

# Clinics for NER Westford Convention

## October 2021

### **Operations on the SJR&P**

**By: Stan Ames**

Type: Model      Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Fri      Time: 7:30 PM

**Operations can be a lot of fun, but it can also be daunting to folks just starting out.** In part this is because there is a wide variety of operating styles and each of us operate our railroads a little differently. This clinic was prepared for Garden Railways Magazine to introduce operations to that community and to describe in detail one approach. The purpose is to present the style we use on our railroad, both to those just starting out as well as experienced operators

At the conclusion of the clinic there will be an opportunity to sign up to a selection of ops sessions available at the convention.

### **Design and Construction of Prototype Buildings for Model Railroaders**

**By: Bill Barry**

Type: Model      Cat: 04-Structures

Day: Sat      Time: 10:00 AM

Want to know why a building's exterior looks like it does? Do you model the transition era and wonder if that new Walther's kit is appropriate for your layout? This clinic will answer these questions. Bill Barry is a structural engineer with over 25 years of experience designing buildings. He will introduce basic engineering concepts (don't worry there won't be a quiz!) along with a review of the various materials common in building construction. Then Bill will cover how the use of these materials has changed over time and is influenced by geography. An explanation of building components from roofs to columns will be explained. Finally, prototype examples will be explored to show how buildings are built and how their structure influences their outward appearance.

### **Tips on Building Handlaid Turnouts**

**By: Ken Belovarac**

Type: Model      Cat: 07-Engineering - Civil

Day: Sun      Time: 11:30 AM

Ken will demonstrate the basics of handlaid turnout construction including turnout basics and components, size, frog number, switch angle, tie layouts, geometry, electricity and wiring, what DCC friendly means, and types of switch machines. Methods of building will be discussed that will incorporate Fast Tracks tools and basic tools needed for

construction at home even if you do not have Fast Tracks. Examples of handlaid turnouts will be presented. **This clinic is meant for beginner modelers interested in hand laid turnouts.**

## **Ten Commandments of Model Railroad Yard Design**

**By: Craig Bisgeier**

Type: Model      Cat: 07-Engineering - Civil

Day: Fri      Time: 5:00 PM

Craig Bisgeier provides a fun and interesting guide on how to - and how not to - design your model railroad yard. The clinic includes a discussion of how prototype yards work, why prototype practices don't always work well in the model setting, and lots of advice on how to design a model yard that keeps running and won't clog up! Learn what works and what doesn't so you can intelligently evaluate you own plan - or someone else's - before cutting a single board of benchwork.

## **Modeling Village of East Wakefield- From Bench work to Finished Section**

**By: Rich Breton**

Type: Model      Cat: 06-Prototype Model

Day: Sat      Time: 1:30 PM

In this Power Point presentation, Rich will explain the process used in developing scene to accurately represent East Wakefield, including photo backdrop, mountain scenery constructions, rock outcroppings, trees, roads, structures, details such as period RR crossing sign and wild flowers. This scene is one of the five villages represented on the Union Station 1909 B&M RR HO scale layout at Heritage Park Railroad Museum in Union NH.

## **High End Oak Trees**

**By: Bill Brown, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 05-Scenery

Day: Sat      Time: 8:30 AM

This is a make-n-take clinic where people will construct a showcase Oak Tree using sagebrush armatures, Scenic Express Super Tree Material, and ground foam. Participants will be required to bring a hot glue gun and a few glue sticks. All other materials will be provided and participants will come away with their finished product. Participation will be limited to the first 15 to register and a \$5 fee is charged.

## **Latest Modeling Inovations Using LARC Graphics**

**By: Bill Brown, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 05-Scenery

Day: Sat      Time: 10:00 AM      Day 2: Sun      Time: 11:30 AM

LARC Products, Bill's small business has been providing its Graphics Volumes worldwide for 17 years. The 7th Volume has several new and exciting offerings. Bill will take participants through step-by-step methods of enhancing their modeling using these techniques.

## **Animation**

**By: Fay Chin**

Type: Model      Cat: Misc

Day: Sun      Time: 10:00 AM

In this clinic, Fay will discuss Ideas and examples for layout animation. This will include building Animation models (including some 3D printed models). He will show how to use Arduino and electronics for Animation. He will also have demonstration and hands on operating models.

## **Reworking Brass Steam Locomotive Mechanisms**

**By: William Deen**

Type: Model      Cat: 02-Motive Power

Day: Sun      Time: 11:30 AM

Many thousands of HO brass steam locomotives from Japanese and early Korean builders were imported from the 1960s through the 1980s. They have nice detail but often substandard mechanisms, including poorly tuned running gear, crude gearboxes, and/or open-frame motors. This clinic will explain how to get such models off shelves and onto layouts. Topics to be covered include planning the project, remotoring, regearing, and adjusting the running gear.

## **JMRI Operations Pro: My continuing adventures in operations software, Part 1**

**By: Chuck Diljak, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 08.1 DCC

Day: Sat      Time: 10:00 AM

When model railroaders hear the acronym, "JMRI", most think of Decoder Pro for programming their DCC decoders. However, did you know that JMRI also contains a module called Operations Pro that generates switch lists? Chuck has been using operations software to generate switch lists since the year 2000. A few years ago, he needed to upgrade his current software or try another program. Since that fateful day, Chuck has been a happy user of JMRI Operations Pro. In this clinic, Chuck will show you how to get started with a simple example, provide tips on developing your own

system, and troubleshoot issues. Chuck's goal is to motivate you to try JMRI Operations Pro for yourself!

## **JMRI Operations Pro: My continuing adventures in operations software, Part 2**

**By: Chuck Diljak, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 08.1 DCC

Day: Sat      Time: 11:30 AM

Part 2 of this clinic continues where Part 1 left off. Chuck will build on Part 1 of this clinic, which covered the basic essentials of building your railroad operations in JMRI. In Part 2, Chuck continues with more advanced topics, including staging operations, interchanges, and adding a classification yard operation. Your imagination is the only limitation on what you can do in JMRI Operations Pro.

## **Anthracite Mines: They are more than just a breaker**

**By: Chuck Diljak, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 04-Structures

Day: Sat      Time: 6:30 PM

Chuck originally wanted an anthracite mine on his layout, since he models northeastern Pennsylvania. After building the breaker, he discovered there is a lot more to model for an anthracite mine than he realized. His clinic will give prototype examples of various mining structures and discuss how he modeled them for his layout.

## **Bending Iron...or Making your own grab irons – Minute Clinic**

**By: Chuck Diljak, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 03 Cars

Day: Fri      Time: 3:00 PM

Looking for additional points for Cars or Motive Power in the Achievement Program? Or, are you scratch building a car with grab irons of a different shape or length than what is commercially available? In this Minute Clinic, you will learn how to make your own jigs and the tools needed to bend your own iron.

## **The Lehigh and Hudson River Railway – A Pint Sized, Powerhouse Railroad You Can Model**

**By: John Doehring**

Type: Prototype      Cat: 06-Prototype Model

Day: Sat      Time: 4:30 PM

At its apex, the Lehigh and Hudson River Railway totaled just 86 miles, but provided a strategic link between the industrial and population centers of New England and the rail lines and points both south and west. Stretching from Maybrook, NY to Easton, PA, the LHR punched above its weight class for a hundred years – hauling freight

traffic south and anthracite coal north, while interchanging with most of the key railroads across the northeast. Long trains and short distances make the LHR a super choice for prototype modeling in the transition era, or freelancing up to the present. Please join our discussion, and learn a little bit more about the LHR, and how the author plans to add a slightly proto-lanced version of this secret jewel to his base empire dream.

## **What's Up at NMRA National Today?**

**By: John Doehring Panel**

Type: Assoc      Cat: Misc

Day: Sun      Time: 3:00 PM

Join NMRA President, Gordy Robinson (via Zoom), former NER President and current NMRA Eastern Director, John Doehring, and NMRA Marketing Consultant, Christina Zambri as they bring members up to speed on old and new activities and initiatives. During the clinic, they will also take questions from the membership.

## **The Last Two Inches: Developing Backgrounds, Flats, and Partial Buildings**

**By: Jack Ellis**

Type: Model      Cat: 04-Structures

Day: Sat      Time: 9:30 PM

Jack will share ideas and techniques for making optimum use of the last two inches of space that surround your layout to make the scene appear larger than life. This will cover both urban and rural scenes. Coverage includes spray painting clouds and sky; how to handle blending streets and commercial backgrounds, building flats, and partial buildings, and using mirrors to create believable depth of field in your modeling efforts.

## **A Room of One's Own**

**By: Steve Erickson**

Type: Model      Cat: Misc

Day: Sun      Time: 8:30 AM

What goes into a great modeling space? What efficiencies will make your modeling faster, more pleasant and less frustrating? If you had a chance to build a modeling space from the ground up, what decisions would you make? How large is too large? How small is too small? This clinic follows the construction of a 10x12 enclosed modeling shop from the ground up. We will talk about lighting, storage, floor and bench material, and how to make the most efficient use of your space. Tips for those planning to build a workshop, as well as people looking to improve their existing work space. Come and share your ideas!

## Scratchbuilding Conifer Trees

**By: John Feraca, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 05-Scenery

Day: Sat      Time: 11:30 AM

In this clinic I will show how to build highly realistic conifer trees. This detailed presentation will include all the steps from carving and painting the trunk to several methods of branch construction for both live and dead trees. There will be trees in various stages of completion to view as well as a small diorama showcasing several highly detailed trees in a forest setting.

## Building a Funaro & Camerlengo Gondola

**By: Steven Funaro**

Type: Model      Cat: 03-Cars

Day: Sat      Time: 3:00 PM

In this clinic, participants will build a Funaro & Camerlengo 40 ft. gondola. The kit is a Lehigh Valley 36' ONE PIECE BODY Steel Mill Gondola with Decals (F&C #6700). There is a \$25 charge for this clinic which covers the cost of the kit which is normally \$39.99.

*Each participant will need to bring their own tools which should include;*

- *X-acto #11 knife with #11 and #17 blades*
- *Pin Vise with #78, #79 #74, 1/32" and 1/16 drill bits*
- *Flat Nail Boards (Black Emery on foam core type. Revlon or store brand.)*
- *Small Pair of Cutting Pliers*
- *Small Needle Nose Pliers*
- *Tweezers*
- *Kadee #5 or #58 Couplers*
- *Pair of Bettendorf Trucks (We suggest Kadee Metal trucks)*
- *Super-Thin CA Cement (Cyanoacrylate)*
- *Square*

This clinic is limited to the first 25 people who sign up.

## LCC – Best for Layout Control

**By: Jeff Gerow**

Type: Model      Cat: 08.2-LCC

Day: Fri

Time: 9:00 PM

Day 2: Sun

Time: 8:30 AM

Considering all the options for controlling Jerry McDonald's staging yard switching – including pushbutton as well as dispatcher control – I found that LCC was the best available option.

How LCC works, what it can do and its advantages over alternatives will be discussed. I will show the programming that allows individual tracks in Jerry's staging yard to be

connected to the main (using multiple turnouts). This programming is the basis of LCC control and leads to – not only such things as self-contained ABS signalling (with no dedicated PC to make it work), but also JMRI-enabled dispatching. I'll end with a discussion of what's available now that already allows robust LCC capability and share recent announcements from manufacturers creating exciting new directions for this technology.

## **Techniques in Plaster and Resin Structure Modeling**

**By: James Gore, MMR**

Type: Model          Cat: 04-Structures

Day: Sat              Time: 4:30 PM

An examination of techniques used to complete and build structures out of plaster and resin castings, including stabilizing and repairing walls, painting and weathering with acrylics and PanPastels. The clinic will include some new ideas on painting with self-etching paint, "damp" brushing and dry brushing, and making brick walls look realistic. Several examples of adobe and stucco structures will be displayed.

## **Advanced Topics in DCC Speed Matching**

**By: Mark Granville**

Type: Model          Cat: 08.1 DCC

Day: Sun              Time: 3:00 PM

This seminar will discuss various challenges and frustrations that come up when speed matching locomotives that have decoders from different manufacturers. Examples will be presented, causes will be discussed, and solutions will be offered. A short review of speed matching procedures will be given, but it will be assumed that the attendee already has some familiarity with the concept of DCC speed matching.

## **A TrainTech Recipe: Arduinos, C/MRI, and JMRI**

**By: Jerry Grochow**

Type: Model          Cat: 08-Electrical

Day: Sat              Time: 11:30 AM

Arduino micro-controllers can be used to control turnouts and accessories on your layout (among other things), regardless of whether you're using DC or DCC. When connected to JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface software control system) on your personal computer, via a CMRI network (Bruce Chubb's Computer/Model Railroad Interface), you've got a winning yet inexpensive combination! This clinic, for the beginning-to-intermediate "traintech" user, shows how to put things together for train movement control of crossing signals, direction and speed display, and integration with other automation via JMRI.

## **It's Time for (Analog) "Fast Time"**

**By: James Heidt**

Type: Model      Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Sun      Time: 1:30 PM

Model railroaders interested in operation on their model railroad empires can expect further realism through the concept of "fast time", or speeding up real time to allow for the illusion of traveling further distances in our limited spaces. Jim Heidt's Ogdensburg & Norwood is modeled in 1948 - before the advent of currently used digital timepieces. In this clinic, Jim will show - by powerpoint and exhibits - the construction of good, old fashioned analog clocks set to fast time, further illuminated by LEDs to enhance night as well as daytime operations.

## **Researching Consignees/Shippers - For Fun and Profit!**

**By: James Heidt**

Type: Model      Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Sat      Time: 3:00 PM

People who love trains understand that the journey is often more satisfying than the destination, and that includes the vast variety and wealth of informational research available to us online. For his circa-1948, bridgeline Ogdensburg & Norwood, Jim Heidt has accumulated lots of background data - to create a more complete transportation experience in miniature for operational guests. Interested in the research for realistic, prototypically inspired industries on and off your line? Want to add that extra seasoning of flavor to your waybills? Come and see.

## **GEEEEEEEEEE SCALE RAILROADING**

**By: Peter Higgins**

Type: Model      Cat: Misc

Day: Sun      Time: 3:00 PM

What's your scale? HO Scale 1:87, O scale 1:48, S Scale 1:64, N Scale 1:160, Z Scale 1:220, We all seem to know relatively speaking what these scales are and so unique to themselves. However when we say our scale is "G" Scale the field is wide open like 3/8", 1:29, 1/2", 1:22 (G), 1:20.3 don't forget the point 3, 1/19 16mm, 1:13.7 (7/8") or 1:8 1.5" or the n such as in Fn3 just to name a few. So I simply tell people it's big enough to build it in the garden. We'll take a look at some excellent Garden Railroads and some of the challenges it takes to make a model RR in the great outdoors.



## **Steam Locomotives of the Dickson Machine Company, Scranton, Pennsylvania**

**By: Malcolm Houck**

Type: Model      Cat: 02-Motive Power

Day: Sat      Time: 9:30 PM

Dickson Machine Company was one of the builders brought into American Locomotive Company when Schenectady Locomotive Works principal assembled the so-called "Locomotive Trust." Those several companies included the formerly independent Schenectady Works, Manchester, Richmond, Brooks, Cooke, Rhode Island, Pittsburgh and Rogers, along with Dickson.

Dickson, with works in Scranton and Wilkes Barre, PA specialized in mining and hoisting machinery for the local hard coal - anthracite industry; -- along with standard and narrow gauge mine locomotives, and including compressed air locomotives and so-called "Fireless Cookers."

With particular expertise in designs of "Double Cab" - "Camelback" - "Mother Hubbard: engines (as well as single cab engines) it was major supplier of locomotives to roads serving the "Anthracite Belt": -- D&H, DL&W, L&HR and NYO&W.

This Powerpoint clinic will have slides showing the scratchbuilt construction of HO Scale Dickson Machine engines for the NYO&W; -- Class B 4-4-0 Double Cab, Class T 2-6-0 Double Cab, Class S 2-8-0 Double Cab (two versions), Class R 2-6-0 Double Cab and Class H 4-4-0 Single Cab.

## **Building Steam Locomotive Models**

**By: Malcolm Houck**

Type: Model      Cat: 02-Motive Power

Day: Sun      Time: 4:30 PM

Scratchbuilding and detailing steam locomotive models;

Building models in Brass;

Examples of many of the traditional methods used by the historic published builders -- Mel Thornburgh, George Stock, Carl Traub and Bill Schopp; Soldering and the tips, tricks and shortcuts of a Master Builder;

Commercial and shop-made tools for the engine builder;

Images of completed models, and images of various stages of fabrication and construction;

## **History of Industry and Railroads in Lowell**

**By: Ron Karr**

Type: Local Area    Cat: 12-Local Hist

Day: Fri                    Time: 7:00 PM

The fortunes of Lowell, Massachusetts, and the region's railroads rose and fell together. Only eight years after Lowell was founded in 1822 to exploit the water power of the Merrimac River, the Boston & Lowell Railroad was chartered to connect the town to Boston. One of New England's earliest railroads, the Boston & Lowell prospered by hauling materials into the cotton mills and taking out finished cloth. Traffic grew after the Civil War as both railroad and mills converted to coal-fired steam power and both reached their peaks early in the twentieth century, the Boston & Lowell now part of the vast Boston & Maine system. But by the start of World War II the mills had shifted much of their production southward and the railroads had gone bankrupt as much of their traffic went to trucks, buses, and above all, the automobile. The postwar revival of Massachusetts's economy was fired by high tech manufacturing and services, neither of which provided much traffic for the railroads, which became largely a service for commuters or the rights-of-way for recreational trails.

## **The Ffestiniog Railway – The Birthplace of the Narrow Gauge**

**By: Edward Koehler**

Type: Prototype    Cat: Misc

Day: Sat                    Time: 1:30 PM

Narrow gauge railways have long fascinated rail enthusiasts, historians, and economists for many reasons. But where was the genre created? Surprisingly one of the birthplaces of the narrow gauge, the Festiniog Railway in north Wales not only survives but has thrived! This presentation first reviews the history of the line and then takes the viewer on a photographic tour of this historically important railway and its articulated Fairlie type locomotives.

## **Firefighting and Your Model RR**

**By: Edward Koehler**

Type: Prototype    Cat: Misc

Day: Sat                    Time: 3:00 PM

This presentation looks at how firefighting is portrayed on model railroad layouts. It starts with a historical review of firehouses and then looks briefly at the history of fire trucks. It concludes with some scenes of live fire ground action and a discussion of some points to keep in mind when attempting to model these buildings, vehicles and incidents.

## **Two Feet in the Pine Tree State**

**By: Edward Koehler**

Type: Prototype      Cat: Misc

Day: Sat              Time: 9:00 PM

The narrow gauge technology developed in North Wales was adopted on this side of the Atlantic Ocean in New England. See how one man virtually put his mark on a segment of the rail industry in an entire region. We are proud to say that this part of the History of the Narrow Gauge doesn't just concentrate on just one line but takes the viewer on a tour of the entire milieu, as close to the present day as one author who lives outside of New England is able to do.

## **From Here to There**

**By: Tony Koester**

Type: Model              Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Sun              Time: 1:30 PM

Model Railroad Planning editor Tony Koester will discuss how to move trains from "Here" to "There" by timetable and train-order (TT&TO) rules as well as how to move freight cars from Here to There using more realistic-format waybills.

TT&TO operations are not nearly as hard to adopt as many modelers assume and move most of the decision-making from "Simon-says," the dispatcher, to the train crews, increasing the challenge and fun for everyone.

The waybills are as simple to use as the almost standard four-cycle waybills but have a much more realistic appearance and no car cards. They can provide one, two, four, six, or even eight cycles before repeating the original movement. They're made on your home computer as Word or Excel documents.

## **Modeling the Prototype - North Whitefield, ME**

**By: Pete Magoun, MMR**

Type: Model              Cat: 05-Scenery

Day: Sat              Time: 6:30 PM

Modeling prototypical scenery is not hard to do. Pete will walk through the processes involved in creating a prototypical scene, with an unexpected benefit. This is NOT a scenery demo; it's a voyage through the planning and execution process.

## **Scratchbuild a Flatcar and Earn a Merit Award**

**By: John McHugh**

Type: Model              Cat: 03-Cars

Day: Sun              Time: 8:30 AM

Have you wanted to scratchbuild a railroad car but believed it was too difficult? I will show you how I scratchbuilt a flatcar and earned a Merit Award. The clinic will demonstrate building a flatcar from planning to step by step construction including

painting, weathering and decal application. The presentation will briefly touch on the judging process for merit and the requirements for the Master Builder - Cars AP certificate. If I can build a quality car then anyone can!

## **Designing a Layout for Realistic Operations - and the Chief Dispatcher Certificate**

**By: Peter McKenney**

Type: Model      Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Sat      Time: 8:30 AM

Designing a layout based on a prototype railroad also provides a lot of information for creating a realistic operating scheme. Given space constraints, the author first determined how many prototype-based design elements he could accommodate, then used schematic track drawings to plan the flow of rolling stock, and finally (satisfied the plan would likely be both practical and enjoyable) built the benchwork needed to support the layout. Then, in part to satisfy AP requirements, he also generated a timetable and train chart, a system of operations (based on prototype employee and passenger timetables and operating forms), instructions for future layout operators, and finally fascia signs for operator instruction and references.

## **Case Study: Modeling a Prototype Scene**

**By: Peter McKenney Tom Oxnard, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 06-Prototype Model

Day: Sat      Time: 8:00 PM

Learn about the process for earning the Master Builder-Prototype Models AP certificate. The clinic will cover selection of a prototype scene to model through constructing the model scene, structures and rolling stock that meet the AP requirements. The benefits of sharing ideas and talents will be emphasized. In this case, one modeler studied a prototype scene that he needed for his layout, researched its history, and created CAD plans to be used in building several models of structures as well as the modules for the scene. The second modeler then used the supplied plans and reference pictures to build the model and earned the Prototype Models certificate.

## **Making an Origami Wreath/Pinwheel**

**By: Rosemary Mezzocchi**

Type: Non-Rail      Cat: Participation

Day: Sat      Time: 6:30 PM

Make an Origami wreath that turns into a movable pinwheel and back to a wreath. The clinician will provide all materials for this project. Come join in on the fun.

Bonus project: You must bring a crisp \$1.00 bill that you will turn into a bow tie.

There is a Registration fee of \$5.00 and the clinic is limited to 15 people

## **Making an Origami Cube**

**By: Rosemary Mezzocchi**

Type: Non-Rail      Cat: Participation

Day: Sun              Time: 4:30 PM

Clinician will show and guide you in making an Origami cube. The clinician will provide all the materials required for this project. Come join in on the fun. Bonus project: You must bring a crisp \$1.00 bill that you will turn into a bow tie.

Limit 15 people

## **New Techniques for New Technology Decals/Applying Tichy Train Group Decals**

**By: Bill Morris**

Type: Model              Cat: 10-Details

Day: Fri                  Time: 5:00 PM

I will display 4 or 5 models I have successfully decorated with these TTG decals which are available in all the major scales including the one I choose to model in "S" Scale. These new decals offered by TTG are made with a plastic deposited on decal paper and IR cured on the fly as printed. This makes a great crisp decal with high resolution but presents problems when trying to apply them. Bill Morris of NE Prototypes will show you his techniques on an actual S Scale model being decorated in this clinic and his tips for dealing with the issues they can present. The same techniques apply to all scales. There will be a free printed handout and a TTG catalog will be passed around for all to see the sets available from TTG and NE Prototypes.

## **Building a Locomotive Roster and Saving the Decoder Settings with JMRI – Minute Clinic**

**By: Ed O'Connell**

Type: Model              Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Fri                  Time: 3:00 PM

Quick tips for building a locomotive roster in Decoder Pro for use with the other elements of JMRI as well as saving the decoder settings in case the decoder needs to be reset and reprogrammed.

## **Coloring Wooden Walls with Chalk – Minute Clinic**

**By: Sue Osberg**

Type: Model              Cat: 04-Structures

Day: Fri                  Time: 3:00 PM

Looking for something different to do with the walls of your wooden structures? Here's a suggestion: use chalks. Chalk can provide a different sort of look for wooden walls, whether the walls are laser cut or are board-on-board. Using several

shades of chalk provides a kind of “built-in” weathered look to the walls or boards. Check out this clinic for something different.

## Scratch Build Prototype Structures

**By: Tom Oxnard, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 04-Structures

Day: Fri      Time: 7:00 PM      Day 2: Sun      Time: 1:30 PM

Do you want a certain building on your layout because it has special meaning to you, or is in a certain location, or is needed for an LDE? All you need is some pictures and details of the structure. I will show you how I use Sanborn Maps, Google Images, and CAD drawings to calculate dimensions and make drawings and Mock Ups before I start construction. I will show how I construct 6 different structures in wood and brick, and the techniques that I use.

## Building Bar Mills Magee’s Tire Repair Shop

**By: Andy Reynolds**

Type: Model      Cat: Participation

Day: Fri      Time: 7:00 PM

Andy Reynolds chose this Bar Mills kit, as it’s a suggested kit for not only the beginner, but the advanced modeler. You’ll either be perfecting your skill-set, or learning craftsman kit building for first time. The Magee’s Tire Repair (in HO Scale) is almost 5” wide by 3” deep, and, *“has some interesting visual tricks to achieve its own look”*, says Art Fahie, owner of Bar Mills. Our goal will be to assemble, paint and detail this kit during the session. You may want to change the signage, if you want to personalize the kit, which we’ll also demonstrate.

We will go over where the common mistakes are usually made, and then what to do “first” in kit building, as well as what can be done later on. We plan on gluing, staining, painting, weathering as well as learning decaling techniques. The participants will then discuss proper placement of their diorama, for maximum impact for short money.

Participation will be limited to the first 20 to register and a \$15 fee is charged.

Each participant will need to bring their own tools which should include;

- favorite cutting knife such as X-acto #11 knife or a number of new razor blades
- Pounce wheel (for making "nail holes")
- Cutting surface if available
- Flat Nail Boards (Black Emery on foam core type is good. Revlon or store brand.
- Assorted small paint brushes
- Favorite paints and stains, of your color choices for building & trim
- Small squaring device
- Steel ruler or straight edge (HO scale-ruler is ideal)
- Small wood clamps (such as Micro Mark #85421)

## **Let's Learn how to Operate**

**By: Bruce Robinson**

Type: Model      Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Sat      Time: 8:30 AM

Bruce has been holding operating sessions for over 25 years. In this clinic he will draw upon that experience to describe how to set up an operating system.

He will touch on such topics as;

- Track planning for operations
- Train makeup, train handling
- Sequence and scheduled running of trains
- Waybills and routing of freight cars
- Yard operations
- Dispatcher control
- How to have fun at an operating session

If you have been thinking of setting up operations for your layout, this is the clinic for you.

## **Two Years, Two Weeks**

**By: Bruce Robinson**

Type: Model      Cat: Misc

Day: Sat      Time: 1:30 PM

Building a dream, how Jim Falls approached achieving his dream layout, the Stratton Valley Railroad & Transfer Company. Starting with an idea, then a track plan (actually more than one track plan), acquiring the space and finally beginning construction to complete the SV&TC.

Along the way ideas had to gel, decisions made, track laid and then setting the scenery to tell the story of the SV&TC as it would have existed in southwestern Vermont in 1940 hauling granite from a quarry, chips from the chip mine and providing local freight and passenger service to the local population. Along the way a good dose of humor will be obvious as the customers who use the railroad will attest.

## **Earning the Chief Dispatcher Certificate**

**By: Bruce Robinson**

Type: Model      Cat: Misc

Day: Sun      Time: 4:30 PM

What does it take to earn the Chief Dispatcher certificate in the Awards Program? This clinic will go through the NMRA Achievement Program requirements and how to work through all the parts that must be completed to earn the award. If you hold the certificate please stop by and lend a hand in explaining the steps that need to be taken.

## **The beginning stages of LiDAR scanning and 3D printing**

**By: Jon Silhavey**

Type: Model      Cat: 06-Prototype Model

Day: Fri      Time: 5:00 PM

Phones and tablets are equipped with LiDAR scanners. Tests are being conducted at both the Seashore Trolley Museum and the Shoreline Trolley museum. At this moment the scans have been effective at recording measurements and complex shapes. This technology is proving useful in the creation of 3D printable transit vehicles and trollies which are rarely made by mainstream manufacturers.

## **Details, Details, Details or “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff”**

**By: Rudolf Slovacek**

Type: Model      Cat: Misc

Day: Fri      Time: 5:00 PM

How often have you heard the phrase “You need more detail for your layout or your contest model”? Well, I believe there is a happy medium that we all can achieve. This clinic will give a bit of information I’ve learned over the years. I will show how, with a little work, you can achieve that “Good Enough” look or, with some additional effort, make a more detailed model or scene. It is amazing what a little paint, thread, wood, decaling, a casting or two, some scratch building, a small kit and some weathering can do. So, won’t you join me for what I hope will be a fun and interesting clinic.

## **Stonewalls Unlimited**

**By: Mike Tylick, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 05-Scenery

Day: Sat      Time: 3:00 PM

Michael Tylick, owner of Raildesign Services, will demonstrate methods of constructing masonry walls with the use of handmade modular castings instead of tedious hand carving. We’ll start with a simple and foolproof way to make rough surfaced stones - similar to those often used in railroad and other construction and use these to build master patterns that can be used to construct walls that can be made to any size and shape without unrealistic “wallpapering”- the effect of regularly repeating a recognizable pattern throughout the wall. Clinic participants will be able to make master stones and patterns during the hands on period. Few tools will be necessary, a hobby knife with dull blades- a chisel blade can be very helpful and perhaps a small square and straightedge.

This approach uses inexpensive materials and is adaptable to any scale and era, and can be used to replicate many different styles of masonry. The techniques involved were derived from early articles by Jack Work- one of Michael’s model railroad heroes. Variations of Jack’s ideas are used by many manufacturers of masonry surfaces.

Participation will be limited to the first 20 to register and a \$10 fee is charged.



## **Lineside Signals**

**By: James van Bokkelen**

Type: Model      Cat: 09-Operation (Disp)

Day: Sat      Time: 8:00 PM

This is a slide show about engineering, designing and building automatic block and interlocking signals for my DC/DCC layout. Includes selection and use of commercial components, how to implement basic ABS and interlocking logic, communication between signal locations and discussion of modeling searchlight mast and dwarf signals following B&M/MEC practice and rule books.

## **Chinese Steam in 1995 and 2005**

**By: James van Bokkelen**

Type: Prototype      Cat: Misc

Day: Fri      Time: 9:00 PM

In 1995, while Chinese steam was still plentiful, presenter James Van Bokkelen photographed off-the-beaten path mainline and narrow gauge steam operations in Manchuria. In 2005 he returned to China, visiting the twilight of steam on the JiTong railway in Inner Mongolia, and standard and narrow-gauge industrial lines in central China.

## **A Professional DCC installer's Tip and Hints – Minute Clinic**

**By: Lew White**

Type: Model      Cat: 08.1 DCC

Day: Fri      Time: 3:00 PM

Lew White is a professional DCC Installer for Tony's Train Exchange in Essex Jct. Vermont. For over 24 years Lew has seen and done it all, Onboard, QSI, Train Control Systems, ESU, SoundTraxx and more. It has been noted that he does what needs to be done, and does it right. His advice is often sought out by other DCC installers.

Lew will be doing a locomotive sound installation during his mini clinic, giving examples of best practices as he moves through the process Including;

- Layout and Planning
- Wire Management
- Soldering
- Neatness

## **Soldering for Model Railroaders**

**By: Erich Whitney**

Type: Model      Cat: Participation

Day: Sat      Time: 6:30 PM

In this clinic, you will learn and practice techniques required to solder electrical circuits, wiring, and track work. You will build a power supply circuit board that you'll be able to take home and use on your layout. You'll also practice soldering feeder wires to your

track and learn how to properly make a soldered wire connection. The power supply kit is included as part of the clinic registration and soldering irons and solder will be provided. If you would like to bring your soldering iron along to use instead, please do so. Participation will be limited to the first 16 to register and a \$15 fee is charged.

## **DCC University, Part 1**

**By: Erich Whitney & Kaylee Zheng**

Type: Model      Cat: 08.1 DCC

Day: Sat      Time: 10:00 AM

JMRI is an open-source software package that has help change how model railroaders interface with their DCC systems. This course of clinics will give attendees a concrete foundation on establishing, navigating, and operating the JMRI software.

Part 1 of this two-part series, attendees will learn how to install the JMRI software and hardware and will explain CVs and their purpose.

Part two of the series will focus on speed matching locomotives. Attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops as well as their USB to DCC interface hardware, i.e. Digitrax PR3, to this series.

It is strongly recommended that each attendee attempt to test their computer and DCC interface before coming to the convention. Additionally, attendees are also encouraged to bring two DCC equipped locomotives to practice speed matching. The two parts of this clinic are scheduled on different days so that attendees will have time more time to work with the software between sessions if they wish to do so. Seating is limited due to space constraints and to give the clinicians a chance to work with the attendees.

Participation will be limited to the first 15 to register and a \$15 fee is charged.

## **DCC University, Part 2**

**By: Erich Whitney & Kaylee Zheng**

Type: Model      Cat: 08.1 DCC

Day: Sun      Time: 10:00 AM

JMRI is an open-source software package that has help change how model railroaders interface with their DCC systems. This course of clinics will give attendees a concrete foundation on establishing, navigating, and operating the JMRI software.

Part 1 of this two-part series, attendees will learn how to install the JMRI software and hardware and will explain CVs and their purpose.

Part two of the series will focus on speed matching locomotives. Attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops as well as their USB to DCC interface hardware, i.e. Digitrax PR3, to this series.

It is strongly recommended that each attendee attempt to test their computer and DCC interface before coming to the convention. Additionally, attendees are also encouraged to bring two DCC equipped locomotives to practice speed matching. The two parts of this clinic are scheduled on different days so that attendees will have time more time to

work with the software between sessions if they wish to do so. Seating is limited due to space constraints and to give the clinicians a chance to work with the attendees.

Participation will be limited to the first 15 to register and a \$15 fee is charged.

## **Modeling Details Along the Right-of-Way**

**By: Peter Youngblood, MMR**

Type: Model      Cat: 05-Scenery

Day: Sat

Time: 8:00 PM

Day 2: Sun

Time: 10:00 AM

What's easily overlooked in the pursuit of realistic modeling are the small things, the not-so-obvious details that when added, make a noticeable difference and lend credibility to any scene even when they're just along the right-of-way. Many of the details in this clinic are available as commercial parts in HO scale, some in N, S, or O. Others are simply scratch built. All can be added to a layout in one or two evenings.

# **How to Market & Grow Your Division/Region**

**By: Christina Zambri**

Type: Assoc      Cat: Misc

Day: Sun      Time: 10:00 AM

Gain new ideas on how to better market and promote your Division (or Region) and improve member experiences. Topics include the benefits of membership, welcoming new members, incorporating a mentorship/buddy system, monitoring reports, doing more with social media/online presence, proper communication, working with local media, proper booth management, and overcoming special circumstances such as geography, elderly members and periods of less face-to-face interaction.