot narrow gauge layout named the Cascade Creek Railroad.*

*My next model to build is also a Fine Scale Miniatures kit of a logging repair shed which will be placed to the right of the sawmill above. Till next time - keep having FUN.*

Many thanks for sharing this with us Brian.