

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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



February 2014

www.phillynmra.org

Volume 21, No. 1

Railroad Prototype Modelers – Valley Forge **Reconvenes March 28-30**

The 2014 RPM-Valley Forge meet once again promises to be one of the premier modeling events in the eastern United States. The biennial event will be held this month in the Desmond Great Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Malvern, PA, and features ops sessions, clinics, model displays, vendors, and layout tours. The planning committee has done an outstanding job of organizing and managing this increasingly popular event, and reports a pre-registration number of 137 and growing. Complete listings of clinics, schedules, ops sessions, and a registration packet can be found on the RPM-Valley Forge web page:

www.phillynmra.org/RPMMeet.html or by contacting Paul Backenstose at 610-269-2763

Recently added is a complete schedule, including all clinic times to facilitate attendee advance planning.

Call for Board Nominations

This spring the Philadelphia Division will hold elections for three open positions on the board of directors (BOD). The election will take place at the annual business meeting just prior to the morning clinic session at the June 7, 2014, division meet at St. Alban's Church in Newtown Square, PA.

The division bylaws direct us to elect a total of seven board members for 2-year terms, four positions of which on odd years, and the other three on even years. The board members then elect four officers from among themselves, while the remaining three serve as directors Those members whose positions are not expiring serve as the nominating committee.

BOD meetings are typically held every two months, though on occasion special meetings may be ordered by the superintendent.

If you are interested in running for a position, or know someone who is, please contact one of the members of this year's nominating committee: John Seibert, Charles Butsch, Rob Hinkle, and Howard Kaplan. Contact information can be found in the masthead on page 2.

The board is always looking for new blood to inject fresh ideas. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the division's operations by effecting change at the executive level.

AP Program Moving Right Along

Congratulations to member Bill Fagan who recently was awarded the Golden Spike. Dave Messer and Brian Good have informed *The Dispatcher* that more Golden Spike and Achievement Program certificates are in progress.

Hopper Cars to Be Discounted at RPM

The division will be offering its Kadee HO HTv Reading hoppers to all RPM attendees at the reduced price available previously only to MER members.

Division's Next Project Offering

will be a Reading-style, wood station, laser kit. We hope to have a sample available for display at the RPM.

Spring Meet June 7 at StARR

Following our annual business meeting and elections will be an all-day operations workshop with a morning clinic followed, after lunch, by an afternoon hands-on operating session hosted by the St. Alban's Railroad Club at the St. Alban's Church in Newtown Square, PA.

September Meet Returns to Quakertown

One of our most popular meets was held at the restored Quakertown Train Station back in March of 2012. This year we return with another exciting program.

Division Plans New Website

See page 6 for details.

Form 19



From the Editor...

Last month I wrote about the psychological aspects of progress, or lack thereof in our

modeling projects and environment.

I mentioned my need to de-clutter and make hard decisions on what I no longer need in the railroad area. I called it a "purge" in the hope that I would remove enough clutter to reinvigorate my motiviation to make more and faster layout progress.

The process has continued throughout the winter and still continues as I write this. The results have been surprising.

The obvious task of reorganizing and putting away tools and supplies got the ball rolling, but it was some other, more subtle changes which made more of a difference.

- Removal of the dozen or so mismatched rug remnants scattered around the layout to expose the unified tiled floor.
- Removing many storage boxes from under the layout and pushing those that remained further back from the layout edges
- Leaning white masonite panels up against the remaining stored items to give a more finished look to the below layout areas.
- Painting the layout fascias (some still temporary) a consistent dark color.
- Setting up three tool repository shelves in the layout area and forcing myself to use them. Having to look for tools can rapidly kill motivation!
- Finishing more of the "first impression" scenery, which greets me upon room entry to the railroad area.

The last one has been the most effective as a motivator... a taste of the finished project. I'm now on a roll! See you in Malvern.

Regards, Earl

From the Super...

<u>CHANGE</u> – it's a part of life and it is inevitable. Like many of us, we are

anticipating the change of seasons, especially after this miserable winter. It was too dismal to go out, but at least it gave us a few months to work on our favorite hobby. How much did you accomplish?

As for me, I accomplished much by going backwards. I had just finished the framing of my dream layout and had 99% of the track work complete. I looked up and realized that the three levels filled my entire basement and there wasn't any room for humans. No crew lounge, and no place to sit and enjoy the trains or shoot the breeze. Besides that, I would have to crawl into the nine foot wide blob at Altoona to operate the engine facility. Something went wrong here!

So there it sat, my dream layout – finally. But at what cost? I knew something drastic had to be done, but how could I stop now? I agonized over this for months until I finally got the guts to start over with a new approach.

Demolition is almost complete and I'm working on new ideas with the "new John Armstrong," our very own Earl Paine. So far he has designed a fantastic layout based on a Philly prototype, but it doesn't fit with my equipment. I'm now looking at a PRR-B&O scheme based in Pittsburgh, and also a modified version of my original design; a PRR-Reading scheme. Don't know what it will be, but it is exciting to research other schemes.

I'm at peace with my decision to start over, so I guess the moral of this story is, "don't be afraid of change – embrace it." See you at the RPM.

Joe Bergmaier

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Editor

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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. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

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Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA

Bob Price - Business Manager 666 Princeton Ave. 856-854-8585 Collingswood, NJ 08108 MER-BusMgr@Comcast.net As has become the custom in the past several years, our January meet was held jointly with the New Jersey Division on Saturday the 18th at the Haddon Township High School in Westmont, New Jersey. Following opening greetings by New Jersey Superintendent Bob Clegg, the program got under way.

The first clinic was presented by Mike Rabbitt, the Philadelphia Division's steel afficionado, on the topic of Bessemer Converters. The Bessemer process was the first inexpensive industrial process for the mass-production of steel from molten pig iron prior to the open hearth furnace. The process is named after its inventor, Henry Bessemer, who took out a patent on the process in 1855. The key principle is removal of impurities from the iron by oxidation with air being blown through the molten iron. The oxidation also raises the temperature of the iron mass and keeps it molten. It was a hot, dirty process that claimed the health and lives of many workers. While largely obsolete, the process is still used on a limited basis in the United States today.

After a break, Ramon Rhodes gave the second clinic titled, "Tuscaloosa, Alabama in the 1960s." Those of you who attended last year's January meet will remember his excellent presentation titled, "Santa Fe Operations in the Chicago Area." He had also given this presentation at last year's May joint meet with the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers.



Ramon Rhodes presents his clinic

Ramon spent his summers as a youth with his grandparents in Tuscaloosa. Their house was adjacent to two mainlines, the Southern Railroad and the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio. He spent many hours over those years observing lots of train



Mike McNamara's Free-Mo modules

movements. Through the use of a comprehensive slideshow of photos he described the trains, the motive power and rolling stock, the routes, and other details of railroad operations in the area during the 1960s. He then went on to show photos of the area today as he traced the steps of the past.

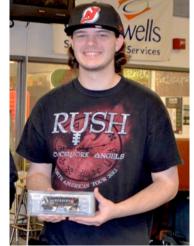
In the 60s, the passenger train that ran down the east coast to Tuscaloosa was the Southern Crescent. Passengers on today's Amtrak Crescent between New York and Philadelphia south to New Orleans pass through Tuscaloosa on what is now Norfolk Southern track. Ramon states that his experiences at his grandparent's home those summers led to his

lifelong interest in prototype trains and model railroading.

During break periods, participants were free to roam the venue, visit vendor tables, partake of coffee and donuts, and engage in railroad conversation and fellowship. Models were on display for the contest held in the category of "passenger trains." Also, New Jersey's Free-Mo Module Chairman, Mike McNamara, had several of his nicely scenicked and detailed HO modules on display for members to view. The Philadelphia Division raffled off one of its Kadee HO HTv Reading hoppers and New Jersey member Chris Howard was the lucky winner. The afternoon session featured several layouts to visit.

Many thanks to Bob Clegg and the New Jersey Division for hosting this meet and providing the refreshments. Thanks to clinicians Mike Rabbitt and Ramon Rhodes; it's always a joy to hear them speak. And finally, thanks to our members who made the trek across the bridge to attend. Our joint meets with the Jersey guys are always entertaining and educational.

The next event on the Philadelphia Division calendar is the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM)–Valley Forge meet held at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel in Malvern,



Chris Howard wins car raffle

PA on March 28, 29, and 30. Following that on June 7 will be an operations-themed meet at the StARR Model Railroad Club in Newtown Square, PA. Hope to see you at both.

In March 2014, the Glenolden Association of Model Railroaders, also known as the GAMR, will celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

The organization was founded in 1939 by six men who frequented the Pop Cornish Glenolden Bicycle Shop at 45 North Chester Pike in Glenolden, Delaware County, a suburb of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. What got their attention was a Gilbert two-rail HO scale train, introduced in 1938, displayed in the shop's window.

Conversation about the display motivated our founding members, Messrs. Harry Brutsche, Henry Dickinson, Sr., Henry Dickinson, Jr., J. Ralph Cornish, Robert Peyre-Ferry, and Harry P. Albrecht, to form a model railroad club. Mr. Albrecht also holds the distinction of being *Model Railroader* magazine's first subscriber.

In those early years the club considered *Model Railroader* magazine as their "workbook and manual" as



A scene from GAMR member Dr. Jim Hart's layout

stated in early meeting documents, and continues to be an important resource to the club members today.

It's been many years since a member has resided in Glenolden but the name remains as well as the goals and objectives documented in the original bylaws and constitution.

The GAMR does not have a club layout. Rather it's an organization of members who have their own layouts, and members who have no layout, but have a genuine interest in model railroading or prototype railroads.

Meetings are rotated on a monthly basis at our member's homes, where a short meeting is conducted, a light dinner served, and a visit to the train room where progress (or lack of it) is shared. It's a great time to share knowledge with and/or learn from our fellow members. Members without layouts may present a video or photo presentation on a railroad related subject or introduce a guest speaker. At our meetings we are never critical or

negative in our comments. We all believe that our friendship is more important than our memberships. Currently we limit our membership to 25 so that hosting a meeting doesn't become unwieldy.



A scene from GAMR member Nick Logothetis's layout

We also hold an annual banquet each September at a local restaurant. This year, while preparing for a move, one of our members realized his railroad library had grown way beyond his expectations (and shelf space) so he donated books to the club to be used as door prizes at the banquet.

The club has always been interested in the world around it and often conducts field trips. Examples include visits in the 1940s to a number of Pennsylvania Railroad facilities and specifically in 1946, a tour of the Pennsylvania RR "ZOO" Tower in Philadelphia.



A scene from GAMR member Alden Smith's layout

Most recently, in October 2013 we visited the Lehigh and Keystone Valley Model RR Museum in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which was the cover story

... continued on next page



A scene from GAMR member Bob Gross's layout



A scene from GAMR member Sam Parker's layout

in Model Railroader in September, 2013.

Most of our modelers participate in the Model Railroad Open House program, which is held annually each November, and showcases train layouts in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. We believe that it's a great way to promote the hobby.

We've also created a GAMR online website that each of our members have access to. The site is a central source of information for our members and also includes our constitution, club and prototype photographs, our membership list, and coming events.

The members of the GAMR intend to continue the goals established 75 years ago by our founding members, promoting the great hobby of model railroading, sharing our fellowship with others, and of course, having fun doing so.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Gross, President
Dave Morrow, Vice President and Club Historian
Peter Scherer, Secretary
Sam Parker, Treasurer

Editor's note: *The Dispatcher* seeks information from other clubs in the division. It is our intent to continue coverage of group modeling which also includes round robin-style groups. We are happy to stop in to photograph layouts for you at your request.

Announcing the 22nd Annual Spring

East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet

May 2, 3, & 4, 2014 in Doylestown, PA

Student Center of Delaware Valley College, 700 Butler Avenue, Doylestown, PA 18901

The East Coast Santa Fe Modelers group announces its annual spring meet. While not directly associated with the NMRA, the group has co-hosted meets with the division in the past. This year's meet will be held May 2, 3, and 4 on the campus of Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA. Guest speakers will include John Signore, Bill Messecar, Jared Harper, and Train Control Systems (TCS) who are sponsoring the meet.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday 3pm to 8pm, Saturday 8am until 8pm, and an operating session on Sunday from 10am until 1pm. Fare: \$25.00 with check made out to ECSFM and mailed to Mark Davis, 960 Placid Court, Arnold, Maryland 21012.

Deadline is April 1st. Registration at the door will be \$35.00.

Visit the website for more information and clinician topics / bios at

http://www.ecsfm.org/

Division Website Committee Report

...by Greg Shindledecker, Chairman

The division board of directors has decided to update our website to facilitate frequent updates and enhance functionality. It is envisioned that the website will be driven by a content management system so that most updates to its content can be done without a knowledge of HTML, the specialized language that developers use to create sites. This will keep costs of maintaining the site low, which is a consideration since our current site has been graciously maintain by Val Pistilli and hosted by Doug Baer for free over the many years it has existed.

Content will be migrated from the existing website to the new website by members of the Philadelphia Division board and website committee. The website committee consists of Val Pistilli, Howard Kaplan, Rob Hinkle, and Greg Shindledecker.

Goals for a new Philly Division website:

- 1. Provide an authoritative source of division information
- 2. Establish the overall credibility of the division
- 3. Provide relevant content to attract new members by scoring high in search engines
- 4. Entice individuals and organizations to support our activities
- 5. Improve communications (both BOD & members and member-to-member)
- 6. Foster connections between division members
- 7. Provide an online company store (future goal)
- 8. Content management system that is user accessible and updatable
- 9. Capable of providing a multimedia experience for the user
- 10. Support for all major browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Internet Explorer

Major areas of functionality and content:

- 1. About the division & activities:
 - Link to the NMRA application
 - Calendar of Events--all model/proto RR related events & meetings in SE PA, Jersey, DE (including historical societies, etc.) with links, if available
 - Special Events
 - RPM-Valley Forge information (eventually including electronic registration)
 - Links to NMRA, MER conventions and RR shows
 - Geographical boundaries on a large, detailed map
 - Prominent link to the latest Dispatcher
 - BSA merit badge
- 2. Division historical information:
 - Brief history of the division
 - Different projects we've run
 - Pictures of division activities
 - Links to photo sites (RailPictures.net, historical societies)
- 3. Division Layouts:
 - Pictures and info for member layouts
 - Links to model RR web sites
- 4. Division Library:
 - Newsletter directory & download
 - Meeting minutes
 - Other downloadable materials including the bylaws, articles and reference material
- 5. Member to member and member to leadership communications:
 - BOD and committee chair listing
 - Operations call board
 - Blog or other communication tool
- 6. Sales
 - Current items the division has for sale. Items listed with descriptions, prices, the address for mailed-in payments and the email address to obtain a PayPal invoice.
 - This will be replaced by a full-featured online payment system at a future date.
- 7. AP Program
 - Links to NMRA information
 - Member progress in program
 - "Honors" page containing MMRs and AP certificate holders
 - Golden Spike information

Welcome to Our New Members

Walter Babb David Goodrick William Hale Samuel Eaton John Jastrzrbski Charles Kochanski

Robert Stern

In a Round Robin Group?

The Dispatcher seeks to extend its coverage of club activities to include round robin groups. This genre would include group activities of any kind.

Let us know about your group's activities.

Quik-Tips: Essential Modeling Tools

... by Dave Messer, MMR

Here are the basic tools I consider essential in modeling:

- 1) Fine tweezers
- 2) Single-edge razor blades (instead of a model knife, which makes a V-shaped cut)
- 3) Model knife (with #17 chisel blade only)
- 4) Small sharpening stone (to keep the above blades sharp)
- 5) Pin vise and set of fine drills
- 6) Razor saw and small miter box
- 7) Scale rule
- 8) Set of small files
- 9) Pair of small needle-nose pliers

Non-essential, but Handy Tools

- 1) Bent paper clip (for applying small amounts of glue open one side and use the rest as a handle)
- 2) Map tack (for starting small drill holes)

Quik-Tips: Shiny Car Wheels

... by Dave Messer, MMR

To get rid of the shiny car wheels present on many RTR cars, rest the car on its side and apply a liberal amount of paint with a brush to the side of the wheels as you turn them. I use Floquil Rust for newly-built cars, Rail Brown for recently shopped cars, and Grimy Black for older cars. Let the car remain on its side until the paint dries to keep it out of the journals, and then do the other side. I often apply a thin coating of Rail Brown to the sides of the couplers (not the coupling face), air and steam hoses, and sometimes the car springs and brake pads at the same time.

Quik-Tips: Passenger Car Diaphrams

... by Dave Messer, MMR

The striking surface of passenger car diaphragms is subject to wear from the adjacent car during operation, which then is subject to rusting if left exposed to the elements. This can be simulated by first painting the face plate with Floquil Silver, followed by streaks of Rail Brown while still wet – the result is quite effective.

Quik-Tips by Dave Messer, MMR is a regular feature of *The Dispatcher*

Planning Ahead – Division Meet & Event 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. It will be included on a first come, first served, space available basis.

March 15, 2014 New Jersey Division Meet Switlik Park Hamilton Township, NJ	March 28–30, 2014 RPM–Valley Forge Meet Desmond Great Valley Hotel Malvern, PA	May 2–4, 2014 East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet Delaware Valley College Doylestown, PA
May 17, 2014 New Jersey Division Meet 90 Kings Highway Middletown, NJ	June 7, 2014 Philadelphia Division Meet St. Albans Church/StARR Club Newtown Square, PA	July 13–19, 2014 NMRA National Convention Cleveland, OH

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4325 Wendy Way Schwenksville, PA 19473

Inside:

- January Joint Meet Recap
- Glenolden Model Railroaders
- RPM Valley Forge Coverage
- Website Committee Report

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.

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

60 S. 6th St. in Reading 10% discount with \$10 min purchase

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler 10-12% off retail

Lin's Junction

128 South Line St. Lansdale, PA 194446 5% in addition to already discounted prices

Nicholas Smith Trains

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Broomall 10% discount (excludes O & G items)

J & D Whistle Stop

106 East Broad Street Quakertown, PA 18951 15% discount on non-sale items

Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

Sponsored by Philadelphia Division, MER, NMRA

March 28-30, 2014 at the

Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center Malvern, PA

Friday Operating Sessions

Clinics

Model Displays

Vendor Rooms

Sunday Home Layout Tour



Information & Updates www.phillynmra.org

or

Paul Backenstose 103 West Uwchlan Ave. Downingtown PA 19335

(Please include an SASE for a reply)

prrpaul@aol.com or (610) 269-2763

Interested in Presenting a Clinic?

Jim Dalberg (610) 648-0089 or jedalberg@aol.com

Vendor Information

Steve Salotti (610) 489-1940 or Salotti.steve@gmail.com



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

Member's Name:	NMRA#:	EXP:
Address:		City:
State/Prov:	Country:	Postal Code:
Date Submitted:	Region:	
list, obtained the necessary sign gional and divisional AP Chairs To qualify for the award the me sional AP Chair or another NM	atures and who does not hold MMR s . AP regulations and definitions apply mber must complete the following che	o has completed the Qualifications Check- tatus. It will be administered by the re- y for scratch building and super detailing. ecklist, obtain the signature of the divi- nal Chair. The divisional Chair will sub- en Spike Award certificate.
QUALIFICATIONS CHEC	KLIST:	
1. Rolling Stock (Motive	Power & Cars):	
Display six units of rolling st	ock either scratch built, craftsman	kits or super-detailed commercial kits.
2. Model Railroad Settin	g (Structures & Scenery)	
Construct five structures eit		scenery. super detailed commercial kits. If a eparate from the scene may be presented
3. Engineering (Civil & E	lectrical)	
ballasted and installed o All installed track must be p (e.g. double track main, s	d (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossove n proper roadbed. Commercial tra roperly wired so that two trains car single track main with sidings, and rical feature such as power operat gs, etc.	ick may be used. In be operated simultaneously block or command control).
Witness:	Print Name:	NMRA #:
Regional AP Chair:		Region:



Photos by Val Pistilli

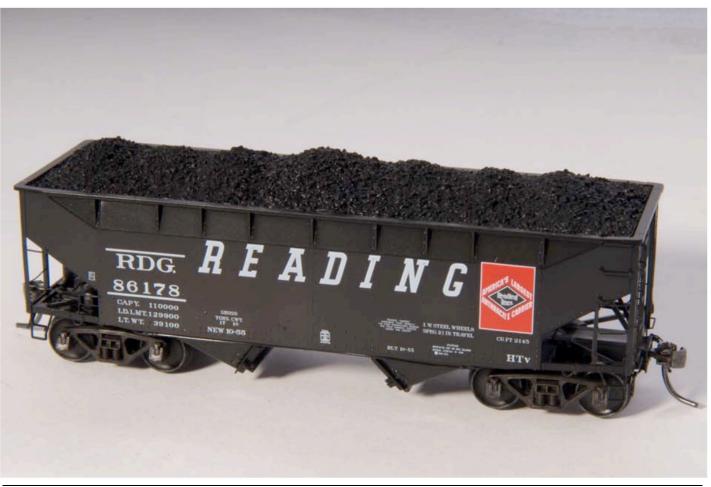
ONLY FROM THE PHILLY DIVISION!

Between 1950 and 1957 the Reading purchased several thousand offset-side, 55-ton, twin hoppers built by long-time supplier Bethlehem Steel. These cars, classified as HTv, became one of the largest single classes of cars on the road's roster. Lasting into the Conrail era, they were used to haul a variety of bulk commodities including anthracite and crushed stone, and with some modifications, sand, slag and ferromanganese ore.

The initial production runs were painted black with the red and white "Anthracite" herald and the road name and other lettering in Railroad Roman. Beginning in 1952 the road name was changed to the large speed lettering, which is the scheme used for the exquisite Kadee model being offered now by the Philadelphia Division in six exclusive road numbers.

Please use the order form in *The Dispatcher* or on our website, <u>www.phillynmra.org</u>.

CAR ORDER FORM ON NEXT PAGE



Philadelphia Division Car Sales Form

Philadelphia Division is extending its discount pricing to all Mid-Eastern Region members. Print this form, fill in the blanks. Remember to enter your NMRA number to get MER member discount.

Pricing Matrix - MER Members (Proof of active membership in the MER required for discount pricing)						
Number of cars: 1 2 3 4 5 6						6
MER Members only	\$30	\$60	\$87	\$116	\$145	\$168
Shipping First car is \$7.50, plus 'add xx'	\$7.50	add \$3.00	add \$6	add \$9	add \$12	add \$15
Total:	\$37.50	\$70.50	\$100.50	\$132.50	\$164.50	\$190.50
Enter your NMRA membership number here:						

NOTE: DISCOUNTED PRICES WILL <u>NOT</u> BE HONORED IF YOU ARE NOT A MER MEMBER. Your

Pricing Matrix - NON-MER Members Number of cars: 2 3 5 1 4 6 Non-MER Members \$105 \$175 \$36 \$72 \$140 \$200 Shipping First car is \$7.50, plus 'add xx' \$7.50 add \$3.00 add \$6 add \$9 add \$12 add \$15 \$43.50 \$82.50 \$118.50 \$156.50 \$194.50 \$222.50 Total:

Number of cars: .	Amount Enclosed: .		
Send cars to			
Name:			
Address:			
Address2:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email:			

Payments are accepted via:

payment will be returned.

1) MONEY ORDER with this form, payable to "Phila Div NMRA".

2) or via PayPal. For PayPal, please email us at <u>phillynmra@gmail.com</u> and we'll send you a payment invoice. Make sure to include the number of cars desired and your NMRA membership number if you are requesting the MER member discount. You do not need a PayPal account to send money.

Mail Form to: Philly Division Cars P.O. Box 117 Drexel Hill, PA 19026

04232013-3

A UNIFORM is a garment that unifies the appearance of a group of people who share common interests or purpose. Within the realm of model/prototype railroading, social organizations such as clubs, historical societies, and now even NMRA divisions typically offer some kind of uniform for their members in an effort to promote their mission and activities, and to instill pride in their members. In addition, many events such as conventions, including our own RPM, provide shirts or hats for their staff.

With that in mind, the Philadelphia Division is now offering its own uniform to its members, the Port Authority "Silk Touch" polo shirt, a high quality, 50/50 cotton/polyester knit, in black, with the division logo on the left chest, and if desired, a single name embroidered on the right.

With regard to its composition, some balk at polyester, but the advantages are that enables the shirts to be very lightweight and imparts a silky feel making them very comfortable. In addition, it virtually eliminates shrinking and wrinkling.

The color black was chosen to be railroad neutral (although WM guys might gladly dispute that) and because it contrasts well with our logo. And, of course, black is slimming—it makes our division members look fit and trim. (And isn't that consistent with the make believe world of our hobby?)

Also, don't let the price fool you. This is one of the most popular shirts chosen by organizations for their members and staff—it is not junk. However, the idea was to keep the price low in order to enable as many members as possible to purchase one. This is not a fundraising project; members pay the actual cost.

The division logo is very graphic intensive which made it difficult and expensive to directly embroider onto the shirts. In addition, most embroidered items have minimum quantity requirements which would have resulted in considerable waiting periods to accumulate enough orders. Doing the logo as a patch has enabled us to reproduce the detail while saving money by purchasing blank shirts and having the patches sewn on as needed. And any quantity (even a single shirt) can be purchased at any time for the same low price. Sample shirts for sizing are brought to every meet, and there are always a few new ones without embroidered names available for immediate purchase. We hope that all members will take advantage of this opportunity and display their division pride by wearing this handsome shirt.

DIVISION SHIRT ORDER FORM

The shirt is the Port Authority Silk Touch polo, a black, cotton/polyester knit with the division logo on the

meets or anytime by mail. Multiple orders for non-iden	E 3
Name:	Phone:
Address:	Email:
City, State, Zip:	
Circle Shirt Size: S M L XL @ \$15 2X @ \$1	7 3X @ \$19 Quantity:
First Name added? No Yes @ \$3 ea. Name as you'd	like it to appear:
Check one: Shipped @ \$5 + \$2 each additional	Pick up at next/future meet
Total: \$ Make check or i	money order payable to: PHILA DIV NMRA
Signature:	Date:
Mail to: Philly Division Shirts, P. O. Box 117, Drexel Hi	ill, PA 19026
Info/Ouestions: 610-626-4506 hakaplan@rcn.com	

PLEASE USE ORDER FORMS IN THE DISPATCHER OR ON THE DIVISION WEBSITE: www.phillynmra.org

RPM-Valley Forge Ops Sessions Information Current as of March 3rd Please check the website for most recent information: www.phillynmra.org/RPMMeet.html

OPERATING SESSIONS

We are planning several operating sessions prior to the start of the Meet on Friday afternoon.

At previous RPM-VF Meets we were able to host op sessions at the GATSME Club. Unfortunately the Club "lost its lease" and has been dismantled. Steve Salotti will partly fill the gap by hosting two sessions.

Sessions: We will have five operating sessions, one on Thursday evening, and four on Friday morning, as follows.

Thursday Evening: Steve Salotti's NYS&W: 12 slots

Friday Morning:

Paul Backenstose's WM: 8 slots Bill Blackburn's PRR: 12 slots Jim Dalberg's DL&W: 14 slots Steve Salotti's NYS&W: 12 slots

Descriptions:

Paul Backenstose's Western Maryland.

Paul models the WM Ry in 1955 from Hagerstown to Connellsville and a portion of the Thomas Sub. NCE DCC; throttles not required. FRS radios are required to communicate with the Dispatcher; please bring.

Bill and Martha Blackburn's Great Valley Division of the PRR.

Mainly a freight hauler with 13 daily passenger, 23 freights and other jobs. The theme of operation is mainly local work with mainline freights making pickups and setouts at Paoli. All steam, all sound equipped. NCE DCC, car cards. The railroad is completely scenicked. FRS radios are required to communicate with the Dispatcher; please bring.

Jim Dalberg's Lackawanna Railroad.

The railroad represents portions of the DL&W in northern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania between Hoboken and Scranton, plus the Erie to Suffern about 1957, with some era-stretching. Passenger terminal operation in Hoboken, Jersey City and Port Morris yards, through freight and passenger service, local and industrial switching, commuters, coal and cement operations, car floats, etc.. Digitrax DCC, Sequence operation, car cards, please bring FRS radios—also throttles welcome.

Steve Salotti's NYS&W.

Set in 1949 in northern New Jersey, the railroad runs between Little Ferry (major yard) and Hainesburg and features passenger and mainline freight service, with many locals serving industries, both along the line and on the waterfront. Digitrax DCC, Sswitchlists, timetable operations (TT&TO).

Procedures:

Signing up----You need to send me an email (jedalberg@aol.com) indicating your choices (1st,2d,3d, and in the case of Salott's NYSW, Thursday evening or Friday morning). First come, first served—in the case of over-subscription, I'll keep a wait-list. In the (remote) event we don't get enough sign-ups we may consolidate sessions. If you do sign up and find you can't attend, let me know, so I can fill the slot.

Admin:

We will all meet in the lobby of the Desmond at 0915---this is to (1)make sure everyone has a ride and (2) to pass out directions if needed, and (3) in the event of no-shows, fill any available slots with those who would like to participate. Once these preliminaries are taken care of, we will shove off for the Layouts, which are about 4-to 7 or8 miles from the hotel. Sessions will start about 1000 and last til??---probably 2-2:30 pm or so.

If there are any changes we'll put the information on the website. I'll provide email addresses to the individual layout owners later.

On a humorous note....



TIMETABLE

Thursday March 27

Evening Operating session See below

Friday March 28

10 a.m-2 p.m. Operating sessions See below 5:30 p.m. Registration open – Conference Center

Vendors Room and Models Display Room open FOR SETUP ONLY

7 p.m. Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
 11 p.m. Clinics end, Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

Saturday March 29

8:30 a.m. Registration open

9 a.m. Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open

4:30-5:30 Happy Hour/cash bar - Deck

5:30-7 p.m. Buffet dinner (see description below), Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

7 p.m. Clinics resume, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open

10 p.m. Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

Sunday March 30

9 a.m. Registration open

Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open

10:30 a.m. last Clinics begin

12:00 Vendors Room closed ---teardown

Models Display Room closed --- ALL MODELS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11 A.M.

12:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. Home Layouts open

Maps will be provided at the registration desk

You must wear your RPM-Valley Forge name badge to visit these layouts

OPERATING SESSIONS

On Thursday evening, one operating session will be offered for those who wish to attend. On Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., several operating sessions will be held. In order to sign up for any of the operating sessions, you must contact Jim Dalberg by phone at 610 648-0089 or by email at jedalberg@aol.com

VENDORS INFORMATION

Tables are 2 ft. X 5 ft. (please note size) \$10 per table-indicate number desired on registration form Vendors must pay registration fee.

DINNER

On Saturday, a dinner (not a banquet) will be held. There will be no speeches or awards. The dinner will be buffet style, with a cash bar available. The cost is \$35. Only 60 tickets are available.

HOTEL

The Desmond Geat Valley Hotel & Conference Center One Liberty Boulevard Malvern, PA 19355

Hotel phone: (610) 296-9800

Reservations: 1-800-575-1776 between 8:30 a.m. and 6 pm., Monday thru Friday or by email:

reservations@desmondgv.com

Room rate is \$114 per night plus tax. You must mention Railroad Prototype Modelers to receive this rate.

NOTE: You must email or call in your reservation on or before March 5, 2014 in order to receive the reduced rate for RPM. Please be advised that a reservation is not confirmed until a confirmation number is received from the Desmond reservations department. Reservations received after March 5 are based on availability and at available rates. You may cancel your reservation up until 12 noon on the day of arrival without penalty.

DIRECTIONS TO THE DESMOND

PLEASE NOTE: Heavy construction in the area, these directions may change. Carefully watch route signs.

<u>From Route 202 Northbound</u>: Take the Great Valley/ Route 29 North exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right at the traffic light onto Matthews Road, then turn right at the first traffic light onto Route 29 North. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on your left.

From Route 202 Southbound: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 North exit. At the end of the ramp, proceed through the traffic light onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on your right

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, east or westbound: Take Exit 326, Valley Forge. After the toll booth, take Route 202 South, West Chester. Follow the above directions from Route 202 Southbound.

OR

Take Exit 320, PA 29, Phoenixville Malvern. **PLEASE NOTE:** Exit 320 is a slip ramp; you <u>must</u> have EZ Pass to enter or exit the Turnpike at Exit 320. Follow the ramp to a traffic light and turn left onto Morehall Rd., PA 29 South. Follow 29 South for 1 mile to the 3rd traffic light, turn left onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on the left.

REGISTRATION

Registration cost is \$30 (note change)
 Make check payable to: Phila. Div., NMRA - RPM

· Mail check and registration form to: Paul Backenstose

103 W. Uwchlan Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335

You will receive a confirmation by email (preferred) or U. S. Mail.

NOTICE: The last day to mail registrations is March 15.

Walk in registrations will be available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday



RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS-VALLEY FORGE COMMITTEE

REGISTRATION FORM

Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge March 27-30, 2014

Please print			
Name			
Street Address:			
City, State, Zip:	:		
Phone:			
EMail:			(print neatly, please!)
Registration		\$30	
Vendors tables	# X \$10 =		
Dinner \$35			
то	TAL ENCLOSED	\$	
MAKE CHECK	CS PAYABLE TO:	Phila. Div., NMR	A – RPM
SEND CHECK	S AND REGISTRAT	TION FORM TO:	Paul Backenstose 103 W. Uwchlan Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335
office use, do no	ot fill in		
rec'd	_ reg. no	ck. #	conf. sent

March/April 2014

A few words from the President Thoughts on the Midyear BOD Meeting



We recently completed our mid-year meeting and in this column I would like to add to the report below on what came from the meeting. Of course, please understand these reports are not official and the minutes of the meeting, which will be published shortly, are the official record.

An enormous amount of work was accomplished at the mid-year, as the short summary below suggests. Allow me to share my schedule with you to give you an idea of the time involved in a mid-year meeting. Margaret and I drove to Las Vegas on Thursday and on Friday I attended staff meetings at 9 and 10 AM, as well as 2 and 3:30PM, followed by a BOD caucus from 7-10PM. On Saturday we started at 8:45 AM going with breaks until 6:35PM. Sunday, we met for the long range plan from 8:45 AM to 2:30PM. Some returned home Sunday, some on Monday. This leaves little time for socializing and zero time for sightseeing. No complaints, but the 30 or so attendees worked long hours and diligently to accomplish quite a lot.

Our volunteers on all levels are our most important assets. Change due to personal commitments is not unusual. So it was at this meeting. Page Martin, our first Director of Marketing, announced he cannot continue in the post but wants to stay involved. He introduced us to John Parrish, who has an impressive background in marketing, as his replacement. I have named John the Director of Marketing. The good news is that Page will continue as a Vice President of Marketing. Now that is not to be confused with "NMRA Vice-President" but is a title that will assist in getting his card past receptionists. Page set a very high standard for this post and received a well-deserved President's Award in Atlanta.

Clark Kooning, our Nominations Chair, also cannot continue in the post as he is contemplating a run for office. Stephen Priest has graciously accepted temporary assignment of the post but we do need a new volunteer who can take over and has a good network of contacts. "Nominations" is an important job and encouraging that next generation of leadership is very important, though often sadly neglected. If you know of someone, please contact me.

The RAC group elected Steve August, who replaces Stephen Priest, but this is not Stephen's last BOD meeting. The BOD finds it very useful to have the Magazine Editor at the BOD meetings so Stephen Priest is not off the hook. If the name is familiar, besides editing *NMRA Magazine*, Stephen does a zillion other things such as digitizing photos and documents for the Diamond Club. He will be sorely missed and was a superb member of the BOD. His wife Cinthia continues as *NMRA*

NMRA President's letter continued......

Magazine ad manager and is working on her MMR. Their son Joel was the youngest to earn one and Dad has his so...

I also announced the appointment of Bob Ferguson of PCR to head up a new member retention initiative. Bob will be looking at creating and sharing a program of proven retention actions that can be undertaken by Divisions and Regions. We have good success in signing up new members - our RailPass conversion rate to regular membership is over 60%. But we lose far too many members at renewal. Bob has extensive experience in membership matters and I expect great things from him.

One thing that isn't mentioned in the summary in this issue is vertical integration, the legal creation of one tax-exempt (U.S.) National organization with many independent Regions and Divisions all sharing our tax status. This is a desired goal for the entire NMRA. We are at the mercy of the U.S. IRS as our paperwork wends its way through the process. The advantages have been discussed before but are numerous. Each Region/Division controls its programs and funds but gains tax advantages for contributions and in some cases, taxes paid. In recent years, the IRS has increasingly treated model railroad groups or clubs as 501(c)7 social organizations instead of 501(c)3 not-for-profit educational organizations. The latter have tax advantages for U.S. members. We are confident that we will obtain this status for all Regions and Divisions. Again, stay tuned!

Watch for the official minutes and feel free to write with any questions or observations. We love to hear from you. Have you registered for Cleveland yet and the NMRA 2014 convention? This one will be one not to miss with some spectacular tours and clinics planned. Hotels are already filling up, as are the more popular tours so if you have not yet, do not wait too long. I look forward to seeing you there and look for distinctive name tags and events to identify Directors and Officers. We want to speak with you and hear what you have to say. Well, those are my thoughts - what are yours?

Charlie Getz

European Region approved

At the time the March/April *NMRA eBulletin* was mailed, headquarters was still checking proposed new European Region. Since that time, the paperwork has been approved so welcome the new European Region into the NMRA family!

Former Atlantic District Director Nobby Clarke will be the temporary chair of the Region.





THE
CONVENTION
JULY 13-20, 2014
www.2014cleveland.org

RPM – VALLEY FORGE VENDOR LISTING

B&O Railroad Historical Society	Bethlehem Car Works	Matthew Herson	Shortline Products
Pro Custom Hobbies	Scale Creations	Nick & Nora Designs	Funaro & Camerlengo
ESU LokSound	Load Man (Dick Yemenijian)	Motrak Models	Chessie System Historical Soc.
Spring Mills Depot	Bob's Photo	Stan Rydarowicz	Shelf Layouts Co.



Around the Division

Webmaster Val Pistilli demonstrates the use of Photoshop in this before and after shot from the Allegheny and Western modular layout, which was on display at the Great American Train Show recently in Oaks, PA.

Be on the lookout for a complete "behind the scenes" article about modular model railroading in the Philadelphia Division which features this layout. The amount of pre-planning for the setup of modular layouts is amazing!

Below left: Val works on the electrical setup of the layout...



NMRA Cleveland 2014 Has Gone Mobile!

NMRA Cleveland 2014 has gone mobile using Guidebook!





We encourage you to download our mobile guide to enhance your experience at NMRA Cleveland 2014. You'll be able to plan your day with a personalized schedule and browse exhibitors, maps and general show info.

The app is compatible with iPhones, iPads, iPod Touches and Android devices. Windows Phone 7 and Blackberry users can access the same information via our mobile site at m.guidebook.com.

To get the guide, you can:

- Download 'Guidebook' from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Storeß
- Visit http://guidebook.com/getit from your phone's browser
- Scan the following image with your mobile phone (QR-Code reader required, e.g. 'Red Laser', 'Barcode Scanner')

The guide will be listed under the "Download Guides" section of the application. The guide will automatically update whenever events are added to the calendar.

In addition, you can follow the convention on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/2014-Cleveland-NMRA-National-Connvention/104553906276358

Around the Division



Earl Paine's before and after photos of his hand-laid junction to be used for his AP civil engineering certification

New Membership Recruitment Program

As an aid to membership recruitment, NMRA recently instituted a six month "Railpass" trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. Building on this idea, the MER is instituting a program whereby it will pay the \$9.95 Railpass fee for interested applicants in the MER. In other words, we are making available FREE six month Railpass trial memberships to encourage recruitment of regular members.

What's covered?

Same as Railpass—receive six issues of **NMRA Magazine**, three issues of **The Local**, eligibility to attend conventions and meets, eligibility to participate in contests.

What's not covered?

Same as Railpass—applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national (it's rather expensive).

Who can be recruited?

Anyone living within the MER who has not been a member of NMRA during the past two years.

How will the recruitment process work?

(1) The prospective member fills out the MER trial membership application form which was sent to all division superintendents (not the standard NMRA Railpass form) (2) The "recruiter" should

also sign the form, and then forward it to: Bob Price, Business Manager, 666 Princeton Avenue Collingswood, NJ 08108. (3) Bob will record the information he needs in his data base, and will forward the application to the MER Treasurer. (4) The Treasurer will add the necessary check and forward the application and check to the national headquarters in Chattanooga.

What happens after the member's six month trial period?

The Railpass trial member will receive a standard dues notice from national headquarters. We hope a substantial number of Railpass trial members will sign up to become regular members.

Are there limits on the program?

The MER initially allocated \$2,000 for this program. The Board recently voted to extend the program to the end of 2013, or when the funds are spent – whichever comes first. When and if we approach either limit, Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At that time, the program will be evaluated by the MER Board of Directors. If successful, we will try to continue it.

For questions?

Contact Bob Price, Business Manager (mailing address is below, (856) 854-8585, MER-BusMgr@comcast.net), or John Janosko, MER President, (919) 562-0260, johnajan@embargmail.com.

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Mid-Eastern Region Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership

YES, please sign me up for a free six month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA—which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region, and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive NMRA Magazine, the monthly national magazine, and The Local, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pak.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.)

At the end of the six months, I may join NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

During the past two years, I have **not** been a member of NMRA.

Name:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Scale(s): _____ Date of Birth: ____

Signature of Applicant:

(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

When completed and signed, sponsor should forward to the division clerk:

Mark Wallace 665 Bonny Brook Ave. Trappe, PA 19462 610-454-9510 mwallace665@verizon.net

Clerk then mails or emails to: Bob Price, MER Business Mgr. 666 Princeton Ave. Collingswood, NJ 08108 MER-BusMgr@comcast.net

Signature of Sponsor: __

(Required)

NOTICE OF 2015 ELECTIONS



The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open in 2015:

1. President 2. Vice President, Administration 3. Vice President, Special Projects 4. Eastern District Director 5. Pacific District Director, and 6. At-Large North America Director

Please check Article III, paragraph 12, of the NMRA Executive Handbook (EHB) located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected. Qualifications for candidates are listed in the EHB.

All submissions of candidate's names for consideration by the Nomination Committee for all offices except Pacific District Director shall be submitted to Stephen Priest, temporary Chairman of the Nominations Committee, nmra@pairedrail.com, no later than June 15, 2014.

All submissions of candidate's names for consideration by the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Sam Mangion, Chairman of the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee, mangion2@bigpond.com, no later than June 15, 2014.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the appropriate nominations committees. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the EHB. All submissions by petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA no later than July 31, 2014.

LINKS TO MISSING FORMS FROM CONVENTION INSERT



Many of you have received the February issue of *NMRA Magazine* with the 2014 Convention insert. Because of a printing problem, three registration pages were not printed. These pages included the merchandise order forms for men's and ladies' shirts, convention cars and other items, and the Extra Fare order form for ordering banquet tickets and registering for Modeling With The Masters clinics.

You can register online and purchase any of the items mentioned through the NMRA Company Store without the missing forms. For those that want to print out the forms and mail them in with payment you can follow these links to access and print the forms.

Merchandise Order Form 1
Merchandise Order Form 2
Extra Fare Order Form

Or you can print them from the 2014 Convention website:

http://www.2014cleveland.org/registration.htm

Completed forms and payment should be mailed to: NMRA, P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1338