



President's Message Frank Dignan

Hello everybody whats going on I hope you all have enough SNOW I have. Well we missed two of the best show on our schedule this season Hingham and Lexington. We will have to do better next year. We are all set for the upcoming show at the Shriners Hall. The Greenberg show got enough modules and the track plan is set. Sorry I don't have the computer skills to post it. There will be a setup time after 2:pm on Friday the 20th for those interested I will be there to assist and on Saturday at 7:30 am . I want to thank Roland for posting the need for modules when I get a confrontation notice and I only have a third of the modules need I go into panic mode . That's what I do as a coordinator try it some time its not easy to get people motivated to run trains see you there .

What did you do during the snow storm for the last five weeks? I got a lot of modeling done that has been siting for a long time did a few kits did some weathering and out of boredom I set up all my NTRAK modules in my small home it was linear. It was a switching layout using only blue and yellow line it was a real challenge getting into the bathroom. I need to build a temp lift bridge. If I ever set it up again at home it will be DCC a lot easier in the wiring department. Doing that is why I am still single and living with a crazy dog.

The next show will be in Hooksett, NH. I will have a signup sheet for that show at Greenberg. There is also some talk about doing a Hub show in Taunton, Mass in April hooking up with the Maine Two track guys will talk about it . That's all I have got for now see you soon.

Frank D

Amtrak at Rt. 128 Station by Roland Kelley



Acela Express Train #2155 arriving at station on it way to NYC



First Class seating on the Acela Express Train #2155 on its way to NYC.



"T" train arriving at Rte 128 station heading to Boston.

Modernizing a Kato SD40-1 by Ernie Poole

I finally got back trackside in Montana for one glorious, sunny, summer afternoon last year. I spent some quality time in Livingston and Bozeman. I also revisited Bozeman hill and tunnel, which lie in between the two. I got a few shots of an MRL helper set being cut into a westbound BNSF manifest in Livingston, and then followed the train as it worked up and over the hill, and then eased down through Bozeman. It's one hell of a show watching 20,000 horsepower in notch 8!



The MRL helper set was two SD70Ace's back to back, with an SD40-2XR between them. I found that the newer "red ball logo" paint scheme is common now, and that became the motivation for this project. Since I'll be adding red ball SD-70Ace's to the pike soon, a "new" SD40-2XR will fit right in. I dug out an older, green BN unit I no longer run, and the idea got legs. I thought there might be some club interest in how to approach a project like this, so I took some photos while I worked.



Montana Rail Link's SD40-2XR's carry updated electrical components and wiring, but the overall look of the units is very similar. I can't see any obvious external differences, so my update will be just maintenance and paint. There is no decal set for this particular unit, but all the necessary decals can be pieced together from Mircoscale MRL sheets. I had the paint and decal sheets on hand from earlier projects, so I decided to jump right in.

Start by disassembling the loco to free up all the components that need paint. Don't forget to remove all of the clear plastic parts. Use some caution because the clear parts are less flexible than the opaque castings are.

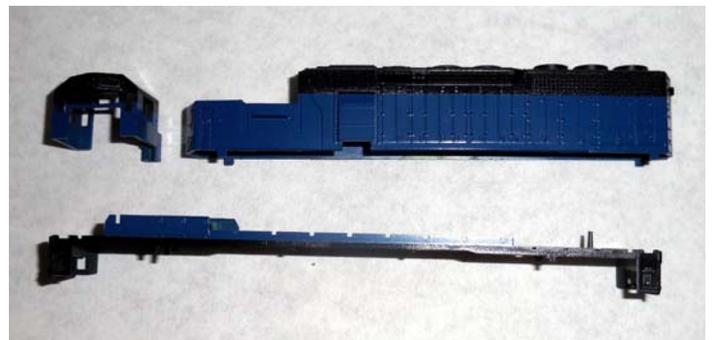
Take all the parts that need paint, and bring them to the sink for a good scrub with an old toothbrush and dish washing liquid. After they're dry again, airbrush them thoroughly with Poly-S paint prep, and then blow them dry. They dry quickly, and ready for paint.



Choose a paint that you like to work with. I use the Tru Color brand of model railroad paint. It sprays beautifully and dries glossy smooth. Decals adhere well, and Glosscote or Dullcote can be over sprayed for a protective finish. Tru Color is lacquer based paint, so safe working conditions, like a spray booth, are essential.

Take a minute now to think ahead as to how you will handle the different colors. In this case, I decided to shoot the blue first and then mask for the black areas. Since both colors are dark and cover well, I could have gone either way. Masking was just a bit easier this way. Let the blue dry over night before masking.

The masking is pretty straight forward on this paint scheme. I applied Tamiya tape to mask for the black, and then went back and checked all the edges a second time just before painting. I use a light spray all over at first, and then come back with enough paint to flow and gloss over, but not enough to run. Give it thirty minutes or so before carefully unmasking. The paint will be set, but still soft. Let it cure overnight again, and then if no touch up is needed, it's on to decal time.



The handrails are very flexible and regular paint tends to crack and flake off with handling. I've been using Tamiya paint for polycarbonates on them lately. It's designed to be sprayed on the inside of the clear, flexible RC car bodies. It only comes in spray cans, and the delivered paint volume is pretty high when spraying. There are micro fibers in it and hence, a fine texture to it when used on an outside surface. I only use it on the handrail casting. Try to use only enough to cover and no more.

Decaling is my favorite part of the whole build. It always feels like the unit springs to life as the first few decals are placed. I had to refer to photos, because I have no decal reference sheet. Everyone seems to have their favorite method. This is how I do it. I apply each one with water and Micro Scale's Micro Sol setting solution. When I'm satisfied with the placement, I remove any excess fluids. When a decal is partially dry, and not likely to move, I come back with some Micro Set solution. I apply it cautiously with a soft brush. Avoid leaving drops of chemical on the fresh paint. It can, and does, leave a stain. Ask me how I know.



When all the decals are in place, allow at least an overnight for them to completely dry, and then finish up with a clear coat to protect all your good work. I've been using a blend of Testors Glosscote and Dullcote that Pete and I started using way back. If I'm doing a newly painted unit like this prototype was, I like about three parts gloss and one part dull mix. It gives a nice shiny satin finish that looks believable and helps hide the decal film.

After reassembly, I generally apply some weathering chalks before the unit goes back into service. In this case, I used a subtle dusting, and only below the sills. I weathered up the air intake grills too. I'll also take this opportunity to disassemble the trucks and the frame for cleaning and lubrication. It is now, after all, my newest old locomotive.



Let me finish up with a general comment. I'm not a "rivet counter". The real MRL still has fifteen of these units on the roster. They're all different from each other in minor detail after forty years of repairs and upgrades. Even the prototype's decals are not all exactly the same on all the units. So, if I get close enough to capture the flavor and look of the prototype, I'm happy. It'll be part of an operating railroad, and subject to all those bumps and bruises. The idea is to have fun if you ask me. I know some of you are hesitant to dive right in and go for it. For the Northeast NTRAK folks who have yet to take a shot at something this, I encourage you to try your own favorite project. You just might surprise yourself, and you'll have a unique piece to show off forever. Plus, if you write it up and share it, Roland will be very, very pleased.

German Wonderland - World's Largest Model Railway - Article from Conrad Rousseau

Remember the two brothers, in Germany, who had a wonderful model railway that was something to see?

This is an update for their German Wonderland. Enjoy.

There have been little clips about this place for the past few years, it is still not finished but is growing to that conclusion as they will soon run out of space.

A short review, it was started by two brothers as a place to show their hobby, it started growing by leaps & bounds. Soon they were joined by other 'Model Railroad Clubs' and other craftsmen. Some were electricians, model makers, Carpenters, computer programmers. Their wives would stop by to see what they were doing and usually bring them a lunch.

One thing led to another. Three of the ladies had worked at a bakery. Several visitors would ask if they had a snack bar. The idea was planted; some of the carpenters came and built a nice restaurant area for the bakery and a kitchen too. If the fresh Coffee smell didn't get you then the bakery definitely would. This was about 5 years ago.

One of the Breweries came and furnished all of the tables and chairs, serving counter, etc..

Their latest finished area is the airport. Planes look like they are flying and landing.

GERMAN WONDERLAND Click on link below - AMAZING

https://www.youtube.com/embed/ACkmg3Y64_s?rel=0

Do you remember the winter of snow?



Snow PLOW ON FRISCO R.R. 2-21-12
IN OZARK MTS. MONETT Mo.

I think I would like this one but would need some pointers on how to run it. Check out the Picture. by Dan Pawling Sr. it was from his childhood. Maybe the T could have used it this winter.



My nephew Larry Kelley used to work for this Railroad and sent me the picture. (Bangor & Aroostok Railroad)



This is one of the houses along the line that years ago when they had steam locomotives housed men who filled the Engine with Coal or wood & filled the engine with water for the boiler. by Larry Kelley

2014-2015 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

March 21-22, 2015 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set-up: Fri 1:00pm to 5:00 pm - Sat 7:30am
Show Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

April 26, 2015 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up: 8:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Ron Wood - 603-206-5572

Show Dates **Subject to Change**...Check Newsletters for Updates. Please check schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at: northeastntrak@msn.com Thanks for your help.

Without your help supplying articles for the Newsletter we will have NO Newsletter. Please help. Thanks

Ringling's Elephants

From Thomas Conley

Hello Everyone,

In light of yesterday's announcement by Feld, I can't help but feel sucker-punched. Everyone has worked, fought, educated, and lobbied tirelessly for years, many times at our own detriment and in the face of threats to our safety. Regardless of the reasons for Feld's decision, the outcome is the same. And unfortunately this will be another tool the radical ARs will use against us. To that end, yesterday, I requested a statement from Feld's VP of Government Relations, Thomas Albert, that we could use to combat such claims. Specifically it would need to say that they still believe that elephants on traveling shows are well cared for, and they are in no way against other shows keeping their elephant acts. To his credit, he eventually responded, and sent me this message:

"The decision to phase elephants out of our traveling shows was not an easy one and we understand that it will come as a surprise to many people. This decision is part of a larger plan for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, which allows us the flexibility to continue to evolve to meet consumer preferences and demands. Animals have been an integral part of The Greatest Show On Earth for 145 years and our traveling shows will continue to include many of the other animals we currently feature. We care deeply for all of our animals--tigers, camels, dogs, horses -- and will continue to provide excellent care for these different animals as part of the Greatest Show On Earth."