



THE DISPATCH

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



March 2016

www.phillynmra.org

Volume 23, No. 1

Next Stop: Elkins Park

For our Saturday, April 9, 2016, Division Meet **(NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE)** we once again convene at the beautifully restored and still active Elkins Park Train Station, on the Lansdale Branch of SEPTA, formerly the North Penn/Bethlehem Branch of the Reading Company. Doors open at 8:30AM with the program starting promptly at 9:00AM. See page 7 for directions. The scheduled clinics are as follows:

Tunnel Liners: A Discussion on Design, Material Selection, and Techniques

Tunnels have always held an exciting place on our model railroads. We love to scenic our mountains and weather our tunnel portals...but few of us think of the subterranean modeling possibilities. With the advent of digital cameras and cell phones, we can instantly view any nook and cranny of our layout without the need to develop film. COFC (Camera On Flat Car) traffic is a fact of life in modern layouts. This clinic will share a number of ideas and techniques to prevent visiting COFC traffic from exposing every naked 2x4 in your tunnels.

Turnout Controls: An Examination of Manual, Electric, and DCC Control Methodologies

How many ways can you control a turnout? Manual control is more than physically touching the throwbar; there are ground throws and there are systems of control rods. Electrical control is more than just twin coil and the Tortoise; there are a number of RC servo options as well. And if you are thinking of some sort of signaling system and DCC, don't overlook the need of some kind of feedback to determine switch position on your JMRI control panel. This clinic will provide an overview of all the turnout control technologies as well as a list price per turnout comparison.

About the Clinicians:

Barry Rosier is an accomplished model railroader who has a passion for sharing this great hobby with everyone. Barry shares his love of trains with the world as the webmaster for the Strasburg Model Railroad Club and a producer of the YouTube Model Builders Shows. He primarily models HO and American Flier S-scale. He is currently working on restoring American Flyer trains collected during his boyhood, as well as creating a 1950s

transition era layout featuring the PRR and LV. Barry is also actively researching Sn2 as his future primary gauge/scale. (The narrow gauge bug is contagious.)

Michael Dettinger is a model railroader with a passion for oddities, DCC, and animation. Mike has modeled Compressed (Shorty B-Train) Japanese N Scale (1/150), HO_N30, On18, HO_N3, HO, On30, and O-27/31. His animation projects include DCC control to the Tyco Operating Box Car, the Bachmann Action Caboose, the Lionel 0805 Nuclear Waste Car, and the Lionel 0834 Lighted Poultry Car. If it is obscure, Mike will build it and/or put a decoder in it. Mike is also a contributor on the "YouTube Model Builders Monthly Tech Show with Barry and Mike."

Accompanying these fine clinics will be the usual fare: Model display table, white elephant table, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels. Two clubs will be open in the afternoon. Come and enjoy the camaraderie. Hope to see you there!

Call for Nominations

Yes, it's election time again! Every spring, the Philadelphia Division is required to hold its annual election for Board of Directors. There are seven total Board positions, three of which are open for election or re-election this year. The Board then elects officers from among the Directors. The term is for two (2) years to serve as a Director in helping to manage, maintain, and operate the various programs and events within the Philadelphia Division. If interested, please contact a member of the nomination committee: John Seibert, Charles Butsch, Rob Hinkle, Howard Kaplan. If elected office is too big a step, consider volunteering to work on a committee. Contact any Board member if interested.

RPM-Valley Forge 2016

Don't forget about the upcoming Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge meet being held March 18-20 at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, PA. As in the past, this promises to be a very informative and enjoyable event featuring many top notch clinics, home layouts (including three new ones), and op sessions. Over 300 people attended in 2014. For more information consult the RPM website, <http://www.rpmvalleyforge.com>, or contact Paul Backenstose at (610) 269-2763 or prrpaul@aol.com.



From the Super...

"The Most Important NMRA Benefit"

There are many benefits to your NMRA membership, some of which you are probably aware of, such as the Achievement Program, monthly magazine, insurance coverage for your collection (additional cost), Regional and National Conventions, the OPSIG and LDSIG programs, etc. But I want to talk to you about the most important benefit, one that only a small percentage of you take advantage of. This benefit is my favorite reason for joining the NMRA in the first place, *"the opportunity to meet new and interesting people with similar interests"*.

I've been interested in model railroading most of my life. My father was a train nut, like most of us and we enjoyed the hobby together. After high school, some college and a stint in the US Navy, I settled down to married life and kids. When my son was 5 or 6 years old I got him a train set for Christmas and I was hooked for good. Soon after I joined the Cheltenham Hills Model Railroad Club and enjoyed the camaraderie, friendships, and experience I gathered from fellow modelers. However, about 20 years later I moved to the western suburbs for work and had to quit the club. Now I no longer had a "support group" and I started to lose interest. I felt like a "loner" or "lone wolf" out on my own. So a few years later I decided to try the NMRA and see what they had to offer.

It didn't take me long to find out that I missed having contact with other modelers. At my first NMRA meeting I met a few members who took an interest in me and invited me to join their round-robin group. I not only had the opportunity to see what others were doing, but I could pitch in and help them reach their dream, and they helped me with mine. These guys have become great friends and

mentors, and they encouraged me to get involved with the Division. Quite honestly, I've been having the time of my life since then. So why am I telling you this? Well first of all, I needed a topic for my Superintendent column, but more importantly, I wanted to send all of you an important message.

That message is to ***"get off your butt and do something"*** with your life! So why not do it with friends and colleagues who will support you because we all have a common thread. I would never be anywhere if it wasn't for people supporting and encouraging me to succeed. Those men who welcomed me at my first meeting are still involved in the Division, still my best friends, and still a source of help and encouragement. I would never have met them ***unless I got in the car and decided to attend a meeting!*** When you send in your renewal, you automatically get a "ticket" to our meetings and events. But to get the full benefits of this ticket, you have to be willing to take that next step and attend a meeting. Who knows... you may actually meet your best friend.

We hold five meetings per year and we try to move it around to cover different areas of our Division. We do not bite, shake you down for money, or pressure you to do anything other than enjoy yourself. There are usually two or three clinics on interesting railroad-related subjects given by knowledgeable clinicians. We have coffee, tea, donuts, and Philly pretzels to snack on, and a few "open houses" for your ride home.

So where else are you going to find food, entertainment, model railroads, great clinics, and new friends? I promise that you will be satisfied.

Sincerely,
Joe Bergmaier, Superintendent
Philadelphia Division 3

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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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Scratch building structures is, to many modelers, a daunting task. You may ask, "How do I begin?" You start SMALL with simple "box" type buildings—one story—that are found along a railroad right of way. Where do you get the ideas? Look at hard cover books, or online, for illustrations of typical prototype scenes. Also, monthly railroad magazines contain lots of ideas. Annual publications such as *Model Railroad Planning* and *Great Model Railroads* always showcase lots of scratch built ideas or kitbashed buildings. YouTube videos are very good ways to "visit" a layout. Visit in person as many layouts as possible. The tri-state area has many really GREAT layouts and I can think of several that feature a lot of scratch built buildings. This article will examine only scratch building—not "kitbashing." That is a whole other topic. The picture of that building you want to model—how do you translate that into reality? Plans on doing that will follow.

There are many advantages to scratch building. The first is that it costs a lot less. You can make something that is personal to your layout for a few dollars. And I do mean *a few dollars!* Materials are inexpensive and easy to find. And the satisfaction when you complete something feels real good. Kits, although pricey, have become much better, but they are just generic. Make something which reflects *your* railroad. They also are expensive when you add up costs, i.e. all the buildings you will need to complete a scene. Many modelers have never even considered "scratching." "Too much hassle." "I'm not good at that." "I can get something from Walthers, at a show, etc." "Where do I start?"

Let's suppose you see a picture of a watchman's crossing/switch shanty you want to model. I will show you one I completed 16-18 years ago. A picture does not reveal dimensions, however it is still possible to estimate them. You may have the image of a worker, and the shanty has a door and side windows. Assume the worker is close to six feet tall. That's a good starting point on size. Tichy and Grandt Line make a full line of windows, doors, and other details. HO scale is 1/87th of full size. An inch equals approximately 7.1 feet. A shack that is 2 inches wide is about 24.2 feet wide. I have never used an HO measuring ruler but rely on the door and window size to estimate it. Also, I have never drawn plans even for very large structures instead relying on the width/height to be "x" number of windows/doors evenly spaced.



Grandt Line windows were used in this example.. In later buildings I have made, I added some foundation stone or cement base, or in some cases elevated it with wood beams. Buildings rarely if ever sit directly on the ground. I used latex house paint (the color of my own residence) and weathered it with chalk. I started by making a front, two sides, and rear pieces, carefully cutting window/door openings with a razor tool. Use a metal edge for cutting and scoring the



Fig. 1

Evergreen (brand) scale sheet styrene siding is sold in packages (Figure 1). Each sheet is 6 x 12 inches and comes in many varieties. Board and batten, and clapboard are the best siding types for duplicating buildings of the '30s, '40s, and '50s. It is white, and easy to paint and weather. Cost is about \$5 a sheet—enough to build a lot of small structures! Plastruct also makes a line of siding and roofing material. Cutting is done simply by scoring with a razor tool and snapping it. Look at the images of siding and windows.

Examine the shanty pictured (Figures 2 & 3). Dimensions are 1.25 x 1.25 inches (close to 8.5 feet). Door width may be near 30 inches or more in the prototype. This is board and batten material, so called since the wide boards run vertical and the seams are covered with narrow

material. Window trim extends beyond the window sides and allows the window to be inserted into the siding opening with a snug fit. Windows are brush painted using hobby paint from craft stores and obviously done before assembly. I use a clear plastic for glazing and sometimes will weather the window to look dirty.

Where the siding material meets at an angle you have an unsightly seam. I use white paper, crease it to a 45 degree angle, and carefully cut a thin trim piece, which, in the example shown, I painted the green trim color. This trim is glued on usually with white glue. You will see the bracing used for joining sides and completing the project in an "under-view" photo. Roofing material is Plastruct molded to the look of asphalt shingles, painted and weathered. At the edge (optional) I used wood or styrene strip to represent the trim. To complete the building I added a cast (metal) chimney for the wood stove that would have been used. Cost for the shack? Probably a couple of dollars at most.

My circa 1950 Western Maryland layout is a large, around the walls, point-to-point configuration in two rooms, measuring 18' x 23' and 26' x 8'. Only six structures (buildings) are kits. Everything else is "scratched." All backdrop buildings are scratch built using DPM parts. I will write about that and constructing other full-size buildings in a Part II article. Several other pictures follow. Evergreen siding and window/door components are also shown. Add figures and other details to create that perfect look. 🏠



MORE PHOTOS OF ALDEN'S SCRATCH BUILT SMALL STRUCTURES ON PAGE 16

January Meet Recap

...by Howard Kaplan

As has become customary, the Philadelphia and New Jersey Divisions joined forces to cohost their mid-winter meet at the Haddon Township High School cafeteria in Westmont, New Jersey on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

The program began with Jersey member Ed Sproles presenting a clinic titled: "Build Your Own Resistance Wheelsets." Ed described the process of building resistance wheelsets via PowerPoint presentation, including examples of his work as well as a live demonstration of the process.

Locomotives, as well as rolling stock with lighting, such as a passenger car or caboose, draw power from the rails that can be used to electronically sense occupancy on a particular segment of track and relay that information to various electronic systems. But what about track occupation detection for other rolling stock such as freight cars? Modelers of modern day operations no longer use cabooses. Resistance wheelsets provide the answer. When these are used on any freight car or piece of rolling stock, a small amount of current flows from one rail to the other through the wheelset, thereby providing the power to effect occupation detection. Two applications among many others could be lighted railroad crossing signals or signaling systems.

The procedure essentially involves gluing a tiny chip resistor to the insulator bushing of a wheelset, followed by an application of conductive paint. Ed's handout will be posted on the website in the Library Section under Articles/Clinics.

Next, Philly member Bill Fagan presented "Cab Rides of South Jersey Model Railroads." Bill, who serves as Philadelphia Division's videographer, showed videos of some South Jersey layouts he recorded whereby attendees will take virtual "cab rides" accompanied by narration by the layout owner. The videos shown were from the layouts of Jersey members Dick Perry, Steve Moylan, Mike McNamara, and Dick Kitz, and can be viewed on Bill's YouTube channel as well as on the Division's website at <http://www.phillynmra.org>.

Using miniature cameras mounted on a flat car in front of the locomotive, Bill has developed a successful technique of capturing a unique view of a model railroad. While on one hand allowing viewers to become 1:87 scale engineers in the cab, this also enables close-up observation of the layout's track plan, scenery, structures, and operation. This proves to be not only entertaining, but particularly helpful in assessing the quality of the layout owner's workmanship.

A contest in the category of weathered/detailed gons with loads was held, and photos of entries can be seen later in this issue. In addition, there were door prize and raffle drawings, swap tables, and coffee and donuts. Several layouts were open in the afternoon as there had been the night before. All in all it turned out to be another successful meet. 🏠

PHOTOS OF THE JANUARY JOINT DIVISION MEET BEGIN ON PAGE 17



One thing that most model railroaders have in common is that they are frugal and may be among the best recyclers on the planet. (I don't want to say we are *cheap* when I realize that cost doesn't matter if you are buying equipment!) We also accumulate quite a variety of *junk* (I mean valuable stuff!) for our hobby needs, so we need storage containers like an "*Engine needs fuel.*" I've decided to share my finds with you in an effort to help the environment, not necessarily by recycling, but by repurposing items.

All of the items I use originally served other purposes, so they cost me nothing. When it was time to recycle them in the trash, I saw a new use for them that would help me organize my junk (I mean stuff!) so that I could reduce my clutter.

Like many of you, I used to save old coffee cans for screws and nails. However Keurig brought an end to coffee in cans, so I needed to widen my search for substitute vessels. Now I use pretzel jars, take-out food containers, baby food containers, and pill bottles.

1. **Take-out containers** (Figures 1–5): These come in handy for many larger applications, such as:
 - Track tools, engines, tenders, repair/restoration projects, kitbashing projects, stripping paint, cleaning/degreasing of parts, parts for kits and models, etc.
2. **Pretzel jars** (Figure 6): I use them for storing larger and bulkier items such as:
 - Steel wool, glues, gloves, adhesives, track cleaners, Goo Gone, wire, paint cans, motor parts, gears, scenery, ballast, stone, lichen, tree material, strip wood, Plastruct, and numerous other items.
3. **Pill bottles** (Figures 7 & 8): These are handy for slim items, such as:
 - Small screwdrivers, files, toothpicks, dental picks, glue applicators, Q-tips, grab irons, handrails, parts, etc.
4. **Baby food containers** (Figures 7–10): Sometimes a smaller container is needed and these work great. We used to watch the grandkids a lot when they were younger and their parents always sent the food they needed. These came in small and medium sizes that were perfect for so many little items that I wanted to keep together, such as:
 - Screws, track nails/spikes, rail joiners, insulators, wood ties, fiber ties, pins, people, animals, wheels, couplers, small detail parts, etc.

I hope these ideas will be useful to you. If you have your own favorite type of containers please let me know. 📧





**We Welcome Our New
Philly Division Members**

Peter Copp, Glenmoore, PA
 Paul Roy, Felton, DE
 Les Souder, Dover, DE
 James Thompson, Wyoming, DE
 James Valle, Dover, DE
 Ramsey Chew, Philadelphia, PA
 Harry Jenkins, Newark, DE
 Bob Zeolla, West Chester, PA
 Joseph Rugarber, Warminster, PA
 Paul Greenwald, Warrington, PA
 Daniel Washington, Coatesville, PA
 Mark Wasiakowski, Yardley, PA
 Alex Krowzow, Ridley Park, PA

April Meet Directions

PA Turnpike from the East, Exit 343 "Willow Grove" - South on PA611 about 6 miles. Slight left on Elkins Ave. (If you miss Elkins Ave., the next left is Spring Ave.) Left on Spring Ave. to Park Ave.

PA Turnpike from the West, Exit 339 "Fort Washington" - South on PA309 about 5 miles. Left on Cheltenham Ave. (309) about a mile. After passing Broad St. on right, move to right lane to make Left on overpass (North) on PA611/Old York Rd. Right on Spring Ave to Park Ave.

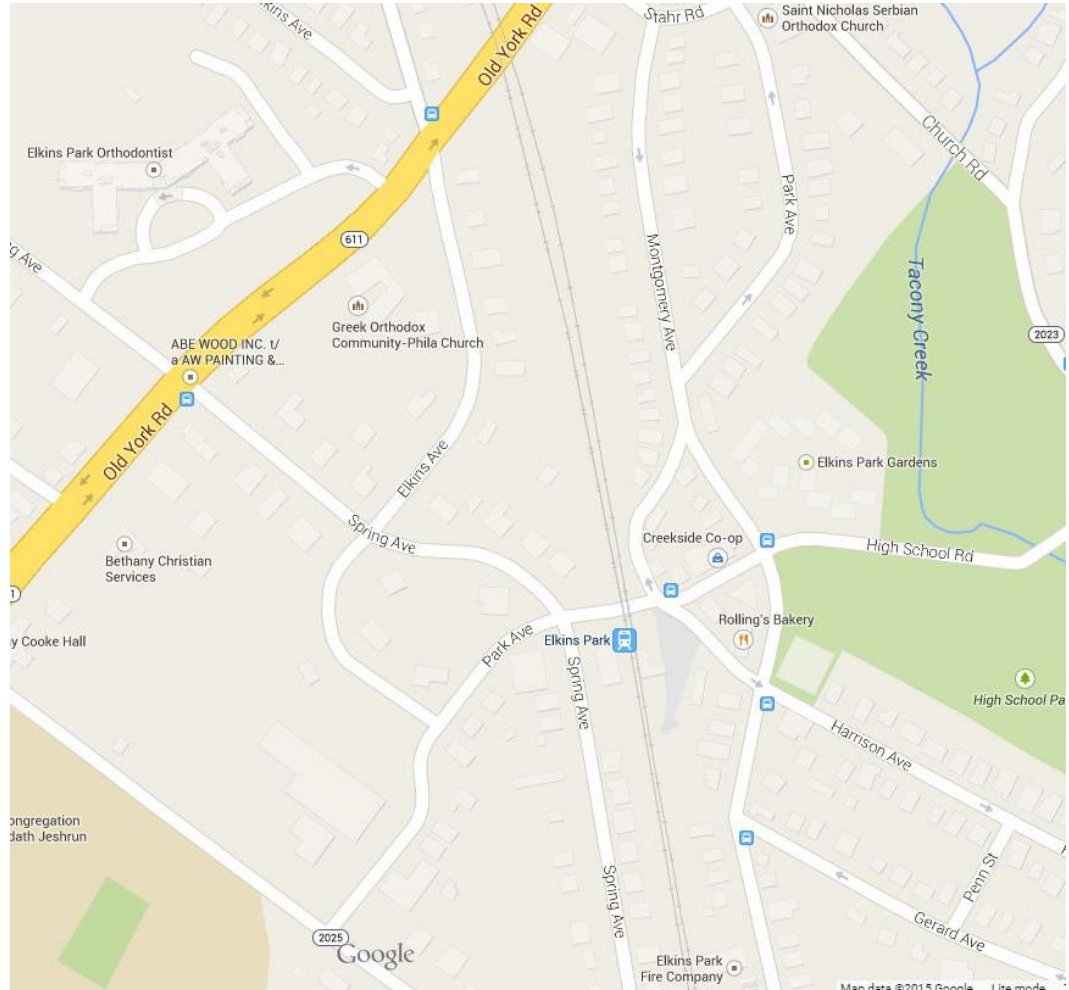
From Southwest - US1/City Ave. North to US1/Roosevelt Expressway North. North on PA611/Broad St. Bear right on PA611/Old York Rd. Right on Spring Ave. to Park Ave.

From East/Northeast within Philly - PA73/Cottman St./Twp Line Rd. West/North. South on PA611/Old York Rd. Left on Elkins Ave. Left on Spring Ave. to Park Ave.

From DE, South Del. Co. - I-95 North to I-476 North. Take PA Turnpike East, following directions **PA Turnpike from the West**.

GPS address: Spring and Park Avenues, Elkins Park East, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Parking: Street parking or adjacent SEPTA pay lot.



Help Wanted

Help needed with construction of new layout. I would like to join/or start a Round Robin work group with fellow model railroaders. If interested, please contact Joe Bergmaier at (610) 269-8558 or email at: job922@gmail.com.

Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

March 18–20, 2016 RPM–Valley Forge Desmond Hotel Malvern, PA	April 9, 2016 Philadelphia Division Meet Elkins Park Train Station Elkins Park, PA	May 6–8, 2016 East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet Delaware Valley College Doylestown, PA
June 11, 2016 Philadelphia Division Meet TBA	July 3–10, 2016 NMRA National Convention Westin Hotel Indianapolis, IN	September, 2016 Philadelphia Division Meet TBA

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

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**4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

- April Meet Info
- Scratch Building Small Structures
- January Meet Report
- Recycling Containers
- 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-Trevoze, PA 19053

Lin's Junction

128 South Line St.
Lansdale, PA 19446
5% in addition to already discounted prices

Nicholas Smith Trains

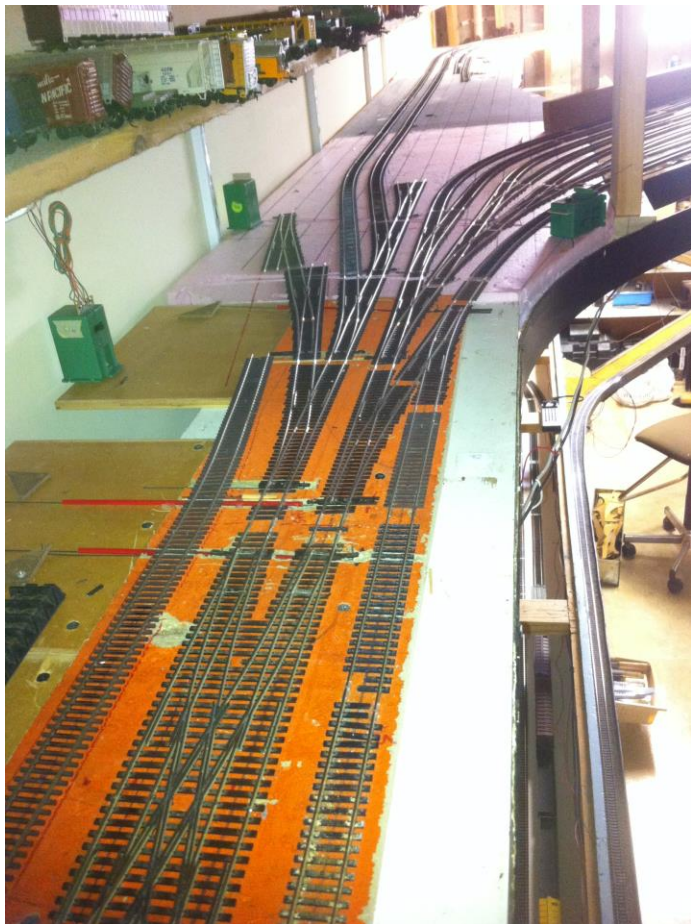
2343 West Chester Pike (PA-3) in Broomall
10% discount (excludes O & G items)

J & D Whistle Stop

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

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

AROUND THE DIVISION...



Earl Paine is installing his upper level (79" high) staging yard which completes his main line. The orange Homasote came from a school bulletin board.



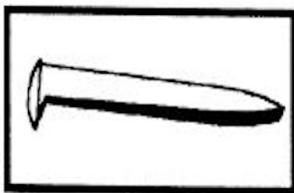
Joe Bergmaier has mocked up his new layout's turnback curves. Mockups allow a 2D plan to be viewed in real life, while planning changes can still be made.



2016 NMRA National Convention & Train Show



<http://www.nmra2016.org>



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 @ \$5 ea. Name as you'd like it to appear: _____

Check one: _____ Shipped \$5 (free for Division members) + \$2 each add'l _____ 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



BULLETIN

March / April 2016

Highball to Indy 2016: Registration and Non-Rail



It's fairly safe to say that everyone likes to save money. Let me offer you a way to save at least \$20.

Early registration rates for Highball to Indy 2016 have been temporarily extended beyond February 1, 2016. You may still register at the rates listed. This means you may continue to use the Basic Registration rate of \$130 and the Companion Registration Rate of \$55, as well as the other pre-February 2, 2016 rates. Don't dawdle though, complete your registration soon.

There will be a wide selection of non-rail clinics and we are excited to get going! These clinics and workshops will be presented in the Westin convention hotel. There are wonderful speakers ready to share with us what life is like married to a model railroader; Confessions of an Organized Woman; cat rescue and foster care. There will be sessions for understanding and using social media. Interested in looking younger? Older? A makeup specialist will show us how. Do you like to journal? Let's discuss. There will also be a video and discussion on creativity and the mind. How do people arrive at "aha" moments? Come and see.

We have craft workshops: decorating slate tiles, making felt Christmas ornaments, recycled Christmas cards, coffee filter craft, Project Linus, and Big Hats/Little Hearts. A BINGO night is planned with prizes for the winners. In the Welcoming Room, there will be COLORING PAGES, jigsaw puzzles, a bookshelf, the opportunity to sit and visit with new or old friends. We'd like to find someone who can provide expert tips on how to make coloring creations pop with shading and color blending, and other clinicians interested in sharing their expertise. If you are willing to help, please email penny.studley@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Visit www.nmra2016.org for updates.

A few words from the President



Comments on Mid-Year

I have literally just returned from our annual Mid-Year Board of Director's meeting this year held in Atlanta Georgia. Why Atlanta? Actually to save money as funny as that may sound. It turns out that Atlanta is near many Directors, officers and staff. CAO Jenny Hendricks is an easy drive away; two Directors live in town with another a few hours drive away and our Secretary is also based in Atlanta. Atlanta has a major airport, one of the busiest in the US, and generally, fares are reasonable. We met at a well-priced Airport hotel that included breakfast and dinner. So add generally mild winter weather and you have a winning combination. And the SER Piedmont Division was fabulous, with Division members attending and arranging for a Saturday no-host dinner and visit to a layout of one of our newest MMRs after our business was done.

This meeting was fairly non-controversial with many items of business but few motions and few issues of major concern. Atlantic Director Kathy Millatt will report in the *NMRA Magazine* on the highlights of the meeting and its minutes will be available on the web. So check those out.

This was the last full meeting for Western Director Jack Hamilton who cannot run for another term due to term limits. We wished him well and thanked him for his numerous contributions over the years he served. Jack redefined the post of "Lead Director", infusing that job with energy and working on many projects including the Long Range Plan, "NMRA 2019". Most recently, he headed our Recruitment and Retention committee ("R&R").

But you know the highlight of this and every other meeting? The dedication of a room full of folks and the hundreds behind them, to the NMRA. Some isolated examples. IT manager Ben Sevier not only dedicates hundreds of hours to our web and IT services but spent days prior to the meeting in nearby Soddy Daisy upgrading our member data base to modernize it. Our VP, Special Projects Gerry Leone, who produced and arranged for our use of a commercial video, some 58 minutes long, on attending a NMRA convention. He and Chuck Diljak produce the free eBulletin every other month. Our Department managers who keep the machinery humming smoothly and invest countless hours doing so. Secretary John Stevens who not only keeps the minutes but helps with the Boy Scout program, the surplus MDC car shells effort and even hosting a Delta Air Museum tour for Atlanta meeting attendees. CFO Frank Koch who not only keeps us solvent but also spends a lot of time assisting headquarters on a myriad of issues. Each Director who contributes through projects and regional convention attendance. Our RAC Director, Steve August who has reinvigorated the Regional Advisory Council ("RAC") made up of region presidents, presenting almost all region's reports for mid-year. Our Pacific and Atlantic directors who spend 15 plus hours on flights to and from the US just to work in a stuffy room to improve the organization. Kathy even was nice enough to transport some UK kits for me otherwise not easily attained in the US. Our lead Director Pete Magoun who works closely with me to address problems and issues, 24/7. And our wonderful CAO Jenny Hendricks whose dedication to the NMRA far exceeds her pay. She oversees an excellent staff working hard to keep us going.

Highball to Indy.

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Editors:

[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. ©2016 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.

This list is far from inclusive! Indeed, I could write many columns about the solid people who keep us strong on every level. They and you ARE the NMRA. I am proud to be a part of such a fabulous team. The next time you hear someone grouse about the NMRA and what it has or has not done for him or her or for the hobby, remember the mid-year. Remember all the folks who came from around the world just to spend days in a meeting room so you would not have to. Who sacrifice their hobby time to improve yours.

Those are my thoughts; what are yours?

[Charlie](#)

Summary of the Winter Board of Directors meeting

Because editor Gerry Leone was unable to attend the BOD meeting, Atlantic Director Kathy Millatt stepped in to take notes. Thanks, Kathy! -The editors

The NMRA Board of Directors conducted their Winter meeting in Atlanta, GA, on February 19-21 at the Drury Inn & Suites. Here are a few highlights from that meeting. (Note that the official minutes of the meeting will be posted to www.nmra.org in the near future.)

- We have been joined by Christina Ganzer as a Marketing Consultant who will be working strategically with the NMRA. Frank Baker is the Assistant Marketing Director ably supporting the organisation. There was a discussion around marketing the NMRA and how to reach a wider audience than we currently do.
- Financially, the NMRA had a surplus in 2015 partly due to delayed spend on the move of the library to the California State Railway Museum (CSRM). The move is now expected to take place in 2016. The Portland convention was very successful adding to the surplus for the year. Membership numbers have remained steady between 2014 and 2015.
- The CSRM Gallery exhibit is moving forward again but is still dependent on CSRM signing an agreement. The Museum is providing 4,000 sq ft for free with the NMRA installing the contents of the exhibit. The Museum receives 600,000 paid attendees a year giving the NMRA a huge outreach. The Kalmbach library move to the CSRM is also progressing alongside the Museum exhibit.
- Vertical integration and the ability for all Divisions to be part of the NMRA National 501(c)3 status is now in the hands of the IRS. The test Divisions and Regions have been submitted and we are now waiting for a response. This would give Divisions a tax advantage but they would not lose any control of their assets.
- The membership discount program run by Bob Weinheimer, MMR is increasing with nearly 20 railroad attractions signed up. The next step will be to expand the list to include hobby shops. Bob Chaparro is working on the model railroad registry which will allow members to look up any layouts open to visiting in an area.
- 8,000 box car shells have been donated to the NMRA for use by Divisions as hands-on clinic material or as a basis for a popular vote contest. Kadee and Microscale have donated 1,500 couplers and decals respectively. Work is continuing on 3D printed underframes to enable a full kit to be produced. Box car shells will be free except for shipping; the additional parts will need to be paid for.
- A "How to be a Division Superintendent" handbook has been produced by Bruce De Young, MMR. It is intended to help superintendents who are unsure what their responsibilities are. This will be available before the Convention in Indianapolis.
- President Charlie Getz reported on his visit to the 70th Anniversary British Region Convention in October and also visited the [MOROP](#) President, Peter Briegel. [MOROP](#) is a federation of European clubs which sets standards throughout Europe although it is not a direct parallel to the NMRA. They are implementing an International Day of Model Railroading in early December. President Getz also updated on how the links with China are developing.

- The Recruitment and Retention Committee reported back on their work regarding how to increase membership and retain our existing members. They submitted a detailed report and recommendations as well as a draft guidebook. The Committee have looked at best practices from other organisations and the NMRA itself and have produced a list of useful ideas. This is currently being edited and will be brought back to Indianapolis.
- Santa Clara was confirmed as the 2021 National convention location.
- Jack Hamilton MMR, Western Director, was acknowledged for all his service to the NMRA as he steps down from the Board at the end of his term.
- The Strategic Review Committee announced plans to hold a strategic workshop at the Sunday after the BOD meeting in July. This will look at Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) and Political, Economic, Social and Technological (PEST) analysis.
- Work has been ongoing on improving the website and its functionality including allowing the company store and member area to be accessed by one log on.

The NMRA hires a marketing consultant

The Board and Officers of the NMRA are pleased to announce the hiring of a marketing consultant, Christina Ganzer, to develop marketing strategies and plans for a variety of NMRA programs. Christina comes to the NMRA with a wealth of marketing experience in her background, including a stint in marketing at the Zinsser Co. (now owned by Rust-Oleum) and the Tennant Company, as well as clients in and around her hometown. Christina takes over the duties of former NMRA Marketing Director Page Martin who had to resign due to health reasons,

The NMRA Board of Directors approved the hiring of a consultant at its Winter 2015 meeting, and appointed Vice President Gerry Leone, MMR, to conduct the search. Leone is a retired 38-year veteran of the advertising profession.

Christina lives in Central New Jersey and has a BA from Rutgers College, and a marketing MBA from Loyola University in Chicago. Her father was a model railroader and her godfather, Daniel Frolich, is editor of the Sunshine Region's newsletter, The Journal Box. Her 6-month-old daughter, Isabelle, is a model railroader-in-waiting.

We welcome her aboard!

Region and National Conventions

(Only those Regional conventions occurring in the next three months are listed)



Jul 3-10
Apr 20-24
Apr 28-May
1
May 6-8
May 26-29

[NMRA National Convention, Indianapolis, IN](#)
[Pacific Coast Region, Modesto, CA](#)
[Mid-Central Region, Columbus, OH](#)
[Niagara Frontier Region, Ottawa, Ontario](#)
[Thousand Lakes Region, Fargo, ND](#)

Master Model Railroaders



572: Minton Dings, MWR

The Logan Model RR club in the old Reading RR station in Souderton, PA is no longer here (lost their lease), but their comical names can be. I was fortunate to visit Logan in their last days of existence doing a few videos (see Logan RR on YouTube or the layout video page on the website) and took numerous photos. One thing that stood out was the funny names on their buildings around the layout. Here's a list of some of the names:

A. Leakzalot Plumbing Supplies	Mildood & Motheetin Plush Furnishings
A. Painful Dentist	Mizplaced, Forgotten & Lost Quality Warehouse & Storage "A Name You Can Trust"
Beaver Lumber & Supply Co.	N. E. Whare Maps & Charts
Bernbetter Petroleum "We Burn Better"	Neverfits Clothing
Blakkenbirnt Inc. "Toaster & Waffle Irons Mfg. Co."	Neverhavit Building Supplies
Bob Bitt's Sharpening Service	Neverite Pencil Company
Boilem Diaper Wash "U Soilem - We Boilem"	Nowhole's Donuts
Buzzted Flats "A Nice Place to Live"	O. Ithurtz & I' Filzum Dental Academy
Clems Gems	O.H. Whatastench Fine Tobaccos
Destitoot Savings and Loan Co	Putumout Fire Co
Dimmflicker Power Co	RU Deff Hearing Aids
Dingle & Berry Work Suits	Rammit Suppository Co
Dr, Ben Over Proctologist	Reedmoor Books
Dr. D. Seet Cosmetic Surgery "Your Age Is My Wage"	Rhusted & Corroaded Plumbing Supply
Dumper & Befree Inc. Divorce Attorneys	Seymour Spotz Travel Agent
Farran Heights Ice Co.	Shivern & Shakin Heating Service
Fatstuff's Foodstuffs	Shurtalooz Investment Co.
Fitzbahd Menswear	Skippy Records
Fyndout Detective Co	Skynem & Swyndill Attorneys At Law
Hakkenkoff's Tobacco Shop	T. Rotenschotz Gunsmith
Hotazhell Furnaces	Tangulled and Notted Shoelace Co
Huey's Bouy's "Our Job is to Bob"	U Peddlebetters Velocipedes Bicycles
I Stitchem Shoe Repair	U. Regrettit Tattoo Parlour
I. Summittup Accounting	U.B. Good Dog Training
I.C. Frost Ice Co	V. Skalpum Barber
I.M. Dunrovin, Slaughter House	W.E. Pynchtoze "Quality Footwear"
Immy Tashuns Fine Jewelry	W.E. Wreckem Auto Repair
Ingestion & Hartbern Food Processing	Wattawipe Toilet Tissue Company Inc.
Innafective Employment Agency	Weeblyndum Optometrist
Isabelle Ringing Alarm Co.	Where Izwe Inc. Map Co.
J. Shortsircuits Electrical Repair	Y. Hobbel Canemaker
Lottawatts Light Pictures	Y. Wurrie Insurance Co.
M.T. Kranium Encyclopedia Co	

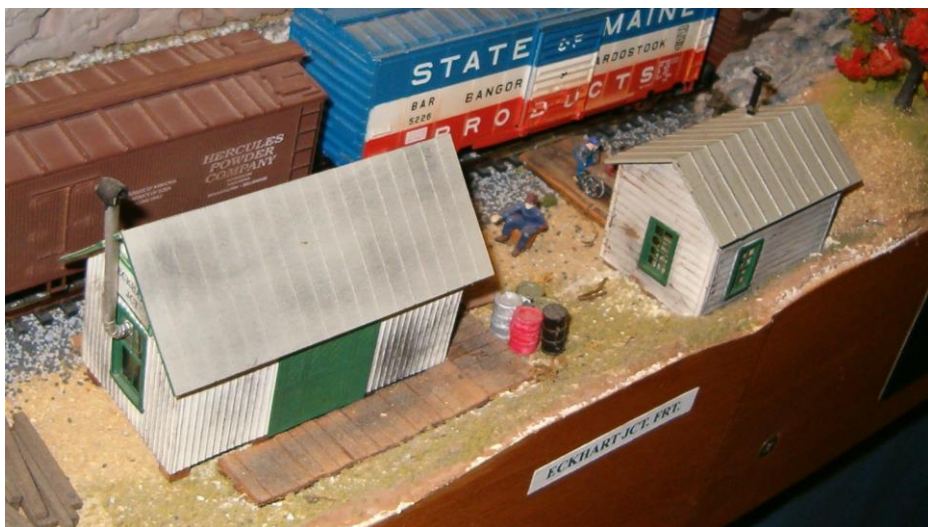
Hope you enjoyed them. I sure did. Wouldn't it be nice to see some of their names on your layout?

Editor's Note:

Kudos to one of our own!

Division member Bill Fagan has gained quite the reputation as a model railroad videographer over the past several years. His travels have taken him to the western US as well as Florida, and on each trip, he continues to add more and more videos to his YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and search for "Bill Fagan" where you will find his videos. Subscribing to Bill's channel will allow you to be notified as he continues his videography. His videos can also be viewed on the Division website. Bill is willing to come to your layout if he has not yet taken a video your efforts.

More of Alden Smith's Scratch Built Small Structures (see article on page 3)



Photos of the January Joint Meet

Photos by Mark Wallace

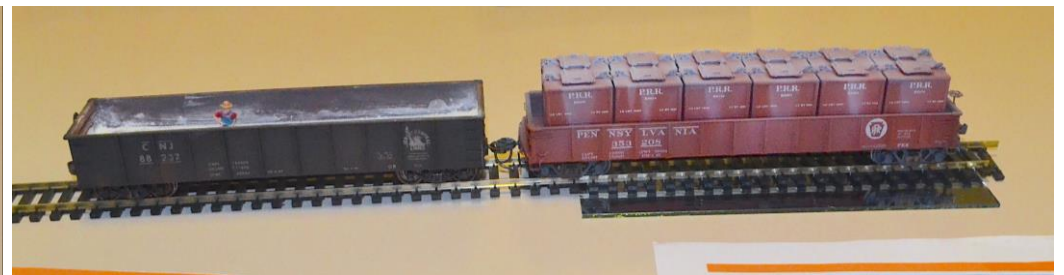


New Jersey Asst. Super and Clinics Chair John Gallagher announces the morning clinics



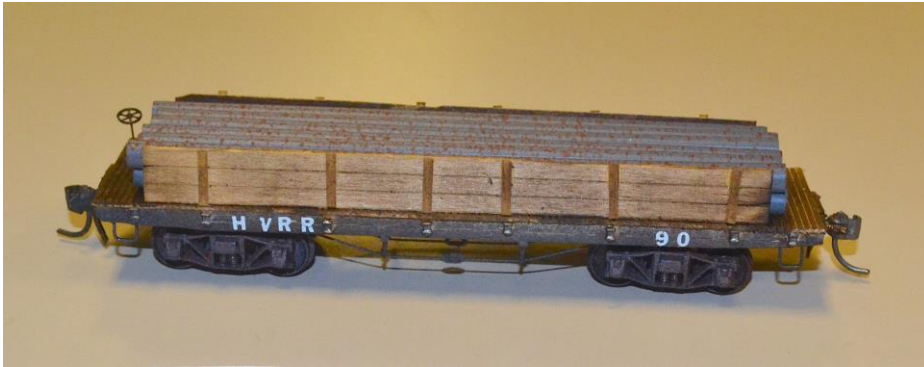
Philly clinician Bill Fagan (left) receives appreciation certificate from New Jersey Super Bob Clegg

Below: Contest entries (category was detailed/weathered gondolas with loads)



Photos of the January Joint Meet

Photos by Mark Wallace



Another contest entry

Right: One of the layouts open for the January Meet was the Delaware & Susquehanna Club located in the Haddon Heights train station.

Below left and right: Action scenes on the D&S layout



January Meet Open Houses

Photos by Rob Ischinger

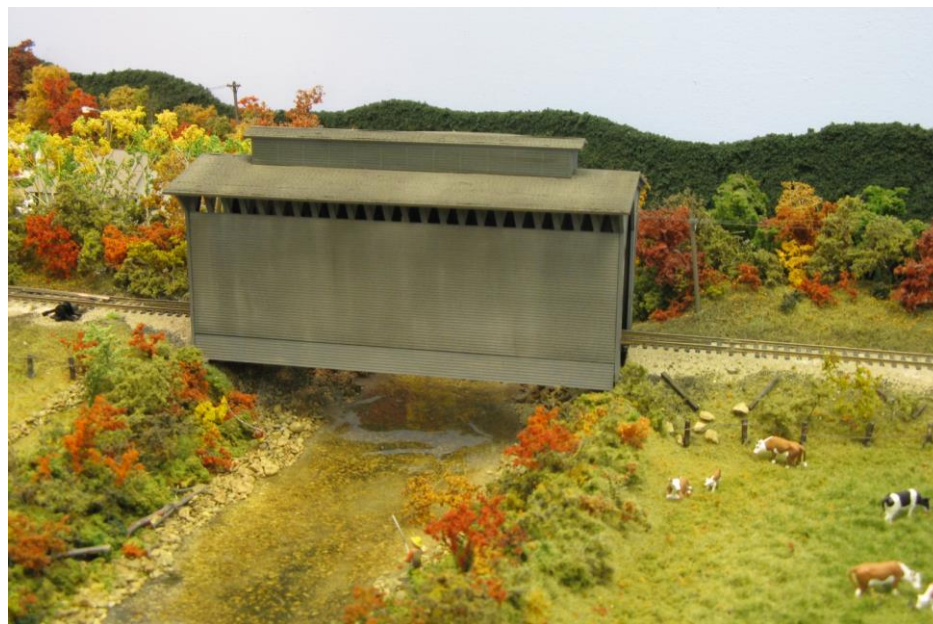


Above: Ralph DiBlasi Below: Mert Gardner



January Meet Open Houses

Photos by Rob Ischinger



Above: Mike McNamara Below: Arnold Kimmons



January Meet Open Houses

Photos by Howard Kaplan



Above: Bill Rose Below: Chris Conaway

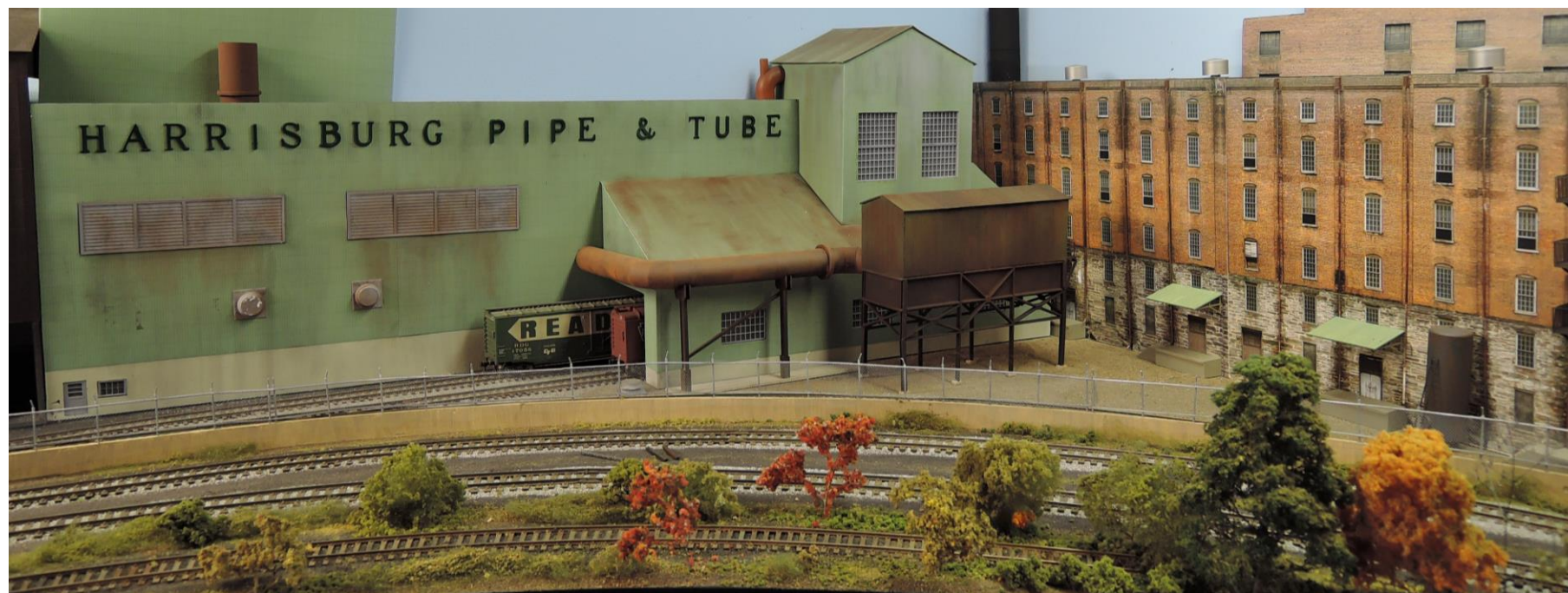


January Meet Open Houses

Photos by Howard Kaplan



Above and below: Rick Bickmore



Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

An NMRA Sponsored Event

March 18, 19, 20, 2016

at the

**Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
Malvern, PA**

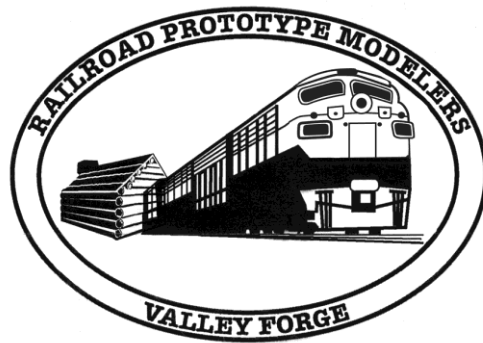
**Thursday night &
Friday Operating Sessions**

Clinics

Model Displays

Vendor Rooms

Sunday Home Layout Tour



**Information & Updates
RPMValleyForge.com**

or

Paul Backenstose

103 West Uwchlan Ave.

Downingtown PA 19335

(Please include an SASE for a reply)

registrar@rpmvalleyforge.com or (610) 269-2763

Interested in Presenting a Clinic?

Jim Dalberg

clinics@rpmvalleyforge.com or (610) 648-0089

Vendor Information

Steve Salotti

vendors@rpmvalleyforge.com or (610) 489-1940

Editor's note:

The following three pages were created and are published with the permission of Division member Art Galloway. These speed tables were calculated for the three most popular scales. Art is a member of the Allegheny Western Lines modular group which proudly displays their modular layout throughout the division. Thank you, Art.



What is O SCALE Speed?

Prototype Speed, <u>MPH</u>	Speed, <u>Ft/sec</u> =MPH*5280/3600	O Scale, <u>Ft/sec</u> =(Ft/sec)/48	O Scale, <u>Inch/sec</u> =((Ft/sec)/48)*12
5	7.33	0.15	1.83
10	14.67	0.31	3.67
20	29.33	0.61	7.33
30	44.00	0.92	11.00
40	58.67	1.22	14.67
50	73.33	1.53	18.33
60	88.00	1.83	22.00
70	102.67	2.14	25.67
80	117.33	2.44	29.33
90	132.00	2.75	33.00
100	146.67	3.06	36.67
110	161.33	3.36	40.33
120	176.00	3.67	44.00
150	220.00	4.58	55.00
200	293.33	6.11	73.33
250	366.67	7.64	91.67
300	440.00	9.17	110.00

Please DO NOT attempt some of these speeds, they are for "discussion" only!

Note:

5280 Feet = One Mile

3600 Seconds = One Hour

O Scale Is 1/48TH Prototype Size

www.AWLRR.com



What is HO SCALE Speed?

Prototype Speed, <u>MPH</u>	Speed, <u>Ft/sec</u> =MPH*5280/3600	HO Scale, <u>Ft/sec</u> =(Ft/sec)/87	HO Scale, <u>Inch/sec</u> =((Ft/sec)/87)*12
5	7.33	0.08	1.01
10	14.67	0.17	2.02
20	29.33	0.34	4.05
30	44.00	0.51	6.07
40	58.67	0.67	8.09
50	73.33	0.84	10.11
60	88.00	1.01	12.14
70	102.67	1.18	14.16
80	117.33	1.35	16.18
90	132.00	1.52	18.21
100	146.67	1.69	20.23
110	161.33	1.85	22.25
120	176.00	2.02	24.28
150	220.00	2.53	30.34
200	293.33	3.37	40.46
250	366.67	4.21	50.57
300	440.00	5.06	60.69

Please DO NOT attempt some of these speeds, they are for "discussion" only!

Note:

5280 Feet = One Statute Mile

3600 Seconds = One Hour

HO Scale Is 1/87TH Prototype Size

www.AWLRR.com



What is N SCALE Speed?

Prototype Speed, <u>MPH</u>	Speed, <u>Ft/sec</u> =MPH*5280/3600	N Scale, <u>Ft/sec</u> =(Ft/sec)/160	N Scale, <u>Inch/sec</u> =((Ft/sec)/160)*12
5	7.33	0.046	0.55
10	14.67	0.092	1.10
20	29.33	0.138	1.65
30	44.00	0.275	3.30
40	58.67	0.367	4.40
50	73.33	0.413	4.95
60	88.00	0.550	6.60
70	102.67	0.642	7.70
80	117.33	0.733	8.80
90	132.00	0.825	9.90
100	146.67	0.917	11.00
110	161.33	1.008	12.10
120	176.00	1.100	13.20
150	220.00	1.375	16.50
200	293.33	1.833	22.00
250	366.67	2.292	27.50
300	440.00	2.750	33.00

Please DO NOT attempt some of these speeds, they are for "discussion" only!

Note:

5280 Feet = One Mile

3600 Seconds = One Hour

N Scale Is 1/160TH Prototype Size

www.AWLRR.com