



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

June 2006  
Volume 13, Number 3

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The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be holding our next meeting on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Saint Albans Church in Newtown Square, PA. The church is located on Chapel Road just north of route 3. For directions and a map please see page 7 of this issue. The doors will open at 9:00 AM, with the meet activities starting at 10:00.

There will be two interesting clinics presented at this meet. The first will be by Frank Martin. Frank will be talking about the operating system he has created for use on the STARR clubs extensive modular layout. This layout will be set up for your enjoyment during the meet, and Frank's clinic will give you a clear understanding of how a modular layout can be operated in prototypical fashion.

The second clinic will be presented by Dave Palmer, and will give a glimpse into the subject of layout design using CadRail, the design software produced by Sandia Software. Dave will be giving an interactive presentation where we will take the space available in the STARR club room and create a basic design format that could be used to design a complete layout, including such things as bench

work, track, and scenery. Layout design was one of the requested subjects on our last membership survey, so come out and enjoy this unique presentation. This editor has used CadRail himself, and while the learning curve is a little steep, once the basics are mastered you can create outstanding designs that can be used to create that lifetime layout so many of us dream about.

Our second clinic will be presented by Frank Martin, who will describe the operating system he has created for the StARR Model Railroad fellowship located at St Albans church. This large modular layout is designed with operation in mind, and Frank will give us the details the club uses to bring it to life.

Our contest for this meet will be "reefers". No, we are not encouraging you to participate in illegal activities. We are referring to "Refrigerated Railroad Cars". These can be kit or scratch built, modern, transition, or old time. Bring your best work to enter in this popular vote contest.

After the meet there will be a number of local railroads open for you to visit. As always, please show proper respect for the host's railroad so we can be welcome to come back again in the future.

Dealer tables will also be available for a small donation. If you would like a table please contact the clerk at the address located on page 2 of this issue.

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## **Important request!**

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Recently one of the new NMRA members sent in a check for a subscription to the Dispatcher. Unfortunately I failed to record the individuals name and address in the Division database before I deposited the check. If you sent the Division a check in March and your mailing label does not have an expiration date on it, please contact the editor so I can correctly record your information. I would like to see a copy of the canceled check for verification. I'm sorry for the inconvenience.

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## **IJ '06 Update**

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By the time you read this Independence Junction will be just over 1 month away. Else where in this issue is a volunteer form for you to fill out. I promise this will be the last time you'll see one of these. But we do still need you to get involved. One area we need is tour guides, especially for the non-rail tours.

Somehow, after over 5 years of effort, it's kind of hard to believe that Independence Junction '06 is now less than 2 months away. And don't take me wrong, but I can't wait until it's over! This has been a monumental journey for me, and one that I don't think I want to repeat. Meeting after meeting, and deadline after deadline, and then still more to do when that is all done. That sounds like work to me!

And to be sure, it has been work, a lot of it. But still, in all it has been a very rewarding journey. As the committee has plowed through the tasks there have been more than a few lighter moments, especially when our "happy clerk" gets going! And there have been a few tense moments when difficult decisions have to be made. But when it's all said and done, I know it will be a very rewarding experience to walk through the Pennsylvania Convention Center and see people from across the country and around the world make the journey to Philadelphia to be a part of this great convention.

And you know that at this flowery moment I need to ask you, are you going to be involved in making this a worthwhile experience for our guests? There are still many jobs to do. There are still a few tours without guides, especially in the non-rail area. There are envelopes that will need stuffing, help desks to man, registration help, and just "gofers". Whatever your skills are, I'm sure we have a place for you to serve.

And beyond the convention, as the Philadelphia Division moves forward we want you to get involved in making the division one of the best in the MER or

even in the NMRA. We have a great foundation of leadership in place, and tremendous momentum from the convention and a very successful RPM meet this past March. In addition, we are expanding our territory by inviting the New Castle County Delaware to become a part of the division. Things are moving in a positive direction, and the board would like to see that growth continue.

Oh yeah, seems last issue I promised I'd give you an update on progress in Paterson City on my Susquehanna based layout. Well, I'm sorry, I have to renege on my promise. Seems as I write this I'm at work almost 4 hours after I should have gone home. But you see there's a meeting tonight with one group, a meeting tomorrow night with the committee, and a meeting with the bus company the day after that. And on top of that I've got to get this issue of the Dispatcher done in time to get it to the printer. And since none of you has volunteered to go over the house and build the layout for me (and I probably wouldn't take the help anyway), looks like you'll have to comeback in September, or maybe in November, depending on how much convention lag I have. This is an exciting hobby, isn't it?

Happy Railroading,

Steve



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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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:** September 2006. Due out approx. August 30. Deadline: August 15th.

**Subscription:** \$7.00 per year. Address all subscription applications, renewals, address changes, etc. to the Clerk. If the date in the upper-right corner of your mailing label is highlighted, your subscription 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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(615) 892-2946  
Dues: \$45.00 per year,

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## From the Super's Desk

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### The State of the Division.

I thought it would be a good idea to review where the Division stands as of now. The biggest item on the agenda for this year is the Independence Junction 2006 convention. The plan is coming together nicely, and it's shaping up to be a great affair. If you're retired, and haven't signed up to be a volunteer, please think about it, we need your help at this point.

In the last week of March, the Division sponsored the Second bi-annual Valley Forge Railroad Prototype Modelers meet. The first was a great success, and this was also. There were 194 attendees, thirty five clinicians, more than three hundred models on display, and a large number of vendors. The Division would like to thank Paul Backenstose, Jim Dalberg and Ken McCorry for the fine job they did. If you're into prototype modeling, you should attend the next one.

The Division is in the middle of an exciting car project. We've received three hundred Accurail reefers lettered for the Hercules Powder Company. They were in reality used as an insulated boxcar to haul ammonium nitrate and sodium nitrate. They are a transition era car, and will be available at the June

Division meet, with a special price for Division members. These sold very well at the RPM Valley Forge meet in March, so don't delay, they won't be around for long.

Lastly, the Division has asked the MER board to approve the incorporation of New Castle County, Delaware into the boundaries of the Philadelphia Division. This will give the modelers in this county a chance to have a "home" division, since they are not part of any division. We presently hold our November meet in New Castle County, and this will be a chance to grow the MNRA membership in the area, and have more modelers attend our meets. The board gave its approval based on not receiving any arguments against the proposal from the New Castle County NMRA members.

Yes, I have started working on the layout. The hardest part was cleaning up. I'm working on several buildings, and getting ready to install a number of tortoise switch machines in an industrial switching area and the staging yard. Stay tuned!

Dick Foley

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### Important Subscription Information!

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As we draw closer to Independence Junction '06, the excitement and the workload grow greater each day. During the past year the Philadelphia Division has sent the Dispatcher to almost all of those involved in the convention as a means to communicate information. This will be the last issue before the convention, and if you have enjoyed receiving the Dispatcher, you are invited to continue to receive it by entering your name and address on the subscription form below and sending it along with a check for \$7.00 to the Editors address listed on page 2. The Philadelphia Division is excited about the number of people that are involved in this effort, and look forward to an exciting time for the hobby in the Philadelphia area (that is, of course, after we all collapse from exhaustion).

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#### New Subscription /Renewal Form

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Subscription: \$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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Return Form To:  
**IJ Volunteer**  
**818 George Street**  
**Norristown, PA 19401**

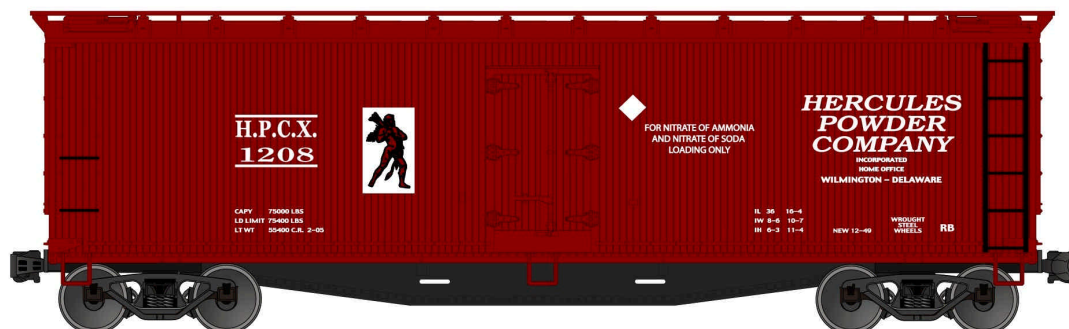
**Do It Today!**

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## Philadelphia Division Car Project!

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The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce a special project. The Hercules Powder company had a series of 10 former reefers (numbers 1201 – 1210) used to handle Nitrate of Ammonia and Nitrate of Soda. We have developed the car shown below based on the information we have been able to uncover. These cars are being made for us by Accurail, and were available for the first time at RPM Valley Forge. The cars are an oxide red color, with the Hercules emblem on a yellow background. Accurail is making decals available for a slight fee to change the number of the cars (a coupon will be included in the kit for you to send for the additional numbers). These cars are only \$15.00 each and \$14.00 each for two or more. This is an extremely limited run, and we expect to sell out quickly, so don't delay. They will be available at the June meet, and then any that are left will be put in the convention store at Independence Junction '06, so if you want any of these cars you will need to act quickly.



## The National Model Railroad Convention & Train Show is coming to Philadelphia in July!

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is holding its annual convention this July from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Convention Center in Philadelphia. The two main events are the week long convention for NMRA members (you can join – see below) and the weekend train show (open to the public) from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The Convention** – modelers from around the world will be coming to Philadelphia to attend and participated in the convention activities. The highlights of these activities include:

- Over 200 educational clinics open to all registrants on almost every aspect of the hobby such as track planning, scenery, control systems, engines, rolling stock, super detailing, backdrops, painting, weathering, resin casting, animation, railroad history, prototype operations, etc.
- Make & take modeling workshops
- 109 home and club layouts will be available for touring
- 18 commercial Railroad/SEPTA/Amtrak tours
- 6 railroad related industrial/museum tours
- Bid on thousands of items at the huge silent auction
- Partake or just view superb models in the contest room
- Participate in or observe operating model railroads

A six month membership in the NMRA is just \$9.95 and registration fees range from \$50 for one day to \$150 for the entire week (train show fees included, tour fees extra).

**The Train Show** – retailers from around the world will be available to answer questions and sell their railroading products for both modelers and prototype fans. The highlights include:

- Over 115 registered vendors
- 180,000 sq.ft. of display area including 46,000 sq.ft. of operating layouts.
- Hands-on demonstrations
- See the latest products in all scales
- Children's play area including the amazing LEGO Fantasy Land

Train show fees start at just \$10 for a single day.

For more details go to the Convention web site ([www.ij2006.org](http://www.ij2006.org)) or visit the NMRA web site ([www.nmra.com](http://www.nmra.com)).

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## Making Low-Carb Junk Piles

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Once again I've found an interesting little piece from the Weathering group I belong to, and thought I'd pass it along. There is no promise of weight loss associated with this article, and please make sure you don't raid your pantry, or your spouse may decide to help you lose a little weight.

There are many of ways to model junk piles but here is one method that helps you lose weight. That's because the main component is something you would otherwise eat...pasta.

Before I go any further, I owe thanks to Dennis Ivinson of Garden Grove, California, for much of this innovative scenery method. While visiting Dennis' outstanding Southern Pacific N-scale layout, I noticed some realistic industrial junk piles not produced by any manufacturer known to me. The piles turned out to be Dennis' creations. Using what Dennis shared with me I created my own piles and developed a few additional techniques.

Here is what you will need:

- Various pasta shapes
- Re-sealable plastic bag
- Small wooden block
- Paper towel
- Paper cup
- Ice cream stick
- Wax paper
- ACC adhesive
- Eye protection
- Rust colored and primer spray paints
- Assorted model paint in jars
- Paint brushes
- Rust colored chalks
- Assorted scale scrap, shapes and parts
- India ink and alcohol solution

First, obtain small quantities of various pasta shapes. Look for the smaller pasta shapes similar to rods, pipes, strips, sheets and bent metal.

Put some of each pasta shape in a plastic bag and crush them with a small wooden block into small, irregular fragments. In HO scale the maximum size for the resulting fragments should be about half an inch or less. Open the bag and pour the contents onto a paper towel. Gently shake the paper towel to separate the dust and very small pasta crumbs from the useable fragments. Discard the dust and crumbs. Put about half a cup of the pasta fragments in a sturdy PAPER cup. Do not use a plastic cup. Working in a well-ventilated area, carefully open a small tube (1/10 oz.) of ACC adhesive and pour it in the cup. Wood glues will soften the pasta and should not be used.

Eye protection is suggested for the mixing process. Mix the pasta and the ACC with an ice cream stick and pour the mixture onto a piece of wax paper. Shape the mix into a free-form pile and let it solidify.

Remove the pile from the wax paper and lightly spray the top and bottom with primer gray paint. After

the paint is dry, lightly spray the pile with a dark rust color but don't try to completely cover the gray primer. I prefer to use Krylon's Satin Nutmeg paint. The satin paint finish gives the pile additional texture and enhances any subsequent dry-brushing.

After the second coat of spray paint is dry, paint just a few of the pieces with some basic dull colors. Using an assortment of rust colored paints (from different paint manufacturers), lightly paint the remaining pasta fragments and lightly dry brush all the fragments. Feel free to let some of the original spray paint colors show through. The effect you are trying to achieve is a junk pile with a variety of subdued colors and rust shades.

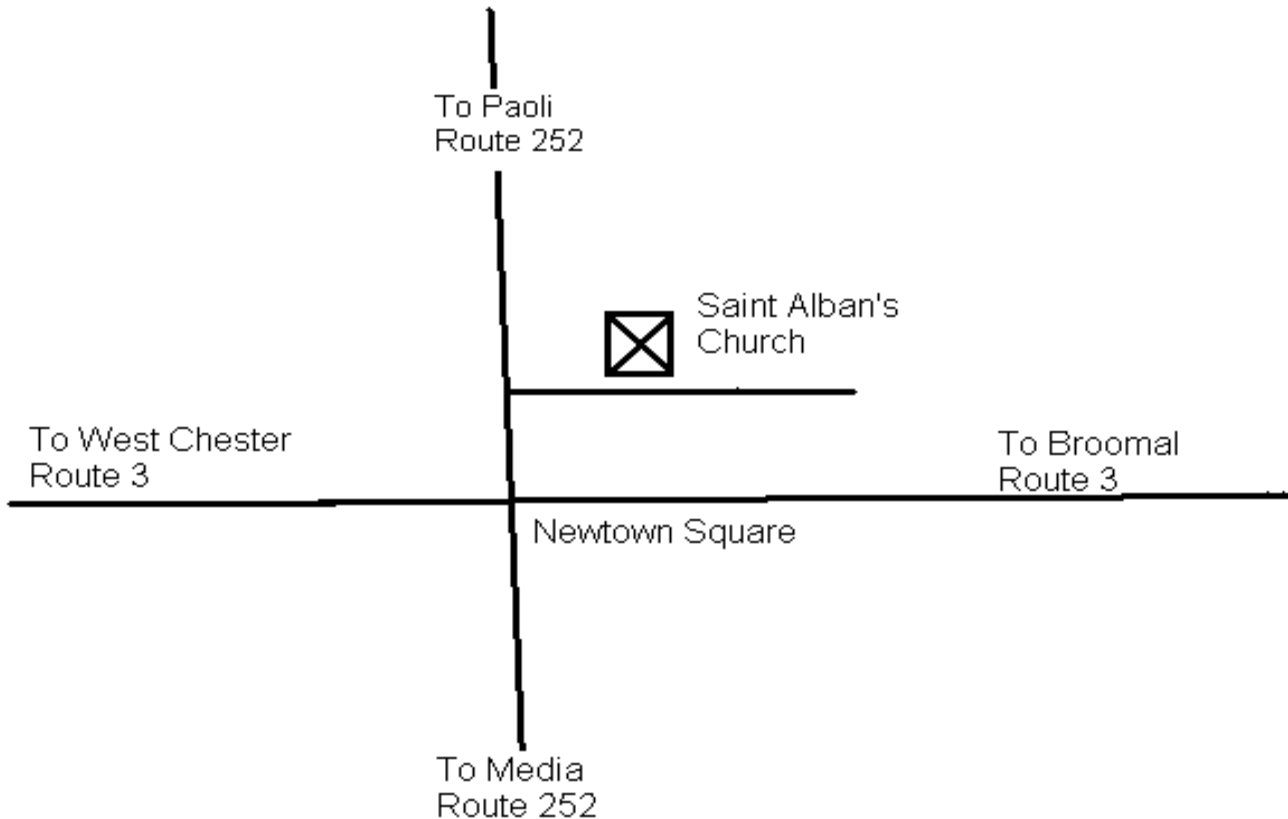
Now, use ACC to attach plastic and metal bits of junk to the pile and use other bits to fill the larger voids in the pile. These should be painted and recognizable shapes such as railroad wheels, I-beams, H-columns, Plastruct rods and tubes, corrugated sheet, pipe and pipe fittings, crushed oil drums and the like. Dry brush these top pieces with an assortment of rust colored paints.

As optional steps, give the entire pile a light wash of an India ink and alcohol solution to bring out details, and then selectively brush the pile with rust colored chalks after the wash has dried.

You also may add newer, unruined junk details to the pile either in the area closest to front where the newest junk would be deposited or randomly all over the top of the pile.

You now have a realistic, one-of-a-kind junk pile and you have saved a few calories to boot! Celebrate your accomplishment with a pizza.

Bob Chaparro



Saint Alban's Church is located on Chapel Road in Newtown Square, PA. It is located just north of Route 3, the West Chester Pike. If coming South on Route 252 turn left at the first light after Goshen Road onto Winding Way (look for Commerce Bank on the corner). Bear to the right at the stop sign and continue up the hill to the traffic circle. Go \_ way around the traffic circle and right onto Chapel Road to just before the end, where you turn right into the church parking lot. From all other directions turn onto route 252 north and turn right onto Chapel Road then left into the parking lot.

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## Schedules

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### **May 20, 2006 –**

#### **Monmouth County Division Meet**

Monmouth Mall, Rt. 35 & Rt. 36, Eatontown, NJ  
Clinics & Meeting: Saturday - 9:00AM to 12:00PM  
Layouts: 1:00PM to 4:00PM  
Contest: Caboose and Cabin Cars

### **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

#### **Philadelphia Division Meet**

Saint Alban's Church Newtown Square PA  
Clinics, contest, layouts. For more information see page 1 of this issue of the Dispatcher

### **July 2-9 2006**

#### **Independence Junction '06**

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA  
Clinics, Layout Tours, Fan Trips, Auction, Contests, the list could go on and on. For more information and to download a registration form go to:  
[www.ij2006.org](http://www.ij2006.org)

### **September 16<sup>th</sup> 2006**

#### **Philadelphia Division meet**

Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene  
3060 Germantown Pike  
Clinics, contest, layout tours

# The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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46 Meadow Road

Collegeville, PA 19426

Inside: Division Meet  
Low Carb Scrap  
Yard  
And More!

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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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

10% 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