



**SUNSET LIMITED**  
 THE 2020 NMRA LONE STAR REGION CONVENTION  
**HOUSTON ■ FEB. 13-15**



## THURSDAY – 2-13-20 – LSR CONVENTION SCHEDULED CLINICS

THURSDAY EVENING	CLINICIAN	CLINIC TITLE	TYPE	SUMMARY OF CLINIC TOPIC
7:30 PM	Nick Santo	DCC	Electronics	As computerization takes further hold in the model railroading hobby, DCC (Digital Command Control) is replacing DC (Direct Current) as the control standard for running locomotives, and even things like cattle cars and refrigerator cars that have sound effects. Nick will teach you about DCC decoders, and help you get a strong handle on decoder basics.
7:30 PM	Tom Palmer	MKT in the Post War/Pre-Duramus Years	Prototype	Tom's presentation will cover the Missouri-Kansas-Texas during the period between the end of World War II and the Duramus years.
7:30 PM	Pete Leach	Downsizing	Logistics	You are getting on in years. You don't have the energy you once had. You have moved into a smaller home. You no longer are able to maintain a large railroad. You are on a fixed retirement income. What do you do? Answer: You downsize. Pete Leach will show you how to downsize your model railroad so you can still enjoy the hobby.
9:00 PM	Tom Bailey	Kansas City Passenger Trains	Prototype	Kansas City was one of the few large cities where all its passenger trains served a single large union station—in KC's case, twelve railroads and dozens of trains. Tom will cover the main trains as well as the more quaint and lesser-known ones. St. Louis was known as the "Gateway to the West", but perhaps Kansas City, closer to where the West truly starts, is more deserving of that moniker.
9:00 PM	Jim Williams	San Bernard Bridge Construction and Angleton Yard Enlargement	Prototype	Jim will present information on Union Pacific's recent San Bernard River bridge construction near Sweeny, Texas, where a new lift bridge replaced an old swing bridge. He will also cover the enlargement of the UP freight yard at Angleton, Texas. Both of these projects were on what was once the Missouri Pacific's Kingsville Division.
9:00 PM	Denny McGonicle	Mountain Building for Beginners	Scenery	Denny will demonstrate that modeling realistic mountains is easier than you think. Attendees will leave with a firm handle on how to go about building mountainous scenery on their model railroads.

## FRIDAY – 2-14-20 – LSR CONVENTION SCHEDULED CLINICS

FRIDAY MORNING	CLINICIAN	CLINIC TITLE	TYPE	SUMMARY OF CLINIC TOPIC
8:30 AM	Rich Mahaney	Selecting Industries For Your Model Railroad	Modeling	Rich's presentation helps you select industries and businesses for your model railroad through a systematic approach and by answering a series of questions, thinking about how railroads serve their customers, increasing railroad traffic by thinking about the types of cars used to service the needs of different industries.
8:30 AM	Bob Barnett, MMR	Taking the Train From St. Louis to Texas	Prototype	Bob, one of the resident experts on the Missouri Pacific and Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroads in this part of the country, will give a photographic presentation that compares the passenger services between St. Louis and Texas on four different routes including also the SSW and SLSF.
8:30 AM	Kelly Russell	Switching or Operating a Model Railroad	Operations	Kelly will present a detailed overview on how to apply prototype operations to model railroad layouts. Included will be the use of car cards for car forwarding.
10:00 AM	Steve Sandifer, MMR	12 Years on the Howard Branch	Modeling	Steve is a prototype modeler who is modeling the Howard Branch of the Santa Fe in Kansas, circa 1952. He will talk about why he selected this area, his research methods and how his layout has progressed.
10:00 AM	Chuck Lind	History of Logging & Sawmills in East Texas	Prototype	This presentation covers the History of logging and sawmills from before Texas became a Republic, a State and the effects of the Civil War had on the industry. While many of the woods in the north were being depleted the woods in east Texas remained virtually untouched for many years mainly due to the isolation of Texas from the rest of the United States because of the lack of railroads in Texas. It takes us through the glory Days of logging in East Texas when railroads, many of them narrow gauge, entered the woods delivering logs to the many mills in East Texas.
10:00 AM	Loren Neufeld, MMR	Scenery – Part 1	Scenery	One of the greatest scenery sculpturists in the country, in this Part 1 clinic Loren will demonstrate the basics of how he builds his scenery and gets such realistic awe-inspiring results.
11:30 AM	Jim Williams	Modeling the Sweeny Depot/Weigh Scale	Modeling	Jim's presentation will cover how he went about modeling the Sweeny, Texas depot on the Missouri Pacific's Kingsville Division (one of three depots in the town over the years). He will also cover a weigh scale track that he built.
11:30 AM	Al Partlow	The Southern Pacific Galveston Subdivision	Prototype	Being our resident Southern Pacific expert, Al's presentation will be on the history and operation of the SP line between Houston and Galveston. Featured are his actual work experiences as a brakeman on the Galveston Sub in 1969.
11:30 AM	Tom Palmer	MKT in the Post War/Pre-Duramus Years	Prototype	Tom's presentation will cover the Missouri-Kansas-Texas during the period between the end of World War II and the Duramus years.

## FRIDAY – 2-14-20 – LSR CONVENTION SCHEDULED CLINICS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON	CLINICIAN	CLINIC TITLE	TYPE	SUMMARY OF CLINIC TOPIC
12:30 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>			
1:30 PM	Rich Mahaney	"Quick Industries" For Your Model Railroad	Modeling	Rich's presentation gives you industry ideas for your model railroad that can be assembled in several evenings or days of work. These industries can quickly increase railroad traffic. Examples of real facilities and model examples make the points. Also covers details such as track work, loading docks, industry placement along tracks, and industry building concepts. This is part 2 of the clinic above.
1:30 PM	Peter Bryan	The Comanche & Indian Gap Live Steam Railroad	Modeling	Peter will spotlight one of the most interesting model railroads in the country, which exists outdoors on a ranch near Comanche, Texas. One of the few live steam railroads designed primarily for operation, live steamers gather there several times a year. The equipment is big enough to ride on. During the Spring Fling, freight trains operate prototypically with 4-man crews. With mainline meets, industrial switching, dispatching, and yard work, this is as close to real railroading as you can get.
1:30 PM	Nick Santo	DCC	Electronics	As computerization takes further hold in the model railroading hobby, DCC (Digital Command Control) is replacing DC (Direct Current) as the control standard for running locomotives, and even things like cattle cars and refrigerator cars that have sound effects. Nick will teach you about DCC decoders, and help you get a strong handle on decoder basics.
3:00 PM	Gene Mangum	Realistic Open Loads	Modeling	Detailing the commercially available loads and creating the load types not available commercially are the subjects of Gene's clinic. About half of the rail served industries on his railroad, the Mystic Branch, do not receive any open type cars such as flats, open hoppers, or gondolas. However, seven industries do receive such cars. For the industries, loads for open tops are necessary for realistic operation. Like most model railroaders, he is always looking for simple and reasonably priced solutions. He was able to find reasonable loads for the open hoppers and most flat cars. However, some types of loads, especially for gondolas, are not available commercially; either entirely or at reasonable prices. So, scratch-building was the only, or at least the only economic solution.
3:00 PM	Steve Sandifer, MMR	Fish, Poultry, and Horse Cars	Prototype	Steve, author of <i>Santa Fe Live Stock Operations</i> , will cover the shipping of other livestock that doesn't go "Baa", "Moo", or "Oink". Learn more than you ever thought possible about the history of poultry, fish, and horse cars.
3:00 PM	<b>NON-RAIL CLINIC</b>			
4:30 PM	Don Winn	Creating a Time Machine	Modeling	Don's clinic will review an array of important resources where you can find information to help you tell your railroad's story. Regardless of whether we are modeling an actual place and time, or free-lancing what might have been, we all strive to make realistic and believable scenes. Key to that is understanding how and why the prototypes did it, what rolling stock is appropriate for the era, and how the structures should look.
4:30 PM	Tom Palmer	Transition Era Freight Cars	Prototype	Tom will give us a look at the various railroad freight cars that made freight trains interesting to watch as they went by during the transition era from steam to diesel-electric.
4:30 PM	<b>NON-RAIL CLINIC</b>			

# FRIDAY – 2-14-20 – LSR CONVENTION SCHEDULED CLINICS

6:00 PM	DINNER			
FRIDAY EVENING	CLINICIAN	CLINIC TITLE	TYPE	SUMMARY OF CLINIC TOPIC
7:30 PM	Pete Leach	Backdrop Scenery Make-and-Take	Scenery	Pete has developed a really effective way of creating realistic scenery backdrops. In this clinic, six participants will be guided by Pete, and by using his techniques, will go home with a small section of scenery backdrop in their possession. Kids 8 and older are welcome to participate! They must be accompanied with a parent or adult guardian.
7:30 PM	Jim Williams	Union Pacific Algoa–Brownsville Overview	Prototype	Jim, who is intimately familiar with the railroad goings-on of Union Pacific's former Kingsville Division of the Missouri Pacific, will give a PowerPoint presentation of the recent major changes on the line, including the bridge replacement of the San Bernard River swing bridge with a lift bridge near Sweeny, the expansion of the yard at Angleton, and the upcoming bridge placement of the inoperative swing bridge on the Brazos River at Brazoria.
7:30 PM	Steve Barkley	Downsize now and save your widow and family time, trouble and money	Logistics	Steve will cover why, what and how to downsize and market your extra model trains, including eBay and consignment. He will show you how to determine what your equipment is worth. "God grant me the serenity to accept my obsession with trains; the courage to change those parts of my hobby that are not beneficial; and wisdom to know the difference."
9:00 PM	Rich Mahaney	Modeling Crude Oil and Ethanol Operations and Transportation	Modeling	Rich's presentation looks at the following topics: crude oil and ethanol products, hazardous materials, placards, loading and unloading facilities, tank cars for transporting these products, unit trains, high-hazard flammable trains and other related information. It is designed to help model railroaders add these unit trains and their operations to their modern era layouts.
9:00 PM	David N. Currey	The Greatest Train-Offs In History	Prototype	In July, 1948, the Southern Pacific Railroad had a robust passenger service on its Texas and New Orleans subsidiary. It could be described as a network, with Houston as its hub. Eight SP lines radiated out from Houston to almost all the major destinations in the state. Within just 10 years, this network was all but done away with. This was truly the greatest discontinuances of passenger trains in United States history. David's presentation will cover the trains involved, Grand Central Station, the services these trains provided, and the timeline of the discontinuances.
9:00 PM	Bob Barnett, MMR	Trucks: From the Railroads' Adversary to Preferred Customer	Prototype	Bob's presentation will show how the trucking industry has gone from being one of the railroads fiercest competitors to being a preferred customer by way of piggyback trains.

# SATURDAY – 2-15-20 – GREATER HOUSTON TRAIN SHOW SCHEDULED CLINICS

SATURDAY	CLINICIAN	CLINIC TITLE	TYPE	SUMMARY OF CLINIC TOPIC
11:00 AM	Kelly Russell	Modeling What You See In Photographs	Modeling	Kelly will host an audience participation discussion based on photographs from a summer vacation. Kelly will coach the audience on what is seen in the photographs, and on how to go about modeling what is seen, including what to compress and what to omit.
11:00 AM	Rich Mahaney	Perishable Operations in the 1950's	Prototype	Rich's presentation looks at refrigerator cars for produce, fruit, meat and other items, the supporting operations (icing, cleanout, repair, storage buildings and warehouses, brokers and customers), the paperwork involved, the application of all of this for more realistic operations on model railroads and examples of what people are doing on their railroad layouts.
11:00 AM	Denny McGonicle	Mountain Building for Beginners	Scenery	Denny will demonstrate that modeling realistic mountains is easier than you think. Attendees will leave with a firm handle on how to go about building mountainous scenery on their model railroads.
12:30 PM	Gordon Bliss and Eddie Aycock	Basic Operations 101	Operations	Gordon and Eddie, two N-scalers with operational layouts, will give a presentation on basic operations. It will cover several methods of car forwarding, how to use staging yards, how to inject realism into the operating session, and how to make operating a layout fun.
12:30 PM	Steve Sandifer, MMR	Santa Fe's E1, E3, E6, and E8 Diesels	Prototype	Steve has produced detailed reference material on Santa Fe's E units, in part to assist BLI with the correctness of its model production. This is a study in the evolution of the passenger diesels on the Santa Fe from the box cab to the E8m.
12:30 PM	NON – RAIL CLINIC			
2:00 PM	Cliff Cheeseman	Super Detailing Structures - Part 1	Modeling	Cliff, a true master at scratch-building structures, will demonstrate the many techniques he uses to scratchbuild his awesome buildings, as well as how he goes about super-detailing them. This is Part 1.
2:00 PM	Al Partlow	SP/T&NO Passenger Service Featuring The Sunset Limited	Prototype	Being our resident Southern Pacific expert, Al's presentation will include a detailed description of SP/T&NO passenger service. Motive power, passenger equipment, facilities, and operations will all be included in the discussion.
2:00 PM	Pete Leach	Make-and-Take Scenery Backdrop Painting	Scenery	Pete has developed a really effective way of creating realistic scenery backdrops. In this clinic, six participants will be guided by Pete, and by using his techniques, will go home with a small section of scenery backdrop in their possession. Kids 8 and older are welcome to participate! They must be accompanied with a parent or adult guardian.
3:30 PM	Cliff Cheeseman	Super Detailing Structures - Part 2	Modeling	Cliff, a true master at scratch-building structures, will demonstrate the many techniques he uses to scratchbuild his awesome buildings, as well as how he goes about super-detailing them. This is Part 2.
3:30 PM	David N. Currey	The Railway Post Office	Prototype	RPOs weren't just a car carried at the head of passenger trains. They were a beehive of activity. David's presentation will cover almost everything you need to know about railway post offices. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, David will show a video made by the Post Office during the 1950s that gives an in-depth look at how RPOs operated.
3:30 PM	Loren Neufeld, MMR	Scenery – Part 2	Scenery	One of the greatest scenery sculpture artists in the country, in this Part 2 clinic Loren will demonstrate how he creates such realistic-looking water.