

Departments

- 5 **Safety Valve**
Letters from our readers
- 8 **Dispatchers Report**
Product and industry news
- 28 **Railbooks**
Book news and reviews
- 34 **RMC Timetable**
Scheduled events and notices
- 87 **Test Track**
Product reviews
- 98 **Collector Consist**
More paper trains
—Keith Wills
- 100 **Editors Notebook**
Commentary—William C. Schaumburg
- 102 **Classified Advertising**
Commercial listings
- 102 **Exchange Place**
Non-commercial listings
- 103 **Dealer Directory**
Recommended hobby dealers
- 106 **Advertising Index**

Special features

- 38 **Perspective: Big station, little town** by David Lustig
Kelso, California, was once an important railroad town with a large depot that in addition to a waiting room boasted a lunch counter, accommodations for employees and division offices upstairs.
- 40 **Thom Radice's Western & Atlantic Rail Road: Military and railroad modeling combined** by Rob Davis and Thom Radice
This finely detailed HO layout combines a love for history with model railroading. The result is a layout set in the thick of the Civil War.
- 75 **Adventures in Freemo: Report from Nordhorn, 2009** by Pierre Oliver
Over 200 HO modules were operated together at this German meet.

Modeling

- 48 **Weathering an Iowa Traction boxcar** by Jeremy St. Peter
Iowa Traction's 53-foot, double plug-door boxcar No. 13146, is a well-weathered, former Grand Trunk car that shows its age.
- 51 **RMC/Dremel Kitbashing Award: Kitbashing a CSX slug** by Karl Bond
This month's award goes to Karl Bond for his efforts in modeling a trio of ex-GP30 units rebuilt for use as slugs.
- 55 **Modeling PRR concrete block buildings** by Ron Hoess
These sturdy, yet inexpensive buildings were constructed by the railroad following the Second World War when new lineside buildings were needed and to replace older, wooden structures.
- 62 **Scratchbuilder's Corner: Castings and kits** by Bob Walker
This month Bob covers making a master pattern and casting parts.
- 64 **Keeping DCC boosters cool** by Larry Puckett
Adding a cooling fan to a DCC booster can help prevent it from shutting down due to a thermal overload.
- 67 **The idler flats of the State Belt Railroad** by Jim Providenza
These homebuilt cars lasted for decades on the San Francisco waterfront. Here's a look at the cars and modeling them.
- 79 **Grand Trunk Western water tank** by Chad Zentz
These giant 100,000 gallon steel tanks were located at major terminals.
- 82 **Blending photographs into layout backgrounds** by Joe Kreiss
Here is a simple scenery technique that can yield nice results.

Prototype

- 84 **Front of the layout vignettes: No. 6, Small town banks** by David Lambert
Just about every town had a bank in its commercial district.

Cover

During the Civil War Big Shanty, Georgia, was the site of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. This scene, on Thom Radice's HO layout, reflects the build up to that battle and features the Army of Tennessee encampment, depot, water tower and medical platform. The two-track yard allows for army materiel to be easily taken on and off the railroad. Photo by Rob Davis.



RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN (ISSN 0038877X) is published monthly by Carstens Publications, Inc., 108 Phil Hardin Rd., Fredon Township, P.O. Box 700, Newton, New Jersey 07860. Phone 973/383-3355. Harold H. Carstens, President; Phyllis M. Carstens, Secretary; Henry R. Carstens, Treasurer. SUBSCRIPTIONS: U.S.A. and possessions: \$37.95 per year, \$69.95, for two years, \$99.95 for three years. Foreign subscriptions are \$50.00 per year, \$94.00, for two years, \$136.00 for three years and must be in U.S. funds. Periodicals postage paid at Newton, NJ 07860 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN, P.O. Box 700, Newton, NJ 07860. Copyright 2009 by Carstens Publications, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. Canadian BN 12472 5060RT. Publication Mail Agreement No. 40957020. Return undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: P.O. Box 503, RPO West Bever Creek, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6