

Erie Limited Clinic Descriptions

Achievement Program Overview

Clinician: Bill Brown, MMR

As the Achievement Program Coordinator for the Northeastern Region Bill will introduce you to the requirements of the Achievement Program and provide a packet that will help you get started. Bill also just recently took over the chairmanship of the Modeling Contests for the yearly NMRA National Conventions and will relate the similarities and differences between AP judging and contest participation.

Achieving the Prototype Modeler Certificate on the Way to MMR

Clinician: Bill Brown, MMR

Bill will introduce you to the "Belden Section" of his home model railroad, and the steps he took to use it for his Achievement Program submission for Prototype Modeler. Bill will cover the requirements for Prototype Modeler and take you through his steps from researching the scene through construction and submittal.

Animation for Model Railroading

Clinician: Rick Spano

Rick will illustrate his animation on his N-Scale Sceniced *and Undecided Ry* using power point slides and short videos.

The mechanisms used to animate rotating ventilators, mechanic's automobile hydraulic lifts, fishermen, ice skaters, moving trucks, fork lift workmen, conveyor belts, operating cranes and coal loaders, blast furnace skip hoists and others will be demonstrated and explained along with suggestions about the gear motors that should be used.

Anthracite Mines: There is more than just a breaker

Clinician: Chuck Diljak

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.

Backdrop Design and Construction

Clinician: Tom Oxnard, MMR

Tom will present a discussion on why you need backdrops and how to make them. The presentation will include the creation of sky and clouds with stencils, use of perspective, important design elements to consider, choices of hand painting your backdrop or using commercial products, and creating your own photo backdrops and signature scenes from your pictures.

Blending Backgrounds & Foregrounds: Scenery Techniques for the Last 6” of Your layout or Module

Clinician: Bruce DeYoung, MMR

In the last six inches of your scenery as it approaches the backdrop, the goal is to form a smooth, realistic transition from the 3-D models and scenery on the layout to the (often) 2-D vertical backdrop. At the same time, your background should continue the 'illusion of reality' that you are trying to create with your scenery. This clinic will look at ways to handle these challenges through a few easy techniques and by examining many photos taken in well over 150 layout visits over the years.

Building from Photographs – Blacksmith Shop and Railroad Station

Clinician: Fred Willils

Structures abound in photographs, unfortunately kits of most structures do not exist. How can you build a structure model from a photograph? This clinic provides guidelines and ideas on how to research and build an accurate structure from a photograph.

Camden NJ Waterfront and the Railroads

Clinician: Mike Prokop

The focal point of this clinic is the Reading Railroad's Linden Street Freight Station. Located at the foot of Linden street on the Delaware river, we'll explore the layout and operations of this Reading property in the North Camden waterfront area. The freight station and yard occupy a small sliver of riverfront land, much like it's cousins up on the Manhattan and Brooklyn waterfront, with most of its freight coming and going via it's car float operations. We'll cover some Camden railroad history, including the Reading and the Pennsylvania roads and their predecessors, service to Atlantic City and ferry operations cross river to Philadelphia. Included in the clinic will be numerous historic photos of the area as well as discussion about building the Linden Street Freight Station on a Free-mo module.

Commuter Trains and Their Operations

Clinician: Bob Nalbone

This clinic examines how adding a commuter operation to a model railroad can enhance the overall operating experience. Examples from The Model Railroad Club, Inc.'s HO scale Hudson, Delaware & Ohio Railroad commuter program are featured, along with tips and suggestions for schedules, consists, equipment and layout design considerations.

Down to the Sea in Trains

Clinician: Bernie Kempinski

This clinic provides an overview of how railroads and ships interact at marine terminals from the early days of railroading to the current era of unit trains, double stacks and massive container ships. The presentation complements Bernie's latest next book from Kalmbach Publishing.

Introduction to Miniatur Wunderland & Gulliver's Gate

Clinician: Irwin Nathanson

Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany is likely the largest model railway in the world; it is certainly the most famous. But there are other major attractions like this in other countries, such as in England and in France. Now, we have Gulliver's Gate, right in New York City. In this clinic Irwin will introduce both railways, including helpful hints for visiting each location. Based on his personal experiences, he will also compare both attractions.

Layout Planning: Initial Decisions and Construction Tips

Clinician: Jeff Hanke

This clinic will cover initial decisions to be made to start the process of building a model railroad. Discussion centers around factors to consider before starting, during planning and preparing for construction. A few tips will be given for construction, but most of the clinic is about decision making and planning. The tools and plans I used on the East End will be shown.

Light Up Your Layout with LED Lighting

Clinician: Mike Prokop

This clinic demonstrates the many kinds and types of LED strip lights that are available along with many ideas and techniques for using them to illuminate your railroad. It's been updated to reflect all the newest and latest products and ideas for using and installing LED lighting for your layout. If it's new construction or an existing layout, LEDs can provide an easy and cost-effective method of lighting your layout.

Logging Railroads of Pennsylvania: Motive Power, Rolling Stock, and Infrastructure

Clinician: Bruce DeYoung, MMR

The peak period of logging by rail in Pennsylvania ran from 1880 until roughly 1929. During that period there were literally hundreds of logging railroads that came, operated, and then disappeared. About half of those railroads were narrow gauge. As is often the case with logging railroads, the motive power, rolling stock and infrastructure was unique, often made in the 'back shop', and perhaps even 'quaint'. Throughout the clinic, both a prototype and modeling perspective will be examined. The presentation contains many prototype photos of the period and is augmented by model photos from Bruce's HOn3 Slate Run Railroad and a sampling of model photos from friends in the hobby. Although this is a "Stand Alone" clinic, it is augmented by Bruce's other clinic: The Logging Railroads of Pennsylvania: The Industries Served.

Logging Railroads of Pennsylvania: The Industries Served

Clinician: Bruce DeYoung, MMR

The peak period of logging by rail in Pennsylvania ran from 1880 until roughly 1929. During that period there were literally hundreds of logging railroads that came, operated, and then disappeared. About half of those railroads were narrow gauge. In Pennsylvania, unlike in some other logging locations, there were many forest-product related industries served by these railroads. This clinic will discuss the variety of industries in the woods, and how they were interrelated. These will be looked at from both a prototype and modeling perspective. The presentation contains many prototype photos of the period and is augmented by model photos from Bruce's HOn3 Slate Run Railroad and a sampling of model photos from friends in the hobby. Although this is a "Stand Alone" clinic, it is augmented by Bruce's other clinic: The Logging Railroads of Pennsylvania: Motive Power, Rolling Stock, and Infrastructure.

Modeling HO Vehicles Realistically and Efficiently

Clinician: Jeff Hanke

Vehicles are some of the quickest ways to determine the period of a model railroad, however many modelers don't choose their vehicles with the same rigor as locomotives and freight cars. This clinic will describe not only how to make realistic vehicles, and make them efficiently, but also provide tips on how your fleet of vehicles should be composed, including type, style, color, makes, models, etc. of all types of vehicles. Actual examples will be shown.

My Big Fat Clinic: Or, how to weigh cars like the prototype

Clinician: Chuck Diljak

Chuck already built a crossover and a turnout, but what third track element could he build to qualify for the Civil Engineer certificate and also find a place on his layout? He discovered that a scale track was just the thing he needed for his coal-based railroad. Chuck's clinic will discuss how he built his scale track, the accompanying scale house, and how he incorporated it into his operations.

NYO&W 60

Clinician: Edward M, Koehler

March 29, 2017 marks the 60th Anniversary of the shutdown of the New York, Ontario and Western Railway. This presentation commemorates this sad event with coverage of a simulated trip from Weehawken, New Jersey to Norwich, New York. The simulated trip includes active steam and diesel train movements; locomotive roster shots; and buildings both in service and years after the shutdown. The simulated trip is followed by a video of a milk train operating from Oneida to Sidney in the years just before World War II. The second section of this show has a brief discussion on the day the railway shut down including six images of one of the last trains in the Cadosia – Norwich area. The presentation concludes with a few post shutdown images of rolling stock. There are 155 panels in this presentation which lasts about forty-five minutes depending on audience questions.

Overview of the Erie Railroad's LCL business: Infrastructure, Operations and Modelling

Clinician: Vincent Lee

A look at the system-wide facilities and operations of the less-than-carload transport industry as found on the Erie Railroad in the 1950's, and how it is portrayed on my HO scale Erie 28th Street Terminal.

Podcasting: the Future of the NMRA

Clinician: Tom Barbalet

Host of Model Rail Radio. Tom Barbalet, explains now podcasting is not only fun way to celebrate the hobby, it also provides a much-needed community to present and future model railroaders. Learn how to create, record and produce podcasts on a budget.

Quick Interiors

Clinician: Mike Tylick, MMR

There is a middle ground between painting the pounds of type metal castings required for the interiors in contest models and painting the windows black to hide an empty space. Mike has long used simple drawings on card stock, wood and found objects to quickly and simply provide the illusion of a detailed interior. The simplicity of digital photography has also caused him to experiment with photographic interiors. In this clinic Mike will show how he created the interiors for several recent projects.

Researching and Building a Historic Structure – the Sheafe Warehouse

Clinician: Fred Willis

What happens when you are traveling and suddenly discover a structure you desire for your layout. Time is short and you lack the tools to measure all aspects of the structure. This clinic provides some guides on how to measure and research a structure to build an accurate model in this situation.

Scenery by Photograph

Clinician: Tom Wortmann

We use many photographs to make sure our engines and rolling stock look total realistic, but we can look at the very same photo and NOT look at the trains but the area around them. Thus, making our scenery as realistic as our trains. Join Tom for a photo demonstration on what is in your photos that you cannot see as we take apart our train photos to examine the surrounding scenery.

Scenery in Tight Spaces

Clinician: Mike Tylick, MMR

Scenery design in tight spaces, which in reality is every model railroad. It was felt that hiding tight space in urban scenery, but difficult to do the same in the country. While assembling the clinic, Mike found the same devices will work in both. He has tried to include every trick he could think of in this clinic, and much mention is made of what is popularly known as “forced perspective.” This clinic makes use of prototype photos.

Scenery Projects at The Model Railroad Club

Clinician: Scott Dunlap

This clinic reviews Scott Dunlap's multi-year effort to repair, rejuvenate and improve the scenery on the original section of the club's HO layout which was suffering from 15 years of dirt, dust, use and abuse, and neglect. It includes many photographs that show how the layout looked before the work was started and after it was completed, along with plenty of helpful tips on how it was done

Scenery Using Natural Materials

Clinician: Richard Newmiller MMR

This clinic presents the author's approach to scenery using natural materials. The key topics include the landscape structure, a plaster cloth and gypsolite base, fitting and application of plaster rock castings, unifying earth tone washes and paints, ground cover, bushes, trees, water and the backdrop. Natural materials are employed to enhance realism through the use of their color, texture, shape and scale attributes. A 4-step simplified process will be detailed to color plaster rock castings. Some 65 material samples will be available for individual viewing. The PowerPoint slides document the transition of the layout from a “plywood city” to detailed scenes that complement the most discerning models.

Scranton Division of the New York, Ontario and Western Railway

Clinician: Edward M, Koehler

A PowerPoint® slide presentation featuring 'then and now' images of the abandoned NYO&W Scranton Division which once linked Cadonia, New York to Scranton, Pennsylvania. The New York, Ontario and Western Railway was the third largest hauler of coal out of Pennsylvania's northern anthracite field. There is also coverage of the Capouse branch partially surrounding Scranton, Pennsylvania. A tour of some of the railroad station buildings in Scranton is connected to this presentation.

Scratchbuilding in Styrene

Clinician: James van Bokkelen

James builds an HO scale styrene model of a wood frame building from prototype photos and basic dimensions. The model probably won't be completed at the clinic, but it should reach the point of wall subassemblies ready for windows and doors. Handout on styrene as a material and techniques for working with it provided. Tools discussed, parts in progress are passed around the audience, questions welcome.

Some Favorite Techniques for Scenery Construction

Clinician: Mike Tylick,MMR

Over the years, Mike has worked with a number of ways to build scenery and scenic elements, including landforms and detailing. He will describe his experiences with many of them, a few which are unusual. Most of the finished work is set in autumn, not often modeled but among the most visually compelling times of year. Design aspects will also be touched on briefly.

Staten Island Rapid Transit: Modeling B&O's Little-Known Railroad

Clinician: Marc Pitanza

In the late 19th century, the B&O built a branch from the CNJ mainline at Cranford, NJ to Staten island in New York City. This clinic will look at the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway's 150-year history with a major focus on the B&O era from 1886 to 1985. It will focus heavily on the industrial and extremely model-genic North Shore subdivision. Expert commentary will be given on the line's major customers and lesser known shippers and receivers. Track arrangements will be discussed including a look at the lines major yards and waterfront terminal. The clinic will also touch upon the lines interurban passenger service which was eventually taken over by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. We will also look at modern operations since the line's reopening in 2006.

Twenty Tips for Great Modeling

Clinician: Bill Brown, MMR

Bill will share some great modeling tips that he has learned in his 50 years of model railroading. Bill has built 7 layouts in his modeling "career" and in 2007 became the NMRA's 377th Master Model Railroader.

Update on the Aquia Line – 10 Years and Going Strong

Clinician: Bernie Kempinski

This is a review of Bernie's O scale layout showing the design, construction, and operations of the layout. It includes lots of photos of the finished sections of the railroad. Bernie will also discuss plans for expansion.

Weathering Freight Cars from the 1950s to Today

Clinician: Marc Pitanza

This clinic will explore proven techniques to add age, wear and dirt to your hardworking freight car fleet.

- Learn how-to fade factory paint jobs.
- Rust- Where to use it and what colors to use.
- Road grime effects with an airbrush
- Rain streaks/ Acid rain weathering with washes.
- Add modern era graffiti, a controversial, but essential weathering element for modern cars.

Photos, finished models and tools will be available to explore at the clinic.

Western Adventures

Clinician: Bill Brown, MMR

This multimedia presentation is stocked full of fabulous photos, intriguing video, and a multitude of great stories that emerged from several railroad exploratory trips Bill has taken to the Colorado Rockies with railroad buddies...and yes of course a few with his family.

What Was All That Track For?

Clinician: James van Bokkelen

Riding and observing Northeastern railroads, you're struck by the remains of yards, sidings, multiple tracks etc. lining the right of way in urban and industrial areas. Far beyond the requirements of current traffic, many have been abandoned for decades, growing up to brush or being sold off for development. Aerial photos and Historic track charts are available for many areas, but they only explain 'What' and 'When'. This clinic gives you a start at understanding 'Why'.