

DISPATCH

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THE COLUMBIA AND WESTERN

First volunteer to answer last month's call for a layout photo shoot

Jack Rice's Columbia and Western is home to many spectacular bridges, built from styrene and convincingly painted and weathered. Most "wood" structures are styrene, too, but you can't tell by looking at them. Not long ago Jack presented a clinic on his techniques. He

uses inexpensive acrylic paints from local craft stores, a brush, and a very artistic eye, scribing grain in pieces that represent wood. Lately he has been making greater use of chalks for coloring as well as weathering.

Continued on page 2



Photos by Bob Sobol

ELECTIONS DRAW NEAR!

It is time for us to elect next year's club leadership.

At the next meeting, October 26th, we must nominate candidates for President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2

new Directors to the Board. Directors serve 2 year terms on the Board, so only 2 of the 4 positions are up this year.

The club Constitution contains term limits, so John Atkinson must step

down as Treasurer. Dave Miller and Dave Zamzow must leave the Board.

We will vote at the November meeting; winning candidates take office in December.

The town of Independence (*top right*) makes great use of forced perspective. Buildings sizes progress from larger HO structures in the foreground to N scale at the rear, with smaller HO structures in the middle. Jack spent a lot of time planning the illusion, and says that the curve from left to right is one of the keys that makes the scene work. Also important are view blocks on the left and right created by tall canyon walls.

The scratch built snow shed (*center right*) is seen from a viewpoint not available to regular viewers. Jack kindly agreed to let me place a small digital camera directly on the track.

Construction recently started on the town of El Gato (*lower left*.) Pots in front of the adobe buildings are inexpensive beads, painted to resemble those available around Taos New Mexico.

The town of Arapaho is also under construction, situated on a narrow shelf (*lower right*.) Jack used foam rubber along the front edge instead of a rigid fascia. The foam harmlessly compresses during accidental contact, and makes the scene appear just a little deeper. **I**

Photo note: All scenes were shot by available layout light. I used 2 different digital cameras, a steady tripod, and software programs to enhance tone, clarity, sharpness and color.

