



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

January 2005
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The next meeting of the Philadelphia Division is scheduled for Saturday, January 29th, at the GATSME model railroad club. The club is located at the corner of Prospect & Madison Avenues in Fort Washington, PA. Doors will open at 8:30 for registration. The meeting will begin at 9:30. Directions to GATSME are included on page 1 of this issue of The Dispatcher.

Our first clinic will be presented by Val Pistilli on handlaying track. Val will discuss the various techniques used on the clubs extensive layout.

The second clinic will be a presentation by Chris O'Brien entitled "Operations on the GATSME layout". This large club layout is host to regularly scheduled operation, and Chris will give us insight into how it is carried out.

We will break for lunch at around noon. There are a number of local places for you to grab a quick bite to eat, and then return to the club.

Then, during the afternoon, we are invited to operate the GATSME layout during one of their open houses. You are free to spend as much time as you like learning about operation with a

hands on time at the throttle. The layout is large enough to absorb a big group of people, and the open house will last for several hours so you will be able to get a large amount of time. Maybe you could begin working on your Chief Dispatcher certificate!

There will be no contest at this meeting, but look forward to this being resumed at our next meet in April.

Schedules

February 5 & 6: Timonium Train Show

Presented by Great Scale Model Train Shows, Timonium, MD

March 19: New Jersey Division Meet.

Hamilton Township, New Jersey. Switlick Recreational Center building. Clinics, contest, layout tours.

April 9th: Philadelphia Division Meet.

Montgomery Baptist Church, Souderton, PA. Note: this is a new meet location! Contest, clinics, layout tours. Watch for more details in the next Dispatcher

May 14th: New Jersey Division Meet.

Tuckahoe area. Clinics, contest on Saturday. Layout tours TBD.

June 11th: Philadelphia Division Meet.

Newtown Square, PA. Hosted by the StARR club at St Albans Church. Clinics, contest, afternoon operations.

June 4th: New Jersey Division Meet.

Garden Layout tour. Locations throughout southern New Jersey. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Raindate Sunday, June 5th.

Directions to GATSME

From the Fort Washington exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike turn right onto Pennsylvania Avenue. Follow Pennsylvania Avenue to the junction with Summit Avenue. Turn right onto Summit Avenue and follow it to the intersection with Prospect Avenue. Turn right onto Prospect Avenue and follow it to the stop sign. The club will be in the large building on the right corner.



Once again the Christmas and New Years Holidays have come and gone. The older I get the faster this seems to happen. If only I could find a way to slow down the relentless march of time. Just think of how much more modeling time we'd all have! Oh well, it just ain't gona happen. I hope you all found some nice surprises under the Christmas tree.

Santa was pretty good to me this year. A couple of neat Sylvan Models car kits, some scenery material, and good old cash, which quickly became a DT-300 throttle to replace one of my aging DT-100s.

Unfortunately, my nice vacation turned into a remodeling project. Our youngest son got engaged after the Thanksgiving Holiday, and knowing that family would be coming in from different areas, and they would inevitably be visiting our home, lit a fire that certain areas of the house needed attention. So much for those railroad projects I had hoped to accomplish (though I did find a little time mixed in there to make some progress).

Speaking of progress, there is much being done in preparation for Independence Junction 2006. That date seemed like such a long way off, but now it is just a little over a year away. A large group of people have been working tirelessly over the last year. At this point there are close to 30 different layout tours planned. There are approximately 12 fan trips in the works. In addition, over 16 different prototype tours are in the works.

There is one area that is in need of immediate attention. We need someone to come forward to help with running the non-rail programs. Due to family and

time constraints our current chair has expressed a need to step down. This individual, or even a small group of individuals, would be responsible to develop a set of approximately 5 - 6 tours such as Longwood Gardens, QVC, and other Philadelphia area attractions. I will take care of the transportation needs. They would also be responsible to set up a number of activities for spouses and children through out the week. There are a large number of local attractions in the downtown area, plus some of the activities could be very simple like setting up a pool and pizza party in the hotel (I think they have a pool), or any other thoughts you might come up with. This could be a great project for a husband and wife tea. The management team will give you all the support you could need. So please talk to your spouse or decide to do it yourself and let me know as soon as possible!

Also, please take the time to fill out the enclosed survey and send it in as soon as possible. We need your input to make the Philadelphia Division one of the premier divisions of the NMRA.

Haoppy Railroading,

Steve



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Editor

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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: March 2005. Due out approx. March 20. Deadline: Feb. 28th.

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."

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(610) 648 0089

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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

From the Superintendent

Philadelphia Divisionnaires:

A Happy New Year to all. I would have said a Happy Model Railroading New Year to All, but that sounds kind of kitsch-y.

In any event, I'd have to say that 2004 was a great year for the hobby, the Division and me personally.

We had a great RPM meet in March; a number of us attended the National in Seattle (I think the only mistake Dick Foley and I made there was not springing for a ride in the B-17 – but we did find some great blackberries along the adjacent BNSF/UP tracks) and the well-run MER convention in Hagerstown in November. Division member Rich Newmiller ran away with most of the contest prizes there.

As usual, I am asking for volunteers and for ideas and offers for clinics. In that regard, Rich Newmiller has worked up a questionnaire, included in this issue. The purpose is to try to develop a better feel of where the interests of the membership lie, and to take advantage of that knowledge. Historically, polls of this nature get a low response, but we are hoping to do better than the norm, I think I may have heard that Win Gross may try to better this, with at least two responses! Anyway, we want your responses.

While on the subject of volunteering, your Division Board has been in office for some time now, and we are searching the skies, as it were, for signs of interest on the part of some of you currently nonparticipating members in becoming members. Unfortunately, the sky has been cloudy of late.

We are / will be looking for volunteers for IJ06 (my shorthand for the National in July 2006); to volunteer, contact Eric Dervinis at the Website, or if you aren't into the computer thing, call me or one of the other board members.

We have several meets lined up for this year, starting with 29 Jan at GATSME. The April and June meets will be kind of a double header: In April Rich Newmiller will do a presentation on how to do stonework / brickwork, as he did on his contest winner, followed by a hands on clinic in June at StARR.

As is my wont, I will say something about operations: the afternoon of the June meet will include operating on the StARR. This is a fun, low pressure operation and will give the folks who have not been or are not into operations a chance, nay, and an opportunity to give it a try. I will make this pitch again later.

Jim

Important Renewal Information!

It is once again time for all division members to check their membership date. If your label shows 2004 or earlier, you need to renew your membership by the end of 2004 in order to continue receiving The Philadelphia Dispatcher newsletter. 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 all members will renew early in order to continue receiving their newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any board member. 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.

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.

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Inside: Division Meet
Survey Says!

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

8436 Perry Hwy, Rt. 19

Pgh., PA 15237-5228

10% discount

(412)-364-2913

Herb's Hobbies and Crafts

200 W. State St. in Doylestown

\$25 of free merchandise for every \$250 spent

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

60 S. 6th St. in Reading

10% discount with \$10 min purchase

Nicholas Smith Trains

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Bromall

10% discount (excludes O & G items)

Jenkintown Train & Hobby

Greenwood Ave & Leedom St

Jenkintown, PA 19046

5% in addition to discounted prices

Lin's Junction

128 South Line St.

Lansdale, PA 194446

5% in addition to already discounted prices

Mitchell's Family Store

2119 Concord Pike (202) in Wilmington DE

10% discount on train department items

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler

10-12% off retail

Membership Survey – Philadelphia Division, Winter 2005

Please check all items that are of interest to you and mail this form to: **Rich Newmiller**
3276 Pebblewood Lane
Dresher, PA. 19025

Item	Presentation clinic	Hands-on clinic	Do you want to present	Comments
Design (track plan, access, lighting, etc.)				
Bench work & track installation				
Hand laying track & turnouts				
Wiring (cab control & DCC)				
Scenery (shell methods, ground cover, roads, water)				
Scenery (rocks, retaining walls, trees)				
Bridges and trestles				
Structure - kits				
Structures – super detailing				
Structures – scratch building				
Cars – kits				
Cars – super detailing				
Cars – Scratchbuilding				
Locomotives – kits				
Locomotives – super detailing				
Locomotives – scratch building				
Locomotive tune-up & decoder installation				
Backdrop painting				
Photography				
Operations				
Researching the prototype				

Would you like to volunteer for a position on the Division Board? _____
 What would you like to see at the meets? _____

Name: _____
 Scale: _____
 Time period (era) _____

Ph#: _____
 E-mail: _____