

NEWSLETTER

Dick Karnes, Editor

Vol. 1 No. 2

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THIS ISSUE is the work of others. My only role from now on is to function as Newsletter editor. As such, my function is to make everyone's contribution look its best, write the occasional article, and figure out what to say in each issue's editorial.

We've had some interesting growing pains, ranging from trivial (should we, or should we not, print more copies of our first Newsletter) to philosophical (how much socializing to permit on the Forum) to legal (are we, or are we not, a tax-deductible organization). But mainly, we are hoping to stimulate *bona fide* technical but user-friendly modeling assistance.

One of the more interesting threads that our S SIG has started concerns the new Lionel S scale U33c, which can be obtained with NMRA-compliant scale wheelsets. We first presented a "first look" at this locomotive in our *S Scale Journal*. In this first look, we wondered who among us would be the first to attempt to alter the swinging pilot to make it rigid. It turns out that SIG member Don Thompson has reported on his progress (and problems) in attempting this modification. You can see his report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

-- Dick Karnes, Editor

JOIN US!!

We'd love to have you with us! Take a look at www.sscale.org and join our forum. It's free! Welcome aboard!

PROGRESS – COMING out of the ROUNDHOUSE Compiled by Ed Loizeaux

The last newsletter announced our birth, founders, mission, definition, philosophy, and general goals. In case you missed it, our S Sig exists to promote S to non-S folks and recruit them into the world of S scale model railroading. One could say we lit the fire in January and now the water has turned to steam and the pistons are beginning to move. We're slowly backing out of the roundhouse to where people can see us. Much still needs to be done before we reach the mainline, but we've made a lot of progress over the past 90 days.



WEBSITE

Our website, www.sscale.org, is up and running without any major problems, thanks to

Chris Borgmeyer's heroic efforts to create this monster from scratch. For a look at S scale without distractions, Chris's efforts are unbeatable. Am I biased? Well, sure!! Check it out.

More content has been added to the web site, including "quick glance" product reviews of the 0-6-0, U33C, and passenger car kits. While not as thorough and exacting as conventional product reviews, they do serve to illustrate new products in more detail than the usual advertising copy and photos. These models are typically checked out at various train shows and conventions under tight time restrictions. In some cases, they are pilot or pre-production models and may differ slightly from what the customer will eventually receive. We're also preparing a review of The Supply Car's B&O caboose kit. If you'd like to submit a "quick glance" review, we'd be happy to post it on the S Sig web site.

Contact the S SIG's in-house Editor, Dick Karnes, at s_sig.editor@yahoo.com for information.

A series of articles designed to assist the non-S modeler who desires to model a specific prototype railroad in S scale is gradually being added to the website. The first of these, already on the website, covers the Buffalo Creek & Gauley railroad. Its well-known author Brooks Stover explains through photos and text how he took a wide variety of S equipment and modified it to more closely resemble the BC&G's rolling stock. His modeling efforts range from pure scratchbuilding to kitbashing American Flyer toys. All Brooks' models have a very realistic finished appearance. More such articles will soon follow under the "Modeling the Prototype" banner.

MODELING the PROTOTYPE

The following articles are currently in progress and will soon reach a station near you:

B&O	Dan Vandermause and Richard Lind
SLSF, KCS and T&P	Gale Hall
PRR	Larry Hanlon
NYC	Dick Karnes
SP, WP and NWP	Lee Johnson
MILW and SOO	Bob Werre

Additionally, articles on two beautifully-executed freelanced roads are in preparation:

Penn Creek Valley	Sam Powell
St. Louis, Eastern & Pacific	Bill Winans

Thanks to Dan Vandermause for stepping up to managing this substantial effort to show non-S folks how various prototype railroads can be modeled in S scale. If you'd like to contribute an article for your favorite road, contact Dan at webmaster@sscale.org. The more articles the better, to show all the non-S folks what's possible in our favorite scale.

LISTS, LISTS, LISTS

Carey Probst has taken on the job of "Manager of Lists." Carey is busy preparing several resource listings which will be very handy for any non-S fellow wanting to find specific S scale information. Listings of S-scale-oriented web sites, S publications, S Yahoo Groups, S hobby shops (both mail order and bricks-and-mortar), S scale clubs, S scale home layouts open for visitors, S organizations, and gosh knows what else. Carey's goal is to have all such S scale information in one convenient place for easy browsing by newcomers and curious "other-scale" modelers who know little about S scale. Want to help? Contact Carey via webmaster@sscale.org

Rance Velapoldi, our S buddy in Norway, is compiling a listing of all S-scale-oriented magazine articles published in non-S magazines over the past 20 years – a major undertaking. No, he doesn't have the world's largest collection of non-S magazines, but he does have a hardcopy listing provided by Lee Johnson, who's been collecting this data every year for the NASG's Tony Perles Publication Award. Instead of letting the paper decay in Lee's file cabinet, Rance is organizing, collating, editing, and proofreading all the material and entering it into our computer for anyone in the world to view.

If you're aware of any recent S articles in non-S magazines, let Chris, our web master (webmaster@sscale.org), know and he'll add these new items to Rance's listing. We particularly want to know about S scale articles from Europe, New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere. All of us looking for new articles as they appear can keep this listing up to date. We need your eyes to help with the search.

FORUM

The new S Sig Forum is also up and running without major problems. It's most

satisfying to see these online efforts all take shape without stumbles and bumbles. Ed "Koz" Kozlowsky has taken on the Moderator's job like a dog takes to red meat. Koz is coordinating about 150 new members who have posted well over 300 messages since the Forum was born just a short time ago. Note that lots of members and lots of messages is not particularly our goal. Rather, we are much more concerned with all of the messages pertaining directly to S scale modeling topics. So far, Koz is batting a thousand in his Moderator job – all of the messages discuss something about S scale modeling. The one exception is in the area where new members can introduce themselves and engage in a little friendly bantering. Anyone can join the Forum merely by signing up, just as with any of the Yahoo Groups. There's no requirement for membership in any organization. Best of all, it's free. Thanks to Koz for taking on this effort so the rest of us can concentrate on other matters; it's very much appreciated. Find the Forum at www.sscale.org

TREASURY

John Gibson, the S Sig's Treasurer, is carefully shepherding voluntary contributions as they come in. The general trend at this time is about one contribution per week, usually \$20 to \$50. These contributions are really appreciated; several hundreds of dollars have already been spent just to reach this stage of progress. If you continue to like what you see, we hope you'll join us in this effort to demystify S scale to the non-S modelers out there in the real world. Any time the urge strikes you, you can test out the large green Voluntary Contribution button on the S SIG website.

COMMENTS? QUESTIONS? COMPLAINTS?

Suggestions? Whatever? Please feel free to post your thoughts and messages about the S Sig on the Forum in the appropriate topic area at www.sscale.org. You will receive replies, and we will appreciate your feedback. See you again next quarter.

Keep chuffing...

DEFINITION and MISSION

For those of you who missed our first Newsletter, the S SIG's mission is as follows:

- Promote S scale model railroading compatible with S scale NMRA/NASG standards and recommended practices.
- Provide a forum for S scale camaraderie, exchange of information, expertise, advice and technique.
- Emphasize S scale's size advantage.

One Modeler's Observations on ALTERING the LIONEL U33c by Don Thompson

I am attempting to fix the pilot to the body per the prototype. Actually, that's the easy part! The hard part is getting the truck to move at all. The reason is



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Contributed by Brian Ambrose

that the front of the truck is trapped between the steps. Lionel did a great job putting the trucks in the correct longitudinal location, and now I can see that taking the pilot swing approach may have been the wise way out for model radius curves. The prototype photo clearly shows the truck nestled between the steps, which creates a problem for us modelers who cannot accommodate prototype curves in our train rooms.

I removed the pilot mounting fixture from the truck, hoping that would help, but more surgery will be needed. There is room to move the sideframes in toward each other because the scale wheels are a lot narrower than the tinplate wheels for which the sideframe spacing is designed. I'll try this to see if the result will be enough swing for 45" radius curves and No. 6 turnouts. Grinding off the backs of the steps may also help somewhat.

I'll keep the SIG informed as I progress.

THIS NEWSLETTER

The S SIG's Newsletter is published quarterly, first in the *1:64 Modeling Guide* (www.1-64modelingguide.com), then 30 days later on the S SIG website, sscale.org.

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SUPPORT S SCALE'S DEDICATED PUBLICATION

We urge you to subscribe to the *1:64 Modeling Guide* e-zine. Each Newsletter is first published in the *Guide*, then released to the S SIG's website 30 days later. Want to keep up while the news is hot? Subscribe to *1:64 Modeling Guide*. The quarterly *Guide* (www.1-64modelingguide.com) is full of how-to articles, latest product news, product reviews, and ads from S suppliers.

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