



# THE DISPATCHER

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



April 2016

[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)

Volume 23, No. 2

## \*\*\* SPECIAL ELECTION EXTRA \*\*\* BALLOT ENCLOSED

Greetings, NMRA members! This special election issue of our newsletter, *The Dispatcher*, has been mailed to all Philadelphia Division members. (Regular issues are available free on our website at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org) or in print by paid subscription.) Any paid-up NMRA member in good standing residing 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 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 June 11, 2016 Division Meet to be held at the Newtown Public Library in

Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

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. This year there are three Board positions up for grabs.

Following the candidates' bios on the next two pages you will find a ballot. Please be sure to include your email address as this enables us to inform you of Division news and events more efficiently. Please either mail the ballot to the address listed or bring it to the June 11th meeting. If you misplace this issue, a copy can be found on the Division website at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org).

## June Meet to be Held in Newtown Square, PA

Our next Division Meet will be held on Saturday, June 11th at the Newtown Public Library in Newtown Square, PA. Doors open at 10:00am, with the program expected to start shortly thereafter. The morning session begins with our Annual Business Meeting, where Division Reports will be delivered and election results announced. This will be followed by an all-new clinic presented by Ramon Rhodes entitled "The Santa Fe in Chicago in the '70s." Most agree that Ramon's clinics are very informative and enjoyable. Time permitting, there may be additional programming. More details will follow in the upcoming May edition of *The Dispatcher*, on the website at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org), and in an email notification. Of course, the usual stuff will be there: 50/50 raffle, door prizes, model display table, white elephant table, coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels. Open house layout tours are expected to be the afternoon fare. Map and directions to the meet can be found on the last page of this issue.

For those not familiar, our meetings are held to gather the membership together for fellowship, learning, and enjoyment. This is such a great hobby that we like to share it with everyone, so please consider attending, and perhaps bring a friend whom you think might show interest in becoming a member. We'd look forward to seeing you!

### Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

<b>May 14, 2016</b> Susquehanna Division Meet Quakertown Train Station Quakertown, PA	<b>May 14, 2016</b> New Jersey Division Meet InfoAge Museum Wall, NJ	<b>June 11, 2016</b> Philadelphia Division Meet Newtown Public Library Newtown Square, PA
<b>July 3–10, 2016</b> NMRA National Convention Westin Hotel Indianapolis, IN	<b>September, 2016</b> Philadelphia Division Meet TBA	<b>October 20–23, 2016</b> MER Convention "Tracks to the Triangle" Durham, NC

More details on these and other upcoming events can be found on the Events page at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org).

---

## Candidates Bios and Statements

---

### Joe Bergmaier



For the past six (6) years it has been my privilege of serving on the Board of Directors, first as the Assistant Superintendent, and the past three years as the Superintendent. My original goal was to improve your NMRA experience at the local level by making our meets more exciting and informative, and by championing the Achievement Program (AP). So far we have seen success in both areas. The clinics and clinicians have been varied, informative, entertaining, and well received. Our AP program has seen more Golden Spikes and AP Certificates than in the previous ten (10) years combined. Recently, we gained a new MMR when Jim Dalberg received his 7<sup>th</sup> AP Certificate.

We also addressed some other issues by finalizing the revisions to our Bylaws, creating a new website, updating our A-V system, assigning each BOD member to Chair a Committee, and started an association with the Boy Scouts.

Personally, I dismantled my PRR Middle Division because I finally realized that I had too much layout and not enough space for humans. The aisles were too tight, there was no room to sit and enjoy trains, and personally I hated crawling under the layout to operate trains. Recently, I have started working on a new layout that will feature PRR and B&O equipment. This layout will have wide aisles, two (2) levels, one helix (out of the way), and room for visitors to relax. I'm all for teamwork, so I freely accept help and advice.

As for the upcoming election, we will definitely have at least one new member joining the BOD as Pat McTeigue is taking some time off for personal reasons. We always want to see new "blood" and new ideas. Are we done making improvements? NO, we will never be done making improvements. We will always look for new and better ways to serve you. With your help and vote, we will continue to improve YOUR Division.

### Mark Wallace



For these last three terms spanning six years, it's been my privilege to serve you as both a Division Director as well as Clerk of our Division. In those roles, I have met and gotten to know many you through our meets, ops, clubs or at various layouts I've visited. As a member of the NMRA and Philadelphia Division since 2006, my continuing goal is to strengthen the role the Division can play as your 'personal' contact point for model railroading. With our other Board members, we strive to create some exciting Meets for all of you to attend.

For as long as I can remember, I've been interested in railroading as a rail fan and a modeler. An architect in private practice, I enjoy designing layouts using computer-aided design programs and kit bashing models. As a member of the Western Maryland Historical Society, I continue studying their line's infrastructure and rolling stock. I model a small portion of the WM in HO scale and guests operate on one of our member's layouts.

Having dismantled a fifty-year-old, 3-rail layout, and built a temporary 4x8 over a pool table, I have been building, as time permits, a larger HO layout comprised of modules that incorporate scenes and operations of the WM. I also enjoy operating as well as building models, trackwork, structures and making it look 'prototypical.' I am a regular operator on several layouts and belong to one 'round-robin' group that includes a wide variety of model railroaders having a variety of skills or interests.

I am aware and appreciate the wide variety of scale modeling that our members build and operate. Thru our Division's meetings and programs, I continue to see a great opportunity to educate and immerse both members and non-members into the exciting possibilities that model railroading has to offer. Growing our membership and maintaining a healthy, welcoming organization where modelers can share techniques and new ideas, is vital to sustaining our active community of railroad modelers.

### Bill Fagan



I was introduced to model railroading at the age of 4 or 5 when my father would put up a train platform on Christmas Eve after we all went to bed. The surprise Christmas morning seeing the trains was something I will never forget. As I got older my dad had me help him set it up as I was the oldest of 4 kids. I was hooked.

Built many layouts over the next 60 years and am now into N scale, with a permanent layout in my basement.

Became a member of the NMRA in 2012 after meeting up with a bunch of great guys who had a

round-robin group meeting every Tuesday night at different locations, and we would run trains or work on their layouts. Some of the members are in the NMRA and encouraged me to join.

Started a few years ago doing a cab view video of my layout because I wanted to see what it looked like from the engineer's view. The group really like it and asked me to do theirs. And so it began; I expanded beyond the group to other layouts in the area during the November Open House layout tours in 2014 in the Harrisburg and Reading areas. In 2015 went to the South Jersey area.

When I go on vacation I look for railroads to video. I have videos from California, Idaho, and recently Florida. Presently have 249 on YouTube with over 200,000 views and a Cab View video section on the PhillyNMRA website.

These videos have taken over my model railroad life. I thoroughly enjoy doing them as much as the layout owners I've visited. They are so proud having the world see their railroad and the many positive comments they get. With my many contacts I believe I can bring to the Philly Division a constant list of new layouts to visit after division meets.

I encourage those layout owners who are not in the NMRA to become a member—sharing their modeling skills and learning from other members. They may even meet fellow model railroaders that may be in their own neighborhood they weren't aware of.

Finally, visiting layouts gives me a chance to point out to the modeler that they may qualify for an achievement award or awards if they're an NMRA member, and non-members another reason to join the NMRA.

### Mike Dettinger



Michael Dettinger is a model railroader with a passion for railroad oddities, DCC, and animation. Mike primarily builds models running on HO and N gauge track in O, HO and N scales. (On30, HO; On18, HOn30 and N). His animated projects include adding 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.

For Mike, Model Railroading allows the expression of humor in the form of Compressed (Shorty B-Train) Japanese trains running through fine scale N (1/148) scenery in the shadow of Godzilla. It is creating a two train animation in O-27 with creative track gapping (no electronics). Mike has honored one of the old Masters at his Temple of the Iron Horse. And Mike is always pushing the limits of DCC, LCC and computer control by putting a decoder in the most obscure rolling stock. Mike has also been known to model more traditional subjects.

Model Railroading is at its very core, a social hobby. It requires care and stewardship. Mike has presented clinics for the NMRA locally and regionally (MER, NFR). Mike has presented clinics for Model Railroader University and is a regular contributor for "YouTube Model Builders Monthly Tech Show with Barry and Mike." Mike would like put this knowledge to work for you, the good members of the Philly Division. Thank you for your vote.

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

<b>2016 Philadelphia Division Ballot</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>NOTE:</b> Only paid-up, NMRA Philadelphia Division members in good standing may vote. Railpass members may not vote, having agreed to postpone that right until joining as full members.	
<b>Please vote for <u>no more than three (3)</u> candidates for Board of Directors:</b>	
_____ Joe Bergmaier	_____ Mark Wallace
_____ Bill Fagan	_____ Mike Dettinger
Bring ballot to June Meet or detach and send to: <b>Mark Wallace, Clerk</b> <b>665 Bonny Brook Ave.</b> <b>Trappe, PA 19426-1913</b> Questions: 610-454-9510 or <a href="mailto:mwallace665@verizon.net">mwallace665@verizon.net</a> <b>POSTMARK NO LATER THAN June 4th</b>	

---

## June Meet Directions

---

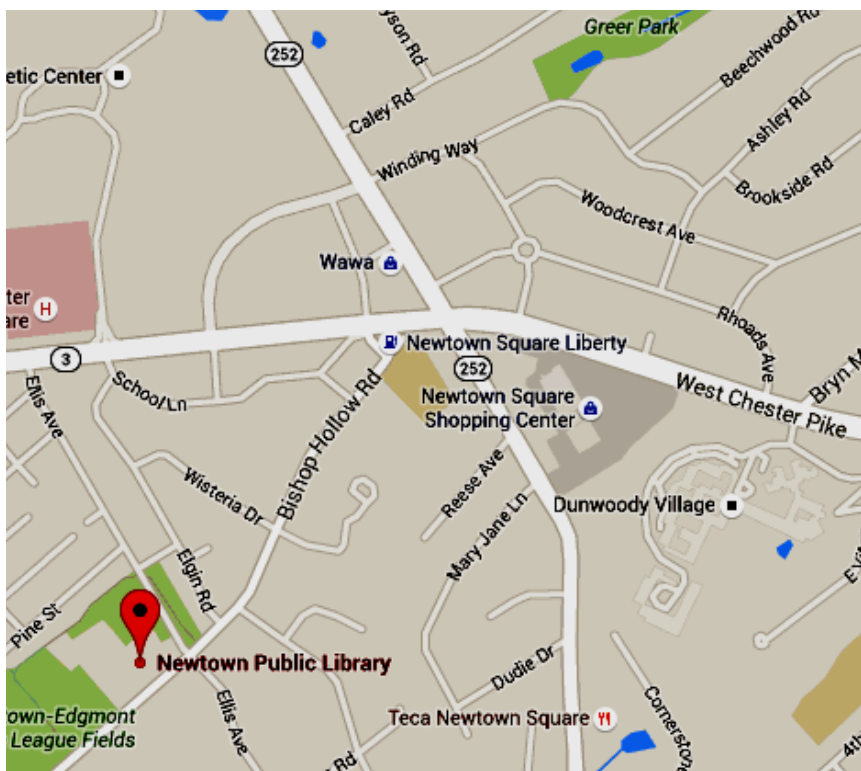
**From the West:** US-202 to PA-3 (West Chester Pike) east 9.9mi to Bishop Hollow Rd. (traffic light)(1 block before PA-252). Turn right and follow 0.5 mile to library on right.

**From the North and South:** I-476 to Exit 9 – Broomall/Upper Darby and follow exit sign toward Newtown Square. West on PA-3 (West Chester Pike) 3.5 miles. Cross PA-252 and 1 block later (traffic light) turn left onto Bishop Hollow Rd. Follow for 0.5 mile to library on right.

**From the Center City and Southeast:** Head west on Market Street, which becomes PA-3 (West Chester Pike). Continue for 7.6 miles. Cross PA-252 and 1 block later (traffic light) turn left onto Bishop Hollow Rd. Follow for 0.5 mile to library on right.

**From Philadelphia and Northeast:** US-1 (City Ave.) south/west. Turn right on PA-3 west (West Chester Pike) and follow for 5.8 miles. Cross PA-252 and 1 block later (traffic light) turn left onto Bishop Hollow Rd. Follow for 0.5 mile to library on right.

**Address:** Newtown Public Library, 201 Bishop Hollow Rd., Newtown Square, PA 19073. Park in lot.



### THE DISPATCHER

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Division  
of the National Model Railroad Association

---

**4325 Wendy Way  
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

- Candidate Bios
- Election Ballot
- June Meet Map & Directions
- Upcoming Events