



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

January 2003
Volume 10, Number 1

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be conducting a joint meet with the New Jersey Division on Saturday, January 18th at the Haddon Township High School in Westmont New Jersey. The meet will also include layout tours on Friday evening, January 17th. The school is located on Cuthbert Boulevard. See the map and directions elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatcher.

The Friday night layout tours are open from 7:00 until 10:00 P. M., and a map is included elsewhere in this issue. Please drive carefully, and if the weather looks doubtful, don't take any chances.

On Saturday morning, the meet will get started at 9:00 A.M. Please be sure to register when you arrive. The Philadelphia Division will have a table to register at and pick up your door prize ticket.

There will be two clinics for this meet, Bob Hubbard's "Model Railroad Chemistry 101" and George Duve's "Stress, Strains, and Trains". Bob's presentation is a result of legitimate questions posed to him by members regarding adhesives: i.e. what fastens X to Y best and why not

use Z? This same logic applies to thinners and paints. Let's face it, we use some oddball, and sometimes dangerous, materials. Bob will help set it all straight.

George Duve, like Bob is an engineer. The rest of us have only a general idea why the railroads did what they did and how they did it. George will acquaint us with the physical laws that govern getting a railroad from here to there and how that applies to their equipment as well.

The popular vote contest for this meet will be Lineside structures. Bring out your favorite structure for all to see. Check with the registration desk about entering the contest.

There will be coffee, tea, and hot chocolate available at no charge. Doughnuts will be available for a small fee. There is also a 7-11 nearby on Cuthbert Street.

There will be door prizes as usual, and another of the New Jersey Divisions popular raffles.

As an added bonus, there will be a large N-Trak layout set up at the meet for you to view. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions and see an operational N scale modular layout.

Starting at 1:00 P.M., there will be more local layouts for you to visit. A map will be available at the meet. These owners are inviting you into their homes, so be sure to be courteous. The layouts will be open until 4:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted on the maps.

The officers of the Division encourage all members to join us for these two days of model railroading fun.

Independence Junction Update!

While you may not have heard any specific news lately, behind the scenes plans are moving forward for this exciting event. While 2006 seems a long way off, think how quickly the last year has gone! How long ago was it we were worried about Y2K? Seems like only yesterday.

You knew there was a catch to that lead in. Now it's time for you to start getting involved. In this issue there is a volunteer survey form for you to fill out. Please fill them out and send them to the editor as soon as possible. We need you start thinking about what you can do to make this event a success.

I received this from member Pat Mctigue, and thought you might enjoy it. I know the holidays are over, but here it is anyway.

Twas the night before Christmas...

Twass the night before Christmas, and all through my pike, not a steamer was stirring, not even a Mike. My yard tracks invitingly empty and bare, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The diesels were nestled all snug in their sheds, While visions of DCC danced in their heads. While I, in my blue-and-white engineer's cap, had just settled down for a long winter's nap, when down in the train room, there rose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the basement I flew like an ace, tripped over the cat and fell flat on my face.

I stifled a curse meant for Chessie (the cat), and I muttered to no one, "I meant to do that." When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but an HO-scale sleigh and eight Preiser reindeer, with an engineer driving, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than GG-1's, onward they came, and he blew a steam whistle and called them by name: "On Athearn! On Lionel, Kato and Walthers! On Kadec and Micro-Trains, Atlas and others! To the top of the mountains of Hydrocal plaster, Now dash away, dash away, dash away faster!"

As dry leaves that behind a new Genesis fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, so in through the window the coursers they flew with the sleigh full of trains, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, on my roundhouse, I saw

on the roof the prints in the dust of each HO-scale hoof. As I drew a deep breath, and was turning around, from beneath the benchwork, St. Nick came with a bound.

He was dressed like an engineer from head to foot, and his clothes had that fine smell of ashes and soot; a bundle of trains he had flung on his back, and he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes - just like marker lights! Dimples, how merry! His cheeks like a Warbonnet, nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, and his beard was so white, it would please Phoebe Snow.

He puffed on a pipe as he refilled its bowl, and the smoke, it smelled just like bituminous coal. He had a broad face and a belly (I found) that shook like a tank car with wheels out-of-round.

He was chubby and plump, and I wanted to shout, "Yes! The man's got a route the UP can't buy out!" A wink of his eye as he passed near the door soon gave me to know I'd have freight cars galore.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work. He filled all my yard tracks; then turned with a jerk, and leaving an airbrush he'd found on eBay, and giving a nod, he returned to his sleigh.

He pumped up the brakes, blew two blasts on his whistle, and away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!
KEEP 'EM ROLLING! GOOD-NIGHT!"

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Editor

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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: April 2003. Due out approx. April 15th. Deadline: March 15th.

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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Dues: \$8.00 per year

National Model Railroad Association

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

Independence Junction 2006 Volunteer Survey Form

Independence Junction 2006 needs a large group of volunteers to perform a host of functions in preparation for, and during, the convention. Please indicate on the form below what you can bring to this effort. Thanks for your willingness to participate to make IJ2006 the best ever.

Administrative Functions

- Registration/Information _____
- Publications _____
- Door Prizes _____
- Publicity _____

Outside Activities

- Layout Tour Guides _____
- Prototype Tour Guides _____
- Railfan Tour Guides _____
- Tour Departure Mgr. _____

Inside Activities

- Clinics Staff _____
- Non-Rail Activities _____
- Auction Staff _____

To assist us in assigning volunteers, please indicate your previous convention (National, Division, Region) experience, as well as professional skills (computer literacy, word processing, administrative, etc).

Friday, January 17th, 2003
Map for Friday Night Layouts
7:00 - 10:00 PM

#1 Tom Brown

#6 Mert Gardner

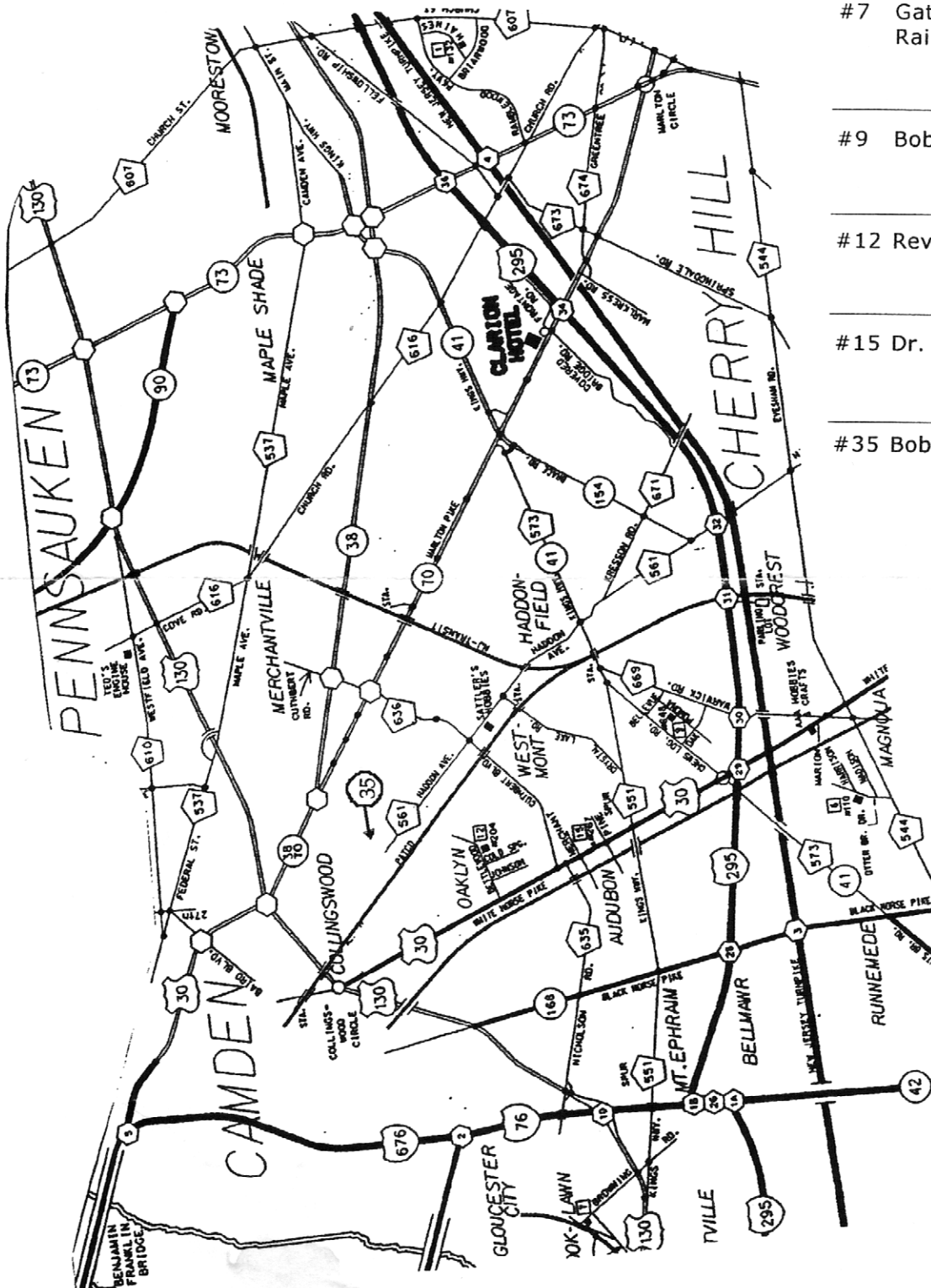
#7 Gateway Model
Railroad Club

#9 Bob Hubbard

#12 Rev. Dick Kitz

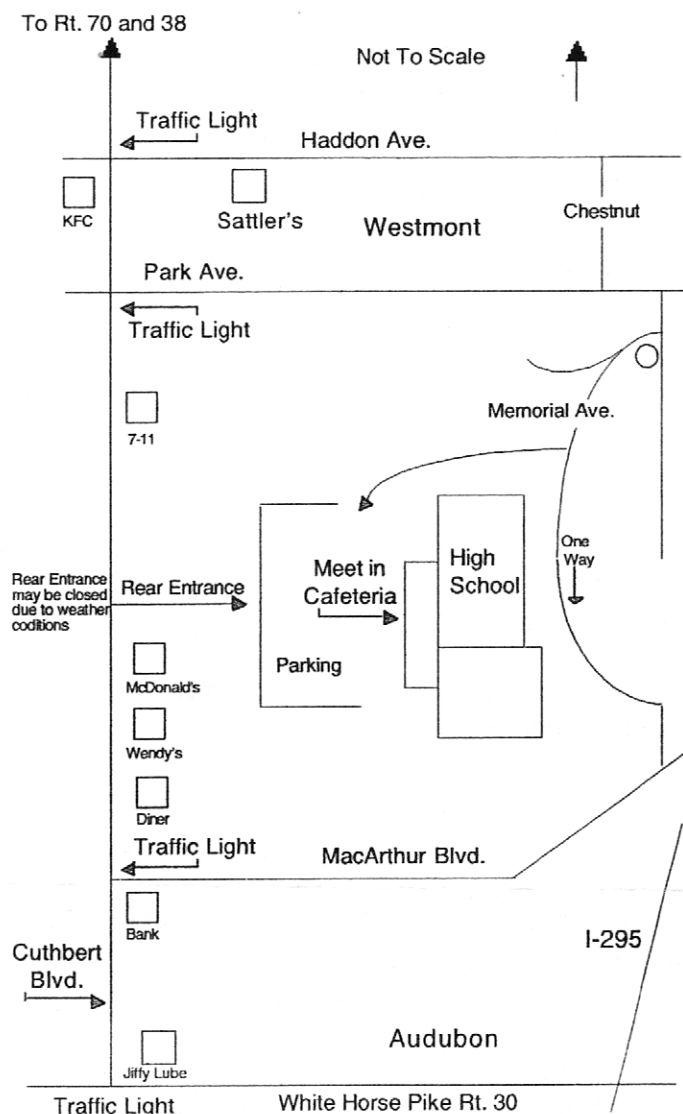
#15 Dr. Charles Patti

#35 Bob Price



November Meet Map

From the Ben Franklin Bridge, proceed East on Route 30. At Route 130, follow the signs that lead to route 70 East and continue on Route 70 East. Just prior to the Hilton Hotel on the right in Cherry Hill is the exit for Cuthbert Boulevard. Take the first ramp, a sign should say Oaklyn. In about 2 miles, at the forth traffic light, is Park Avenue. Turn left onto Park Avenue. Continue on Park until you come to the school. The meet is in the Cafeteria. Travel time from the Ben Franklin Bridge is about 15 minutes.

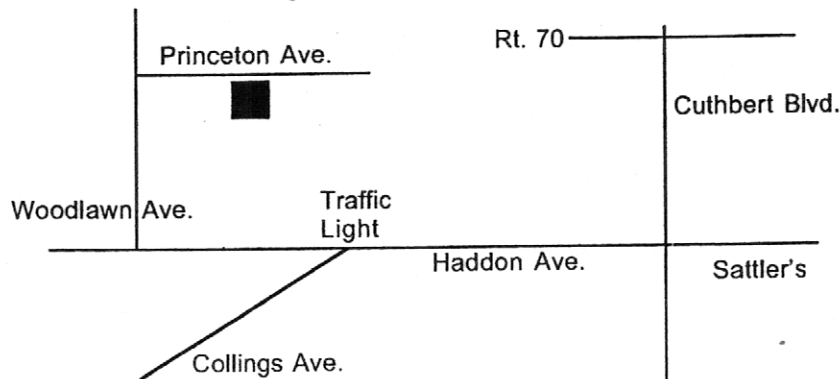


Schedules

See a 50' by 60' HO & Hon3 Scale view of '50s railroading in the Northeastern United States. Many museum quality buildings and trains will be on display and operating. Located in Fort Washington, PA and open the following dates: January 4th, 5th, 18th and 19th from 12-4 PM, and January 17th from 7-9 PM. GATSME Lines open house in the basement of the New Horizons Montessori School, Prospect and Madison Avenues, 12 Noon to 4 PM. Admission by donation.

Map and Directions To Bob Price Layout Open Friday Night 7pm-10pm

From Sattlers, take Haddon Avenue west into Collingswood. Go past light at Collings Avenue. Turn right at Woodlawn Avenue. Take Woodlawn a few blocks, then turn right onto Princeton Avenue. House is #666 Princeton Avenue, Collingswood.



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Inside: Division Meet

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

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