

## A REAR STORAGE BOX FOR YOUR TRACK CAR

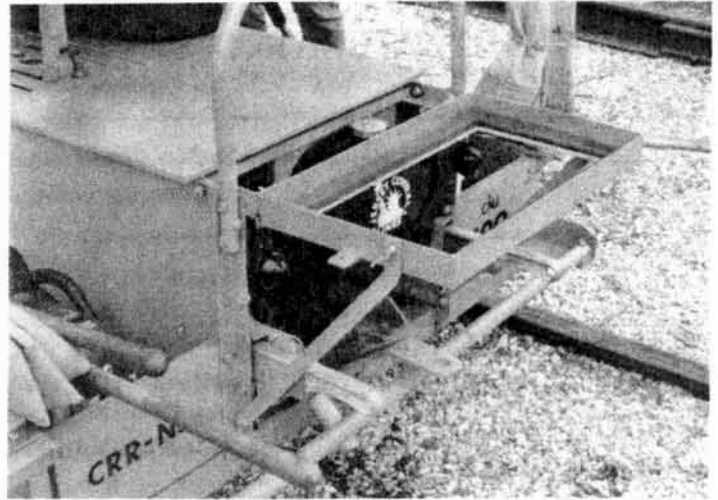
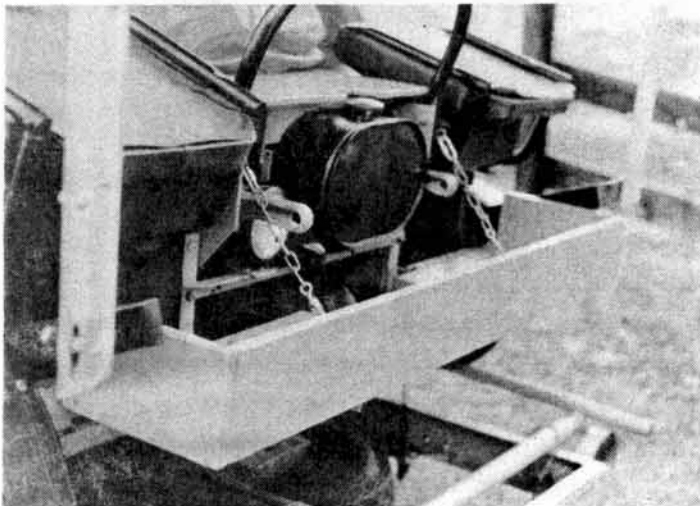
By Dick Ray  
Western Maryland M-9, No. 67

On several long trips with my M-9 track car, I found that there was barely enough room for me, a passenger, and all the other things we had to take along, such as: coolers, extra clothing, rain gear, chain saws, oil, water, tow bar, pick and shovel, limb loppers, cameras, and and other items.

Obviously, the answer was to fabricate some sort of storage container. The accompanying photo shows a rear-mounted storage box that I built, using only simple tools and readily available hardware. The bottom is made from a 1 x 12, and the three sides are made from 1 x 6 pieces. Angle brackets and screws inside hold it all together.

While I found that the assembly of the box was relatively easy, the mounting of the unit onto the track car was not. I attached two short aluminum brackets to the middle of the wood blocks at the rear of the tool tray floors. Normally I store my tow bar on these angle pieces. When I use the storage box, I remove the tow bar, and attach the box with bolts through the angle pieces (one bolt per angle). The rear of the box is supported with two short pieces of lightweight chain, which attach from eye bolts on the bottom of the box to eyebolts at the top rear corners of the housing panels.

The mounted position of the box is such that it will not interfere with either the lift handles or the rear taillights. Owners with low-mounted handles would have to cut notches in the corners of the box, to clear the handles. A notch in the floor of the box provides access to my towing bracket.



Dick Ray's storage box extends all the way across the rear of his M-9. Note the detachable support chain.

Photo By Dick Ray

To preserve the original appearance of my car, I only mount the box when it will be needed for long trips, or "working" runs. Two 1-1/2-gallon cans of fuel, a chain saw, (with its own can of fuel and oil), a folding shovel, and a tow bar all fit nicely into the box.

Other NARCOA track car owners have found similar ways to increase storage space. Fred Furminger has a demountable metal tool box that he built for his ex C&O M-9; Lloyd James has a vertical tool rack on the rear of his C&NW M-19. Lloyd's rack is designed to carry several long-handled tools. Joel Williams has an aluminum tray, mounted above the lift handles, at the rear of the housing panels on his M-19 twin. Walter Matuch carries a large plastic cooler on a welded bracket, which is bolted to the rear of his MT-14.

For those long trips, consider building yourself a storage box. The project will be an easy one for you to work on, and it will help you stash your "necessities" into a convenient, out of the way area on your track car.

Walt Matuch built this fine looking support frame to hold his cooler.

Photo By Dick Ray