



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

November 2003  
Volume 10, Number 4

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that it will be conducting its next meeting on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Downingtown Borough Hall, located at 4 West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. A map is located on page 7 of this issue of the Dispatcher. The doors will open at 9:30 AM, with the meeting starting at approximately 10:00 AM.

The first clinic for the day will be a presentation on creating realistic scenery. Steve Salotti will give a demonstration on some of the techniques he uses on his New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad. The clinic will include live demonstrations plus slides of some in progress areas followed by shots of the completed scene. This will be followed by a question and answer period.

At press time the rest of the program had not been finalized, but there are some interesting topics being considered for you to enjoy.

Our contest for this meet will be Refrigerated cars. These can be any type of freight car used to carry items that must be kept

cold, ice or mechanical, or any other old or modern technique being used on the prototype. So grab your favorite cold one...uh... car and bring it along for this popular vote contest. There will be a cash prize given.

One important announcement about this location is the Borough does not allow any kind of food or beverage service in the meeting room. If you have any food or beverages you are planning to have, you may enjoy them outside the building, but they may not be brought inside. We regret this inconvenience.

The meeting will conclude at approximately 12:00 Noon, and will be followed in the afternoon with layout tours, beginning at 1:00 PM. There are several interesting layouts in the area, and we are pleased to have made arrangements with some of the best for your enjoyment. We hope to see all of you in Downingtown on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Important Announcement

The dates for the GATSMO open house were listed incorrectly in the last issue. Please note the corrected dates on page 7.



## Independence Junction Update!

As this newsletter is going to press there is not much in the way of news to report. But by the time you read this, the committee will have met and many ideas will have been discussed and plans begun to make them happen. We need you to be involved! (Please see editorial on page 2) There are many jobs that need to be filled. Will you help to plan a prototype tour? How about working on layout tours? Want to work the auction? Any great ideas for clinics we can use? The list could go on and on, but you get the idea. Included in this issue of The Dispatcher is a volunteer survey form. Please fill this out as quickly as possible, and either bring it to the next meet or mail it to the editor at the address listed on page 2. Remember, this will only be a success if we all work together.

Normally at this time of year I would be asking questions about your participation in National Model Railroad Month. And, while I am going to ask it, there is a more important question that needs to be discussed first.

As you are or at least should be well aware by now, the Philadelphia Division will be hosting the 2006 National Model Railroad Association annual convention in Philadelphia. While plans are indeed underway, and there are frequently asked questions like "how is the convention coming", the convention committee needs you to be involved. In any endeavor of this magnitude the number of jobs that need to be filled can be staggering. And somehow, the few responses we have received to the volunteer surveys that have been a regular part of The Dispatcher for the last year or so just aren't going to be enough. And yes, I have included the form again for you to fill out. But we need all members of the Division to give serious thought to what you can do.

We have an immediate need for people to fill some very important jobs. A couple of these are:

**Fan Trip manager.** There are a lot of great railroads in the Philadelphia area that would make good tours. The problem is no one will come forward to say "I'll do it". What we need is an individual to take charge and develop a small group to make contact with these railroads and work out the details. Much of the work can at least be started with only a simple phone call. That may need to be followed up with a visit to the railroad, but hey, what could be wrong with that?

The committee has some good ideas, but we need you to help make it happen.

**Prototype Tour Manager:** Scattered throughout this area are a number of interesting industries that would make good candidates for modeling. There are also rail facilities that would make great sources for inspiration. While we may have visited them in the past, others from out of the area haven't. We need someone to start organizing some of these tours. We often have individuals who can help with a specific tour and we will pass that information along, but we need someone to bring them all together into one cohesive package. It may sound like a daunting task, but it is not as hard as you may think.

The list could go on and on, but I think you understand what I'm asking. What part are you going to take in Independence Junction 2006? What will people think of when they look back at the last time the convention was in Philadelphia, will it be "the best convention in years"? The choice is up to us.

Now for the other question: What are you doing this year to promote National Model Railroad Month? After taking a year off I am opening my railroad again this year, hope you'll stop by. The dates are November 8<sup>th</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. For a map and directions stop at one of the many local hobby shops and pick up a copy of the open house list.

Happy Railroading,

Steve Salotti

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### Editor

Stephen F. Salotti  
46 Meadow Road  
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 2004. Due out approx. March '04. Deadline: February 20th.

**Membership:** \$7.00 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:

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**Mid-Eastern Region, N.M.R.A.**  
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Wilmington DE 19804-3044  
(302) 636 0888  
merbusmanager@msn.com  
Dues: \$8.00 per year

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

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## From the Superintendent

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Divisionnaires!

We are now well into the Model Railroading season with our successful September meet. Some of us helped to continue the process by attending the MER Convention in Reston, Virginia. The Convention was enjoyable; I saw a number of old friends, always one of the nice things about these events, as is the opportunity to visit new and different model railroads. There were a number of really nice, nay, impressive railroads. The season usually means different things to different people. For me, the season is simply an extension of my year round interest and activity. This includes all aspects of the hobby: building models, doing construction on the railroad, operating the railroad, etc. About the only thing I am not overly keen on is wiring-I have managed to keep the electrical aspects relatively

simple, assisted by the use of DCC, which has made wiring far less complicated (I think I have heard those Masters of DCC, Win Gross and Val Pistilli comment to the effect that you only need two wires).

On the more mundane, but no less important subject of Division needs; we need to build up a list of clinics for future meets. These can also be used at other joint meets, regional meets, or even for our upcoming RPM meet in March. And we need some new ones. I'm sure you don't want to see the same clinics re-hashed, good though they might be. Pretty much any model railroad/railroad subject is ok.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Division Meet in Downingtown on November 15<sup>th</sup>,  
Jim

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## Important Renewal Information!

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As announced in the last issue of the Dispatcher, we are beginning a new system for membership. All current members have had their memberships extended to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year it expires, and all future membership cycles will be based on a calendar year. We will not be sending renewal notices, but will include a membership form in the last two issues of the Dispatcher for the current year. Please mail the form to the Clerk, or bring it to any division meet to renew. We hope this system will simplify the process for both the membership and the clerk. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any board member. Please also note that dues have been increased to \$7.00 per year as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003. It is also important to note that due to the cost of printing and postage, the Division can no longer afford carry those members who do not renew promptly. Your name will be moved to an inactive list.

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### Membership Renewal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_ MER #: \_\_\_\_\_ Div. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$7.00 per year. Please mail to the Clerk or bring to the next meeting.

# 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).

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## Philadelphia Division to host RPM meet!

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The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Railroad Prototype Modelers meet at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel in Malvern Pennsylvania on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday March 28, 2004. The tentative schedule is listed below for you to begin planning your participation in this exciting event. We are pleased to have a number of top notch clinicians scheduled, and are working to add more on a regular basis.

### Thursday March 25, 2004

7:30 – 11:00 PM Layout tours for early arrivals.

Maps will be upon request with your registration confirmation. Please be sure to the space provided on your registration.

### Friday, March 26

10:00 AM      Registration opens  
Vendor Room open for setup  
1:00 PM      Clinics begin  
Vendor room opens  
Model display room open  
10:00 PM      Vendors & model display room closed

### Saturday, March 27

8:30 AM      Registration opens  
9:00 AM      Clinics begin  
Vendor & model display rooms open  
5:30–7:00 PM Buffet dinner (see description below)  
7:00–10:00 PM Clinics, vendors & model display rooms open  
10:00 PM      Vendor & model display room tear down  
ALL models must be picked up

### Sunday, March 28

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM    Home layout tours open  
Maps will be provided at registration  
**You must wear your RPM Valley Forge name badge to visit these layouts**

### Vendors Information

Tables are 2 ft. X 5 ft. (please note size)

Table covers are not provided

\$10.00 per table, please indicate the number desired on registration form

Vendor must pay registration fee.

### Dinner

The Saturday evening dinner will be buffet style, with NO speeches or awards, and a cash bar will be available. The cost for the buffet is \$25.00.

### Hotel: Desmond Great Valley

One Liberty Boulevard	Hotel Phone: 610-296-9800
Malvern, PA 19355	Reservations: 1-800-575-1776
	Rate: \$89.00 (you MUST mention RPrototype Modelers to receive this rate)

### Registration cost is \$35.00

Make check payable to: Philadelphia Division

Please indicate RPM on the memo line of your check

Mail to: Paul Backenstose  
103 W. Uwchlan Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge**  
**March 26-28, 2004**

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \$35

Vendors tables # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

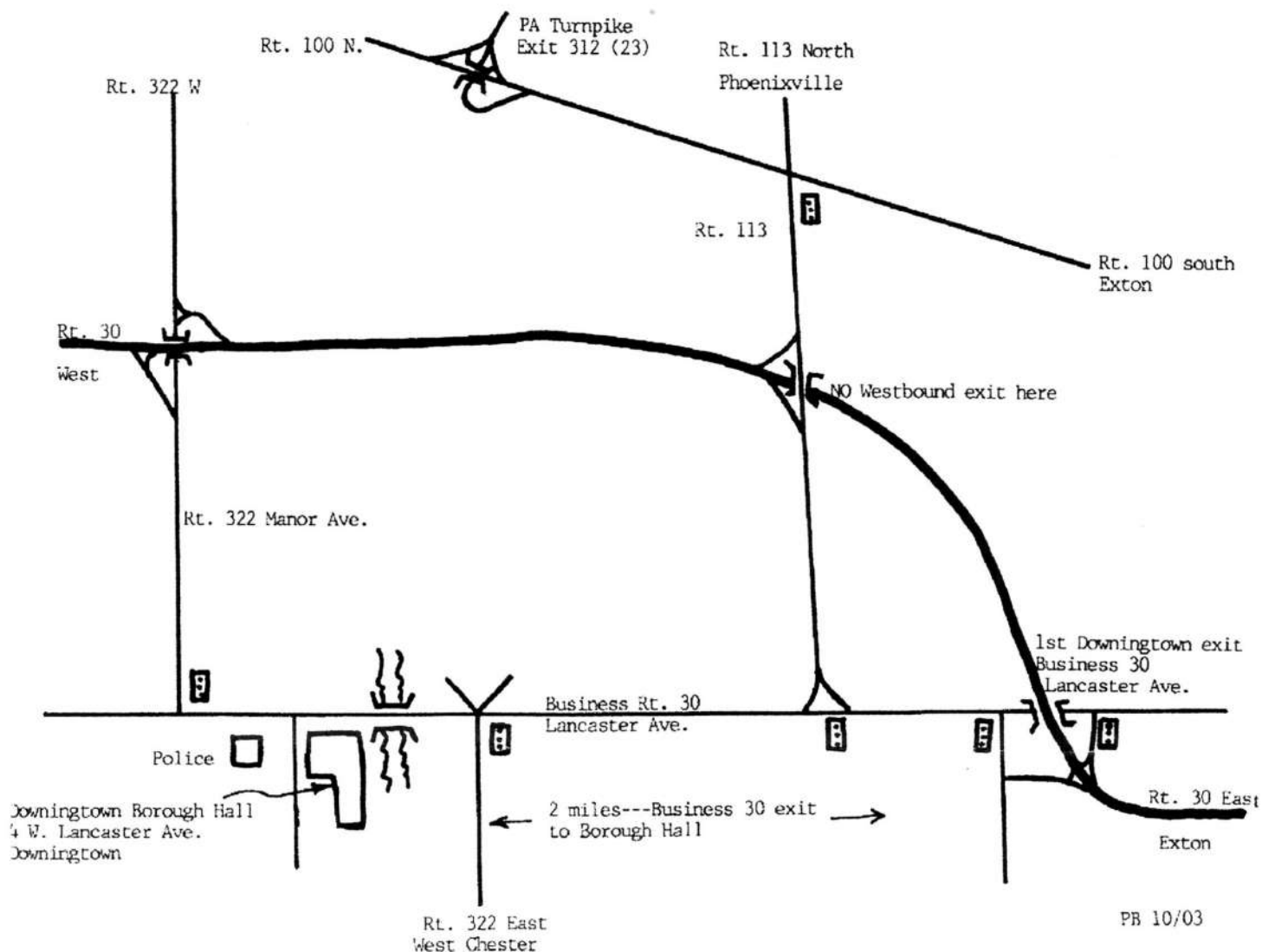
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ please send maps for the THURSDAY EVENING layouts

office use, do not fill in

rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ reg. no. \_\_\_\_\_ ck. # \_\_\_\_\_ conf. sent \_\_\_\_\_

## November Meet Directions



## Schedules

The Philadelphia division is pleased to offer the following activity dates for your planning. If you have an item you would like included, please contact the editor. They will be included on a first come, first served space available basis.

**Philadelphia Division Meet**, March '04 Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, March 26 – 28. Desmond Great Valley Hotel

**New Jersey Division Meet**. November 15<sup>th</sup> – Trenton. Switlick Recreation Center, Kim Valley Road and Fisher Place. Meeting 9 – 12, Layout tours 1 – 4.

**GATSME**. 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: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>. GATSME Lines

open house in the basement of the New Horizons Montessori School, Prospect and Madison Avenues, 12 Noon to 4 PM on weekends and 7 to 9 PM on Fridays. Admission by donation. For info: Ed Wilson or Paul Bryant at 215-646-22033 on Thursday evenings. GATSME is a non profit organization.

**Pennsylvania, Elkins Park**, Cheltenham Model Railroad Club. Open house, November 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, and January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. 8000 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA. 12 noon to 4 P.M. Admission donations accepted. For more information; Bruce Binder, 7430 Bingham Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-722-4542 or 215-635-9747.

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Collegeville, PA 19426

Inside: Division Meet  
RPM meet  
Independence Junction

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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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