



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

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***Editorial***

I have to open 2018 with an apology for casting unwarranted aspersions on the Patensie community in last month's NSC. Chris Webster from the UK has pointed out that the removal of the sides of the O fruit wagons was not vandalism but was done by the SAR to accommodate containers for transporting the fruit. The wagons were also widened through the addition of steel strips for the same purpose.

***Brian Messenger's two tier layout***

Several references have been made previously to Brian's work (NSC Vol 5 nos 7, 10, 12). Brian models in HO but based on 3 foot gauge, hence HOn3. This is a scale and gauge combination which has appealed to me since being introduced to it thirty five years by Keith Stamper, bringing to life as it does, primarily the narrow gauge lines of Colorado. Steep grades and tight curves were the order of the day as the lines snaked their way through the Rockies. Brian's layout is not so much about long runs and involved operations. Rather it is a showcase of his modelling/artistic skills. His layout, modelling a logging operation, is a work in progress but nevertheless well worth reporting on.

The top deck of this two tiered layout is more advanced than the bottom with track laid and operational. Scenery in certain sections is complete. Photos taken from left to right as you enter the room, first the top deck.

**Busy logging scene. Note knob for operating switches on fascia board. Log skidder a kit by Rusty Rails. Log loads cast in resin by Brian before painting and weathering. Vehicles modified kits.**



**The loco in the photo below is a brass Westside Heisler painted and weathered by Brian as is the case with nearly all the locos.**



**Next two photos identifying what CCL stands for – Cascade Creek Logging. First the Mallet.**



**Second a 3 truck Shay**



**Another Heisler. Note Kadee couplers (throughout).**



**Not just locos....Coach built from a (long gone) E&B Valley kit**



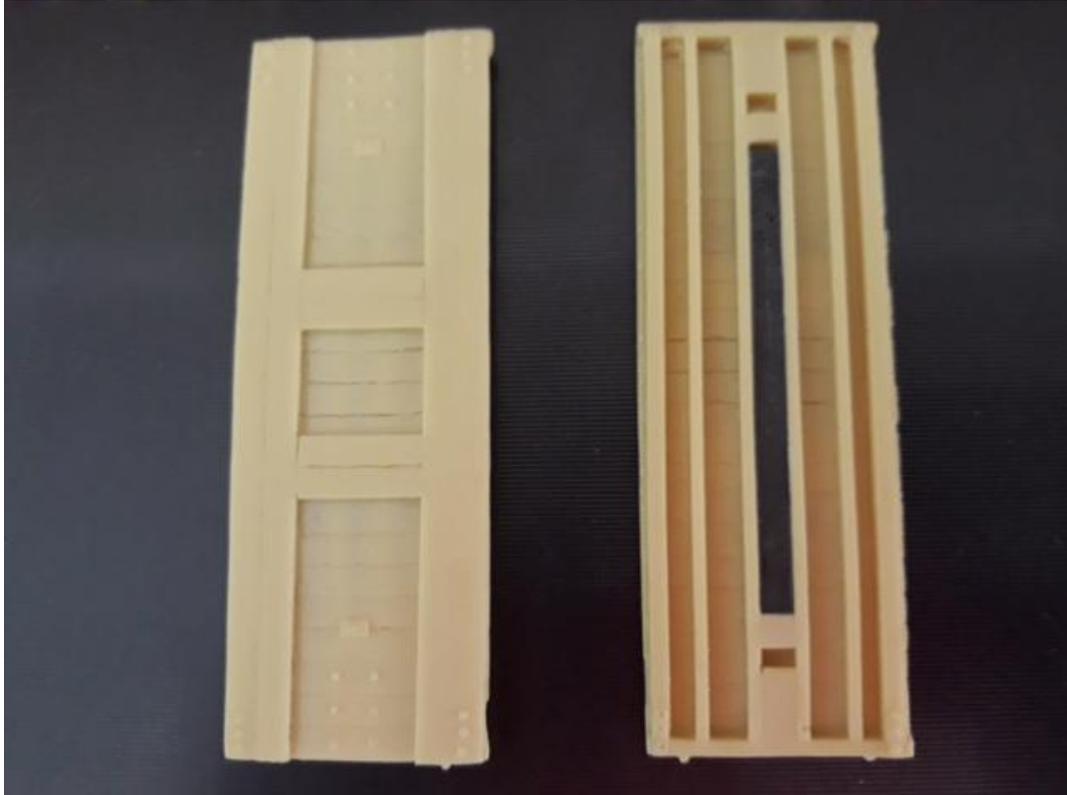
**Billboard by Woodlands Scenics. Big Mcgiffert log loader by Rio Grande Models and truck mounted one by Walthers**



**Woodlands Scenics sawmill. Disconnects by Rio Grande Models**



***Middle wagon tank and base in above photo cast from resin. Lead strips fitted between the beams of the car to add weight before adding the bolsters and trucks, painting, staining and weathering.***



***Teepee sawdust burner by JV Models. Caboose a Durango Press kit; Donkey log skidder a Scale Structures kit. Cast logs on HO Rivarossi log cars converted to Hon3; Woodlands Scenics vehicle***



**Mixture of Campbell and Woodlands Scenics kits all fitted with interior detail and lights**



**Woodlands Scenics Tucker Bros machine shop with lights and arc welding unit inside**



***Rio Grande Models Rotary snowplow kit OM***



***3 truck Shay with buildings in the background awaiting painting***



**Woodlands Scenics gas station kit converted to small lineside station**



**Design Preservation Models "practice" kit. Full interior detail and lights added**



***Interior detail of building on left in above photo***



***Top level terminus with small section of turntable extreme right; tank car by Narrow Gauge Car Shop***



**Blackstone K27 on a modified HO Atlas turntable with a Tamiya gearbox mounted underneath**



**Engine shed referred to in August 2017 edition of North Star Chronicles as contained in July 2014 Model Railway Hobbyist. Access at <http://mrhpub.com/2014-07-jul/port/#148>**



### ***The lower deck***

Lots of work to do but at least the structures are built and (in the main) painted. Some close ups to show the extent of the detail follow. This is class modelling.

Note the Lenz LH100 throttle right rear which is the DCC system Brian uses to operate the layout. All locos are not only DCC but sound equipped.



***The harbour buildings are a 9 building limited edition set (only 350 made) by Foss Scale Models. All buildings have full interior detail with lights which were not supplied as original equipment.***

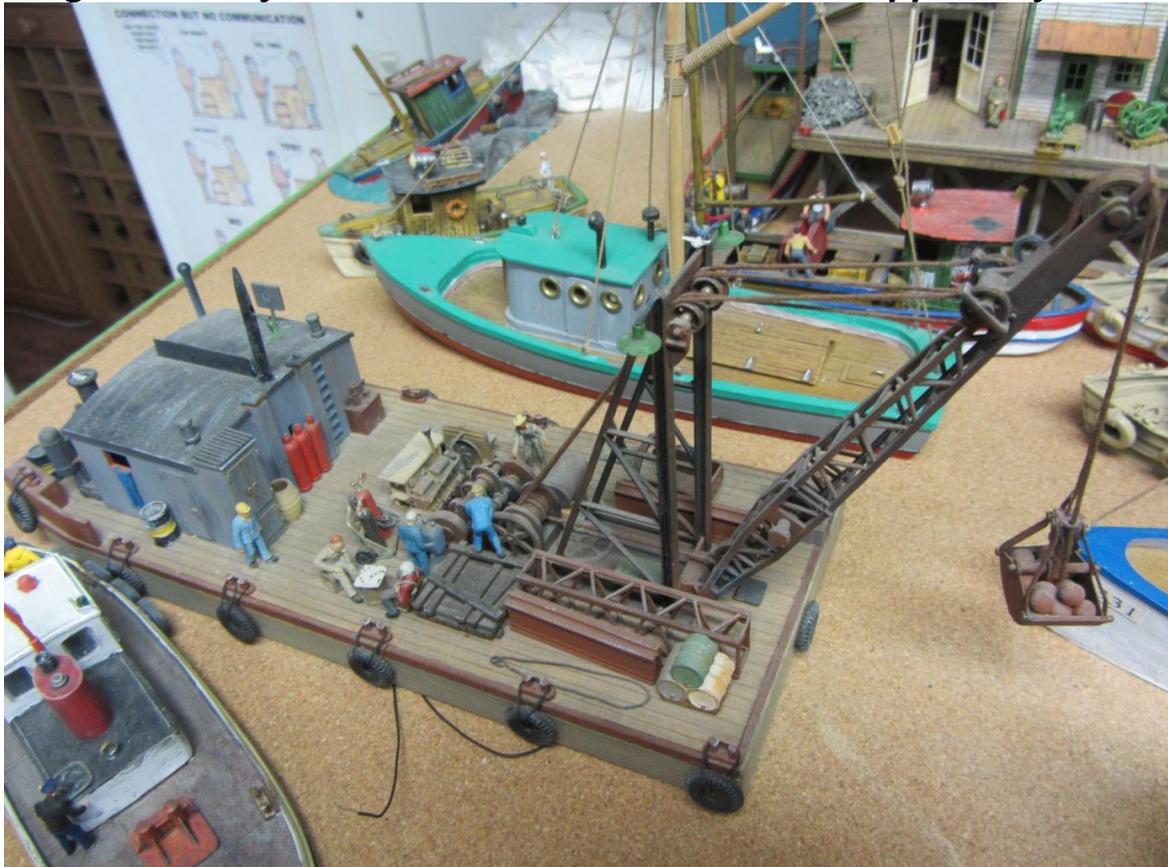




***American Model Builders barge kit converted to be a car ferry.  
Boats are modified resin kits by Rusty Rails.***



**Barge is mostly scratchbuilt but hull and cabin supplied by Kibri.**



**Scratchbuilt piers**



## ***Two Woodlands Scenics station kits made into a larger one!***



### ***Conclusion***

It was stated at the outset that this layout is a work in progress. Indeed since the photos were taken Brian has turned the top layout into a continuous run by adding a joining section on the right as you enter the room. A re-visit is obviously required!

It is comforting in the current unsettled times to know that layouts and skills such as Brian possesses remain in this country. It is incumbent on the 60 plus generation in particular to bring in the young people to the hobby and to pass on the required skills to them. One of these is to cast one's own pieces such as Brian has done so saving on the cost of importing kits and parts to this country. Methinks an article on that is required. Any volunteers??????

Actually this does raise an issue: I am requested occasionally to feature club layouts presumably in an endeavour to recruit new members. I am happy to do so but somebody else (a member of the relevant club?) needs to compile a rough draft and take photos. My point is if you want more members, take the hobby and your club to the public. Hold exhibitions such as last month's one at St Agnes church hall in Kloof and the one in Killarney Mall in Johannesburg held by the South African 45mm group (report and photos awaited!!!) These are generally well received by the mall owners as well as the public.