



The Short Line

March 2025

March 4 was the first time I looked at the outdoor layout and there was no snow on it. But here it is almost at the end of March and it has been too cold or too wet to run on the outside. If it wasn't going to rain tomorrow, I could go out and run a train with my new GP60. But I hope the temperatures every day will get in the upper 50's and 60's so I can run a train. I hope it gets here soon as I am sure you are tired of winter.

Dave Catalano's New Raised Layout - Unique Idea

Dave Catalano, who used to live in St Marys and now lives north of York, bought his neighbor's trailer and is building his layout on the trailer. Like many of us, who are getting older to the point where it is difficult to get back up after getting down on the ground, this is Dave's solution. His former garden railroad which he had been building was on the ground in his yard. I think this a novel idea as he could take it to train shows if he were inclined. The progress is shown below.



Dave says " My original trailer will support a basic 5 feet by 10 feet oval track. However, I am expanding it 2 and a half feet per side, plus 4 feet to the rear so that my layout will be 10 feet by 14 feet.

The best part is that I won't be killing my back, hips and knees by doing everything on the ground.

I think this an excellent idea if you have the room in the yard for a raised layout and if the tires are in good shape, you could haul the railroad to trains shows and put on a nice demonstration of what one can do in G scale. Most of us are not getting any younger and I can't off the ground like I could in 1997 when I built the first G scale garden layout. I think my raised layout or George Poknis's layout may have inspired him.

So far in March I have not done much as far as custom painting. I am not sure what I did this month other then work on taxes, but I did paint Rick McKay of California a RS3 in Penn Central. It came out very nice. Rick has a huge property and is getting ready to build a new garden railroad with both G and O scale.



Of course Penn Central is one of the easier paint schemes to do as everything on the engine was just plain old black. The unit I had on hand, I could not remove the handrails, so I painted the unit with the handrails in place. Rick chose the number. He says he is looking forward to building his new garden layout in an area where he has an orchard.

Christmas GP38-2

I had asked USA Trains 3 years ago for Canadian National GP38-2 for my own collection, but they thought I was going to paint it for someone, so they sent me a Christmas GP38-2 locomotive, which I gather did not sell very well. I asked 3 times for a CN and each time they sent me Christmas GP38-2.

The Christmas GP38-2 resembled a Santa Fe warbonnet locomotive that has a slight twist to it with their Santa Express logo on the long hood and the number 2512 on the side of the cab. It was very



pretty in my opinion and well thought out. The Side of the engine is shown above and also the front of the nose below.



So getting a Christmas engine in 3 attempts to get a CN version, I finally called USA Trains and talked to Butch and told him I model CN and could I please have a CN GP38-2 which they finally sent me.

I sold one Christmas engine to George Poknis and another one to John Withrow. That left one left and I painted it for Kyle Pelt in Texas. This what he wanted:



The font of the engine looks like this:



Kyle wanted the Santa Fe nose logo redone with the name of Didlakelaw in place of the words Santa Fe which I was able to do. It is named after a friend of his. I don't know if Kyle is keeping the engine or giving it to his friend. Kyle used to live northeast of Fort Worth, but last year he moved to an area southwest for Fort Worth and built a new house which has a nice yard in which to build a garden railroad.

Burlington Northern Stretched Centerbeam flat car

I also finally painted the stretched center beam flat car into Burlington Northern green. I have a large collection of Badger Modelflex paint that I am using now for some pieces as my collection of Poly Scale is starting to run out.

I hope to start to decal the car tonight.



You will note that the steps are not attached as I am shipping the steps and trucks separate in the

box wrapped in Bubblewrap. The car and its load will be wrapped separately in the same box I think it will travel to North Dakota a lot safer without those parts attached as the car will be wrapped in bubblewrap securely.

I have not worked many hours on my new On30 layout so far in 2025, I did buy a few more Bar Mills model kits to build including Bud Smiley's Gas Station, REA Depot at Cranberry, Puffer's Welding, and Earl's Oil which I built, but changed the name to H.O. Lews Oil Company. I will change the name of Puffer's Welding to a bakery in Claremont and I am looking forward to building the REA depot kit.



The light colored building is the boiler house for the furniture factory. I did finally finish applying all the 50 windows in the Topstome Furniture Company. In a few windows I put people looking out the windows.

I bought a HO Walther's Cornerstone kit called the Valley Cement Plant only for the 17 inch chimney. But in the end it decided 17 inches was too tall and only used the top part of the chimney. I made a decal of bricks and covered the chimney with a decal. The chimney is 12 inches tall.



I gave the Valley Cement plant to a friend who models in HO for his PRR layout.

I also scratch built using the Number #1 kit made by Bar Mills to build the boiler house. It is light colored roof in the top picture of the entire layout. I used the remaining left over stack parts to make the boiler. I have a Tichy Industrial HO water tower which will be assembled and mounted on the other side of the boiler house. So it will be smoke stack, boiler house, and the industrial water tower.

I also plan to scratch build the Claremont Paper Company in the large green fields as there will be a warehouse and the company. The company took recycled paper and made new paper from it.

By the way the chimney is part of a boiler structure that used to heat the furniture factory and had large industrial water tower to supply water to the boiler. I plan to cover the boiler house with brick paper to look like the structure was built out bricks. I suspect the real boiler house was made of bricks.

Only the chimney and the furniture factory is still standing in Claremont, New Hampshire. The furniture factory was repurposed as an entertainment center and is now has a miniature golf course inside the the building. Claremont didn't tear down the old factories that were no longer used, but repurposed the buildings as apartments and eating establishments.

I am still looking for articles

Cheers,
Jeff