



Rhode Rail

The monthly newsletter
of the Little Rhody Division
National Model Railroad Association

www.littlerhodydiv.org

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SATURDAY MARCH 21: LEARN ABOUT AMERICAN VS. BRITISH RAIL, CONSTRUCT CHEAP PAPER BUILDINGS AND LEARN HOW SIMPLE IT IS TO HAND LAY TRACK

Don't forget to join us this Saturday, March 21, to celebrate spring and have a fun morning of model railroading activities. We will be meeting at the Methodist Church in East Greenwich once again – on Rt. 2 just down from Dave's. We have a lot of things planned:

- Coffee and doughnuts from Allie's starting at 9:30.
- George Landow will make a presentation on the differences between American and British rail practices starting at 10.
- Justin Maguire will present a mini-clinic on hand laying track. It is much easier than you think – come and learn how.
- Steve Erickson will be presenting a mini-clinic on how to make inexpensive but highly detailed paper buildings. Learn how to cover your layout with structures for just a few dollars each.
- Lunch will be from a local deli, ordered and delivered. We will have a short business update, including discussion of the great progress we are making on the N scale Division modular layout.

See you Saturday!

UPCOMING EVENTS: WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED

There is a lot happening over the next few months, so here are some of the highlights of your Division's schedule:

April Our April meeting will once again feature some hands on clinics as well as a presentation. A la carte lunch from the deli, Allie's donuts. Stay tuned for details.

May The same as April, with another full Saturday morning of events.

- June** Our annual meeting and banquet. We will have a full meal, election of officers, presentation of awards, as well as contests and displays. We will have a one square foot contest (new and experienced categories) as well as a display table for your latest work. We will also have our N scale modular layout on display.
- Summer** Two things are planned: A summer picnic at David Kiley's house with his garden railroad on display, and a trip to live steam country! More details to follow.
- October** Our second annual train show.
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N SCALE MODULAR GROUP: THE RHODE ISLAND AND OLD COLONY

Our T-Trak modular railroad is moving full steam ahead. Many of the interested members met a couple of Saturdays ago and made a lot of progress on moving the project forward.

The Rhode Island and Old Colony Railroad is a fictional railroad but with a real sense of time and place. The location is along the coast of Rhode Island and Massachusetts in the 1950's. There will be a Providence city module, a Providence port module, coastal modules, small town modules, and factory areas. In short, what this part of the world looked like in the 1950's. We will have some diesels decked out in RIOG logos, and some in New Haven logos, since it is conceptualized as part of the New Haven system. Colors run from the early green and orange right through the McGinnis color scheme – all work.

Because we are using a standardized, commercial module and track system, building the modules will be easy for even the newest participant. The electrical and wiring systems are going to be standardized and easily connected. We will be using a DCC system from NCE, with throttles from that company and also run through iOS and Android hand held phones and tablets.

These modules fit on a table top and are easily connected. That means we can use them for service projects – trips to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and so forth – as well as train shows. We will be able to set up and run trains at our monthly events and at the train show.

People can get into this very simply – the smallest module is only a foot wide. So if you want more N Scale, or if you would like to participate in a division project that will have a service component, or if you just like to run trains without a lot of fuss – join us!

There is a Facebook page just for the modular group – search for “Little Rhody N Trak” and you will find us. You do NOT have to join Facebook to view the group – but if you want to be a member and contribute you will need to have a Facebook account (which is not the same as having an active page).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AT WORK

The Division nominating committee is hard at work putting together the slate of officers and directors for the coming year. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role, please give Henry Pierce a call or send him an email. You can email him at jhp341@cox.net give him a call at 401-821-4256.

All officer slots serve one year terms. The officers are: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Clerk, and Paymaster. Together with the elected directors they make up the Board of Directors, which is the primary planning group for the Division. We add people to the Board based on interest, so there is always an opportunity to participate.

CONTESTS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will feature a setup of our T-Trak modules, a display of work from the past year by members, and a contest with categories for experienced and first time entrants. Just put one square foot of railroad (with or without track) together, and bring it to dinner. It is always a lot of fun. Plan and build your module now (note that one foot modules for the N scale modular railroad will qualify for the contest as well).

TRAIN SHOW SCHEDULED AGAIN FOR OCTOBER: MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW

Save the date: October 18, 2015. The place: Pawtucket Armory (same as last year). The October show was highly successful: 1100 in attendance, \$4,000 raised for the Division. We aim to do better this year. To do that, we need all your help. The committee is forming up now, so contact Justin Maguire at pennywhistle@fullchannel.net.

We have already circulated over 400 flyers at the Amherst Train Show, so the word is getting out. This is a great way to help the Division while having a great time. Everyone involved last year found it to be fun.

HUB DIVISION SPRING TRAINING: APRIL 12 IN TAUNTON

From the HUB Division: They will be running a show on April 12. Here are the details:

The HUB Division will once again be holding its Annual Spring TRAINing show at the Holiday Inn,

Taunton, MA on Sunday, April 12, 2015. We have modified the format slightly this year to try to make the event less dependent on the dealers and more dependant on admissions for it's funding while at the same time keeping the admission price down. Note that it will be on Sunday instead of Saturday.

As usual, the show will include dealers, modules and clinics.

We will have a full schedule of clinics presented by some of the areas top modelers. Mike Tylick, Jeff Gerow, Erich Whitney, and Dick Towle will all be presenting some very interesting clinics. For those of you who were not able to attend the Region Convention in Palmer, clinicians Steve Erickson, Barbara Hoblit and Dan Bigda will present their clinics for us. We are always looking for new talent and this time we have Kevin Neprud who will present a clinic on weathering cars. Kevin's cars are beautifully weathered and he will explain how to do it.

Our featured clinician this year is Lance Mindheim. Lance has had several articles published in Model Railroader and his work is very realistic. If you have seen some of his photos from the articles, it is very difficult to tell that you are looking at a model. Lance will be presenting two clinics for us. "Achievable Realism" a clinic discussing the factors that contribute to making our models and scenes more realistic and their relative importance and "Layout Design: Putting The Horse Before the Cart" A discussion of the important planning issues that must take place before we even put a pencil to paper when designing a layout.

For a full list and descriptions, see the HUB Div web site.

<http://www.hubdiv.org/springshow/index.htm>

After the show, there will be the Annual Meeting of the HUB Div. Inc. followed by a happy hour and banquet. We have been able to keep the pricing of the banquet down for a number of years but with the cost of everything going up, this year we had to boost the price slightly to \$35.00. The banquet menu includes your choice of London Broil w/Mushroom Demi Glace, Cape Cod Chicken w/Cranberry Sage Corn Bread Stuffing, or Boston Baked Scrod w/Buttery Cracker Crumb Top with hint of lemon juice and white wine.

The speaker after the banquet will be Chris Podgurski, President of the Cape Cod Central Railroad which runs the Cape Cod Dinner Train. So many members enjoyed the Dinner Train outing we sponsored last year that in conjunction with having Chris as our speaker, we will be running another Cape Cod Dinner on May 16, 2015. So if you missed last years event or if you enjoyed it and would like to go again, now is your chance. See the separate announcement in the HL or visit the web site for further details.

BOOTY CORNER BUILD

The Booty Corner series will continue next month. Stay tuned for lighting and interiors, as well as fire escapes, walls, and a slight bash of the kit.