



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

March 2000
Volume 7, Number 1

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be conducting a meet on Saturday, April 1st at St. Albans Church in Newtown Square. This is the normal location for our meet at this time of the year; however, date conflicts have caused it to be moved to a slightly later date this year.

The final clinic schedule has not been established at the time of publication, but we anticipate a very interesting program. The meet will start at 9:30, with clinics starting at approximately 10:00 AM.

The contest for this meet will be off-line structures. We encourage all members to attend and bring one of your favorite structures for this popular vote contest.

Dealer tables are available for the meet, so if you are interested in obtaining one, please call Steve Salotti at (610)-489-1940.

Layout tours will begin at 1:00 PM following the

conclusion of the meeting. We hope to have some new layouts as well as some from previous years.

One important matter that will be taken care of at this meet is the election of new officers for the Division. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Dispatcher*, you will find a ballot with all of the candidates at press time listed. If you would like to be considered as a candidate for office, please contact the Editor to be included in the election. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

In order to have a strong Division we need the help of all of its members. Have you thought of what you are willing to do to help the division? How about giving a clinic, there must be some topic you get excited about. You don't have to be a professional speaker to give a talk, just excited about your subject. Do you have a layout we haven't seen yet? It doesn't matter how big or small. There

is always something that can be learned from your effort. How about a slide show? Have you taken any trips that involved trains, or seen any interesting line-side structures that would make good models? If so, let the officers know and you will be put on the program sometime. It's your choice to help support the Division

June Meet set

The Officers have set a tentative date of June 25th for the next Division meeting. The meet will take place in Fairview Village, which is the site for our normal November meet. This meet will include an emphasis on Garden Railroading.

Special Announcement!

Jim Hart, division superintendent, is pleased to announce that the division is now incorporated as a Pennsylvania not for profit educational organization. This non-profit status will help the Division in many ways in the future.

FORM 19

By Stephen F. Salotti, Editor

Once again it is time for the Division members to elect the leaders that will guide the Division through the next two years. Elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatcher you will find brief biographical paragraphs from this years candidates. We are pleased to offer you a full slate of candidates, but wouldn't it be nice to actually have an election with more than one choice for each office? While it is not uncommon for volunteer organizations to be begging for people to fill positions, lets all do our part to keep all positions filled.

On Saturday, February 26th Jim Dalberg and I hosted a group of modelers from north Jersey and northeast Pa. for an Operations Saturday. We meet at my house around 1:30 and operated there until 5:00. Then, after a break for dinner, we headed to Jim's for more. Starting around 7:00, we went until nearly 11:00. In spite of what was close to a two-hour drive home for some of the guys, no one seemed to want to call it a night. Call us crazy or dedicated, everyone said they had a great time and couldn't wait until we did it again.

Have you ever considered giving operations a try on your railroad? While it's great to spend time building models, seeing what you have created taking on the feeling of actually being a duplicate of your favorite prototype can

bring a great sense of accomplishment.

Inviting someone over who knows more than you can also bring about a load of new work to do. Jerry Dzedzic, one of the attendees, is a Susquehanna fan in a big way. He has loads of old paper stuff and employee magazines from the time period we both model. A request for some information has brought so much stuff that now I have to rethink the plans I had for the rebuilding of the Edgewater branch on my railroad. Ignorance can be such bliss.

Ford Motor Company had an assembly plant in Edgewater from the 30's until '55. I originally thought a plant about two feet long would be a close enough representation to make me happy. Two feet long, with two cars per foot, meant a four-car siding. Well, it turns out the plant had one siding that would hold twenty-seven cars. Clearly I had underestimated the size of this building.

While I know I can't build anything close to the size of the real plant in the limited amount of space I have for the project, I better put some more time in with the tape measure and pencil before I start building this thing. And in the future, I better think before I ask a question. Maybe I don't want to know the answer as much as I think I do.

Happy Railroading.

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Official publication of the
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Editor

Stephen F Salotti
46 Meadow Rd
Collegeville PA 19426
(610) 489 1940
E-mail sjsalotti@juno.com

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: May '00. Due out approx. May 20th. Deadline: May 10th.

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

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

Clerk

Tim Palmer
529 Kohn st
Norristown, PA 19401
610-275-3054

Treasurer

Sam Parker
449 Knowton 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;

It's time to plan our summer Model Railroading actives. I am looking forward to going to San Jose in the summer. I would encourage everyone to try attending at least one national convention. Even closer to home, there is an MER convention in Portsmouth Va. from April 27th to the 30th, and another in the fall in Altoona, Pa. Details are elsewhere in the dispatcher. I went to the Mt Laurel MER convention in 1996 and saw a clinic by Lou Sassi on photographing trains. The information I picked up there helped me to have some of my layout photographs published. I find that the smaller regional conventions can be more hands on, and are not as intimidating as the national conventions. Give one a try.

We will meet on April 1st at St. Albans Church in Newtown Square, Pa. The model contest will be off line structures. We have a lot of excellent modelers in the Philadelphia Division and I encourage everyone to submit an entry. If you have won an award in the past, and have not received it please notify me and I will get it to you.

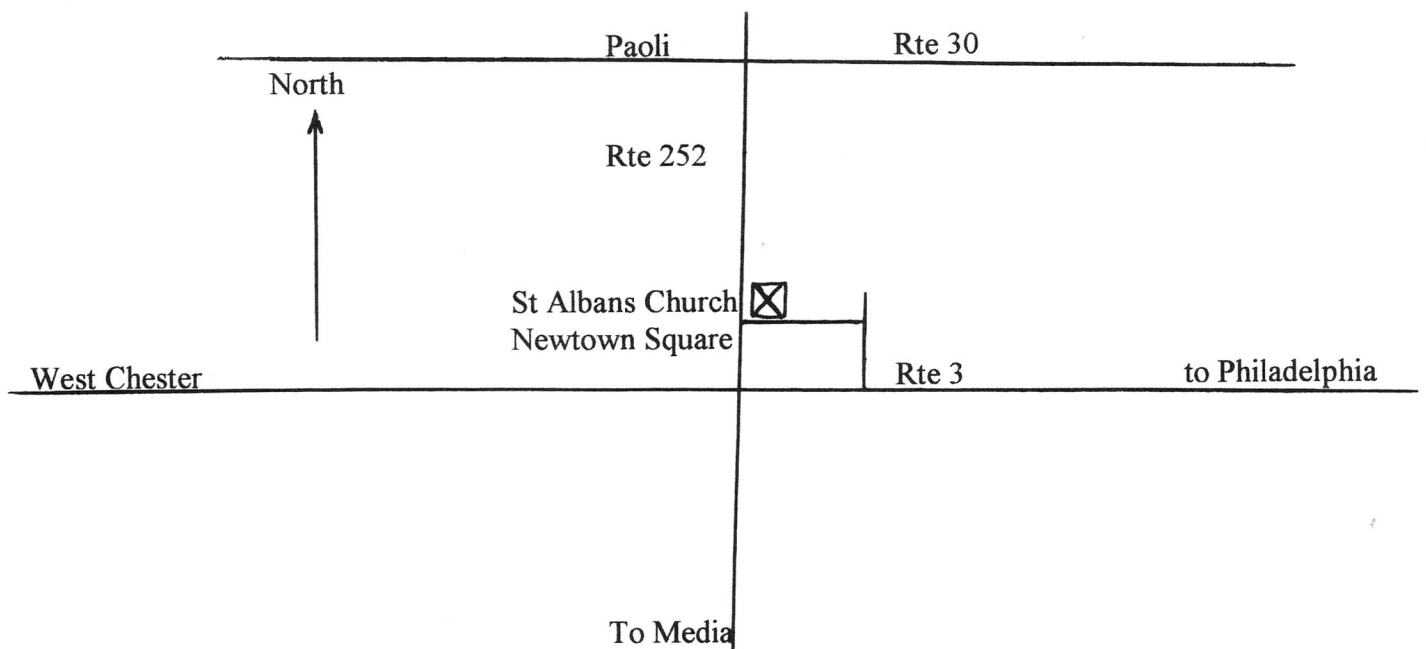
I would like to thank Terry Nesbitt for his help in incorporating the Philadelphia Division. Terry says we are now the Philadelphia Division National Model Railroad Association INC. We are a not for profit Pennsylvania corporation. Terry is also the superintendent of the Susquehanna Division. Thanks again Terry.

Remember to vote for the new officers at the April Meeting. It has been a pleasure working with the members and I look forward to being of service to the division in the future.

Hope to see everyone at Newtown Square.

Jim Hart
Philadelphia Division Superintendent

Map to Saint Albans



St Albans is located on Rte 252 just north of Rte 3 (West Chester Pike)

Consider the Golden Spike Award

By Dave Messer, Philadelphia Division AP Coordinator

Don't feel you're quite ready for individual Achievement Certificates? Try the Golden Spike Award for overall layout and rolling stock achievement. The qualifications are not difficult for someone who has built a small layout, even a module - look these over:

1) Rolling Stock (Motive Power and Cars)

___ Display six units of rolling stock (Scratchbuilt, craftsman or detailed commercial kits).

2) Model Railroad Setting (Structures and Scenery)

___ Construct a minimum of 8 sq. ft. of layout or module.

___ Construct five structures (scratchbuilt, craftsman or detailed commercial kits). If a module or small layout has less than five structures, separate ones can be used.

3) Engineering (Civil and Electrical)

___ Three trackage elements required (turnout, crossing, etc). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.

___ All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (Double-track main, single-track main with sidings, and block or command control).

___ Provide one additional electrical feature such as powered turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

The Golden Spike Award provides an achievable way of obtaining recognition for quality modeling without the detailed requirements of the individual Certificates - but you might find out that you're not far away. Try it!!

Contact me at (610) 948-2191 or DMesserPRR@cs.com.

Dave

Division officer mail in ballot

If you will be unable to attend the Division election on April 1st, you may send the ballot below to the editor. Mail in ballots must be received by March 30th, and must be signed to be valid.

.....
Superintendent

Tim Palmer _____ Write In _____

Assistant Superintendent

John Nawn _____ Write In _____

Chief Clerk

Steve Salotti _____ Write In _____

Signed _____

Rails Meet Sails MER Spring Convention

Portsmouth, Virginia, April 27-30 Hosted by the Tidewater Division of the MER/NMRA

The tidewater Division is proud to sponsor the first Mid-Eastern Regional convention of the Third Millennium, which will be held on April 27, 28, 29, & 30 in railroad rich Portsmouth, Virginia. Just across the Elizabeth River from Newport News and Hampton, the Rails Meet Sails convention will be hosted by the Holiday Inn Olde Towne.

Rail tours of three major coal loading facilities in the Hampton Roads area and Norfolk International Terminal (intermodal) will be augmented by tours of the areas extensive U.S. Naval facilities. You'll have an ununual opportunity to see the widest range of transportation: from railroads to automobile manufacture, to the Navy's hottest fighter jets, to a nuclear aircraft carrier. We've got it all, and you'll see it all in Portsmouth, where Rails Meet Sails.

Prototype Tours

Navy Tour (limit 92 people)
Ford Assembly Plant (limit 92 people)
Norfolk International Terminal tour (limit 46 people)
Newport News Rail tour (limit 92 people)

Non Rail Tours

MacArthur Center Mall
Walking Tour of Pourtsmouths Olde Towne
Culinary Clinic
Virginia SamplerGift Basket Clinic and Tasting
Foundation Piecing Clinic

Dinner Cruise on the Carrie B

Enjoy a delicious Southern Fried Chicken Dinner

Clinics

William Mosteller: Flawless couplers
John Teichmoeller: Pennsy Hoppers
Monroe Stewart: Ships in Railroading
Stan Knotts: The Coke industry from beehive to modern
Jim Teese: Kitbashing to a prototype
Bob Charles: Conversations with the President
John Hammond: Weathering with Pastels
John Johnson: 50 years of HO freight cars

Layout Tours

Friday AM

Ed Williams (HO) Hokie Junction
Jim Lewis (N) Catesville & St Lewis
Fred Jordan (HO) Darnel River
Louis & Tim Dunn (HO) Dunn Div of N&W
Don & Dale Orr (N) D&D Railroad

Friday PM

Bob Burke (HO) Sandy Creek
Mike Greene (HO) Chesapeake South
Dave Spangagel (HO) Old Point Comfort Lines
Teya Capel-Woods (G) Outdoor

Saturday AM

Chesapeake Bay & Western (HO) Club
Harry Werner (HO) Pennsylvania Railroad
Peninsula N-Scale Club (N)

Self Guided Tours

Childrens Museum of Virginia
Naval Shipyard Museum
Lightship Museum

If you have never atended a Regional Convention before, I encourage you to try this one. With so many sight to see and interesting places to visit, Portsmouth sounds like the perfect place to spend a nice long weekend. Why not grab your spouse and head to Virginia!

For more information, please see the current issue of The Local, the Mid-Eastern Region Magazine.

Convention Registration Form**Rails Meet Sails – April 27-30, 2000**

Name of Primary Registrant: _____ Phone: () _____
Mailing Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____
City/State/Zip+4: _____ N.M.R.A. #: _____ M.E.R. #: _____

Early Full Registration (**before 2/1/2000**)\$30.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Early (**non-NMRA member**)\$45.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Full Registration (**after 2/1/2000**)\$35.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Full Registration (**non-NMRA member**)\$50.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Name of Spouse: _____
Spouse\$10.00 = \$ _____
Children (under 18).....\$5.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Children (18 and over).....\$10.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Ford Plant Tour (Friday morning) (limited to 92 people).....\$10.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Navy Tour (all day Friday, includes lunch) (limited to 92 people).....\$32.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Norfolk Southern/Norfolk Int'l Terminal Tour (Sat. a.m.) (limited to 46 people).....\$10.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Newport News Coal Piers Tour (Saturday morning) (limited to 92 people).....\$10.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Friday Layout Tours (2 different tours: one a.m.; one p.m.—circle choices) Ea.\$10.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Layout Tour (morning).....\$10.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Cooking Clinic (Thursday night) (limited to 30 people).....\$17.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Foundation Piecing Clinic (Friday night) (limited to 30 people).....\$7.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Va. Sampler Gift Basket Clinic & Tasting (Friday afternoon).....\$3.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Harbor Dinner Cruise (Friday evening).....\$30.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Walking Tour of Olde Towne (Saturday morning).....\$2.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Banquet (Saturday)

Meal #1: Roast Round of Beef Au Jus Meal #2: Chicken Marsala
Number of Meal #1 orderedx \$25.00 = \$ _____
Number of Meal #2 orderedx \$25.00 = \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

Convention cancellations must be received by April 15, 2000 for a full refund of registration/banquet fees.

Make checks payable to: *"Rails Meet Sails"* E-mail address: *jkellow@widomaker.com*
Mail registration form and payment to: *Jim Kellow, 104 Elizabeth Page, Williamsburg, VA 23185*

—Cut Here—

Hotel Registration Form:

Send this portion of form to:

N.M.R.A. Mid-Eastern Region Spring Convention

Holiday Inn – Olde Towne
8 Crawford Parkway,
Portsmouth, VA 23704
Phone (757) 393-2573 or 1-800-456-2811

Special Group Rates:

\$65.00 single occupancy
\$65.00 double occupancy
\$75.00 triple occupancy
\$85.00 quadruple occupancy
11% state and local tax not included

Standard Accommodations – Circle One:

King Bed
King Bed or Two Double Beds
Two Double Beds
Two Double Beds

***** Please Note: If sharing rooms, only one (1) hotel reservation form is required.*****

Reservation Name: (First) _____ (Last) _____
Sharing with: (First) _____ (Last) _____
Total number of persons to occupy room: _____
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone Number: Day () _____ Evening () _____
Guarantee: I have enclosed a check in the amount of _____
Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____
Special requests: (e.g., smoking, non-smoking, etc.) _____

Candidate Biographies for Division Officers

Superintendent: Tim Palmer

Tim lives in Norristown with his wife Pam, and works in the local area, retiring from the USAF after twenty years of service.

He became actively involved in the region in 1992 while stationed at McGuire AFB, serving as co-chairman for the 1993 Valley Forge Express as Company Store. He has also worked several other regional conventions and as the Company Store Chairman for the 1996 Long Beach Limited.

He revised the Company Store chapter from the NMRA National Convention handbook.

He holds the Achievement Certificate for Association Volunteer, and is currently working on the Chief Dispatcher Certificate.

Tim is the Convention Chairman for the upcoming Keystone Junction 2001, and is the current Clerk for the Philadelphia Division.

Assistant Superintendent: John A. Nawn,

John, an NMRA member since 1980, currently resides in Sharon Hill, Delaware County, with his wife and two children. Many may remember John as our past Division Superintendent, where he served in the post from 1992 until 1998. Prior to that, John was a Region Department Chairman and on the staff of the 1993 National Convention. John was also the Chairman of the 1997, Brandywine Junction Region Convention, and was on the staffs of the 1996 Jersey Limited, 1998 Lehigh Valley Limited and is currently the Clerk for the 2001 Keystone Junction Region Convention. John also currently serves the NMRA as the National Chairman of the Conformance & Inspection Committee, the group that issues the NMRA warrants.

John models mainly in HO scale, but dabbles in almost all scales. John reports that no layout is currently under construction since he is still regrouping from a late 1998 move, but the 1000 square foot basement is sure to be filled with a layout in the next few years. John and the family are also planning the construction of an outdoor large-scale garden railroad this summer and he is currently working on an 0/On30" modular railroad with his brother. John was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the now defunct Delaware Valley HO-Trak modular group and is a member of the East Penn Traction Club. John currently holds achievement certificates in Author and Volunteer.

When not working on trains, John is heavily involved as a volunteer with the Boy Scouts. John is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Sharon Hill Historical Society, which is restoring the 1872 Sharon Hill Railroad Station on the Northeast Corridor. Professionally, John, a licensed Professional Engineer is Director of Transportation Engineering for a private engineering consulting firm in Devon. One of John's current projects is the design and construction management of the new Paradise Train Station on Amtrak's Harrisburg line.

Clerk: Steve Salotti

Steve lives in Collegeville, PA with his wife Jackie. He is employed as the Chef/Manager for the cafeteria at The American Institute, an insurance education company in Malvern, PA.

Steve has been a member of the Division since the early '80s, and has served as the Assistant Superintendent from 1992 until 1998, and has served as the Dispatcher Editor from 1998 until the present. He is willing to continue in his current position if the officers wish to re-appoint him. He was also involved in Brandywine Junction '97 as the manager, and is on staff as manager for Keystone Junction 2001.

He holds the Association Volunteer certificate and is working on Chief Dispatcher.

Steve models in HO scale, trying to recreate the New York, Susquehanna & western in 1949.

THE MER SPRING 2001 Convention

Introducing the:

THE KEYSTONE CLUB

A money saving advance registration package.

<u>What you get</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Full Registration	\$ 35.00
Convention Pin	5.00
Convention Car	10.00
"Special" Door Prize Chance	1.00
Banquet	18.00
"Gauge" of Door Prize Tickets	1.00
T-shirt	10.00

TOTAL COST \$ 80.00

THE KEYSTONE CLUB COST \$ 60.00

Your total savings: 20.00

Keystone Club members also receive first choice of the extra fare prototype tours, fan trips and the operations call board!

Advance registration materials will be sent to all Keystone Club members when they are available.

The Keystone Club represents a great opportunity for you to save a few dollars on what promises to be an outstanding model railroad event while helping to support the convention!

The Keystone Club is available only until March 1, 2000 or the first 100 registrants, whichever comes first. So don't delay!

Yes, I would like to join the Keystone Club. Enclosed please find my check or money order for \$60.00 made payable to "Philadelphia Division Train Shows". Please mail to the address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

MER NO. _____ NMRA NO. _____

**KEYSTONE JUNCTION 2001
P.O. BOX 378
DEVON, PA 19333**

Beginning with the PRT&HS October 16th HOME LAYOUT TOUR IV (thank you Paul Backenstose), through the HUB CITY LIMITED (thanks South Mountain Division) and ending with the 1999 MODEL RAILROAD OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE (thanks Bruce Friedman), there were plenty of model railroads to ooh and aah over. At last count (I may go on the road today and visit a few more) I visited close to twenty different layouts over five separate days.

"How many gallons of gas? How many miles? What's the eye-in-the-sky say? Turn here, no. Turn there! Where are we? I think that's a chicken coup. You're kidding! Man, this is in the boonies!"

And we call that fun. Well... it's better than raking leaves. Amen brother.

Some observations that reflect my own opinions and not necessarily anyone else's.

The best open houses were the ones where:

1. The host actually acted as though he was glad to see me and even let me run a train.
Wow wee!
2. The trains ran, didn't derail, and the GOOD STUFF was out to be seen if not run.
3. Friends ran the layout and the host was available to answer questions (I always have

intelligent/understanding questions).

4. The guest refrained from saying out loud in a smug voice, "\$200 there, \$500 here, see what money can do"

5. Directions to the layout location were clear.

Keeps me from walking into the bedroom. "Oh, I'm sorry. I was looking for the choo choos."

6. Bathroom privileges were available. The older we get, the more important this becomes. Trust me on this.

7. The guest was complementary (I have never been to a layout that I didn't see something new, good, or worth copying onto my own) and had his own handkerchief to take care of slobbering.

8. Refreshments were a nice touch, though not necessary, as were layout plans and handouts.

9. Guests who didn't monopolize the conversation, and when crowding occurred, graciously left with a warm "thank you."

It was nice, also, to see some of the BIG GUNS out and about.

Now, if I can just refrain from and resist the urge to blow up my own layout!

Perhaps I'll be on the tour next year. Naaaaa, who would drive three or more hours to see my choos choos? There's a message here, somewhere!?

FOR SALE

An almost new 6 3/4 turn double track Helix rising 24 vertical inches is no longer needed. Inside track 24-inch radius. Outside dimension is 58 inches diameter. Each level is supported by a combination of threaded rod and notched plywood. The base is butt-end joined 5/8-inch plywood. There are 63 pieces of Atlas Code 100 flextrack mounted on 1/4 inch cork. All joints are soldered. The grade in the Helix rises 1/4 inch per foot. Vertical space above the top of the rail is 3 inches. Call

Gale W. Smith at 610-756-4311 and make an offer.

The NMRA Mid-Eastern Region, 13212 Bellevue Street, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703 is offering a circa-1957 Central Railroad of New Jersey 40' PS-1 boxcar. Two numbers are available - 23506 and 23515. Cars are in stock now. This prototypically accurate oxide red car was custom painted by Accurail, and features an oversize CNJ Statue of Liberty herald and 8' doors. It is suitable for a steam-diesel transition layout, or

a more modern layout. Price per car is \$8.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping for MER members, and \$10.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping for non-members of the MER. If you have any questions, please contact me rather than the above order address.

Roger L. Cason
1125 Grinnell Road
Wilmington, DE 19803-5125
302-478-2550
rogercason@juno.com
FAX 302-478-3556

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.

Kenwood Model Hobbies

Various train shows throughout the division

10% discount

Call (610) 532 2253 for details

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

60 S. 6th St. in Reading

10% discount with \$10 min purchase

Nick Logothesis

(Abracadata)

2 Buck Run

Thornton, PA 19373

(610) 399 3469

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 O & G items)

Lin's Junction at Henning Scale Models

128 South Line St.

Lansdale, PA 194446

5% in addition to already discounted prices

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler

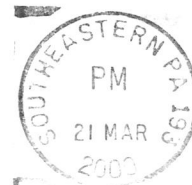
10-12% off retail

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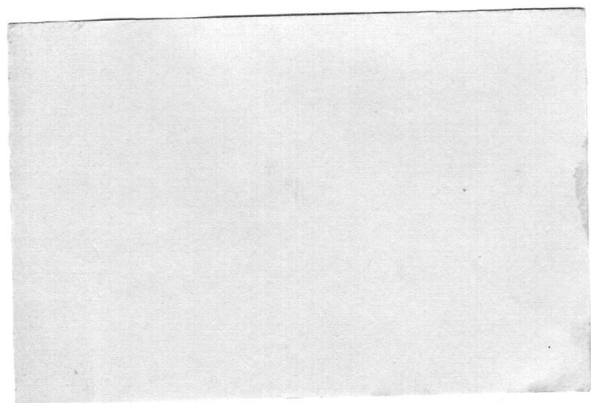
417 Wedgewood Lane

Media, PA 19063



Inside: April & June Meets
Keystone Club
MER Convention
Officer Elections
Layout Tours

Do you need to renew? If the date on your mailing label is highlighted, please renew promptly.



19026+1512

