



# Sunrise Herald

November 2015 Volume 8, Number 11

## Sunrise Division Officers

Superintendent.....Steve Schweighofer  
 Asst. Superintendent.....Bob Rothgery  
 Secretary.....Stewart Jones  
 Treasurer.....Rich Flammini  
 Program Chair.....Gary Myers  
 Division AP Chair.....David Bol  
 Youth Coordinator.....Ernee Edwards  
 Education Chair.....Stewart Jones  
 Modular Layout Chair.....Don Francis

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## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 3 at Holy Love Lutheran Church, South Chambers Road at 7:15. This meeting will be our Christmas celebration. Members will please bring goodies to share with the group. Also at this meeting we will collect donations to be given to our host, Holy Love. Since we don't pay dues or make any other assessments of our

members, we ask that you be generous in response that Holy Love provides for us.

## Upcoming Clinics for 2015

December – No clinic

## Upcoming Tool Times for 2015

December - Open

## Upcoming Show 'n' Tell Themes for 2015

December - Open

## November Meeting Notes

Steve Schweighofer opened the meeting at 7:20 with 20 members present. We began with business and announcements. The business included the election of new officers. There were no nominations for superintendent or secretary, so Steve Schweighofer and Stu Jones will continue to fulfill those offices. Newly elected officers include Bob Rothgery for Assistant Superintendent and Rich Flammini for Treasurer. Other announcements included upcoming train shows: one in Albuquerque, November 21-22, nine Front Range Division N scale layouts, November 21, the 2015 Train Show in Colorado Springs, December 4-6, and the Rocky Mountain Train Show at the Denver Mart, December 12-13. We will display our

modular layout at this show. Also there is a call for clinics at this show. The Division receives \$20 for each clinic we present. If you have a clinic you would like to present, contact Bill Johnson. Steve also announced that swap table proceeds for December will also go to Holy Love Church. The introduction of members followed these announcements.



Steve is opening the meting

## November Tool Time

Dick Hunter presented the Tool Time where he explained the steps in assembling a Campbell kit. His display model was a Campbell tobacco shop. The major steps include:

1. Lay out the drawings and all the kit components to familiarize yourself with how the kit goes together and identify all the parts.
2. Many parts such as trim pieces and window and door castings should be pre-painted to speed up the final finishing of the model
3. Dick used a cutout from a Formica-covered sink counter to as a work surface to cut window and door openings. This also

provides a smooth surface for final assembly that most glues and cements will not adhere to. At this point he also checks all pieces for proper fit.

4. Pre-paint the major assemblies. To avoid warping, Dick places the painted pieces under weights until they are dry.
5. Campbell kits usually include Z-shaped corner posts which have a definite inside and outside. When attaching wall sections, ensure that you have the larger corner posts oriented correctly to the outside. Dick strongly recommends that you apply glue to both surfaces to ensure a strong bond. One note: if you plan to stain any wood components, do this before assembly, since any glue on the surface will prevent them from staining properly later.
6. Dick uses rubber bands to clamp all components in place while the glue dries. At this point you want to ensure that everything is square.
7. Dick uses a miter box with a clamped wood block or a clamp to ensure that all trim pieces have a uniform length.
8. Campbell kits usually have a shake shingle roof. The shingles are usually strips of gummed paper tape with shingle edges cut into them. It is possible to simply wet the tape when applying, but Dick prefers to apply a water-base glue instead for a better bond.

## November Show and Tell

The theme for the November Show and Tell was “pork” so most of the entries had something to do with pigs with several exceptions. Dennis Hagen brought in two S scale warehouses. He explained that he was unable to attend the October meeting where warehouses was the theme.



Dennis Hagen's warehouses



Ron McHenry

Ron McHenry's contribution was two Maerklin freight cars, obviously of German prototypes, for hauling pork products to market. He provided a translation for the car lettering that your editor can't remember.

The next model was Bob Hochstetter's N scale stock car, obviously used to haul pigs. The editor did not capture a good photo of that.

Stu Jones provided another interpretation:



You ask: "what does an observation car have to do with pork?" If you look closely, this car is decked out as a political campaign car with the figure in the center delivering a speech. His wife stands next him, his campaign manager just behind him and next to him, barely visible, is his girlfriend. To his left is a large pork barrel. His campaign slogan on the side of the car reads: "Vote for Dewey Chetum, He'll bring home the bacon."



Rich Flammini submitted the next entry: a pig in the back of a truck with the slogan "This little piggy went to market!" That's a good way to get him there. That pig should supply a lot of HO scale pork.

The next model, from John Griffith, was also a stake truck with a load of hay for pig fodder.





John Griffith



Dick Hunter displayed this Oscar Mayer hot dog car. This is not necessarily a railroad model, but a toy vehicle sold years ago.

Finally Jim Allamain brought in a stock car constructed years ago from an Ambroid kit. Your editor did not get a good photo of this car either. Jim is a member of the South Suburban Division, but often comes to Sunrise for inspiration. Jim was selected to receive the Caboose gift certificate.

Dick Hunter provided the final anecdote. It seems that a previous regional convention was held somewhere alongside the Rio Grande main line. The convention concluded with a hobo breakfast on the grounds of the depot. In the middle of breakfast the Rio Grande pig express blew by the depot. That was sufficient to kill everyone's appetite.

## Modular Layout

Don Francis provided an update on the modular layout. The highlights of his report include:

1. Reconfigure the trailer so that the modules can be loaded from the end.
2. Rewire the modules
3. Configure the scenery into 2 square foot areas that members can work on at home.

## November Clinic

Dennis Hagen presented the November clinic: *Experiments in Scenery*. Many of us had visited his previous S scale narrow gauge layout which was impressive even though it was only partially finished. Dennis was highly dissatisfied with it and decided to tear it all out and start afresh. He described this as very cathartic and a good exercise in therapeutic anger management.

He then began planning for the next incarnation of his railroad. His requirements included a long main line, a large yard and a single level. It soon became apparent that these requirements were mutually exclusive and he could only accomplish his desires by building a double deck layout.

The first phase of construction went quickly and the main line and yards soon materialized. But completion of this phase confronted him with new challenges: lighting and scenery. The lighting problem was how to illuminate the lower levels adequately. He resolved this problem when a friend introduced him to LED automobile dome lights. These lights are inexpensive, operate on twelve volts and draw low current. This allowed him to create the lower deck as shadow boxes with adequate illumination.

Since he had a lot of scenery to construct he began to look for economical and easy methods for scenery creation. This is where his experiments came in. He began by creating “dry castings” for rock outcroppings. The dry casting technique is to use rock molds to create thin castings from Hydrocal. These are not really dry, but by using small amounts of plaster, they will dry quickly. They then can be inventoried for later use. He discovered that giving them somewhat uniform coloring can be difficult, particularly when painting the surrounding matrix. He solved this problem by covering everything with white gesso before final painting so that they had a uniform base for taking color. To attach his rock castings to his scenery underlayment, he discovered premixed drywall joint compound, affectionately known as mud. This allowed him to blend the casting contours for a more realistic appearance.

For the base of his scenery Dennis decided to try paper shell scenery following an article in the January 2007 *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine. A similar article also appeared in the February 2011 issue of *Model Railroader*. Dennis obtained a roll of red rosin paper from Lowes that contained enough material to cover a large layout. To support the shell he began with a matrix of cardboard strips that he glued together with hot glue. He recommended having a supply of clothes pins on hand to clamp the strips while the glue cooled. Using your fingers here might result in a lot of burns. The illustration on the adjacent column shows his first step.



Next Dennis cut and covered the cardboard matrix with the red paper to which he painted with white glue. He suggested either Titebond or Elmers. When the glue dries it creates a very hard shell. He discovered a better approach by painting both sides of the paper with glue. The illustration below shows the initial application.



The paper seams seemed a little rough to Dennis’ eye, so he decided to apply a layer of paper towel and glue over the red paper which created a smoother surface and also added additional strength. Over this he painted a layer of joint compound, shown below, to smooth the surface more and add more strength.



We anticipate his next open house.

Once this layer has dried, it was time to add his rock castings. These he secured in place using the drywall compound as a fixative. Now it was time to add the final texturing. A layout this size, particularly in a larger scale, requires a lot of ballast. Rather than invest several hundred dollars in commercial ballast, Dennis bought a single bag of play sand or jointing sand at a nominal cost. Because the sand granules are not uniform in size he sifted it through a kitchen strainer to obtain material of about the right size. He used the larger granules left behind for other terrain texturing. The sand color was particularly appropriate for his right of way. This same technique can be used for other scales using a finer mesh for sifting.

Now Dennis encountered another surprise. His first attempt applied the rock castings, sand and other terrain materials too quickly using too much water and the whole hillside slumped into an awful mess. He had to remove his first effort and start over. This time he used more cardboard bracing, less water, and worked more slowly with excellent results. You can see his finished results opposite with trees, shrubs and ground cover added and a nicely painted backdrop..