

Spring 1987 Baldwin Trophy Winner Bob Van Cleef's North River Hopper #6035



This is one of the (5) sister cars built at the same time. The heavy beams used for bracing are Northeast stripwood sanded down to the correct size. Side sheathing is individual boards glued to outside bracing before car was assembled. Drop door latches are home made cero-bend castings mastered from an icehouse building door.

Seven coats of paint were sprayed very lightly with custom dry transfer lettering added later. Couplers are standard Kadee #4 w/draft gear and weight is lead (shotgun) shot under sand (heavily glued in place) to bring the car weight up to just under 4 ounces. Brake rigging was from miscellaneous cars straight from the “junk” car parts box.

About the North River – The actual North River followed the Hudson River (alias North River) and the Erie canal, roughly the same route as the New York Central but much earlier and extinct when the NYC was built. I used the name as I lived on North River Road in Coventry, CT. These models are still in service 34 years later in Snellville, Ga.