

Clinics for NERx Virtual Conventioin

December 1-4, 2020

Basic Scenery Tips

By: Doug Dederick

This clinic will go over step by step on how to take your basic plaster scenery shell and build it up to create a realistic scene. We will go over how to create textures and colors using different materials such as: Paint, Dirt, Foams, Static Grasses, Poly Fiber, and synthetic leaf materials. I will show you technics that I have used over the years on my home layout with satisfying results. With a little bit of practice you will be able to take these tips and apply them to your own modeling projects.

My Big Fat Clinic. or, How to Weigh Cars Like the Prototype

By: Chuck Diljak

This is not a clinic about the NMRA Recommended Practice regarding car weights. Instead, it is a clinic about scale tracks, scale houses, scale test cars, and how to add them to your railroad operations.

Take Two! Module Building Lessons Learned - and Some New

By: John Doehring

When a long time armchair railroader finally determined to build his first module, it was – well, an adventure! John Doehring's 'Brittserville Project' (a 12-foot long straight NTRAK module) was indeed an adventure – and also a lot of fun! John made some rookie mistakes along the way, and he learned several important lessons for his next module building projects (currently underway now). In this fun and lighthearted session, John reviews some of what went wrong for him – to help you avoid these pitfalls yourself. This program is especially aimed at aspiring and beginning builders, though experienced railroaders are welcome too – bring your stories and share with us all!

Coal Cod & Cash

By: Steve Erickson

How much railroad can be fit into 19 miles? Quite a lot. This clinic will take an in depth look at the Old Colony line that ran from Newport RI to Fall River MA. Newport was an inter modal port, with fishing, steamships, passenger service to Boston, freight and coal. A vast array of commercial enterprises were located around one of the more interesting railroad terminals you can model. Heading north, the rail line serviced a coal mine, a copper mine, various agricultural businesses, and the mills of Fall River. At one time it serviced one of the main coaling stations for the US Navy, and in later years provided support for a major naval base. From the "dandy" commuter trains to Boston to the working coastal coal mine, there is something for everyone in this short stretch of railroad. This will be an inspiration to do something different.

Using Paper to Build that Model for your Railroad

By: Jim Fairbanks

Have you ever considered using paper to build a model for your railroad? How about building that Merit Award model? This clinic will re-introduce you to the advantages of paper, and how it is making a comeback in the modeling world. I'll take you through a very brief history of using paper, how it is being used, what you'll need, and where to find some plans to use. Lastly, I'll run through using foam core to put together a background model of a house. Join me and find out how paper is making a comeback.

Just Build an Inglenook

By: Jeff Faust

Are your railroading dreams frustrated by space, money, or time limitations? Need a place to test out your latest rolling stock builds? Looking for a modest yet challenging layout project? Just build an Inglenook! It's a deceptively simple layout design with a lot of potential. In this presentation, we'll discuss history, design specifications, construction, and operation of the Inglenook, and why you should consider building one yourself.

Building Stone City Heights

By: John Feraca

The clinic will outline the building of a 1ft x 12ft city scene on my Stone Canyon RR.

Some of the topics are; building and street lighting, road and sidewalks, using animated signs and scenery.

The clinic is a PowerPoint presentation approx 30 to 45 minutes.

Foreground Trees with Leaves

By: Jeff Gerow

Jeff Gerow will demonstrate using Scenic Express SuperTrees® natural scale tree "branches" to create a full sized foreground tree using a sage branch as tree trunk (similar to Scenic Express SuperTree® armatures). He will cover preparing the SuperTree® material for use, as well as attaching to the armature. Actual scale "leaves" will be attached in a natural manner to create a really great looking foreground tree.

Introduction to NeoPixels

By: James Kline

NeoPixels are unique LED's that can be programmed individually to emit different color light at adjustable intensity using a microcontroller such as an Arduino or Raspberry PI. When placed inside model structures the resultant light will be closer to prototypical. This clinic will cover how to install and wire them in multiple structures and will also demonstrate how they can be used for animations. No clinic prerequisites!

The Welsh Highland Railway

By: Edward Koehler

Who would think that a two foot gauge railroad that shut down in the late 1930's and removed by the government during World War II had any chance of survival? Who would think that steam locomotives from South Africa would thrive in Wales? In this presentation the histories of the current Welsh Highland Railway, Limited and the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway are also traced. The Welsh Highland Railway is becoming an additional major railway attraction for North Wales. We will also take a quick look at two other narrow gauge railways that operate out of Porthmadog, but neither of them is the one you are thinking of! Come join Ed Koehler as he takes you on a tour of these fascinating narrow gauge lines.

Bringing the Railroad to Life Using Layers

By: Lou McIntyre

"Bringing the Railroad to Life Using Layers"; not layers in the physical sense .
Rather it's layers as in:

- The Facts,
- What Might Have Been and
- The Fiction

My Miniatur Wunderland

By: Irwin Nathanson

Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany is – by far – the largest model railroad in the world. HBD President Irwin D Nathanson will take us on a virtual tour of this amazing attraction, using words, photos and videos. He will also explain how his visits to Miniatur Wunderland helped influence his own Diamon Point Railways.

Modeling An Operating Pre- W.W.II R.R. Grade Crossing Signal

By: Steve Perry

After a brief history of wigwags, Steve will tell how he constructed a brass and styrene HO model of a Magnetic Signal Company wigwag flagman.

The interesting and challenging aspects of this project that Steve will cover include:

- (a) Determining the dimensions of the various parts he had to make from a few given on M.S.C. drawings;
- (b) How he hid the means for moving the banner (flag);
- (c) Creating a prototypically accurate mechanism case (motor box) in styrene and brass;
- (d) Describing the Arduino sketch that powers the banner movement.

Building Bar Mills Magee's Tire Repair Shop

By: Andy Reynolds

Andy Reynolds, a recent AP Structures and Scenery awards recipient, challenges both the novice and advanced modeler to pick up some tips on how to build this Bar Mills Magee's Tire Repair craftsman kit. You'll either be perfecting your skill-set, or learning craftsman kit building for first time. This 30 minute PowerPoint presentation will start by opening a basic Bar Mills building kit and discussing how to best get ready to build it, which in the long run will lead to a better crafted structure. You'll see or be told how mistakes are made and how to best correct these for future models. The program goes over "Bar Mills Guide to Better Modeling" and incorporates some of these techniques, as we go through a step by step approach to its construction. The goal is to become better versed in what glues to use, what paints or stains to try, how to get two walls and then four walls to properly bond and stay square, how to add signage to a wall or roof, weathering techniques, window treatments, lighting, and finally adding the building to a your landscape and properly adding your scenery and other show stopper details.

This clinic is a precursor to the hands-on clinic that will be conducted at the live clinic show next time the NER can meet socially.

Let's learn to operate local train POFR for the beginner

By: Bruce Robinson

The theme for Mill City 2021 is "Learn to Operate!" Join this clinic session to learn the basics of running a local freight train on the Valley Junction Railroad.

Paints, 3D Printing

By: Jon Silhavey

This will be a two part clinic.

Part 1

What brands of paint work best?

With the loss of Polyscale, Floquil and Model Master, what choices for paint do we have. I've tried out a few different ones and I will announce my results. I will also explain how craft acrylic paint can be airbrushed on model train shells.

Part 2

3D printing a 85' coach from a drawing

I will demonstrate how to 3D print a 85' foot coach from a scale drawing using the SketchUp software. A finished prototype will be displayed.