



## CLINICS

The 14<sup>th</sup> South African National Model Railroad Convention delegates will be able to attend four clinics:

### **(a) Scratch building and kit-bashing structures (including the necessary tools).**

This clinic will be of benefit to the modeling fraternity. There are many ways in which to make a pleasing and original structure from almost any kind of material. A little ingenuity, a few hours and some simple tools will enable one to provide a tailor-made item for your model railroad layout. One often has a model layout with a building that does not appear to be the perfect item for the position in which you wish to place it. This clinic will provide numerous ideas about how to cut, fit, glue, scribe, colour, weather and otherwise detail your structures to enhance any one of a number of scenes that one may wish to create. The amazing 'tools' that can be used are readily available and often overlooked.

### **(b) Going DCC?**

Developing technology has provided the model railroader with the opportunity to keep abreast of the times. The conventional analogue type of electrical control has been available ever since clock-work trains started to fall into disfavour. Many books have been written about the wiring of a model railroad layout that is controlled with an analogue Direct Current controller. Isolated block sections, insulated frogs on the points and turnouts can become very confusing when one finds a layout that has a concealed 'return loop' or a wye that requires a rectifier. Digital Command Control has made a recent appearance and many modelers have yet to experience and understand all that it entails. The clinic on DCC will be enlightening for both the novice and the old-timer. Perhaps you will be convinced that "simpler" is better? Will you start with DCC or perhaps convert to DCC? This clinic offers positive encouragement.

### **(c) How to Air-brush, decal & weather locomotives**

So often locomotives on a model layout look too new! At this clinic a special focus on weathering rolling stock will encourage one to remove the plastic sheen from a purchased product. The skill of observing the particular detail and then painting and weathering the valuable item without damaging it, will be demonstrated and explained.

### **(d) How to incorporate prototype in layout design**

Many model railroaders find that when they have added more track to their layout, the layout remains boring. This may be because there is no reason for the trains to run in a continuous circular route. The layout may have taken on the appearance of a 'spaghetti bowl' with trains running at full speed, swinging around sharp bends, climbing steep gradients or disappearing into a tunnel that is barely credible, given the surrounding scenery. The interest in trains increases when there is an underlying purpose e.g. industries needing to move freight from one point to another. The construction of grades, curves and tunnels should follow the landscape and use the approach a civil engineer would follow in laying a railroad through the terrain. This clinic will provide information on planning a layout for pleasure and enduring enjoyment.