

# RPM-East meet report

With a number of fine seminars and plenty of quality modeling on display, this year's RPM-East meet was a success/**Eric Hansmann**



PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

RPM-East co-coordinator Larry Kline displayed two upgraded O scale models. The B&O P1d 4-6-2 was scratchbuilt by the late Herman Kloppenberg for Larry's friend, the late Warren Mayfield. Dom Candelore added the brake shoes. Larry replaced the trailing truck and the tender trucks with new lost wax trucks; replaced the wound field motor with a Cannon can motor; installed a Tsunami decoder; drilled holes in the tender floor and added a speaker in the tender; painted the loco, and, based on prototype photos, decaled it using a Champ B&O steam set. West Penn

Railways 723 is a resin model produced by the Russia company, St. Petersburg Tram. Larry installed the resin sideframes from the St. Petersburg Tram dummy trucks on a Q Car Co. power truck and a Wagner Car Co. truck to power the model. The St. Petersburg Tram resin seats were replaced with more accurate Wagner cast metal rattan seats to add weight to the car. Some passengers and a motorman were also added. The St. Petersburg Tram trolley poles were replaced with Wagner poles to match the standards for Larry's powered overhead trolley wire.

**L**ike hibernating beasts awakening after a long, harsh winter, scores of model railroaders and rail historians journeyed to western Pennsylvania in late March to soak in the medicinal talks of RPM-East. This railroad prototype modeler meet, coordinated by Dick Flock and Larry Kline, has been held in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in odd-numbered years, since 2001. Attendees traveled from as far

away as California, Chicago and Texas, but most came from the area along with a healthy representation from the New Jersey-Washington D.C. corridor.

A strong slate of presentations was coordinated, with topics ranging from "Prototypical Waybills for Car Card Operation" and "John W. Barriger III's Chicago" to "The Other Steel Industry" and "Odd and One-of-a-kind Equipment for Conrail and Penn Central."

Forty different talks filled Friday afternoon and evening and ran all through Saturday. A vendor room was open throughout the event with attendees purchasing all types of books, kits, and prototype photos and paper for upcoming projects.

One of the big draws for any RPM event is the model display room. This year attendees set a record for the most models displayed at RPM-East with over

Heavy industry modeler John Teichmoeller displayed a number of interesting HO scale models. This twin pot car (*below left*) was inspired by a Bethlehem Steel prototype and custom built by Garry

Lance. The slag pots are from Walthers and it uses a Pollack-system operating mechanism. This twin pot, crane-dump slag car (*below right*) is an old Guil Mack/Tiger Valley Models kit cast in hard zamac.



Custom-built, painted and weathered twin-pot car by Garry Lance





George Smozski shared an O scale 1930's era service station (*above*) and a PRR GS gondola equipped with extended sides for canstock service (*below*). These cars were commonly filled with scrap tin from the canning line at the HJ Heinz plant in Pittsburgh.



400 spread across numerous banquet tables. A wide array of steam, diesel, and electric locomotives, freight and passenger cars, vehicles, and structures drew the attention of attendees. A healthy slice of N, S, and O scale models complemented the large number of HO scale models in the 30' x 60' room. Many models were detailed and weathered following prototype images and several in-progress projects were also on display.



RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN



John Ainsworth's O scale South Shore electric motor—believed to be an old International Models offering from the mid-1950's—was bought for a song as a basket case. He scratchbuilt many of the detail parts, then added Micro-Mark O scale rivet decals as the model lacked any rivets (*above*). This handsome Frisco Ten-Wheeler (*below*) was among four scratchbuilt HO scale steam locomotives that John also displayed.



One modeler displayed over 200 pieces of work across four long tables. Check out a gallery of images at this site: [www.pbbase.com/ehansmann/rpmeast\\_2013](http://www.pbbase.com/ehansmann/rpmeast_2013).

Those arriving early could sign up for operating sessions on several local layouts. Many of these home layouts were open on Sunday for a self-guided tour as participants headed home.

For many, the best part of the meet was seeing friends from previous events, meeting new people, and sharing ideas and techniques to be used on upcoming modeling projects. While packed with activity, prototype modeler events have enough time between sessions to sit and talk with other attendees and discuss recent accomplishments and challenges.

Tom Haag's models concentrated on the early 1970's era. This HO scale PRR X29g boxcar was modeled using a Red Caboose X29 underframe and a Branchline Trains 1944 AAR boxcar body with an eight-foot wide door. Details were added and removed in this transformation.

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An HO scale Bowser GLa coal hopper was the starting point for one of Ben Keltz's display models (*above left*). He replaced cast-on hand holds and grabs with free standing wire. Ben also added brake piping and interior cross bracing to the model before painting and lettering it for a Cumberland & Pennsylvania prototype. Nearly a dozen HO scale resin kit freight cars were displayed by Eric Thur. The Pennsy container flat (*above right*) represents a FM class flat car modified for I.c.I. container service in the late 1930's. It is a Funaro & Camerlengo product. The Rohm & Haas tank car in

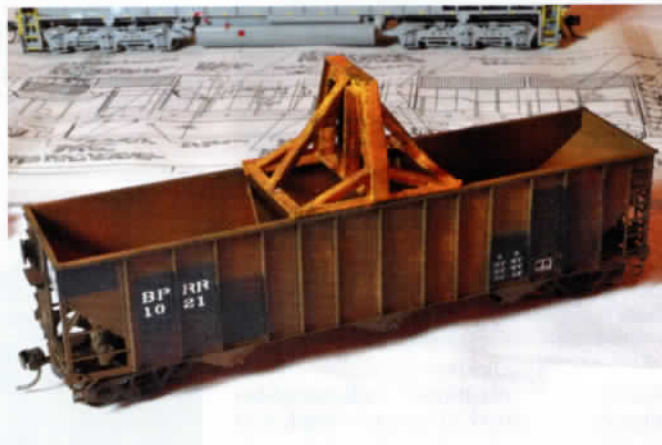


the background follows a GATX Type 30 prototype and was produced by Sunshine Models. Stan Rydarowicz modified this Rib Side Car Company HO scale Milwaukee Road boxcar with round roof hatches and orange doors for specialized service hauling spent grain and cullet for the Miller Brewing Company (*below left*). Stan offers this kit in his line of products. Mike Zollitsch used prototype images to recreate this Buffalo & Pittsburgh icicle breaker car in HO scale (*below right*). Mike shared a number of models based upon mid-1990's northern Pennsylvania shortline prototypes.



As I flew back to my new home in far west Texas, I glanced down at a U.S. map on my beverage napkin. I plotted points on this map for the RPM meets that occur each year around the country: Naperville, Savannah, Cocoa Beach, San Bernadino, Collinsville, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Valley Forge, Bridgewater, the Bay Area, Marion, Seattle,

Toronto, and Vancouver. These meets are sprouting up in many places. When you weigh the registration, travel, and hotel costs against the information and inspiration you bring home, the return on your investment is strong. If you haven't attended one of these events yet, I highly recommend you search out an RPM meet close to home, or close to



your prototype interest, and plan to go. Here's a page of event links to assist: [www.railroadprototypemodelers.org/other.htm](http://www.railroadprototypemodelers.org/other.htm)



Mike Niedzalkoski used paint and colored pencils to bring out the details on this N scale Micro Trains tank car (*above*). He also added an ACI label, Z scale couplers, and low profile wheelsets. A wide assortment of HO scale models was displayed by Chip Syme. This eye-catching model of an early Conrail GP35 (*left*) has a great combination of additional detail parts (including a cab signal box on the walkway) and lettering to capture the look of a former Reading unit.