

<http://www.littlerhodydiv.org>

## **AUGUST EVENT**

This event will take place virtually, using *Zoom*, on **Saturday, August 15th**. You should plan to download the *Zoom* application in advance so you are ready to go. Feel free to contact me with any questions. A link to the meeting and its password, along with further instructions, will be e-mailed to you a few days before the event. We are looking forward to seeing you.

We will begin with virtual coffee and donuts accompanied by socializing at **9:30 AM**, followed by information sharing and a shortened Annual Business Meeting at about **10 AM**. After a short break, the first clinic will depart the station at about **10:30 AM**. Following a second break, we will conclude with a second clinic. We plan to wrap up before **Noon**. Mics will remain open for socializing between planned activities and following the last clinic.

## **Annual Business Meeting**

### **Proposed Change to ByLaws**

The Board met on June 15th to discuss changes to our ByLaws that may be needed to address changes enacted as a result of COVID-19. Of primary concern were our Elections and our Annual Meeting. As they stand, our ByLaws state that the "Annual Meeting...shall be held on a day of June each year" and that "All officers and one director shall be elected at the Annual Meeting...". The election was completed, but the Annual Meeting was postponed until August. A review of the language concluded that the ByLaws do not require an in-person Annual Meeting and that a virtual meeting would meet the intent. However, the meeting was not be held in June this year, but

is being held in August. In the future, the Annual Meeting will be held in June, in-person or virtually. No changes were deemed necessary.

While we concluded that no changes to sections of the ByLaws related to elections and Annual Meeting were needed, we did find that a change is needed to the section on Regular Meetings.

#### Section 4) REGULAR MEETINGS

a) Regular meetings of the membership are normally scheduled for the second (2nd) Wednesday of each month from September through May.

Discussion: Meetings have not been held on the second Wednesday for several years. At the present time we plan to continue to meet on Saturdays. The ByLaws should be amended to allow flexibility to meet on any day of the month scheduled by the Board and with prior notification the membership. The following amendment is proposed by the Board:

#### *Section 4) REGULAR MEETINGS*

*a) Regular meetings of the membership shall be held monthly from September through May.*

As required by the ByLaws, the proposed amendment has now been published two times and will be voted on during this Annual Meeting. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership present is needed to adopt.

### **Clinic #1: "Coloring Wooden Walls with Chalk"**

Our second presentation will be by **Sue Osberg**, LRD Superintendent. Sue will demonstrate a slightly different way to color/weather wood structures. Using artists chalk, alcohol, and a soft brush, Sue will color the walls of a wooden structure. Also included is a demonstration of painting siding or roofing shingles to create a random look to the coloring. A finished product will be shown at the end.



## **Clinic #2: "A Tour of the 40' by 40' Swansea, Somerset & Warren Elevated Railway, and Its Trials and Tribulations"**

Come ride Little Rhody member **David Kiley's** somewhat strange garden railroad. Visit the Railway's various villages and castle. Take the time for a side trip up the River Finn Mt. Branch Line and the abandoned trackage below (now a dead rail tourist attraction).

Garden railroads face unique challenges, they must withstand torrential downpours and up to 40 mile-an-hour winds. Temperatures range from 40 degrees [at this temperature, it's too cold for David, not the railroad] to 105 degrees [a new high!]. Falling debris and even snow is just routine for the maintenance crews.

Then, there is the ever-present danger form the local wildlife!

One of the biggest challenges is the complete dismantlement each year and starting over each Spring. The railway is as complete as any model railroad can be or as far as Emily [David's wife] will allow.

## **NORTHEASTERN REGION CONVENTION**

MillCity2020, scheduled for October 9-12, 2020, has been postponed until next year. The Mill City planning team has finalized plans with the hotel to move the next NER Regional Convention out one year to October 8-11, 2021. The team has confirmed the activities originally planned for our 2020 convention will be available in 2021. This is subject to change as we are over a year out, but with the exception of a few changes to the operating sessions and layout open houses, the tours and clinics should continue as originally planned.

If you have already registered for MillCity2020 then you have several options for either getting a refund, or keeping your registration for MillCity2021 active. Please follow the instructions in the email you received from the registrar and indicate how you would like to proceed.

- Option 1 - You are entitled to a full and complete refund. Funds will be returned based on your method of payment. Please allow up to 6 weeks for processing.
- Option 2 - You can maintain your current registration, keep your current registration number and all activities for which you have registered and receive a \$10 credit. The credit will be based on your original payment method. Please allow up to 6 weeks for processing.
- Option 3 - You can maintain your current registration, keep your current registration number and all activities for which you have registered and get a coupon for \$20 off the registration fee for the 2022 Convention in Farmington, CT.
- Option 4 - You can maintain your current registration, keep your current registration number and all activities for which you have registered and waive receipt of any discount for 2021 or coupon for 2022.

The NER Convention Committee is exploring the possibility of hosting a virtual event this fall that will help us to celebrate all your accomplishments this past year. Please stay tuned for more information on clinics, contests, and an awards celebration coming to a computer near you!

## FUTURE EVENTS

### September

~~Saturday, September 12th at Cumberland Public Library, Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland, RI. A regular monthly meeting open to the public. Our *Rhode Island and Old Colony* N-scale T-TRAK layout, David Kiley's G-scale *Hogwarts Express*, and *The Polar Express* will be on display for the public to view.~~ **CANCELLED**

Saturday, September 12th via Zoom. LRD member Tom Emmett will give us a tour of his 10 x 30 ft HO-scale layout. There will be a second clinic, yet to be determined.

### October

Saturday, October 3rd via Zoom. Clinics TBA.

### November

Saturday, November 7th via Zoom. Clinics TBA.

### December

~~December 5th & 6th, HUB Division's New England Model Train EXPO, Marlborough, MA.~~ **CANCELLED**

Saturday, December 5th via Zoom. Clinics TBA.

As always, please contact me with any questions or issues. If I don't know the answer, I will pass it to someone

who can. Also, if you have any suggestions for future events, please let me know.

Stay well,  
Linda Bergemann  
Membership Chair  
Little Rhody Division NMRA  
<http://www.littlerhodydiv.org>