



The Philadelphia Dispatcher

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division of the
National Model Railroad Association

June 1994

Volume 1, Number 2

Division Meet/Family Day

The Philadelphia Division of the National Model Railroad Association is pleased to announce that it will be conducting a meet and family day on Saturday, June 4, 1994 at the New Hope & Ivyland Railroad in New Hope. All Division members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Entrance to this, the one "extra-fare" meet of the year, will be \$6.00 for current Division members, \$7.00 for non-members, and \$4.00 for those under 12.

Arrival at the meet is scheduled for 9:30 to 10:00 AM. At 10:00, the meet will begin with a non-rail clinic on *Food Decoration*, presented by Steve Salotti, the Division's assistant superintendent and a professional chef. For those who came last year, this clinic covers new material.

At about 10:45, the Division will receive an exclusive tour of the New Hope & Ivyland's yards and enginehouse. From approximately 11:30 until 3:00, there will be free

time for lunch, shopping in New Hope, photography, etc.

The Division will ride the 3:00 train. As a special treat, there will be a door prize of a cab ride. Our locomotive will probably be #40.

The outstanding Abington Lines Club will also be open during the late afternoon, for a private viewing by Division members.

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us for the Division's second annual outing on the New Hope & Ivyland Railroad.

L.C.L.

Miscellaneous Business

September meet location: The Division has scheduled a meet for September 17. However, the location is still up in the air. We are shooting for somewhere in north-east Philadelphia. If you can help in any way with this, please contact John Nawn or Steve Salotti.

HO module news: For those interested in HO modular railroad-ing, a meeting will be held in the upcoming months. The Saint Alban's Railroad Club is consider-

ing modifications to their layout to accommodate modules. Stay tuned and contact John Nawn to get on the mailing list.

Meet flier: On the last page of this issue, you will find a flier for the upcoming meet. Please spare five minutes of your time to post it at your local hobby shop, club, store, etc., so that we can spread the word about our meets. More copies are available from any Division officer.

Local clubs and hobby shops: We would like to publish a directory in the next issue. Please send any pertinent information to the editor.

Survey: A survey is included in this issue on pages 3-4. Please take the time to fill it out and mail it back to the editor. The results will be published in the September issue, but if enough arrive before the June meet, partial results may be available then.

Flimsies

commentary by Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman

Well, here's my second issue of the *Philadelphia Dispatcher*. I've changed the format slightly since last time. I have received no letters to the contrary, so I'm assuming everybody's happy.

There are several points I'd like to discuss:

Articles: I didn't receive any submissions for this issue. There are three months to write up a story about your latest project or a new technique you have discovered. Please do so.

Prototype Fans: Would anyone be interested in writing a column to report on local prototype activity?

Timetable: We're now accepting notices from anybody in the area. Just make sure you get them in on time (see below).

Meet Flier: In case you have places to post more than one, any Division officer will be glad to send you extra copies at no charge.

Advertisements: You may have noticed last issue that we are offering *free* classified advertisements in the "Interchange Track." These can include want ads, for sale, model railroad-related services, etc. All Division members are welcome to submit ads. Presently, there is no limit to the number of ads that may be submitted by any one person. However, brevity is a consideration.

Deadlines: I have decided to set deadlines for the *Dispatcher*. Please make sure all material arrives by the deadline, which will be published on page 2. The deadline for the September issue will be August 1st.

I appreciate the support I received at the Newtown Square meet. Some concern was,

however, expressed over whether I could live up to the standards set by the March issue. Enjoy this one, and as always, keep those articles coming!

Timetable

Coming Events

The Timetable column is open at no charge to any club or group in the area that wishes to notify the members of the Philadelphia Division of its events. Submissions should include (1) event name and sponsoring organization, (2) date, (3) location, (4) time, (5) fees, (6) the name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for more information, and (7) the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the information. Submissions must be labeled "Timetable" and be in the editor's hands before the deadline published on page 2.

NMRA Philadelphia Division Meet/Family Day. June 4. New Hope & Ivyland Railroad; New Hope, PA. 9:30 AM. \$6.00 for Division members; \$7.00 for non-members; \$4.00 for children under twelve. For more information see page 1 or contact John Nawn; 144 Laurel Road, Sharon Hill, PA; (610) 461-8644.

NMRA National Convention, "Columbia Gorge Express". August 15-20. Jantzen Beach Red Lion Inn; Portland, OR. For more information phone (503) 288-5289.

NMRA Philadelphia Division Meet. September 17. Location undetermined. See page 1.

NMRA Mid-Eastern Region Fall Convention, "FUNIVEN-TION '94'". November 4-6. Ramada Inn; Hagerstown, MD. For more information phone (301) 371-9129.

NMRA Philadelphia Division Fall Meet. November 12. Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene; Fairview Village, PA.

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

Editor

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Submissions: The *Philadelphia Dispatcher* welcomes any model railroad- or railroad-related material. The membership is encouraged to send in their articles, letters to the editor, product reviews, etc. Submissions preferably should be typed, double-spaced. Otherwise, they *must* be legible.

Next issue: September 1994. Due out mid-August. Deadline: August 1.

Dues: \$3.00 per year. If the date in the upper right corner of your mailing label is highlighted in color, your dues are renewable. Send all membership renewals, applications, address changes, etc. to Mike Hazzard, Division Chief Clerk.

Division Officers:

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Dues: \$24.00 per year

Philadelphia Division Member Survey

Please take a few minutes and fill out this survey. We would like to have all surveys returned by July 1 for tabulation and publication of the results in the next *Philadelphia Dispatcher*. Detach this page from your *Dispatcher* and fold as directed. Attach a \$.29 stamp and mail it to the editor at the address on the reverse side. Thank you for your time.

Name (optional): _____

Are you a member of: (check one, both, or none)

☒ the NMRA

☒ the MER

How many years have you been in the hobby? _____

Do you have a home layout(s)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Are you a member of a model railroad club?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Do you consider yourself: (check one)

☐ a beginner

☐ an "intermediate"

☒ advanced

Scale: (number in order of decreasing interest, beginning with 1 - several may have the same number, and leave blank any in which you have *no* interest)

___ O

2 HO

1 N

___ O/S "Toy trains"

___ Large scale indoors

___ Large scale outdoors

___ Other: _____

Rate your primary modeling on a scale of 1-10: (1=total free-lance; 10=strict prototype) 8

What era do you model? (check one or more)

☐ 1830-1879

☐ 1880-1909

☐ 1910-1939

☒ 1940-1959

☒ 1960-1979

☐ 1980-Present

Your favorite types of railroading: (check all that apply)

☒ Class 1 mainline

☒ Branchline

☐ Shortline

☐ Narrow gauge

☒ Traction

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Modeling interests: (check all that apply)

☒ Layout design

☒ Computers/electronics/wiring

☒ Scenery

☒ Structures

☒ Rolling stock

☒ Operation

☒ Prototype research

☐ Other: _____

What types of articles would you like to see in the *Philadelphia Dispatcher*?

☒ Modeling articles

☒ Prototype information

☒ Book/product reviews

☒ Short (paragraph-long) tips and techniques

☐ Other: _____

continued on reverse

How can the Philadelphia Division be improved to suit your needs better?

Fold this flap first.

.....

Affix
first-class
postage
here

Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman
Editor, *Philadelphia Dispatcher*
1226 Linwood Avenue
Norristown, PA 19401-4211

.....

Fold this flap second.

Staple here.

Fine-Tuning Rolling Stock for Optimum Performance

edited by Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman from Paul Backenstose's notes

There are several areas to consider when attempting to assemble rolling stock for trouble-free operation:

WEIGHT

There are three options for the weighting of rolling stock: the removal of all weight, the use of the weights supplied (this is the least desirable option because there is so much variation), or the use of the NMRA recommended weight - 1 oz. of weight plus 1/2 oz. per inch of car length (for HO). [For other scales, see the NMRA's RP 20.1 -Ed.] Thus, an HO 40-foot car should weigh 3 3/4 oz.

You can use a postal or diet scale for measuring weight. These may need to be calibrated. As a reference, 4 oz. equals 412 grams.

For house cars, you can glue weight to the top of the floor with contact cement or silicon seal. Try fishing sinkers, drapery weights, auto wheel balancing weights, old (or new) nuts and bolts, or printers' slugs.

Weighting hoppers is more difficult. Homemade or commercial loads provide some weight themselves and easily disguise other weights. For empty cars, glue lead shot into the hopper bays, then paint. Keil-Line Models produces a line of weights that pop right in.

Covered hoppers can also be weighted with lead shot glued into the bays; open cars with 1/8" solid core solder flattened out and glued in the center sill, pieces of slugs glued to the bottom, or with loads.

COUPLERS

Check the height with a Kadde

gauge on a piece of track with a rerailer. To adjust them, use Kadde fiber washers, metal flat washers, or 36" wheelsets on modern cars.

TRUCKS

Check wheelset gauge three times around the circumference with a NMRA gauge. Check to make sure that the wheelsets are centered in the sideframes. When installing the trucks, make sure that one swivels only and one swivels and rocks a little. On cars with Athearn-style truck pivots, be sure to set the coupler height first-washers affect the amount to be filed off the shoulder.

For snap-in kingpin trucks, drill out the hole in the bolster to 1/8" and glue in a piece of Plastruc tubing. Let a little of the tubing stick up above the bolster similar to Athearn's shoulder. Be sure to use Plastruc cement. When dry, drill a #50 hole and tap 2-56.

If the hole in the bolster is larger than 1/8", drill it out to 3/16", glue in 3/16" Plastruc tubing and let dry thoroughly. Drill out the center of the 3/16" tube to 1/8" and proceed as above.

ROLLING ABILITY

Rolling stock should roll down a certain grade without a push. Use a 3% grade (a 3/4" block under a 25" length of track). If the car doesn't roll, remove the wheelsets and polish the axle points with a wire wheel in a motor tool. Clean the dirt out of the journals with alcohol and a pipe cleaner. Lubricate it with powdered graphite - not oil. If this doesn't work, trash the trucks.

March Meet Report

Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman

On Saturday, March 19, the Philadelphia Division conducted a meet at the St. Alban's Church in Newtown Square. Division members braved the foul weather to attend. Almost ten tables of merchandise were available for purchase.

First, Tom Tanner discussed a *Simple, Inexpensive Copy Stand*, which could be used in making slides of models and printed media. Next, Dave Messer, MMR, the Division Achievement Program Chairman, continued his series on the *NMRA Achievement Program*. Paul Backenstose presented *Fine-Tuning Rolling Stock for Optimum Performance*.

Chuck Denlinger then discussed *Building the N-Scale Broad Street Station*. His incredible model, depicting the station as it appeared in 1893, was on display.

Finally, John Nawn conducted a slide presentation on the New Hope & Ivyland Railroad, a preview of what we'll see at the June meet.

There were four entries in the *MOW/Non-Revenue Equipment* popular vote contest. The winner was John Nawn's model of a 25-ton crane.

Door prizes were donated by Brandywine Hobbies and Tom Saxton. Thank you!

After the meet, a group of over ten interested members met to discuss the possibility of setting up a Division HO modular group. See page 1 for more information.

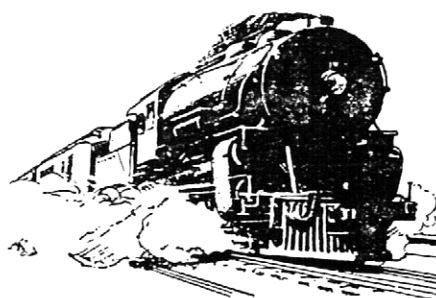
During the afternoon, four HO scale layouts were open: the St. Alban's Model Railroad Club's *Saint Alban's Railroad*, Bill Blackburn's *PRR, Great Valley Division*, Jim Dalberg's *New Jersey Northern*, and Chris Yocum's *Springfield & Eastern*.

Philadelphia Division, NMRA Train Meet and Family Day Saturday, June 4, 1994

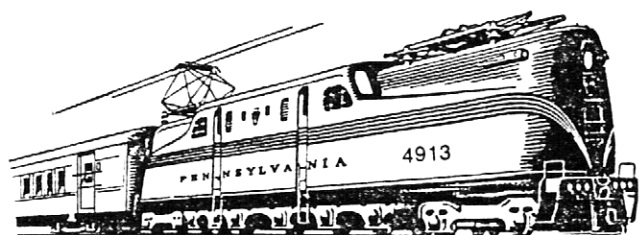
New Hope & Ivyland Railroad, New Hope

9:30 AM to approx. 5:00 PM

Entrance \$6.00 for current
Division members; \$7.00 for
non-members; \$4.00 for
children under 12



- * Clinic: Food Decoration
- * Guided tour of NH&I's yards and enginehouse
- * Train ride (door prize of cab ride)
- * Exclusive visit to Abington Lines club
- * and **FUN!**



For more information,
contact:

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