

Departments

- 5 **Safety Valve**
Letters from our readers
- 8 **Dispatchers Report**
Product and industry news
- 20 **Railbooks**
Book news and reviews
- 33 **RMC Timetable**
Scheduled events and notices
- 84 **Test Track**
Product reviews
- 94 **Collector Consist**
Wartime vicissitudes
— Keith Wills
- 98 **Editors Notebook**
Commentary— William C. Schaumburg
- 101 **Classified Advertising**
Commercial listings
- 101 **Exchange Place**
Non-commercial listings
- 103 **Dealer Directory**
Recommended hobby dealers
- 105 **Advertising Index**

Special features

- 38 **Perspective: All aboard America!** by James Boyd
Thirty-five years have passed since the red, white and blue *American Freedom Train* took to the rails to celebrate our nation's bicentennial.
- 40 **John Finnin's *American Freedom Train*** by John Finnin
The *American Freedom Train* returns to the rails in HO scale.
- 59 **NNGC preview: The layouts of St. Louis – Pt. III** by Gary Hoover
We conclude our look at some of the layouts that will be open to visitors at the 30th National Narrow Gauge Convention with a visit to three more highly-detailed model railroads in the St. Louis area.

Modeling

- 45 **Modeling a 41-foot Nickel Plate steel gondola** by Mont Switzer
Following the end of World War II the W&LE purchased 1,750 of these 50-ton cars and they eventually ended up on the NKP roster.
- 50 **Scratchbuilder's Corner: Challenges** by Bob Walker
Tackling a large project in small steps is often the way to go.
- 52 **CN engine foreman's office** by Mike Chandler
The Canadian National inherited these interesting wooden office buildings from predecessor Canadian Northern. Here is how you can scratchbuild one for your own railroad.
- 57 **RMC/Dremel Kitbashing Award: Kitbashing a payroll car** by Alan Anderson
Inspired by a photo in the Lucius Beebe book, *Mr. Pullman's Elegant Palace Car*, this G scale kitbash begins with a Bachmann Big Hauler Classic Coach kit.
- 63 **Scale drawings from photos with Google's SketchUp 7®** by John Adams
Google's SketchUp program can be a useful tool for modelers looking to develop structure plans from building photographs.
- 68 **Loading coal** by Paul Mack
Here's a project for all of you dyed-in-the-wool scratchbuilders. It is a modern, concrete coal loadout that actually works.
- 78 **The Scenery Clinic: Pt. VI: Track ballast** by Paul Scoles
This month we take a look at how to apply ballast.

Prototype

- 81 **Front of the layout vignettes: No. 12, American small businesses: condensed milk plants** by David Lambert
In the days before modern refrigeration condensed milk was a popular product and the plants where it was made were often served by rail.

Cover

On April 1, 1975, the *American Freedom Train* began its two-year trek across the country. To celebrate the 35th anniversary, John Finnin assembled his 26-car HO scale *Freedom Train* on the Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club. For more on John's train see page 40. Photo by William C. Schaumburg.

RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN (ISSN 003877X) 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 2010 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

