



THE DISPATCH

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



August 2014

www.phillynmra.org

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September Meet in Q-town

Our next meet is scheduled for Saturday morning, September 13th at the recently restored Quakertown Train Station, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. See page 7 for directions. Doors open at 8:30am with the program to start promptly at 9:00.

Our program will feature two clinicians. Author and historian Ben Bernhart, who spoke last year on the Reading Company's Port Richmond, will return with a new clinic on the topic of the Schuylkill Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. This is the line that paralleled the Reading's main line along the Schuylkill River from Philadelphia out to Berks County and the coal regions. Ben is quite knowledgeable on the railroads in that area, having written dozens of books on the subject.

And then our steel aficionado, Mike Rabbitt, will present a clinic on the history and operations of Alan Wood Steel, which was located in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. As with all of Mike's programs, this promises to be enlightening and enjoyable.

As usual, coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels will be available for refreshment.

For the afternoon session, we have two substantial club layout tours lined up, Coopersburg and Logan (in Souderton). The clubs have given us permission to run some trains, so (while not necessary) if you like, bring a decoder-equipped loco and/or your Digitrax throttle. This promises to be quite an educational and entertaining day. Come and enjoy the fellowship. All NMRA members are welcome!

Layouts, Ops & Clinicians Needed for MER 2015

As you probably are already aware, the Philadelphia Division is joining with the New Jersey Division to host the October 2015 MER convention. Are you willing to help by hosting an operation session or open house during the convention? Please contact **Chuck Higdon** at vze5crrw1@verizon.net or 732-914-1161 so he can coordinate this part of the convention.

We also need folks who are willing to give clinics. If you can help in any way, please also contact the appropriate Philadelphia Division director so we can

coordinate our efforts and records with New Jersey:

Layouts: Pat McTeigue – 215-441-8407

tonightowl1@comcast.net

Clinics: John Seibert – 267-319-5391

johnhseibert@comcast.net

Ops: Rob Hinkle - 610-279-2394

robhink@comcast.net

Thanks for your help with the 2015 MER convention.

Division News: New Year and New Plans

This past spring, Joe Bergmaier, Pat McTeigue and Mark Wallace were re-elected to the Board of Directors as announced at our June 7th meet. Since our new fiscal and program year begins July 1st, the 2014-15 board held a short meeting to elect this year's officers. This meeting was held as part of the June 19th 2013-14 board meeting.

The following offices were filled: Joe Bergmaier as Superintendent, Charles Butsch as Assistant Superintendent and Howard Kaplan as Treasurer. Mark Wallace had served as the Clerk for the last two, two-year terms, which was the limit according to the bylaws. Since no one else on the board was interested in the job, and the bylaws do not address this issue, the board passed a continuing resolution (until the bylaws can be changed) to allow an officer having reached term limits to continue to serve one-year terms until another board member is interested in serving in that capacity. Following the approval of the resolution, Mark was re-elected by the board as Clerk.

At Large Directors John Seibert and Pat McTeigue will continue to serve as Special Events/Clinics Coordinator and Layout Visitation Coordinator respectively while Rob Hinkle will continue to concentrate on programs promoting operations.

The important Achievement Program (AP) continues to be bolstered by Brian Good as Committee Chair and Dave Messer, MMR as the AP Coordinator. Additionally, there is a Special Projects Committee, as well as the Website Committee, handling the evolving social media. Changes or appointments to be announced as determined.

...continued on page 2



From the Editor...

Welcome to August. For many model railroaders the summer's demands for travel, outdoor home maintenance, and family place modeling progress on the back burner. This does not necessarily have to be the case.

I have been experimenting successfully with what I call "mini-bursts" on the layout. I got the idea after listening to a Scotty Mason podcast where co-host Mike Rose was discussing his motivational techniques for making layout progress. His approach was to place high priority on doing something on his layout each and every day.

My own approach is similar in that the layout gets attention each day, but my schedule sometimes only allows very short time allotments. Despite that limitation I disciplined myself to doing something daily no matter how short the time allotment.

I was amazed at how much got accomplished even in a five-minute time slot wedged between other daily responsibilities.

Each "mini-burst" accomplished a small task (or part of a larger task) and became additive. Examples include cleaning a section of track, organizing tools, installing a piece of track, placing several trees, or just running a train for a minute or two. It all adds up and relieves me of small tasks when I do have an extended period of time.

More importantly, these "bursts" have become a routine in my daily schedule and have become a habit. I sometimes fit 2 or 3 in per day but strive never to miss doing at least one.

I have been amazed at not only the amount of work that gets accomplished over time, but at the change in my overall motivation. Gone are the long stretches of time that I don't even think about the layout. Great stuff!

See you in Quakertown, Earl

Division Plans (cont'd)

The board is planning several activities and programs. One is an overhaul of the division bylaws. We have been operating for the last ten years with a set of rules that require some changes to allow for more efficient operation. Since the division is a 503c organization, these timely changes to the bylaws are mandatory. There will be more information forthcoming.

Also planned are an exciting series of meets beyond this September, including our Delaware meet in November, a joint meet with the Jersey Division in January, a March meet in Elkins Park and a meet in May, 2015 possibly coinciding with National Train Day.

And finally, we are gearing up for our role in assisting the New Jersey Division in hosting the 2015 MER convention. Anyone interested in volunteering to help should contact the appropriate board member. This exciting event is scheduled for October 22-25, 2015 in Mount Laurel, NJ.

We have other things in store including some great clinics to present, layouts to feature, models to raffle, items for sale, all spiced with some learning, fun and fellowship. Between our various clubs, round-robin groups, ops networks, and the variety of layouts both large and small, plenty of opportunities await in our division. 🍷

Welcome to Our New Members!

Walter Babb
John Baldwin
Joel Brazy
Samuel Eaton
Douglas Glassman
David Goodrick
Jill Wilker
Lawrence Wilker

THE DISPATCHER

Official Publication of the
Philadelphia Division
National Model Railroad Association
www.phillynmra.org

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Submissions: THE 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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JUNE MEET REPORT

...by Mark Wallace

Our spring meet was held much later than the usual Train Day celebration, but on Saturday June 7, the division convened at the St. Alban's Church in Newtown Square, PA. St Alban's is home to the St. Alban's Railroad Fellowship otherwise known as StARR. While the railroad resides in a below grade room, the meet was held in the accessible Alban's Garden fellowship hall. More about that in a moment.



Assistant Superintendent Charles Butsch (left) and Treasurer Howard Kaplan (right) address the crowd

Our “first section” or “white flag” was the annual business meeting. Our division’s bylaws require us to devote a portion of our May or June meeting to the necessary business of reviewing the division’s affairs and conducting our annual elections. Although Superintendent Joe Bergmaier was unable to attend, the meeting was called to order and ably conducted by Assistant Superintendent Charles Butsch. After the voting tellers Rob Hinkle and Earl Paine tallied the ballots received, the results of the voting for Board of Directors were



announced. There were three positions open and three nominations received; incumbents Joe Bergmaier, Pat McTeigue and Mark Wallace. Since there were no write-in nominations, the members present voted to have the clerk cast a single vote to elect the slate.

In other business, Treasurer Howard Kaplan gave his report on the financial state of the division, mentioning in

particular the hopper car project. Achievement Program Chairman Brian Good spoke about the program and presented certificates to members Alden Smith for Golden Spike and Earl Paine for Civil Engineering. The clerk reported on updating member information on the NMRA website. Using the NMRA’s website (nmra.org) has become the most expedient way to manage an individual’s membership other than the annual payment of dues.

Wearing another hat, website committee member Howard Kaplan reported on the committee and the new website itself. Although the website is still at the same address, phillynmra.org, it has a new look. Member Val Pistilli was formally thanked for his previous efforts in developing the division’s original website. With no further business, the group adjourned for fellowship, refreshments and the remainder of the meet.

Our “second section” or “green flag” portion of the meet featured Director at Large and Ops Chairman Rob Hinkle, who gave his clinic titled “Operations Bootcamp.” Rob wears two hats; in addition to being a division director, he is the secretary of the NMRA’s



Rick Cline receives his Model Contest Award

Operations Special Interest Group (or OpSIG). I should mention one our former directors and former superintendent, Jim Dahlberg, who was present at the meet, is a regional director in the NMRA OpSIG. The OpSIG is a rather large group devoted to the operations side of model railroading. Rob’s presentation involved a PowerPoint slide show that used the host’s StARR layout. By combining the different features of a layout’s design, good railroading rules, the control system, types of trains, and so forth, an operator running on the railroad or performing any of the stationary tasks such as dispatcher or yardmaster, can enjoyably but reliably operate on a very large layout. This fellowship of modelers as they go about their operating tasks, actually brings a layout alive when the trains start running! Other notable moments included awards presented to Charles Butsch and Rick

...continued on next page

June Meet (continued)...

Cline for winning entries in the November, 2013 meet model contest. One of the Kadee HO Reading hoppers was raffled. Guest Rob Ischlinger was the winner.

Green Flag Section – Part 2. Instead of spending the early afternoon visiting members layouts, the division presented something different; an ops session with the gracious consent of the StARR fellowship! Following lunch, Rob Hinkle presented a short orientation to operations on StARR's layout. This included a handout describing the layout, its various parts, as well as an outline of the "rules of the road." Members then proceeded downstairs to the layout for further orientation and crew assignments as prelude to a full-fledged (but special) operating session. The layout uses Digitrax as its digital command control (DCC). This is further augmented with a new smart-phone technology that allows an operator to use his iPhone or Android as a throttle.

Here is little more about our host, the StARR fellowship. They were formed in 1990, and consist of a group whose members share a common interest in railroading. The purpose of its formation was. "...to establish a place where people can get together and share knowledge, experiences, stories, skills, and information about railroading, both real and model."



Ops Chairman Rob Hinkle presents his clinic

From their website we learn that even though StARR features an HO scale model railroad, it is not a model railroad club per se. "No modeling skills or interest in modeling is required or expected." Those who do enjoy modeling work on a permanent nine by fifteen foot layout known as Albansberg or work on individual modules which are then joined together to form the large layout during shows or as it exists in its present location. "Non-modelers enjoy 'talking trains,' watching train videos and running the model railroad during operation sessions." Recently division member Mike Rabbitt

donated a model of a detailed and extensive blast furnace facility that is featured in the Albanwood Steel section of the layout. Various kinds of operating ventures can be undertaken.

The St. Alban's Railroad Fellowship meets every Thursday (except Thanksgiving and the Thursday before Easter) in the Lower Hall (basement) under the thrift shop and office wing of the church. For more info e-mail georgemphillips@earthlink.net or visit their



Rob Ischlinger wins the hopper car raffle

website at www.starr-mrc.org. All visitors are welcome although they do have a membership program.

As the afternoon passed, various members could be found with the seasoned StARR operators putting portions of the layout through its paces. This program gave novices or beginners a chance to operate on a fully developed layout while giving some of the "old-head" or seasoned operators in our division, a chance to sample the challenges or running conditions unique to the railroad. The operating session concluded around 4pm.

A gracious thank you to St. Alban's for the use of their facilities, to StARR fellowship, and especially to member George Phillips who helped to coordinate and open the layout to the division. We hope you learned and had some fun too! Our next division meet will be on Saturday morning, Sept 13 at the Quakertown Train Station in Quakertown, Pennsylvania in upper Bucks County. There will be a round of clinics, bring & brag, vendors within a unique railroad setting as well as layouts available for visiting in the afternoon. Further details will be announced. See you then! 🚂

**MORE PHOTOS OF THE
MEET ON PAGE 22 (ONLINE)**



For the many of us who are running operations and using some form of car forwarding system that uses car cards and waybills, there comes a time when you have the updated paperwork for a car or an update for the waybill and you cannot locate the car. In this article I'm going to talk about some problems encountered on my layout and some solutions we came up with.

I had been accumulating a number of waybill corrections that were addressing typos, and the routing of specially marked cars to an inappropriate industry, e.g. a grain covered hopper going to a cement industry. Unfortunately, the specially marked or specially purposed cars were not identified in my car roster at startup; only the AAR Car Type code was recorded. In this case, an AAR code of LO for a covered hopper appeared to be okay for going to the cement plant, but not for a 64-foot grain hopper. This resulted in a number of corrected waybills to be replaced in the car cards so that the cars would be used for the appropriate industries. That means locating that car in the midst of around 400 cars on the layout. I'm active in two round robin groups so that means there were many eyes looking for the cars in question. After a while, the numbers get harder to read and your eyes get tired, so I'm told.

One helpful solution is to have car color or special markings on the car reported on the car card. An example of a special marking would be the word "Pillsbury" spelled out in large letters down the side of a 64-foot covered hopper, or "sulfuric acid" printed on the side of a tank car. This reduces the number of cars whose numbers you need to look at.

After most folks gave up for the night, Bill Fagan, who was working on another project, asked if he could take a look for a minute. He was using what he called a "balloon sort" technique. He looked for the last two digits of the missing cars having reviewed and remembered those digits for five cars. Within a few minutes, he said, "I found one." Then, "Here is another one." Within about fifteen minutes he had found nine of the missing cars. When he found a match on the last two digits, he pulled that waybill and reviewed the rest of the digits and the reporting marks. We found that in some cases, the documented car type was incorrect. After that, he searched for only the first two digits and found that some were inverted on the paperwork and did not match the cars exactly.

Having stumbled over these many inconsistencies, a few of us decided it might be a good idea to do a complete review of the car roster master file.

We decided to meet on a non-group night so we could have the run of the place without interruption. Rob printed out a copy of the roster in "car road" and "number" sequence for ease of lookup, starting at one end of the layout and working our way to the other end. This was a multi-week process. We were double checking reporting marks, the car number, the spelling of full railroad name, adding load information, looking for special markings on the freight cars that indicated that the car was to be used exclusively for a particular product's transportation, and that the car's AAR code was correct for the car type. Eventually, I'll review the "Return To _____ When Empty" locations to see if they make sense. We discovered some interesting situations. Somehow, duplicate cars were on the layout with unique paperwork. First is the curious fact that we had a duplicate car card for the duplicate car. We apparently looked for the car to replace the old waybill version for an update and had found one of the duplicate cars. The next time there was a change, it found its way into the other car. By performing the car inventory when the second car was found, we knew it was a duplicate and could put the latest version of the waybill paperwork with one of the cars while setting the other aside for a number change. No triplicates yet.

Roger, one of the guys that was helping out on the car inventory project, was changing the duplicate car's number with decals to a unique number per my roster file. He had only been changing the larger numbers on the side of the cars. We did find a car on the layout that was not in the roster file but we were able to determine that it was a changed duplicate because the small numbers on the end of the car were in the system already and did not agree with the numbers on the side of the car. A small price to pay for an otherwise good car. These cars will be added as new cars and will have a new car card and waybill generated.

Another piece of useful information for finding a car is noting on the car card whether there is a permanent car load that is visible.

A very helpful method for quickly identifying a car is having a digital photo of the car on the top of the car card. I saw this done by P. J. Matson many years ago and thought it was a great and helpful idea.

If you have any tricks for quickly locating a missing car, drop me a line at tonightowl1@comcast.net and I'll share it with the division. Thanks. 🙏

GATSME Has a New Home

Adventures in Relocating a Model Railroad Club

Most model railroaders in the Philadelphia Division have visited GATSME, or have at least heard of it. Many also know that in 2013, the club had to leave the building that had been its home for nearly four decades.

GATSME was founded in 1952 in Glenside, Pennsylvania. The club moved to Oreland in the 1960s, and then in 1975 came the move to Fort Washington.

When the building's owner, Upper Dublin Township, made clear that it was planning to sell the property, club members worked hard to try and save the old building. A fundraising campaign raised almost \$50,000 in only a few months. The club also worked with several potential partners, who would have used the portions of the property that the club did not need. Unfortunately, none of these plans worked out, and it proved to be impossible for the club to save the building. It was sold to a developer who had it demolished and is building houses there.

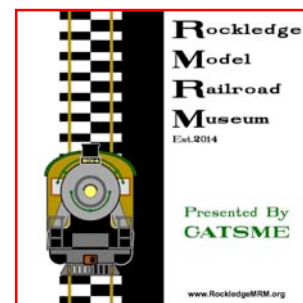
While many of the donors expressed an interest in saving the club, there were also some who were



primarily interested in saving the historic 1890s schoolhouse, in whose basement the club was located. Donors were offered the option of having their donations returned, and some took that option. But many others let GATSME keep their donations to help with rebuilding at a new site.

Meanwhile, club members began preparing for a transition. Even before the layout started coming down, a search committee was formed to identify available locations that would meet our needs for a new location. Among the top criteria were the size, cost, and location. The new place had to be large enough to contain a large layout, but not so enormous

that we could not afford it. In Fort Washington, we had been paying \$50 a month in rent. Even in the 1970s, that was a bargain. In the 21st century, we knew it was almost impossible to find a deal like that. Moving to a new location is always difficult, but moving too far away would have caused significant turnover in membership, so we wanted to stay somewhere near Fort Washington.



The committee looked at dozens of rental properties, but none were found to be suitable. Most had rents that we could not possibly afford, and almost all the leases were short-term. Building a large, detailed model railroad in a space that is being leased month-to-month wouldn't make sense.

After looking at the rents that were being asked, we realized that since we were planning to stay in one place for more than 10 years, it would actually be less expensive to buy a building than to rent one. The committee then started looking at buildings for sale. Dozens more buildings were examined. Some were too expensive, some were too far away, and some were in terrible condition.

Eventually, the committee identified a 4,600 square-foot, single-story building in Rockledge Borough (between Fox Chase and Abington.) A contract of sale was signed, and we began removing



obstacles. Approvals from the borough were needed for our planned use and there were liens against the building. It seemed that every time we had cleared the last hurdle, another one popped up. After several months, with the patient help of our real estate agent, Elfant Wissahickon, we were able to finally make it to closing in April, 2014.

Since then, GATSME has been working on getting the building in shape to be useable. We had to dispose

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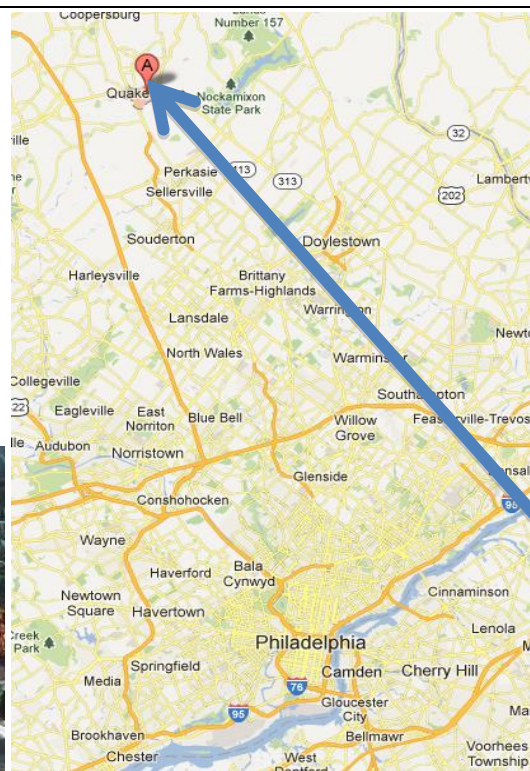
Directions to the September Quakertown Meet

Via the Turnpike - Take the Northeast Extension to the Quakertown exit. At the traffic light just past the toll turn left... that's Route 663. Follow that to Quakertown.

When 663 crosses over route 309 the road is then called Route 313 (Broad St.). Continue East on Route 313 (Broad St) approximately one mile to the train tracks. The station will be on the right before you cross the tracks.

Persons taking Route 309 North - follow 309 North into Quakertown. At Route 313 (McDonalds & Wendy's), turn right. Follow Route 313 (Broad St.) East approximately one mile to the train tracks. The station will be on the right before you cross the tracks.

For GPS use: 15 Front St., Quakertown, PA 18951



Jim Dalberg Completes MMR Requirements

I am extraordinarily pleased and privileged to announce that Jim Dalberg will be the Philadelphia Division's newest Master Model Railroader. Jim recently completed the Achievement Program requirements for Association Volunteer, Master Builder – Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer – Civil, and Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical. These, in addition to the certificates for Master Builder – Cars, Model Railroad Author, and Chief Dispatcher awarded earlier, entitle him to the MMR, which will be presented at the Fall MER Convention.

Jim brings to the hobby a fascinating combination of craftsmanship and prototype fidelity in all aspects of his model building and operations, along with a wide-ranging imagination and an infectious sense of humor displayed with an unrelenting straight face. Jim also served with distinction on the IJ2006 National Convention Committee and in leadership roles in the division. Please join me in congratulating Jim on this high honor.

Dave Messer

QuikTips

...by Dave Messer

Decal Containers - For white or colored decals, use a black or dark-colored container to hold the water while soaking the decal, but for easier visibility of black decals, use a white or clear container.

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.

September 13, 2014 Philadelphia Division Meet Quakertown Train Station Quakertown, PA	October 16-19, 2014 MER Convention Hub City Interchange Hagerstown, MD	November 1, 2014 Philadelphia Division Meet Brandywine Town Center Wilmington, DE
November 15, 2014 New Jersey Division Meet Knights of Columbus Hall Forked River, NJ	January 17, 2015 New Jersey - Phila. Division Joint Meet Haddon Township High School Westmont, NJ	March 14, 2015 Philadelphia Division Meet Elkins Park Train Station Elkins Park, PA

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**4325 Wendy Way
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Inside:

- September Meet Info
- Division News
- June Meet Recap
- Finding Missing Cars
- Upcoming Events

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

Joe's Train Station Hobby Shop

21 East Street Road
Feasterville-Treose, PA 19053

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

**VIEW THE DISPATCH ONLINE IN FULL COLOR! ADDITIONAL ARTICLES, PHOTOS,
ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS, SALE ITEMS & ORDER FORMS, NMRA NEWS, AND MORE!**

GATSME - Continued from page 6...

of hundreds of items that had been left behind when the warehouse was cleaned out. There were broken windows, a leaky roof, no rest rooms or running water, no heat, no air conditioning, one working lamp inside, and a weedy lot outside.

In June, a 20-yard dumpster took away the last of the debris that had been in the building. The broken windowpanes were replaced, roof repairs are being done, and the lawn looks much better now. One of the great things we have experienced is the welcome we have received from our new neighbors.



Not having a 60-year-old furnace or rest room was probably a good thing – it meant that we didn't have to remove them. We can start with new materials and modern technology. There are no internal walls and only two support columns in the space, so it is practically a blank slate.

So, what do we have? The building is an empty shell, ready to be turned into a new model railroad museum. There is a fire sprinkler system, which has been tested and passed. We are investigating the plumbing situation and are in the planning phase for new rest rooms. Additional lighting has been installed, along with a number of new outlets.



In addition to renovating the building, ideas for the new railroad are being discussed, of course. We know it will be larger than the old one, but there are a lot of details still to be discussed.

There is a lot of work to do, but we also have a group of dedicated members willing to get their hands dirty to do the parts of the job we can do. Some things will need to be contracted out to professionals, of course. GATSME is also looking for new members to join us in this adventure, and for donors who want to



support the organization. We hope to be able to welcome visitors in about a year, to visit the new Rockledge Model Railroad Museum, presented by GATSME.

We will look to the future, while we teach about the past. The museum's goal is to educate the general public about the history and operations of railroads. The Rockledge Model Railroad Museum will feature historical information and artifacts from actual railroads and the local area, with the main attraction being a large, highly detailed model railroad display.

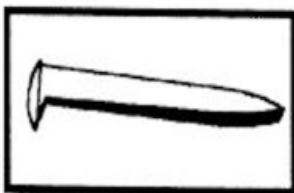
HOW YOU CAN HELP

GATSME is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are generally tax-deductible, although donors should consult with their tax adviser. Those who would like to help can send donations to P.O. Box 82, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Checks should be made out to "GATSME Model Railroad Club, Inc." Donations of materials and labor are also welcome.

More information is available through the club's web site, <http://www.gatsme.org>

Editor's note:

This article continues the division's commitment to strengthen ties and improve coverage of the many model railroad clubs throughout our division. We are happy to cover any and all group layout efforts. Please notify us if you desire coverage in future issues.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR

Member's Name: _____ NMRA#: _____ EXP: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratch building and super detailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.

QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

Display six units of rolling stock either scratch built, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.

Construct five structures either scratch built, craftsman kits or super detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

Three types of track required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used.

All installed track must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).

Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Print Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____

Division Shirts & Patches



DIVISION SHIRT/PATCH ORDER FORM

The shirt is the Port Authority *Silk Touch* polo, a black, cotton/polyester knit with the division logo on the left chest and, if you desire, your first name embroidered on the right chest. The shirt is lightweight, comfortable, and virtually wrinkle-free. Shirts and patches may be ordered at most meets or anytime by mail or PayPal. Multiple orders for non-identical shirts should be placed on separate forms.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Circle Shirt Size: S M L XL @ **\$16** 2X @ **\$18** 3X @ **\$20** Quantity: _____

First Name added? No Yes @ **\$3** ea. Name as you'd like it to appear: _____

Check one: _____ First shirt shipped FREE + **\$2** each additional _____ Pick up at future meet

Patches @ **\$3** each Quantity _____ _____ Shipped @ **\$1** for 1-2 **\$2.50** for 3 or more
(free shipping with shirt order)

Total: \$ _____ Make check or money order payable to: **PHILA DIV NMRA**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail to: **Philly Division Sales, 620 Edmonds Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

Info/Questions: **610-626-4506** phillynmra@gmail.com Email for PayPal invoice

See our website for more information: www.phillynmra.org



BULLETIN

July/August 2014 ADDENDUM

Sloppy Editors:

[Gerry Leone](#), MMR, HLM, and [Chuck Diljak](#)

The NMRA eBulletin is an official bi-monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department ([Don Phillips](#), Manager). Its purpose is to keep every NMRA member informed about organization news and events. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, please direct them to [here](#) to update their email address. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please don't mark them as SPAM. Instead, click the Safe Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page. ©2014 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.

WHOOPS!

Apparently I was a bit too excited about the Cleveland convention and let a few things slip through the cracks in the NMRA eBulletin you recently received.

First, the date for the Board and officers get-together at the Cleveland Convention is **Sunday, July 13**. See the full article with the addition below.

Also we discovered that the email address for our new Social Media Manager, Craig This, was wrong. The real one is: cthis2@woh.rr.com. See the full article with correction below.

And last, I forgot to include the Mid-Eastern Region's convention in our convention roundup. Click on this link for the [Mid-Eastern Region's convention](#), or see the full listing with the addition below.

Whew! Sorry 'bout that. NOW...see you at the convention!

-Gerry

"Meet the Board and Officers" Get-Together



Many of the NMRA Board members and officers will be holding an informal gathering **on Sunday, July 13** at 2 p.m. in Room 9 at the Cleveland Convention Center. (It's the first room at the bottom of the escalators on the Exhibit Level, and is marked "NTS" on the Guidebook map.) Come, introduce yourself, and get to know the folks who run your organization!

New Social Media Manager!

President Charlie Getz has appointed Craig This the new NMRA Social Media Manager. Craig hails from Dayton, OH and works as a data analyst at Wright State University. For the past two years he's managed the Facebook presence for the Miami Valley Division (Division 3, Mid-Central Region). Craig's got some great ideas for NMRA National, so keep your eyes open. If you'd like to contact him, feel free at cthis2@woh.rr.com.

Region and National Conventions



[July 13-19: NMRA National Convention, Cleveland, OH](#)
[September 3 - 7: Pacific Southwest Region Convention, San Diego, CA](#)
[September 11-14: Northeastern Region Convention, Palmer, MA](#)
[September 20-21: Australasian Region Convention, Queensland, Australia](#)
[October 16-19: Mid-Eastern Region Convention, Hagerstown, MD](#)
[October 17-19: Sunshine Region Convention, Melbourne, FL](#)
[October 17-19: British Region Convention, Bournemouth, UK](#)



BULLETIN

NMRA Convention Special
September/October 2014

SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION BANQUET

The following individuals were honored for their service to the hobby and the NMRA. Congratulations to each of them!

Honorary Life Membership (HLM)

Clark Kooning
Eric Schneblen

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

William Bowser
Lewis English

NMRA Fellow Award (FA)

Martin Boyask

President's Award

Jim Lupfer
Stephen Priest
Bob Blake
Howard Prunty
Tom Draper
Debbie Draper
Monroe Stewart
Daisy Stewart
Frank Koch
Bob Amsler

Meritorious Service Award

Ray deBlieck
Ed Slintak

::

Winners of the "New Website" prize drawing

As you read in the last *NMRA eBulletin* issue, when we unveiled our newly redesigned www.nmra.org website, we asked visitors to add their names to a drawing for some pretty nifty prizes. We had over 1,000 entries, and, using a random number generator, chose the following as winners:

Grand Prize: Daniel Gladstone (he receives a free 1-year NMRA membership and subscription to *NMRA Magazine*, plus a free KML book of his choice, and a track and clearance gauge of his choice)

First Prize: David Walker (he receives a free KML book of his choice and a track and clearance gauge of his choice)

Second Prizes: Stephen C. Wood, MMR, and Bob Netzlof (they each receive a track and clearance gauge of their choice).

Thanks to everyone who visited and entered the drawing!

::

2015 Election Update



Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester's report was presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual BOD Meeting in Cleveland. Unfortunately, about a week after the Convention Banquet, the only candidate for At-Large-North American Director (ALNAD) withdrew his name from consideration. There is no procedure in the Executive Handbook to cover such an occurrence. With input from Nominations Committee Chair Tony Koester and the approval of NMRA Counsel Bob Amsler and the Board of Directors, we will be following the schedule shown below *for this election only*. These are the current proposed slate of candidates and procedures:

Proposed Slate of Candidates

President

Charlie Getz

Vice President / Administration

Clark Kooning
Dave Thornton

Vice President / Special Projects

Gerry Leone

At-Large North American Director (ALNAD)

(name withdrawn by request)

Eastern District Director (EDD)

Joe Gelmini

Pacific District Director (PDD)

Mike Bartlett
Kelly Loyd

All positions except for ALNAD

The five positions except for ALNAD are now in the By-Petition phase. The By-Petition Process is explained under Article X Nominations, Ballots, and Voting paragraph #3. Your petition needs to be presented to the Secretary **no later than September 15, 2014**.

The ALNAD position

The ALNAD position is still in the normal Nominating Committee Process. There are currently two candidates that have already gone through the Nominating Committee Process. If you are interested in being a candidate for the ALNAD position, contact Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester at nkpfan@ptd.net. The deadline for this phase of the process is August 31, 2014.

Once the Nominating Committee Chair has made his report, the ALNAD position will then go into the By-petition Process.

All future updates to the 2015 election process will only be found on the NMRA website.

John Stevens
NMRA Secretary



BULLETIN

NMRA Convention Special
September/October 2014

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION AND BOARD MEETING



Here are several of the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting, as well highlights taken from the departmental and individual reports to the Board. The Board meeting was held on July 12 and 13 at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel.

As always, the official minutes, as recorded by NMRA Secretary John Stevens, will appear on the NMRA website (www.nmra.org) and in NMRA Magazine.

- Plans for **"The Magic of Scale Model Railroading"** exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum are still moving forward, albeit very slowly. As President Charlie Getz describes it, "For them, this is an outside-the-box thing, so [the state] is taking their time drafting the final agreement to make sure it's all perfect. So far they've approved the design and we have an initial agreement. It's the language in the final agreement that's the hard part."
- The **Member Discount Program** is moving forward in a slightly different direction than was initially planned. The NMRA presented the idea to two national home centers, but received virtually no response or reaction. Currently the team is working on discounts to historic railroads and other railroad-related activities.

If you are an executive at a national chain of any type or know someone who is, the NMRA would love to talk with you to explain how this program could be mutually beneficial to your company and our members. Please contact Charlie Getz at pres@nmra.org, or Stephen Priest at sreditor@pairedrail.com.

- The NMRA has **cancelled plans to reincorporate** in the State of Missouri because recent changes to Ohio non-profit law have made remaining an Ohio corporation much more favorable to us.
- After an impressive presentation by Rocky Mountain Region representative Alan Anderson, the Board **approved Salt Lake City** as the site of the 2019 national convention. Tentative dates are July 8 - 16. As a reminder, upcoming conventions are:
 - 2015: Portland, OR
 - 2016: Indianapolis, IN
 - 2017: Orlando, FL
 - 2018: Kansas City, MO
 - 2019: Salt Lake City, UT

See the [Conventions page of www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) for current details about each of the conventions.

- Work on **vertically integrating the NMRA** is continuing. This vertical integration will give every Region and Division 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status with a minimal hassle to all parties. In addition, Charlie Getz stressed that each Division and Region will continue to control its own programs and finances - NMRA National will not get involved in the day-to-day business of Divisions and Regions. Currently two Regions and one Division will be used as a test case to see if or where problems develop. Those problems will be worked out before the plan is introduced to the entire NMRA system.

- John Parrish, NMRA Marketing Director, resigned his position because of time commitments. President Charlie Getz is currently **looking for a replacement**.
- Alan Anderson, NMRA Development and Fundraising Department Manager, reported that more and more members are designating the NMRA as their charity of choice when they sell items on eBay. He also reminded everyone that they can see a **list of items on eBay that benefit the NMRA** by visiting <http://goo.gl/Ks8uE7>.
- **113 models** – a new record – were entered in the judged modeling contest at the Cleveland Convention. In total, 460 models appeared in the contest room, beating the Milwaukee Convention's previous record of 359.
- The Membership Booth recruiting team, lead by "Doc" Chait and Jody Hendricks, signed up **over 90 RailPass members** at the National Train Show *on Friday alone*.

FULL TRANSCRIPT OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING AVAILABLE ONLINE



On Wednesday, July 16, the NMRA held its Annual General Membership Meeting, which was combined with a "Meet the President" session. This meeting was packed with facts about the NMRA, its current state and its future as well as its programs, plans, and finances.

A full transcript of this meeting is available on the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/general-membership-meeting-july-2014> and includes member comments and questions, along with Board and Officer answers. We urge every NMRA member who is interested in the governance and future of the NMRA to read though this highly informative document.

"MODEL CITIZENS," A MODEL RAILROADING DOCUMENTARY, NEEDS YOUR HELP



Some sharp-eyed NMRA members at the National Train Show in Cleveland may have spotted Sara Kelly, a documentary film maker, shooting scenes for her upcoming film, "Model Citizens." Sara has spent almost two years at layouts and clubs from coast to coast, filming model railroaders' stories of their love of the hobby. She believes model railroading is one of the least understood, best kept secrets around, and wants to show the world all the joys of our hobby.

She's started a Kickstarter campaign to help fund the production. You can find out more about the documentary and Kickstarter, [here](#), or type this link into your browser:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1007036228/model-citizens-a-model-railroading-documentary-in>. There are even some sample clips of what she's shot so far.

The NMRA has contributed to this worthwhile endeavor, and hopefully you'll kick in a few bucks, too, to help get our hobby's story told!

Around the Division



Figures 1 and 2 - John Seibert views Ray Machler's recent bridge addition at a round robin session



Figures 3 and 4 - Earl Paine debuts his swinging safety gate installed to prevent operators falling while operating trains. Look for a future article on layout safety, which will feature this gate as well as other safety devices installed on his layout.

New Hobby Shop Opens in the Division

It is our pleasure to call our readers' attention to Joe's Train Station Hobby Shop located in the Feasterville–Trevose area. The proprietors, Doug and Paula Wolff, have reportedly been conducting a model railroading outreach program at the Bucks County Community College to expose youth to the hobby. Look for a future article in *The Dispatcher* featuring that program. The shop has been listed among our local vendors on the mailing page of this and future issues.

November Open House Announcement

The four-state November open house schedule continues to expand and grow. Those modelers wishing to open their layouts to the tour must register their dates between August 15th and September 15th. These deadlines are firm. Check modelrailroadopenhouse.com for contact information.

Division Layouts in National Press

Congratulations to Paul Backenstose and Steve Salotti on the recent photos featuring their layouts that appeared in the June, 2014 issue of the Railroad Model Craftsman. Editor Bill Schaumburg visited both layouts during the recent RPM-Valley Forge and photos of his rail-fanning efforts appear on pages 56 & 57.

EMD FL9 Diesels Offered in HO & N

The [Erie Lackawanna Dining Car Preservation Society, Inc. \(ELDCPS\)](http://www.eldcps.org) is accepting pre-orders for the recently announced Rapido FL9 diesel locomotive models in HO and N scales with and without DCC decoders. Proceeds from these orders will go toward the operation of the ELDCPS and its equipment. These models will only be available on a pre-order basis and we will not be carrying any inventory once they are produced. Orders must be in by February 15, 2015 to insure availability. Delivery is expected in late 2015. Follow the link to order: <https://www.eldcps.org/store/Rapido-FL9>

These models would be of interest to New Haven, Metro North, MTA, Penn Central, Conrail, and Amtrak modelers or anyone who is an FL9 fan and wants one in his collection.

Breaking News from GATSME

August 2nd update: In a few weeks club members have turned the two-car garage into a real workshop. The roof has been completely replaced. The building has new siding and an electric feed. Inside members placed outlets and lights on both levels. The upper floor has been laid and all of the left over junk has been hauled out. It looks great now.

Our next big project is putting bathrooms back into the building. One of the previous owners wanted to save on water and sewer bills. He had another property nearby with bathrooms for his employees. We have drawn up plans and are working on getting the approval from the borough. We are seeking a plumber/model railroader that would be willing to work with us. If you know someone, please forward his name to ericdlw@aol.com.

After the bathrooms, we will tackle replacement windows, heating, a new roof and new front doors. There is much to do before we can start building the railroad.

Send any news announcements for the “Around the Division” coverage in *The Dispatcher* to the editor!

(Contact information located on page 2)

**The First State
Model Railroad Club**

presents

Railroad Merit Badge Day

Saturday October 11, 2014

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

1282 McKee Road

Dover, DE 19904

For questions or to register call:

302-480-2116

302-653-8096

or **email: cubbie109@yahoo.com**

Class limited to 30 scouts each

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@embarqmail.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: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Scale(s): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____ (Required)

(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



Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

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Special Fall Programs

Model Railroading Days

**Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania
Saturday, September 6, 2014 9 AM- 5 PM**

This event will feature fascinating displays including intricately detailed, operating train layouts in various scales from model railroad clubs and historical groups, as well as hands-on



sessions and presentations for all ages, skills and interests, from the novice to the veteran model railroader.

The Model Railroading Days hands-on activities and presentations will be confirmed at a later date and will be filled on a limited, first come basis. They are anticipated to include sessions like Building LEGO® Layouts and a variety of construction techniques. Many Model Railroading Days sessions also will be of interest to, and useful for, miniaturists and doll house hobbyists.

Special Clinics and Restoration Shop Tours, [registration required](#).

Event Information

[Model Railroading
Registration -
Clinics and
Restoration Shop
Tours; Deadline
August 15](#)

Garden Railways
Tour [information](#).

Hub City



Interchange

Regional Convention

Oct. 16-19, 2014

(Thursday Evening through Sunday)

Hosted by the South Mountain Division, NMRA

SAVE THE DATES

June Meet Photos



Clerk Mark Wallace delivers his report



Achievement Program Committee Chair Brian Good



Member Alden Smith (left) receives his Golden Spike award



Dispatcher Editor Earl Paine (left) earns his AP Civil Engineering certificate



**Upper Right:
View of StARR
layout**

**Lower right:
Albansburg Yard
on the StARR
layout**

**Layout photos by
Mark Wallace**

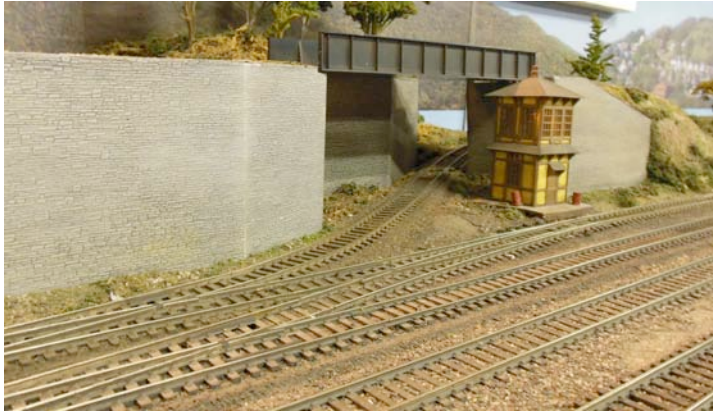


**Election Committee Rep.
Rob Hinkle announces results**

**MORE StARR LAYOUT PHOTOS
ON FOLLOWING PAGES**

More Photos from StARR

Photos by Howard Kaplan



More Photos from StARR

Photos by Howard Kaplan



More StARR Photos

Photos by Howard Kaplan

