



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

March 2001
Volume 8, Number 1

It's Convention Time!

The officers of the Philadelphia Division are excited to finally have arrived at the time for Keystone Junction 2001! After years of planning and hard work, it is time to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

The clinic schedule is full of interesting presenters, including such well-known names as Andy Sperandeo, John Armstrong, Jim Hertzog, Bill Schaumberg, and too many more to mention. There are over 50 opportunities to visit some of the finest home and club layouts in the Delaware Valley. Add to the above some of the most interesting prototype tours in recent history and you see why we are excited about what is prepared for your enjoyment. Have you sent in your registration yet? Don't miss the train! For your convenience, see page 4 of this issue of the Dispatcher for a registration form.

Even as the time draws near, we are still working to add more interesting functions for you to participate in. One of these we are pleased to announce is a switching contest. Beginning on Saturday morning there will be an opportunity for you to test your

skill against some of the best. Details will be in the convention book.

Also in the works is a Philadelphia Division train raffle! We are assembling a consist of a locomotive and caboose, plus all the cars ever done by the Philadelphia Division (Anyone out there have an un-built Perkiomen Valley Railroad box car they would like to sell back to the division?). The train will be displayed in the door prize room, with tickets available for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

If you want more information on the convention, including a tentative clinic schedule, please visit our web site at www.kj2001.com.

Philadelphia Division Tentative meet Schedule

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce the tentative meet schedule for this year. Not all of the details for these dates are completed yet, but we will pass along the information as soon as it is available.

May 12th: St Albans Church in Newtown Square

September 22nd: Farview Village Church of the Nazarene

November: Train Show! Details to follow.

Important Announcement

Due to the timing of the convention, there will not be a Division meeting during the month of March. Division members will be admitted to the Sunday Train Show free at 11:00 AM. Admission to any other convention activity will require registration badges.

Calling all volunteers

As you might have guessed, putting on a convention requires a large number of volunteers. We have numerous opportunities for you to be involved. These include staffing for the many activities such as the company store, door prize room, contest room, auction room, registration table, and switching contest. Each of these areas will be looking for people to come in to relieve their chairmen to do other activities. (Continued pg. 5)

It seems hard to believe that Keystone Junction is upon us so quickly. All of the hard work will soon pay off in what should be one of the finest MER conventions in recent history. The convention staff has put in untold hours of work to bring together some of the best names in clinicians, the most interesting prototype tours, and the finest layouts in the area for you to tour. Have you sent in your registration yet? If not, you better act quickly. Many of the tours are almost filled, and with the expected last minute rush, you don't want to miss out on the tour that will be the most interesting to you.

While on the subject of the convention, what better time than now to make a pitch for volunteers. In any endeavor of this magnitude, there are numerous opportunities for you to get involved. We need several volunteers to drive vans for the Operations Callboard and other tours. The Company Store and Door Prize room needs volunteers to help with staffing through out the weekend. We would like people to introduce each clinician. The Contest and Auction rooms need coverage to give their respective chairmen a break. Even only a couple hours here or there will help to make things flow smoothly. Your help is definitely needed. While we can't offer any monetary reward, how about a nice convention hat? And what better reward could there be than in knowing that you had a part in making Keystone Junction 2001 a success.

As much work and fun as it has been putting this convention together, there is another side to the work that isn't often considered. Layout tours are

one of the highlights of our convention. This is due to the large number of high quality layouts in the area. On an inspection trip over my own layout, I had to ask myself how much progress has been made since the last convention. The truthful answer was not enough. Yes, there had been quite a bit of work in fine tuning the operating scheme, and there were a couple of new sidings, and several dozen turnouts had been made DCC friendly, but there was little that would be noticeable to the casual observer.

The question now was how much can I accomplish in the next month or two. The first thing that came to mind was to start work on the new Edgewater branch. Nothing shows up as progress as quickly as a bunch of nice new benchwork. Fortunately, before I took saw to wood, it dawned on me that the benchwork would look great, but there were too many turnouts and crossings and yard tracks to be built to have any hope of something meaningful to look at in less than two months.

After much consideration, I finally decided on some scenery work. It doesn't matter how many hours you put into wiring, fifteen minutes spent on scenery will bring far more exclamations of joy from a visitor. Now, let's see, there is the unfinished scene at Hackensack, the unforested hills at Butler and from Smithville to Bloomingdale, the unballasted yard and mainline tracks, the missing fascia from Butler to Smithville.....

You get the idea.
Happy Railroading!

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Editor

Stephen F. Salotti
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Collegeville, Pa, 19426
(610) 489 1940

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 2001. Due out approx. April 20. Deadline: April 5th.

Membership: \$5.00 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."

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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: \$34.00 per year

From the Superintendent

Once again the eyes of the MER are upon the Delaware Valley. I'd like to thank all of those who have devoted countless hours towards Keystone Junction 2001. We have a very full venue for the attendees, with over 50 opportunities to visit and view various model railroad layouts, as well as 45 clinics. For those interested in operations, we have plenty of opportunities to participate in the "OPS Call Board".

As with everything we need your help. If you have time during your visit with us, and would like to assist, please see one of the Convention committee. Above all else, enjoy! Let us know how things go.

Back to division info – contained within this Dispatch is the upcoming meet schedule. If anyone would like to present a clinic, please let John Nawn, Steve, or myself know. For those of you working towards the AP Certificate for Author, presenting a clinic (Regional or Division) may be worth points.

Thanks to all those who have helped and those who are attending. Again – Enjoy!!!! Happy Railroading!!

Timothy J. Palmer, Superintendent
Philadelphia Division

NS announces plans to close Hollidaysburg Shops!

NORFOLK, VA - Norfolk Southern Corporation today said it will close its Hollidaysburg, Pa., Car Shop effective on or about Sept. 1, 2001, as part of the company's ongoing restructuring program.

"Changing economic conditions and excess capacity throughout the freight car repair industry have reduced our workload to the extent we cannot support continued operations at the shop," said Mark D. Manion, vice president Transportation Services and Mechanical. "Consolidating our work at fewer locations is part of making Norfolk Southern a more efficient company as we go forward."

Hollidaysburg's 300-plus employees will have an opportunity to follow their work to other

locations; employees who transfer with their work will be paid relocation expenses. In some instances, applicable labor agreements and protective conditions will require further handling with Norfolk Southern's unions before implementing the work transfers.

Norfolk Southern said it will continue to work with Blair County development officials in finding alternative uses for the Hollidaysburg facility.

Norfolk Southern Corporation, a Virginia-based holding company with headquarters in Norfolk, owns a major freight railroad, Norfolk Southern Railway Company, which operates approximately 21,800 miles of road in 22 states, the District of Columbia and the province of Ontario.

SELLING IT AT THE MER CONVENTION, FRAZER, PA

One of the highlights of any convention is the opportunity to spend money on hobby items. How about a chance to make some for once? In addition to the Sunday Train Show, the convention will include the Company Store, a silent auction, and a live auction.

Clubs, historical societies, NMRA Regions and Divisions, and similar organizations may place items in the Company Store on consignment for sale. In some cases, individuals may also place items in the Company Store for sale. Other things being equal, these items should be new, and in quantities greater than one. Posted prices will include Pennsylvania sales

tax. Sales fee (which goes to the Region) is 10%. If you or your organization have any questions, contact Roger L. Cason (1125 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE, 302-478-2550).

In most cases, however, the best outlet for individuals will be the silent auction or the live auction. Here, items can be new or used. As the seller, you may bring as many items as you wish to the silent auction. And you may state a minimum price you'd be willing to accept. For information on either auction, contact Win Gross (121 Biddle Road, Paoli, PA, 610-644-0164).

Keystone Junction '01
Mid Eastern Region, NMRA Spring Convention
March 29, 30, 31 & April 1, 2001 Frazer, PA



Names as you wish to have them appear on your badges:

Address Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ NMRA# _____ MER # _____
E-Mail: _____

	Amount	Total Cost
Full Registration	@ \$35.00	_____
Non-NMRA Member Fee	@ \$10.00	_____
Spouse	@ \$15.00	_____
Children (under 12)	@ \$ 5.00	_____
151 Taste-of Philly Buffet (Adult)	@ \$20.00	_____
152 Taste-of Philly Buffet (Child)	@ \$10.00	_____
153 Optional Box Lunch	@ \$ 5.00	_____
201 DCC Clinic	@ \$10.00	_____
301 Septa's Frazer Shops	@ \$15.00	_____
302 Amtrak 30 th Street Station	@ \$10.00	_____
303 NH&I Fan Trip (Adult)	@ \$25.00	_____
304 NH&I Fan Trip (Child)	@ \$15.00	_____
401 Lukens Steel	@ \$25.00	_____
402 PECO's Eddystone Station	@ \$15.00	_____
501 Convention Car (Single)	@ \$15.00	_____
502 Convention Car (3 Pack)	@ \$40.00	_____
503 Additional Convention Pin	@ \$ 5.00	_____
504 Convention Shirt	@ \$10.00	_____ S M L XL XXL
601 Operations Call Board (Fri-EVE)	@ \$18.00	_____
603 Operations Call Board (Sat-AM)	@ \$18.00	_____
604 Operations Call Board (Sat-PM)	@ \$18.00	_____
701 Longwood Gardens (Adult)	@ \$20.00	_____
702 Longwood Gardens (Child)	@ \$10.00	_____
703 QVC Studio	@ \$15.00	_____
704 Brandywine River Museum (Adult)	@ \$10.00	_____
705 Brandywine River Museum (Child)	@ \$ 7.50	_____
706 New Hope (Adult)	@ \$15.00	_____ (No Train Ride)
707 New Hope (Child)	@ \$10.00	_____ (No Train Ride)
Total FEES Enclosed \$		_____

Make Checks payable to: **Keystone Junction '01 • PO Box 447 • Swedesboro, NJ 08085**
For convention information call 856-467-3385 or e-mail keystonejunction@mindspring.com

P. J. Mattson Registrar

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 cashier'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 March 15, 2001. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing of your refund. DO NOT mail a registration after March 15, 2001; register at the door. DO NOT staple your check to your registration form. Call (856)-467-3385 for a recording of current changes and updates. All activities are subject to change, substitution, addition or cancellation.

Sheraton Great Valley Hotel 707 Lancaster Pike Frazer PA 19355 610-524-5500
\$85.00 Single/Double + Tax Room Types: King Bed, 2 Double Beds, Smoking/Non Smoking
Please contact the Hotel to make reservations. Mention Mid-Eastern Region NMRA

Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award

What is it? The Division will sponsor an award to be given to a first-time modeler entering an NMRA sponsored model contest at a Mid-Eastern regional convention. This award will be called The Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award. To encourage all NMRA modelers but especially Philadelphia Division modelers to participate in model contests. To grit their teeth and boldly move to show others that one's modeling skills should not lie dormant but instead be displayed for others to judge, learn from, and admire.

An example of similar Regional award: Sunrise Trail Division, NER – New Modeler Award – given to the highest score by a first time entrant in an NMRA National or any Regional Model Contest.

Who can participate? Any current NMRA, MER, and Philadelphia Division member.

How will the Award be administered? The model must be entered in an NMRA sponsored model contest at an MER regional convention. A modeler who has never before entered an NMRA sponsored model contest either at the national or regional level must enter the model. The model contest must be a judged contest using current NMRA judging guidelines. The new modeler, whose entry receives the highest score regardless of category in the model contest, will win the award.

Division Officials and the Award: If you wish, the Division AP Chair and/or the MER Model Contest Chair, can assist in judging the Award. A Division Officer, or someone designated by the Superintendent, can also assist in administering the paper work for the Award.

The Award: The modeler whose work qualifies for this Award, i.e. the model receiving the highest score among first-time entrants, will be given the Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award. The Award will include: a cash prize presented by the Philadelphia Division; an engraved plaque presented by the Philadelphia Division; as well as a New Modeler Award certificate presented by the MER.

How the Award will be presented: *The Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award* will be presented to the winner at the awards ceremony following the banquet at each MER Convention. The Division Superintendent or a representative that he/she might appoint might give the award to the winner; or the official (usually the MER General Contest Chairman) could give the award whose duties includes handing out awards.

The Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award must be presented to, and approved by, the MER Board of Directors. Eric Dervinis suggested the Division put a two-year time limit on the Award. The BOD seems to like two-year limits on awards. The Award can be renewed.

One day Registration!

Can't make it to the whole convention? We are pleased to announce that we will be making a one-day registration available. This one-day fare is good for Saturday March 31st only, and does not include any

extra fare activities. The cost for the day will \$20.00, and will be available at the registration table on Saturday morning. Saturday extra fare activities can be added on a space available basis.

Keystone Junction staffing (cont.)

Please contact one of the committee members to offer your services. There will also be sign up sheets in these rooms for you to pick times. If each member will only give an hour or two in each of the rooms, it will help to make the load much lighter for all.

We also need van drivers for some of the outside activities. We are renting 15 passenger vans for transportation to the various sites. Maps and any other assistance needed will be given. No special license is needed, however I will need photocopies of your

driver's licenses for insurance purposes (you will be covered by the convention's blanket policy).

As our way of saying thank you, all staff volunteers will be receiving a Keystone Junction '01 hat and T-shirt. These are tastefully done and really look sharp. Plus, you will have the joy of knowing that you have helped to make Keystone Junction '01 a great experience for our guests.

Thank you in advance, and see you at the Junction!

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 Logothetis

(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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P.O. Box 378

Devon, PA 19333

Inside: **Keystone Junction**
 New Modelers Award
 And more!

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

