



THE DISPATCH

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



April, 2015

www.phillynmra.org

Volume 22, No. 2

May Meet in Fairview Village

Our next division meet to be held on Saturday, May 30, 2015 returns to an old favorite location, the Fairview Village Church in Eagleville, PA. This time, however, rather than being in the barn as in the past, the meet will be held in the "Fireplace Room" in the main church building, so we'll have to be on our best behavior. A map and directions can be found on page 6 of this issue. Signs will be posted. Doors open at 8:30am with the program beginning promptly at 9:00am.

We'll start off with our annual business meeting consisting of officer and committee reports, and followed by our annual Board of Directors election. In addition, this year the board has proposed bylaws changes to deal with some of the stumbling blocks we've been experiencing for years and allow for smoother operation. A motion will be made to accept the changes, followed by discussion, if needed, and then a vote. Both the candidates' statements and the proposed bylaws changes will have been mailed to all division members well in advance of the meeting. If you plan to attend, please do not vote on the bylaws in the mailed proxy ballot. It is preferred that you vote in person at the meeting. If for any reason you did not receive or misplaced the election materials, they start on page 3 and can be printed out.

Our first clinician will be Mike Prokop of the New Jersey Division with his presentation called "Light Up Your Layout with LEDs!" This clinic demonstrates the many types of LED strip lights that are available, along with neat ideas and techniques for using them to illuminate your railroad. Whether it's new construction or an existing layout, LED lighting can provide an easy and cost effective method of making your layout shine! Do your whole railroad, or perhaps just light up dark hidden trackage, staging yards, under the table storage areas, or display cabinets. Working hardware samples of the LED strip lights will be shown along with power supplies, controlling devices, and mounting products.

Next up is our own board director and ops chairman, Rob Hinkle, with his clinic titled "Researching and Designing a Reading Company Layout." Rob will start by presenting a little bit of the history of the Reading Railroad as well as his modeling goals. He'll go on to discuss the various branches of the Reading and why he decided to model the Lebanon Valley Branch. Next, he'll

show examples of prototype documents that were used to work on "layout design elements" which will be included in the layout plan. After discussing the track plan under construction, you'll get to see the operating paperwork that he's collected with a discussion on how he plans to use it in the operations of his model railroad.

Other features will include a 50/50 raffle held to defray the costs of putting on the meet; one may purchase as many tickets as desired and the winner gets half the pot. In addition, there will be a white elephant table to sell your unwanted stuff, a display table to show off your models, door prize drawings, and the usual coffee, tea, donuts, and Philly pretzels. The afternoon treats us to several open house layouts in the area.

Admission is free to all NMRA members. Consider bringing a guest you think may be interested in joining. Introductory, six-month NMRA membership applications will be available. It promises to be very informative and a lot of fun. Hope to see you there!

MER 2015 Convention

While almost all of the activities of the Delaware Valley Turn are now set in place, Fred Willis is still interested in "backup" clinics in case of last minute cancellations, and floor volunteers may still be needed. Anyone interested may click on the appropriate link in the block at the top of the division website home page at phillynmra.org. You can now reserve an ops spot and check out convention details at delawarevalleyturn.org.

Call for Articles – Your Immediate Help is Needed!

The Dispatcher seeks articles for upcoming editions. The supply of future articles, on which all publications depend, has now been exhausted. This could prevent or delay the projected publishing schedule for upcoming issues. The inclusion of articles on modeling topics and layout visits is crucial to the makeup of this newsletter.

The editorial staff of *The Dispatcher* stands ready to help authors with ideas and assistance in article preparation. Articles of any length are welcome.

Contact the Editor or any board member if you have an interest in contributing to the publication effort. Don't forget that published articles and photos can receive credit towards the Author certificate in the AP program.



From the Editor...

The "Winter Woes"

I am writing this on March 1st while our freezing winter temps are still a reality. You will be reading this in April's warmer weather, but I wanted to write this column as I actually deal with my 2015 winter problems.

The low humidity rather than the low temperatures have been my problem. This winter has brought record cold temps but also dropped humidity levels down to between 15% and 25%. Some winters are worse than others, but humidity usually falls because colder air cannot contain the moisture levels that warm air does.

As a result, everything wooden dries out and shrinks in both width and length:

- My once arrow straight trackage has developed multiple kinks and buckles.
- My experiment using caulk to install some track (over cork) has failed and has been no match for wood shrinkage.
- Foam scenery sections have broken away from the bench work.
- Several electrical gaps have closed to make unwanted contact.

These problems happened once before during the winter of 2008 but not since. Why now in 2015? The difference has been the length of *continuous* time that the humidity stayed lower than normal. Shorter humidity spikes don't seem to allow the wood to dry out as fast or as much.

I have spent several days repairing these problems just to get things back running again. This was time that I could have spent on much needed scenery and other layout projects.

After reflecting on the 2003 "early days" of this layout I realized that I had cut corners on construction back then in an effort to get trains running as soon as possible.

In hindsight, I wish I had done the following:

- Painted or sealed the wood used for bench work.
- Installed 1/32" gaps every few track sections to allow for movement.
- Installed plastic shims into electrical gaps cut after the track was laid.
- Not used caulk for track laying without the 1/32" gaps (mentioned above) preinstalled.
- Installed a whole house humidifier to counteract the low outside humidity.
- Added a heating vent or two to the basement ceiling ducts to add some warmer humidified air to the layout area.

This type of reflection and afterthought, and the resulting work required to correct those problems can be summarized by the phrase "lessons learned."

In this editor's opinion, these "lessons learned" are extremely valuable to fellow modelers, especially those in the beginning stages of design and construction. Publishing them in *The Dispatcher*, as well as at all levels of the NMRA, would do an enormous service to the membership.

Even better would be asking some local division members who are further along with their railroads to stop by personally and offer opinions on your plans and ongoing layout construction.

Many members are hesitant to criticize a fellow modeler, but when specifically asked to offer criticism, both positive and negative, they generally feel more comfortable offering their own "lessons learned" and can provide valuable assistance. I sure wish I had done that!

See you at the May meet...

Regards, Earl

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www.phillynmra.org

Editor

Earl Paine 610-831-9466
4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, Pa, 19473
earlpaine@verizon.net

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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Division Personnel:

Superintendent

Joe Bergmaier 610-269-8558
531 Fillman Road
Downingtown, PA 19335
jober922@gmail.com

Assistant Superintendent

Charles Butsch 610-446-2375
227 Mill Road
Havertown, PA 19083
cabutsch@gmail.com

Clerk

Mark Wallace 610-454-9510
665 Bonny Brook Ave.
Trappe, PA 19426
mwallace665@verizon.net

Treasurer

Howard Kaplan 610-626-4506
620 Edmonds Ave.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
hakaplan@rcn.com

Directors at Large

Pat McTeigue - Layouts 215-441-8407
tonightowl1@comcast.net
John Seibert - Clinics 267-319-5391
johnhseibert@comcast.net
Rob Hinkle - Ops 610-279-2394
robhink@comcast.net

Achievement Program:

Coordinator

Dave Messer, MMR 610-948-2191
263 Mingo Road
Royersford, PA 19468-3112
dmesserpr@comcast.net

Committee Chairman

Brian Good 215-582-6983
578 Hawthorne Lane
Harleysville, PA 19438
b3good1@verizon.net

Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA

Bob Price - Business Manager
801 S. Newton Lake Dr. 856-854-8585
Collingswood, NJ 08108
MER-BusMgr@Comcast.net



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ELECTION SECTION

Greetings, NMRA members! This special Election Section of the April, 2015 edition of our newsletter, *The Dispatcher*, has been mailed to all division members. (The full issue is available free on our website at www.phillynmra.org or in print by paid subscription.) Any NMRA member who resides in the Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia, or anywhere in the state of Delaware, is automatically a member of the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA and entitled to vote.

Each spring we hold elections for open positions on our Board of Directors. This year's election will take place at the annual business meeting just prior to the morning clinic session at the May 30, 2015 division meet to be held at the Fairview Village Church in Eagleville, PA. A summary of the meet itinerary, a map and directions, and a schedule of upcoming events can be

found on page 6 in this mailing.

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

Below and on the following page are the statements of each of the candidates running for office. In addition, this year the Board of Directors has proposed a number of bylaws changes to improve operations. On page 5 you will find a ballot to vote for the candidates of your choice as well as the bylaws changes. If you will be attending the May meeting it is preferred that you vote for the bylaws in person. Please either mail the ballot to the address listed or bring it to the May 30th meeting.

Candidates Bios and Statements

John Seibert



I was born into model railroading. My earliest memories include the little HO layout that my Dad built when we lived in an apartment near Lansdale. Later he built other layouts in the basement of our house in Hatfield and encouraged his children to participate. As a result, all three Seibert siblings enjoy the hobby to this day. Having recently downsized, I am currently planning what will be my third layout: an N-scale, mid-1950s one that will once again be based on the Reading's Wilmington and Northern branch.

I have always enjoyed the social aspect of model railroading as well as the satisfaction of a job well done on the layout. I strongly support the NMRA as the glue that holds the hobby together. The NMRA isn't just about standardization; it is a driving force for sharing ideas, advancing the hobby, and networking with people who share your passion. I am a firm believer that the Division is the important link that brings the NMRA to the grass roots level. Over the years, your division board has continually made a concerted effort to improve the value the division brings to your membership in NMRA. With your support, I would like to continue serving on the board and working to maintain your division as a source of pride for all of us. We always welcome your feedback on the job we have been doing.

Charles Butsch



I began my fascination with trains with the family set of American Flyer trains during the Christmas season. During my teens I got a Gilbert HO train set and have been hooked on HO since.

In 1998 I had completed all my major home renovation projects and had served three years volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. It was time to satisfy my creative energies on something else. It started as a 5' x 8' platform in the basement where most layouts do, but ended moving to our third floor. Now the layout takes up most of the 15' x 30' space which includes the original platform from the basement, and I've three additional towns with industries and services to be supplied by not only the Reading Railway but also the PRR.

I have several grandkids who have shared my interest in trains over the years; my one granddaughter has even pulled wires for my DCC system. I think it's important to share our interest in railroading with the younger generations, not only because we enjoy it, but also because railroading is still an important means of transportation for America's goods and people.

Our membership can and should be reinforced with the inclusion of the younger generations. I have worked as a board member to encourage this growth as your assistant superintendent. If reelected to the board I will continue to work on this and to provide meaningful and entertaining programs for all our members.

(Candidate Bios continued on following page)

Candidates Bios and Statements *(continued from previous page)*

Rob Hinkle



I have been a model railroader since a very young age when each Christmas would involve a setup of a Lionel set around the tree. I visited a number of tourist railroads and museums growing up that influenced my interest in trains, as well as reading numerous library books around railroads. I drifted into and out of the hobby until I joined the NMRA in 2001. I attended my first NMRA national convention in Philadelphia in 2006 and have been a regular at conventions since then.

During the summer of 2008 I joined a round-robin group and started attending local division meets gathering valuable knowledge and meeting great people. The experience I've gained between the round-robin and division meets has been influential in the layout and operations planning of my currently-under-construction layout based on the Reading Company's Lebanon Valley Branch.

My goal for the division would be to look to expand membership and attendance at the division meets. I think the division has a lot of members that are willing to help each other out and I think we need to look towards social media sites to draw in members (young and old) who are getting back into the hobby and aren't sure what the NMRA and the Philadelphia Division can do for them.

Howard Kaplan



As far back as I can remember I was bitten by the train bug and hoped I would some day have my own model railroad. Growing up I would pore through back issues of *Model Railroader* in the library, dreaming and planning. Then, in high school, using a self-designed track plan, I built an N-scale layout on a 4' x 5' sheet of plywood starting out with the power pack and rolling stock from an AHM train set I had received.

Unfortunately that layout didn't last long, and life just got in the way of building another. Nevertheless, to one extent or another I continued to remain active in the hobby and in 1981 joined the NMRA. Then, at the '93 Valley Forge convention I learned of the Philadelphia Division and began attending their meets.

It has been an honor, privilege, and pleasure to have served on the board as the division treasurer and contributed in other ways. If reelected, I will continue to carry out my duties with diligence and work toward helping the division promote the same enthusiasm over trains and model railroading that I experienced growing up and still enjoy today.

Proposed Bylaws Changes – Note: deletions crossed out, additions in italics and underlined

The current bylaws can be found in the Library section of the division website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/>.

ITEM #1. Originally there were two (2) Article VIs. The second Article VI will become Article VII and all of the successive Articles will increase in number by one (1) Roman numeral.

ITEM #2. Article I – Name, Purpose, and Boundaries – Legal clarifications:

Section 1. The name of the organization is the Philadelphia Division (the "Division"). It is *established as a non-profit organization and incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as revised from the original Charter effective May 24, 1969* under the provisions of the Bylaws of the Mid-Eastern Region (MER), and the Regulations of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). If a conflict should develop between these Bylaws and the Regional Bylaws and/or the NMRA Regulations, the Regional Bylaws or the NMRA Regulations shall govern.

ITEM #3. Article I – Over the recent inclusion of Kent and Sussex Counties in Delaware into the Division's territory:

Section 3. The Division includes Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ~~as well as New Castle County in~~ and all of the counties within the State of Delaware.

ITEM #4. Article III – Voting and Office Holding Rights - To conform with National and Regional policy:

Section 1. All Division officers, members of the Board of Directors and officials must be members *of the NMRA in good standing as well as members* of the Division.

ITEM #5. The office of the Clerk/Paymaster is formally separated into the two (2) offices of "Clerk," and "Treasurer." There are several modifications required to fully coordinate this change as follows:

A. Article IV – Board of Directors:

Section 2. The Board will consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the ~~Clerk-Paymaster~~ Clerk, the Treasurer and ~~four (4)~~ three (3) members at large ~~(at the discretion of the Board, the Clerk Paymaster position may be split into two positions).~~ The Board will elect ~~these~~ the aforementioned officers from the Board of Directors *as described in Article IX, Section 7.(a.). The Board may elect when conditions merit, to appoint a Division Member or Members in good standing to assist with a portion of or a specific task concerning either the Clerk's duties or the Treasurer's duties.*

B. Article V – Duties of Officers and Board Members at Large:

Section 3. The ~~Clerk-Paymaster~~ Clerk will serve as the Division secretary ~~and the treasurer.~~ Duties ~~will~~ shall include: taking minutes at all meetings, maintaining a roster of active members, maintaining the Division's records, sending notices of meetings,

(Continued under ballot on next page)

2015 Philadelphia Division Ballot

Your Name: _____		Email: _____	
NOTE: Only paid-up, NMRA-Division members in good standing may vote. Railpass members may not vote, having agreed to postpone that right until joining as full members.			
Please vote for no more than 4 (four) names ==> for Board of Directors	John Seibert _____ Rob Hinkle _____	Charles Butsch _____ Howard Kaplan _____	Bring ballot to May meet or detach and send to: Mark Wallace, Clerk 665 Bonny Brook Ave. Trappe, PA 19426-1913 Questions: 610-454-9510 or mwallace665@verizon.net POSTMARK NO LATER THAN MAY 25th
BYLAWS CHANGES: If you will be attending the May meeting, it is preferred that you vote on the bylaws changes at that time. <u>By marking below and signing you are relinquishing your right to vote on the bylaws changes in person.</u> Do so only if you will <u>not</u> be attending the meeting.			
I vote to approve the proposed bylaws changes: Yes _____ No _____			
Signature: _____		Date: _____	

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL OR BRING TO MEET -----

Bylaws Changes (Continued from previous page)

~~receiving and disbursing funds, and preparing financial reports and assisting other members or committees in preparing reports.~~

C. Article V – Old Section 4 becomes Section 5 and new Section 4 added as follows:

Section 4. The Treasurer will perform the usual duties of the treasurer of a non-profit organization. Duties shall include maintaining the Division's financial records, receiving and disbursing funds, and preparing financial reports. When requested by the Auditing Committee, the Treasurer will provide appropriate records and shall fully cooperate with the Auditing Committee to aid them in their assignment.

D. Article VIII (formerly Article VII) – Committees and Officials, **Section 1. (b)** “Clerk-Paymaster” replaced with “Treasurer.”

E. Article XIII (formerly XII) – Referendums, **Section 1.** “Clerk-Paymaster” replaced with “Clerk.”

F. Article IX (formerly VIII) – Membership Meetings, **Section 4.** “Clerk-Paymaster” replaced with “Clerk.”

ITEM #6. Article X (formerly IX) – Terms of Office, Nominations, and Elections: The following clarifies the office of each elected Director, the terms of office, and the election of Board officers, and removes term limits as follows:

A. Section 1. Note: ~~During the first election governed by these Bylaws, the members shall elect all seven Directors.~~

~~Of these the four with the most votes will serve for two (2) years, and the three with the fewest votes will serve for one (1) year.~~

B. Section 2. ~~None of the foregoing seven people may serve in the same capacity, for more than two full consecutive terms. Directors are elected to a two (2)-year term without limitation unless a Director is finishing out the term of another Director who has resigned or cannot complete his elected term. There are no term limits set in these bylaws for any elected member of the Board.~~

~~(a) Officers are elected to a one-year term without limitation regarding the number of terms allowed.~~

C. Section 7. Members elected will take office on July 1 or at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the election, which ever is first, at which time officers will be elected from among the Board as follows:

(a) The highest ranking officer or the Board member with the highest seniority shall call the election meeting to order, declare the new Board members installed, and conduct the election of officers.

(b) Any Board member may express a desire to run for an office, but must still be formally nominated, and the individual must agree to serve if elected.

(c) All voting shall be done by secret ballot unless properly moved and suspended as described under Roberts Rules.

(d) Election with one (1) or two (2) nominees shall be determined by a majority of votes.

(e) Election with more than two (2) nominees will be conducted by the Board members voting for two (2) of the candidates at once on a single ballot, then a second runoff ballot shall be conducted and determined by a majority of votes.

(f) No Board member may serve more than one office simultaneously except for brief transition periods or until a vacancy can be filled.

(g) Appointment of any non-elected member(s) to assist the Clerk or Treasurer in performing certain specific duties may be made by the Board.

(h) The new officers are declared installed and the election meeting is adjourned.

ITEM #7. Coordination of and clarification on voting on Bylaws changes:

A. Article IX (formerly VIII) – Membership Meetings, **Section 4.** Proxy voting is permitted on any issue where advance notice is sent to all members, ~~such as referendums, with the exception of~~ changes in the Bylaws, which must be voted on in person as described in Article XII ~~or election of officers.~~ Proxies will be sent to the ~~Clerk-Paymaster~~ **Clerk**, who will vote them as directed.

B. Article XII (formerly Article XI) – Bylaws Changes, **Section 1.** These Bylaws may be amended by two thirds vote of the members present at the annual business meeting or a special meeting, provided there is a quorum. The proposed amendment must be communicated to all members at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting.

THE DISPATCHER – ELECTION SECTION

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4325 Wendy Way Schwenksville, PA 19473

Inside:

- Candidate Bios
- Proposed Bylaws Changes
- Election Ballot
- May Meet Map & Directions
- Upcoming Events

DIVISION MEET – Saturday, May 30, 2015 – Fairview Village Church, Eagleville, PA

MAY MEET HIGHLIGHTS

Doors open: 8:30am.

Meeting begins: 9:00am.

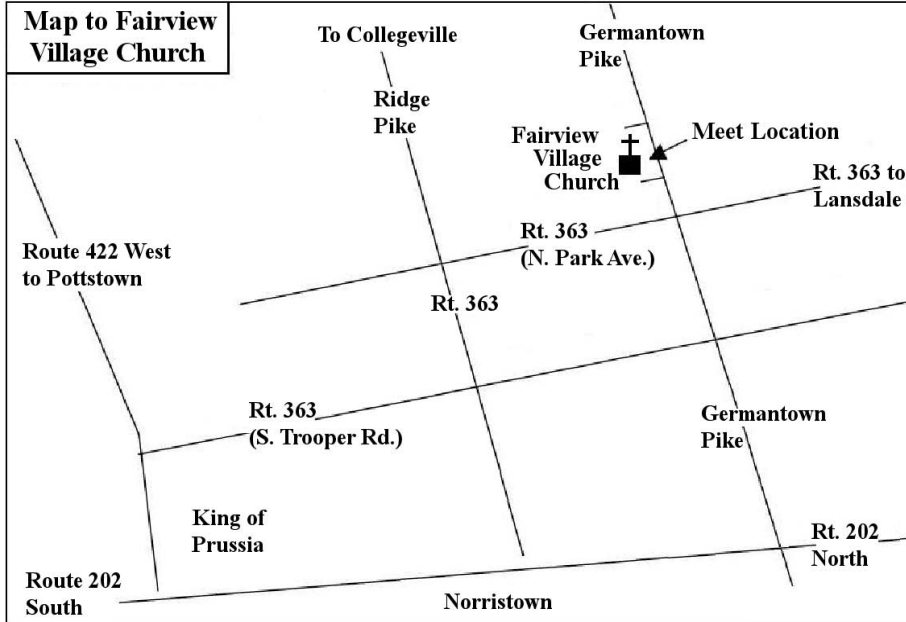
- Annual Business Meeting/Elections
- Clinic: LED Strip Lights for Layouts
- Clinic: Reading RR Layout Planning
- White Elephant Table – sell your stuff
- Display Table – bring your models
- Door Prizes
- 50/50 Raffle – Take a chance and win half the pot
- Division shirts and patches for sale
- Refreshments: Coffee, tea, donuts, and Philly pretzels
- Afternoon open house layout tours

Come and join in the fun!

Complete details on page 1 of the April issue of *The Dispatcher* or on the division website at

<http://www.phillynmra.org/>

Map to Fairview Village Church



Fairview Village Church is located at 3044 Germantown Pike, Eagleville, PA 19403. From the King of Prussia area follow US-422 west to PA-363. Follow PA-363 north to Germantown Pike. Turn left onto Germantown Pike and the church will be approximately ¼ mile on your left. Park in the area near the covered church entrance and follow the signs. Meet will be in the Fireplace Room.

Planning Ahead – Division Meet & Event Schedules

May 9, 2015 New Jersey Division Meet Hillsborough Twp. Municipal Bldg. Hillsborough, NJ	May 30, 2015 Philadelphia Division Meet Fairview Village Church Eagleville, PA	August 23–30, 2015 NMRA National Convention Portland, OR
September, 2015 Philadelphia Division Meet Quakertown Train Station Quakertown, PA	October 22–25, 2015 MER Convention “Delaware Valley Turn” Hotel ML Mount Laurel, NJ	November, 2015 Philadelphia Division Meet Brandywine Town Center Wilmington, DE

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

Given the number of well-scenicked layouts in the division, this should be one of the easiest certificates to complete. It requires that an area be completed of at least 32 sq. ft. in HO scale (that's equivalent to a 4' x 8' sheet of plywood) or other scales in proportion. The completed section must contain the necessary and prototypically appropriate scenic elements of Terrain (both natural and man-made), Structures (including buildings, bridges, trestles, signs, fences, etc.), Background (treatment of wall, backdrop or ceiling to realistically depict depth and distance), and Lighting (including overall lighting, buildings and streets, and cars and signals). All elements are judged by the overall impression that the area is a realistic representation of a prototype railroad scene. One needs to then prepare a set of photos and a written description of the scene and how it was constructed.

Please review the detailed requirements at the NMRA website, www.nmra.org, and as always, if you have questions on this or any other AP certificate, please feel free to contact me at dmesserprr@comcast.net or 610-948-2191. Reward yourself for your efforts! 🍷

March Meet Report**... by Mark Wallace, Clerk**

Elkins Park Station

Our March 14, 2015 division meet took us to a new venue, the Elkins Park train station, where we gathered in the recently restored waiting room. The exterior station platform is still used as a station stop along SEPTA's former Reading Line just below Jenkintown. It is still served by the Warminster and West Trenton Lines although the Lansdale/Doylestown trains pass by as well. There was a periodic variety of commuter passenger trains every few minutes either stopping or running by.

The station was constructed in 1898 for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad and was also known for a time as the Ashbourne station. The Richardsonian massing of the tower and the use of stone masonry with the Queen Anne style of architectural detailing earned the station a place on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. With cooperation and encouragement from SEPTA,

Cheltenham Township, and the Cheltenham Township Community Development Corporation (CTCDC), the Elkins Central organization has been given temporary possession of the station's interior, with their goal of refurbishing and restoring the various rooms for use as a community center.

The meet opened with Superintendent Joe Bergmaier welcoming everyone and introducing our guests. The morning's format included four clinics. First, member Earl T. Hackett, Jr. presented an informative presentation on 3D or "rapid prototyping" printing. He showed a variety of model objects including tanks, end caps, and architectural details that he designed and produced using a 3D printer.

Our next clinician, member Bob Gross could not attend, but member Bill Fagan stepped in to present the videos he took of Bob's beautifully detailed N-scale layout from a cab view as well as a flyover.



Charles Butsch presents on car weathering

Member Alden Smith then presented his project on scratch-building the Jenkins-Jones mine. The mine occupies a prominent place on Alden's Western Maryland-themed HO layout. He described in detail his techniques and the materials used in constructing the mine facilities.

In between the clinics, folks could circulate, get some refreshments, browse or shop at the white elephant table and catch up with old friends. Although not on the agenda, Mike Rabbitt shared news of planning for a possible restoration of the King of Prussia branch with a possible extension to the Shopping Mall.

Finally, Assistant Super Charles Butsch expanded on his popular

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Do you need to renew? If the date on your mailing label is highlighted, please renew promptly. Thank you for renewing promptly.

March Meet Report *(continued from page 7)*

clinic from the Jersey meet in January and demonstrated for the group his various methods for weathering freight cars.

The featured afternoon layout was at the nearby Cheltenham Hills Model Railroad Club on Old York Road. (<http://www.cheltenhamhillsmrr.org/>). The club has been going strong since their inception in 1946 as the Germantown HO Engineers. With subsequent moves to Chestnut Hill and then to Elkins Park, they eventually changed their name. They occupy a 22' x 55' space with an HO layout featuring a variety of beautifully finished scenes.

A gracious thanks to our hosts, Elkins Central organization, and in particular, Cynthia Blackwood, for allowing us the opportunity to hold our meet in an historic, railroad-themed venue. We wish them the best in their efforts.

Our next division meet is on May 30th, where will be in the Fireplace Room at the Fairview Village Church in Eagleville, PA. We will conduct our annual business meeting complete with election of directors to the board, reports, and a vote on changes to the division's bylaws. Of course, there will also be the usual interesting clinics, vendors, and a white elephant table. We will also be holding a 50/50 raffle and drawings for door prizes. If you have a model in any stage of construction that you want to display or share, please bring it with you! There will be more about this event elsewhere in *The Dispatcher*, and on our website. It's all fun and we'll see you then! 🍷

**Welcome to Our New
Philly Division Members!**

Michael Hershock
Robert Ischinger
William Harron

More March meet photos on Page 13 in the online section

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

The Next National Convention



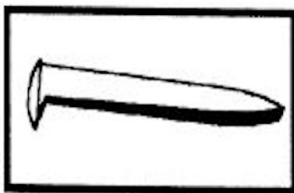
The 2015 NMRA National Convention

Portland OR
August 23 - August 30, 2015

[Downloadable 2015 Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

Future NMRA National Conventions

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



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 patch 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

Note: Shirt includes a patch already ironed and sewn on.

Additional Patches @ \$3 each Quantity: _____ _____ Shipped @ \$1 for 1-2 \$2.50 for 3 or more
Note: Patches have an iron-on backing (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 We accept PayPal – email for invoice.

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



eBULLETIN

March/April 2014 Addendum

Welcome to this NMRA eBulletin March/April 2014 Addendum. There were a few important news items that came up immediately after the last issue was mailed, so we're including those in this special issue.

European Region approved

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

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

Don't forget the NMRA eBay Giving Program!



Remember to name the NMRA your charity of choice when you're selling items on eBay. It's easy to do, doesn't cost anything, and generates additional income for us!

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Editors:

[Gerry Leone](#) 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.

NOTICE OF 2015 ELECTIONS



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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS & TRAIN SHOW PERSONNEL CHANGE

We received the following information from Charlie Getz, NMRA President:

"For the past year, Jim "Lumpy" Lupfer has been Department head for M&TS and has done a great job in a very demanding role. At the mid-year BOD meeting we discussed that job and its unrelenting requirements and Lumpy advised he felt it best to step down. I asked him to reconsider but respect his decision. Lumpy was a pleasure to work with and a consummate professional.

"Bob Amsler has kindly agreed to step in as the new Department head of M&TS, his former role. Because my concern that no volunteer undertake two major roles and as Bob is our indispensable attorney, he has agreed to treat the position much as the Department head of Publications does, overseeing the work of the managers, setting policy and acting as point person for the Host Committees. Working for him will be Ray DeBlick as Convention Manager and Ed Slintak as Ass't thereto, along with Mark "Fuzzy" Shafer as NTS Manager with Tom Draper helping. Tom will be winding down and he has been a tremendous asset to M&TS over literally decades.

"This team brings years of experience and I will announce these changes in the May issue of the magazine as April is already being finalized. I sincerely thank Lumpy for all he has done and thank Bob, Ray, Ed, Fuzzy and Tom for all they are doing.

"So in sum:

Bob Amsler - Department Manager
 Ray deBlick - Convention Manager
 Ed Slintak - Ass't Convention Manager
 Mark Shafer - NTS Manager
 Tom Draper - Floor Manager
 Frank Koch - Treasurer
 Jenny Hendricks - Admin Contact

"Thanks, everyone, and on to Cleveland!"

Charlie

Additional Photos from the March Meet

Photos by Mark Wallace



Superintendent Joe Bergmaier thanks Earl Hackett (right) for his 3D printing clinic



Bill Fagan holds up examples of miniature cameras he typically uses to take layout videos



Alden Smith (right) receives clinician certificate for his presentation on his Jenkins-Jones coal mine



Karl Siefert (left) accepts appreciation certificate on behalf of the Cheltenham Model Railroad Club



A "super" time - Super Joe Bergmaier presents Assistant Super Charles Butsch (right) with his clinician certificate

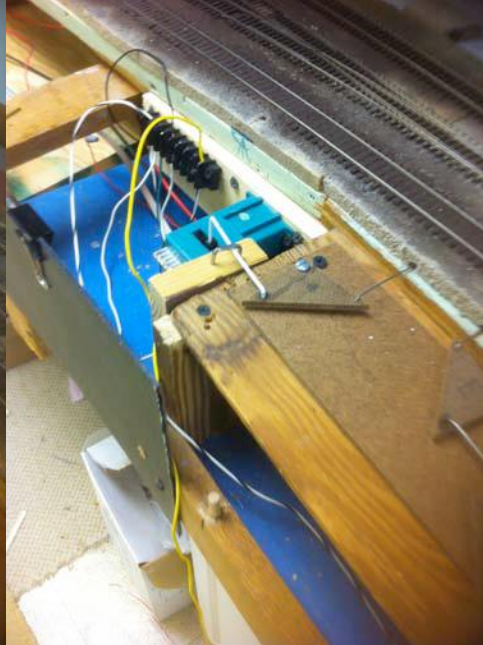


Attendees mingle and talk model railroading, and discuss ways to deduct it on their income taxes

AROUND THE DIVISION



Look for a future article by the editor on budget Tortoise installations making use of metal hanger wire and masonite



Nick Brownsberger continues work on “doorzilla”



New member Rob Ischinger’s daughter, Gloria, is challenging Dad to start his HO layout in her space!

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

(Contact information located on page 2)



Don Borden pre-wires Nick Brownsberger’s layout

Scenes from the Chelten Hills Model Railroad Club

Photos by Howard Kaplan



Chelten Hills Scenes (continued)

Photos by Howard Kaplan



Chelten Hills Scenes *(continued)*

Photos by Howard Kaplan





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.
801 S. Newton Lake Drive
Collingswood, NJ 08108
MER-BusMgr@comcast.net