

CHICAGOLAND RPM 2023

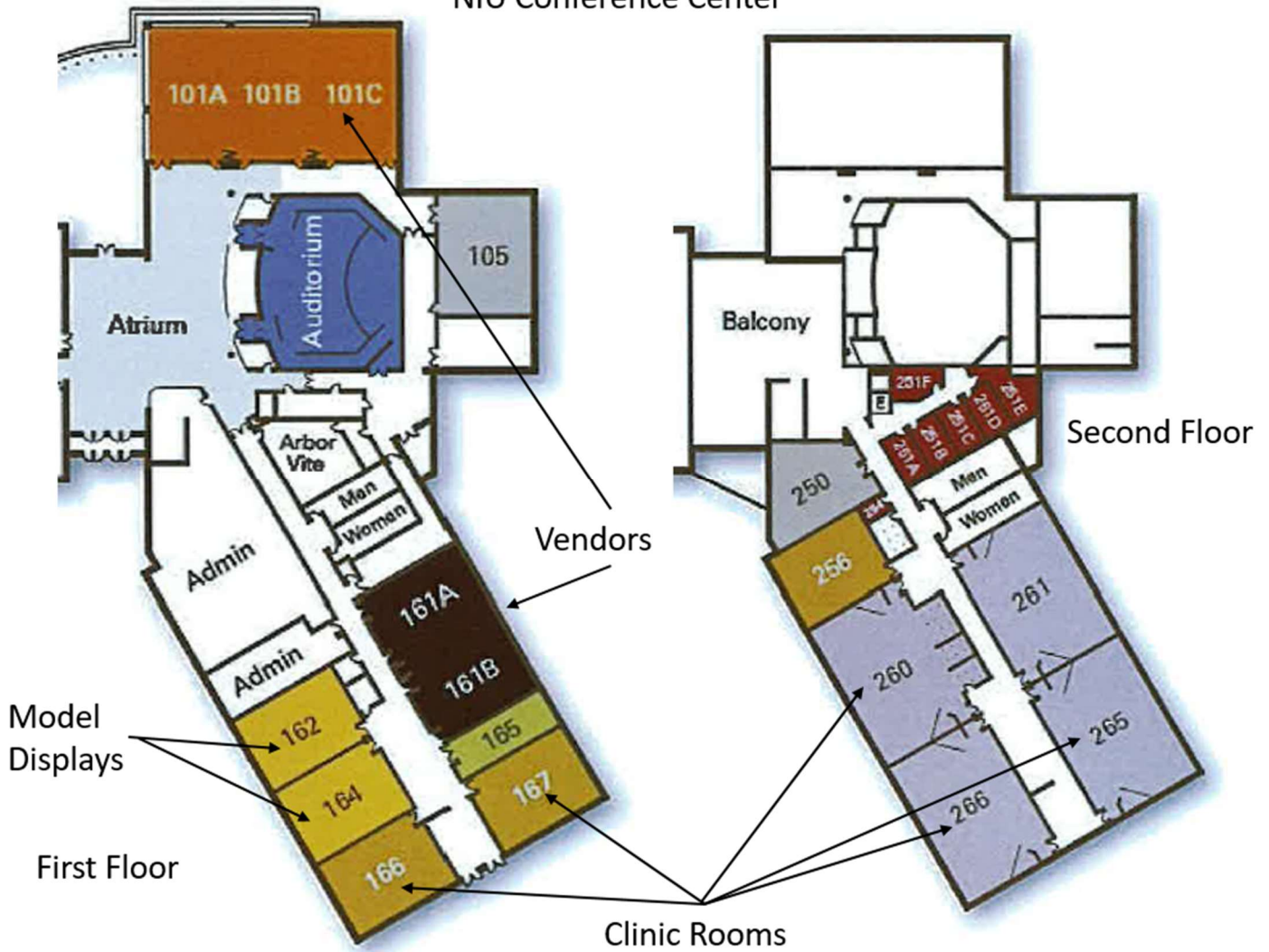


Model by Ed Rethwisch

NAPERVILLE, IL

OCTOBER 27-28, 2023

NIU Conference Center



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Chicagoland RPM Clinic Schedule

	Room 166	Room 167	Room 260	Room 261	Room 265
Friday					
9:00 AM	1 - Kohlmann Realistic Loads	2 - Breyer Mather Fleet	5 - Hamsmith IC boxcars 1950s	7 - Dawson Interchange Rules	23 - Wells Kit-Bashing
10:30 AM	3 - Harding Coal washer in Iowa	4 - Harley UP Boxcar Paint Schemes	6 - Rethwisch Building IC boxcars	8 - Klocke CGW: Rochester Oil City	10 - Hinman NYC steel baggage cars
Lunch Break					
1:00 PM	11 - Brown Santa Fe ops in Illinois	14 - Lakin Op Elem: Transit changes	17 - Panza Early TTX flat cars	20 - Propst Story City Branch	9 - Schneider Assy Resin/Plastic Diner
2:30 PM	12 - Vanko Weathering freight cars	TBD	18 - Switzer Loads for TTX F30 and F39	21 - Hanmer Iron Ore Operations	24 - Schofield CP Ops in Vermont
4:00 PM	25 - Henniger GN 50' Rebuilt Boxcars	29 - Toman Using photo etched parts	19 - Chapman Ralston Steel Car Co.	22 - Leider EJ&E	13 - Darnaby Maumee Route
Food and Drink Gathering					
7:00 PM	7 - Dawson Interchange Rules	26 - Holzheimer RRs and synthetic rubber	15 - Hile Modeling Swift Reefers	31 - Webber Pullman Library	30 - Sullivan Portland Oregon Layout
8:30 PM			16 - Smith Modeling Central Ill 1950s	32 - Swanson Lake States RHA	27 - Perrin and Singer IC in Southern Ill in 1960s
Saturday					
9:00 AM	20 - Propst Story City Branch	5 - Hamsmith IC boxcars 1950s	13 - Darnaby Maumee Route	11 - Brown Santa Fe ops in Illinois	16 - Smith Modeling Central Ill 1950s
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Done only once Done twice on Friday

2023 Chicagoland RPM Clinic Descriptions

1- Keith Kolmann Realistic Freight Car Loads

The presentation shows how to make your models more realistic by following prototype AAR practice in securing loads. Many prototype photos of loads, drawings showing how railroads secure open loads to cars, and several modeled examples with tips on making model loads as realistic as possible will be provided. Some of the loads discussed include: farm machinery, steel and metal products, vehicles, forest products and building materials, military equipment, and MofW items.

2- Ray Breyer The Mather Fleet

This presentation examines the history and car fleet of the Mather Humane Stock Transportation Company, especially before World War Two. The hobby tends to think of Mather as a scrappy little car leasing company during the Depression years, but it was far from that: the company operated from 1882 to 1956, was a pioneer in stock car and automobile boxcar development, and was at one time the third largest car leasing company in North America, with a peak car fleet of over 14,000 cars.

3- Doug Harding A Coal Washer in Iowa? National Coal at Fosterdale

While Iowa is noted more for corn and hogs, at one time the state produced coal. One ambitious mine owner, CL Rutherford, built a coal washer plant, to prepare his coal for market. It was only the 2nd coal prep plant in the state and was in operation for less than 20 years. Located at Fosterdale, Iowa the National Coal Company coal washer was served by the M&StL Railroad. This is the story of researching the plant and building a model based upon one photograph.

4- Dick Harley UP Boxcar Paint Schemes

In June 1939, UP introduced their UP Gothic style lettering for freight cars on the new class B-50-24 boxcars. Over the next four decades, UP built or acquired over 50,000 box and auto cars in over 150 classes. Dick will describe how the UP paint & lettering schemes evolved and where resources are available to make your UP cars accurate for your modeling era.

5- Jerry Hamsmith Prevalent Illinois Central Boxcars in the 1950s

Jerry looks at the Illinois Central cars that were classified as XM and served as the mainstay of the fleet during the decade of the 1950s. The features and nuances of the car classes that comprised approximately 50% the fleet over that time are described.

6- Ed Rethwisch Building Some IC Boxcars in HO scale

Using Jerry Hamsmith's presentation as a base, the clinic shows how some of the dominant IC boxcars can be modeled by utilizing available HO scale kits. Enhancements and modifications can be made to these kits to accurately reflect the prototype cars. Ed shows the "how to" of some of these possible builds and the materials he used.

7- Dick Dawson Interchanging Freight Cars among North American Railroads

North American freight cars are interchanged freely between car owners and operating railroads through the Interchange Rules and technical standards of the Association of American Railroads. This presentation describes the development of the Interchange Rules and how they function.

8- Jason Klocke CGW: Rochester Oil City

The Chicago Great Western's Minnesota branch lines through southeastern Minnesota included a line to Rochester, Minnesota. Jason's CGW layout focuses on this branch line. This clinic focuses on a unique area of

the CGW's yard in Rochester aptly named "Oil City". Jason will discuss the research, building and operation of this portion of his layout.

9- Alex Schneider Research and Assembly of a Plastic/Resin Passenger Car

One of the New York Central System Historical Society's missions is to encourage production of accurate, affordable models of NYC cars, engines and structures. The Society identified a need for a NYC heavyweight dining car, appropriate for layout settings from the Depression up through the 1950s. They commissioned Bethlehem Car Works to create such a kit using Branchline Pullman body and detail parts, 3D printed custom sides and resin roof. Alex located drawings and photos in the Society archives and the Pullman Library of Illinois Railway Museum. He will discuss the research needed to select this specific car and develop the kit, and will offer construction hints that apply to other Branchline car projects as well.

10- Roger Hinman Development of the New York Central Steel Baggage Car, 1892-1929

The New York Central Railroad rostered a large fleet of standardized cars that would roam almost anywhere in the continental US over a six-decade period. This presentation goes back to 1890s, when the first sixty-foot wood cars were built and through the transition to an all-steel design and its variations over the production cycle ending in 1929.

11- James Brown Santa Fe Operation in Illinois Circa 1959

The Midwest Mod-U-Trak HO layout, featuring Chicago-area scenes of the Santa Fe, C&WI, and more, will be on display and operating at the RPM conference. Scenery, structures, locomotives and rolling stock are set, generally, in 1959. The presentation will examine Santa Fe operations in Illinois, circa 1959, with an emphasis on the Chicago-Joliet corridor: passenger and freight train schedules, industries serviced, and motive power. Extensive interviews and time book notations from ATSF conductors who worked the territory provide much of the information for the presentation. Brown is author of the Illinois Division of the Santa Fe, published by the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society in 2016.

12-Chris Vanko Weathering Freight Cars

Chris will discuss his techniques for priming, painting, pre-weathering, decaling, and final weathering of various HO scale freight cars. Samples of procedures he uses will be depicted.

13- Bill Darnaby The Maumee Route from Concept to Completion

Bill describes his process to get to the Maumee concept and then his techniques in building and operating the railroad.

14- Seth Lakin Operations Element: CSS&SB and Lumber Traffic

The clinic looks at plywood and lumber traffic from the Pacific Northwest to the Midwest and east coast in the 1960's. How the 75-mile-long Chicago South Shore & South Bend was a player in capturing some of this traffic and shortening travel time from when a car load was purchased to delivery at the lumberyard.

15- Steve Hile Modeling Swift Refers

Swift and company had a large and varied fleet of meat reefers with multiple paint schemes during the transition period. Steve will highlight the history of the cars and provide descriptions of multiple model assembly and kitbashes.

16- Matt Smith Modeling Bloomington, Illinois Circa 1951

The clinic will discuss the major roads in the Bloomington and the surrounding Central Illinois area as well as the major industries and traffic flow in the region. Also, the clinic will provide a brief update on modeling Bloomington in a 12' X 16' room layout and resources used to research the railroading scene in Central Illinois.

17- Jim Panza Early Trailer Train Flat Cars

The presentation will discuss the 500 Pennsylvania Railroad 75-ft. cars that became the first cars in Trailer Train's fleet. Modeling the F39 and F39A classes in HO scale using the Walthers flatcar, including modifications to make it more accurate, will be discussed. In addition, the F30D and F30G classes will be discussed using the Rapido F30 flatcar.

18- Mont Switzer Loads for TTX F30 and F39 Flat Cars

This clinic supports Jim Panza's clinic immediately preceding. The clinic examines various types of semi-trailers that could have appeared on the F30 and F39 cars and how to build them in HO scale.

19- Doug Chapman Ralston Steel Company Cars on Mid-Atlantic Railroads

Between 1904-1953, the Ralston Steel Car Company of Columbus, Ohio manufactured more than 100,000 freight cars for the nation's railroads. This clinic will provide a brief history of the Ralston Company and focus specific attention on the freight cars it constructed for railroads that served Chicagoland. the AT&SF, B&O, C&O, EJ&E, ERIE, N&W, NKP, NYC, PM, PRR, and WAB. Model manufacturers will be identified for those wishing to build scale models of RSC equipment.

20- Clark Propst Story City Branch – Start to Finish

Clark built a prototype based layout with some embellishments in a reasonable time by choosing a prototype that would allow for completion. This presentation will be a time capsule look from first cutting wood in December 2016 to the finish product in May of 2018 with scenery alterations over time. It also touches on the major aspects of layout construction: Benchwork, track, wiring, structures, scenery (Backdrops), and the details that bring a layout to life.

21- Bob Hanmer Iron Ore Operation in the Western Mesabi Range

Modeling of iron ore operations on the Mesabi iron range requires an understanding of prototype practices, their reasons and how they work. This clinic will explore these practices and show their implementation on my GN & DMIR. The talk focuses on pre-taconite mining operation.

22- David Leider History of the Belt Railway of Chicago

David will trace the history of the Belt from its inception as part of the Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad to the present. Included is the history of the Stickney yards, its purchase by outside investors, makeover and sale to the Belt. In 1962 the Belt purchased its railway from the C&WI and became an independent company.

23- Fenton Wells Kit Bashing: To Bash or Not To Bash . . . That is the Question

In the spirit of Greg Martin, Fenton will talk about what kit bashing is, how to approach it, and where to find information and inspiration. He covers about 15 or 20 different kit bashes from a higher altitude than specific steps, and only shows a few progress photos for the bashes. His main goal is to show what's possible with some ingenuity. Fenton discusses not only some of his own kit bashes but also some from other kit bashers that have given him permission to show what they do and their approach with a model. The overall goal of the presentation is to create a stronger interest in kit bashing and, thus, helping modelers obtain models they cannot buy.

24- Neil Schofield CP Rail Operations in Vermont - Developing a Realistic Operating Plan

The clinic includes an illustrated background on CP Rail's prototype operations in Vermont and how that was the foundation for modeling the prototype. It also includes discussions of the compromises necessary to take the prototype and make it work on a selectively compressed model railroad.

25- Bob Henniger GN 50' Rebuilt Boxcars

To satisfy changing customer needs, in 1953-54, the Great Northern rebuild a number of their older 50' single sheathed cars. New diagonal panel roofs, steel sides and metal running boards were used while the Murphy ends and fishbelly underframes were retained. 350 8' door cars were created in the 39000-39349 series and 100 16' door cars were created in the 40000-40099 series. The clinic describes these cars.

26- Steve Holzheimer Railroads and the Synthetic Rubber Industry

Synthetic rubber (SBR) development began in earnest prior to WWII as the Axis armies threatened the natural rubber supply lines. A brief history of the development and production will be covered, followed by some practical consideration for modeling a SBR facility, circa 1960. The role railroads played in delivering raw materials and shipping the finished product will conclude the presentation.

27- Bob Perrin and Jim Singer Modeling the IC in Southern Illinois in the 1960s

This presentation from Bob Perrin and Jim Singer covers three major topics; the Railroad Prototype (IC's St. Louis Division), the Railroad Model, and the attempt to blend the prototype and the model into a realistic recreation of the equipment, locations, structures, and the operations in 1966.

28- Ted Culotta Creating Artwork for Etched Metal Parts – Unfortunately Cancelled, Sorry!

29- George Toman Working with Thin Brass and Photo Etched Parts for Modelers

The presentation will discuss the need for these parts, the sources of thin brass, and tools that can be used for shaping and cutting the brass. Making certain parts will be demonstrated (including photo etched ladders), how to attach these parts, and how to improve the strength of the parts.

30- Todd Sullivan Portland Oregon Layout 1952

Todd provides a presentation on designing and building an HO layout representing Portland, OR in 1952.

31- Bob Webber Pullman Library

The presentation provides an introduction to the Pullman Library and Railroad Equipment Archive at the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL. The clinic is designed to walk through "typical" inquiries received over the years, and provide a thumbnail sketch of the processes used to fulfill orders.

32- Paul Swanson Lake States Railway Historical Association

Lake States Railway Historical Association is a non-profit archive located in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Its holding includes many photo collections, paper, ephemera, maps, diagrams, and railroad publications, and a large collection of drawings depicting anything from steam locomotive erecting diagrams to structure plans, freight, and passenger cars. In addition to the in-person facility available to researchers and historians, LSRHA also hosts an on-line portal to 100,000 images available on-line for purchase or download. Memberships are available. Our websites are www.lsrha.org and lakestatesarchive.org. LSRHA's presenter is Paul Swanson, president of LSRHA, a 32-year veteran railroader who spends his time scanning new images for Lake States.

Resinators Gathering

Like all RPM meetings, we encourage interactions with our fellow modelers throughout the day. But some who concentrate on building resin freight car kits have requested that we provide a specific time and place for them to meet. During the Saturday lunch hour has emerged as a good time for this gathering. By that time, participants should have figured out how to squeeze in some lunch along with the interactions. You may be able to pre-order a box lunch from the on-site NIU Café.

Additional “Hands-on Clinics” – these are provided for parts of the two days at the vendor tables.

Oak Hill Model Railroad Track Supply –

Jeff Otto will provide tips and demonstrate techniques for hand-laying track using his track supplies, ties, templates, etc.

And...

Jeff Lemke Trains –

Jeff Lemke Trains, Inc. will feature a detailed visual journey covering soldering, repairs, and professional painting of HO, S and O scale brass model trains at his vendor tables. Jeff's website <http://www.JEFFLEMKETRAINS.com> illustrates his expertise in the field of researching, designing, manufacturing, and importing brass model trains. He was the staff Research Specialist at Overland Models, Inc. and set up the factory paint shop at Ajin Precision Manufacturing in Seoul, South Korea. Jeff's full-time business serves clients around the world and he readily shares his experiences with solving soldering, repair, and painting challenges faced by today's brass collectors and operators. He is the subject matter expert on all things brass and looks forward to meeting RPM attendees this year and beyond. So please stop by his tables to see his slide shows and learn all about how brass models were made and how they can be safely repaired with the right tools, techniques, and expertise.

If someone has a brass model they want to bring for me to look at and advise on, that's perfectly fine. But understand that I won't be able to disassemble anything since all of my shop tools will remain in my shop.

Jeff hopes he can gather enough feedback from attendees of this year's show so that we can better prepare live demos for 2024 RPM events.