



SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The World's Greatest Hobby!

Inside This Issue

Logging Scene	1
From the Superintendent	2
Call Board	2
From the Membership Chair	3
Time Table	4
Sugar Pine Centennial	5
Convention Registration	7
Candidate's Statements	8
Helper Service	12
News From The Gerber Sub	13
Clinicians Wanted	15
Stones Made Simple	16
NMRA Partnership Program	20

Spar Pole & Hayrack Boom Logging Scene

By Ben Hughes

A while back (2018) the Redding Model Train Club acquired an “in progress” U-shaped layout. In one corner of the layout there was an odd cutout area with the rudimentary beginnings of a log landing and loading scene. After discussions with the club leadership, I was given the opportunity/responsibility of turning the area into a fully developed landing and loading scene. The following photos show the progress of that project.



The Cutout Area Of The Layout



The Beginnings Of Building The Area Out To Match The Original Layout And Building Up The Landscaping



The Preliminary Landscaping

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sion.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are
heartily encouraged and will be enthu-
siastically 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 sub-
ject line.

From The Superintendent

Have You Noticed that virtually everything is going virtual - everywhere? If you haven't yet participated in any virtual activities, there's no better time to get started than right now. Cast away the "ZOOM® Jitters" and jump in. At 6:30 PM, October 6, Jim Collins will be moderating a "practice session" for the upcoming ZOOM® meet on October 10. This will be a great opportunity to make sure your microphones, cameras, computers, and **YOU** are all tuned in and prepared to participate on Saturday the 10th.

The agenda for the October 10 was sent out to everyone in mid-September. If you haven't received it, contact me at chipmeriam@comcast.net. One of the important items of business shall be the nominations and elections of the Division Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Paymaster. See page 8 for more about that.

As we move into the final quarter of what has been an extraordinary year, when planning anything with certainty is mostly impossible, we're looking forward to face-to-face or person-to-person meets. The question on everyone's mind is, "When?" We do have meets planned for 2021, but have no idea if we'll actually be able to hold them. As for now, we're bound by the policy of the Pacific Coast Region Board of Directors that prohibits person-to-person gatherings until at least January 2, 2021. So we'll just continue to plan as usual with the full understanding that those plans must remain tentative.

Meanwhile, we have two conventions coming up: Our PCR convention in April 2021 (Fresno), and the NMRA National convention in July 2021 (Santa Clara). There has been a lot of work and planning invested in these two events, so let's hope they don't get scrubbed.

As I was writing this, the *Short Line* editor stopped by my desk and asked (demanded?) that I add a few words about this issue. So, just to get him off my back, here goes:

We continue to receive wonderful "how to" articles from Mike Hamm of Cottonwood. You'll find his latest piece on rocks beginning on page 16. Another great story, in the form of "Show-And-Tell," came to us from Ben Hughes of Red Bluff. Ben's account of building a logging scene begins on page 9. We also heard from Gary Ray of Magalia. He shares some wonderful photos of his latest structural endeavors starting on page 13.

As always, the *Short Line* encourages submission of content from all of you. Remember, you don't have to be a professional writer to get stuff into these pages. Good photos are much more important. So send in your stories with your pictures and we'll see what we can put together...just like Mike Hamm, Ben Hughes, and Gary Ray did for this issue.

Rails By The Bay – NMRA 2021 National Convention

July 4-11, 2021

www.nmra2021.com

- Educational focus on prototype modeling, operations and technology
- Over 100 terrific clinics
- World-class Bay Area layouts on tour
- Extensive operating sessions
- Host hotel – Santa Clara Marriott. Ample meeting room and SIG space. Discounted room block opens soon.
- Niles Canyon Railway, Roaring Camp & Big Trees narrow gauge, & SP narrow gauge to ride
- Great local attractions and tours like Santa Cruz mountain wineries, Filoli estate, Levi's Stadium and more



From The Membership Chair

Jim Collins, Director and Membership Chair

I sincerely hope you are all safe and well and surviving the virus lockdowns and other requirements with no major problems, though I fear some of us have suffered economic and health problems as a result of it. We are pretty much a high-risk group due to our age and frequently other medical problems so please stay safe.

If you have given it much thought, I'm sure you realize that our membership growth/stability is also impacted by the virus. It's hard enough to get new members and keep people interested enough to renew when we can meet in person to discuss, enjoy, run, build, and watch the trains we love so much. It is exponentially more difficult when, at best, we can do so only online. (This, in part, probably explains our drop from 280 members in January to 249 today.) But online meets are still better than nothing!

Regarding in-person meetings, as our Superintendent noted in a recent email, our PCR President, after discussing with the Board of Directors, has banned all in person meetings and similar group events until Jan 2, 2021, unless otherwise advised before then. Let us hope that things have cleared up by January.

One other membership-related policy has also been discussed and promulgated. Until just recently, the PCR Manual of Operations (MOO) stated that **no one** is allowed to attend PCR functions (division meets, conventions, etc.) that is not an active member of NMRA. Obviously, this rule has never really been enforced as we have non-member guests at both meets and conventions on a regular basis. NMRA National has a policy called "three strikes" that allows a non-member to attend up to three events to give them time to observe us and decide if they wish to join. After lengthy discussion by email, the Board voted to amend the MOO to follow NMRA's three strikes policy.

PCR expects the divisions to enforce this rule at division events. Since Sierra Division's clerk already uses a sign-in sheet to track attendance at our events, it's a simple matter to screen this for non-members, assisted by the membership chair as necessary. However, since this is now being managed at the Region level by PCR's Member Services Chairperson (currently Bob Ferguson), the Clerk must also report non-members to him. Bob will track and inform us (though we can track also) if a person needs to be politely asked to join if they've attended three events.

I should probably have been doing this all along; my apologies that I'm only starting up now. Since January, we have had 10 new members join Sierra. Please welcome, when you have a chance, the following new members:

Steve Redeker from Elk Grove, CA

Paul Paoli from Woodland, CA

John Dyson from Newman, CA

Brandon Salas from Lathrop, CA

Veda Federighi from Rocklin, CA

David Carico from Weed, CA

Luis Laur from El Dorado Hills, CA

Kenneth Horne from Turlock, CA

Cory Swank from Sonora, CA

Michael Dunston from Sonora, CA

Being the Sierra Division Director, most of this falls under that "hat" also. So, lucky you, you are spared a separate article. See you all on Oct. 10!



SIERRA DIVISION

Next Meeting: October 10
Via ZOOM

10:30 AM

Jim Collins will be our ZOOM moderator. He will contact everyone with a link to the meet during the week prior to October 10.

Also, there will be a "dry run" on October 6 at 6:30 PM. This is our opportunity to make sure our devices work as they should.

TIMETABLE

October 10, 2020
ZOOM Meet

February 14, 2021
Sacramento

May 8, 2021
To Be Determined



SHORT LINE

Dec 10 for the Jan Issue

Mar 10 for the Apr Issue

Jun 10 for the Jul Issue

Sep 10 for the Oct Issue





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Sugar Pine Centennial Convention Plans Progressing

by Chuck Harmon, MMR®

Convention Publicity Chairman

At a recent 2021 PCR convention committee meeting bonus drawings for outside tour registrants were finalized, the banquet keynote speaker was announced, a list of planned clinics was presented and Non-rail activities were discussed. Several volunteer positions still need to be filled.

The Sugar Pine Centennial 2021 convention is now offering a bonus for registrants who sign up for either the Hillcrest and Wahtoke or the Yosemite Mt. Sugar Pine Railroad excursion. Anyone who registers by December 31, 2020 and signs up for the Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad

tour will be entered in a drawing to get to operate the steam locomotive (under the supervision of one of the railroad's engineers.) Those who register by December 31, 2020 and sign up for the Yosemite Mt. Sugar Pine Railroad tour will be entered in a drawing for one of two cab rides in the Shay locomotive. An additional benefit for beating the December 31st deadline is that the "early Bird" registration fee of \$80 expires then and goes up to \$85.00. If already registered, order excursion tickets on your Reg Fox account to be included in the drawings.



The Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad tour will take place on Wednesday, April 21st, the day before the start of the convention. The Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad is located near Reedley, about a half-hour drive from the hotel. Participants will need to provide their own transportation to the railroad. Dinner is included with the \$35.00 extra fare. Besides a train ride, there will be a tour of the Hillcrest shops, well-known for its restoration of Disneyland Railroad equipment.

The Yosemite Mt. Sugar Pine Railroad tour will be held on Thursday, April 22nd. A bus will pick up participants at the hotel and return in the evening. The \$95.00 extra fare includes the bus trip, train ride and dinner. This event is limited to 40 people, so get your registration in early. The railroad is located near Fish Camp in the Sierra Nevada. Participants are to take the bus rather than drive.



"Continued on Page 6

The keynote speaker at the banquet will be Mike Osborn, who has served as a switchman and conductor on the Southern Pacific, then on the Union Pacific, in Southern California. Mike was scheduled to speak at one of the recently cancelled railroad conventions and has agreed to bring his fascinating experiences of “workin’ on the railroad” to our banquet on Saturday night, April 25th.

Clinic chairman Bruce Morden presented a list of current clinics. Bob Chaparro plans to present multiple clinics on layout and rolling stock detailing, and citrus operations. Robert Pethoud will cover the basics of steam locomotives and the construction and operation of a portable switching layout. Jeff Johnson’s two presentations will cover modeling the Sugar Pine Lumber Company and Minarets & Western Railway, and scratch building / kit bashing when modeling a little-known prototype. Doug Wagner will give a presentation on the Sunset Railway. Bruce Morden’s presentations will cover tree modeling and the use of Sanborn Maps for layout design. Seth Neumann will gather SIG members for a roundtable discussion.

Non-rail activities will include participation in the Arts and Crafts contest, as well as other categories, a luncheon, the non-rail hospitality room and a shopping tour. The convention committee is hoping that someone will volunteer to coordinate these activities.

If you wish to participate as a volunteer at the convention, contact Walter Mizuno at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2021/volunteers.html>.

The Sugar Pine Centennial 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.



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

Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Address			City		State Zip Code	
Home Phone		E-mail Address			NMRA #	
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non Rail or Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Day				NMRA Region (if other than PCR)		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times:						
I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests		<input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				
What railroads(s) do you model?						
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS (Use another form for more than 1)						
Last Name		First Name		Name for Badge		
Registration Type (Please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroader <input type="checkbox"/> Non Rail or Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Day				NMRA #		
Available to Volunteer on <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Times:						
I can help More. Have a Volunteer Coordinator contact me <input type="checkbox"/>						
Primary Scales and Interests		<input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				
What railroads(s) do you model?						
All Fares - except Day Fare - include clinics, layout tours and Saturday Banquet						
FARES: Please fill in QTY and Total				QTY	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					TBD	
Polo Shirt 2XL 3XL 4XL					TBD	
Sugar Pine Railroad Excursion					TBD	
Hillcrest Railroad Excursion					TBD	
Convention Car--HO scale Sugar Pine RR log car					TBD	
Join the NMRA		9 month Rail Pass(allowed one time only)			20.00	
		Full NMRA membership (includes monthly magazine)			78.00	
Payment by <input type="checkbox"/> Check** <input type="checkbox"/> Cash [Use website for credit card]					TOTAL:	
** Make Checks Payable to: "PCR / NMRA" No Refunds After March 30, 2021						

Election Of Division Officers - October 2020

There are three open principal offices of the Sierra Division: Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Paymaster. A fourth office, Division Director, was filled by an election earlier this year. All of the offices carry a two-year term.

During the October 10 ZOOM meeting, nominations will be accepted prior to a formal election during that same meeting. As of September 30, there are three known candidates, one for each open office. Their statements appear below:

Superintendent - Chip Meriam



“As most of you know, I am just about to finish up my first term as Sierra Division Superintendent. Prior to serving as Superintendent, I served one term as the Chief Clerk. I’ve also been the editor of the *Short Line* since the May 2015 issue. At the regional level, I currently serve as the PCR Secretary and as the editor of the PCR *Branch Line*.

I am a candidate for this office because I feel a bit of an obligation to continue to serve after an abbreviated term - thanks to the curtailment of our activities resulting from COVID-19 mitigation measures. “

So, as they say, “At your service...”

Chief Clerk - David Fryman



“I am David Fryman. I joined our division about two years ago. I have served as Chief Clerk this past year. Twice I have served as Personnel Coordinator for our annual Rail Fair.

I re-entered the hobby about five years ago. I was ready to start an N scale layout when we (she) decided it was time to move to Lincoln. However, instead of a hot/cold unfinished garage, I got the 10x11 bonus room! I’ll start building soon.

I’ll be glad to function as Chief Clerk for another year.

Keep safe!”

Paymaster - Steve Folino



“When an organization selects a treasurer or in our case, Paymaster, there’s two things to consider. Experience and longevity. You need someone who know how to manage funds for a similar organization and someone who will stick with it for years to come.

I’ve served as treasurer for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sacramento for 7 years, the Kiwanis Foundation of Greater Sacramento for 7 years (a 501 (C)(3) with over 100k in assets), the Natomas Chamber of Commerce (almost 600 members) for 3 years, the National Association of Purchasing Managers, Sacramento Valley Chapter for 3 years, the Professional Photographers of Sacramento, for 5 years and am serving me second year as treasurer of the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society. Additionally, I’ve served as president of the Professional Photographer of Sacramento for 3 years, vice-president of the Professional Photographers of California for 3 years, I served as the California representative to the advisory council of the Professional Photographers of

America for 3 years and am currently serving as secretary for the International Rail Fair.

As you can see, I have the experience in membership-based organizations, both public-benefit and mutual benefit-corporations and federal not-for-profit and charitable organizations and have managed organizations as large as 600 members with as much as 100k in investments.”

"Spar Pole" from page 1

With the landscaping blended into the original layout, the real project – the creation of the Spar Pole and Hayrack Boom with all of the attendant equipment began. I started with an KMP Spar Pole kit that I acquired some time ago, but as I ultimately intend for that to be installed on the Hastold, Tuyred & Betapon, I decided to scratch build all of the pole and its rigging.



The Pole Created And Set In Place



Early Overview Showing The Stump Field And Some Of The Cable Settings/Tie-Offs



Rigging For The Spar Pole

"Continued on Page 10



All Of The Blocks, Pulleys And Carriages On The Pole And Boom, Including The Log Tongs, Were Scratch Built From Styrene



Another Overview Of The Pole And Boom Rigging



Views Of The Tractor Operation And The “Squirrel”, Or Dead Weight Returning The Boom To The Pickup Position



Overview Of Installed And Populated Log Landing And Loading Scene

The project took several months from start to finish, but it has turned into an attraction on the layout during our periodic open houses and for visitors who are interested in logging operations on their own layout.

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 Hamlin@snowcrest.net and ask for prices. If you call, leave a voicemail, as I screen calls from unknown numbers, and I will call you back.



News From The Gerber Sub

We received this from Gary Ray in mid September.

"I spent the beginning of the summer replacing south facing windows in my home along with building a new covered front deck. Finally at the end of June I was able to build something. At the end of June, I assembled a Campbell feed mill, slightly modified.

July was more productive. I did a lot of modifications to another Campbell kit for a meat processing facility. Both ends of the building were new along with many of the decks and a second side for the relocated ramp. Also built 2 Campbell oil warehouses.

This last weekend I built a jig to scratch build some stockyards – I needed 6 more in addition to the 2 I already have. Completed 5.

Built an engine house and facilities plus just finishing scratch-building a box factory to complete the structures for Bella Vista.

*Stay safe,
Gary "*



Oil Warehouse In Proberta



Oil Warehouse In Redding

More Photos on Page 14

News From The Gerber Sub



Feed Mill In Red Bluff



Meat Processor In Redding



Proberta Stock Pens



Stockyard Jig

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

Stones Made Simple

Fred Flintstone had the right idea. He would work hard all day in the quarry, then go home at night, have a big “bronto burger” for dinner, and go to bed. But seriously, this article is about the rocks on your model train layout, most of them a lot smaller than the ones Fred had to work with. All the rocks and boulders on my railroad were done using this technique, the same method used by many modelers in the past for real rocks, rock castings, hand carved rocks from plaster or foam, and also chunks of coal embedder in plaster. Remember the old Coca Cola ads that said, “It’s the real thing?” Well, I guess I prefer real rocks, but many of my hand carved rocks look very real using the easy steps that follow. The rocks and boulders on my freelance Glacier Mountain Railroad were all painted with the same color group of paints shown in the photos so that they would appear to be from the same geographical region. One of the examples for this project is a larger boulder shown in the photo with cows grazing in front of it. This was a white rock to start with. It shows how real you can make it look - even if it were plaster.

STEP ONE

The rock I chose for my subject was large, white, and chunky with a jagged, pointed top. This was to blend in with the glacier mountains of my backdrop. Roundish, smooth rocks don’t seem to look realistic. Chunks of coal work well, but they’re not easy to come by.

Real rocks should be scrubbed with a stiff brush and water and allowed to dry thoroughly. The first step is to apply a coat of heavy black wash. I use a 1" inexpensive china bristle brush and a mix of 2 tablespoons of black India ink to 2 cups 70% isopropyl alcohol, a rather strong mix. When dry, the rock will appear as if it had been sprayed it with flat black paint. but don't worry, you haven't botched it up at this point. Be sure to work the black wash into all the cracks and crevices. Apply two coats and let dry.

STEP TWO

It's time to choose the color combinations that are correct for the geographical location you are modeling. Tans and browns would be one group, and light gray plus dark gray might be another - just to give two examples. I get my paint from Home Depot where I can get Behr Premium Plus ultra-flat paint in 8oz. sample jars for around four bucks. They come in hundreds of colors as opposed to expensive hobby paint in limited colors that come in small jars. You can even mix your own special railroad colors yourself such as a caboose red, rail brown, grimy black, etc. Store bought rail brown, for example, has always looked to me to be a little too brown without enough rust that would match the old full-size railroad spike I have sitting in my train room. So, I put a little more rust colored paint in the mix and made it better looking. There is an artist who works in the paint department at my local Home Depot store. She said to bring in an old piece of rail and she can computer match the color! Hey, this means I can put my "NOTHING IS GOOD ENOUGH" philosophy to the test! I can also get 8oz. jars in either water base or solvent base, gloss or flat or satin.

For my sample rock I used antique tin, dark pewter, coconut husk (brown), and thyme green for patches of moss from the Behr color chart. I won't describe how to dry brush paint, but it is the technique used when painting. Most modelers know how to do this, but watching a good video is the best way to learn this method. Dry brush the darkest color first and apply just little deeper than the high spots on the rock face. Leave some of the low spots for a shadow effect and don't hit any of the cracks and crevices that were painted with the black wash. With the second darkest color, dry brush with an even lighter touch hitting only the highest surface of the rock. Finally, dry brush the brown paint only in random areas very lightly as a highlight to represent dirt or color variations in the rock. This step, as you will notice, really makes the rock a thing of beauty.

“Continued on Page 17

STEP THREE

The next step is to apply some moss. On my rock, I applied it heaviest in the more shaded areas where the sunlight is not very prominent. On my layout the sun rises in the east and sets in the west as in real life. This was done when my train room was built in its own building with an entrance door at the north end. I placed a 150-watt flood light on the east side of the train room to simulate the rising sun. With all my rocks in place, I painted all the shadow detail everywhere on the scenery. All my hand carved and real rocks are shadowed in the correct areas as I worked with the room blacked out and only the flood-light on. You may not want to go to this much trouble unless "NOTHING IS GOOD ENOUGH", but back to that moss. Using thyme green paint, dry brush some random spots especially in the darker shadowed areas and along the base of the rock near the dirt - just as in nature. In fact, studying and photographing rock formations in nature, as I have done most of my life, can be one of the most helpful things you can do. The last step is to use a stick of white blackboard chalk to gently highlight the outer most ridges where sun bleaches the rock and it starts to crumble. Highlight areas with brown highlight chalk. The rock is now finished. The only thing left to do is to paint all the remaining rocks on your layout, which may be hundreds or even thousands. The painting method I have described in this article can be reversed by starting with the lighter color first and progressing to the darker ones which reduced the contrast and detail, but I prefer to have my rock detail "pop".

It can be a lot of fun to experiment with all the different techniques of making rocks look realistic and it will greatly improve your skills as a modeler and an artist. Fred Flintstone would be surprised.



Step 1 - Black Wash



Step 2 - Dark Grey



Step 3 - Light Grey



Step 4 - Brown & Moss

"Continued on Page 18"



Step 1 - Black Wash



Step 2 - Dark Grey



Step 3 - Light Grey



Step 4 - Brown



Step 5 - Green Moss



Step 6 - Chalk

"Continued on Page 19"



Paints, Washes, Chalks, Tools



Assortment Of Real Rocks Painted And Ready For Installation. One Is Hand Carved From Foam (guess which one!)



This Started As A Pure White Rock Found In Some Bushes. It Has Been Painted With A Heavy Black Wash



The Same Rock Shown At Left After Using All The Techniques Described Above



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Wow! Did you know there's a new
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

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