

Modeling Articles for North Western Lines

A note from our President Mike Lenzen

Our goal is to dedicate four pages to modeling in each North Western Lines issue. As we get started with this program & depending on how material can be developed, a minimum of two pages can be included – but ideally we want four. Both Kevin EuDaly and Steve Jessup agree and support this plan. The intention for the NWL material is to not only present an interesting modeling article, but also to feature, augment, and interact with our on-line C&NW Modeler. There are several ways the articles can be approached. Certainly, a complete article which includes prototype information, photos, and model details and construction, would be the simplest. The articles can be a primer or lead-in to a much larger article in C&NW Modeler or for that matter, a larger article in Railroad Model Craftsman, or other WRP publication. This type of article can include a large or small amount of historical & prototypical info and photos feeding C&NW Modeler. Two or three shorter articles can be combined to fill the four pages. A feature on a layout, prototypical to the C&NW or predecessor roads, would fit the bill as well. My observations are; we have quite a number of very gifted & talented model railroaders in our society, and there is substantial interest in this area. There is much to be learned from any well written and presented article on prototypical modeling – no matter which scale it is in.

We will want to support the model construction with some history and prototypic photos. In a note from Kevin, he summarized my thoughts when he wrote: "... being sure to include prototype information and photos to keep the "history" alive in context of modeling articles". Please don't get hung-up on this. The history side can be an article several pages long with information detailing and supporting the modeling article. Or, it can be as simple a paragraph describing the topic with a couple of historic photos with additional info in the photo captions. Some modelers do enough research to be able to construct a prototypically accurate model. Others, get a bit more into the history and the "why's and where's" of how things were. Either is OK. In our organization we most probably have a number of members who are interested in the very thing that you are. Certainly, articles where one person does the history write-up and another the modeling side are within the realm of what we want to accomplish. Our extensive archives as well as items in personal collections can support most any modeling article that we can think up. If you are wanting to complete a certain model or modeling article, but

desire additional interaction or support, please reach out to others. We can network within our organization to accomplish and communicate our projects.

As we start this effort, we will want to channel our material to Ron Christensen. Ron has agreed to coordinate with Steve Jessup to get this thing going. As the project matures, we may be able to forward our material directly to Steve. However for now, please communicate and forward material to Ron at cnwhs@cnwhs.org

Bottom line, our society is made up of members whose main interest is historical and prototypical. It is also made up of others mainly interested in modeling, and to a large degree – many of us who are interested in both. We need to make every effort to bring together and include all groups. We need to utilize both of our fantastic communication tools - North Western Lines and C&NW Modeler, enabling them to work in tandem, to allow our society to continue to flourish. We have a clear platform to build what we wish – let's see what we can come up with and how good we can make it!

Thanks all for your interest and help. Mike