

Welcome to the October edition of our lockdown newsletter. This is the usual random mix of news, chat and snippets, hopefully similar to that which we get at our meetings. Hence there is no structure to it and if you feel we have not got the right balance then please send me your contribution! This month is dominated by 7mm scale and it would be nice to have something from other scales to balance things a bit.

Lockdown Restrictions – Alternative to Meeting in November?

It looks very unlikely that we will be able to hold our traditional 'end of year' meeting in November and I would welcome any suggestions for an alternative. A Zoom video meeting has been suggested which could, for example, incorporate a 'show and tell' section.

Please email me at robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com with your suggestions and interest in a Zoom video meeting.

In the meantime we will continue with these newsletters and would welcome contributions and news.

A fun teaser from Geoff Hill – the answer:

Well done to everyone who correctly identified Geoff's photo as the replica 'Lyn' on the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway at Woody Bay.

I'm sorry that I don't have the answers to Barrie's photos yet so these will have to wait until the next newsletter.

Layout snags:

Michael sent this in about a handy device that helped him resolve some track issues.

More technology to sort out my shoddy workmanship. I had some trouble with unwanted uncoupling (as well as various derailments) so I made myself a gradient monitoring train. This used a two way spirit level from Towsure - intended for levelling up caravans.

It revealed a rather drastic change at this baseboard joint. I should have checked my boards (built from the garage leftovers pile) before laying the track, which is laid on cork sheet. I raised the far end of the board (viaduct) on to which the train is running in this photo - and the board beyond that is currently level.



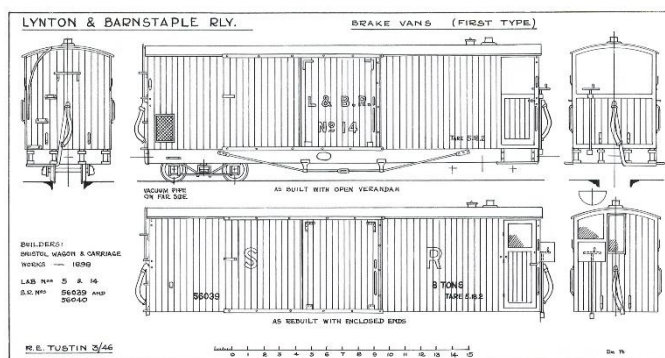
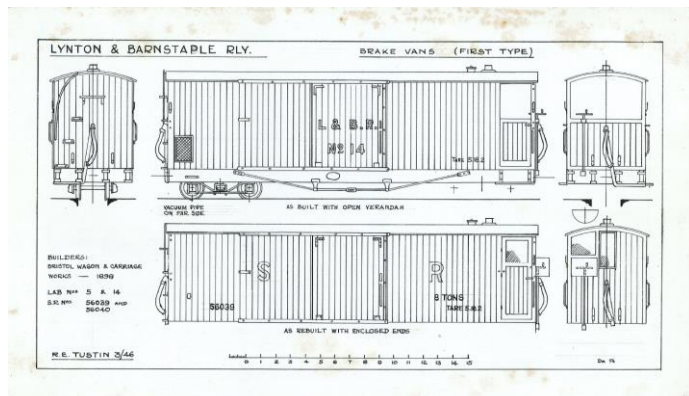
That went without drama. Then I paid more attention to the crosswise spirit level and realised that it tipped dramatically on the curve to the left of these pix. I was able to dig out the ballast, insert pieces of card under the nearer rail and re-ballast.

It looks hunky dory now so, hopefully I have fixed that snag and can concentrate on the rest now.

(I plan to check the coupling height of my stock - I am using the small tension lock couplings by Bachmann, with a magnetic uncoupling modification)

How did I volunteer? – Robin Edwards:

Neil Smith was very effective as the Chairman of the 7mm NGA and I saw him in operation on their sales stand on a number of occasions in both his (ongoing) role as modelling goods sales officer and chairman. He struck me as someone who was very good at getting people to volunteer for things and I was proud of the way I managed to avoid all his efforts to get me involved with the committee. However, I was reflecting on this the other day and realised I had not been so successful after all! I can't quite remember how I volunteered to produce these newsletters but it did follow from a phone conversation with Neil. I also can't remember how I volunteered to help clean up some drawings for a Narrow Lines Extra revision but again it followed an email conversation with Neil!



The drawings in question were by the late Ray Tustin who had very kindly agreed to their publication in 1981. Produced in pencil on drafting film, for many years they represented the only source of information to modellers. His drawings are now held by the Gauge O Guild who agreed that the 7mm NGA could scan them, clean them up and re-publish the Narrow Lines Extra. The cleaning up was laborious and eye-straining, so I was pleased to help out where I could. We have tried to retain the feel of the originals whilst making them clearer and more suitable for current printing processes.

It did provide a bit of variety during lockdown!

Additions to the C&CSRR snow train consist – Bill Longley-Cook:

Bill is another one of Neil's successful volunteers, while he lives in North Yorkshire he has been a member of the 7mm NGA for a few years and has corresponded with Neil. He has an On30 garden railway and has written articles for North American and UK magazines. Neil showed me some of Bill's photos and suggested he may be willing to write something for us. I was very willing to accept the offer as I am starting a project that has been in my mind for many years and found Bill's work full of inspiration. Here is Bill's article:



Narrow gauge Mike K37 #490 prepares to propel Rotary OM to Rockery Ridge

The Cumbres and Cat Shed Railroad operates an On30 narrow gauge short line in a North Yorkshire garden. The railroad serves a large mine, at Rockery Ridge, the Redgate Mill ore processing facility and a freight shed at Donkey Corners. A daily mixed train runs to and from Walkabout Gap. To maintain continuity of service throughout the winter the railroad can deploy a steam powered rotary plow (Rotary OM) with support train. The construction of the rotary is described in the December 2019 edition of Continental Modeller magazine.

Recently the snow train consist has been strengthened by the addition of a kitchen/diner cum bunk car and a tool car.



Kitchen/diner cum bunk car #057 – note that both baggage and access doors are boarded up

Kitchen/diner cum bunk car number 057 is based on a Labelle Woodworking (#On3-463) D&RGW narrow gauge short RPO (Railway Post Office) Car (<https://www.labellemodels.com/>). This car, actually road number 053, was converted by the D&RGW in the 1940s to camp car service and now runs in the support train for the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad's Rotary OY. A similar modification has been made to the Labelle job.



MOW Car #057 interior

The interior of the car has been “imagineered” as no photos could be obtained of the original, hence the different road number. Tables, chairs, sink and bunks are by Jane Harrop from her 1:48 scale dolls house range (<https://www.janeharrop.co.uk/>). Her furniture also graces the depot building at Walkabout Gap. Bed covers are my wife's patchwork offcuts.

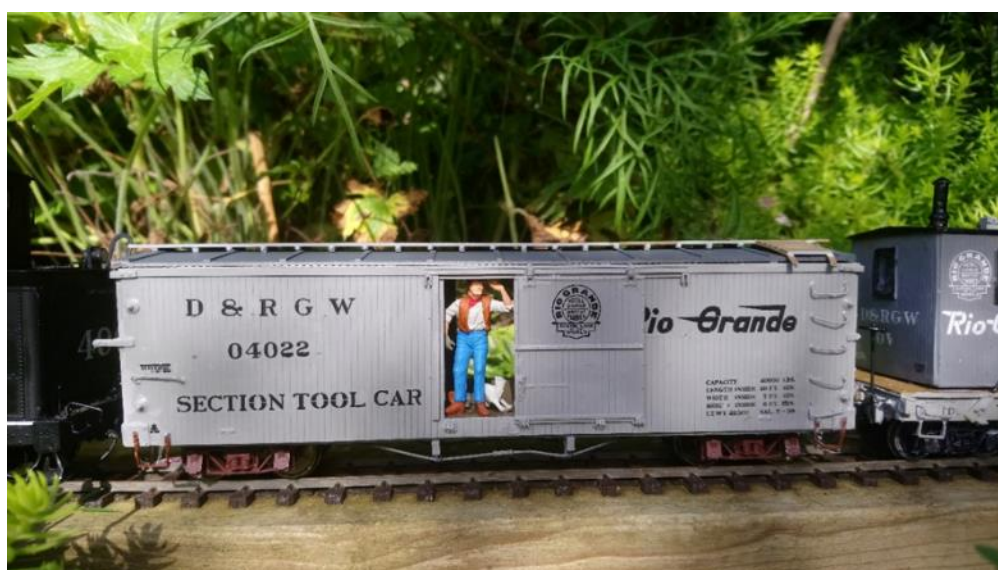
Car #057 rides on San Juan Model Co passenger car trucks (<http://www.sanjuancarco.com/on30-rtr-d-rgw-37-archbar-truck-black/>) also available in the UK from EDM Models (www.ngtrains.com) and the decals are also from San Juan Model Co. Internal lights, which are battery powered LEDs with a motion sensor, are by DCP Express (<https://www.dcpexpress.com/>).



*MOW Car #057 posed on Goat Creek trestle.
Note the access door, only on one side*

Tool car #04022 is, like all the rest of the MOW equipment on the C&CSRR, spray painted with Humbrol acrylic grey. The colour may not be prototypical but I like it. When not on snow fighting duty, the tool car also forms part of the ballast train consist, along with Spreader OV, two drop bottom gondolas and a caboose.

More information on the C&CSRR can be found in the August 2018 and August 2020 editions of Continental Modeller magazine



A Hobbo, William?, and his cat, Alfie of the Cat Shed, catch a ride



K-37 # 490 heads an empty ballast train north out of Lepa siding

MOW Car #057 is the second Labelle Car I have built. The first was a model of the Pagosa Springs Combo #215 which, painted in Aspen Gold, tails the mixed train consist. Labelle make beautiful, wooden, products and more cars, for a full Varnish consist (comprising; long RPO, baggage car, Vestibule #310 and Parlor Car "CAROL"), are scheduled to be built in 2021.

MOW tool car # 04022 is a standard San Juan Model Co box car. The hobbo and cat are from Preiser. Wheelbarrow, gas bottles and tools, as are the pots on the stove in car #057, are from Scale Link (www.scalelink.co.uk).

Trade News:

New Kerr-Stuart "Joffre" Class 0-6-0T kit available from 7mm NGA Modelling Goods Sales:



An easily assembled white metal body which is screwed & glued or soldered together. The body is designed to fit on a Bachmann Porter 0-6-0 side tank or saddle tank loco chassis (not supplied). The kit is manufactured for the Association by Keith Millard.

This is a 'complete' body kit, with all the body components in white metal, all screws, nuts, wire, etc. included. The main body parts are designed to be screwed together, and then reinforced with glue or low melt solder. Two chimneys are included, a spark arresting one, as supplied to the French military and a standard Kerr Stuart one.

The chassis required is a Bachmann HO 0-6-0T saddle or side tank, example codes are 81812, 81815, 81816, 52101, 52103, there are others with different liveries.

The kit includes detailed instructions on a CD/DVD which included full details of the minimal chassis preparation required. A printed copy of the instructions can be supplied on request, but it is a lot of paper!

The kit is supplied in a stout plastic box which will hold the completed model.

The member's price is £56.00 with free P&P

The non-member's price is £62.25 plus £3.50 P&P.

3D Printed 'Pigeon' 0-4-0 Saddle Tank Loco now back in stock from 7mm NGA Modelling Goods Sales:



An easily assembled 3D printed body kit which is glued together. This kit is designed to fit the Hornby "Smokey Joe" 0-4-0 Tank Loco chassis which needs shortening. The kit is printed for the Association by Alex Bingley.

Kit contains running plate and cab, saddle tank, firebox and controls, cab roof, NEM 462 coupling pockets and fixing screws. Also included are detailed instructions, which provide full details of how to shorten the Hornby chassis.

The member's price is £30.00 each with free P&P.

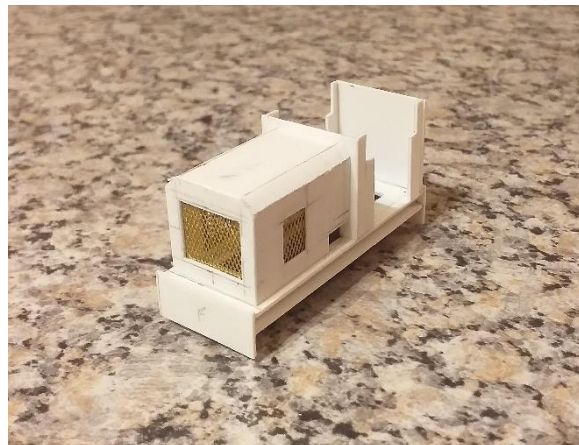
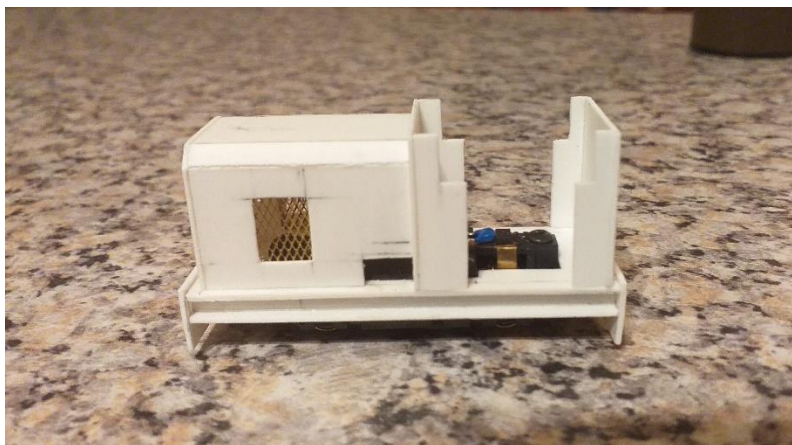
There are also a limited number of new Hornby 0-4-0 tank locos available. The member's price for a body and loco together is £55.00.

A Gauge O Guild Virtual Show – 31st October 2020

Don't forget that you don't need to be a member to enjoy the Gauge O Guild virtual show. More information is available in a pdf on their web site - <https://www.gaugeoguild.com/news/files/fa136d64-5846-44ae-8807-97d980c668c6.pdf>

09 Lister Diesel "Sludge" – Dave Dyer:

Dave has send a couple of photos of a 09 Lister diesel that he has been working on.



The model is based on a well known Kato 103 chassis. The body work is plastic card and the model is based a a full size (named Sludge) at Evesham Vale Light Railway. Still a lot do to complete.

Prototype Inspiration from Apedale – Robin Edwards:

I had the pleasure of exhibiting at an Apedale Gala in September 2012 where one of the advantages was unrestricted access from early in the morning. The Sunday morning was particularly atmospheric before the sun came out.



I hope you are all keeping well and using your free time to good effect. Thank you to the contributors to this issue and don't forget to send us your news so that we can all stay in touch. I would appreciate any contributions for the next newsletter by the 27th November.

In the meantime happy modelling,

Robin Edwards

Please send your news to

robin.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com

Or

neil.ngtewkesbury@gmail.com