



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

[www.littlerhodydiv.org](http://www.littlerhodydiv.org)

Volume 3, Number 9

May/June 2016

**MAY MEETING:  
REALISM THROUGH RESEARCH**

MAY 7, 2016  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
EAST GREENWICH, R.I.  
Coffee and donuts: 9:30  
Meeting: 10:00

How Close to Prototype Do You Want to Model? Research, Suggestions,  
Discussion from Freelance to Strict Prototype: Find Your Comfort Level

Our May meeting is Saturday, May 7. The focus of the meeting will be the ways to research prototype railroads, including internet resources, interviews and field investigation. Members will share their knowledge and experience, particularly with reference to Rhode Island railroads. We will also be reviewing plans for our fiftieth anniversary celebration in June, the October train show, and events for next year. We will also be planning one or two summer events, so come along and share in the fun!

**JUNE: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING:**

**COME SEE FIFTY YEARS OF THE LITTLE RHODY DIVISION IN  
ACTION!**

The Annual Dinner is on June 8 at Twelve Acres in Smithfield. This is our Golden Anniversary! The Little Rhody Division was founded fifty years ago. We will be celebrating

our heritage, honoring past superintendents, and running trains! We have invited all the past supers still around to come have dinner with us. The old division cars will be on display, we will have a one square foot contest, the Rhode Island and Old Colony N Scale layout will be running, and people will be bringing their work to show off. We will be selling our new division car as well.

The division will elect officers for the coming year as well.

The order form for the banquet is attached. Fill it out and return it today. You will not want to miss this once in a lifetime event, and there will be a surprise gift for attendees!

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#### LRD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

##### SUPERINTENDENT

Steve Erickson (NMRA member since 1996)  
[sperrickson@gmail.com](mailto:sperrickson@gmail.com)  
401-324-9051

##### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Sue Osberg (NMRA member since 2007)

##### CHIEF CLERK (Secretary)

Dick Nagle (NMRA member since 1991)

##### PAYMASTER (Treasurer)

Shannon Dekonski (NMRA member since 2013)

##### DIRECTORS

David Dekonski (NMRA member since 2006)  
George Landow (NMRA member since 2003)

##### PAST SUPERINTENDENTS

Brian Osberg (NMRA member since 2007)  
Henry Pierce (NMRA member since 2005) (also  
nominating committee chair)

##### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR (Appointed)

Linda Bergemann (NMRA member since 1995)

##### ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR (Appointed)

Justin Maguire (NMRA member since 1995)

##### AT LARGE (Appointed)

Richard Sebzda (NMRA member since 2012)  
David Kiley (NMRA member since 2012)

#### *Super Notes*

There is a lot happening over the next few months -- the May meeting, the June 50th anniversary dinner, summer activities and more. Stay tuned in and come join us.

This will be my last newsletter with double duty as editor and Superintendent. Next month the Division will elect a new Superintendent who will immediately take over. I am not going very far at all, but right now I am a little stretched thin.

We are making progress on the possibility of a regional convention in 2017, and we have lined up a lot of volunteers. But we need many more. Please consider helping out.

*Steve*

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#### DIVISION TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS AT ANNUAL MEETING

One of the events that takes place at the annual meeting is the election of Division Officers for the next year. The nominating committee has been chaired by Henry Pierce, and has recommended a slate of officers. The proposed slate is:

Superintendent: Sue Osberg  
Asst. Super: Brian Osberg  
Clerk: Dick Nagle  
Paymaster: Shannon Dekonski

Steve Erickson will remain on the board as past Superintendent, and the new Superintendent will appoint committee chairs.

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## **WEATHERING WOOD STRUCTURES**

By Sue Osberg  
Assistant Superintendent  
Little Rhody Division

Wood structures are made from very thin material that has been cut by a laser. So your first step should be to spray the pieces (especially walls of the structure) with a neutral color paint prior to actually painting with the “finish coat”. Generally, I use a generic gray from Walmart (their house brand) as it is inexpensive and does a good job. When dry, either airbrush or paint with a brush for the final coat of paint. As Art Fahie of Bar Mills Scale Models puts it, “the building was once painted by all those little HO people”. Many of the structures we build model older buildings that have survived weather of all kinds; therefore, we tend to “weather” our buildings to show the wear and tear. There are a variety of ways to do this.

### **India Ink and Alcohol stain**

The easiest way is to brush the walls with a solution of India Ink and alcohol. Purchase a bottle of Higgins India Ink and a pint bottle of 90% alcohol and mix in the following proportions:

1 tsp India ink to 1 pint of 90% rubbing alcohol for a light blend

2 tsp India ink to 1 pint of 90% rubbing alcohol for a dark blend

If this is not enough, one can “dry brush” greys, tans, or black on to the building to give the impression of age and weathering.

### **Dry brush techniques**

First, use a stubby, fairly stiff brush. Then put paint on the brush and wipe most of it off on a cloth or paper towel. Lightly “scrub” the paint over the surface so that a little of the color shows up; more can be added later if needed. Repeat process as needed.

Buildings that are sited mostly in dirt often show splashes of dirt and mud on the lower edges. This can be shown by using either dry brushing brown and/or gray paint or by using weathering powders. Weathering powders can be applied dry or with a little alcohol to moisten them. Go easy – a little goes a long way!

### **Aging techniques**

Before gluing the walls together, careful lifting of some of the siding on the wall can be done with the point of a #11 craft knife – don’t try to do too much as a little is more effective. Then, give the wall a coat of a light India ink/alcohol mixture and let dry.

Windows can be dulled by spraying with Dullcoat before putting the windows into the building. This keeps the windows from appearing too “shiny” in an older building.

Another way to weather a building is to prime with a Khaki color spray paint and then dry brush the finish coat with a brush almost wiped clean of paint. The finish coat is then almost “scrubbed” on the building. I did this with Khaki primer and a white paint for a building – it gave the building that old, worn out, weathered, “it once had a fresh coat of paint” look

Go ahead, start a wood, “Craftsman” style kit, or scratch build a structure and practice your weathering techniques. You’ll be surprised at how realistic they turn out.

**WEATHERING MATERIALS:**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Bragdon Weathering Powders       | <a href="https://www.bragdonent.com/weather.htm">https://www.bragdonent.com/weather.htm</a>   |
| Pan Pastels                      | <a href="http://www.stoneycreekdesigns.com/panpastels.html">http://www.stoneycreekdesigns.com/panpastels.html</a>   |
| Doc O'Brien's Weathering Powders | <a href="http://www.micromark.com/doc-obriens-weathering-powders-set-of-12-colors,7798.html">http://www.micromark.com/doc-obriens-weathering-powders-set-of-12-colors,7798.html</a> |
| Hunterline Stains                | <a href="http://hunterline.com/t/weathering-mix">http://hunterline.com/t/weathering-mix</a>   |
| India Ink                        | Walmart, A.C. Moore, Michael’s  |
| 90% (or so) alcohol              | Walgreens, CVS (Walgreens usually has it)   |
| Brushes                          | Walmart, A.C. Moore, Michael’s  |
| Craft paints                     | Walmart, A.C. Moore, Michael’s  |

Bragdon powders, pan pastels, Hunterline stains are all available at the Springfield train show every January.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS.....**

**May**

2016 Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders Convention & Show  
May 19-22, 2016  
Saint John, New Brunswick, CA  
[www.portcityrails2016.org](http://www.portcityrails2016.org)

**July**

NMRA National Convention and Train Show  
“Highball to Indy”  
July 3-10, 2016  
[www.nmra2016.org](http://www.nmra2016.org)

**September**

36th National Narrow Gauge Convention  
September 7-10 2016  
Augusta, Maine  
[www.nngc2016.org](http://www.nngc2016.org)

The Pacemaker: 2016 Northeastern Regional Convention  
September 15-18, 2016  
Albany NY  
<http://www.hbdpacemaker.org/>