

April 2021 Volume 14, Number 4

**April Fools' Edition** 



# **Sunrise Division Officers**

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#### Layout of the Month

This month's photos are from Bob Rothgery's HO scale Elk Pass layout set in the late 1800's.





From the Editor

April's Sunrise Division meeting was held on April Fools' Day this year. As you no doubt noticed from the first page of the Herald, it was a quirky meeting. Continue reading and you will find some more April first oddities.

#### **April Meeting Notes**

Signing in to the virtual Zoom meeting began at 6:30 p.m. The meeting began promptly at 7:00 with 21 participants in attendance. Superintendent Boorman began the meeting by having participants introduce themselves and tell what hobbies they had other than model railroading or other things that they collected. Following the introductions were Announcements, Show 'n' Tell, Tool Time and the Clinic; all of which are reported on in greater detail in this edition. The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting**

All future Division meetings will be via Zoom until the COVID-19 guidelines allow us back into Holy Love Lutheran Church.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 6, 2021. Log-in starts at 6:30pm. The meeting will start at 7pm.



#### **Upcoming Tool Time**

Bob Hochstetter will demonstrate the Coffman Original Right Clamp and the Coffman Original Splice Clamp.

# Upcoming Show 'n' Tell Themes for 2021

May – Re-Purposed Kit/Project June – Passenger Rolling Stock July – Depot August – Scratchbuilt Model September – Roundhouse/Turntable October – Covered Hoppers November – Maintenance of Way December – Snow is the Season

#### **Upcoming Clinic**

Gerry Glancy will impose upon you his recent infatuation with San Francisco's Embarcadero and the State Belt Railroad. This captivating story represents maritime railroading at its very finest. Along the way you will be treated to tidbits of important historical trivia of no redeeming value whatsoever. In a never ending effort to promote audience attentiveness a bell will sound periodically announcing the discovery of a GMT. You will have to tune in to see what that is all about.

#### Announcements

The Sherman Hill Model Railroad Show is scheduled for May 15-16 at the Frontier Park Exhibition Hall (1312 W 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001).

TECO has scheduled an outdoor swap meet in the Chapel Hills Mall parking area (1710 Briargate Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO) on May 22. This will be a spread out event outdoors for safety.

William Boorman reported that N Scale Supply (6064 W 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Arvada, CO) now carries HO scale products in addition to N and Z scale products. The HO products can be found under the new name Rocky Mountain Train Supply on Facebook. William did his best to support them.

We have received this request for help message—"Our family homestead is home to what we think is the oldest dedicated square and round dance facility in the state and perhaps the country. Our father operated it since 1961. He passed away in October 2020. My 3 brothers and I are trying to preserve the possibility that dancing resumes in the future, but to do so may require moving or eliminating some of the auxiliary buildings. The Aurora Historical Society has been interested, but we are not sure that that is best for the property. Before any changes are made we want to have a miniature model, perhaps several, made of the property. Dad loved his recreation of a Western town, and so do we."

If you are interested in helping, please contact Bob Hochstetter for the cell phone number of the requester. Two photos of the property below:





### **URLs of the Month**

Here is a great article about Märklin scale trains with some terrific photos: <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/18/busi</u> <u>ness/model-trains-pandemic.html</u>

This video includes volunteer needs at the Como Project for 2021, including for Boreas Pass Railroad Day on Saturday, August 21st, 2021.

https://youtu.be/UOE6fz2t3OE

#### **Tool Time**

Stu Jones, MMR , presented his welldocumented method for lighting passenger cars with LED strips that are purchased in bulk rolls. His entire presentation is here:



This is a spool of LEDs sold by Micro-Mark.

- A spool contains 5 meters (16 feet) with 300 LEDs and is priced at \$24.95. That's about 8 cents per LED.
  - The LEDs are arranged in groups of three. A scissors symbol indicates where individual strips can be separated.
  - Enough for 25 85-foot passenger cars assuming 12 LEDs per car
  - Also good for lighting building interiors.
  - LEDs have a low current draw and emit no detectable heat

making them ideal for lighting plastic, wood, and cardstock structures.

- They have an adhesive coating on the back side. One member observed that the adhesive might come loose over time, so a bead of ACC along the edge will make a more permanent attachment
- Can be divided into sets of threes
- Colors
  - Bright white (5000K) about the color of daylight. This bluish color would be good for industrial interiors lighted by mercury vapor lamps.
  - Natural White (4200K) a little redder than bright white – good for simulating fluorescent lighting
  - Warm White (2800K) good for simulating indoor incandescent lighting
- Will work on either DC or AC. Note, however, that when used for car lighting on DC layouts they will work only when the track polarity is in the correct direction. Since these are LEDs they will work on AC but will be lighting only half the time but the voltage reversal is typically too fast for the human eye.
- Dropping Resistor required depending on the voltage - LEDs typically operate in the 3-volt range, so a dropping resistor is needed at higher voltages. More about this below.
- There are solder locations on each end of a 3-LED strip, but you can get connectors that the strip will plug into.



This Photo is an extruded aluminum model about 1950 vintage so no commercial lighting kits are available.



The lighting installation for this car used a strip of  $0.25 \times 0.060$  styrene that has been attached above the seats. Six LEDs have been attached to this strip. I used 30-gauge wirewrap wire to connect the LEDs to the truck pickup. Connection details are discussed below.



The next car is a Penn-Modified coach, kit vintage 1960. Again, there is no commercial lighting kit available. The trucks are 4-wheel Walthers.



The lighting installation for this car is similar to that used on the previous car. Twelve LEDs were used to light the entire car. Electrical connections are direct to the Walthers truck



This shows the 1500-ohm dropping resistor installation in series with the LED strip. The track power for the lighting is DCC, about 15 volts. Depending on the voltage you use, you may need to experiment with various resistance values to get the desired brightness.



This is a test using a 12-volt power supply. This illumination looks about right



The next car is a scratchbuilt diner-solarium lounge. Lighting for this car was divided into two 3-LED segments to light the dining area and lounge area separately. The lavatory and lockers between these two areas remain dark.



This shows the connection between the passenger truck that picks up track power and the wire that leads to the lighting strip. This connector, made from a snappable header, enables the truck to be removed from the car. This connector is described below.



This is a currently available Walthers sixwheel passenger truck. Note the four screws that hold the truck together. These screws make an electrical connection with the wheels on each side of the frame. The right and left sides are isolated from each other. I made a small "spade lug" from thin brass stock to attach under one of the screws. I soldered a 30-gauge wire to the lug and a connector on the other end.



This photo shows two snappable headers partially plugged together. These are available from All Electronics. Micro-Mark offers similar units called Micro-Miniature Connectors. They can be cut and arranged in any length desired. The spacing of the pins is 0.01- inch, making them compatible with many other connectors. For my project I usually use single or double configurations. These could also be used to make connections between steam locomotives and tenders. The wires would resemble air and hose connections between locomotive and tender.



This is an example of a pair of wired connectors. The heat-shrink insulation is optional.



This is a different six-wheel Walthers passenger truck. Note the "silver" tabs beneath the screws. These tabs connect electrically to the wheels on each side to provide better electrical connections. The wheels are metal mounted on plastic axles so the right and left sides of the truck are electrically isolated. Walthers offers a selection of four-wheel trucks that follow the same design.



It's time we came to actual tools. These are two examples of wire strippers that will

remove insulation from wire gauges- 30 through 22. They are particularly useful for stripping 30-gauge wire-wrap wire that is otherwise hard to strip. Wire-wrap wire is useful for a variety of modeling applications. In short lengths it can be used to connect decoders to other parts of a locomotive. Longer lengths can be used to wire LEDs because of their low current draw. Similar wire strippers are available to handle larger wire sizes. I recommend these for everyone's tool kits.

(*Editor's Note*: An article in the November 2013 Model Railroader illustrates a method of controlling LED strip lighting with DCC decoders.)

#### Show 'n' Tell

Apparently, the show 'n' tell subject, April Fools', was too ill-defined for members as I had the only picture to present.



This is what happens if you have a cute 6year-old granddaughter who loves to run your trains but insists that her "creatures" take a ride.

#### Clinic

Frank Labor presented his well-documented clinic "DCC Wiring Diagrams" which explained his method of wiring his layout. His slides are included here:



**DCC Wiring Diagrams** 

# DCC Wiring Diagrams







#### **Olfactory Advancements**

Since this was the April Fools' meeting, Stu Jones submitted the following:

It is amazing how fast our hobby is advancing. Just a few years ago Digital Command Control came on the scene, and now the concept is being extended to Layout Command Control and battery-controlled locomotive power. So many things have been developed that make our layouts more realistic than ever. Sound decoders produce very accurate reproductions of real railroad sounds and can even be incorporated into rolling stock. But why limit our perceptions to sight and sound alone. Until just a few years ago smoking steam locomotives were the provenance of tinplate models, but now even HO locomotives can emit smoke. But sadly one thing that has been neglected is our sense of smell. Imagine the possibilities! Instead of simply emitting smoke, our locomotive emissions should smell like burning coal or diesel fumes. If we can add aromas to all sorts of home products, why not to hobby products as well?

Sawmills and lumber yards are popular models on many layouts, but where is the aroma of fresh-cut lumber. That could even be extended to lumber camps. Chemical plants, refineries and smelters all have their own distinctive scents that could accompany belching smoke as well. For those who only model urban scenes with trash cans scattered along the streets, and perhaps a trash truck and crew busily collecting the refuse, the scene could be enhanced with the essence of fresh garbage. Farms are often modeled, but lack the smell of fresh-cut hay and manure. Ditto for feed lots and meat packing plants. That odor certainly would add an entire new dimension to the visual scene. But why limit this to stationary scenes. Just like adding traveling smells to locomotives, why not to rolling stock also. Imagine a string of stock cars passing through your rural scenes with the essence of cattle or sheep following along. And of course imagine the delight of your visitors as a cattle or hog train passes through your favorite scene! With a little ingenuity the possibilities are almost unlimited. You might have to install a ventilation system, but you may have that already for your paint booth. If not, the cost probably wouldn't exceed that of a good locomotive with a sound decoder. Russ T. Rayles April 1, 2021

# OOPS

I inadvertently omitted Rich Flammini's submission for Show 'n' Tell from the last Herald.





Converting P-42's to cab-less B-Units for long distance trains.