

The B&ORRHS made a conscientious decision this year to have more outreach to expand awareness of the Society among both modelers and manufacturers. We were the ONLY historical society that was present at the train show held in conjunction with the NMRA convention in Cleveland. This was my first time to an event of this magnitude with such a large number of major manufacturers.

SO, here's the answer to the question on many modelers' minds, the CAPITOL LIMITED. Yes, Walthers barely announced this at the end of last week. Speculation has been flying around like the space shuttle as to who, what, where and when. There will be a DELUXE set, that includes lighting and figures (people). The initial announcement promised only a limited run, but even before the show was over, the response in just a day or two was showing the Walthers staff there at Cleveland that more deluxe sets would be needed as the initial amount was expected to be sold out before they got home.

Three cars were actually brought to the show as "pilot" models. The first was the "Bird" car, 16 Roomette, 4 Double Bedroom, the second was the Dormitory/Kitchen car from the twin unit diner set, and the third was the dining car from the same twin unit dining car set. These cars were undecorated pilot models, but were still drop dead gorgeous! The most requested car at the show was the 5Dbl. B.R. Obs. / Lounge. Even after spending time with the Walthers staff talking about the future, they were reluctant to let me take the cars home to decorate them. Imagine that!

The cars in the deluxe sets will come out at the same time as the regular cars at their appointed times as listed on their website. Their won't be a whole deluxe set delivered at one time. DO make your reservations for what you want. This will allow them to have sufficient numbers when the time comes. They already can see that they don't have enough in their initial order. As usual, cars and locomotives will come out on or about the time that they are scheduled.

On to other manufacturers.

YES, Bachmann is introducing the Q-3. I apologize for not remembering the expected delivery date. There is NO pilot model for display at this time, only a CAD drawing. I have to check with them again, but I don't think that the B&O version will have the brakeman's seat behind the fireman.

Broadway Limited has pushed back the expected delivery date of the Baldwin "Sharks" to early next year. I was able to see the PRR Sharks at the show, and if the B&O models are of the same level (which I expect they will be) then Broadway has found the button to push for me to make a purchase.

I came across what was to me, a new manufacturer, by the name of Train Cat Model Sales. They are out of Weston, Fla. The company's line is photo etched models. To say that their work is impressive is a serious understatement. Gorgeous is a good start.

Not only is their attention to detail exquisite, but the attention to proportional size is top notch. What does this mean? The size and thickness of "things" is in proportion to reality. For us, this means that the entire model, though it is made of brass, is delicate. These are, in fact kits, that we get to put together. There is no lighting included. You're on your own for that. Their web page can be accessed at: [www.traincat2.com](http://www.traincat2.com) They also had new announcements, not yet listed on the web, for B&O, such as:

- 1) Two- and four-track signal bridges (the four-track bridge was measured from the bridge at Halethorpe, Md.) They are available in HO and N-scale
- 2) Single mast and twin mast CPL's in HO & N-scale
- 3) The Pratt Truss bridge on the OML @ Ilchester, Md. in HO
- 4) I-5 caboose in N-scale
- 5) S-1 and S-2 Stock cars in N-scale

Also in N scale, Fox Valley introduced the I-12 wagon top caboose and "Can Stock" car.

Not to leave out those in O-gauge, a gentleman is just getting started with some beautiful O-gauge Maintenance-of-Way items in resin. Terry Terrence has resin castings for the large concrete telephone booth, the telephone box and the concrete whistle post. He brought the concrete telephone booth with him and it's beautiful. The only thing is that it's too big for me. The attention to detail and fidelity that I saw in the telephone booth leads me to believe that the telephone box and whistle post are of equal stature.

In keeping with the society's mission of "outreach", this convention update comes to you from: the newly appointed B&ORRHS Model Committee Chairman. Respectfully,

Bruce Elliott