



Sunrise Herald

February 2016 Volume 9, Number 2

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In the Herald

Next Meeting.....1
Upcoming Clinics for 2016.....1
Upcoming Tool Times for 2016.....1
Upcoming Show 'n Tell Themes for 20161
February Meeting Notes.....2
February Tool Time.....3
February Show and Tell.....3
February Clinic.....5
Special Request.....7

Next Meeting

Rich Flammini and Bob Rothgery have been working hard contacting members we haven't seen in a while and updating E-mail addresses. Many thanks to them. We plan to have name badges for everyone for the next meeting. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 5, 2016 at Holy Love Lutheran Church, South Chambers Road at 7:15.

Upcoming Clinics for 2016

March – Homemade Resistance Soldering
April - TBA
May - TBA
June - TBA
July - TBA
August - TBA
September - TBA
October - TBA
November - TBA
December - TBA

Upcoming Tool Times for 2016

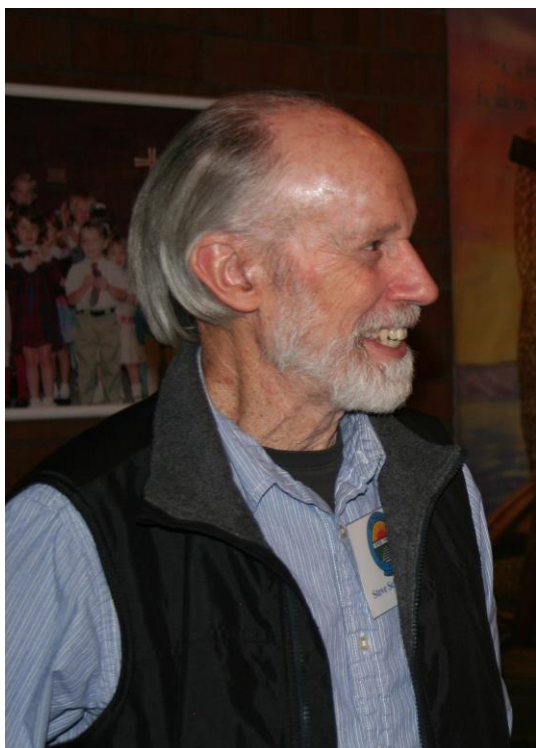
February – Weathering Pastels
March – Drill Press Accessories
April – Double Stick Tape
May - TBA
June - TBA
July - TBA
August - TBA
September - TBA
October - TBA
November - TBA
December - TBA

Upcoming Show 'n' Tell Themes for 2016

February – 1940 – 1949 Locomotives
February – Passenger coaches
March – Snow Equipment
April – 1950 – 1959 Locomotives
May - Wagons

June – Bunk/Kitchen Work Cars
 July - 1960 – 196 Locomotives
 August – Shops/Retail
 September – RR Pump Houses
 October - 1970 – 1979 Locomotives
 November - Military
 December – Water Craft//Boat/Ships

February Meeting Notes



Steve Schweighofer opening the meeting

Steve Schweighofer opened the meeting at 7:20 with 19 members present. We began with announcements. Bill Johnson displayed the March edition of Model Railroader magazine that he called the “Colorado connection.” This issue has three articles written by Colorado modelers. The remainder of the announcements concerned the Rocky Mountain Train Show, March 5th and 6th at the Denver Mart. One comment was that military veterans get in free.

From the flyer above, a number of vendors will be present to display and sell their products. Also note that parking will be free, which has not been the case for past shows. We will display our modular layout again. Paul Seibels, the clinic chair, called for clinics to be presented. We have given many clinics for past shows and receive an honorarium that goes to the Division for each one. Bill Johnson also gave a Caboose Hobby report. Bowser has just released a new model of an EMD SD40-2. This new model features changeable classification lights. He described how class lights are used by the prototype to indicate what orders a particular train is currently running under. This opens an entirely new facet for model operations.

February Tool Time

John Griffith presented the tool time where he discussed applying weathering pastels. He uses a product called PanPastel which produces a product line designed for model use (see flyer below.) In addition to the powdered pastels, they market soft brushes that are handy for applying the colors, also pictured on the flyer.



They produce a number of colors that are applicable for model railroading. You may need to purchase several different set to get all the colors you need. John reported that he prefers the Pearl Medium for weathering coal hoppers. These pastels are more granular and are excellent for duplicating coal dust. To apply the colors he uses the soft sponge brushed pictured

in their ad. He does not apply Dullcote either first or afterward. Note: Dullcote does leave a “tooth” on the surface that may help the colors adhere better. However John does not think that this is necessary. John displayed a string of covered hoppers and a boxcar he had weathered to show how well the pastels work.



John Griffith's weathering kit.

February Show and Tell

The theme for February was coaches that brought in eleven entries.



Paul Siebels displayed this string of HO scale Union Pacific heavyweight coaches. He has added detailed interiors to these cars.



Larry Stevens brought in a set of HO scale Union Pacific cars painted in Armor Yellow. In addition to interior details, Larry added LED lighting to each car that is controlled by a decoder in the lead car. He demonstrated how each car or individual rooms in a car can be selectively illuminated from a command throttle.



John Kerbaugh showed this HO scale vintage Burlington combine. His interior is visible through the windows.



Rich Flammini brought in an HO scale Bachmann standard heavyweight coach lettered for the New Brighton Connection railroad.



Steve Schweighofer displayed this N scale coach from the 1890s lettered for the Colorado & Southern.



Bob Rothgery showed this 1890s HO scale coach lettered for his Elk Pass railroad.



Dick Hunter entertained us with his HO scale Lake City Junction Railette Car. This car features a swimming pool in the center, a locker room on one end and a bar at the other. The purpose of this car was to entertain wives while their husbands took a tour up to Lake City. Looks like a great way to railfan.



John Griffith exhibited this HO scale Harriman Coach lettered for his West Point & Northern layout. Model Die Casting still makes these cars under the Roundhouse name. These cars are also great starting points for kitbashing.



Ron McHenry brought in an assortment of HO scale coaches for various railroads. He also included an On3 Rio Grande Southern "Galloping Goose" #5 that he obtained at a bargain basement sale. He thought he had really gotten scalped on this purchase until he saw a

new model on sale for at least three times the price.



Ernee Edwards displayed this HO scale string of cars, including a combine, lightweight coach, dome lettered for Wabash, and observation car.



Last of all Stu Jones brought in this HO scale Penn Modernized coach painted and lettered for his Boreas and Saguache railroad. This is a JC Models kit manufactured in the 1960s of a car that was rebuilt by the PRR to feature wide panoramic windows. Walthers once made this car also, but it was a decade out of production when Stu obtained this one.

February Clinic

Stewart Jones presented the February clinic on making trees, specifically pine trees. This was not an original presentation but copied from one that was given at the Regional convention in Albuquerque several years ago.

Before tackling a set of trees, decide what you want to model. Your layout setting will guide you here. If you are modeling anything in the west you will probably want pinons for lower and drier elevations and taller trees such as lodgepole pines, Douglas firs, and spruces that are found at higher and wetter elevations. The choice will determine the shape of the tree. Pinons tend to be bullet-shaped or dome-shaped, while the taller trees are more conical and pointed. Of course there is a good selection of commercial pine trees on the market at

reasonable prices but buying a large number of trees can quickly become pricey.

Only a few basic materials for making pine trees are required: small-gauge wire, stranded rope, some glue or cement and ground foam. Stu uses 0.029 diameter green floral wire, obtainable from Michaels at a nominal cost. This comes on spools that will provide enough material to make hundreds of trees. When you unwind the wire from the spool it will be very kinky, but it is easily straightened. Unwind 12 – 24 inches of wire, depending on the height of the tree, clamp both ends of the wire firmly in pliers and give the wire about three or four good vigorous yanks. You will end up with a reasonably straight piece. This works for copper wire also. You may find other types of wire as well, but make sure it is not too stiff.



The raw materials

For branches, get a spool of three-stranded hemp rope from Ace Hardware or other suppliers. Cut about a three-foot length and unwind the three strands. Longer pieces will require more effort to unwind. The separate strands, composed of a bundle of fibers, will be very curly, but they are easily straightened by soaking them in water for a few minutes and hanging them up to dry. After drying they will be fairly straight. Do not

try to separate the strands yet, it is more easily done later when you cut short pieces.

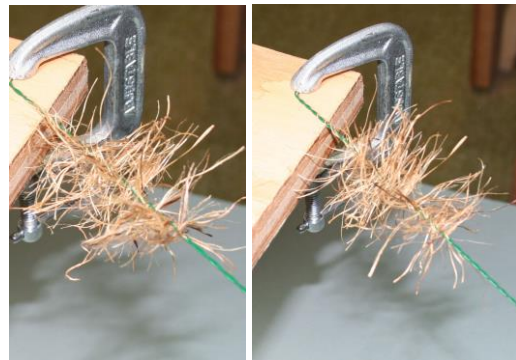
To begin making trees, prepare a board about 25%-50% longer than your tallest tree and drill a 1/8" hole close to the edge. Clamp this board securely to a firm surface, such as your workbench. You may find that placing a sheet of wax paper on the board will help you control the gluing process. Take a piece of straightened wire and bend it in half to form two parallel legs, then bend a 90-degree angle in the last quarter-inch of the wire pair. Insert one leg of the wire into the board hole and clamp it securely keeping the other leg free. Now dab some rubber cement or anything of your choice along both legs of the wire. Next take one of your straightened fiber bundles of rope (don't worry if it is still slightly wavy) and cut a section about twice the width of the tree. Separate the strands so that they are approximately parallel, spread out and center them on the tacky cemented wire. The branches toward the top should be shorter than those at the bottom. Make sure that the branches are approximately at right angles to the wire. Don't worry if everything looks messy. You will trim the branches later. Now press the second wire leg over the first leg and the branches. Insert this leg into the hole also and clamp both wires tightly. Refer to the photo below.



Assembly: branching out

The branches should be sandwiched between the two wire legs

Now comes the fun part. Take an electric drill with a cup hook inserted into the chuck. Twist your tree trunk so that the branches are free from the assembly board, insert the hook between the wire legs and slowly run the drill so that it twists the wire pair. A slow drill speed is best for this step. You will see the branches twist and fan out as in the photo below. Stop when the assembly is roughly circular. Do not twist the wires too tightly: they may break or you might not be able to get the hook out. Your tree is almost complete when you remove it from the assembly board. You may need to experiment a little until your trees come out looking about right. If they are not perfect – well did you ever see a “perfect” tree in the forest? When you become proficient, you should be able to make each tree in about five minutes or less.



The final twist now ready for trimming

Your branches may look uneven from top to bottom, but a pair of scissors will quickly trim and shape them. Next paint your raw tree. Stu uses gray spray primer for about five seconds per tree. Why gray? Look at actual trees and you will find that the bark is almost always gray, not brown. This will cover the wire also. Hang the tree up to dry.

For foliage, spray the painted tree with a spray cement or dip it in Scenic Cement or diluted matte medium. Stu uses 3M “77” spray cement. While the cement is still wet, sift ground foam

over the tree, shake off the excess, and allow the cement to dry. This may require several applications before your tree fills out the way you like it. A variety of foam colors is usually recommended. Pinons and some firs are usually a dark green while other pines and firs are a lighter green. You may want a darker green underneath with a lighter green over it. It is possible to find blue-green ground foam if you want to make blue spruce. For any product, tend toward using finer ground foam.



Examples of partly finished and completed trees

If your tree will show a lot of trunk at the bottom, you can glue and wrap crepe paper around the wire to achieve the desired thickness. Stu has also experimented with heat-shrink tubing with good results. Small diameter styrene tubing might also work well. To “plant” your trees, poke a hole in your scenery base to accept the trunk. Stu prefers making his contoured scenery from shaped foam board covered with a thin layer of plaster. The foam underneath helps the tree take root quite nicely. If you use a hard shell scenery base, you will probably need to glue your trunk in place and support the tree so it doesn’t flop to the side while the glue dries. On a hard surface, you will need to drill a hole the diameter of your trunk. Here are a few final observations: Not mentioned in the clinic, you might want to add some pine cones to your conifers. To do this, add some brown ground cover or sawdust over

the green needles, but sparingly. Taller trees often have their cones clustered near the top of the tree. You may leave a few painted trees without the ground foam as dead trees. Gary Myers demonstrated this several years ago. This clinic only covered making conifers, but you could experiment with producing aspens by spacing the branches a little further apart, painting the armatures white or a very light gray and using a lighter color green foam for the leaves.

When planting your trees, you will probably discover that each tree has a better side so arrange them so that the good side faces the viewer.

At the end of the Clinic, Bob Rothgery described the beautifully made apparatus, shown below, for making trees. It comes with a DVD explaining the process. The crank replaces the need for a drill.



If you would like to borrow this for your own attempt at making trees, please ask.

Special Request

My son Scott is a special education teacher for an elementary school in the Englewood school district.

One of his autistic students does not respond well (maybe at all) in school and is fascinated with model trains. He's a kid after my own heart.

The teacher is trying to find someone (preferably near Centennial), who could donate some rolling stock and track to him as a teaching aid.

An autistic elementary school student doesn't need metal wheels, Kadee couplers or properly weighted cars, just something that fascinates him.

Any help (or another contact in the Denver area) would be worth a lot to both the student as well as my son Scott.

If you have anything that will help him out, I will send you Scott's phone number so you may contact him directly. - Wade Mountz.
(Gary Myers may have his phone number.)