



THE DISPATCHER

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



December 2014

www.phillynmra.org

Volume 21, No. 6

January Meet in New Jersey

NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM LAST ISSUE

Our annual, joint meet with the New Jersey Division will be held on **Saturday, January 10, 2014**, at 9:00am at the Haddon Township High School in Westmont, NJ. For those receiving information solely via the printed *Dispatcher*, please be aware that this is one week earlier than listed in the October issue. A map and directions to the meet can be found on page 7.

The format of this meet will be Work-in-Progress, a round-robin type of format, which will feature multiple, simultaneous, thirty-minute presentations. Topics will include building a car-float bridge, photo etching, LED layout lights, track work in pavement, and much more. Some involve active demonstrations while others describe approaches to modeling.

For those not familiar with the WIP format, the program provides members with choices to select clinic presentations that meet their individual model railroading interests and needs. The format is similar to "round table presentations" found at many professional conferences and conventions in the business and academic world. Our venue, the large cafeteria, provides rows of tables with chairs. Clinic presenters will set up their equipment and materials around the room. Members can choose from the various topics, go to the clinic location, and sit or stand nearby to see, hear, observe and learn about the particular clinic topic. The clinic presenter uses a more informal format with his presentation with appropriate

...continued on page 2

MER 2015 Convention Joint Planning Continues

Plans are moving right along with the 2015 Mid-Eastern Region convention now named "Delaware Valley Turn." The event will take place at the Hotel ML in Mount Laurel, NJ on October 22-25, 2015. This promises to be one of the best conventions ever. New Jersey Superintendent Bob Clegg was in attendance at our November meet in Wilmington and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the highlights of the event.

The itinerary includes clinics, layout and prototype tours, model judging and display, and a full buffet.

Extras include free-mo modules with ops and a white elephant/silent auction room. Over 40 layouts of all scales will be open and it is hoped that 100 slots for operating sessions will be available. The convention



New Jersey Superintendent Bob Clegg presents on MER 2015, the "Delaware Valley Turn"

website is at [http:// www.delawarevalleyturn.org](http://www.delawarevalleyturn.org).

We still need lots of clinicians, ops sessions, and Philadelphia Division layouts. **Chuck Higdon** (732-914-1161 or vze5crrw1@verizon.net) is handling the layouts and op sessions, while **Fred Willis** (fwillis73@yahoo.com) is in charge of clinics. In addition, the following directors are coordinating these activities from the Philadelphia Division side:

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

If you are interested in helping out, even as a general floor volunteer, the easiest way to make contact is to navigate to the Philadelphia Division website home page at <http://www.phillynmra.org> and simply click on the appropriate link in the notice at the top of the home page.

Model RR Club Open Houses

Each winter, the model railroad clubs located in the Philadelphia and surrounding divisions open their layouts to the public. The list can be found at the following link: <http://www.royersfordmodular.org/greensheet.html>



From the Editor...

The rapid transition to electronic publishing and online distribution has finally hit home! I use my iPad and computer extensively for reading, but still enjoy the delivery of printed media in my physical mailbox.

I unexpectedly, however, received my last printed issue of *Macworld* and another professional journal to which I subscribe. The subscriptions are not expired nor are they altered in content. They are just moving away from paper and ink and postage costs.

There was no previous warning or notice given, just a printed tear out instructing me on how to receive future issues of the publication electronically. I would continue to receive the issues for which I had already prepaid.

So... is this a breach of contract? What do we really pay for in a magazine? Printed content, or just content alone? Can I receive a refund for future issues not printed on paper?

Will the costs of the content go down now that the publisher no longer needs to pay for paper, ink and postage? Will the content increase now that printed page constraints have disappeared?

These are all questions generating debate in the publishing industry as more and more publications are going out of print. *Railroad Model Craftsman* is a prime example and has been saved from oblivion by another publisher... but for how long?

Fortunately for *The Dispatcher* many of these questions have already been answered. The electronic version contains additional content and photos. The cost of a current subscription to our eight page printed newsletter has risen, but only to cover rising printing and mailing costs. The electronic version is free to all. Most, but not all of our readers have access to an electronic reader or computer. As of this edition, less than twenty of

our members are still receiving the printed version.

So will there be a "final printed edition" of *The Dispatcher*? Only time will tell. We seek your input!

See you in New Jersey, Earl

January Meet—cont'd from page 1

interaction with his audience, much as one would do demonstrating at one's own workbench. Each clinic session lasts 30 minutes. A signal alerts all when the time period ends so members can move to another clinic location. The process repeats for a total of 4 sessions. A break occurs between sessions 2 and 3.

The only real downside to this format, mentioned frequently, is that there are more clinics of interest than there is time to attend. Well, we can't please everyone, but most members still agree that this is a welcome alternative to the traditional clinic format.

Come ready to choose your clinic topics and enjoy the program. If your preferred clinic appears too crowded, consider attending another, and then return to your first choice during one of the later sessions. Be flexible and have fun.

A popular vote model contest in the category of "Detailed Weathered Reefers" will be held for those so inclined to participate.

The cafeteria where the meet is held provides much space for selling or shopping for model railroad-related items. If you need swap table space, contact Bob Clegg at bobcatCS@comcast.net.

There will be several layouts open Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5pm. Maps and directions will be available at the meet.

For more meet details, please consult the New Jersey Division website at <http://www.njdivnmra.org>. A direct link to the January *Clinkers*, when available, will be posted on the Philadelphia Division's event page at <http://www.phillynmra.org/events/jan2015-meet-nj-phil>.

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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Boy Scout Activity in Delaware

...by Jeff Shockley

First State Model Railroad Club Offers Railroading Merit Badge to Local Scouts October 11, 2014

Nineteen scouts registered for the class between April 20 and October 10, 2014. The class was listed on the Delmarva Council calendar and also on various District calendars.



Scouts and leaders arrive for the Railroading Merit Badge class given by the First State Model Railroad Club on October 11, 2014

with one, attended the class held at the First State Model Railroad Club headquarters at 1282 McKee Road in Dover, Delaware.

Eight members of the club were in attendance to assist. Paul Buckley and Earl Brooks handled the classroom lecture portion of the class, Reggie Finch and Joe Sudler oversaw the Timesaver switching module area, Henry Cramer was in charge of the DC/DCC workshop, Jim Valle and John Murphy were in charge of the model boxcar construction area, and Jeff Shockley acted as photographer. Don Jennings, representing the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association, drove in from Cary, NC, and assisted with the Timesaver modules.



Club member John Murphy (lower left) and Interm Club President Jim Valle (upper left) assist scouts with the model boxcar construction

Fifteen scouts representing seven troops from Delaware: Troop 1 in Lewes with seven scouts, Troop 24 in Camden-Wyoming with three, Troop 281 in Dagsboro with 1; Maryland: Troop 100 in Eldersburg with one, Troop 478 in Salisbury with one; and Pennsylvania: Troop 105 in Exton

with one, attended the class held at the First State Model Railroad Club headquarters at 1282 McKee Road in Dover, Delaware.

To get the class started, Mr. Buckley introduced the adult staff and then three scouts came forward to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, and Scout Law. The scouts

were then divided into four groups. Groups A and B were in the classroom for the lecture portion. Group C did the model boxcar kit construction. The kits were donated to the

club by the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA. Group D went to the Timesaver modules for a lesson in switching cars in a rail yard.



Club member Reggie Finch (left) and NMRA-MER member Don Jennings (seated) assist the scouts with the Timesaver layout

ferences between DC (Direct Current) and DCC (Digital Command Control) model railroad layouts, i.e. wiring, how the locomotives are controlled, and how to run more than one train on the same mainline on a DC and DCC layout.

After a break for lunch, the morning procedures were repeated, this time with groups C and D in the classroom and A and B doing the other work.

At the closing of the class, each scout was given his blue card signifying that he had completed all the requirements for the Railroading Merit Badge, and were also given a copy of the monthly *NMRA Magazine* as a gift from Mr. Jennings and the Mid-Eastern Region.

In appreciation of his assistance with the merit badge class, both this time as well as in the past, Jim Valle, interim president of the First State Model Railroad Club, named Mr. Jennings an honorary member of the club.

Mike Price, scoutmaster of Troop 1 in Lewes, Delaware, donated four Railroading Merit Badge books to be used by other scouts in future classes given by the train club.

This was the 24th class sponsored by the First State Model Railroad Club since it started the merit badge program in 2003. The club has since awarded 318 Railroading merit badges in that 13-year span, and is already planning for the next merit badge class to be held on April 11, 2015. 🚂



Club member and retired Amtrak conductor Paul Buckley instructs the scouts during the classroom portion of the merit badge class

AP Report – The Big Three

...by Dave Messer, MMR

No, I'm not talking about the term once used to describe the U.S. automobile industry – I'm referring to the three most common AP certificates for those with layouts. They are Master Builder – Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer – Civil, and Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical.

The requirements for all three are clearly spelled out under Achievement Program on the NMRA website, <http://www.nmra.org>, so I'd encourage readers to search for them there. But all three call for a layout track diagram, so my suggestion for those working toward these certificates is to do the diagram and then use it for all three.

There are several ways to do this. First, draw a basic diagram by hand or use some CAD program. Then you can either 1) try to fit everything on one diagram, 2) use transparent overlays for each certificate, or 3) duplicate the diagram and add the specific information required for each certificate – again, the requirements are spelled out for each, but using one diagram simplifies the “paperwork.” It's really not that difficult, and can even help in organizing the information for yourself as well as for the AP program, which is not only a challenge to improve your modeling skills outside of your usual “box,” but also to reward yourself and gain recognition for your efforts.

And remember, there's the Golden Spike Award as a first step leading toward the full certificates in each of these disciplines. Please don't hesitate to contact me at dmesserpr@comcast.net if you have questions. 📧

Model Railroading Podcasts

...by Earl Paine



Many of us now carry a smartphone. These amazing devices are capable of many more tasks than merely taking photos and making cell phone calls. One of those many tasks is storing and playing music and audio. Almost any smartphone (Android, iPhone, and most others) can store and replay countless hours of audio.

Don't have a smartphone? How about an mp3 player, a tablet device, or even just a computer with an internet connection? All of these devices will allow you to download and listen to *PODCASTS*.

Podcasts are merely prerecorded audio sessions, which are usually in old style “talk radio” format and can be played back anytime and anywhere. Two of the most popular playback times for model railroaders are while driving and while modeling.

Most podcasts are recorded at regular intervals (usually biweekly or monthly) and are available on the internet. Single podcasts can be downloaded, but most listeners subscribe to these reoccurring shows using the popular iTunes software, which automatically downloads them when they are released.

There are many model railroading related podcasts, but four in particular are worth recommending to division members.

The Scotty Mason Show at <http://themodelrailroadpodcast.com> is one of the longest running shows and has countless hours of archived content. It is jam packed with modeling tips as well as commentary by Scotty's co-hosts. This podcast is posted at monthly intervals.

Model Rail Radio at <http://modelrailradio.com> is hosted by modeler Tom Barbalet and features a live recording format with call-ins by modelers (both regulars and new contributors) from around the world. It is probably the most internationally based of the model railroading podcasts.

The Model Railcast Show at <http://www.modelrailcast.com> is hosted by Ryan Anderson and features co-hosts Craig Bisgeier and Tim Anderson. This podcast regularly features noted guests to discuss various topics.

One of the newest podcasts is hosted by Lionel Strang and co-hosted by Jim Rindt. This show is only four months old and is entitled “A Modeler's Life.” It features the modelers themselves, rather than what they actually model. The URL is <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/a-modelerslife/id905596672?mt=2>.

Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine also publishes a podcast which features in- depth interviews of modelers throughout the country. These interviews often cover topics in greater depth than the other shows. The URL for these podcasts is: <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/podcast/episodes>.

All are recommended and provide countless hours of listening greatly increasing the enjoyment of the hobby for many. Don't miss out! 📻



Editors note...

Smartphones are also being used more and more as throttles at many division operating sessions.

Free, downloadable, software apps work in conjunction with the layout owner's wifi signal, which communicates with a computer running the JMRI software suite (also free).

Watch for an upcoming article on how to set this up on your layout.

November Meet Report

...by Mark Wallace (including photos)

November is National Model Railroad Month and to start it on the right foot, the division returned on Saturday the first to the Brandywine Town Center, just north of Wilmington, DE, for our November Meet.

Mike Baker of Nick & Nora Designs in Newark, DE was our first clinician. Mike not only produces kit structures, but does custom model painting, as well. He



presented his modeling and painting techniques involving HO maintenance-of-way equipment.

Bob Clegg from the Jersey Division gave the group a PowerPoint presentation introducing the 2015 MER convention called the “Delaware Valley Turn” to be held at the Hotel ML in Mt. Laurel, NJ, next October 2015, and with which our division will be assisting. There was a lively exchange of ideas and a favorable response to a call for volunteers. The convention is shaping up to be an excellent production and no doubt a model for those that follow.

Our second clinic was presented by Alden Smith of his Western Maryland-themed layout. Member Bill Fagan shot video from a camera mounted on a moving flat car in



Martin Brechbiel discusses paperwork for judging models

front of a locomotive to give us a “cab ride” view of Alden’s layout. Using the video, Alden was able to stop at points of interest along the route to discuss modeling, how the layout evolved, and its construction. The video clearly demonstrated the high level of accomplishment in Alden’s modeling.

Next up was MER General Contest Chairman Martin Brechbiel presenting our third clinic on how to fill out

and submit paperwork for those contests and Achievement Program model entries. Paperwork has always been the “bugaboo” of the AP program and the excuse members used for procrastinating on working toward AP certificates. Martin demystified the task



Alden Smith gives presentation on his layout

showing how a straightforward, common-sense approach works best for both applicant and judge.

As was done last November, a modeling contest was held in the “anything goes” category. Our winner this year (who tied for winner last year) was Rick Cline for his scratch built Reading Camelback 4-4-0 #243, complete with a Reading work train consisting of Crane #90631, GM wheel car #90964, gon #28967 and a northeast caboose to bring up the markers. We thank all of those who brought in their models to share and encourage others to participate in the future.



George Phillips (left) of StARR accepts appreciation certificate

The division also recognized and thanked the St. Alban’s RR Club (StARR) for having hosted our June meet. Division and club member George Phillips was on hand to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Many thanks to all of the clinicians, presenters, and participants for helping to make an otherwise rainy Saturday both an enjoyable and informative day. And, of course, thanks to all the division members who attended. We hope you had fun.

The afternoon layouts were open courtesy of the annual November Model Railroad Open House event, with several nearby in Northern Delaware and Chester County, Pennsylvania. Of note, division member Bill Kachel in Kennett Square had his impressive layout open as part of the event. 🏠

MORE PHOTOS ONLINE ON PAGE 9

Mark Kessler's PRR Susquehanna Division

Mark Kessler, like many of us, got to a point in building his layout when he decided he wanted something bigger, but his basement room wasn't big enough. That didn't stop him. He dug out the adjoining crawl space and within a year has doubled the size of his railroad.



His layout represents the Pennsylvania's Susquehanna Division circa 1956 with a mixture of first generation diesels, L1 Mikados, M1 Mountains, and I1 Decapods, many of which have sound.



He also runs some Reading and Lehigh Valley equipment simply because he likes them. A couple of GP30s sneak in there, too, because he likes those as well. Who doesn't?

The layout includes major industries such as a power plant, flour mill, and mine. The newer layout room features a large yard with a round-house and engine servicing facilities. The Mount Carmel branch also leaves the mainline at the yard and snakes along the outer basement wall until it

forms a second level. The layout presents a lot of operational possibilities and Mark is working on operating scenarios as he adds more scenery alongside his already completed track work.



A wireless Digitrax DCC system allows for walk-around capability to easily follow your train along the layout while benefiting from the wide aisles. To further aid in walkaround capability, you gain access to the interior aisles through a swing door within the right of way. It is literally a regular door, cut down to track height, with the roadbed and track sitting on the top edge. When closed, the track is very crisply aligned for smooth, uninterrupted operation. Enjoy the photos that Mark Wallace recently took during a round-robin work session. 📷



Editor's Note:

The Dispatcher seeks to cover members' model railroads and their progress in future issues! We know you're out there so please send your photos to the editor.

January Meet Directions

From Philadelphia Via Ben Franklin Bridge

Follow **US 30 East** to Oaklyn. Turn **left** onto **Cuthbert Blvd.** and follow **Local Directions** below.

From Delaware Memorial Bridge or Commodore Barry Bridge Via I 295

Cross the Bridge and take **I 295 North** to **US 30 West (exit 29B)**. **US 30** (White Horse Pike) west to Oaklyn. Turn **right** onto **Cuthbert Blvd.** and follow **Local Directions** below.

From Points North Via I 295

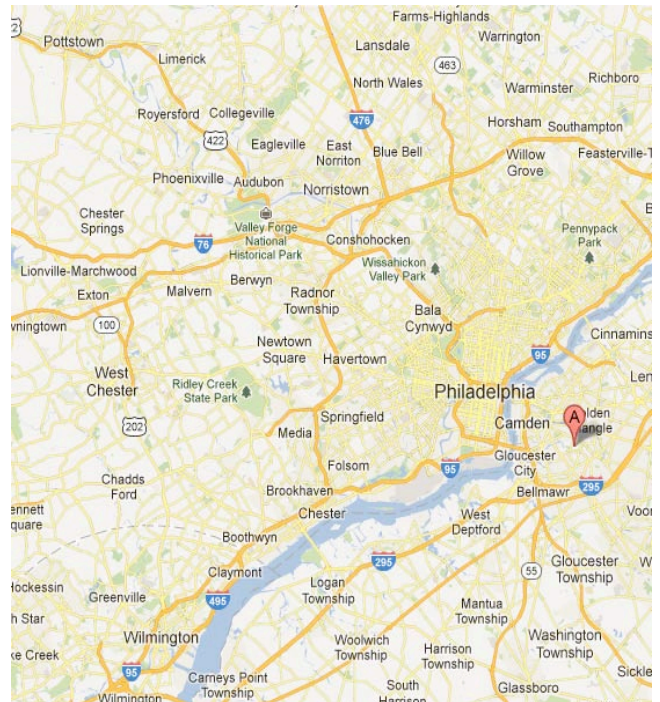
Follow **I 295 South** to **US 30 West (exit 29)**. **US 30** (White Horse Pike) west to Oaklyn. Turn **right** onto **Cuthbert Blvd.** and follow **Local Directions** below.

Points Southeast in New Jersey

Use the **Atlantic City Expressway** or **US 322** (Black Horse Pike) and continue onto **NJ42 Freeway North**. Exit onto **US 130 North** (Crescent Blvd.) Just before the second traffic light, turn **right** onto **Wilson Ave.** then bear **left** and follow around to **Nicholson Road**. Continue to the end at **US 30** and turn **left**. Follow **Local Directions** below.

Local Directions

From **US 30** turn onto **Cuthbert Blvd.** and proceed about a mile. You'll see a driveway next to a chain link fence on the right. Turn into the driveway and follow it to the cafeteria entrance for Haddon Twp. High School. If you miss the driveway, continue on **Cuthbert Blvd.** and turn **right** onto **Park Blvd.** Turn **right** on **Briarwood Ave.**, stay **right** on Buckner Ave. and then left onto Memorial Ave. Follow Memorial Ave. to Haddon Twp. High School. The cafeteria and parking are in the rear of the school. The full address for GPS users is 406 Memorial Ave., Haddon Twp., NJ 08108.



QuikTips

...by Dave Messer, MMR

Miracle Brush Cleaner –

Well, almost – I am talking about Windex. After cleaning paintbrushes in the appropriate solvent, wipe them dry and then dip the brush in Windex and wipe clean. This will keep your brushes supple and free of paint residue. I keep a small bottle handy on my model workbench for the purpose. 🧽

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.

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	April 17–18, 2015 East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet Delaware Valley College Doylestown, PA
May/June, 2015 Philadelphia Division Meet Annual Business Meeting/Elections TBA	August 23–30, 2015 NMRA National Convention Portland, OR	October 22–25, 2015 MER Convention “Delaware Valley Turn” Mount Laurel, NJ

Check <http://www.phillynmra.org/regional-timetable> for links to these and other upcoming events.

THE DISPATCH

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**4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

- January Meet Info
- Scouting in the Division
- November Meet Recap
- New Member Layout
- Podcasts
- 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!**

Additional Photos from November Meet

Photos by Mark Wallace



Mike Baker presents on MOW equipment



Rick Cline (left) receives congratulations for winning model contest



Martin Brechbiel (left) receives appreciation certificate from Superintendent Joe Bergmaier



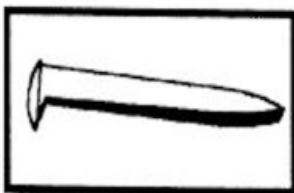
Attentive crowd



Winning entry in the model contest



Alden Smith (left) receives appreciation certificate from Superintendent Joe Bergmaier



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

November/December 2014

Next Stop: PDX 2015



The Portland Daylight Express Convention, to be held August 23 - 29, 2015, is our next National Convention. This is the 80th NMRA

National Convention and a perfect opportunity for members who may not have participated in the largest annual get-together of NMRA members to experience this unique event.

Planning has been underway since our successful bid at the NMRA Board meeting at Sacramento in 2011. Through promotions at recent National and Regional conventions, we've been building registrations and already have quite a few registrants from the far side of both the Pacific and Atlantic. We're also pleased with the number of family registrations to date - many visitors are planning to make an extended visit to experience the Pacific Northwest as well as the convention.

We're always on the lookout for new clinics and clinicians. If you have a topic which has been successfully presented at your club or division meet, please consider offering it for a wider audience.

The successful Cleveland convention last year had two innovations which we plan to adopt. One was a smartphone app that let attendees to see the latest convention timetable. Many attendees used the phone rather than the printed timetable while checking the next clinic session or other activity.

The other was the opportunity to pre-register silent auction items online. At Cleveland, 79 participants registered 1100 items in advance, significantly reducing processing time on the day. Our Auction chair, is planning similar for PDX 2015.

Check out our website at www.nmra2015portland.org. Registrations are open!

Title

by Author

Text

A few words from the President



Title

Text

Notice of the BOD Winter Meeting, 2015

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will be held in Scottsdale, AZ. on February 20, 21, and 22 at the Chaparral Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00pm on Friday, February 20, and the Board will be in caucus that evening (Board and invited guests only). The regular BOD meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21. Because the agenda is not yet set, there is no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are invited to attend the open sessions. Watch www.nmra.org for details.

The official slate of candidates for the NMRA 2015 election



From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary

With nominations and petitioning now closed, the following is the official slate of candidates for the 2015 election:

President

Charlie Getz
Jack Hamilton (By-petition)

VP Administration

Clark Kooning
Dave Thornton

VP Special Projects

Gerry Leone

At Large North American Director

Bob Ferguson
Vincent Gallogly
Alan Saatkamp
Paul Voelker
Bob Weinheimer
Peter Youngblood

Eastern District Director

Joe Gelmini

Pacific District Director

Mike Bartlett
Kelly Loyd

Two ideas to help get new members



Here are two innovative ideas that are easy to implement that just may help you get new members.

From Ken Mattern of the Mid-South Division: "When I returned from Cleveland I notified my superintendent that I would sponsor three RailPass memberships at our next mini-meet. At the following meeting I challenged all 12 members attending to sponsor at least one RailPass. To my pleasure the total number of sponsorships is now 17! I then challenged the members to be in direct and frequent contact with their sponsored members, to personally remind them of division meetings, invite them to visit their layouts and promote the hobby as much as reasonable."

From Al Hovey of Rio Grande Division 6: "At train shows, rather than wearing a badge or having a sign that says, 'Ask me about the NMRA,' we have badges that read, 'Ask me how to get started in model railroading.' Once we get them interested in the hobby, then we sell them on the benefits of the NMRA."

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Editor:

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

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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.

Bob DeWitt brass model collection donated to the National Model Railroad Association

(SODDY DAISY, TN) The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is pleased to announce the immediate donation of a sizeable portion of the Bob DeWitt Collection to its "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). The Bob DeWitt model collection represents not only the motive power but entire trains of virtually all the major railroads in both the United States and Canada, and is one of the largest and most comprehensive model railroad collections in the world.

The portion of the collection donated to the NMRA at this time is valued at over \$250,000. It's Mr. DeWitt's intent that his entire collection be donated to the NMRA over a period of several years. Both he and his wife, Roxanne Christ, have requested that the collection be kept intact and preserved for future generations.

The NMRA hopes to immediately display this donation when its exhibit at the CSRM is completed, estimated to be within two to three years.

"This is a donation of unprecedented generosity," said Charlie Getz, president of the NMRA. "It will really make what was already going to be a spectacular display, a world class exhibit worthy of international note. The entire organization is truly overwhelmed."

Each of the locomotives in the collection is a brass import, super-detailed and professionally painted to represent specific railroad prototypes. The passenger and freight trains are equally appointed, and each is modeled to be part of a specific train as it ran during a specific year or era.

For more information, contact NMRA president Charlie Getz at pres@nmra.org

Region and National Conventions



[Aug 23-30: NMRA National Convention, Portland, OR](#)

Master Model Railroaders



542: Katherine Millatt
543: William Messecar
544: Gene Sing
545: James Dalberg

546: Joseph Norris
547: Steve Perry

The Next National Convention



<http://www.nmra2015portland.org>

Portland OR
August 23–29, 2015

Future NMRA National Conventions

- 2016: Indianapolis, IN www.nmra2016.org
July 3–10, 2016
- 2017: Orlando, FL
July, 2017

Holiday Season Model Railroad Open Houses

November 2014-March 2015

To see this schedule in grid form, click [HERE](#)

Note: The grid is in Adobe pdf format.

If you don't already have the Adobe reader, you can get a free download [HERE](#).

Abington Lines Model Railroad Club

Location: 2066 Second Street Pike (PA Rt 232), Richboro, PA 18954 (2 miles north of PA 332, on the right)

Phone: (215) 598-7720

Website: <http://www.abingtonlines.org>

Information: Come see multiple trains with digital radio control and sound, operating on our 20' x 60' two-track mainline exceeding 1,000 feet in length. Enjoy the scenery depicting the PA rolling hills. Marvel at our trolleys, life-like villages, detailed buildings, operating roundhouse, industrial switching areas and waterfront complete with rail car ferries. Also enjoy our extensive narrow gauge section with old time operating engines.

Open 12-4pm on Dec. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 27 & 28, Jan. 3 & 4, 10 & 11, Feb. 7 & 8, 14 & 15.

Admission Free - Donations
Appreciated

Scale: HO (standard, narrow gauge &
traction)

Burlington County Model Railroad Club

Location: Basement (right side), Burl. Co. Footlighters Playhouse, 808 Pomona Rd, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Phone: (856) 733-0010

Website: <http://www.bcmrc.org>

Information: We call our miniature railroad the Rancocas Valley Lines, which is appropriate for this area. We represent portions of a railroad that goes from tidewater to mountains, running through the typical stations and industrial areas of a large city, then countryside, while serving industries. We run 5-8 trains simultaneously on a double-track mainline along with several other trains operating in various yards. Come and see the progress on our expansion project, more than doubling our layout!

Open 12-5pm on Nov. 29 & 30, Dec. 6 & 7, Dec. 27 & 28, Jan. 10 & 11, 17 & 18, Feb. 7 & 8, 21 & 22.

Admission Free - Donations
Appreciated

Scale: HO

Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers - C.A.S.M.E.

Location: Basement of Borough Building, 5 North Main St., Coopersburg, PA 18036

Phone: (215) 538-0501

Website: <http://www.casme.org>

Information: The members are building an expansive multi-level layout, portions of which loosely portray the old Reading RR Bethlehem branch. Approximately 10 trains will operate over the double-track main line using DCC control. Scenery is in full swing and the major bench work is complete.

Open 12-5pm on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, Jan. 3 & 4.

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

Scale: HO

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

Cheltenham Hills Model Railroad Club

Location: 8000 Old York Rd. (Route 611) Elkins Park, PA 19027 (located in the old train station)

Phone: (215) 635-9747

Website: <http://www.cheltenhamhillsmrr.org>

Scale: HO

Information: Come join us for our 68th year! Come see the 1750 feet of track, the 300 car freight yard and the steam and diesel engine facility. Our operating lift bridge allows trains to cross between parts of the layout. Our DCC control system allows us to run 6 to 8 long trains with realistic sounds. We also switch cars in the main yard and among custom-made buildings. We can provide wheelchair accessibility by appointment. Please call any Thursday evening to schedule this access.

Open 12-4pm on Dec. 13 & 14, Jan. 3 & 4, 17 & 18; snow dates Jan. 24 & 25.

GATSME Model Railroad Club

Donations Appreciated

Location: Montgomery & Sylvania Avenues, Rockledge, PA 19046

Website: www.gatsme.org AND www.rockledgemrm.org

Scale: HO

Information: GATSME members are hard at work restoring a former industrial building to house the Rockledge Model Railroad Museum, which will have as its centerpiece a large, detailed model railroad layout. Donations and new members are welcome.

For updates on our progress toward the opening of the museum, please see the web sites listed above.

Keystone N-Trak

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

Location: Dublin TEC Center, Suite 216, Rear Entrance, 123 N. Main St. (Rt. 313), Dublin, PA *New Location!*

Website: <http://www.keystonentrak.us>

Scale: N scale

Information: Keystone is a modular N Scale club modeling to N-Trak international standards. This enables each member's modules to link up and form model layouts at public and private events. We travel to various N Scale events and are a participating member of the Eastern N Lines Partnership. New members are always welcome. Meetings are every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Come out and see our ongoing progress on the layout.

Open 11am to 4pm on Nov. 15 & 16, Nov. 23, Dec. 13 & 14, Jan. 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 31 & Feb. 1.

Logan Model Engineers

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

Location: Souderton Train Station, 2nd Floor, Rear Entrance, Main & Broad Sts. (Rt 113), Souderton, PA

Phone: 267-474-3235

Website: <http://www.loganmrr.com>

Scale: HO

Information: Double track mainline through mountain scenery, freight and passenger yards, with multiple trains running simultaneously. Featuring a logging switchback that guests may operate, and long freight drags of up to 80-100+ cars; friendly club members to answer your railroad questions.

Open 12-4pm on Nov. 29 & 30, Dec. 6 & 7, Jan. 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18.

Royersford Modular Model Railroaders

Admission Free (see note below)
Donations Appreciated

Location: Multiple (see schedule below for locations, dates, and times)

Phone: (610) 888-4306

Website: <http://www.royersfordmodular.org>

Scale: HO

Information: Movable modular railroad layout, on display at multiple locations again this season.

Dec. 13 & 14 (10AM-4PM) [Greenberg's Show](#) at The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Drive, Oaks, PA.

Note: The parking and traffic have been dramatically improved in the time since this facility opened.

Jan. 17 & 18, 19 (Monday), 24 & 25 (12-4PM) at [Phoenixville YMCA](#), 400 East Pothouse Road, Phoenixville, PA.

There is an admission fee to enter the Greenberg's show, which also includes other layouts and vendors.

Open: See [web site](#) for additional details of dates, times and locations.

Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

Location: 400 South Main Street (rear entrance), Phoenixville, PA 19460; diagonally across from Library

Phone: (610) 935-1126

Website: www.svmrrc.com

Scale: HO (standard and narrow gauge)

Information: Scale model trains run through realistic wooded Pennsylvania scenery featuring logging, bridges, tunnels and Tony the Tank Engine on the Philadelphia to Reading point-to-point system. There are 4 different railroads depicted on a 1,000 square-foot layout. Hundreds of buildings, vehicles, figures and trees create realistic scenes. Great for kids of all ages. Numerous buttons allow visitors to bring scenes to life!

Open 1-5pm on Nov. 29 & 30, Dec. 6 & 7, Jan. 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25

Saint Alban's Railroad Fellowship - StARR

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

Location: Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, 3625 Chapel Rd. Newtown Square, PA (Under Thrift Shop)

Website: <http://www.StARR-MRC.org>

Scale: HO

Information: Modular layout fills 4000 square-foot area with 200 feet of 4 track mainline with working signals, 3 branch lines, steel mill, coke plant, oil refinery, meatpacking plant and three working classification yards. We have a unique custom waybill system for freight and passenger operations that routes over 1000 pieces of equipment throughout the system. A large variety of roads and eras are featured. The layout is controlled by DCC with computer enhancement.

Open 1-4pm on Nov. 1, Dec. 6 & 7, 27 & 28, Jan. 10 & 11, 24 & 25, Feb. 7 & 8, Mar. 7 & 8.

Black Diamond Society of Model Engineers (BDSME)

Admission: Adults \$4, Free for those 12 and under.

Location: 902 East Macada Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Website: <http://www.bdsme.org>

Scales: HO, O, On30, S

Information: The Black Diamond Society of Model Engineers is holding their annual Railroad Days event. Featured will be 2 floors of sleek passenger and powerful freight trains in continuous operation. Join us as we celebrate 50 years of model railroading in the Lehigh Valley.

The first floor (650 square foot) layout features models of O, On30 and S scale steam trains from the glory days of railroading to the mighty diesel locomotives of today, including prototype sights and sounds. Operating semaphores and signals further enhance the display. Visitors can even operate specific accessories.

The second floor (800 square foot) HO scale display has a multitude of trains in operation, including a loaded coal train stretching to more than 100 cars powered by multiple diesel locomotives winding through mountain scenery. A miniature trolley travels between a village and a distant amusement park with both an operating ski lift and rides. Visitors can operate the park train, too.

We suggest those with children under 40 inches tall bring a step stool to make it easier for them to see the displays. Tables of pre-owned trains, structures, accessories and books are for sale.

Open 2-5pm on Dec. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, Jan. 3 & 4, 10 & 11, Feb. 7 & 8.

Pequea Valley Model Railroaders

Admission: Adults \$2 donation, Free for those 12 and under.

Location: Paradise Township Municipal Building, 2 Township Drive, Rear Entrance, Paradise, PA 17562

Website: <http://www.pvmr.org>

Scales: S, O, HO

Information: [The](#)

Open 10-4pm on Nov. 22, then 1-4pm on Saturdays & Sundays Nov. 22 thru Jan. 18. Also open 1-5pm on Dec. 26. Township tree-lighting ceremony should be on Sunday Dec. 7.

Note: Dates for all club open houses are Saturdays and Sundays unless otherwise noted. Not responsible for errors or omissions in the schedules. Dates and times subject to change without notice. In case of inclement weather, please verify directly with the club whether their shows will run as scheduled.

Holiday Season Model Railroad Open Houses - November 2014-March 2015

Converted for the web by Fred Monsimer of Royersford Modular Model Railroaders

Copies may be made for personal use and non-commercial distribution.

version 1.2 posted 2014-Oct-21

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

Around the Division...



Vintage photo of RDG/PRR crossing in Birdsboro, PA



Scenery is under way on the editor's Reading Lines



**Pennsylvania Live Steamers visit... Can you identify division members?
(Mark Wallace photo)**

Around the Division...



Some division members were invited to visit the Pennsylvania Live Steamers during the Fall of 2014. These photos, submitted by Clerk Mark Wallace, memorialize the visit! There is a lot of scale model railroading in the division including these large-scale, live models.