

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

May 1998 Volume 5, Number 2

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be holding our June meet on Saturday, June 6th at the Holy Spirit Elementary school located on School Street in the Borough of Sharon Hill, PA. The meet will be held in the school gym, and will begin at 9:30 AM. All division members and subscribers are encouraged to attend.

Sharon Hill and vicinity has some unique railroad related history and interesting railfanning opportunities. See the article on the boroughs interesting and unique sites on page 4 of this issue for a description of some of the rare and unusual railroad related things for you to see.

Our clinics for this meet will include Sam Parker who will talk about trees, and will demonstrate several methods he has used to model them. With so many modelers in this area selecting eastern prototypes, we can never have enough variety in our foilage.

There will also be a panel discussion about DCC. With new developments happening almost daily in this exciting new control

method, come hear current users of various systems discuss how this technology has affected their railroads. If you are using some form of command control and would like to be a part of the panel, please contact Jim Hart as soon as possible. We have some panel members already, but will be glad to make room for more.

Flea market tables will be available at the meet for five dollars each. If you would like a table, please contact John Nawn, 610-461-8644,

jbjjnawn@juno.com, before June 5th to reserve.

The Sharon Hill Historical Society will have a table at the meet including their O-Scale model of the Station. They still have a few of their C & B T Shops, limited edition boxcars for sale, which will also be available at the meet for twelve dollars each. Why not pick one up and support their efforts to restore the station.

We hope that all division members and subscribers will plan to attend this new meeting location! See you on the 6th.

Attention Future Authors

Have you ever had the desire to see your name in print, but were afraid to try and submit anything to the major magazines? Why not try your hand at writing an article for the Dispatcher! We are continually looking for items to print. Maybe you have a technique you have developed that saves time, or have found an exciting new product you would like to let everyone know about. Have you read any good books to review? If it was interesting to you, it will probably be of interest to several other of our readers. So take the plunge today and prepare that article for publication!

The Division has a new Post Office Box! Please make a note of it, and send all future correspondence to:

Philadelphia Division

P.O. Box 174 Lima, PA 19037-0174

As we enter into the spring season and the weather begins to improve, is it the time to stop modeling for a while, or is this an opportunity to get out and look for inspiration? The choice is yours.

On a recent trip to Beaufort, South Carolina for my oldest son's graduation from Parris Island Marine Recruit Training Station (it's amazing how quickly they grow up and the things they surprise us with), I took some time to follow a rail line I had noticed as we entered town The line wandered through back yards and across fills. cutting through the many swamps and tidal marshes of the Carolina lowlands. In this town of virtually no industry. what was its reason for existence?

After following it for some distance, I found its terminus at the Carolina Port Authority Port Royal facility. Here, shiploads of Kaolin clay are mixed with water to produce a slurry that is used to give paper its glossy finish. The compact facility would fit very nicely into just about any layout that includes a harbor (this operation was covered in detail in a recent model magazine).

Turning and retracing my steps soon uncovered the of the railroads center operation. An old freight shed had been completely rebuilt as an engine house. There I met of the lines one employees. He invited me in. and in that gracious southern hospitality they are so famous

for, we spent over an hour touring the locomotive and the shop. The ex-Southern low nose GP-9 had clearly seen better days, but it was still capable of pulling any loads the railroad might need it to. They are currently hauling about 12 - 16 carloads of Kaolin per week, with some concrete and stone loads on an irregular basis.

Unfortunately, they were not running that day or any other time I was free, but it was a very enjoyable morning of getting to know the history and flavor of a local rail operation. While I didn't find any specific structures that will make the transition from South Carolina to the New York harbor in 1949, there was enough general information and inspiration gained to make the time well spent.

Have you made your vacation plans yet? Try to plan some free time to explore the area you may be traveling to this summer. I confess, I'm one of those early risers, so I can get two or three hours of railfanning in before the family even knows I'm gone.

One of the benefits of NMRA membership is the travel locator service. A call to Chattanooga will produce a list of members in the area you are visiting. I have used this service many times and have visited layouts from Canada to Florida and Kansas. Give it a try this year and see who you can meet. A quick call or a letter with stamped reply envelop may open some doors for you this year.

THE PHILADELPHIA

DISPATCHER

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

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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: August,'98. Due out approx. August 30. Deadline: August 12.

Membership: \$3.00 per year. 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."

Division Personnel: Superintendent Jim Hart

417 Wedgewood Lane Media, PA 19063 610-358-4492 Assistant Superintendent

Matt Nawn 306 S. Madison Upper Darby, PA 19082 610-789-5624

Timothy J. Palmer MSgt, USAF 338 35th Street San Pedro, CA 90731 310-514-3391

Treasurer

Samual J. Parker III 449 W. Knowlton Road Media, PA 19063 610-494-0917

Achievement Program Coordinator Dave Messer, M.M.R. 263 Mingo Road

Royersford, PA 19468-3112 (610) 948-2191 Module Team Foreman

Tom Cancelmo 238 Jackson Avenue Lansdowne, PA 19050 (610) 259-7216

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

From the Superintendent

I would like to thank you for your support, am honored to be your Superintendent. It will be difficult to follow in John Nawn's footstep, as he has done a terrific job as superintendent. John was the mentor for Brandywine Junction 97 and we know what a success that was. John has decided to step up in the NMRA and will be issuing the conformance warrants for the NMRA. The old timers will remember them as the footballs that announce that this product conforms to all NMRA specifications. This is important as we enter the digital age in model railroading. We wish John well. Steve Salotti is moving on to be the editor of The Philadelphia Dispatcher, while Eric Dervinis is serving as the MER secretary. Mike Hazzard has been Treasurer for 10 years and would like a break. Tom Cancelmo has agreed to continue as the module team foreman and Dave Messer will continue as Region AP coordinator. Sam Parker has agreed to be the new treasurer. Matthew Nawn, John's younger brother will be the assistant superintendent and Tim Palmer will be the new clerk.

The division is facing challenges in the future, and we will only be able to grow and prosper with your help. The division by-laws require membership in the National and Mid Eastern Region. These were enacted in the late sixties but have not been enforced until recently. In order to be covered by the MER's Insurance. all members will have to belong to the NMRA and the MER. If you are not currently a member of the NMRA and the MER why not join at the next meet. I am extending the special introductory rates for a limited time. You can join the National (\$32), Region (\$8) and Division (\$3) for only \$35.00. This entitles you to a Discount at participating hobby shops and is worth the cost of joining by itself. Only members who belong to all 3 organization will be able to obtain these discounts. If you don't want to belong to the NMRA and MER you can continue to receive the Philadelphia Dispatcher as a subscriber for \$5.00 a year. Subscribers are not members of the Division, and do not receive membership cards thus no hobby shop discounts. They are not eligible to vote and cannot participate in Division contests and AP Programs, and they must pay \$3.00 to attend each Division meet.

I am looking forward to meeting and

working with all of you. Your ideas and comments are welcome. The Division needs people who will be layout hosts. We also need people to help find meeting locations and most importantly, need people to present clinics. The members are anxious to here what you have to say. Don't hide your modeling under a bushel basket! Share it with us. The most rewarding part of model railroading is the fellowship and new friends that you meet at the division.

One of our goals is to incorporate the Philadelphia Division as a non-profit Corporation. This will allow us savings in postage, Insurance, etc. If anyone knows an Attorney who would be willing to do this please let me know.

If you know anyone who would like to be a member please pass the word to them. They can sign up at our May meeting or by sending their check to the Division clerk. They must be a member of the NMRA and MER to be a member of the division. I am especially interested in former member who would like to rejoin. If you know of people who belong to the NMRA but not the division ask them to join. There are no geographical limits, members can live anywhere.

If your local hobby shop is not part of our discount program ask them to join. In return for a 10% discount to Philadelphia division members, they will get a free listing in the Philadelphia Dispatcher. I am pleased to announce a new dealer, in our discount program, Nick's Trains and Software. Nick Logothetis sells Abracadata track planing software at most of the local train shows. Stop by and say hello to Nick and mention the Philadelphia Division. Nick will also be providing food at the meets if we can work out the logistics We hope to have Hoagies and soda at a reasonable price.

Our next Meeting will be on Saturday, June 6th at Holy Spirit school in Sharon Hill, Pa. Information is contained elsewhere in the Dispatcher. Plans are also in the works for the rest of the year, so stay tuned!

Again, I am honored to be your superintendent and your new officers and I look forward to serving you in the next two years. May we count on your help to keep the Philadelphia Division moving forward?

Jim Hart, Division Superintendent

Historic Sharon Hill Pennsylvania

The Borough itself, Founded in 1890, owes it's very existence to the railroad. The land that eventually incorporated into the Borough was developed by first the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore, then Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington Railroad along their rail line, which, today, is Amtrak's Northeast Corridor. In fact, the Sharon Hill Train Station, built in 1872, was one of the first buildings in town. Although still awaiting restoration (construction expected to begin in the fall of this year), the original station is only two blocks from our June meeting place.

Today, Sharon Hill, a community of less than 6000 and smaller then one square mile, boasts two stops on SEPTA's R-2 line (Curtis Park & Sharon Hill) although none of the endless parade of Amtrak trains stop at either location. Essentially, Sharon Hill is bordered on the south by the Northeast Corridor and on the north by CSX; the former B&O Philadelphia subdivision, which sees about 20 trains a day. The only tunnel on the Philadelphia subdivision between Philadelphia and Baltimore, Boone Tunnel, is located in Sharon Hill. Sharon Hill is also the terminus of the Route 102 Sharon Hill Trolley. SEPTA's Routes 101 & 102 are unique as they are the only trolley lines in the country that are entirely contained within the suburbs; the lines themselves never actually enter the City. The former Curtis publishing building (former publisher of the Saturday Evening Post) still stands in the Borough. The remains of the tracks leading into the building that at one time swallowed entire freight trains of boxcars full of paper via a siding from the Corridor can still be seen although the facility is no longer served by rail.

In neighboring Darby Borough you can visit the last place in America where a trolley line down the middle of a street crosses a mainline freight railroad at grade. CSX crosses Main Street in Darby and SEPTA's Route 11 trolley, which runs down the center of Main Street. If you have never seen a paved diamond before, it is worth a look.

Just a few miles away, stands some of the last remaining buildings of the former Baldwin Locomotive Works. In fact, Sharon Hill was, at one time home to some Baldwin executives. Anthony Crane Rental along the north side of I-95 still occupies some of the Baldwin facilities and the famous, X-shaped Baldwin office tower still stands near the junction of the Blue Route and I-95. In fact, I-95 was built over what was the floor of the erecting shop.

Why not spend some time after the meet railfanning in and around the Sharon Hill area. Maps and directions to the aforementioned locations will be available at the meet.

Directions to Sharon Hill and the Holy Spirit School

Sharon Hill is centrally located and easy to find. US 13, Chester Pike, bisects Sharon Hill. From US 13, take Sharon Avenue, (forms a T-intersection with Chester Pike at the Acme Shopping Center) south. You will pass the Fire House, Library and Town Hall on your right. The next street on your left will be School Street (Holy Spirit Church on the corner, left). Turn left.

From I -95 north, exit at the Airport. At the first traffic light turn left (Bartram Avenue). Take Bartram Avenue to the third light (84th Street, just past the new Eastwick Station on the Airport Line). At 84th street, turn left.

From I-95 south, also exit at the Airport. Get in the right lane on the exit ramp and follow it to the Airport. Just before the Airport you will see the signs for "Route 291, Bartram Avenue." Take that exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right at the traffic light (Bartram Avenue). Follow Bartram Avenue to the second traffic light (84th Street). At 84th Street, turn left.

Take 84th street (which turns into Calcon Hook Road) to the fourth light (Sharon Avenue). Turn right onto Sharon Avenue. Go about a half mile and look for the Sharon Hill Station on your left. Once you cross the tracks, you are in Sharon Hill. School Street is the second street on your right after the tracks. Turn right.

Once on School Street, go down the street past the church, rectory and just past the school, the entrance to the parking lot is on your left. The gym is behind the school.

September Family Day Meet with the New Jersey Division

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be conducting a joint meet with the New Jersey Division. The meet will take place on Saturday, September 13th at the Black River & Western Railroad, which runs between Flemington and Ringoes New Jersey. The meet will start at approximately 10:00 am, with activities planned throughout the day. There will be a series of clinics given in a coach parked in the Ringoes yard area, and best of all, your ticket purchase (\$8.00 per person) is good for the entire day, you can ride the train as often as you wish! Also in the area is the famous Northlandz Model Railroad display. We are also hoping to arrange for some local madelrailraods to be open for your visit. If you know of any in the Flemington / Ringoes area, we will be glad to try and contact them Flemington New Jersey is also home to Turntable Junction, a collection of shops and boutiques. Look for more information in the next issue of the Dispatcher. Plan now to bring your spouse and family and enjoy a day of railfanning and family activities.

Annual Business Meeting - Philadelphia Division MER NMRA March 28, 1998

In attendance: Superintendent John Nawn, Assistant Superintendent Steve Salotti, Chief Clerk Eric Dervinis, Treasurer Mike Hazzard plus a quorum of members

- 1. John Nawn called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM
- 2. Eric Dervinis read the minutes from the last business meeting. They were approved.
- 3. Mike Hazzard reported that our bank account balance is \$2613.35.
- 4. Eric Dervinis noted that the membership is 159. The division mails out 25 comp copies of the newsletter. Around 200 others are on the mailing list (some may be NMRA/MER).
- 5. Dave Messer, Achievement Dept Coordinator reported on activity for the past year. He offered to help anyone with the AP paperwork.
- 6. There was no old business.
- 7. The revised Division Bylaws were approved unanimously by the membership.
- 8. John Nawn gave a brief report on Brandywine Junction. The convention was profitable and judged a success by all.
- 9. New Business The Phila Division will be running the show at the fall MER convention Lehigh Valley Limited the dates are October 10 and 11.
- 10. Tom Cancelmo offered to continue as Module Team Foreman. He is always looking for new members to operate or add

- modules. The team will be working very closely with STARR.
- 11. Nominations for officers were requested from the floor none received. Thus John Nawn asked for and received a unanimous vote for the slate published in the Phila Dispatcher. They are:
- Jim Hart, Superintendent
- Matthew Nawn, Assistant Superintendent
- Tim Palmer, Chief Clerk
- 12. Steve Salotti thanked all for their help during his time in office. While declining to run for Superintendent, he is looking forward to serving as Editor.
- 13. John Nawn thanked all of this team for a very productive six years in the division.
- 14. John Nawn made a special presentation to the team of engraved pen sets.
- 15. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Dervinis, Clerk

Officer Election Results

In accordance with the Philadelphia Division Charter, Division Officer elections were conducted at the Division Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 28, 1998. As a result of the elections, the following were selected to serve as Division Officers.

SUPERINTENDENT:

James Hart, MD 417 Wedgewood Lane Media, PA 19063 610-358-4492

ASST. SUPER.

Matthew W. Nawn 306 S. Madison Ave. Upper Darby, PA 19082 610-789-5624

CLERK

Timothy J. Palmer, MSgt, USAF 338 35th Street San Pedro, CA 90731 310-514-3391

Immediately following the elections, the new

Officers appointed the following individual to serve as Division TREASURER:

Samuel J. Parker, III 449 W. Knowlton Rd. Media, PA 19063 610-494-0917

Taking over as Editor of the Philadelphia Dispatcher will be

Steve Salotti, RD#2, 46 Meadow Road, Collegeville, PA 19426,

610-489-1940.

Continuing as Foreman of the Division Module Team will be

Thomas Cancelmo, 236 Jackson Avenue, Lansdowne, PA 19050, 610-259-7216.

On behalf of the current officers and myself, we wish the new officers the best of luck in the future and thank the Division and Region for the opportunity for service to the NMRA.

The term of office for the new officers will run from April 1,1998 to March 31, 2000.

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FALL

October 9TH TO

All Activities are ala cart including the Banquet. Parking is FREE at the Hotel.

Payment must accompany registration form. Bounced checks will not be put through twice - you will be required to pay your entire fee by money order or eashier's check through the mail or in cash at the convention. You will be responsible for all bank fees charged. DO NOT enclose hotel room reservation requests with your registration. If you pre-register and later need to cancel, a full refund will be given only if the request is received by the registrar in writing by Oct. 1, 1998. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing of your refund. DO NOT mail a registration after Sept. 15, 1998; register at the door. DO NOT staple your check to your registration form. Call (609)-467-3385 for a recording of current changes and updates. All activities are subject to change, substitution, addition or cancellation.

EXTRA FARE CONVENTION SOUVENIRS 601 - LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED Convention Pins - \$4.00

The LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED will be offering commemorative pin for the convention. Full Registrants will receive one free.

602 - LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED Coffee Mug - \$700
The LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED is offering a Commemorative
Coffee Mug. The Mug will have the convention Logo.

EXTRA FARE TOURS

201 -NONRAIL TOUR - \$15.00

Visit the Clover Hill Vineyard of Allentown in the AM, Lunch (individual statement), then to Easton. Visit the newly opened CRAYOLA museum to see crayons made and the National Canal Museum is available next door

202 - RAIL TOUR - \$19.00

Visit the LEHIGH Valley Depot and Locomotive shops in Weatherly and learn the history of the town, Lunch (individual statements), The PM will be spent in Lansford visiting an operating mine loco, mine shafts and former LC & N buildings.

EXTRA FARE NON-RAIL CLINICS

551 - Making a Halloween Witch - by Alma Makley - \$10.00 Alma will teach you to make a witch out of house hold items and craft items. Materials will be provided.

EXTRA FARE FOOD FUNCTIONS

401 - 404 - LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED Banquet - \$21.95
The LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED Banquet Will have a choice of
#401 Prime Rib, #402 Roast Pork, #403 Swordfish & #404
Vegetarian. The Banquet will be on Saturday Night.
405 - LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED Breakfast - \$9.95

The LEHIGH VALLEY LIMITED will have a Breakfast on Sunday Morning.

EXTRA FARE RAIL CLINICS

501 - Decaling a Rail Car - by Sam Natal - \$15.00 Sam will take you step by step showing the techniques needed for decaling a rail car. You will receive a car and decals to do the job.

502 - Building a Walk Around Throttle - by Bruce Makley_ \$20.00 Bruce will take you step by step in constructing a basic kit. Construction and soldering techniques will be learned. You will receive a soldering kit, cutting pliers, printed circuit board and electronic components.

EXTRA FARE NON-RAIL CLINICS

552 - Making Miniatures - by Donna Johnson - \$5.00 Donna will guide you along to make a miniature craft item that is the basics for most miniature craft building.

The Fall 1998 NMRA Mid-Eastern convention in Allentown, PA plans to have layouts on tour that meet the need off every modeler. The layouts range from small home layouts to large club pikes. Traction, 1950 steam/diesel era pikes and modern systems are all represented in N, HO, And O scale. Although emphasis is slanted toward the local railroads such as the Reading, LEHIGH Valley, CNJ, LNE, and modern Conrail, other lines such as the Great Northern, NYS&W, and PRR are represented. Numerous fictional railroads are also available for viewing. The club tours are all impressive, especially a trip to the Christmas City Hobbies club which shares space with a well stocked hobby shop. Scenery, although present on many layouts, is just gettingunderway on other pikes, so modelers interested in construction techniques, benchwork, and wiring will really want to see these layouts.

A SPECIAL RESERVATION REQUEST

Hotel Reservation Request Form Mid-Eastern Region NMRA

Request Form RATE: \$55.00 + tax per nigh

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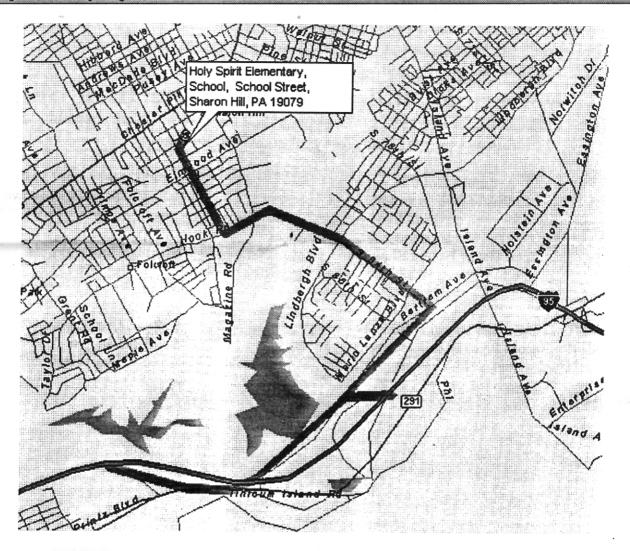
FALL October 9TH TO 11TH 1998

Print names exactly as you wish them on your name badges

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Payment in US Funds only. So	rry NO Credit Cards. Make	Check Payable to	o "LE	EHIGH VALLE	Y LIMIT	ED '98'"

P. J. Mattson - Registrar Information Telephone: (609)467-3385

Map to Holy Spirit School



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Philadelphia Dispatcher

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May '98

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 you hobby time to post it at your local hobby shop or club, to help us spread the word about our meets. More attendees mean 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 that 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 Bromall
10% discount (excludes LGB items)

Bussinger Trains
Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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P.O. Box 174 Lima, PA 19037-0174

Do you need to renew?

Inside:

June Meet

September Family D Lehigh Valley Limit



