

# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

May 1996  
Volume 3, Number 2

## Division Meet and Family Day: May 18 on the Brandywine Scenic Railroad

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce its annual Family Day outing on Saturday, May 18, 1996. This year, we will be taking a trip on the new Brandywine Scenic Railroad, operating out of Northbrook on the new Delaware Valley Railroad Co. (formerly Octoraro Railroad) trackage. For a preview, the Brandywine Scenic is featured in the April issue of *Railpace*.

The meet will start at 10:00 a.m. with a brief Division meeting to update members on the current activities of the Division and the plans for the Brandywine Junction '97 MER Convention.

This will be followed by presentations by Dave Hope, president of Brandywine Scenic, and Don Richards, manager of operations and maintenance of the Delaware Valley Railroad Company. These gentlemen will give us insight into the operation of both a tourist railroad and a modern shortline with a time for questions following their presentations. Our rail trip will depart at 11 a.m., pro-

ceeding south towards Chadds Ford, and will last about one hour. Power for this trip should be RS32 #211. There will be a special door prize of a cab ride.

Fares for Division members and spouses will be \$5; for guests, \$7 (including a one-year membership); for children under 12, \$4. The regular fares

are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children.

We encourage you to bring the family and enjoy a day of railroading with us on the Brandywine Scenic. There is a picnic grove available at the Northbrook station, and there will be layout tours in the afternoon. We hope to see you all there on the 18th!



## Meet Me at the Junction

Our continuing series keeping the membership up to date on the planning and events leading up to Brandywine Junction '97, the Mid-Eastern Region Fall Convention, November 7-9, 1997, hosted by the Philadelphia Division.

Since our last report, we had the opportunity to meet officials from both the Brandywine Scenic Railroad and the Delaware Valley Railroad and presented them with our proposed fan trip/railfan events for the Convention. While we have not received official concurrence or pricing on these events, there seemed to be general agreement that our requests were do-able. We anticipate the

following railfan events:

- A Friday afternoon mixed train on the former Wilmington and Northern possibly utilizing the Reading F-units.
- A Friday evening photo session with the F-units and the Pennsy Doodlebug at Chadds Ford Junction.
- Saturday fan trip(s) on the Octoraro Branch using the Pennsy Doodlebug.
- Special pricing on the regular BSRR trips along the W&N on Saturday.

We are also awaiting a proposal from Walthers on production of our Convention Car, a Pennsy K-7 stock car.

Finally, we have extended the deadline for the "Brandywine Club" to July 1, or the first 100 members. If you haven't sent in your membership yet, and want to save a few bucks on the Convention, you still have time.

Next issue will have updated information on the prototype tours.



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BY NATHAN ASHBY-KUHLMAN, EDITOR

With this, the third May issue, several traditions seem to have been established. First, it always goes to press late (this is not my fault). It is always eight pages long, compared to the ten of the other three yearly issues. It is always produced at an inconvenient time in the school year for me (this does not cause the first problem; in fact the first problem causes this one). Finally, it always seems to contain an editorial that appeals for submissions.

I would like to end these traditions with the May 1997 issue. Getting the May issue out on time is not your problem, so I can't ask for help in fixing it. However, a nice stack of modeling articles would keep me from having to write this editorial and would flesh this issue out.

I am not saying wait until next May to write articles! Instead, we could use some interesting material for the September issue. As John mentions on page 3, members going to the national in Long Beach would be more than welcome to report back on their experiences. The same goes for Region conventions.

The biggest hole in the newsletter is its lack of modeling articles. I'd like some tips and techniques of general interest, and some longer features.

I'm sure that each one of the members of this Division has something interesting to share to improve others' modeling. In short, I would appreciate it and all of the other members would appreciate it if we had more good material for the newsletter. The best way to do this is to involve more people in writing.

On a different note, two errors crept into the March issue. The correct "Falls Grade" was mysteriously replaced by "Falls Grove" on page 1 in the title of Jim Eisenhart's clinic at the March meet. Also, in the November meet report, John Johnson, Vice-President of the Mid-Eastern Region, not John Long, Secretary, discussed the MER. My apologies to Jim and to both Johns.

I can now be reached electronically

at my dad's email address: [rkuhlma@admin.mc3.edu](mailto:rkuhlma@admin.mc3.edu). For those of you with computers, feel free to send letters to the editor and even articles this way. You can also send stuff on disk (any PC disk or Mac 720K format). If you do mail articles on disk, please enclose a hardcopy proof "just in case."

Have a great summer. Mine would be even better with a few articles to cheer me up! Happy railroading! ☺

## Wanted: Layout Photos

As we all know by now, the Philadelphia Division will be hosting the NMRA Mid-Eastern Region Convention in November 1997. This seems like a long way off, but to ensure this effort's success, a lot of work needs to be done ahead of time. Advance publicity for the event is part of this effort. I'd like to make a request of the membership - we need pictures. Pictures of good layouts, good equipment, good scenery, good prototype, and so forth. These pictures could be assembled into a slide show to be presented at preceding Mid-Eastern conventions. We also could submit a spread of photos to the hobby press - such as the gorgeous presentation of the Monongahela Valley system in April's *RMC*. Additionally, b&w prints could be submitted to the local newspapers to drum up interest in the general public. Are there members of the Division with expertise and equipment for indoor photography who would be willing to take these pictures? And are there members with layouts or equipment of publication-quality who are planning to be on the layout tours who would be willing to have pictures taken of their modeling efforts? I'd like to get these two groups together during the summer so that by Labor Day the Convention Committee has this valuable resource in hand. Please contact me shortly at (610) 279-1646 if you'd like to participate. Thanks a million. - Rob Kuhlman, BJ '97 Publicity Chairman ☺

# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

## Editor

Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman  
1226 Linwood Ave.  
Norristown, PA 19401-4211  
(610) 279-1646  
email care of my father:  
[rkuhlma@admin.mc3.edu](mailto:rkuhlma@admin.mc3.edu)

**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:** September 1996. Due out mid August. Deadline: August 1.

**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  
144 Laurel Road  
Sharon Hill, PA 19079-1322  
(610) 461-8644

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46 Meadow Road  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
(610) 489-1940

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Wayne, PA 19087-2305  
(610) 688-6113

### Treasurer

Mike Hazzard  
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Downingtown, PA 19335-1753  
(610) 269-6914

### Achievement Program Coordinator

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263 Mingo Road  
Royersford, PA 19468-3112  
(610) 948-2191

### Module Team Foreman

Bob Browne  
3513 Conrad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  
(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

BY JOHN NAWN, DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

With the advent of spring (finally) it is hoped that a large number of Division members will be able to join us for a morning of railfanning and fan-tripping behind Alco diesels through the heart of the Brandywine Valley on the former Reading Wilmington & Northern Branch at our fourth annual Division family meet. We have prepared an attractive pricing plan, so why not grab the camera, family, and friends, and join your fellow Division members in Northbrook on the 18th?

A reminder to all Mid-Eastern Region members that Region elections are coming up. The ballots should be appearing in the forthcoming issue of the *Local*. While it would be improper for me, as Superintendent, to suggest you vote for any one candidate, I would encourage you to exercise your privilege to

vote.

The dealer invitations for our fall shows have been mailed out. Based on the prices of tables at some recent shows, our shows seem like a real bargain. For instance, the September show is only \$15 per table. In fact, the prices are kept low in order to afford the membership the opportunity to clean out some of that excess collection. If you would like a table, give me a call or drop me a note.

With the advent of our own Region convention just 18 months from now, I would encourage all members to attend the Mt. Laurel convention in October, especially if you have never been to a Region convention before. This promises to be an outstanding convention by the same group that put on the national convention in 1993.

If I don't see you on the 18th, have a

good summer. Perhaps some of you who will be attending the National convention in Long Beach this summer can drop Nathan a short report for the next newsletter. And, when you finally get around to catching up on some of your modeling projects this summer, remember to patronize your local hobby shop, especially those in our discount program. ☺

## Interchange Track

**For Sale:** Power supplies from computers. Various voltage and amperage combinations available. Excellent for powering switch machines, detection circuits, building lights, etc., on your model railroad. Contact Steve Salotti at (610) 489-1940.

**Help Wanted:** The Perkiomen Valley Railroad has openings available in its operating department. Positions open include engineer, tower operator, brakeman, and dispatcher. No experience necessary; training will be provided. For more information, contact Director of Personnel, Steve Salotti, at (610) 489-1940. Equal opportunity employer.

**For Sale:** Mike Rabbitt, whose impressive layout and clinic wowed us at the November meet, offers scale drawings of steel mill structures and equipment. Included are blast furnaces and Bessemer converters of several eras, open hearths, BOF plants, car dumpers, Hulett ore unloaders, ore bridges, and complete steel mill track plans and layouts. The list is too long to reproduce here. Most plans cost about \$20. For more information or to order, contact Michael Rabbitt, 565 Forest Rd., Wayne PA 19087; (610) 688-3352. ☺

The Interchange Track column is open at no charge to those wishing to, for non-commercial purposes, buy or sell model railroad- or railroad-related products, offer services, form groups, etc. Submissions may be edited for brevity. They will run once only, as soon as space is available. Please label submissions "Interchange Track."

## Timetable

### DIVISION MEETS

Philadelphia Division Spring Family Day Meet. May 18. Brandywine Scenic Railroad. 10:00 a.m. Members and spouses \$5; guests \$7 (includes one-year membership); children under 12 \$4. Featuring layout tours, a presentation by BSRR's president and an 11 a.m. train ride along the Brandywine Creek with a door prize of a cab ride. See pages 1 and 6 for more information.

Philadelphia Division Train Show & Sale. September 14. Upper Darby High School, Upper Darby PA. Featuring the Division Module Team.

Jersey Limited Train Show. October 5-6. Hosted by the Philadelphia Division. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; 10-3 Sunday. Featuring over 4600 square feet of model railroading action. See below for more information.

Philadelphia Division Fall Meet. November 2. Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene, Fairview Village PA.

### NMRA & MER CONVENTIONS

NMRA 1996 National Convention. July 15-23. Long Beach CA. Contact

Bill and Irene Mergard, 5210 Carmelynn St., Torrance CA 90503; (310) 371-1955.

MER Fall Convention. October 3-6. Mt. Laurel NJ. Contact Jersey Limited '96, P.O. Box 517, Swedesboro NJ 08085; (609) 467-3385. Please see the registration form on page 4. ☺

The Timetable column is open at no charge to anyone planning a model railroad- or railroad-related event. Submissions should be labeled "Timetable," and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the submission.

Your Division membership card can now save you significant money at another local hobby shop:

#### Bolez Hobbies

717 N. 4th St., Allentown PA 18102

(610) 437-1941

Most items discounted at 25%; others at 15%.

Tues, W, Thurs: 4-7; F 9-6; Sat 9-2 (closed M)

# Registration Form

## Mid East Region, NMRA Fall Convention

October 3-6, 1996



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ MER # \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration	_____ @ \$34.00	SRNJ Fantrip (Sat.)	_____ @ \$28.00
Non-NMRA member	_____ @ \$39.00	PATCO Shops (Fri. AM)	_____ @ \$15.00
Spouse	_____ @ \$10.00	Conrail Control Ctr. (Thur. PM)	_____ @ \$ 5.00
Children (6-16)	_____ @ \$ 5.00	Holt Cargo Term. (Fri. PM)	_____ @ \$17.00
Saturday Night Social	_____ @ \$ 5.00	Historic Phila. Tour (Fri.)	_____ @ \$18.00
Awards Breakfast (Sun.)	_____ @ \$11.00	Aquarium/Art Mus. (Sat.)	_____ @ \$22.00
Convention Car	_____ @ \$15.00	Wine Tasting Clinic	_____ @ \$12.00
Layout Lottery*	\$12.00	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	_____

Make Checks payable to: **Jersey Limited '96, P.O. Box 517, Swedesboro, NJ 08085**  
**For Convention information call 609-467-3385**

\*Note: Layout Lottery is limited to 1 per Full Registration.

Detach and return this portion to Hotel

### The Clarion Hotel at Mount Laurel

915 Route 73 at I-295  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
609-234-7300

For: National Model Railroad Association, October 3-6, 1996      Cut off date: Sept. 14, 1996  
Rate: \$59.00 + tax (Single/Double)    \$79.00 (Quad)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ Depart on \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ No. of rooms for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

☐ Check or Money Order enclosed

☐ Diners Club

☐ Carte Blanche

☐ American Express

☐ Visa

☐ Master Card

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Should I fail to honor my reservation and not cancel 24 hours prior to my expected arrival, I authorize the Clarion to charge my account for one nights deposit and all applicable taxes. Check-out time is 11:00am. Rooms may not be available for Check-in until after 3:00pm.

For Train Show Dealer Information please write to "Jersey Limited '96"

**P. O. BOX 517 • SWEDESBORO, NJ 08085 • (609) 467-3385**



# Model Railroad Planning 1996

REVIEWED BY NATHAN ASHBY-KUHLMAN

Kalmbach Publishing has made model railroading history once again. The second section of *Model Railroad Planning*, the 1996 edition, is arguably even better than the debut issue, reviewed in the May 1995 *Dispatcher*. I roared through *MRP* cover-to-cover, and I'm eagerly awaiting *MRP* 1997.

The evolution of Sunrise Yard on editor Tony Koester's Allegheny Midland is the cover story. It thoughtfully discusses operational considerations which affect freight yard design. Don Daily details the around-the-clock switching at the Nickel Plate's Frankfort, Ind. freight hub.


David Barrow, Allen McClelland, and

Michael Tylick were invited to try to shrink their famous layouts down to spare bedroom-size. Their efforts reveal much about priorities in planning.

Paul Dolkos discusses British tricks and techniques, notably the invaluable fiddle yard, in "No Space is No Excuse."

Doug Gurin presents a plan for modeling two competing railroads, the O&LD Ry. and the NEW RR.

Mike Dodd takes you step-by-step through the layout design process using Cadrail, including its advanced features.

All this and more is available on your dealer's shelf until May 31. *MRP* has established itself as *the* forum for layout planners to share ideas. 


## Private Road Name Modelers Seek Pictures of Rolling Stock

BY FRED VOELCKER, JR., DIRECTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all model railroad clubs and other organizations who are now, or planning to release in the future, special run private road name model railroad cars or other equipment, to send me publicity information (descriptions), along with photos or any PC-compatible graphics files (such as ".bmp," ".pcx," ".tif," etc.) of the car or cars! This information will be published in the *Interchange*, the newsletter of the Private Road Name Modelers SIG. We feel this information will help promote your product, as well as aid our members by letting them know direct from you what is available or planned.

I am also developing a clinic, "Private Road Name Modeling is Phun!," and would like to invite all those who practice this aspect of model railroading to submit slides of their locomotives and/or rolling stock for possible inclusion. I can use slides or any PC-compatible graphics image. The first showing of this presentation is scheduled for the NMRA National Convention at Lake Junction '97, in Madison, Wisconsin.


The Private Road Name Modelers SIG

is open to everyone interested in "railroads that never were...but might have been." For additional information and an application, please send a SASE to: PRNM SIG, P.O. Box 4003, Timonium MD 21094-4003. All inquiries will be promptly answered. 

### All Aboard!

#### Current membership count: 359

##### New members:

Bill Gruber, Mickleton NJ; Lloyd Beldin Jr., Paulsboro NJ; M. Kanis, Philadelphia; Joe Loughney, Parkside; Joseph Pappano Jr., Newtown Square; Russell Palmer, Broomall; Samuel Parker III, Media; Walter Hoffmann, Willow Grove; Charles Vetter, Media; Mike Welch, Haddon Heights NJ; John Young, Wilmington DE; Manny Cabrera, Media; Joseph Solivajs Jr., Upper Darby; Glen Wolff, Merion Station; Chris Ruhl, Collingdale; Christopher Bush, Newtown Square; Thomas Cancelmo, Lansdowne; Anthony Demayo, Philadelphia. 

## March Meet Report

BY NATHAN ASHBY-KUHLMAN

On Saturday, March 23, 1996, the Philadelphia Division conducted a meet at the St. Alban's Church in Newtown Square. Eighty-two members plus seven future members packed the room.

The clinic program began with "Being a Locomotive Engineer," by Lee Schultz. He told the audience to forget the glory; "it's not that way anymore." The "real work" begins each day with an inspection of the locomotive. Lee presented slides of some of his favorite engines, including a GG1. The longest train he ever hauled had 222 cars and was pulled from Enola to Baltimore by two E44's. Unfortunately, we ran out of time before Lee could show us a training video, so he's planning to come back.


Next, Bill Gruber and Ron Gaines, staff members of the Jersey Limited '96 Fall MER Convention discussed the program, to be held on October 3-6 in Mt. Laurel NJ. It will include 35 home layouts and a layout lottery, an interlocking tower contest, and much more.

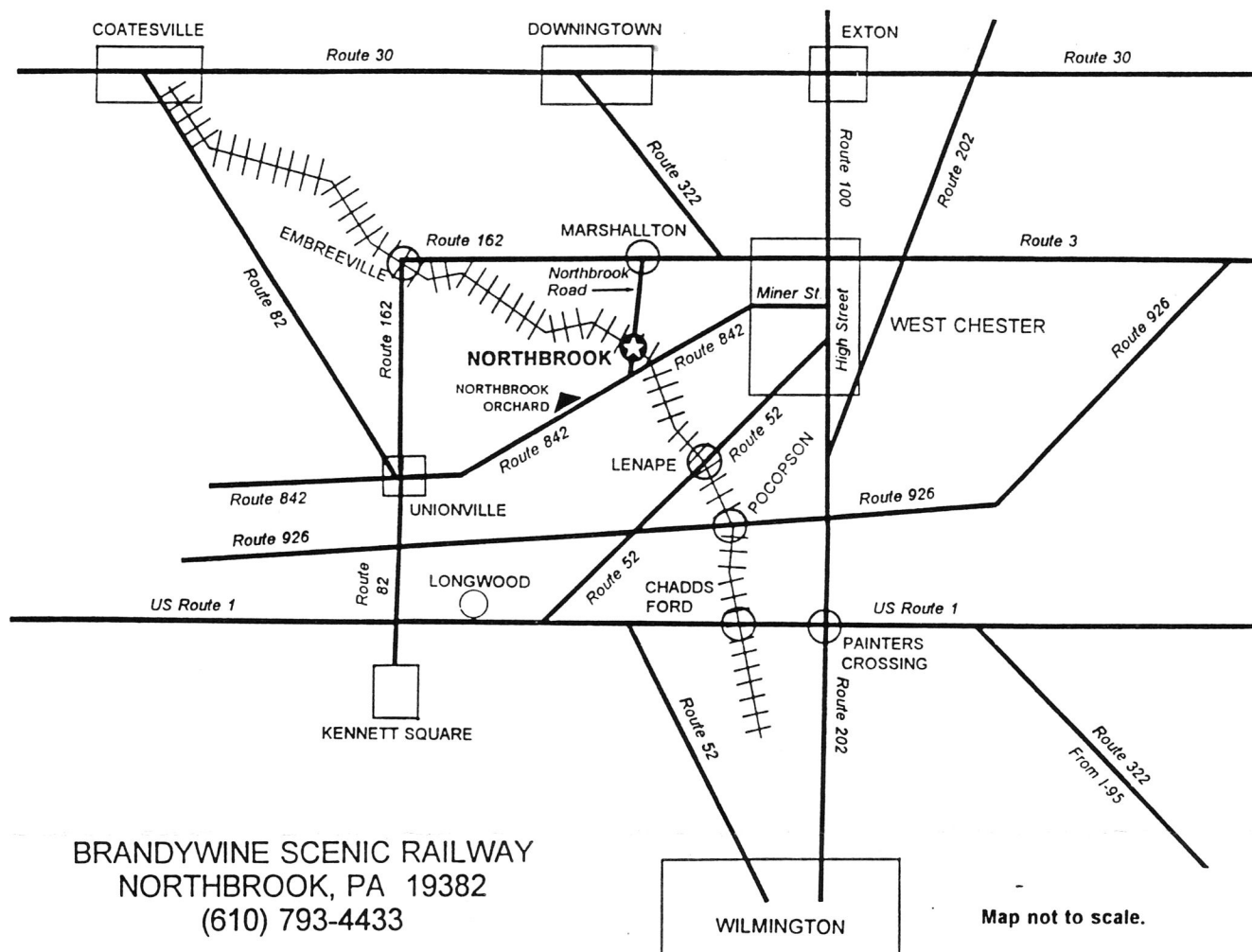
Steve Salotti discussed his procedure for "Easy Control Panel Labeling," involving Avery laser labels and chart tape. The basic idea is to coat the labels with clear spray after affixing them to the panel.

Eric Dervinis wore a nametag stating "I am not Bob Charles." Bob, NMRA President, postponed his visit to our Division after being called away on urgent national business. Eric, National Assistant Secretary, filled in and answered questions about the NMRA.

Jim Eisenhart, a Conrail conductor, gave a presentation on "Modeling West Falls, Falls Grade, and Midvale," filled with prototype photos.

Steve Salotti's Lightcap Publishing industrial model won the popular vote contest. Steve and other lucky attendees chose from door prizes including a gift certificate and a Bachmann Spectrum Wide Cab from Ardmore Hobbies.

During the afternoon, the St. Alban's Railroad and Module Team was as well as the home layouts of Win Gross, Jim Hart, Terry Smith, and Jim Pond. Many thanks to our layout hosts. 



## Directions to Northbrook

All trains depart from the Northbrook Canoe Company located on Northbrook Road, six miles west of downtown West Chester in the heart of Chester County.

**From West Chester:** From High Street (Business 322) take Route 842 West (Miner Street). Follow Route 842 West for approximately six miles to Northbrook Road (Northbrook Orchards Country Store is on the corner). Turn right on Northbrook Road for about six-tenths of a mile to the railroad crossing at the Northbrook Canoe Company.

**From Wilmington:** Follow Route 202 North to West Chester and go straight into downtown West Chester on High Street (Business Route 322). Do not take the Route 202 bypass. Then

follow the West Chester directions above.

You may also follow Route 52 (Kennett Pike) North to U.S. Route 1. Turn left (south) on Route 1 towards Longwood Gardens. Then follow the U.S. Route 1 directions below.

**From U.S. Route 1:** Take the Route 82 North exit (near Kennett Square) and follow Route 82 North for approximately three miles to Route 842 East (towards West Chester) in Unionville. Follow Route 842 East for approximately three miles to Northbrook Road (Northbrook Orchards Country Store is on the corner). Turn left on Northbrook Road for approximately six-tenths of a mile to the railroad crossing at the Northbrook Canoe Company.

**From Interstate 95:** If traveling south on I-95 from areas north of the Philadelphia International Airport, take the Route 322 West exit and follow Route 322 to West Chester. Remain on Business Route 322 into downtown West Chester which will put you on High Street. Then follow the West Chester directions above.

If traveling north on I-95 from south of the Wilmington area, take the Route 202 North exit and follow the Wilmington directions above.

**From New Jersey:** From southern New Jersey, cross the Delaware Memorial Bridge and take Interstate 95 north to Wilmington. Take the Route 202 North exit and follow the Wilmington directions above.

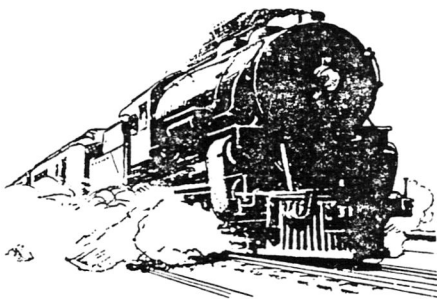
# PHILADELPHIA DIVISION, NMRA TRAIN MEET

A N D F A M I L Y D A Y  
MAY 18, 1996

BRANDYWINE VALLEY SCENIC  
RAILWAY, NORTHBROOK, PA

10:00 A.M.

ADMISSION AND TRAIN FARE: MEMBERS  
AND SPOUSES \$5; GUESTS \$7 (INCLUDES  
ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP); UNDER 12 \$4



CLINICS  
TRAIN RIDE  
LAYOUT TOURS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

JOHN NAWN

144 LAUREL RD.

SHARON HILL, PA 19079-1322

(610) 461-8644

## Division Members: We Need Your Help!

You will find the flier for the Division's upcoming meet on the back of this "mailing label" page. Please spare a few minutes of your hobby time to post it at your local hobby shop or club, to help us spread the word about our meets. More attendees means more members, which helps to keep dues down and adds to the enjoyment for everyone.

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### Discounts for Division Members at Local Hobby Shops

Be sure to patronize the area hobby shops which are now offering discounts on model railroading purchases to members of the Philadelphia Division.

#### **Ardmore Hobbies**

on Lancaster Ave. in Ardmore

10% discount on all model railroad supplies

#### **Iron Horse Hobby Shop**

60 S. 6th St. in Reading

10% discount with \$10 min. purchase

#### **Mitchell's Family Store**

2119 Concord Pike (202) in Wilmington, DE

10% discount on train department items

#### **Brandywine Hobbies**

1502 West Chester Pike (3) in West Chester

10% discount (excludes sale items)

#### **J.C. Musser Hobbies**

3611 Pottsville Pike (61) in Reading

15% discount off list price

#### **Nicholas Smith Trains**

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Broomall

10% discount (excludes LGB items)

#### **Bolez Hobbies**

717 N. 4th St. in Allentown

most items discounted 25%, some at 15%

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### THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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National Model Railroad Association

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P.O. Box 741

Paoli, PA 19301-0741

Do you need to renew?

Inside:

Bolez Hobbies in Allentown Joins the Discount Program

Review of Kalmbach's Excellent *Model Railroad Planning 1996*

Private Road Name Modelers Seek Information on Limited-Run Cars