



Sunrise Herald

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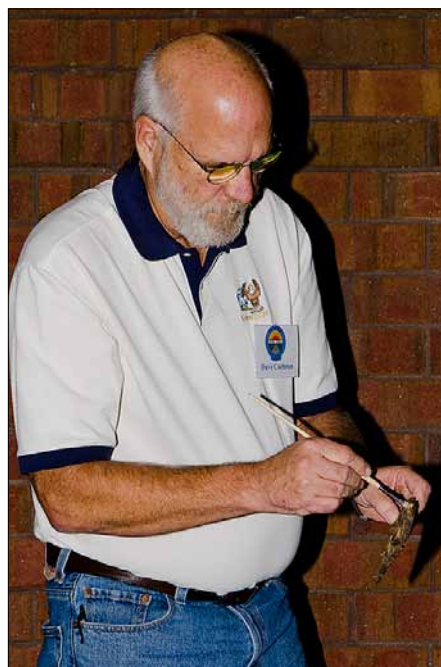
Inside Out Feature of August Clinic

Realistic scenery is the goal of many model railroaders, and during the Sunrise Division August clinic, Dave Cochrun demonstrated his approach to coloring rocks. The results are spectacular.

Dave, with his partner, Kathy, owns and operates a large HO-scale layout, the Castle Rock and Pacific. Such a large layout requires a substantial amount of scenic detail, and he sought an easy and inexpensive way to color rock features. He said other criteria included fast application and no dependence on artistic skill. One last requirement was the ability to recover if he made a mistake.

He tried the Woodland Scenics system: various colors of acrylic washes

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Above: Dave Cochrun demonstrates the painting techniques during his clinic presentation. Below: A plaster casting showing the results of applying the techniques demonstrated at the August clinic. (Photos by Tom Frerichs)

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Inside Out Clinic – from page 1

applied to the plaster, followed by a black wash to bring out the shadow detail, but he was not satisfied with the results. One fault he found was inconsistent coverage if the base included dissimilar materials. It was also difficult to start over if too much of the wrong color had been applied. Bragdon offers a scenic product that worked well, but Dave rejected it because it was too expensive for a large layout.

At the 2007 Great Lake Express NMRA convention held in Detroit, Dave attended a clinic given by John Bussard. That clinic was the inspiration for the rock coloring technique he now uses. It met his requirements of reasonable cost, uniform coverage, and forgiveness of technical errors. After listing his goals, Dave demonstrated his solution using both projected videos and a real-life presentation.

Key to the process is the use of low-cost acrylic craft paints, available at Hobby Lobby, Walmart, Michaels, and other stores. Four colors are used: black and three shades of “rock” color.

The three color shades comprise a family of dark, medium, and light hues, and the selection of colors depends upon the type of rock being modeled. In his demonstration, he used a dark brown which looked like an umber, a medium grayed-yellow or ochre, and a light gray.

The color is applied with the darkest layer first, and each following layer is lighter in shade. It is this layering of lighter over darker that leads to the “inside-out” moniker.

He begins by mixing the medium rock color with black paint in the ratio of five parts color to one part black. After painting the entire area requiring rock colors with the resulting mix, making sure there are no voids, he lets this shadow layer dry for twenty-four hours. He uses inexpensive acrylic brushes which have a stiff bristle.

Once the initial coat has completely dried, he puts undiluted puddles of the three shades of paint on his palette, which was a disposable plastic plate. Dipping his brush into the darkest color, he uses a dry-brush technique to paint about 90% of the rock face. “Dry brush” means that he does not load his brush with a lot of paint, wiping the brush on his palette to remove excess. He pointed out that full coverage is not only unnecessary but a mistake. The first very dark layer forms the shadows, so getting any lighter colored paint in those areas would destroy the illusion.

After letting that layer dry slightly, he uses the next lighter hue and covers about 50% of the rock face. Dave said because there should be some mixing of color, the previous layer should still be slightly wet. If it is too wet, the color will be too uniform, and if it is too dry, there will not be a variety of tone.

Dave used the lightest color to randomly paint about 10% of the rock face. This is the “highlight” coat, so it should be concentrated where the light would naturally fall.

Because the paint is opaque, different base materials, such as foam and plaster, will be uniformly covered. Further, if a mistake is made, it is possible to go back one or more steps with the limitation that too many coats of paint could hide surface detail. —SH



NMRA Notes

The dust has barely settled from the Sacramento convention when the folks in Grand Rapids are revving up for next year's get-together. In fact, registration for Grand Rails 2012 is well underway. Members can visit the web site at www.gr2012.org and either register online or download a mail-in form. Non-members

can also sign up. Currently, registration only covers the costs of attending the convention. Furniture City Flyers Club members will receive the complete list of tours, activities, and merchandise in December, followed by advance registrants, then all other members.

The Howell Day Museum is planning a new release of its extremely popular Commemorative Car #3—the Gorre & Daphetid bobber cabooses—except this run will feature two new road numbers, #3 and #5. As you may know, John Allen was very fond of these cabooses and ran a fleet of them on his G&D railroad. Pricing will be \$19.95 for one car or \$34.95 for the set of two. Watch for the announcement of their availability at www.nmra.org, or keep your eyes open for the ad which will appear in *NMRA Magazine*.

Many of the clinicians at the Sacramento convention have uploaded their handouts or full presentations as PDF files to the x2011 web site at www.x2011west.org. Anyone can download them. Just look for the Clinics tab, then Clinic Handouts.

—SH



Division Data

Sunrise Division promotes and encourages model railroading from I-25 east to the Kansas border. We welcome all model railroaders, regardless of skill or experience, because our goal is to have fun.

The *Sunrise Herald* is a publication of the Sunrise Division of the Rocky Mountain Region, National Model Railroad Association.

Division Officers

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Above: After the collision, passengers flee from the two burning cars. Six people, including the truck driver, died. Right: At the August 2011 meeting Al Johnson related his experiences on the ill-fated train. Below: Seen from an evacuation bus window, the smoldering remains of two rail cars loom above rail workers.



Not Your Usual Train Story

Al Johnson expected to see interesting scenery when he boarded the *California Zephyr* on June 24, 2011, but he didn't expect a quick stop seventy miles east of Reno, Nevada. Just before noon, local time, a semi failed to stop at a crossing, slamming into the side of the train. Six people died in the wreck, including the truck driver.

Al, along with most of the other 204 passengers, was unhurt. It will probably be a year before the NTSB issues a report, but it appears that the crossing gates were working on the Union Pacific line.

Al related his experiences, praising the professionalism of the train crew and of the first responders, including helicopter crews from a nearby Naval Air Station. And like any true rail fan, Al didn't forget to take pictures.

—SH

Show & Tell

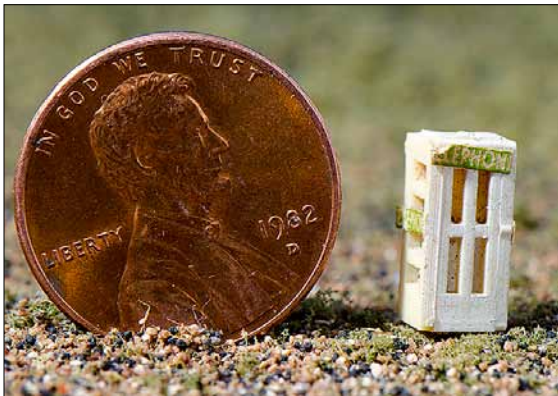


Off-Line Structures August Feature

A nice variety of off-line structures, man-made construction not directly served by rail, was the August theme, and Sunrise Division members brought in a nice selection of models to share.

Ranging in size from Stu Jones's five-story HO-scale commercial buildings to Steve Schweighofer's tiny N-scale telephone booth, all the models would fit appropriately in their respective layouts.

Don Francis won the random drawing for the Caboose Hobbies gift certificate. —SH



Above: Stewart Jones brought these City Classic buildings from his layout. These HO-scale models have interior lighting, and feature large metal pins that both pass the power for lighting and make sure they are properly placed on the layout when "plugged-in." **Left:** It would take an N-scale Superman coming out of that telephone booth to lift the penny used to show size. **Below:** Don Francis split this HO-scale Magnuson Models transfer building in half to double the footprint. This model is placed at the rear of the layout, so the missing back wall will never be missed. (Photos by Tom Frerichs)





Above: Rocky's Mine was offered by Builders In Scale for the 1991 NMRA Convention held in Denver. The original sample display is owned by Dick Hunter and was built by Jim Haggard. (Photos by Tom Frerichs)



Even More August Show & Tell

Above: Rich Flammini, who models the Chicago area in HO-scale, brought in "Ray's Bakery," his interpretation of a new DPM kit. Can't you smell the break baking? And wouldn't you like to go to the "Old Mill Tavern" advertised on the side? Left: This Suydam building kit was one of Dick Hunter's contributions. He wanted to show what early building kits looked like to show how far we've come. Below: Four row houses in N-scale: these tiny models were built by Steve Schweighofer. If you look carefully, you'll see a few differences — other than color — between the models. (Photos by Tom Frerichs)



Tool Time Tips



Erasing the Foam

Jim Laird presented August's Tool Time Tip: using sand blasting to remove from brass locomotives the damage caused by some kinds of packing foam. As Paul Smith pointed out during a previous Tool Time Tip presentation, some kinds of foam packing can damage brass locomotives. The foam can discolor or pit the surfaces of both painted and unpainted rolling stock.

Jim purchased from Harbor Freight Tools an "Air Eraser Kit" for about \$25. It's a small sand blaster that looks much like an air brush with a large cup, although the working pressure is 65 PSI instead of the much lower pressures used with an air brush. Instead of sand, the Air Eraser uses ground walnut shells.

Using the Air Eraser, Jim was able to remove any signs of the discoloration caused by the foam. It was very gentle to the model, leaving a surface with just a bit of tooth suitable for painting.

Jim experimented with different media, including using baking soda as the abrasive. Unfortunately, the soda clumped and did not work, but that will not stop Jim's experiments. —SH

Right: Jim Laird demonstrates his Air Eraser by removing foam damage from an HO-scale locomotive. He brought in a small "pancake" type of compressor to supply the air necessary to move the abrasive ground walnut shells he was using..

(Photo by Tom Frerichs)



Membership Report



Sunrise Division had twenty-six people attending the August meeting. After Al Johnson's presentation, Division Superintendent Gary Myers welcomed the members and guests, then began the business meeting with a few announcements.

Rich Flammini, RMR Promotions Chairman, reminded members of the Regional Convention to be held September 1–4. He also mentioned the Great Trains Expo which will be held in November and reminded members that he will need volunteers to man the NMRA booth. He then slipped in a tool time tip of his

own: he showed that using a mirror on track can help point out kinks that might be missed.

Jim Laird, who is taking over the chairmanship of the RMR AP program at the fall convention, asked for volunteers to help judge at the convention. He said inexperienced folks would be paired with experienced judges.

Steve Schweighofer mentioned the annual Denver South Park & Pacific Convention, held by an organization devoted to keeping the memory of this once-important Colorado narrow gauge line alive.

Gary then announced that Sunrise Division would be sponsoring the 2012 RMR convention, Big Horn Mixed, with details to follow.

The Tool Time Tip and clinic segments followed, then members retired to Village Inn for pie and coffee. —SH



From The Chief

GARY MYERS, DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

Sunrise/Front Range Second Annual Joint Picnic

We had a very enjoyable picnic again with the Front Range Division, on August 14, at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, Colorado. We had a slightly smaller group than last year, had a couple cancellations, but had a few extras join us.

Unfortunately, my wife, Michelle, had to cancel at the last minute, but I was able to share her homemade (and very sweet) apple pie. Joining me were Don Francis, John and Phyllis Griffith, John Dillavou, and Louis Surles. Around a dozen of the Front Range members attended, including Paul Brennecke, Jack Haptonstall, Keevan Burnside, Mark Hammang, and Hal and Karen Zimbelman, among others.

On the right is my thank you letter to the guys at Front Range.

After the eating, I spent time with friends taking some photos and walking the grounds. Unfortunately, my photography is not in a class with Tom Frerich's; however, be it known that he takes my photos and somehow makes them so much better when you see them in the Sunrise Herald. If you haven't been out to the Museum lately, the picnic offers a great excuse for the opportunity to do so. In fact, I hadn't visited since the picnic from last summer. So next year, don't be surprised to hear we'll have another picnic in mid-to late-August at the Colorado Railroad Museum. Maybe you will be there, too!

-SH

To the Front Range Division:

Thank you very much for inviting the Sunrise Division to participate in your Annual Picnic for the second year in a row. I thought that although both groups were slightly smaller than last year, this year's participants mingled more and we were able to get to know each other a little better. Everyone very much appreciated the picnic get together.

The picnic was great with the weather behaving very well (which kept us from getting too hot and only a very light sprinkle that never threatened to really dampen the festivities). I hope we can continue this joint activity as it has been very enjoyable and lets us get together as a group.

I believe occasional joint activities such as this are great for the members of both Divisions, and strengthen each Division. We are currently in a hurried preparation of a mini-layout tour in southwest Aurora for September 10th, which you are welcome to attend.

As a thank you for graciously hosting the picnic, we will provide the details for our Fall Layout Tour as soon as available!

Thanks again!

*Gary Myers, Superintendent
on behalf of the Sunrise Division,
Rocky Mountain Region, NMRA*



The picnic gave Gary Myers an opportunity to take a few photographs of the 1:1 scale models at the Colorado Railroad Museum, and here are three fine examples of his work.
(All photos by Gary Myers)



Focus on the Future

Weighty Topic For September Clinic

September's clinic will be led by our own Gary Myers who will be talking about "scales." Railroads need some way to charge for hauling bulk freight, such as coal or grain, and they use track side scales to figure out how much to charge. Gary will be discussing how to model and operating track scales.

The Tool Time Tip segment will be presented by Stewart Jones, who always has something new and interesting to present.

Layout Tour on 9/10

Mark your calendars: from one to four o'clock in the afternoon, Sunrise Division will be sponsoring a layout tour of three model railroads in southeast Aurora. You will be receiving an e-mail with details and maps in the next few days. Watch for it, and we'll see you there.

-SH

Division Meeting Place

Sunrise Division meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 PM. The meeting is held at Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado, which is located one block north of Quincy Avenue on Chambers Road. Check <http://www.trainweb.org/SunriseDivision> for the latest information.

-SH

Byron O'Bayley

On August 8, 2011, Byron O'Bayley, a member of Sunrise Division, peacefully left us. Although he had been unable to attend recently, many of us will remember him. The members of Sunrise Division extend their prayers and sympathy to his family.

Upcoming Events

- ◇ *September 1, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *September 1—4, Rocky Mountain Region Annual Convention*. See *Callboard* for details.
- ◇ *September 10, Sunrise Division Layout Tour, 1—4 PM. Details to be e-mailed.*
- ◇ *September 10—11, Day Out With Thomas*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado.
- ◇ *September 17, Model Railroad & Toy Train Swap Meet*, The Foothills Society of Model Railroaders, Green Mountain Presbyterian Church, 12900 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado. 9—11:30 AM
- ◇ *September 17—18 & September 24—25, Day Out With Thomas*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado.
- ◇ *October 1, Western Colorado Train Show*, Montrose County Fairgrounds, Montrose, Colorado
- ◇ *October 6, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *October 29-30, Trick or Treat Train—Steam-Up Event*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado
- ◇ *November 3, Sunrise Division Regular Meeting*, Holy Love Lutheran Church, 4210 South Chambers Road, Aurora, Colorado. 7:15 PM
- ◇ *November 11-13, Wasatch Rails*, Utah State Fairpark, Salt Lake City, Utah
- ◇ *November 12, SCFD Free Days—Galloping Goose Ride*, Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, Colorado. Free admission. Rides available for purchase only.
- ◇ *November 19, Model Railroad & Toy Train Swap Meet*, The Foothills Society of Model Railroaders, Green Mountain Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, Colorado. 9—11:30 AM

Show & Tell Themes

When you submit a model for the show and tell, you automatically are entered into a drawing for a gift certificate from Caboose Hobbies in Denver.

September 1 Tank Cars
October 6 Cattle Cars
November 3 Mine Related
December 1 Favorite Holiday Train