

# PROTOTYPE RAILS 2025

Rev. 06

Mark Amfahr: **Advanced TT&TO for Layout Owners and Dispatchers**

The clinic will present advanced concepts that layout owners and dispatchers can use to improve the TT&TO operating experience. Owners' topics include basic layout design, scheduling of trains, crew management, and information requirements. For dispatchers, the presentation will go beyond the basics, providing lessons from real-world dispatching, procedures to reduce errors, selection of order forms to fit various situations, and general strategies to keep trains moving.

John Barry: **Unusual Research Sources**

... or "Friends in Odd Places". What do you do when you can't find the info you need at the usual websites and archives? John will discuss research sources beyond the "usual suspects".

Rob Bell: **Locomotives of the White Pass & Yukon**

The famous White Pass & Yukon had a fascinating fleet of locomotives to haul passengers and freight through Alaska. Come and see the engines that worked in a climate as different from Cocoa Beach as you can possibly imagine!

George Bogatiuk: **What is the deal with Blunami??!**

In this clinic, George Bogatiuk of SoundTraxx will go into the depths of the exciting new Blunami decoder and the wireless Bluetooth connection and how that helps you as a modeler. With the new Android app updated to include consisting, and the release of a 21-Pin format in mid-2024, George will show you how Blunami can really change your operating experience. "This is what DCC should be in 2025!" says one new Blunami user. Come see what you are missing when it comes to operating your trains!

Mike Boland: **100 years of Long Island Rail Road switchers**

This clinic starts with early steam, PRR steam, early diesel locomotives, ALCo and Baldwin switchers and ends with EMD's SW1001 locos. It covers more than 100 years and is quite comprehensive with lots of color and black and white photos.

Al Brown: **Traffic Patterns from Conductor's Trainbooks**

Al Brown and Dave Bott transcribed about six months' trainbooks from a conductor on the Southern's Winston-Salem Division. In so doing, Al found some interesting patterns in the data. Come to the clinic to see what he found, and how it can help you understand the traffic patterns for your own railroad.

John Brown: **A Tour of Chicago in 1983**

Step into the time machine and go back 42 years to 1983. We'll take a railfanning journey around Chicago and see the old places, the old equipment and rare paint schemes!

Brian Carlson: **The Cambria & Indiana Coal Fleet**

Join Brian as he delves into the fleet of coal-carrying cars on the Cambria & Indiana. This 60-mile Pennsylvania shortline once had the largest fleet of rolling stock in the country! If you love Appalachian coal railroading, then you won't want to miss this!

Jeff Cauthen: **Southern Pacific Passenger Cars: Sleepers & Baggage-Dorms**

SP passenger-car expert Jeff Cauthen takes a look at the SP's sleepers and baggage-dorms. While obviously of great interest to any SP fan, these cars also traveled across other railroads. Passenger car enthusiasts will want to be sure they attend this one!

Jason Cripps: **Advanced Sound Decoder Installations**

Last year, Jason, the owner of Georgia Bigfoot Trains, presented an excellent clinic on basic decoder installation. In 2025, he follows up with more advanced installations. He'll not only talk about installing the decoder, but also the speaker and lights. If you ever wondered, "How am I gonna fit all THAT in THERE?" then Jason has the answer!

Ted Culotta: **Creating and Working with Etchings to Replicate Details on Freight Cars.**

Etched metal is an excellent tool for simulating many of the details found on freight cars, as well as other rolling stock, motive power, structures, lineside details, etc. It is not nearly as difficult (or expensive) as you might think to create your own artwork and have etchings created to enhance your models. Find out how to make the artwork, including accommodations for tolerances, as well as how to apply the details to your models.

Andrew Deak: **Laser-Cutting and 3D-Printing Layout Accessories**

We usually buy 3D printers and laser-cutters with the intention of making prototypical models and detail parts. But you can also use those tools to create accessories for your layout. Come and get inspired by Andrew Deak as he shows the useful things you can create using these high-tech tools.

George Eichelberger: **Overview & research – Pullman Lines to Florida from the Midwest and NYC**

An introduction to through Pullman services from the Midwest and NYC to Florida from about 1890 using research material on Pullman Palace Car and Pullman routes at the Newberry in Chicago, the Southern Railway Historical Assn. (SRHA) and other sources.

Jared Harper: **The Alma Branch – Moving Toward Completion.**

Jared's beautiful Alma Branch layout is close to being finished. This year's clinic provides an update on his progress and shows what is left to do to complete the layout. His presentation will inspire you to complete your own layout!

Steve Hile: **The NJI&I and their Boxcar Fleet**

Well known historian Steve Hile digs into the story of Wabash subsidiary New Jersey, Indiana, & Illinois (NJI&I). Their boxcar fleet was strongly influenced by the industries of South Bend, Indiana, especially Studebaker. If you're a fan of midwestern railroading, you won't want to miss it!

Roger Hinman: **New York Central Steel Freight Cars, Part 7: 40' 10'0" IH Boxcars**

Roger Hinman returns to his series of clinics on NYC freight cars with Part 7! This clinic will look at the Auto-cars of the late 20s, the rebuild program of the 1930s, the 37ARA cars, and end with the 1946 Grey and Vermillion first lot of Pacemaker cars.

Frank Hodina: **Shake-n-Take: Fruit Growers Express 12'1" Height 1921-Design Reefer Conversion**

This project will model the FGEX 32100-35999 series ice bunker refrigerator cars, first constructed in 1922/1923 by FGE in their Indiana Harbor shops and ultimately growing to 3,900 cars by the mid 20's. Based on the Accurail #4800 series wooden sided reefer kits, modelers will modify the side sills, add new resin cast underframe and details, and upgrade remaining detail parts as desired. We will have a total of 35 kits for distribution at the event. The first 25 slots will go to those who are first to email with their interest. Any requests received beyond the first 25 will be placed on a waiting/alternate list. We will also hold 10 slots for in-person sign up at the registration desk.

Tony Koester: **Modeling a Wabash Mogul Branch in P:48**

Mr. Nickel Plate, Tony Koester, is building a two-town tribute to the Wabash Railroad's 11th District, which ran between Bluffs, Ill., and Keokuk, Iowa. Tony is modeling Bluffs and Mt. Sterling, Ill., as a U-shaped railroad on his air-conditioned and heated porch. The track will be handlaid using code 100 and 83 rail. Power is a pair of Kemtron class F-4 Moguls, which are among TK.'s favorite steam locomotives, converted to P:48 fine-scale standards.

Jim Langston: **C&O and B&O Passenger Cars in Florida**

From 1949 through 1970 both the C&O and B&O leased and sold numerous passenger cars to the Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard Air Line and Seaboard Coast Line. Coaches, Sleepers, Twin-unit Diners, Dome Cars, Heavyweight and Lightweight, both "veteran used" second hand, "like new" and "brand new" second hand. This is their story with photos, plans and models. By W. Jim Langston and the late Bill Howes.

Jim Langston: **Slumbercoach, Sleepercoach, Budget Room Coach – What's in a Name?**

They all look like sleepers to me! This is the story of post-war streamlined "economy" sleepers known as Siesta Coach, Slumbercoach, Sleeper Coach, Slumber Room Coach and Budget Room Sleeper. We'll delve into the plans, photos of the cars and the models; the "real ones" and "the pretenders".

David Leider: **Weed Control on the Railroads**

No, it's not a presentation about Rule G! David's presentation will focus on the fascinating and seldom-seen Maintenance Of Way equipment used for weed control.

Carl Marchand: **Latest Technology and Trends using DCC**

The clinic covers the latest tools, devices and software available for DCC users of all scales with heavy emphasis on HO and N scale. Highly recommended for newbies and seasoned veterans alike!

Jim Murrie: **World War II US Army Hospital Trains (Part 1: Equipment).**

An overview of the equipment used by the US Army for hospital trains between 1941 and 1945. Also includes modeling/kitbashing suggestions.

Jim Murrie: **World War II US Army Hospital Trains (Part 2: Operations and Consists).**

A condensed history of the planning process that took the US Army from owning NO hospital rail equipment in 1940 to over 380 cars in 1945. Also includes several actual consists of hospital trains and the evolution of operations concepts. Not all "hospital" trains included "hospital" cars!

Jim Panza: **Early Years of TTX**

The presentation will cover the formation of Trailer Train Company in 1955, equipment acquisitions for piggyback service, and modifications for use in other services.

Jim Panza: **The Ups and Downs of Railbox**

Come and learn about the early Railbox fleet and how the cars ended up being taken over by several railroads. Also hear about the Railbox financial crisis and how it almost took TTX into bankruptcy.

Cynthia Priest: **Order Up! A Gondola Please, with a Side of Waffles**

As part of her NMRA Master Model Railroader journey, Cynthia describes how she scratchbuilt a 60-foot Southern "waffle side" boxcar and a 65-foot pipe gondola. See how she tackled challenging details (and some not-so-challenging aspects) of these builds to meet NMRA Achievement Program Certificate requirements (as well as how she turned a few gray hairs into a

lot of gray hairs during these projects!). Her Southern boxcar received the Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails First Annual Mike Brock People's Choice Award in 2024.

Stephen Priest: **Let's Get High: A Look at the Railroad Industries 20-2 Autorack Fleet**

These cars were originally built and/or rebuilt from existing cars to haul mini-vans. They were retired from service but have recently been revived with a second generation of 20-2s coming on line in the last year. Lots of historical images along with images of the new cars coming on line now.

Stephen Priest: **So You Want to Build a Model Railroad?**

A study from my past history of building 16 fully functioning model railroads at what it takes to go from theory to completed reality. Hints, tips, management and working with others to achieve that dream layout

Rich Remiarz: **Modeling the Great Northern Mid-1950s Freight Car Roster - 40' Boxcars - Part 1**

This is the start of a series of clinics that will cover the Great Northern freight car roster as of July 1, 1956. Each clinic will take a group of cars, discuss the prototype cars in detail, showing all of the variations, and then discuss how to model the cars accurately. The first clinic in the series will cover the first half of the 40' boxcar roster. Being the Modeling Editor for the GNRHS and a member of the Archives committee, I have access to large amounts of prototype information that will be documented through these clinics.

Bill Schneider: **Aging well - The Old Woman in the New Basement, a layout update**

Bill's great NYO&W layout now has a new basement. Come and see what he has done with the new space.

Tony Sissons: **Scratch Building NS Coal Hoppers**

A scratch building journey. From first thoughts, design, early modifications, part builds, experimentation through to several unique open coal hoppers culminating with a 100% scratch build. Open hopper builds include an M271 - (MoW) tie hopper, H49 H11R, H11CR and HS-18 coal hoppers, none of which are commercially available anywhere. The building techniques I use can easily be adapted to create boxcars and other designs.

Bruce Smith: **Building 3D-Printed Vehicle Kits**

With the advent of higher quality, lower cost 3D printers, 3D printed kits have become a cottage industry. In particular, vehicles of many types have become available for prototype modelers to use as scenery, or freight car loads. This clinic will cover some of the new 3D printed vehicle kits, how to assemble these kits, and ways to paint and weather them.

Lowell Smith: **Making Realistic Classic Passenger Trains**

Lowell will share his stories of his paths developing new injection-molded models, and provide insights into the inner workings of the RailSmith creative productions, as well as discussing how the prototype ran their trains.

Paul Spilman: **1970's Freight Car Stenciling**

Paul will help you show that it's the Seventies. This clinic gives a detailed look at the changes in freight car stenciling in the 1970s. Covers COTS, consolidated stencils, U-1 wheel dots, and more.

Austin Strenecky: **Brightline Update: An Update on Brightline Florida and Brightline West**

Austin is not only a Brightline West employee, but also a model railroader (and longtime Prototype Rails attendee!). This year, Austin will provide an update on the current status of Brightline Florida and Brightline West, will take a deep dive looking at how additional coaches were recently commissioned and added to its Florida fleet, and then provide an update on his Brightline modeling activities over the past year.

Mont Switzer: **Modeling the Freight Cars of Muncie, IN**

Favorite Freight Cars 12 covers how to MODEL the Freight Cars of Muncie, Indiana. This follows 2024's FFC 11 clinic where we introduced the prototype freight cars of Muncie, IN and the railroads over which they operated.

Doug Tagsold: **C&S Layout**

You may have seen Doug's layouts in magazines or on his YouTube channel. Now is your chance to come and hear his first-hand account of how and why he built his spectacular Colorado & Southern layout.

Gilbert Thomas: **Evolution of the Autorack**

There is a lot more to the evolution of the autorack than just "open or enclosed". Gil Thomas will get into the details so that you can ensure that your autorack fleet is prototypical for your era.

Gil Thomas: **Modeling Considerations for the 1960's Modeler.**

The 1960's were a time of big changes for the railroad...mergers, new freight cars, and locomotives too! If you are modeling the 60's or later this clinic will help guide you in things that should be modeled by you!

Tony Thompson: **Creating Realistic Operation on a Small Layout**

The clinic describes the principles of realistic operation, as I see them. It is illustrated with a description of the operation of my small layout, emphasizing prototype practices and documents. The layout is switching-intensive, but does have mainline operating also. The presentation concentrates on both car and train movements, with a few comments on the use of prototype-format waybills to route cars, in order to maintain variety of operation in each successive operating session.

David Vaughn: **How and Why to Model the Nickel Plate Road**

The Nickel Plate Road was a primarily a "bridge line" which ran from Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis on the west to Buffalo and other points to serve eastern markets. Rail service on Nickel Plate's routes were highly competitive; and survival depended on fast, reliable service, most of which was provided until 1958 by 112 of the famous, highly efficient Lima 2-8-4 Berkshires, around which Nickel Plate built the entire railroad: freight schedules, tonnage ratings, passing sidings and classification yards. On its Chicago-Buffalo main line across the midwest, Nickel Plate moved freight and piggyback at turnpike speed behind steam. This clinic will describe the railroad, make the case for why to model the Nickel Plate and lay out how to do so. Clinician David Vaughn is former National Director for the Nickel Plate Road Historical and Technical Society, owner of the ex-Nickel Plate Road Pullman-Standard lightweight car City of Chicago and a knowledgeable NKP modeler and historian.

Bob Webber: **Researching Railway Equipment or "Getting the Goods"**

The clinic provides some methods to obtain detailed information on Railway Equipment and where to look (and how). Handout & clinic at <https://www.pullmanlibrary.org/DataLink.html>

Fenton Wells: **Modeling Southern Rwy Transition-Era Boxcars**

Fenton will cover boxcars of the Southern Railroad for the transition era (1939-1953). Come and learn about the different prototypes, a path to model each, and painting and lettering for the time period. Both prototype and model photos will be featured. You'll walk away knowing what cars were used, how can they be modeled and - if you don't model the Southern - which cars would be a good addition for a non-Southern model railroad.

Tom Wilson: **Super-Detailing the Walthers Coke Facility**

Well-known steel modeler Tom Wilson shows how to bring the Walthers Coke oven Facility to a Prototype look. Tom shows the advanced techniques he uses to add every detail to the coke ovens. If you're into heavy metal (steel mills), then you simply must attend!