

Short Track *Gazette*



Long Ravine Bridge

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On a railroad, bridges are a critical piece of engineering. They need to be strong enough to hold the heaviest trains and sturdy enough to withstand the elements. If a bridge goes down, the railroad is crippled until it is replaced or repaired. Model railroad bridges are no exception. With our attention to detail, we need to have bridges that look like the prototype (Real bridge that we are making a model of), be made of materials that are easy to work with, and look like the real thing. They also need to be able to handle the heaviest trains and maybe an occasional bump by a stray hand. Our bridge crew has completed 2 bridges so far. The first is the Long Ravine Bridge. (LRB) (The real bridge crosses I-80 between Colfax and Immigrant Gap East of Sacramento.) Our LRB is pretty close to the same length as the real or prototype bridge. Our LRB is made of wood and plastic.



Long Ravine Bridge Crosses over I-80

Butte Canyon Bridge

The Butte Canyon Bridge (BCB) (Near the town of Cisco) is our latest edition. It is made of ABS plastic that was cut on our industrial laser. The piers were made of plaster from molds we created just for this project. It was a challenge because the real bridge started as a single-track structure. The second track was put in years later. This meant 2 different materials for the piers. The first being cut stone and the second being concrete. They are accurately represented in plaster on our project. BCB was built in a box in order to get the pier heights fixed at the proper length. When everything was correct and fit properly it was removed from the box and dropped into the layout. By constructing in a box, it meant that installation of the bridge was completed in a morning. Each bridge took about 40 hours to complete. The time was spread over a 2-month period. Next bridge is completed and will be installed in Iceland. We need to do the scenery before installing. The bridge construction crew consists of Tim Woodard - leader and chief construction person, Milt Perkins - drawings and plans of the bridges, Paul Schmitt - painting and track work, Jim Wirt - electrical wiring, and Ray Inbody - scenery.

**Butte Canyon
Bridge near Cisco,
California**



Summer at the Club

Summer has been a little slow around the section house. Many members have been on vacation or pursuing other projects. Now that Labor Day is over, children back in school, football starting, it is back to full speed ahead with construction of the Donner Pass Exhibit. The scenery crew is working hard on installing more scenery on the back wall. The track crew has an ambitious project installing the track coming out of the yard. The building crew is working on many structures that will be placed in the town of Colfax. We have added another librarian that will give us even more organization than we have had. In addition to constructing a world-class model railroad, we are developing a top-notch railroad library. Our crew participated in the NMRA PSR Convention in September.

Harvest Show Prep

We are making plans for the Fall Tractor Show. A few months before every show we discuss which construction and scenery projects need to be completed before the show. It gives us reasonable deadlines for completion of projects. Both layouts will be operating. We will have railroad themed movies showing and a treasure hunt for the kids. Stop by and pay us a visit.



N Scale is fun

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SHORT TRACK RAILROAD

Organized in 1991, The Short Track Railroad is an N scale model railroad club in north San Diego County, California, USA.

We are located in our own Section House on the grounds of the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum.

We have a nice, large and dedicated building, lots of NTRAK modules, a permanent layout under construction, and a great bunch of fun-loving members.

We welcome beginners, families, visitors and people of all ages. No equipment or experience is required. All skill levels are welcome and there's always something for everyone to do.

For more information about items in this issue check out:

<http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

<http://www.agsem.com/>

<http://www.ntrak.org/>