



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

November 1997
Volume 4, Number 4

Division Train Show and Sale: November 9 at the Chadds Ford Ramada Inn

The Philadelphia Division of the National Model Railroad Association is pleased to announce that it will be conducting a train show on Sunday, November 9 at the Chadds Ford Ramada Inn in Chadds Ford, PA, at the intersection of Routes 1 and 202. Please see the accompanying map on page 8. All Division members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend.

The train show, held in conjunction with Brandywine Junction '97, the Fall 1997 Mid-Eastern Region convention, will be free to convention attendees. All others, including Division members, will be charged \$3 admission. Children under 12 are free, with a \$10 family maximum. Unlike other meets, Division memberships are not included with the \$3 admission fee. Parking will be free.

The show will open at 10:00 a.m. for convention registrants only. At 11:00, the general public and other Division members will be admitted. The show will close at 4:00 p.m.

Seventy tables' worth of merchandise from model railroad manufacturers,

dealers, and distributors will be there, including M. B. Klein, Rail Lynx, Springhaven Shops, and Digital Image Works.

The show will feature hourly door prizes, and the Philadelphia Division's specialty, the "Kidz Corner" activities for the youngest model railroaders.

Four operating layouts will be

present, including the Division's Module Team, the HO and O scale East Penn Traction Club layouts, the East Broad Top On3 layout, and the HO scale East Penn layout that can be operated by the public.

Be sure to attend the Division's train show, or even better, register for Brandywine Junction and attend a weekend full of model railroad camaraderie.

Meet Me at the Junction

By the time you read this final installment, we expect to have over 300 registrants for the convention, still with four weeks to go.

Did you see the October *NMRA Bulletin* yet? Page 30 features an article on our own Chris Yocum's Springfield & Eastern layout, along with a plug for the convention. And say, who took those fabulous photos?

Did you catch the next installment of Division AP Chairman Dave Messer's exceptional Pennsylvania Northeastern layout in the November *Railroad Model Craftsman*, along with a plug for the con-

vention? Both of these publication-quality layouts are on the layout tours for Brandywine Junction.

Did you see Page 168 of the November *Model Railroader*, and the new book announcement for *Model Railroading in Small Spaces*? Well, author Matt Chibbaro is one of our featured clinicians at Brandywine Junction.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE CONVENTION YET?

If you have not yet signed up, please note the following. The Lukens tour is **SOLD OUT!** The Operations Call Board is **SOLD OUT!** The 9:00 a.m. Doodlebug Tour is **SOLD OUT!**

If you are considering attending, NOW would be a good time to send in your registration. If you do not mail it by October 31, we would suggest holding on to it and registering on-site. The registration desk will be open Friday, November 7 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on

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BY NATHAN ASHBY-KUHLMAN, EDITOR

After four years, seventeen issues, and about 150 pages, this will be my last *Philadelphia Dispatcher*.

Sitting down to do the newsletter was always an enjoyable task. I'm writing this late on a Sunday afternoon after finishing my atypically burdensome weekend homework; my writing is beginning to flow and finishing this newsletter will be relaxing.

I'm in the midst of my high school senior year, when hardly anything is relaxing, but the newsletter is a wonderful break from college applications, school board meetings, and school newspaper deadlines. As if this weren't enough to keep me busy, I've also started writing feature stories for my local daily, *The Times Herald*. If you live in Montgomery County, you may see my periodic by-line, most likely about an interesting event at Norristown Area High School.

The newsletter has been a wonderful part of my life for the past four years, but it is time for me to move on. Now seems an appropriate time to relinquish the throttle of the Division's publication, and begin the next phase of my life.

In this, my last "Flimsies," I want to state fully what I have hinted at several times before.

NMRA publications often say that the heart of the association is at the Division level; it's where you can discuss modeling ideas informally and make friends. I didn't join the NMRA and the Division to do this, but the people in the NMRA make it worth joining if for no other reason.

After my (relatively few) years of acquaintance with model railroaders, I can honestly say that they are the kindest and friendliest people in the world. The friendships I have made with the people of the Philadelphia Division have been some of the warmest and most rewarding ever.

For the past several issues, Superintendent John Nawn has been praising my work on these pages. Well, John deserves a whole lot of praise, too. He got a letter from an unknown and unproven eighth-

grader who wanted to edit the Division newsletter. He probably didn't know what to think, but he accepted my offer.

I didn't have much skill back then, but I wanted to learn. The newsletter has provided me invaluable experience toward my career goal of becoming a journalist. I am forever indebted to the Division and to John for that.

In my May "Flimsies," what I said may have suggested to some that I thought model railroading was not going to last much longer. Although I meant the column to act more as a warning than a prediction, I must take those statements back. Model railroading, as a hobby, will never die, because model railroaders are the kindest and most caring people. They will keep it alive.

Even though model railroading has been pushed aside now during my teen years and will continue to be as I go into college, I hope to once again become an active modeler after my life settles down. The best hobby in the world has always been extremely rewarding, when I have the time and money available.

At the end of this issue, then, I will be handing over the newsletter. I am truly grateful, though, that I had the opportunity to make my mark on it.

So, it is with both regret and happiness that I leave the *Philadelphia Dispatcher*. I am disappointed to let go of something that has been so important to me for so long during my formative years.

However, at the same time, I need to move on and the newsletter does too. I look forward to receiving the newsletter and staying in touch. I wish the Division and its members the best of times in the upcoming years.

And now, it's time to turn this old engine and put it to bed for the last time. I am retiring from service with fond memories and a feeling of accomplishment.

Waiting on the ready track is the Division's motive power for the next century. Highball on the main line that we have laid together, and may the ride be smooth.

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

Editor

Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman
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(610) 279-1646

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: March 1998. Due out late February. Deadline: February 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. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Division, NMRA."

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Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703
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Dues: \$8.00 per year

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4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
(615) 892-2946
Dues: \$32.00 per year

From the Superintendent

BY JOHN NAWN, DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

It's Columbus Day as I write this, less than 25 days until the start of Brandywine Junction. This will be the biggest event the Division has offered to the membership in the last six years, at least. I hope you will not miss the opportunity to participate in this exciting and comprehensive event.

Brandywine Junction will also take the place of our regular November meet and our annual Train Show & Sale. Even if you won't be attending the entire convention, why not stop by for the Train Show & Sale? This event promises to be better than any of the Division's previous shows and I am sure you won't be disappointed.

More information on the convention and the Train Show & Sale can be found in the Meet Me at the Junction article.

Our September meet was a unique experience to say the least. From the free coffee and donuts to the well-apportioned accommodations; the high-caliber clinicians to the exceptional quality layout tours, the September meet was truly a meet not to be missed. My thanks to all who attended.

My apologies to everyone on the schedule in the last issue. Seems I mistakenly informed the editor that the

"November is National Model Railroad Month, as I am sure you are aware. What will you be doing to promote the hobby this month?"

GATS show on November 29 & 30 was at the Fort Washington Expo Center. WRONGO, as I was politely informed by the GATS folks. The date is still November 29 & 30, but *the location is the Valley Forge Convention Center! Always has been!* Sorry, my fault. Incidentally, make sure you stop by our November Train Show and pick up a coupon for a FREE gift at the show. Every coupon that comes back to the show means more \$\$\$ for the

Division, not to mention a FREE gift for you. If you want a stack of coupons for your club, favorite hobby shop or every member of your family, drop me a line and I will be glad to get some out to you. If you are interested in volunteering a couple hours at the show either Saturday or Sunday, let me know and I will get you free admission.

November is National Model Railroad Month, as I am sure you are aware. What will you be doing to promote the hobby this month? (A great idea might be to bring a friend to BJ '97.) This year, I will be putting up a display in the Radnor Township (Wayne) library. Stop by and take a look between October 16 and November 11.

November might be a good time to consider service to the hobby also. As detailed elsewhere in the *Dispatcher*, the Division will be holding elections in March. Why not consider serving as a Division officer for the next two years, and guide the Division into the next millennium? If you are interested, or at least want to discuss the possibilities in greater detail, give me a call. The time commitment is minimal and the rewards are vast.

In all likelihood, this will probably be Nathan's last *Dispatcher*, so I will stop here and leave him some room for his closing thoughts. I had my say in the May issue, but let me just add that, like a parent, Nathan not only gave the *Dispatcher* its name, but he gave it heart and soul and nurtured it until it was ready to stand on its own. Thank you, Nathan.

As this will be the last issue of the *Dispatcher* until after the holiday season, let me once again take the opportunity to extend to the membership the greetings of the season on behalf of the officers and my family. May you have a memorable and fulfilling holiday season and a new year that exceeds all your greatest expectations. The season is a magical time for the hobby, and like many, my introduction to the hobby came at this time of year. I hope it is special for you, too.

Looking forward to meeting you at the Junction!

Timetable

DIVISION EVENTS

Brandywine Junction '97. November 7-9. Chadds Ford Ramada Inn, Chadds Ford. The Fall 1997 Mid-Eastern Region Convention, sponsored by the Philadelphia Division. Send in your registration **now** if you haven't already.

BJ '97 Train Show and Sale. November 9. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Convention attendees: free. Division members and public: \$3; under 12 free, \$10 family max.

Philadelphia Division Meet. March 28, 1998. St. Alban's Church, Newtown Square. Will include the annual business meeting and officer elections.

NMRA & MER CONVENTIONS

Brandywine Junction '97. The Fall 1997 Mid-Eastern Region convention. See above.

Heartland Express. 1998 NMRA National convention. July 20-26, 1998. Kansas City, MO. Contact: Registrar, Heartland Express '98, 14904 W. 87th St. Parkway, #154, Lenexa KS, 66215.

MODULE TEAM SHOWS

Great American Train Show. November 29-30. **Correction:** Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA.

East Coast Hobby Show. March 14-16, 1998. Fort Washington Expo Center.

CLUB SHOWS

GATSME Lines Open House. December 13, 14; January 3, 4, 17, 18. Basement of the New Horizons Montessori School, Prospect and Madison Avenues, Fort Washington, PA. 12 noon to 4 p.m. Admission by donation. For more information, call Ed Wilson, 610-584-6923, or Paul Bryant, 610-275-4745.

OTHER EVENTS

Plug-N-Play '97. November 7-9. The Eastern Region N-Trak convention. West Chester Holiday Inn. Free to all BJ '97 registrants, with a free shuttle between the two hotels.

Townsend Fire Company Model Train and Toy Show and Sale. November 1. Townsend, DE Fire Hall. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission: \$4, under 12 free with adult. For more information, call Jon Cottrell, 302-378-4763.

Great American Train Show. November 29-30. See above. Cosponsored by the Division.

Division to Hold Officer Elections in March 1998

In accordance with our newly revised Division By-Laws, the Division will hold our 1998 Annual Business Meeting immediately preceding our March meet on March 28, 1998. A complete agenda will be published in the March *Dispatcher*, along with the starting time.

Major agenda items will include:

- Officer elections

- Formal adoption of new By-Laws
- New classes of membership

The regular Division meet will follow immediately after the business meeting. If you would like to review a copy of the Division By-Laws, please contact the Division Clerk. If you are interested in serving as a Division officer, contact the Superintendent.

Meet Me at the Junction

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Saturday from 8 a.m. until at least noon. Pre-registration is not required, and walk-ins are permitted, even encouraged. However, tour availability cannot be guaranteed as you can already see.

As you can see from the schedule, we have quite an impressive group of clinicians lined up for the convention. We also have 34 area layouts that will be open on Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. But the only way to see all these clinics or layouts is to register for the convention.

The convention car was debuted at the September meet. Incidentally, we have had some calls regarding the availability of the convention car. Right now, the only way to get the UMP hopper(s) is to register for the convention. Over half

of the 400 cars are currently SOLD. During the convention, the cars will also be available for sale at the Company Store. Any remaining cars will be available for sale to the general public at the Train Show & Sale on Sunday. Any remaining cars at that point will be available for sale at our next Division meet or through the *Dispatcher*. If you are interested in getting a UMP hopper, and you are not attending the convention, we would, at the very least, suggest coming to the show on Sunday and getting one (or the three-car pack with three different numbers). Based on the way they are selling, they may not last beyond the show on the 9th.

What more can we say? If you still have questions, drop us a line.

Brandywine Junction '97, BE THERE, ALOHA!

Brandywine Junction '97

**The Mid-Eastern Region,
NMRA, Fall 1997
Convention**

Hosted by the Philadelphia Division

November 7, 8, 9, 1997

Chadds Ford, PA

Contact:

BJ '97

P.O. Box 741

Paoli, PA 19301-0741

Mail Pouch

Dear editor,

I would like to take issue with the statement in the May "Flimsies" regarding "...a bankrupt Conrail...." For your information, Conrail was never bankrupt. It suffered through several years of operating deficits, starting at \$246 million in its first nine months of operation in 1976. It finally posted a profit in 1981. Having \$2.1 billion in federal funding and the authority to severely cut back unprofitable lines certainly helped!

Also, while I agree that the public in general, and probably young people in particular, aren't as enamored with railroading (including model railroading) as those from an earlier era when trains were more evident, I don't share your pessimism regarding the future of the hobby. It has always been the pattern for most young people to lose interest during the later high school and college years (with their varied activities and social calendar), but generally people return afterwards when income and time allow. It will probably take more of an effort from us older folks to insure that this happens.

Actually (to paraphrase), I do not come to nit-pick (although a journalist does need to make accurate statements), but rather to praise a remarkable editor and young man. I have said many times to you and to your father how impressed I have been at your efforts and your character. I would second John Nawn's offer to write a recommendation for you, for any purpose. Please let me know how I can help.

Dave Messer, MMR

[Thanks, Dave, for your correction, optimism, and the praise and kind words. It has always been the support and enthusiasm of all the members of the Division that have kept me interested and involved. If for no other reason, I am confident that model railroading as a hobby will survive because of the wonderful, kind people it attracts. Thank you all so much. — Ed.]

Interesting commentary, corrections, or suggestions are welcome in the Mail Pouch column. Please label submissions "To the editor."

How Fast Can it Go?

BY BOB MOTTER

In model railroading we generally restrict the speed of the flange wheel to the rail at whatever power requirement that permits the train to remain upright on the track. Prototype operations are quite different. In the real world, railroads adhere to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations regarding not only track construction and specification, but the speed at which trains may operate. The FRA has seven categories, based on track construction and condition, that determine what speeds trains may operate at. These classes are shown in the table. Using them at your next operating session will add interest.

The "excepted track" (Class 7) fits certain industrial and yard tracks on which trains are permitted to operate only at restricted speed not to exceed ten mph,

Class of Track	Maximum Train Speed (MPH)	
	Freight	Passenger
1	10	15
2	25	30
3	40	60
4	60	80
5	80	90
6	110	110 ¹
7	Excepted Track Category	

¹ Note: Higher track speeds, such as Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, may only be operated with special FRA permission.

with not more than five cars of placarded hazardous materials, and no revenue passenger trains may be operated on this track.

It should also be noted that individual railroads may impose other restrictions or set maximum speeds lower than those listed above.

How Fast is That Train Going?

BY BOB MOTTER

The chart below indicates HO scale miles per hour, when measured over a distance of ten actual feet.

Use the sweep second hand on your watch or stopwatch. Ready? How fast is that train traveling?

Time in Seconds	Scale Speed	Time in Seconds	Scale Speed	Time in Seconds	Scale Speed
120	5	33	18	18	33
100	6	31	19	17	35
85	7	30	20	16	38
75	8	28	21	15	40
66	9	27	22	14	43
60	10	26	23	13	46
54	11	25	24	12	50
50	12	24	25	11	55
46	13	23	26	10	60
42	14	22	27	9	67
40	15	21	29	8	75
37	16	20	30	7	86
35	17	19	32	6	100

Brandywine Junction '97

PRELIMINARY CONVENTION TIMETABLE (UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 1997)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- 11 a.m. Lukens Steel Tour departs
12:30 p.m. Superintendents' Roundtable
1 p.m. CLINICS SESSION I
Bill Blackburn: TBA
Ken McCorry: Operations on the Central Region,
Northeast Division, PRR
Jim Moir: Opportunities in Operation on a Double
Deck
1:30 p.m. Frazer Shops Tour departs
2:30 p.m. CLINICS SESSION II
Dave Messer, MMR: Planning the PRR
Northeastern Division
Herb Gishlick: Modern Commuter Rail Operations
on Your Model Railroad
Rob Kuhlman: Geology for Model Railroads
3 p.m. MER Business Meeting
4 p.m. Frazer Shop Tour returns
4 p.m. Lukens Steel Tour returns
4 p.m. CLINICS SESSION III
Bill Ataras: Signaling Practices on Prototype and
Model Railroads
Win Gross: A Look Back at Pennsy Diesels,
Cars & Cabin Cars
Jim Hertzog: Modeling the Reading Railroad,
Shamokin Division
7 p.m. Home layouts open (Session I)
7 p.m. CLINICS SESSION IV
Mike Rabbitt: Upper Merion & Plymouth Railroad
Matthew Nawn: History & Development of the
Interurban Car
Bill Schaumburg: 2 For the Road & 1 On the Side
8:30 p.m. CLINICS SESSION V
Dean Freytag: Improving the Walthers Steel Mill
John Johnson: Freight Cars of the PRR
Jim Dalberg: Operations on the New Jersey
Northern
10 p.m. CLINICS SESSION VI
Dean Freytag [continued]
John Teichmoeller: Car Ferries & Carfloats I Have
Known
Bob Charles: Town Meeting — A Conversation
with the NMRA President
10 p.m. Home layouts close

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- 8 a.m. Home layouts open (Saturday Session 1)
8:30 a.m. CLINICS SESSION VII
Bill Ataras: Signaling Practices on Prototype and
Model Railroads
Rick Malone: CTC & Signals Made Easy
Terry Nesbit: Signal & Classification Lanterns and
Lamps
8:30 a.m. PRR Doodlebug Fantrip No. 1
9 a.m. PECO Eddystone Generating Station tour departs
10 a.m. CLINICS SESSION VIII
Paul Backenstose: We Dig Coal

Jim Dalberg: Operations on the New Jersey
Northern

Bill Schaumburg: Making a Scene — Part II

11 a.m. PRR Doodlebug Fantrip No. 2

11 a.m. Brandywine Scenic Fantrip No. 1

11:30 a.m. PECO Energy tour returns

11:30 a.m. CLINICS SESSION IX

Dick McEvoy: Handmade Turnouts by the Dozen

Jim Hertzog: Modeling the Reading Railroad,
Shamokin Division

Monroe Stewart: Scratchbuilding in N Scale

12 p.m. Home layouts close (Saturday session 1)

12:30 p.m. Brandywine Scenic Fantrip No. 2

1 p.m. Home layouts open (Saturday session 2)

1 p.m. CLINICS SESSION X

Matt Chibbarro: Creative Model Railroads in
Small Spaces

Rob Kuhlman: Geology for Model Railroads

Ken McCorry: Operations on the Central Region,
Northeast Division, PRR

2 p.m. Brandywine Scenic Fantrip No. 3

2 p.m. PRR Doodlebug Fantrip No. 3

2:30 p.m. CLINICS SESSION XI

Dean Freytag: Unusual Railroad Cars

Bob Jans: Real Model Railroaders Don't Fear
Hidden Track

Stan Knotts: Oil Refineries and Their Railroad
Traffic

3:30 p.m. Brandywine Scenic Fantrip No. 4

4 p.m. CLINICS SESSION XII

Dean Freytag [continued]

Gary Shields: Brandywine Valley Railroad

Jim Kerner: Steel Mill Railroad Cars

5 p.m. Home layouts close (Saturday session 2)

5 p.m. Taste of Philly Buffet opens

7 p.m. Taste of Philly Buffet closes

7 p.m. Awards ceremony/presentations

7:30 p.m. Operations Callboard

8:30 p.m. Live Auction

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9 a.m. MER Annual Meeting

9 a.m. CLINICS SESSION XII

Paul Backenstose: We Dig Coal

John Teichmoeller: Car Ferries & Carfloats I Have
Known

10 a.m. Train Show & Sale Opens (BJ registrants only)

10:30 a.m. CLINICS SESSION XIII

Win Gross: A Look Back at Pennsy Diesels, Cars
& Cabin Cars

Mike Rabbitt: Cheap Industrial Buildings

Bob Charles: Town Meeting — A Conversation
with the NMRA President

1 p.m. Home layouts open

4 p.m. Train show closes

5 p.m. Home layouts close

Philadelphia Division Annual Report

The Philadelphia Division, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, has just completed its most ambitious year ever and is on the cusp of its most exciting undertaking to date.

MEMBERSHIP

Division membership continued to grow throughout the year, culminating in a six-year high of over 410 members. Major public outreach programs over the year included two public shows and mailing our September newsletter to all NMRA members in the Division boundaries. The Division also maintained a presence at local train shows and the East Coast Hobby Show, a multi-hobby, trade and public show with over 20,000 in attendance.

In order to promote National and Regional membership, the Division embarked on a membership discount program offering National, Regional, and Division membership for a \$35.00 combination fee. The Division expects to continue this program through March 1998, even in spite of the most recent National dues increase.

Our most recent September 1997 newsletter will also be sent to all NMRA members in the Division. The Division will also be placing a display in a local library for a month in October/November.

EVENTS

The Division added one additional event this past year, offering the membership not one, but two free train shows over the past year. September offered our Second Annual Train Show and Sale with over 90 vendor tables and 1,000 in attendance. The meet also featured clinics, hourly door prizes, three operating layouts representing N, HO and On3 and our ever-popular Kidz Corner program for the younger ones.

In October, the Division hosted the Train Show at the Jersey Limited MER convention. This two-day event proved to be highly successful for both the vendors and the public.

November took the Division to Fairview Village once again for our fifth annual fall meet. A highlight of the meet was the presence of our National Presi-

dent, Mr. Bob Charles, who presented a program and update on events at the National level. The meet concluded with home layout tours.

March saw us once again return to Newtown Square for our fourth annual spring meet. This was the Division's largest meet ever with over 125 members in attendance. Layout tours included Ken McCorry's club-size home layout currently being featured in the MER *Local*.

In May, we were finally able to put together a joint meet with our friends to the east, the New Jersey Division. The meet brought us to the Haluwasa Shoreline Railroad for an enjoyable family day on this unique narrow gauge railroad.

In September, we will be having a meet in Chadds Ford, featuring our own Mid-Eastern Region President, Mr. Bill Gruber, as one of the clinicians. Two contests will be offered at this meet, with the prize for one of the contests being a basic registration to the Brandywine Junction convention. The meet will conclude with three home layout tours. In November, the entire Division is expected to turn out for Brandywine Junction '97. Many Division members are involved in the presentation of what we expect to be the finest Region Convention in recent memory. For those not otherwise attending the convention, we will also be hosting our third annual Train Show and Sale in conjunction with the convention on Sunday, November 9.

In late November, the Division will be a cosponsor to the second Philadelphia appearance of the Great American Train show. March of 1998 will once again bring us to Newtown Square for our spring meet, annual meeting, and elections. Dates beyond March of 1998 will be determined pending the outcome of the elections.

SERVICES

The Division newsletter, *The Philadelphia Dispatcher*, continues to set high standards and remains one of the Division's premiere services.

The Hobby Shop Discount Program remains as a useful and consistent member service with eight area hobby shops participating and discounts ranging from

5 to 20 percent.

The Achievement Program continues to see growth, although only a small percentage of the membership currently participates.

The Division Module Team experienced a change of leadership this year, but continues to grow in both membership and modeling effort. Appearances this year included the September Train Show, Greenberg shows, the March Division meet, and the East Coast Hobby show. The Module Team will be a pre-eminent feature at the Brandywine Junction convention and is scheduled to display at the Great American Train Show in late November, the December Greenberg's show, and the East Coast Hobby Show in March of 1998.

MANAGEMENT

The Division continues under the leadership of the same team that has led the Division since 1992: John A. Nawn, Superintendent; Steve Salotti, Assistant Superintendent; Mike Hazzard, Treasurer; and Eric Dervinis, Chief Clerk. Dave Messer, MMR continued as Achievement Program coordinator, and Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman as *Dispatcher* editor, although Nathan has tendered his resignation. Bob Browne retired as Module Team foreman this year, with Tom Cancelmo stepping in as our new foreman. Division elections will be held at the annual meeting scheduled for March of 1998.

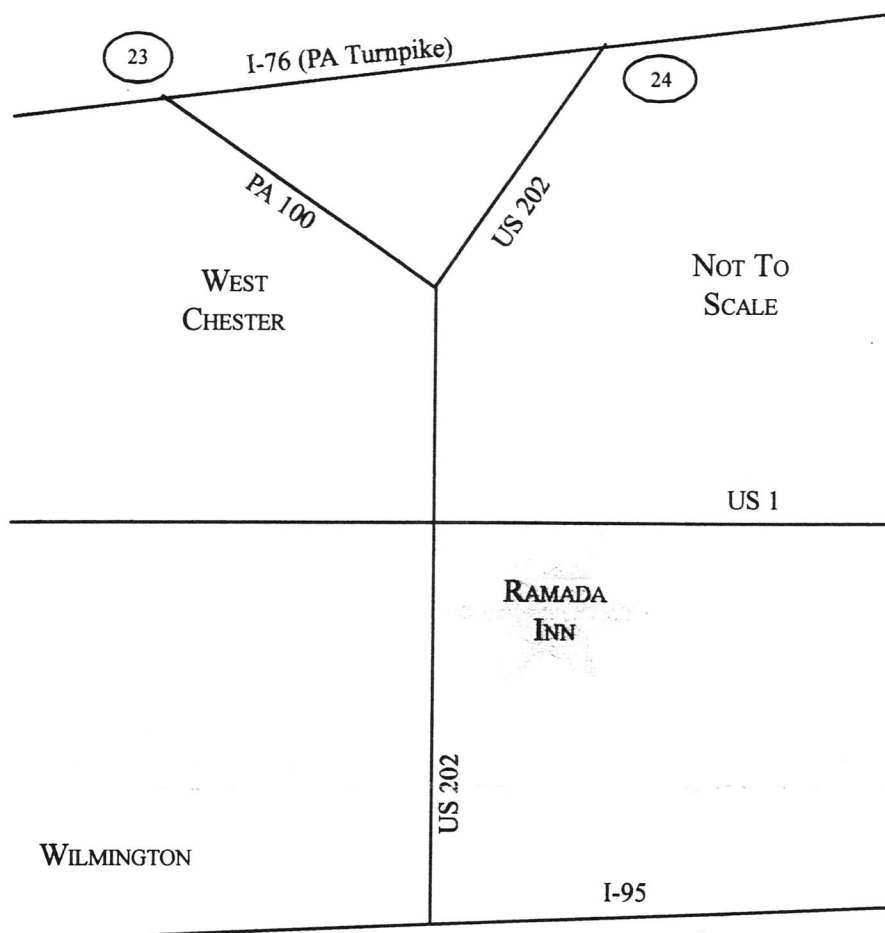
The Division By-Laws were revised this year to bring them into conformance with Region requirements concerning membership. The By-Law changes will be adopted and implemented at the annual meeting in March of 1998.

The Division treasury remains in the black with a balance of over \$2,500 at the current time.

The Division is proud of our accomplishments over the past year, and is pleased to welcome the Region to Brandywine Junction and the culmination of the rebuilding of the Philadelphia Division.

Respectfully submitted,
John A. Nawn, Superintendent
September 15, 1997

How to Get to Brandywine Junction '97



Our Eastern Friends, The New Jersey Division

The New Jersey Division offers the more of model railroading enjoyment that the Philadelphia Division does. In fact, some Philadelphia Division members belong to the New Jersey Division, too.

After holding a meet with the New Jersey Division in May, the New Jersey and Philadelphia Divisions have coordinated events for the upcoming year. The schedules no longer will have conflicting dates, so members of both Divisions will be able to attend the other's events.

If you are interested in joining the New Jersey Division, contact: New Jersey Division, 1 Haddon Avenue, Oaklyn NJ 08107.

Membership in the New Jersey Division includes a subscription to the fine newsletter, *Clinkers*.

NEW JERSEY DIVISION EVENTS

November 15, 1997

Deptford, NJ

January 16-17, 1998

Oaklyn, NJ

March 21, 1998

NJ Division 30th Anniversary

Dinner Banquet

Woodbury, NJ

May 2, 1998

Delran, NJ

June 6, 1998

South Jersey Area

September Meet Report

BY NATHAN ASHBY-KUHLMAN

The Division held its September 20 meet, in lieu of the train show, at the Brandywine Junction convention hotel in Chadds Ford, in its state-of-the-art auditorium.

Before the meet, the Brandywine Junction convention staff held its final general meeting before the convention, which is to be held on November 7-9.

At the beginning of the meet, John Nawn, Division superintendent, introduced the Brandywine Junction convention staff and volunteers, and took questions about the upcoming convention.

Bill Gruber, Mid-Eastern Region president, presented a clinic on his Reading Lines model railroad, which has been featured in *Model Railroader*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, and the *NMRA Bulletin*.

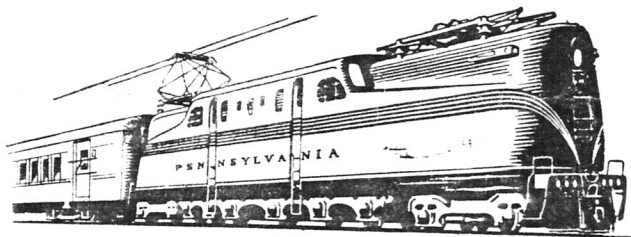
Then, Mike Rabbitt, the Division's steel expert and coordinator of the Lukens Steel tour at Brandywine Junction, gave a clinic on the Upper Merion and Plymouth Railroad. Mike will be presenting this clinic at the convention, and the BJ convention car is a UM&P hopper.

There were two popular vote contests held at the meet. One was a Conrail locomotive contest, in honor of the soon-to-be-fallen local flag. The second was a tongue-in-cheek contest for the best locomotive paint scheme combining Conrail and one of its suitors.

After the meet concluded, the home layouts of Larry Donahue, Charles Chandler, and Rick Maguire were open. Larry's HO layout represents the PRR during 1957 and uses a digital control system. The engine used to service the operating coal tippie is run by a genuine EMD control stand and KH-6 independent brake. Charles' layout is an HO scale version of John Armstrong's "Schuylkill Division" layout in *Creative Layout Design*. Rick's HO layout is actually two independent systems, the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the branchline operations of his freelanced Ogden Park Southern Railway. Many thanks to our layout hosts, all of whom will be open for BJ '97.

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION, NMRA
TRAIN SHOW
NOVEMBER 9, 1997

CHADDS FORD RAMADA INN,
ROUTES 1 & 202, CHADDS FORD, PA
11:00 A.M.



ADMISSION \$3,
UNDER 12 FREE,
\$10 FAMILY MAXIMUM

OVER 70 TABLES
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES
FOUR OPERATING LAYOUTS
KIDZ CORNER

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.

Discounts for Division Members at Local Hobby Shops

Be sure to patronize the area's 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

Herb's Hobbies and Crafts

200 W. State St. in Doylestown

\$25 of free merchandise for every \$250 spent

Nicholas Smith Trains

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Broomall

10% discount (excludes LGB items)

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Train Station, Ambler

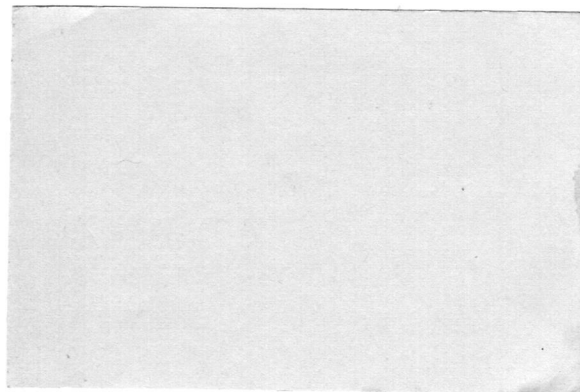
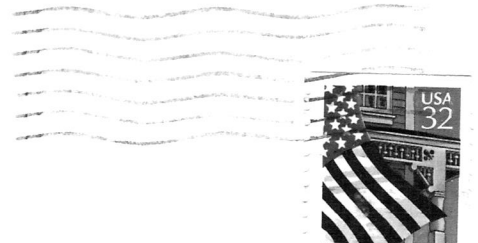
10%-12% off retail

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

P.O. Box 741

Paoli, PA 19301-0741



INSIDE:

SCHEDULE FOR BRANDYWINE JUNCTION '97

HOW FAST CAN THAT TRAIN GO?

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

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