



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

November 2001  
Volume 8, Number 4

The Philadelphia Division is excited to announce that we will be holding our next meet in a most unusual location, the **Franklin Institute** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In conjunction with the re-opening of the completely refurbished train display, now called "**The Train Factory**", we have been invited to participate in the days activities. Due to the nature of the event, we will be changing our normal schedule of activities, but there will be plenty of things for you to enjoy. Also, please note that the date for the meet has been changed to **November 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Our schedule of events will be as follows. The Institute has made a room available for our use from 12:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. We will open the doors at Noon for registration and bringing in contest models. At 12:30 there will be a short meeting to bring you up to date on Division activities. This will include an up-date on Independence Junction, plus a review of the proposed by-laws update (complete copies of the new by-laws will be available for you to examine). Then, beginning at 1:00 and running approximately one per hour, there will be a series of clinics for you

to enjoy. We are still working on the exact schedule, but confirmed clinics at this time include Sam Parker's excellent clinic on making realistic conifers, and Win Gross's presentation "Here and there on the Pennsy". Win will take us on a slide tour of the mighty Pennsylvania Railroad during the late '50s and the early '60s. These clinics are also open to the general public. If you would like to give a clinic, please contact Tim Palmer or John Nawn as soon as possible. We are particularly interested in clinics that would be geared to the beginning or new modeler.

Throughout the afternoon we will be drawing door prize tickets good for various model railroad products. The tickets will be drawn at a published time, and you must be present to win. These tickets will be given to the general public also. In addition, we will have another of our famous Division Raffles. The division uses funds from these raffles to keep our dues as low as possible. If you have any unneeded model railroad products you would like to donate to the raffle they would be greatly appreciated.

The popular vote contest for this meet will be favorite train. They can be any era and

length, freight, passenger, work, or circus. The choice is yours. This is a great place for us to show the public the quality of work the Philadelphia Division can do.

Admission to the Franklin Institute and all of its displays is free to all NMRA and Philadelphia Division members. Present your membership card at the door for your free admission. Also, parking is free if you park in the museum's lot. Bring your ticket in with you for validation.

The Philadelphia Division would like to extend a special invitation to all NMRA and MER members in the area to join us for this special day. If you have never been to a Division meet this is a great opportunity for you to come meet the officers and members, plus visit the Franklin Institute, one of Philadelphia's premier museums. Included in its displays are an aviation hall, ship building, and a walk through a giant human heart. The refurbished train room, now called "The Train Factory" includes operating model railroads and the B&O 6000 Steam Locomotive. Bring the family for a great day of fun!

As it is each year, this November is National Model Railroad Month. That time of the year when we traditionally encourage our members to make an extra effort to spread the word about this greatest of hobbies. There just seems to be something about this time of year that makes trains more appealing to the general public. What are your plans for this year?

As in years past, I am planning on having a neighborhood open house at the same time as the days I'm open for the hobby shop list. The dates are November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. and the 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. in case you'd like to stop by. Now this may not seem particularly exciting, but I've decided to try something a little different this year.

My model railroad is what would be considered a prototype freelanced model railroad. Everything on the railroad is based on what actually happened on the Susquehanna during 1949. Almost all of the freight cars are of the correct time period. They are of prototypes that actually came on the Susquehanna, and from the proper interchange partners and consigned to actual industries the Susquehanna served. The locomotive fleet is almost all painted in the correct paint scheme with weathering applied to a growing number of them, and the numbers are all correct. The only things that are not correct are the locations of some of the industries (they may have been moved to a different side of the track since they would be in the aisle otherwise or to a different town due to space limitations).

And the list could go on. But you might be saying "so what. If you want to do that, its fine with me", and you would be correct. But what about the seven-year-old girl from the family behind us that comes every year, do you think she even knows what the Susquehanna was? Or that my model comes so close to being just like it? Not in the least. She likes to hear the horns blow and the bell ring and watch the long train go over the bridges and through the tunnel. Not even the adults have a clue as to the level of detail I like to try and include. They just want to watch the trains go and have their children entertained.

So this year, I'm going to step out and try something a little different. Somewhere in the attic we have some of my youngest's child's old toys. There must be some little animals in there. They would certainly add a unique appearance to those Erie and PRR gons. And maybe I'll wrap some small blocks of wood in colorful wrapping paper and load them on those empty flat cars (with appropriate tie downs of course). Maybe I can find a miniature pine tree decorated with Christmas decorations to add to one of the gons (I will have to watch for overhead clearance on that one).

You get the idea. While we may enjoy doing the hobby the way we do, someone else may not understand or appreciate the subtle touches we add to suite our fancy. If we hope to spread the word about this greatest of hobbies, we need to find ways to make it interesting to the casual viewer. And how many of us got our start with the oval around the Christmas tree?

Happy Railroading

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

Editor  
Stephen F. Salotti  
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Collegeville, Pa, 19426  
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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:** March 2002. Due out approx. Mar 10. Deadline: Feb 25.

**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, N.M.R.A."

### Division Personnel:

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(302) 636 0888  
merbusmanager@msn.com  
Dues: \$8.00 per year

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4121 Cromwell Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119  
(615) 892-2946  
Dues: \$45.00 per year

## From the Superintendent

Welcome to Model Railroading Month. This is the month for all that enjoy the hobby to assist those that haven't quite found out what fun it really is. This month, we're going to have the meet in the Franklin Institute. Should be a very interesting time - more information is contained within the Dispatch.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the amended by-laws for your review and comment. A ballot is also attached for you to vote on them. The synopsis of the changes are as follows: the Philadelphia Division will also include the counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex in the State of Delaware (also allowing those members to form their own division if they want); in accordance with National rules, the Subscriber paragraph is deleted. The last of the major changes deals with elections. The current by-laws state that elections are to be held in the odd numbered years. The change states the Nomination Committee will be formed in September, with nominations taken, and elections held the next spring.

The Nomination Committee Chairman for the upcoming elections is Richard Foley. If you

See you at Franklin Institute.

Timothy J Palmer, Superintendent  
Philadelphia Division

would like to assist Mr. Foley with the nominations, please contact him. If you would like to nominate one of the regular members, please send it to Richard.

For those in the Division who traveled to Lancaster to visit Dutch Station 2001, I'm sure you enjoyed yourself. This was the first time I have been able to just sit and listen to the clinics given without being interrupted for something. Refreshing (although I did assist with one or two items).

Again, we ask for any volunteers for Independence Junction 2006, as well as, anyone who would like to present a clinic or two at the Division meets in the spring. If you have any special interests, let us know. If you know of anyone who might like to present, let us know.

The fall colors are spreading throughout the region - now's the time for those autumn pictures, whether they be of railroad themes or family themes. Enjoy!

Happy railroading - both at the 1:1 scale and the scale of your choice.

## Philadelphia Division Membership Application

In accordance with the by-laws of the NMRA, the Philadelphia Division can no longer accept Subscribers, all members must be members of both the National Model Railroad Association and the Mid-Eastern Region to be a member of the Philadelphia Division (see change of by-laws elsewhere in this issue). If you would like to join the NMRA and the Mid-Eastern Region, the Division will be glad to help you. Please fill in the application below and send it to the Clerks address (see pg. 2). This application can also be used to join the Division only, but NMRA and MER numbers must be included.

Name _____	NMRA # _____	Regular	\$45.00	_____
Address _____		Affiliate*	\$23.00	_____
_____	MER # _____	Regular	\$8.00	_____
_____	Phila Div _____	Regular	\$5.00	_____
Primary Scale _____ Layout Y ___ N ___		Total enclosed		_____
Clinics you would like to see _____				

\*Affiliate member receives no NMRA Buletin.

## By-laws Update

The officers of the Philadelphia Division are pleased to present the following proposed up-date of the Division By-laws for your review. There are several items that have been changed in an effort to serve you better. Please take a few moments to read them carefully. A ballot is included for your convenience, but the actual election will take place at the first meet in the spring. The ballot must be signed and returned to the clerk to be counted. The most important changes are the use of a 7-person board of trustees to run the organization. This will help to get more people involved.

### **PHILADELPHIA DIVISION, MER, NMRA**

#### Proposed by-law Update

#### Article I Name, Purpose, and Boundaries

Section 1. The organization shall be known as the Philadelphia Division, Mid Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association and is established under the provisions of the Constitution of the Mid Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association.

Section 2. The purpose of the Division is to foster fellowship between model railroaders and to further the objectives of the Mid Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association as set forth in the Constitution of that Association.

Section 3. The territory encompassed by the Division shall be designated as the counties of Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the three counties in the State of Delaware, Kent, Sussex, and New Castle.

#### Article II Membership and Dues

Section 1. Only members of the National Model Railroad Association and the Mid Eastern Region shall be eligible for Regular Membership in the Division. Any person so designated by the Board of Trustees shall be an Honorary Life Member. There are no geographic restrictions on membership.

Section 2. Membership in the Division shall include the following privileges: The right to hold office (if residing within the Division bounds), to vote at all special or annual meetings, to receive Division publications, and to attend all public Division meetings.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees will determine division dues. Dues may be changed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Trustees at any two meetings six months apart.

Section 4. If those members of the Philadelphia Division who reside in Delaware wish to incorporate their own division, they will be able to maintain their membership in the Philadelphia Division as well.

#### Article III Membership meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Division shall be held in May or June of each year unless otherwise designated by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. A Special Meeting shall be any meeting called for the purpose of considering any particular or special business. Only such special or particular business may be considered at a special meeting. Upon their own motion or upon petition by 10 % of the members of the Division, the Board of Trustees may call such meetings.

Section 3. Notice of the annual meeting or Special Meetings shall be mailed by the clerk (or printed in the Division publication) at least 30 days prior to the last date of such meeting.

Section 4. At the Annual Meeting or any Special Meeting, twenty (20) members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the meetings in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of this Division or the Region.

## Article IV Elections and Nominations

Section 1: BOARD OF TRUSTEES. The activities of the corporation shall be managed by a board, which shall consist of seven (7) trustees (the "board").

Section 2: The terms and qualifications of the trustees shall be as follows:

- (a) Each trustee shall be a member in good standing of this corporation.
- (b) Each trustee shall be a member in good standing of the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA as well as the National Model Railroad Association.
- (c) Each trustee shall currently reside within the State of Pennsylvania or Delaware in one of the following counties: PA: Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, DE: Sussex, New Castle, or Kent.
- (d) Each trustee shall serve for a term of two (2) years. In odd numbered years four (4) trustees shall be elected for two-year terms. In even numbered years, three (3) trustees shall be elected to two (2) year terms. Thus the entire board of seven (7) trustees shall be elected within any two-year period.

Section 3: The method of changing the authorized number of Trustees is by amendment to these bylaws as provided herein.

Section 4. The three (3) officers of the Division are the Superintendent (President), Assistant Superintendent (Vice President), and the Chief Clerk (Secretary). The Board will elect these officers from the Board of Trustees. Elections will be held every other even year during the Board meeting following the Annual meeting, and each will serve for a two-year term. They will begin to serve at the conclusion of the board meeting. At the discretion of the BOT, they may split the Chief Clerk position into the Chief Clerk and Paymaster (Treasurer).

Section 5. No two offices may be held by the same person, except on a temporary basis. In the event of the resignation of an officer, the Superintendent will appoint a successor to fill the un-expired term. The Assistant Superintendent will succeed the Superintendent in case of resignation or incapacitation.

Section 6. No officer may hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms.

Section 7. The president will name a nominating committee in September of each odd numbered year. The nominating chair will solicit candidates and explain the requirements of the position. The slate of candidates will be presented to the members at the annual meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor at that meeting, given that the nominee is there to approve.

Section 8. The nominating chair will conduct a vote by written ballot once the nominations have been closed. The nominating chair will count the ballots before the close the meeting and announce the winners. After the elections, the ballots will be available for inspection by any current member.

## Article V Officers

General: All officers must be at least twenty-one years of age and eligible for bonding, if required by the Board of Trustees.

Section 1. The Superintendent shall perform the normal duties of a President and shall preside at all meetings. He/she appoints or changes chairs of all committees as needed. The Superintendent will provide an annual report to the members at each annual meeting and submits a copy to the Regional Vice President. He/she will attend Region meetings when requested.

Section 2. The Assistant Superintendent shall be aide and assistant to the Superintendent and shall assume the duties of the office of the Superintendent during absence or upon request.

Section 3. The Chief Clerk will keep minutes at all official meetings, shall sign or countersign official papers, and perform the normal duties of a secretary. The clerk will keep a current membership roster and supply copies on request to the officers or other members. The clerk and one other officer for the collection of dues will set up a bank account.

Section 4. A treasurer will handle all financial matters instead of the Chief Clerk.

Article VI Committees

Section 1. The Superintendent will appoint an editor for the official publication of the Division. This publication will carry notice of all special or annual meetings and shall constitute official notice to the members.

Section 2. The Superintendent will appoint an Achievement Program Chair to further objectives of the NMRA Achievement Program.

Section 3. The Superintendent will also appoint the Promotion Chair. The goal of that Chair is membership retention and growth.

Section 4. The Superintendent can appoint other committees to carry out the normal operations of the division. The committee chairs will be responsible to name the members of their committees.

Section 5. The Superintendent or committee chairs will endeavor to present educational and informative regular meetings. They shall seek ways to cooperate with and aid other model railroad, historical and rail fan organizations in the area.

Article VI Dissolution

Section 1. If the Board of Trustees decides to dissolve the division, they will pay outstanding bills, and then return the remaining funds along with the division charter to the Mid-Eastern Region treasurer.

Article VII Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws may be made at the Annual meeting, a special meeting, or by mail ballot, provided that any proposed amendment has been mailed to all members at least 30 days before said meeting.

Section 2. Voting may be by proxy; however, the chief clerk must receive these at least 10 days before the meeting.

Section 3. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of any amendment.

Article VI Initial Election

Section 1. During the first election under the new by-laws, the members shall elect all seven (7) trustees. Of these, the three (3) with the fewest votes will serve for a period of one (1) year, and the four (4) with the most votes shall serve for two years.

Section 2. This section shall be removed from the by-laws after the initial board of trustees has been elected.

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## Official Ballot

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia Division Number \_\_\_\_\_

Accept \_\_\_\_\_ Reject \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to the Clerk or bring to the next Philadelphia Division meet. All ballots must be received by April 1, 2002

Mail to:

Stephen F Salotti, Clerk  
46 Meadow Rd  
Collegeville, PA 19426

## Dutch Station New Modeler Award

By Ray Bilodeau – MER General Contest Chairman

The Philadelphia Division sponsored New Modeler Award was presented for the second time this year at the MER fall convention in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, October 6, 2001

The winner was Marc Sisk from Annondale, Virginia. His entry depicting a prototypical scene in mid 20th century Montana was entitled *Pipestone Pass*. It was an N scale 30" by 12' module.

Given to a first time entrant in a judged model contest at an MER sponsored regional convention, Marc's module posted the highest point score among first time entrants. He was awarded a cash prize of \$25.00, a plaque from the Philadelphia Division, and a New Modeler certificate from the MER.

I would encourage all our Division modelers who have **never** entered a regional contest, please do so. The paperwork is easy, the time and effort you put into doing your model should be enjoyable. And the reward for your work is definitely worth it. Build something and bring it to the MER spring convention in Richmond, VA.

If you have any questions about contests at either the regional or national level please contact me. My phone number is (302) 636-0888, and on the web at [RayBilodeauJr@aol.com](mailto:RayBilodeauJr@aol.com).

## Rockhill trolley Museum Fire Reported by Matt Nawn

Rockhill Trolley Museum had a small fire recently. Very fortunately, it was discovered quickly and put out before it did much damage. Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin #315 caught fire from some sparks in the overhead wire which dropped on some rotted wood and smoldered until it burst into flames. The car was in the

barn when it burst into flames. Damage was confined to a very small area in one end (the train door at the end was destroyed), but that was it. Two of the volunteers went to the hospital for smoke inhalation, but both are fine. I'm glad it wasn't worse. I'd hate to see the hard work of the volunteers go up in smoke.

## Norfolk Southern does its part

### Norfolk Southern Offers New York Recovery Assistance

NORFOLK, VA - Norfolk Southern Railway Company today advised New York State and city officials that it is offering free transportation service for removing non-hazardous construction and demolition debris from the World Trade Center site.

Norfolk Southern has arranged to provide up to 1,000 heavy-duty rail cars that will be staged in the North Jersey Shared Assets Area. Norfolk Southern will transport the debris to disposal sites on its rail system.

"Like all Americans, we are deeply saddened by Tuesday's tragic events," said David R. Goode, chairman, president and chief executive officer. "This is a small but tangible contribution that we can make to support the recovery effort."

## BANGOR & AROOSTOOK PURCHASE

A consortium that includes Rail World Inc., the Wheeling Corporation, and former Union Pacific president Jerry Davis has purchased the assets of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad System. The deal needs final approval by the Surface Transportation Board. This STB's review is expected to take 60 days to complete.

### **Important Announcement**

In conjunction with the Division meet at the Franklin Institute, the Institute would like to have division members volunteer to help in the train room. Anyone interested, please contact Jamie Collier, Director of Volunteer Programs at 215-448-1163 or [jcollier@fi.edu](mailto:jcollier@fi.edu) or stop at the door.