

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

September 1995
Volume 2, Number 3

Division Meet and Train Show

Saturday, September 23 at Upper Darby High School

The Philadelphia Division of the National Model Railroad Association is pleased to announce that it will be conducting a meet and train show on Saturday, September 23 at the Upper Darby High School in Drexel Hill, PA, on Lansdowne Avenue between State and Garret Roads. Please see the accompanying map on page 6. All Division members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend.

Entrance to the meet will be free to all Division members. Non-members will be charged a \$3.00 admission fee (under 6 are free; \$10 family max.) Unlike our previous meets, Division memberships are not included free with the \$3 admission. However, memberships are available at a reduced rate of just \$2 on the day of the show.

The show will open at 10:00 a.m. for Division members only, so that we can get a first crack at over 90 tables of "the good stuff." At 11:00, the general public

will be admitted.

The Division will carry out its normal clinic program during the show. Matt Nawn will present "History and Development of the Interurban Car." Beginning with the early electric cars, Matt will take us on a historical journey through the large wooden and great steel interurban cars, lightweights, parlor and special service cars, and freight equipment, up to today's light rail vehicles.

There will also be two slide presentations on prototype railroading. Doug Watts, president of the Philadelphia Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, and Conrail employee, will show us some slides of Conrail activity. Art Megrew is a noted railroad photographer whose pictures are frequently published in *Railpace*.

The many door prizes will include video cassette tapes by Digital Image Labs. There is, unfortunately, no popular

vote contest this time.

Several operating modular railroads will be present, including the Division-StARR HO Module Team and DARN N-Trak.

Food will be served in the high school's cafeteria during the show.

Dealer tables are still available on a first-come, first-served basis at \$10 each. Why not clean out your basement, attic, or train room and make some money from the unwanted or unnecessary items in your collection? Contact Terry Smith at (610) 524-6647 or Les Kushner at (610) 527-8632 to reserve a table.

Division members are needed to volunteer to help set up and take down. If you can help, please show up any time after 7:00 a.m. on the 23rd.

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us for what will be the biggest and best Division meet yet, on Saturday, September 23, 1995. DWD

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John Nawn, Division Superintendent

So much has happened in the Division since May that I don't know where to begin.

First off, I would like to thank all the membership, especially those who attended the May meet, for your vote of confidence and approval by reelecting me and my fellow officers to our respective positions. I would especially like to thank Steve and Mike for agreeing to continued service to the Division. Without their input, guidance and hard work none of this would be possible.

I would also like to welcome aboard the Division's newest officer, Mr. Eric Dervinis, as our new Clerk. Eric was the Clerk for the 1993 National Convention, Valley Forge Express, and currently serves as the editor of the National executive newsletter. Welcome aboard Eric.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank Paul Backenstose, the official Division pundit, for conducting the elections. I think it was Paul's way of making sure he did not appear on the ballot. Thanks Paul.

In May, we finally were in a position to make our bid to host the Fall 1997 Mid-Eastern Region Convention; the bid was accepted by the Region at their Spring meeting in York. You can read about the details elsewhere in the *Dispatcher*. Please note that the convention will require the efforts of almost the entire Division, so there will be ample opportunities for all to participate. We will be counting on your help to make this one of the best conventions ever. Keep in mind that work on the Convention is eligible toward your Association Volunteer AP Certificate. Keep watching the newsletter for more details.

If you attended the Greenberg's Show in June, you were treated to the first public showing of the Division's HO Modular Railroad. We had almost 90 linear feet of railroad on display and some of our members' modules (including yours truly) were not even present. I would like to extend a debt of

gratitude to Bob Browne, our Division Module Team Foreman, and George Phillips, Bill Blackburn and all the members of the St. Alban's Railroad (StARR), for their dedication and hard work that made the module team a reality. I would especially like to thank Ron Gaines, Bob Hubbard, Jim Main, Sam Reynolds, and all the members of the former Delaware Valley HO-Trak whose donation of the return loops, inside corners, and assorted supplies, transformers, etc. made our March and June set-ups possible. The Module Team will be running at our September meet and the October and December Greenberg's Shows. If you would like to get on board with modular railroading, contact Bob Browne. Participation in the Module Team is open to all Division members.

I'm hoping to see all Division members at our September Train Show and Sale. We would like to make this an annual event, so your participation this year is especially important. Why not bring a friend? Remember, entrance to the meet is free for Division members and the show will be open to members a full hour before the general public. See you there!

I would like to recognize the efforts of Les Kushner, Terry Smith, and all the members of the Delco Area Railroaders in N (DARN) whose tireless efforts in organizing this show are much appreciated. We should also extend a warm welcome to all the members of DARN who are now Division members.

In November we return to Fairview Village for our fourth annual Fall Meet, and our regular meet format. I'm happy to say that we will be at the same location but in a different building because we have outgrown the old space! We must be doing something right.

I trust everyone had a good summer in spite of the heat and I hope you had the opportunity to get in a little railfanning. Stay cool, thanks for your continued support, and I'll see you in September.

John A. Nawn
Division Superintendent



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. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc. Submissions are preferred typed, double-spaced. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

Next issue: November 1995. Due out early October. Deadline: Sept. 30.

Membership: \$3.00 per year. Neither NMRA nor MER membership is required, although recommended. Address all membership applications, renewals, address changes, etc. to the Clerk. If the date in the upper-right corner of your mailing label is highlighted, your membership will expire soon. Please pay at the next meet or mail payment to the Clerk.

Division Personnel:

Superintendent

John Nawn
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(215) 842-1441

Mid-Eastern Region, N.M.R.A.

13212 Bellevue Street
Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703
(301) 572-2482
Dues: \$8.00 per year

National Model Railroad Assn.

4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
(615) 892-2946
Dues: \$30.00 per year

ELECTION REPORT

At the May meet, Paul Backenstose, our temporary elections chairman, conducted the election of Division officers, required every several years by the MER By-Laws. John Nawn and Steve Salotti were reelected to the positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Although in the past he had been serving as both Clerk and Treasurer in a combined "Chief Clerk" position, in order to have more time for modeling, Mike Hazzard decided to step down from the position of Chief Clerk and only handle the job of Treasurer. Eric Dervinis was elected to fill the vacancy in the Clerk position. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

NEWS FROM THE NEW DIVISION CLERK

At the May meet I was elected Clerk for the Division, taking over many of the functions that have been ably handled by Mike Hazzard for the last ten years. Mike has been a tireless worker for a long time and he asked for a break to spend more time on modeling. He is continuing to serve as treasurer. Thank you Mike for your many years of service and for helping me get started.

As clerk for the Division, I will be responsible for the following:

- * maintaining the Division membership roster
- * mailing our quarterly newsletter, the *Philadelphia Dispatcher*
- * manning the registration table at our meets
- * handling correspondence for the Division

Please check the label on the back of your *Dispatcher*; if it is highlighted, please send in your dues renewal. If you would like a new membership card, please include a SSAE or see me at the next meet. — Eric Dervinis

DIVISION TO HOST MER CONVENTION

Brandywine Junction '97
The Mainline to Philadelphia
November 7, 8, & 9, 1997
The Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Fall
1997 Convention

Hosted by the Philadelphia Division
Location: The Chadds Ford Ramada Inn, at the intersection of US Route 1 and US Route 202, in the Philadelphia area's Brandywine Valley. Easily accessible; from the south via I-95 and 202, from New Jersey via the Barry Bridge and 322, from the north and west via PA Turnpike exit 23 and Route 100/202, 20 minutes west of the Philadelphia airport and 10 minutes north of Wilmington, Delaware.

Available are 79 double rooms and 69 mini suites for a total of 148 rooms, all capable of double occupancy. Negotiated 1997 rates are \$75 for a double room and \$85 for a mini suite.

Facilities include five clinic rooms, a 200-seat auditorium, and two banquet halls.

Planned Events: Fan Trip on Brandywine Scenic Railroad. At least two prototype tours. Within a 30-minute drive of over 30 home layouts. Free admission to the Sunday train show held on-site. Regional HO modular set-up. Saturday evening dessert or "Taste of Philly" reception, but no banquet. Convention car, clinics, live auction, company store, contest room, and more!

Stay tuned for information on how you can become a staff member. ☐

DIVISION MEETS

Philadelphia Division Meet and Train Show. September 23. Upper Darby High School, Upper Darby PA. 11:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. for members) to 4:00 p.m. Free to members. Non-members: \$3 admission (add \$2 for a one-year membership); under 6 free; \$10 family max. See pages 1 and 6 for more information.

Philadelphia Division Fall Meet. November 4. Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene, Fairview Village PA.

NMRA & MER CONVENTIONS

Mid-Eastern Region 50th Anniversary Convention. September 28-October 1. Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, Baltimore MD. A registration form is included in this issue on page 8. Contact Fred Voelcker Jr., P.O. Box 4003, Timonium MD 21094-4003.

NMRA 1996 National Convention. July 15-23, 1996. Long Beach CA. Contact Bill and Irene Mergard, 5210 Carmelynn St., Torrance CA 90503; (310) 371-1955. ☐

The Timetable column is open at no charge to any club or group in the area that wishes to notify Division members of its events. Submissions must be labeled "Timetable," and include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the information.

Update to the Directory of Local Clubs

A directory of local model railroad clubs was published in the May *Dispatcher*. Following are several more clubs regrettably not included in the original list.

Unfortunately, the Division cannot guarantee that this information is accurate nor current, nor that memberships in these clubs are available. Contact the person listed at the end of each entry for further information on a club. Any additions or corrections to this information, to be published in future issues, are welcome.

GENERAL-INTEREST CLUBS

Oaks Model Railroad Club. Oaks. Club layout is HO and will be a realistic model of a railroad in southeastern PA in

the mid-'50's. Contact Frederick Monsimer, 2916 Toll Gate Dr., Norristown PA 19403-4039; (610) 539-7738.

StARR, Saint Alban's Railroad. Newtown Square. Club layout is HO and HO modular. Contact George Phillips, c/o Saint Alban's Church, 3625 Chapel Rd., Newtown Square PA 19073; (610) 356-0459.

MODULAR RAILROAD CLUBS

Philadelphia Division, NMRA, Modular Railroad. HO NMRA-standard modules built by members. Philadelphia area. Contact Robert Browne, 3513 Conrad St., Philadelphia PA 19129; (215) 842-1441.

StARR. See above. ☐

A Layout Construction & Maintenance Cart

BY DAVID VOORHEES

If you have ever attempted to build a model railroad much larger than 4x8', you have probably noticed that the tools and small parts you need are never in the place where you are, or even in the place you thought you left them. Constantly walking back and forth to a workbench or table on the other side of the room to retrieve tools can be very inefficient, and begins to take some fun out of the layout construction process.

Many modelers resort to using the layout surface itself as a place to set down tools, but this can soon lead to damaged track and scenery. Even shallow boxes and trays may help somewhat but still require a place to be set down.

One solution to this problem is to use a portable workbench or tool cart that can keep all of your required tools and materials right with you as you work on various locations and aspects of your

railroad. The actual design of the cart can be customized to any particular or special needs that you have. For example, the overall cart height should provide a comfortable worksurface height for small projects associated with building the layout, but still allow the cart to be rolled out of sight beneath the layout for storage.

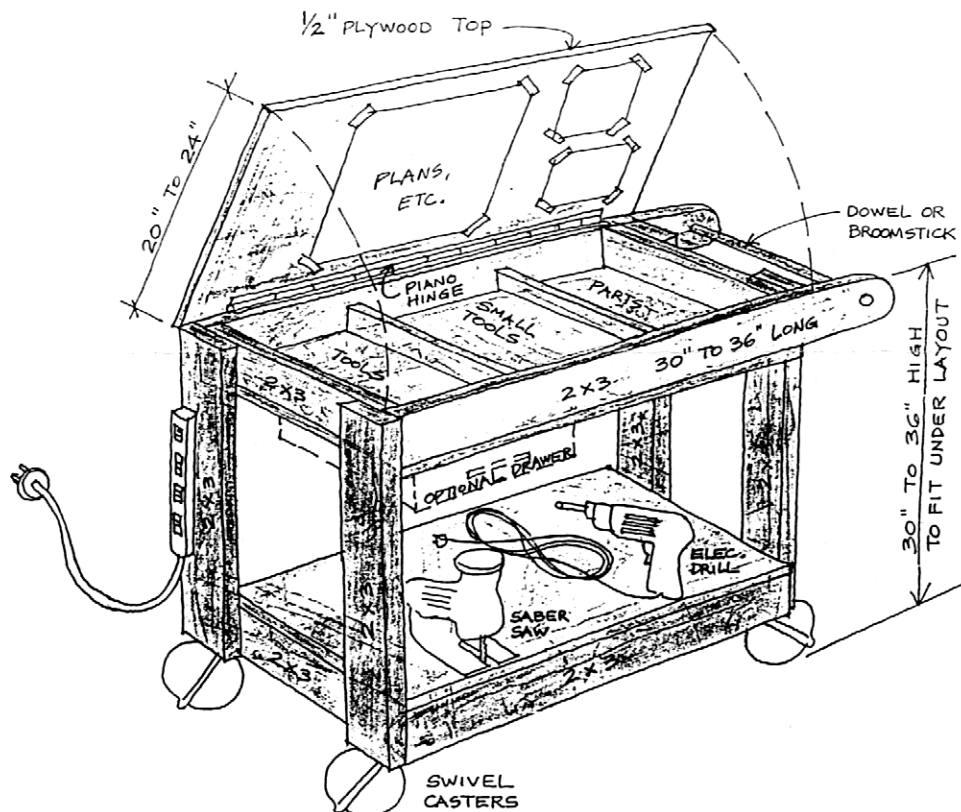
Besides the small-tool storage bins at the top, space is available on the bottom shelf to hold a circular or saber saw, plus an electric drill/screw gun. One or more drawers could be installed below the top compartment for small parts, fasteners, or small tools. An electrical power center with extension cord could be attached to the side of one leg to provide a handy place to plug in those power tools, or a soldering iron. Using medium or large casters will ensure easy positioning of the cart around the layout.

Construction of such a cart is very

straightforward. Use 2x3" lumber to frame the top and bottom assemblies, as well as the legs. Fasten these together with wood screws or small carriage bolts. One-half-inch plywood should serve well for the top, the tool compartment base, and the lower shelf. Use a piano hinge to anchor the top. The push bar can be made from a large dowel, a piece of broom stick, or a rake handle. Finally, sand all surfaces and apply a good primer and one or two finish coats of paint. Consider colors that match the fascia of your layout, or that go well with your layout room.

Once you have finished and stocked your new cart it's time to get rolling on building that layout of your dreams. But this time you will know where all those tools really are.

I hope to build a cart very soon. By the way, has anyone seen where I left my round tuit? Dood



Appalachian Coal Mines & Railroads

REVIEWED BY ROB KUHLMAN

Appalachian Coal Mines & Railroads
by Thomas W. Dixon, Jr.

Does your railroad haul unit coal trains or even only the occasional hopper? Do you stable steam engines? Is one of your industries a coal dealer or lumberyard with a coal trestle? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then I suggest that this book is a "must read."

It's hard to underestimate the role that coal played in the economic development of this country. Coal was the industrial revolution. It begat the need for and development of railroads and it enabled industrial centers to be located away from the river banks. High population density cities, immigration, central heating, electricity, steel – all these and more were figuratively and literally fueled by coal. And yes, dear readers, it all started in the backyard of the Philadelphia Division, in the anthracite and bituminous fields of Pennsylvania.

Dixon has created a tremendous resource that, with an introductory chapter of text and over 150 extensively-captioned black and white photographs, depicts the story of the coal industry primarily in the Pocahontas bituminous field of West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky. He takes the story from underground, through the tippie, to the

hoppers and the motive power, the marshalling yards, the tidewater port terminal, the coal dealer's siding, and even to coal being chuted into Grandma and Grandpa's basement with Grandpa shoveling the stoker.

What does this book offer to us, the modelers? Consider the grime of coal-hauling roadbeds – the ballast, particularly in the yards and the mine branches, is buried in coal dust. Does our Appalachian scenery depict silted rivers? Do we model dreary, no escape patch towns with outhouses backing up to the creek? Is there variety in our hopper classes? Is our coal piled up to overflowing in them? Do we utilize different sizes of coal in our hopper loads or at our industry coal dump? Are all of our scale men wearing fedoras? Dixon even has a photograph showing footprints through a series of coal loads in a string of hoppers – perhaps made by the tippie operators working the handbrakes of cars drifting under the conveyor – would we dare model that?

Does the book possess shortcomings? Maybe. Bituminous mining in C&O and N&W country was a bit different than here in Pennsylvania – particularly in our nearby anthracite fields. Pennsylvania coal haulers didn't use articulated nearly as extensively, and many of our

underground mines were shaft mines (vertical access rather than the illustrated drift mines with horizontal access). I don't view this as a problem because we can always get our specific motive power information from other sources, and we rarely have the space on our layouts to model the complete mine head anyway. Some readers may be put off by the lack of color (3 color prints on the rear cover). I feel, however, that the use of black and white is an advantage for the following reasons: there wasn't much color photography done in the glory days of coal mining; black and white captures much more texture and detail than most color emulsions; coal country is really black and white anyway, and finally, I can't afford these \$60 all-color coffee table wonders that are so ubiquitous these days. A resource beyond the means of the modeler does him or her little good.

In summary, *Appalachian Coal Mines & Railroads* is loaded with written and visual information about an industry of critical importance to our railroads; at under \$20 how can we afford not to utilize it? – *Rob Kuhlman*

Appalachian Coal Mines & Railroads

Thomas W. Dixon, Jr.

©1994 TLC Publishing, Inc.

\$15.95 SRP



Division Modular Railroad News

Bob Browne

The first public event for the Division Modular Railroad took place on June 17th and 18th at the Greenberg's Show at the Valley Forge Convention Center. Ten members fielded 84 feet of modules with a few helpers from St. Alban's Railroad and Philadelphia N-Trak.

Those present included John Nawn, Bob Browne, George Phillips, Bob Tresca, Rich Speak, Rob Kuhlman, Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman, Ken Delaney, Les Kushner, and Roger Readinger, who all provided modules. Helping out were Ben Nicholson, Jack Povey, Dan Boone,

and the peripatetic Bill Blackburn, who held down the dispatcher's job for much of the run. A visitor was David Brent, whose module was absent from the lineup.

Our modules run the gamut from John Nawn's veteran Collingdale Warehouse facility to George Phillips's vast Sullivan County lumbering operation, as yet unforested.

Spotted on the main line was a changing procession of vintage and modern equipment, from turn-of-the-century steam through electric motors to

several generations of diesel switchers and road engines, serving a variety of freight and passenger duties. Amongst the latter, someone said he spotted a French TGV! But it disappeared so fast he wasn't sure after all.

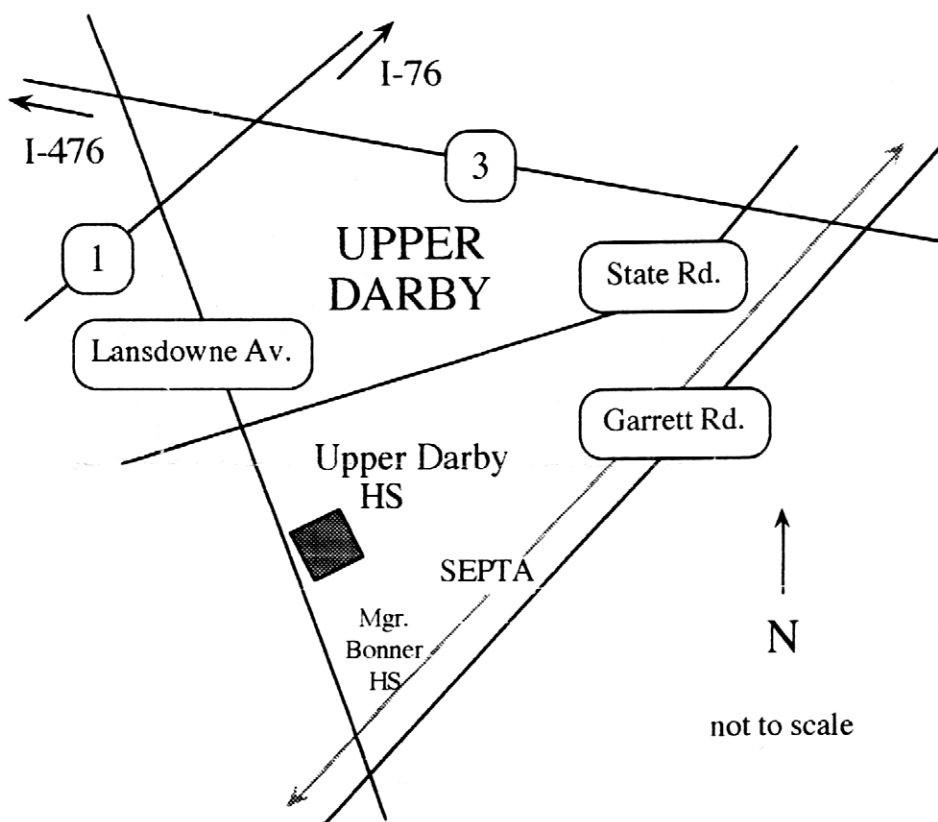
[The directors of the Greenberg's Show gave us first prize for the best layout display! - Ed.]

See us next at the September Division meet, and then at the Greenberg's October Show at Valley Forge, and yet again at the Greenberg's December Show in Fort Washington.



How to Get to the September Meet

September 23 at Upper Darby High School



All Aboard!

new members since March 1, 1995

Chris Hefner, Timonium MD; John Scanlon, Broomall; John Duncan, Glen Mills; Louis J. Sharp, Havertown; Jim Main, Pennsauken NJ; Samuel D. Natal, Cherry Hill NJ; Elless Smith, Upper Darby; Dennis R. Boone, Broomall; E. Winfield Gross, Paoli; Harry P. Murphy Jr., Newtown Square; Frank Knight, King of Prussia; Paul Bearc, Feasterville; Paul Keller, West Chester; Rusty Lipschutz, Broomall; Jerry Grant, Norristown; Robert T. Romig, Downingtown; Paul Boorse, Drexel Hill; Dale M. Weaver, Broomall; Richard DiSanto, Springfield; Barry McKeon, Wynnewood; Donald R. Duck, Springfield; Bruce Hampson, Drexel Hill; Dennis J. Cevcsoli, West Chester; Mark Beer, Croydon; F.C. Hollowell, Newtown Square; Dave Owens, West Chester; Walter C. Brenckman, Mor-

gantown; David Yates, Perkasie; Charles Mawbray, Springfield; Henry T. Paiste III, Bryn Mawr; William W. McKay, Narberth; William Riley, Broomall; Andrew Allen Hulton, Morton; J. Donald Roberts, Wallingford; John Antczak, Media; David A. Bullen, Havertown; Matthew J. Ribbecca, Havertown; Paul W. Miller, Upper Darby; Ray Heald, West Chester; Bob D'Amore, Newtown Square; Jack Lee, Churchville; Tom Marinelli, Lincoln University; John W. Reinhart, Allentown; Fred Voelcker Jr., Cockeysville MD; Dale W. Richard, Havertown; William Reber, Lebanon; Jim Ruddy, King of Prussia; Anthony Gentilella, West Chester; Michael Clement, Philadelphia; David E. Kelso III, Aston; Neil K. Kleeman, Gladwyne; Charles H. Wedemeyer Jr., Philadelphia.

Interchange Track

classified ads

New Members Wanted: The Oaks Model Railroad Club is seeking new members to help build and operate a large HO layout which will feature freight, passenger, and trolley operations, along with a mining district and a large waterfront scene. Regular meetings are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. For directions and other information, contact the club at: Oaks Model Railroad Club, P.O. Box 911, Oaks PA 19456-0911.

Wanted: Back issues of Model Railroader: 1934-1936, as well as January 1945. Contact Bruce Hampson, 2521 Marshall Rd., Drexel Hill PA 19026; (610) 622-0754.

For sale: Limited-edition commemorative freight cars from the Sharon Hill Historical Society. As a fundraiser for its effort to restore the 123-year-old Sharon Hill train station, the Society is offering a second HO 40' AAR boxcar, to be produced by C&BT Shops. Artwork on the car will be a line drawing of the station. All proceeds from the sale benefit the restoration. In addition, a very limited number of the first commemorative boxcar are still available. To order either car, send a check or money order for \$12 (postage included), made payable to the Sharon Hill Historical Society, to: SHHS Car Offer, c/o John Nawn, 144 Laurel Rd., Sharon Hill PA 19079-1322.

Classified advertising in the Interchange Track is available, space permitting, at no charge. Follow the general style shown above and please be brief.

**Attend the 50th
Anniversary Convention
of the Mid-Eastern
Region!**
**Clinics, Layout Tours,
Prototype Tours,
Auctions, Contests, and
more!**
**Sept. 28 to Oct. 1
Baltimore, MD**
See page 8.

The Philadelphia Division continues to grow and build on our strong performance over the past three years. We currently have close to 300 members on our roster which is almost a 65% increase over membership from the previous year, and membership appears to be growing at about 60% per year.

Elections were held at our May meet. Division member Paul Backenstose served as the Nominating Committee Chairman and conducted the elections. John Nawn and Steve Salotti were re-elected to the positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, respectively. Mike Hazzard, formerly the Division Clerk, opted not to re-run for the position, but was instead elected to the newly-created position of Division Treasurer. Division member Eric Dervinis was elected to the position of Chief Clerk. Dave Messer, M.M.R., remains as the Division AP Coordinator and Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman remains as the Editor of the Philadelphia Dispatcher, our quarterly publication.

The Division continued its quarterly Meet schedule for the past year. Following a highly successful meet in September where we signed up 35 new members, we held our November meet in Fairview Village. This was our third year at this location. The meet was operations-oriented and even included a switching contest. 1995 kicked off with a very well-attended March Meet in Newtown Square (our second year at this location). Approximately 70 members attended, making this our largest meet to date. Members were treated to some excellent clinics and the debut of the Division HO Module Team with the help of the St. Alban's Railroad. Following our March Meet, Division Member Bob Browne was appointed as the Module Team Foreman. In May, our family meet was held at the Reading Society of Model Engineers just northeast of Reading. Attendance was somewhat less than expected, but we still had a good meet which included exclusive rides behind the Society's live steam and diesel equipment over their one mile of

trackage. Some members even opted to picnic at the Society's facilities. Plans are currently being finalized for the Division's September meet which will feature a large (100 table) Train Show and Sale and at least two operating layouts, clinics and door prizes. It will be open to the general public but will be free to Division members with only Division members admitted during the first hour of the show. We hope to also make this an annual event. We will again close 1995 with a meet at Fairview Village.

In May, the Division made an offer to host the 1997 Fall Mid-Eastern Region Convention, which was accepted by the Region. Brandywine Junction '97 will be held on November 7 thru 9, 1997, at the Chadds Ford Ramada Inn at the intersection of Routes 202 and 1. John Nawn will serve as Convention Chairman, Steve Salotti as Manager, Mike Hazzard as Registrar and Eric Dervinis as Clerk.

In June, the Division-St. Alban's RR Module Team set up at our first public show, the June Greenberg's Show in King of Prussia. We had almost 90 feet of modular railroad and some members were not even present. The modules will also be appearing at the Division's September Show, and the October and December (tentative) Greenberg's Shows. Special thanks to the former Delaware Valley HO Trak club for their donations of end loops, corner modules, and assorted other modules and supplies. It was these donations that made the March and June set-ups possible.

The Division continued our outreach efforts by compiling a list of local clubs and a list of area hobby shops. In fact, two local hobby shops have agreed to give members a 10% discount on all model railroad purchases, and we hope others will adopt the program.

Through the generosity of the 1993 Valley Forge Express Convention Committee, the Division was again able to thwart a dues increase. Dues are expected to remain at \$3.00 per year which includes a quarterly newsletter, free entrance to Division meets, discounts at

local hobby shops, and participation in an HO Modular Railroad program. The Division treasury remains in the black with a balance in excess of \$2600 at the current time.

Respectfully submitted,
John A. Nawn
Division Superintendent



May Meet Report

Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman

On Saturday, May 13, 1995, the Philadelphia Division conducted a meet and family day at the Reading Society of Model Engineers, north of Reading, PA. The attendance was not as high as most other meets, but this didn't detract from the great time had by the attendees.

The first item on the agenda was important Division business. Paul Backenstose, the temporary elections chairman, did a very formal job of conducting the Division's biannual elections. The Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent will continue to serve in the same capacity. Mike Hazzard has become our Treasurer, and we welcome aboard Eric Dervinis as our new Clerk.

After this bit of ceremony, Ed Wiswesser, one of the members of the RSME which graciously hosted us, discussed the Society's history.

Steve Wolfhope made a presentation on large-scale railroading, discussing the different scales and gauges used by garden railroaders, as well as those modeling in large scale indoors.

The Division members now had the chance to see the Society's large operating O scale layout upstairs and the HO modular setup by the local Explorer Post Scouts. However, the main attraction was, of course, the Society's 15"-gauge ride-on outdoor railroad, fully operating with "live" steam and diesel locomotives! Many members rode on the model gondolas, equipped with seats, to an outdoor pavilion to eat lunch.

Division members had a wonderful time and many thanks are due to the RSME for hosting us.





Mid-Eastern Region 50th Anniversary Convention

Registration Form Sept. 28 - Oct.1, 1995

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Home: _____ Work: _____ Modelling scale _____

How many MER conventions have you attended _____ If this is your first convention check here _____

Print name(s) as they should appear on badges (Include Spouse and children)

Individual (Before September 1, 1995)	\$25.00	_____
Individual (After September 1, 1995)	\$30.00	_____
Daily	\$15.00	_____
Spouse	\$10.00	_____
Children (6 to 16)	\$ 5.00	_____
Banquet Dinner		
Chicken Breast w/Lemon Pecan Sauce	\$25.00	_____
Roast Strip Loin w/Green Pepper Sauce	\$25.00	_____
Light Rail Tour - Friday, Sept 29, 8:30 am	\$20.00	_____
	Total	_____

NON-N.M.R.A./M.E.R MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AT NO EXTRA CHARGE

Make checks payable to: Mid-Eastern Region 50th Convention

Mail to: Registrar

MER 50th Anniversary Convention

P. O. Box 4003

Timonium, MD 21094-4003

Hotel accommodations should be made directly with the hotel at Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031, (800) 228-9290 or (410) 785-7000 or Fax (410) 785-0341.

Make sure you mention the 50th Anniversary Convention to get the convention rate.



PHILADELPHIA DIVISION NMRA

TRAIN SHOW and SALE!!!

Saturday, September 23rd 11:00AM to 4:00 PM

Upper Darby High School

Lansdowne Ave. Between State and Garret roads

Featuring:

☞ **OVER 90 DEALER TABLES**

☞ **DOOR PRIZES**

☞ **LARGE HO & N GAUGE OPERATING LAYOUTS**

☞ **ALL SCALES LOCOMOTIVE TEST TRACK**

☞ **HOW-TO CLINICS**

☞ **SLIDE PRESENTATIONS ON LOCAL RAILROADING**

☞ **FOOD**

Fun for the whole family!!

Admission: \$3.00 per person, under 6 free (\$10.00 per family maximum)

Dealer tables available @ \$10.00 each.

For more information contact: Philadelphia Division NMRA

PO Box 741

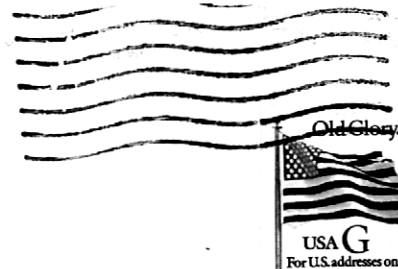
Paoli, PA. 19301 (610) 489 1940

On the reverse of this "mailing-label" page is the flier for the Division's upcoming meet. Please spare five minutes of your hobby time to post our flier at your local hobby shop, club, or store, so that we can spread the word about our meets. More attendees means more members, which helps to keep dues down and adds to the enjoyment for everyone.

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

P.O. Box 741
Paoli, PA 19301-0741



Do you need to renew?



The Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association will be conducting its 50th Anniversary Convention September 28 through October 1 at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, north of Baltimore. The program will include clinics, a train show, layout tours, railfan tours, museum tours, live and silent auctions, all manner of contests, the banquet and awards ceremony, a raffle, door prizes, and much more.

Registration is \$25 before September 1 and \$30 thereafter. Attendees who are not NMRA and MER members are welcome at no extra charge. The hotel room rate is \$73 per night, good until September 7. After this date, the rate will be \$89. Hotel accommodations should be made directly with the hotel at (410) 785-7000 or (800) 228-9290; mention the MER 50th Anniversary Convention to get the special rate.

A registration form is included in this issue of the Dispatcher on page 8. For more information contact:

Fred Voelcker Jr.
P.O. Box 4003
Timonium MD 21094-4003.