

SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



World's Greatest

Inside This Issue

Sugar Pine Centennial

Convention Registration

Call Board

From the Superintendent

Time Table

NCMOT Map

Round Table Pizza Map

International Rail Fair

Foot Square Challenge

Helper Service

Clinicians Wanted

Low-Cost Scratch Building

NMRA Partnership Program

The Members of the Daylight Division are proud to present the Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 Pacific Coast Region Convention from Thursday, April 22 through

Saturday, April 24, 2021.

Because the NMRA National Convention, Rails by the Bay, will be in Santa Clara, July 4–10, 2021, this year's convention is a "mini-convention." What the heck is a "mini -convention?" you ask. Well, it's a three-day

event, instead of the usual four days.

Packed into those 3 days will be a veritable smorgasbord of model railroading activities that you've come to expect at PCR conventions, including clinics, contests, excursions, layout tours, operating sessions,

The Sugar Pine Centennial

banquet, and more!

1

2

3

3

4

4

5

6

6

7

8

9

13

2021 PCR Convention hotel is the Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport, 5090 East Clinton Way, Fresno, conveniently located adjacent to the Fresno Yosemite International Airport. This facility offers modern comfortable accommodations and complete convention services under one roof. MAP

The convention committee is planning a full slate of activities, including clinics, contests, layout tours, excursions, and much, much more for the enjoyment and entertainment of its fellow PCR members, spouses, and family members.

Check the News & Updates page for the latest updates on additions, cancellations, and other updates to clinics, tours, and other events as the information becomes available.

John Houlihan

Convention Chairman





REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE





Sugar Pine Centennial 2021

PCR/NMRA 2021 Convention Hosted by the Daylight Division Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport 5090 East Clinton Way, Fresno, CA April 22—24, 2021

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

NMRA / PCR c/o Doug Wagner 14008 Tierra Blanca Ave Bakersfield, CA 93314

E-mail: SPC2021registrar@pcrnmra.org
Website: http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021
Visit website to pay with PayPal or credit card

Please Print Registration Form

Please Print		8							
Last Name	me First Name			Name for	ne for Badge				
Address		City		St	State Zip Code		e		
Home Phone	ome Phone E-mail Address				NMRA #				
Registration Type (Please check one) NMR					RA Region (if other than PCR)				
☐Model Railroader ☐	Non Rail or Spo	use DYouth C	Child Day						
Available to Volunteer	on Thursday	□Friday □Sa	aturday Times:						
I can help More. Have			The same of the sa						
Primary Scales and Int			z 🗆 s 🗆 o 🖂 G	Narrow Gauge	Otl	her:			
What railroads(s) do y				8					
		G AT SAME A	DDRESS (Use another	form for more t	han 1)	1			
Last Name	First Name Name for Ba								
Registration Type (Please check one) NMRA					*				
☐Model Railroader ☐		use DYouth D	Child Day						
Available to Volunteer									
I can help More. Have									
Primary Scales and Int			z os oog o	Narrow Gause	□ Orl	her			
What railroads(s) do y		110 -11 -2		runon chage	_ 0.				
		linics, layout tor	ors and Saturday Banqu	et					
FARES: Please fill in QTY and Total					YT	Unit (Cost	Total	
Early Bird Registration (Ends 12:00 AM - at midnight - 12/31/2020)							80.00		
Full Fare Registration (Begins 12:00:01 AM - 1 second after midnight - 01/01/2021)							85.00		
Non Rail or Spouse Registration (may be modeler)							65.00		
Youth Registration (12 - 18 years. Must be accompanied by an adult)							65.00		
Child Registration (Under 12 years. Must be accompanied by an adult)							30.00		
Day Fare (No Banquet) Thurs Fri Sat (\$30.00 for each day)							30.00		
Saturday Banquet Only							30.00		
Polo Shirt S M L XL						9	TBD		
Polo Shirt 2XL 3XL 4XL							TBD		
Sugar Pine Railroad Excursion							TBD		
Hillcrest Railroad Excursion							TBD		
Convention CarHO scale Sugar Pine RR log car							TBD		
	month Rail Pass(allowed one time only)						20.00		
Fu	ull NMRA membership (includes monthly magazine)						78.00		
Payment by □Check* ** Make Checks Payable			ebsite for credit card] ids After March 30, 202	1		то	TAL:		

05/12/20 08:53:57 Rev 3.00

Sierra Division Callboard

PCR business or questions:
PCR President

Chris Palermo cjpalermo1964@gmail.com (650) 208 3150

Director, Sierra Division

Tom Van Horn tomvca@aol.com (209) 626 0352

Sierra Division business, questions, or to volunteer to give a clinic, for membership problems,

Superintendent

Chip Meriam

chipmeriam@comcast.net (530) 899-2609

To volunteer your layout for a tour or "Timetable" entries:

Chief Clerk

Dave Fryman

fryperson@hotmail.com (925) 360 1377

Paymaster

Al Rowe HOFUNAR@aol.com

SHORT LINE Editor

Chip Meriam

chipmeriam@comcast.net

(530) 899-2609

Contest Chairperson

Gary Ray gerber1926@gmail.com (530) 990-1276

Membership Chairperson

Jim Collins (209) 566-0935

jimcol@harter.net

For Golden Spike or NMRA AP Certificate questions:

Achievement Program

Dave Bayless (530) 887-8880

Webmaster

Gus Campagna gus@campagna.com (707) 664-8466

SHORT LINE is published quarterly by the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Association. Material may be reprinted with permission.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted! The preferred format would be in Rich Text Format (RTF), with photos as JPEGs, but we will accept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS Word, Simple Text, typed, or handwritten). Send it to your editor by regular mail to **SHORT LINE**, 2260 Cherry Glenn Ct., Chico, CA 95926 or by email to:

chipmeriam@comcast.net If e-mailing put EDITOR in the subject line.

From the Superintendent

As With The Other Divisions In The PCR, the Sierra Division's Spring meet was cancelled due to the imposition of mitigation measures stemming from COVID-19. The meet, scheduled for May 9, was to have included a visit to the Northern California Museum of Transportation in Oroville. One of the exhibits, to which we were looking forward, was the GE 45 tonner we previously discovered during our visit to James Railcar in October 2016. James Railcar has since closed. Fortunately, the little engine was "rescued" by the museum.



GE 45 Tonner Being Prepared For Movement To The Northern California Museum Of Transportation

We remain uncertain about planning for future meets, but we're hopeful that we can plan our visit to Oroville for October of this year. See page 4 for tentative details. Also, looking further ahead, see page 1 for details on the 2021 PCR Convention.

We have also observed the success of virtual "meetups", via Zoom, that have taken place in the Coast Division and the Redwood Empire Division. We would like to follow suit and, as such, we're looking for a "Zoom Administrator" within our division. Please see my email from June 15.

On May 29, a virtual PCR Business Meeting was held via, you guessed it, Zoom. This was the annual meeting of the PCR members that was originally scheduled to take place during the PCR Convention in Concord. As we know, that convention was cancelled. During the virtual meeting, two of our Sierra Division members were honored. Past Superintendent and current Mem-

bership Manager, Jim Collins, was selected as the Sierra Division Member Of The Year. Current Superintendent, Chip Meriam, received the NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division. (other PCR honorees can be seen in the July PCR Branch Line http://www.pcrnmra.org/pcr/branch/BL320web.pdf)

Meanwhile we encourage everyone to stay active and enjoy the hobby that we all find so fascinating. Remember, better times are ahead....



Jim Collins Sierra Division Member Of The Year





Chip Meriam
NMRA President's Award For
Service To The Division

SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: October 10 Oroville

10:00 AM
Northern California Museum of
Transportation
5666 Bagget Marysville Road
(see link below)

12:00 Noon - 4:00 PM Round Table Pizza 1124 Oro Dam Blvd

SEE MAPS BELOW

SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION STAY TUNED

http://ncmot.wordpress.com

TIMETABLE

August 8, 2020 Cancelled

October 10, 2020 Oroville

February 14, 2021 Sacramento

Northern (alifornia Museum of Transportaion

SHORT LINE

Sept 10 for the Oct Issue

Jan 10 for the Jan Issue

Mar 10 for the Apr Issue

Jun 10 for the Jul Issue

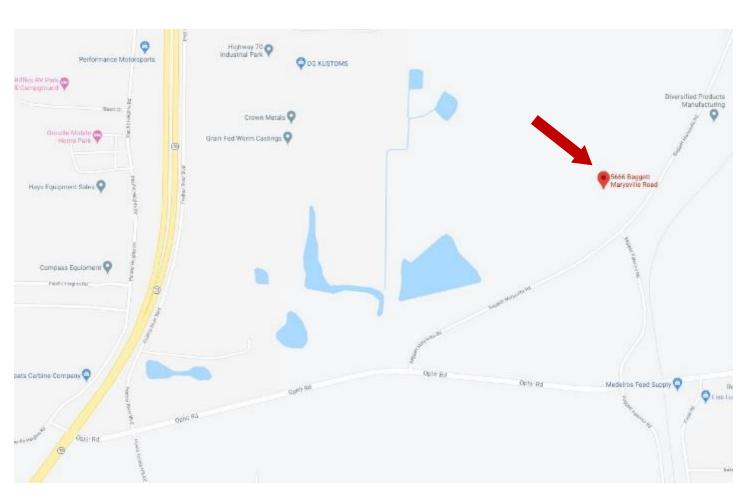
October Contest Categories:

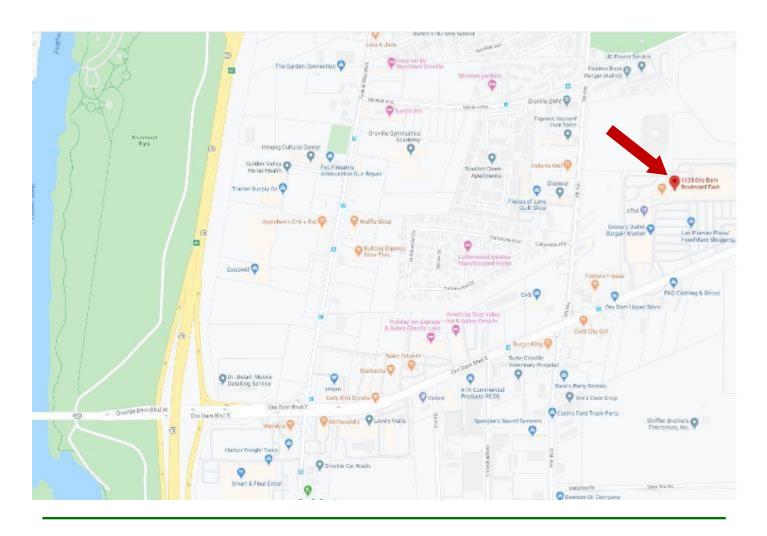
Modeling: Motive Power

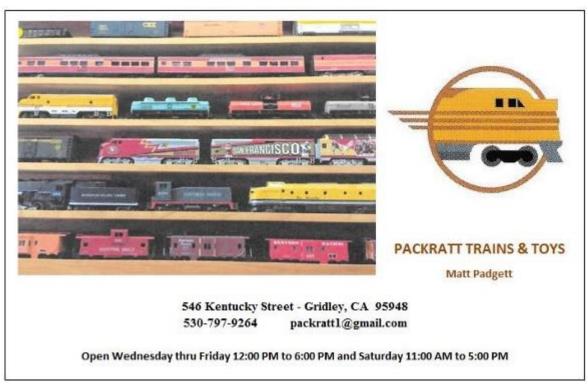
Photo: Color (Can be any layout, module or scene, but exposure must be by you)

Railroad Arts & Crafts











Earlier this week the IRF Committee made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 IRF show. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all the current restrictions. At this time it is impossible to plan and execute a successful show. One example is our inability to get a quote for event insurance at this time.

So there will be no show in 2020 and this means there will be no Railfair income for any of the 4 sponsoring clubs. By canceling at this time the committee did not lose any of the security deposit on the Scottish Rite Hall and has not spent any money on 2020

advertising (there is no need for Railfair flyers when all the hobby shops are closed). Railfair has rolled over the security deposit and has a reservation for the Scottish Rite Hall for October 9-10, 2021. So all our faithful Sierra Division volunteers that staff the ticket booth, info table, Timesaver, etc. get a year off.

We look forward to a great 2021 show and everyone's participation next year. In the meantime stay safe and healthy.

Ed Pultz, Sierra Div IRF Director

Hello Members of the Four IRF Sponsoring Clubs,

My name is Tom Campbell. I'm a member of the Sacramento Modular Railroaders, and I'm the treasurer of the International Railfair Committee. As you know, IRF 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's show would have seen the first IRF Foot Squared Fall Diorama Challenge. The Challenge was designed to be a fun way to promote our show with the public and to highlight our new October date on the calendar.

Well, the virus may have cancelled our show this year, but it can't stop us from working on projects! Since many of us are sheltering in place without a lot to do, now is a perfect time to work on a 1 foot square diorama.

Even though the show is cancelled, we want to use the Challenge to keep in the public's eye. We'll use our website and IRF's social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook (see below) as the vehicles to display our work.

Depending on the level of participation, we'll expand the coverage by reaching out to local media outlets who are hungry for a feel good story during the pandemic.

I'll begin a series of newsletters to members of the four clubs who are interested. I'll fill these newsletters with status updates, suggestions, how-tos, and photos of finished dioramas as well as works-in-progress. But I can't do this alone. I'll need your help, enthusiasm, input, and photos to make this work!

This has the potential to bring together the memberships of our clubs in a new and powerful way that will promote our 2021 show and the greatest hobby on earth.

See the attached flyer for details of the Challenge. Sign up! Don't let the virus win!

If you are interested in participating and receiving the Diorama Challenge newsletters, send an email to my IRF email address tom.c.irf@gmail.com with "Challenge Newsletter" in the subject line. I'll promise to protect your email address. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose or listed in the clear when the newsletters are distributed.

- Twitter @IrfShow
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/International-Railfair-Model-Railroad-Show-2021-109455543965530/?ref=page internal

Yours in Model Railroading,

Tom Campbell Treasurer, International Railfair

HELPER SERVICE

My name is Mike Hamlin, of the Sierra Division. My brother, a fellow model railroader, recently passed away. He left a large collection of N scale locomotives and rolling stock. Most items are brand new and never used, but they are not in the original boxes. Those that are not brand new were only used when he and his club went to shows.

Available for sale are:

- 1. Over 40 new and used DCC locomotives; including 25 BNSF, 10 UP, and a few assorted SP
- 2. Over 200 rolling stock; including over 100 box cars; 25 tank cars; 28 stack well cars; 50 covered hopper cars; misc flat cars with pipe loads; gondola cars; and trailer cars
- 3. Over 100 passenger cars; including California Zephyr, Amtrak car haulers; 40 Amtrak cars (including sleepers, dining, coach, dome, and baggage cars);
- 4. SP Daylight set, including locomotive w/17 cars
- 5. UP Excursion train, including locomotives, B units and 19 cars

I am currently working on a spread sheet with exact items and pricing.

If interested, call 530-515-3560 or email at <u>Hamlin@snowcrest.net</u> and ask for prices. If you call, leave a voicemail, as I screen calls from unknown numbers, and I will call you back.





COME. LEARN. SHARE... MODEL RAILROADING IS OUR PASSION

Have you learned a special technique for your model railroad or while building or weathering some of your rolling stock? Would you like to share some of that learning with other model railroaders? Please consider giving a clinic at a model railroad convention.

Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 Pacific Coast Region Convention will be held in Fresno, CA from Thursday, April 22 through Saturday, April 24, 2021. Bruce Morden, Clinics Chair for the convention, would love to hear from you that you have something to share.



We are planning for a full slate of 22 clinics. There will be two rooms of clinics on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We are hoping for some hands-on clinics where you can practice your modeling skills or learn some new ones.

Clinics are typically 45 to 50 minutes long. If you have something to share, please contact Bruce at spc2021clinics@pcrnmra.org.



And if you really enjoy giving clinics and want to step up to the next level, the National NMRA Rails to the Bay convention is coming to Santa Clara July 4, 2021-July 10, 2021. Bruce is the clinic chair for the National as well so if you want to practice in Fresno you can present again in Santa Clara. You have more than a year to prepare. For Santa Clara, we are looking for clinics with a definite prototype flavor so anything about your favorite prototype is fair game. We are planning for over

250 clinics spread over the Sunday to Saturday run of the convention.

If you have an interest in presenting a clinic at Santa Clara, please contact Bruce Morden at bdmorden@sbceo.org

NOTHING IS GOOD ENOUGH

By Mike Hamm

Simple, Low-Cost Scratch Building

In the 1940's John Allen built a model of an engine house that amazed modelers as well as the hobby press. Even by today's standards, it was one of the most life-like, detailed models I have ever seen - right down to the pigeon droppings, broken glass, and individual hand-laid, stone foundation.

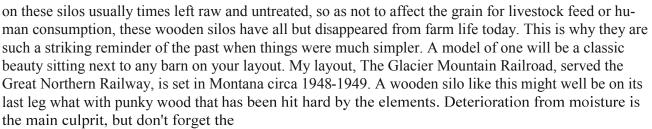
The total cost of this fantastic model was ninety-eight cents! It was award winning. He was informed of this first-place award by telegram in 1948, the year I was born. To this day, I have been unsuccessful at attempting such quality in my own models, but I continue to try.

Many modelers believe that because we now have a vast array of materials and fancy equipment and tools that weren't available back then, that our models today are better. My father used to say, "It's not what you have or how much you have, it's what you do with what you have that counts". John Allen did his best with what he had available at the time, yet his skill level was so high that expensive fancy hobby

supplies and tools probably wouldn't have made any difference in the quality of his work. He simply was a superb craftsman and artist with an exceptional imagination.

I was an optician with 35 years of experience before retiring. The old man that trained me had much more knowledge than I did and use used to say, "Lock me in a room with nothing but chicken wire, duct tape, a can of Pledge, and I'll deliver the finest optical components you've ever seen. This, of course, was a total exaggeration, but it always reminded me of John Allen. I honestly believe John could have scoured a city dump site and found exactly what he needed to build a fine model. I've even done some dumpster diving myself and I'm shocked at what people throw away - particularly wood and metal for model building materials. Many modelers have built very fine models using nothing but materials found in the scrap box of their workshop, but this very low-cost project is even more basic than that. It uses common items found around most homes and garages. This is a very quick and easy project to build. It might even be a good first-time scratch-built model for beginners.

Grain silos like this one made, predominately of wood, were seen all over America in the late 1800s and early 1900s. These were the predecessors of the more modern concrete or metal ones. Since the lumber used



UV rays from the sun which breaks down wood fibers and leads to rotting. This is why my silo is in an extreme state of decay in the 1940's. The earlier your layout era, the newer your silo should look.



My farm silo was built in O scale, but you could build one in any scale. The following materials are what you will need for this project.

	Item			
\$5.96	2cans 53oz. Van Camps Pork and Beans			
\$.58	1 3/8" wooden dowel			
\$. 97	1 package floral wire			
\$3.47	1 package giant craft sticks			
FREE	1 scrap piece of cement board			
FREE	1 pizza box			
FREE	1-gallon paint can lid			
	1/16"x1/8" stripwood - cut from craft stick			
	1/1 6"x3/1 6" stripwood - cut from craft stick			
\$.50	1 24"x1/32"x3/32" stripwood			
FREE	Popsicle sticks (I save all of mine)			
\$1.80	10 'O' scale turnbuckles -Tichy Train Group part# 2004			
\$2.70	54 'O' scale eyebolts - Tichy Train Group part# 2040			
\$1.24	Elmers glue - white or yellow			
\$.50 Total \$17.72	D-6000 hobby cement			
10tal 917.72				

Don't buy anything for painting or weathering. Just see what's available at home. Most hobbyists can find gray primer, silver paint, wood stain or black wash as well as brown and rust pastel chalks in their workshops or garage.

If you wish to build a silo in a different scale, just use canned goods in a larger or smaller size. For example, Van Camps Beanee Weenees can look pretty close to S scale. I built mine from a potato chip can as seen in the photo.



Step One -Body

Start by eating the contents of both cans of pork and beans. Over the course of a few days, this makes quick and easy lunches that will give you more time to work on this project or run trains! Cut 3 ½" off one of the cans with tin snips. This part should still have the lid attached. The 3 ½" can with lid is then flipped open side down and placed on top of the full size can. These two cans form the body of the silo. They can be joined together with JB Weld or E-6000 hobby cement. This joint doesn't need to be strong. Once installed, the wood planks will provide the strength.

The body of my silo is approximately 42 scale feet tall and 17 scale feet in diameter, which is the size many of them were early in the twentieth century. You can remove the paper labels from these tin cans or leave the paper on as it seems to give a good adhesion for the next step. Cut a sheet of 1/16" cardboard (approximately the same thickness as the reinforcement rims on the cans) to fit between the upper and lower rims. Wrap this cardboard around the two cans and glue in place using Scotch 77 adhesive spray or Eimers adhesive spray. Hold in place with tape until dry. This cardstock will provide a level surface to which to glue the planks.

Step Two - Siding

Craft sticks, available at Walmart, are then cut into 1/16" x 3/16" strips of 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " lengths. This lumber will simulate full size boards that are 3"x 9"x 18" and 23' long. Basswood, available at most hobby shops, works well but costs more. These boards are glued vertically in an alternating pattern so that the seam around the diameter of the silo does not occur in the same place where the boards are butted together. White Elmers glue is what I used for this step and it held tight. Let dry thoroughly overnight. See photo.

Step Three - Roof

For the roof I tried cardboard, wood, and styrene. But nothing looks as good as real metal so I used an old gallon paint can lid. It is just about the right thickness and looks real because it is real. Make a pattern out of paper first by drawing a circle slightly larger than the diameter of the silo with a little more for the overhang. The steeper the pitch the larger the diameter must be. Make this paper pattern into a mock-up roof to avoid mistakes. With ruler and pencil draw a small x at the exact center of the roof and draw twelve intersecting lines over the x to form twelve equal sized metal panels. Cut these lines almost all the way to the



center, but not quite, so the roof remains a single piece of paper. As the pitch of the roof is established by pushing up in the center from underneath, you will see the panels overlap pitch increases. It's up to you how steep you want your roof, but having this mock-up makes it possible to see how it will look before tracing this pattern onto the metal and cutting it out with tin snips (MicroMark sells a really good pair of metal shears for hobby use). The metal roof can be held in place on top of the silo body with E-6000 cement, but before doing this be sure to cut a 3/8" notch in the roof for the pipe.

Step Four-Pipe

Cut the 3/8" wooden dowel into two pieces of 10 5/8" and 1". On each of these, cut one end at a 90° angle and the other end at a 45° angle for the elbow. Join the two 45° angles together with Elmers glue to form an "L". Place the 1" piece into the notch in the roof and glue the pipe to the side of the silo body using white Elmers glue. Let dry overnight.

Step Five - Ladder

Using 1/8" x 1/16" stripwood, cut two pieces $10\frac{1}{2}$ " long and two pieces $2\frac{1}{4}$ " long for the sides of the ladders. Using 1/32" x 3/32" stripwood, cut 50 the steps. The tall main ladder gets 42 steps, and the shorter roof ladder gets 8. Attach the steps to the ladder sides on, $\frac{1}{4}$ " centers, with Elmers glue. Let dry overnight. Use 1/8" x 1/8" stripwood, cut from a popsicle stick, for the ten support blocks to mount the ladder.

Step Six - Bands and Turnbuckles

You can use .032 hobby wire or, to save money, use 20-gauge floral wire available at Walmart. I make my .032 wire look very old by soaking it for a while in muriatic acid used in swimming pools. Use gloves, eye protection, and work outdoors. I left them out in the rain for a few days to make them rust. When nothing is good enough only real will do! These bands are cut in to a length to go around the circumference of the silo. Also allow for the length of the turnbuckles. There are ten of these bands. Don't forget to run these wires through the Tichy eye bolts before gluing them in place; I used six per band and glued them in place with epoxy. It may not be prototypical, but I staggered the turnbuckles because they look better. The turnbuckles and eye bolts from Tichy come with a rust brown color and need no painting.

Final Step - Finish & Weathering

Start with the roof. To look as close as possible to old weathered sheet metal, mixed a little Testors flat steel paint with gray primer. I loaded up my old spray gun. That's right, spray gun - the same one I used in high school in the 60's to paint my car! It works. Dry, rub very lightly with 0000 steel wool and finish with a coat of black wash, homemade by combining 2 cups 70% isopropyl alcohol to 1 tablespoon india ink. Highlight along the seems with Testors flat rust paint then rub on a little pastel chalk of the same color. Use your finger and hit each panel.

So that the pipe doesn't look the same as the roof, add a little more silver paint to the mix used on the roof. Simulate the seams on the pipe with a #2 lead pencil. The last step is to finish all the wood. You could use Micro-Mark-Age-It Easy brown (part #81528) one coat, and two coats Age-It Easy gray paint (#80873) to simulate old weather beaten wood. Or, to save money, use homemade brown wash made from liquid shoe polish plus alcohol.

As an option, set your new model on a cement foundation like I did. Nothing is more realistic than real cement. I used Hardie Backer cement board½" or¼" thick.

Hopefully you'll have a spot up front in the foreground of your layout for your new model, and can tell your model railroad buddies that it didn't cost you an arm and a leg to build. I'm sure John Allen would be impressed with how little you spent - even though it was a little more than ninety-eight cents.





Wow! Did you know there's a <u>new</u> NMRA Member Benefit?

It's the NMRA Partner Program!

Model railroad manufacturers are partnering with the NMRA to offer discounts to NMRA members.

Current members log in to www.nmra.org.
At the Members Menu, go to the NMRA
Partnership Page to see who's on the list,
discounts offered, and how to order. New
Partners are coming on board every month,
so check back often.

If you're not yet a member, here's another great reason to join and get more fun from your hobby with a membership in the world's largest model railroad organization.

www.nmra.org

