

## LOCAL TRAIN SHOWS

While winter seems to be the prime time for trains, shows continue into April and even May.

### Stratford, NJ Saturday 3/22/25

This is a recurring show that happens two times a year at the Saint John Paul II Regional School



and is sponsored by a local Knights of Columbus council. I have been to it several times often having sales tables. This time I was mainly there to put out flyers for the Philly Division is having on 10/18 in KOP in conjunction with the MER Convention and to recruit dealers for that show. Attendance seemed a bit light compared with prior shows.

There were two modular layout at the show. The Strasburg Club had their O-scale, hi-rail layout



set-up on the stage. Meanwhile the New Jersey Southern N Scale Club was set -up in the back of the room. Believe it or not, I actually spent zero, nada, zip at the show that seem to have more Lionel and HotWheels than normal!



I only stayed for about two hours. I had lunch with an old friend and did some shopping in SJ before driving back to Abington. I had no plans for Sunday and my wife was away at the granddaughter's house in CT. Out of curiosity, I went to <https://trainshows.net/> to see if there were any local shows on Sunday. I didn't see thing that were near bye, but there was one just south of Scranton that I had never been to before. So I decided to go to that.

### **Dunmore, PA Sunday 3/23/25**



I left the my house at 645AM for the toll-free [RT 309N - I-78E -RT33N - I-80W - I-380] 112-miles drive and arrived at 9AM just as the show started. It was held in a Holiday Inn and I had trouble finding a parking space and then finding the entrance to the show. By mistake, I walked thru an open door and was in the show for free. However, later I went up to the front table and paid my \$5 admission. This was run by a local dealer that I have never been to. The hotel's ballroom was a



bit small and the show so packed you had to literally squeeze thru the aisles.



There was a nice mix of dealers [three had been in Stratford], individuals with swap stables and RR historical organizations. There were two small layouts, one Lionel and one American Flyer.



I made real bargain purchases at two historical societies and bought some parts and kits, such that I spent all my money [\$100]. I put out flyers for our October show and gave some to dealers

that would consider a show in KOP. I saw a very interesting display of what was once major RR in the Scranton area on one of the dealer tables but it was not for sale.



Eventually, my right leg was bothering me so I sat down for a bit to rest and write down my purchases. I left just after noon and initially headed to a no-fee ATM, planning to go back to the show. Instead, I decided to go see a modular layout that was open that afternoon and was located in Daleville PA, just off I-380. Supposedly, the layout was in the ShopRite shopping center but I could not find it. So instead, it was time for lunch. I ate at Kay's Italian Restaurant that turned out to be a historical treasure. It appeared to be a RR passenger car but was in fact a classic wooden diner built in NJ circa 1920. The back of menu described its rich history.





After a nice S&M pizza, I drove back to the ShopRite and went inside the store. A clerk in the store told me the layout was in a closed business by the end of the shopping center. I had actually parked in front of that business but did not see the tiny sign on the door about the layout. Inside was a large O-scale, hi-rail modular layout from this group that had been set-up there since the holidays.



The layout was a mix of prototypical scenes [many with Menard's building] and whimsical scenes. The later appeal to the general public and kids in particular.



I stayed there for about 30 minutes during which a steady stream of folks came to see the layout that was open for the last time this season. I drove home the same way arriving about 430PM.

## **Magnolia NJ Saturday 4/13/25**

This was the relocated “Brooklawn” show sponsored by the Strasburg Model RR Club. For several years, this show was held in a American Legion Post in Brooklawn NJ, hence the name. However, because of a conflict with an event that runs there late on Friday evenings, the show had to find another venue, The new location was Magnolia Community Center that has hosted other shows. I left my house at 645AM with a loaded car and drove to pick up friend Drew Marshall in Bellmawr, NJ who would help me sell at three tables. We arrived at 745AM and the front parking lot was already full from dealers. It took three trips from the car before we had everything inside.

I was making sales to other dealers even as we put stuff on the tables. I was so busy at the show that I forgot to take a pictures of my tables. In total, I sold \$454 of things that belonged to GATSME, the Philly NMRA Division, Eric Dervinis and myself. It was a grey dreary day with light rain that helped swell the attendance to 336 paid. This is more than the normal attendance at the former Brooklawn shows. Several dealers sent emails saying how well the show went for them. This picture was at 207PM when folks were starting to pack up. There were two small layout set-up the left rear corner of the room.



I treated Drew to a nice pizza lunch at Bella’s G Pizza near his home. I dropped him off, filled up my car at \$2.85 [NJ gas is still cheaper than PA] and was home 430PM. Oh, I only spent \$11 at the show.