

# PROTOTYPE RAILS 2024

Rev. 04

Frank Angstead & Doug Dolloff: **Manufacturing the Intermountain Way.**

Intermountain Railway Company returns to Prototype Rails with the latest info on how they manufacture and import scale model trains. Come and hear how current events have affected the model train industry.

George Bogatiuk, III: **Introduction to the Soundtraxx Blunami.**

In this clinic George will show you the benefits and features of running Blunami in your models. Experience the direct wireless control of your locos from your smart device. The new SoundTraxx Blunami will operate in DC, DCC and wirelessly through the app and is able to be installed into most scales. Blunami frees you up from the complexity of the DCC systems and has a well laid out user interface for reliable operation, and for more fun! It truly is a game changer!!

George Bogatiuk, III: **Operations with Tsunami2 and Blunami.**

In this clinic, George will discuss prototypical railroading practices and then show you how you can recreate these realistically with the SoundTraxx line of products. The products demonstrated will be the Tsunami2 and Blunami. We will cover realistic train handling, braking, Dynamic Digital Exhaust and even consisting using your DCC system and the new Blunami app! We spend the time to make our models as realistic as possible, come learn how to operate them in a prototypical manner.

Mike Boland: **Blown Away: The 1935 Hurricane that Destroyed the FEC's Key West Extension.**

Modeler/author Mike Boland has a special fascination with the Key West Extension of the Florida East Coast Railway and the Labor Day Hurricane of September 2, 1935. That day, the most intense hurricane on record ended service on this unique and most unusual branchline, known as "The Overseas Railroad." The story of this storm is an unbelievable tragedy with destruction and loss of life for the hundreds of World War vets living in three construction camps in the upper Keys who waited for a rescue train that unfortunately arrived at the height of the storm. Having extensively researched this subject, Mike tells the story of what happened to the FEC, the Extension, the vets, the relief train and even Ernest Hemingway--and why.

Al Brown: **Seaboard Air Line Cement Hoppers.**

The Seaboard Air Line had coal hoppers (classes H), phosphate hoppers (P), and cement hoppers (C). This talk will give a brief history of the cement hoppers and describe modeling the three oldest groups (built 1949 and earlier).

John Brown, MMR: **Auto Frames on the Railroads.**

My clinic is on gondolas and flat cars that were used to ship auto frames from A.O Smith in Milwaukee and other manufacturers of auto frames from the 1920's until unibody construction was incorporated. Truck frames are still shipped by rail.

Jeff Cauthen & Bob Webber: **GN, NP, CB&Q, and Pullman Diners.**

The commonality between GN, NP, CB&Q, and Pullman dining cars, of Plans 7042, 3386, and 3952 will be reviewed. Photos, plans, and information on models available will be presented. Handouts will be provided.

Jason Cripps: **Some Do's and Don'ts of Decoder Installations.**

What I have learned about decoder installations. Things that work for me and things that cause problems.

Bill Darnaby: **The Maumee From Concept to Completion - How I got the train set I always wanted.**

Covers the design concept with inputs from experiences on other layouts and describes in detail the construction techniques from lumber, to rail to operational hardware requirements, and to scenery.

Bill Darnaby: **Scratchbuilding a Steam Engine - The Monon's Ubiquitous J1's.**

Bill describes how a simple conversion of a USRA mike turned into a major scratch building project. Covers the prototype history and input to the project that led to unanticipated modeling decisions. The modeling techniques involved cover making everything from scratch except the running gear and frame.

Andrew Deak: **Using Laser Cutting for Model Railroading.**

The use of a laser cutter in model railroading opens up numerous possibilities. The laser cutter can be used to make laser ties. It can also be used to create control panels and signage on the layout. It can also be used to build wood and styrene plastic structures. The possibilities are endless and only limited by your creativity!

Matthew Dowd: **A Conversation About Brass - An open forum discussion hosted by Matthew Dowd, Founder of ReSourced Rails.**

Join us for an open forum discussion on brass model trains, where we'll explore their relationship to the prototype, criteria for selection of models, and strategies for long-term preservation of your collection. Engage in an informal and accessible conversation about the intricate relationship between these replicas and their real-world counterparts. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or a newcomer, this forum offers valuable insights into the world of brass model trains. All aboard for a concise exploration of craftsmanship, selection nuances, and sustainable curation practices. Your participation is highly encouraged!

George Eichelberger: **Passenger, mail and express cars to, and Through Washington Union Terminal in 1937, 1941-44 and October, 1958.**

This clinic uses a forty-four page document prepared by WUT to plan train movements into WUT for the 1958 Fall (Florida "season") timetables. The consists, originating and terminating points of most trains entering the terminal and which trains operated through the terminal and how other consists were combined or broken up as trains from the South (RF&P, Southern, ACL, SAL and C&O) were combined to become Pennsylvania trains to NYC and points in the Northeast are included. In addition to coaches and sleepers, mail express and baggage car handling at WUT is covered in detail. Example of the various car types (RPO, baggage, M&E and Express) cars are discussed. To emphasize how large a business "M&E" was to the railroads, the clinic will include plans to move passengers, mail and express to and through Washington (and other gateway terminals) during the Christmas holidays 1937, 1941-44. (The war-time information was requested from the railroads by the WWII "Office of Defense Transportation" (ODT). Detailed responses are from the National Archives (NARA) at Morrow, GA.) A copy of the entire WUT terminal document will be available at the session.

Doug Geiger: **The Iron and Steel Industry.**

The steel industry has a rich history and formed the backbone of America's growth. And from moving raw ingredients to delivering finished products, steel has been an integral part of railroading. This clinic will provide you with a basic understanding of steel making processes and vocabulary. It will give you a guide to the inner workings of rolling mills and some of the specialized railroad equipment found in and around a steel plant. Many references (both prototype and modeling) will be presented to enable you to accurately add this fascinating industry to your own layout. Although mostly a prototype clinic, modeling ideas will be injected as the presentation develops.

Doug Geiger: **Advanced Tools and Tips.**

Tools can easily be the most important part of enhancing your modeling skills. Join us as we explore various modeling tools and supplies, ranging from advanced (for example, calipers and material organization), moving to exotic (punch and die sets and scribes to name just a few), and concluding with some power tools (slow speed drills and mini sawz-alls for instance). Many of these tools are not often seen in the model railroading world, but are used extensively in the IPMS world (International Plastic Modeling Society – those folks who build airplanes, armor, cars and ships). Modeling tips using these tools will also be discussed during the seminar.

Jared Harper: **The Alma Branch - On to Completion.**

I have often heard the canard that "a model railroad is never finished." However, recently Jack Burgess, one of the best-known modelers in prototype modeling, announced that his YV was completed and that he would be dismantling it soon. Like Jack I am planning to go against the grain and finish my Santa Fe Alma branch layout. In fact, I have told my wife that I will be really pissed if I die before completing my RR. The clinic will look at the status of the Alma branch and what I am doing and need to do to complete the layout.

Steve Hile: **Wilson and Company Refrigerator Cars.**

Steve Hile will review the history of this interesting company and its cars, many of which were built in company shops. He will then show some modeling examples and the kit building and bashing to obtain them.

Roger Hinman: **The Other New York Central Steel Baggage Cars 1939 – 1968.**

Having reviewed the standard design steel baggage cars in a previous presentation, this presentation will look at the balance of the baggage car fleet in the final three decades of the railroad's existence. The bulk of the other cars are rebuilds which will be the dominant cars as the Penn Central era approaches.

Benita Jameson: **Frankensteining Your Figures.**

Modifying scale figures to meet your needs. The clinic includes tips on modifying, painting, detailing, and weathering the figures. Suitable for all scales and skill levels.

Gene Jameson: **Documenting Your Layout.**

This clinic is useful to ALL modelers, regardless of scale. The clinic will cover all the items that need to be documented. It will cover what to document and how to document it, for example; wiring, inventory, and other items that concern your layout that you need to have handy in an emergency. Do you know how much your model railroad is worth if you had to replace it? Do you remember how you wired the diode matrix for the yard or where all the isolated rail joints are? If you answered "NO" to these questions, then you should attend this clinic!

Tony Koester: **What's New on the Nickel Plate?**

It's been a while since we've had an update on the Nickel Plate, and Tony reports progress on all fronts, thanks in no small part to the help of dedicated crew members and friends. Interlocking plants of various degrees of sophistication are being or have been installed; key structures have been added; the steam and diesel fleet has grown; "blue box" cars have been retired; and a telephone system using actual NKP scissors phones has been installed.

W. Jim Langston, III: **Amtrak New York to Florida Passenger Trains 1971-2023.**

The evolution from inherited steam cars of the Rainbow era from across the US through Heritage Fleet, Amfleet II and Viewliners. A look at the cars and locos of Silver Meteor, Silver Star, Champion, Amtrak Auto Train and a few others. Modeling in HO.

W. Jim Langston, III: **CSXT Bone Valley Phosphate Operations 1992-2017.**

The operations, cars and locos of the Bone Valley, veteran ACL/SAL/SCL/SBD cars plus some “outsiders” from C&O, rebuilds and acquisitions. As for modelling the cars, better get a 3D printer!

Bob Lavezzi: **Billboard Reefers – How they Came to Be, and Why they were Banned.**

Some background on the life work of Bob Wagner and his creative work in preserving these glorious reefers. View some of the actual drawings, including the blue prints for the cars and the trucks, which Bob worked from. There may be some surprises.

Larry Lawler: **Penn Central Caboosees and Cabins** - the prototypes and models

This presentation will provide an overview of the cabooses, and cabin cars, that the Penn Central used during their short existence. The types contributed by each predecessor road will be covered, as well as new builds that the Penn Central added, and various oddities that the PC used as well. The various classes and designations of these types of cars will be covered, and an overview of available modeling options in HO will also be discussed.

Vincent Lee: **Piermont and the Northern End of the Erie’s Northern Branch - A Design for a Model Railroad.**

Approaching 175 years after its glory days as the eastern terminus of the Erie’s mainline to the west, the now sleepy little Hudson River town of Piermont, NY still holds great interest for modelers. This area of southern New York state seemingly has it all: Two Erie branches crossing one another, as well as significant grades- one up to the suburban terminal of Nyack, itself just begging to be modeled, one down through steep bluffs to serve a large paper manufacturer on the west bank of Hudson River at Piermont. Depending on the era, there were many additional rail-served businesses, both large and small, in the area, as well as Time Table and Train Order operations into the 1960’s, commuter and local freight switching operations, and a wide variety of rolling stock and steam/diesel power. I will be covering all this and more, including some suggestions for building and operating a prototypical layout.

David Leider: **The Belt Railway of Chicago.**

David Leider will talk about the Belt Railway of Chicago. It was begun in 1881 as a subsidiary of the Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad. Included is the history of the Stickney yards, now known as Clearing, its purchase by outside investors, makeover and sale to the Belt. In 1962 the Belt purchased itself from the C&WI and became an independent company.

Carl Marchand: **Basic Electronics for Model Railroading.**

This clinic covers electronics in easy to understand language focusing on concepts related to model railroading.

Carl Marchand: **Latest Advancements with ESU/Loksound Decoders.**

This clinic will cover the latest enhancements to ESU Loksound decoders and how to take advantage of these features using the LokProgrammer. If you have Loksound v5 decoders this is for you. We will cover sound customization, class light programming and more.

Steve Orth: **Preparing Passenger Car Models for Operation.**

Do you have passenger car models that you would like to operate on your layout, but the older models lack features of newer models, or they just won't cooperate? Come to learn how to bring older models up to current standards with interiors, details and painting, along with tips to get passenger cars to reliably operate.

Mike Polsgrove: **3D Printing – A Game Changer.**

3D printing has the potential for being a game changer for model railroading but is it as easy as it sounds? Mike Polsgrove, who manufactures 3D printed models as Northwoods Models / SooParts explains the types of 3D printer, the design process and some of the pitfalls he's encountered during 5 years of business.

Stephen Priest, MMR: **Big Cars with a Special Purpose - Thrall 86' Auto Parts cars.**

There were seven distinct types of these cars with differences in each class. We will discuss each type of underframe and draft gear. We will also discuss the variety of side panel construction from rivets to welded seams. Lots of colorful paint schemes will be presented as well.

Stephen Priest, MMR: **Freight Car Stencils 1946-2023.**

The Association of American Railroads has published standards and recommended practices covering stenciling of freight cars since 1901. I will cover required stencils from the 1946 publication date through 2023 as to what stencils are required, their location on various car types, and the size of the stencils. I will also cover the move from painted stencils to the use of self-adhesive decals.

Rich Remiarz, MMR: **Scratch-Building GN Flat Cars and Gondolas.**

To earn the Master Car Builder AP Award, a minimum of four cars must be scratchbuilt. This clinic will describe how I scratch built two Great Northern gondolas and two Great Northern flat cars to meet the AP requirements. The gondolas modeled are the 65' 79000-79024 mill gondolas built in 1955-56. The flat cars are the 52' 62000-62249 series built in 1945. The clinic will describe how a laser cutter was used to make the parts for the cars.

Nick Santo: **What Is a Decoder Buddy?**

I'll describe the Decoder Buddy family, their differences and uses. I'll also show you how a Decoder Buddy can make a DCC decoder installation easier, better, and safer for your relatively expensive decoders.

John Sheridan: **Researching New Haven Lightweight Passenger Cars.**

John will take you step by step in how turn an idea into a physical model.

Bruce Smith: **Modeling Maintenance of Way.**

This clinic will generally use PRR equipment as examples but will show models that are applicable to many different railroads. In honor of the warm weather of Cocoa Beach, examples will include snow-fighting equipment (modifying the Walther's Russell Snowplow). Both detailing and weathering will be covered.

Austin Strenecky: **Building a Railroad in the 21st Century: Brightline's Orlando Expansion.**

This presentation will take a look at the construction of Brightline's Phase II expansion of passenger rail between West Palm Beach and Orlando, FL between 2019 and 2023. This includes the double tracking of the Florida East Coast Railway, building a new 35 mile corridor from scratch, a new maintenance facility, and their additional trains. It will wrap up with a brief look at the challenges of modeling Brightline.

Mont Switzer: **Freight Cars of Muncie, Indiana.**

In this clinic, 11<sup>th</sup> in the series of Favorite Freight Cars, Mont introduces the various freight cars that were unique to this midwestern industrial town in the 1950-1970 era. Represented are the yellow The Ball Line boxcars, colorful Marhoefer Packing Co., reefers, massive Westinghouse Schnabel cars and Delco/Remey anthracite hauling covered hoppers. Modeling opportunities will also be presented.

Gilbert Thomas, Jr.: **Modeling Considerations for the 1980's Modeler.**

Modeling Considerations for the 1980's modeler is a dynamic clinic that reviews the changes in the railroads, rail mergers, railroad cars and locomotives that one should consider when making your model railroad purchases and modeling effort.

Gilbert Thomas, Jr.: **Modeling Considerations for the 2000's Modeler.**

The 2000's have arrived in the usual way. The transition era is long gone, and the railroads have gone from 140 class one railroads to just 7 class one railroads. Oh, make that 6 class one railroads. I believe this is the perfect time to be a model railroader! This clinic will review the ever-evolving landscape of US railroads, latest trends in railroad cars and locomotives the railroads are utilizing and upgrades in railroad operations and technology.

Tony Thompson: **Operating Like the Prototype.**

Nowadays a lot of layouts around the country are quite complete, and many are operated in a realistic and prototypical fashion. How did we get here? And is this a new development? The talk shows the evolution of our contemporary operating ideas from past leaders of the hobby, extensively illustrated with period materials, and explores what we mean by "prototypical operation." Also presented are resources of today which can help develop these operating principles.

David Vaughn: **O Scale 2-Rail - Why and How You Should Get Started.**

O Scale 2 Rail (OS2R) is the best kept secret in model railroading. At eight times the mass of HO, OS2R offers prototype modelers easier and better opportunities for detailed models. Using power point, handouts and models, the clinic will brief attendees on what is available and how to get started in OS2R. Ten free freight car kits will be available for distribution to clinic attendees. Experienced OS2R modelers will be in attendance to answer questions.

Bob Webber: **Pullman Library & Railway Equipment Archives Fulfillment Process.**

Background & behind the scenes of the fulfillment process.

Fenton Wells: **FGEX, WFEX, and BREX Wood Reefers.**

I cover the prototype and hints and tips on modeling the different versions.

Fenton Wells: **Shake-N-Take – L&N Ventilated Boxcar.**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – Sign up in advance in order to receive the resin parts for this kitbash.

Tom Wilson: **Scratchbuilding a Union Railroad MOW Dining Car Using a Cricut.**

Scratchbuilding Union Railroad #120 Dining car using a Cricut Explorer Air 2 . Step by step instruction on how I built the car. A laser was also used on a small portion (the end handrails).

Tom Wilson: **Structure Details Through the Eyes of a Building Inspector.**

All aspects are covered from the roof to the ground. You will not see "tract built buildings" but the unique buildings with different styles and aspects of buildings.