



THE DISPATCHER

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



December 2016

www.phillynmra.org

Volume 23, No. 6

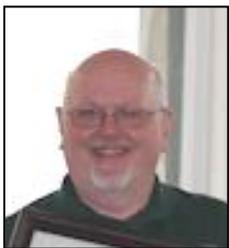
January Joint Meet in Jersey

As has become customary, the Philadelphia and New Jersey Divisions will join forces to cohost their mid-winter meet at the Haddon Township High School cafeteria in Westmont, New Jersey. The date is January 7, 2017 and the time is 9:00am with doors opening at 8:30am. This time there are two very interesting clinics planned for your enrichment and enjoyment.

First, Jersey member Barry Rosier will present a clinic titled, **"Four Methods of Turnout Control."**

Back at our April 2016 meet in Elkins Park, Barry presented a comprehensive overview of the many types of turnout control methodologies. For this clinic, he will be focusing specifically on the manual throw, stall motor (Tortoise), and two different types of servo turnout control, those offered by Tam Valley and Barrett Hill Trains. His presentation will also include a demonstration of each, as well as a cost analysis. Control via DCC will be discussed, as well. A handout will be provided.

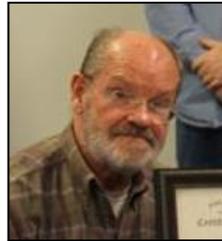
Barry is an accomplished model railroader who has a passion for sharing this great hobby with everyone. Barry shares his love of trains with the world as the webmaster for the Strasburg Model Railroad Club and a producer of the YouTube Model Builders Shows. He primarily models HO and American Flyer S-scale. 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.)



Next, our own Don Borden will present the second clinic titled, **"Prototype Steam Detailing on BLI Models."** Don's interests include modeling steam locomotives built to a specific prototype. He does extensive research and studying specific prototype locomotives in order to modify a commercial model to represent that locomotive. BLI (Broadway Limited Imports) offers a variety of finely modeled steam locomotives, and Don does consulting and modeling of pre-production models for them. He currently is completing modeling of ATSF 3800 Class 2-10-2

locomotives. He also works on a pre-production model of ATSF 4000 Class 2-8-2 locomotives. You can view photos and information on BLI's upcoming offerings of 3800 Class 2-10-2 locomotives at: <http://www.broadway-limited.com/paragon2atsfmodernized2-10-2.aspx>.

Don is a bona fide Santa Fe steam aficionado and is an active member of the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers. He has a passion for not only accuracy in the appearance of Santa Fe steam locomotive models, but in operating them as realistically as possible right down to the appropriate functions and sounds. Don presented a clinic for the Philly Division in November on just that topic.



Both clinics will provide time for a Q&A to address your needs for further information.

And then what is a Jersey meet without all the other stuff? It'll be there...the contest, the coffee and donuts, the camaraderie, and the swap tables, too, and don't forget the Friday night layout tour. If you want the maps and directions, call or e-mail Howard Kaplan. Contact information is available in the masthead on page 2. For swap tables contact Jersey Superintendent Bob Clegg at bobcatCS@comcast.net. The modeling contest category will be weathered and/or detailed covered hoppers. For any other information not mentioned here, consult the latest issue of New Jersey Division's *Train Orders* on their website at <http://njdivnmra.org>.

MER 2019 Volunteer Call

Yes, it's still three years out, but it's not too early to think about volunteering for the 2019 MER convention that the Philly Division will be hosting. We will need a significant amount of manpower to pull this off successfully—there's clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, auction, contests, door prizes, not to mention all of the prep work leading up to the event. You can volunteer at any level from heading a committee down to just chipping in. Remember that the time you spend counts toward your AP Volunteer certificate.

For now we are interested in those who want to be part of the Steering Committee. If you have any interest please contact a Board Member or use the link on the website home page, <http://www.phillynmra.org>.

Form 19



From the Editor...

I recently had the pleasure of attending the MER Convention in Durham, NC.

One of my goals while there was to attend the judging clinic presided over by Martin Brechbiel, and then to participate as an apprentice judge on Saturday at the meet.

Great minds think alike as Superintendent Joe Bergmaier and member Nick Brownsberger also took the training and participated as apprentice judges along with me.

My involvement as Division AP chair makes it prudent that I get up to speed as a judge. I regularly travel with our AP Coordinator Dave Messer to judge AP applications, and it will be beneficial to be able to better assist him in the judging process.

I can report that the judging process is highly refined, using rubrics (or matrices, if you prefer) for scoring. There are 5 categories that are judged separately by multiple rotating panels of qualified judges.

The categories are: construction, conformity, detail, finish/lettering, and scratch building. Each of the five categories has separate rubrics based on various relevant factors that are judged on a sliding scale, plotting the quality of the model against its complexity. The resulting scores are then compared and discussed.

As a retired educator, I can report that the use of rubrics goes a long way towards guaranteeing that judging and scoring is done in a similar manner regardless of location or personnel.

My judging group was chaired by none other than Charlie Flichman, the MER AP Manager. Charlie graciously mentored me through the apprentice process. By using the rubrics, my independent scoring arrived within a point or so of the experienced judges in my group. Joe and Nick had similar experiences.

We will now be able to judge submitted models at our local meets and grant merit awards towards AP certificates. Great stuff!

See you in New Jersey. Earl



From the Super...

I apologize for being so quiet the last few issues, but it seems that real life can get in the way of our hobby life. I am going

to try harder to talk to you more often about what's going on in the Division and what we're doing to make it better.

First of all, you may have noticed that many members have been receiving AP certificates at a record-breaking clip! That is not a misprint! Our Achievement Program has taken off like the Bullet Train. In fact, no other Division in the entire NMRA has been producing as many AP certificates in the past few months as we have. To those members we salute your efforts and accomplishments. Keep it up and we'll soon have more MMRs!

To those who still think that getting AP certs are so difficult, ask your buddies who are getting them how you can get started and join them in the fun!

The other news I would like to share with you is that the Philly Division has been chosen to host the 2019 MER Regional Convention. This means you won't have to travel far to attend a convention! In fact, the next three conventions are within a three-hour drive. 2017 is in Harrisburg, 2018 in Rockville, Maryland, and then ours.

Of course, conventions don't just happen by themselves; it takes dedication and hard work by many people. So we are asking you to help make our convention a rousing success! We are getting started by forming a Convention Steering Committee and asking for volunteers to serve. Please sign up using the link on the home page of the Division website, www.phillynmra.org, or contact me or one of the Board Members. Contact information is on the right side of this page. Include your name, phone number, and e-mail address so we can keep you updated about the meetings.

Don't forget that our next meeting is with our NJ friends on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at Haddon Twp. High School. Hope to see many of you there! Happy Holidays!

Joe Bergmaier

THE DISPATCHER

Editor

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

Assistant Editor/Publisher

Howard Kaplan hakaplan@rcn.com

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.

Next Issue: February 2017. Due out approx. Feb.15th. Deadline: Feb. 1st.

Online Subscription: Free. Make sure the Clerk has your current e-mail address.

Print/Mail Subscription (b&w, first 8 pages): \$10.00 per yr. or \$2.00 per single issue. Send all print subscription applications, renewals, address changes, and payment to the Treasurer. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Division, NMRA".

Division Personnel:

Superintendent

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

Assistant Superintendent/Scouting/

Member Outreach

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

Clerk/Membership

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

Treasurer/Webmaster

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

Directors at Large

Events/Layouts/Video - Bill Fagan
wfagan@comcast.net 215-675-4098

Events/Clinics - John Seibert
johnhseibert@comcast.net
267-319-5391

Ops/Social Media - Rob Hinkle
robhink@comcast.net 610-279-2394

Achievement Program Coordinator

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

Achievement Prog. Committee Chair

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



The fall and winter seasons are prime hobby and model railroading time. Whether it's working on your layout, starting a new project, finishing up an older project, operating on your own layout or one nearby, or just visiting layouts, model railroad opportunities abound. This is supposed to be fun!

This season calls for refocusing on the next steps or the things we'd like to accomplish. Some call them goals, others call them resolutions, but most of them usually fail. Researchers who study these things have discovered that there are a combination of factors that serve to defeat one's goal: either the inability to understand a process, too much rigor, too much time, or lack of convenience. The solution is simply to break things down into small measurable pieces that can be realized, enjoyed, and celebrated as an accomplishment. After all, the enjoyment or fun factor should always be a part of the model railroading hobby experience! So here are seven easy resolutions guaranteed to make you smarter this year while keeping you excited about model railroading:

1. If you're not already a member, **join the NMRA today**. And if you are a member, find a friend or colleague who is not and encourage him or her to join. Visit our Division's website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/> or check out the NMRA online at <http://nmra.org/>.

2. **Attend a Division Meet** and introduce yourself to some fellow model railroaders. Your Division has a schedule of meets set up for almost the entire year, so set a date! You can find information and more here at: <http://www.phillynmra.org/regional-timetable>. There are new things and new twists to old themes constantly showing up.

In addition, consider attending the annual Regional Convention. This coming year, October 2017, the MER Convention is being hosted by the Susquehanna Division in Harrisburg. Other opportunities for similar fellowship can be found by visiting our neighboring division meets, too.

3. **Network & join a group of model railroaders**. There are many networks or groups of model railroaders who are either constructing layouts or operate on various layouts. Visiting layouts or clubs, will often yield some great opportunities for further networking, especially if you find a layout owner or nearby group who could use an additional operator or a special skill, technique, or talent that would be useful in helping to complete a larger goal. There are a number of round-robin groups in our Division who share resources, interests, expertise, and talent to help each other realize their layout. Same thing goes for clubs. And there is no shortage of opinions!

Your Division will be establishing a "Call Board" system through our website to make networking easier for interested folk. Also, the NMRA has various supplemental "Special Interest Groups" or SIGs. The Ops SIG and Layout SIG are two such large and popular groups. You can find out more about them at <http://nmra.org/special-interest-groups>. Speaking of SIGs, several key personnel in the Op SIG reside right here in the Philly Division—an example of a few of the many opportunities for good connections.

4. **Volunteer with the NMRA**. Opportunities abound at the local Division and Region levels. Offer to help with a committee or in any number of other ways and be a part of the evolving Philly NMRA. Contact Superintendent Joe Bergmaier, or any of the Board Members or "Crew," at <http://www.phillynmra.org/about-us/crew>, to find out more information.

Your Philly Division has plans in store for hosting the 2019 MER Convention, plus providing publicity at train shows and more that will allow you to participate within the NMRA's local level of programming.

5. **Write an article** for the Division newsletter *The Dispatcher*, or the Region's *The Local*. Many members share their model railroad experiences with our readers using this tried and true way. Heck, that's exactly what this article is! Authoring an article in a publication devoted exclusively to model railroading puts your name and ideas in front of other model railroaders. The best and easiest way to establish yourself as an expert is to publish an article.

6. **Participate in the NMRA Achievement Program**. Start by bringing your layout to a reasonably good point of completion using the steps required to achieve the Golden Spike Certificate as a guide. Often a good-sized layout already qualifies! Obtain an application at <http://www.phillynmra.org/wp-content/uploads/GoldenSpikeApp.pdf> and contact your Division Achievement Program (AP) Chairman (currently Earl Paine) or AP Coordinator (Dave Messer) for further evaluation.

If your layout meets the standard criteria, you can receive recognition from the NMRA through your local Division. But that's only the start and an optional one at that! Use the AP as a way of focusing on your modeling while gaining experience and credit. There are ten different certificates in four categories that cover a wide variety of model railroad activities. Your Division and Region have evolved the program to allow for online applications, at-

home witnessing, and evaluation, as well as easy and convenient feedback. Like the Golden Spike, you earn certificates and recognition through the Division. Earn enough, and you can qualify for the NMRA's master's level of expertise, the MMR (Master Model Railroader).

7. Give a Clinic: There are a whole variety of "show and tell" presentations and methods that allow you to share your model railroading experiences during our Division Meets. Whether it's a modeling technique, a method of construction, an item of historical research you might be modeling, or a video tour of your layout, clinics provide to our members a rich harvest of new ideas and sometimes new twists or tricks on some old methods.

Besides authoring an article, giving a clinic is the easiest way to establish yourself as an expert model railroader. The added experience of a good "give and take" from a live audience has immeasurable benefits.

So let these few resolutions carve out a new path in model railroading and see what new places or experiences the hobby takes you this coming year! Seasons Greetings and Happy Model Railroading in 2017! 🚂

November Meet Report

...by *Howard Kaplan* (Photos by *Rob Hinkle*)



On Saturday, November 12, 2016, the Philadelphia Division once again held its late fall meet at the Brandywine Town Center Community Center in Wilmington, DE. The morning began with greetings from our superintendent, Joe Bergmaier.

The first order of business was the presenting of Achievement Program certificates by AP Coordinator Dave Messer, MMR. This round's recipients were our two Earls, Paine and Hackett (coincidentally both newsletter editors, although Earl Hackett has just retired from editing MER's *The Local*). Earl Paine earned his certificates in Master Builder: Scenery; and Model Railroad Engineer: Electrical, while Earl Hackett earned his Association Volunteer. Not present were recipients Nick Brownsberger and Jonathan Black who will receive their certificates at a future meet. The Division heartily congratulates them all.

Next we proceeded to our first clinic, "Remembering John Allen's Gorre & Daphetid," a journey through the history and the legacy of a great model railroad and its creator, presented by Division member Jeff Witt. Many of us remember back in the '50s, '60s, and '70s when John Allen was revered as one of the great model railroaders of that time. His masterpiece layout was groundbreaking in many ways,

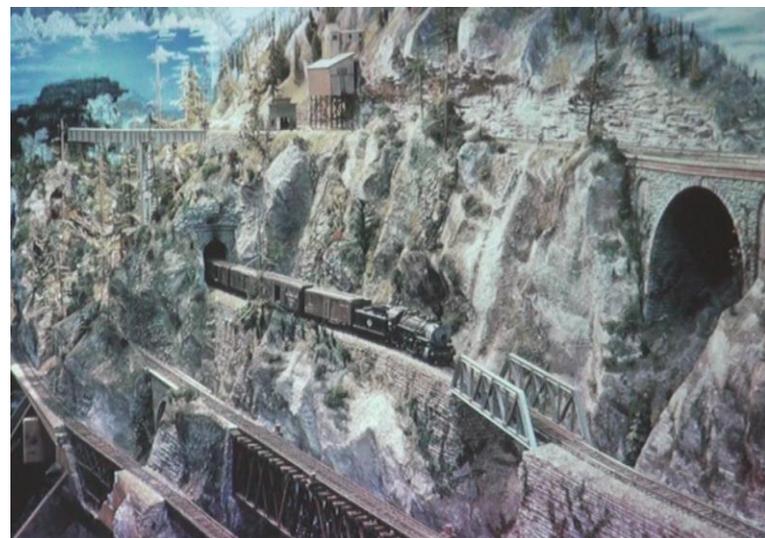


Earl Hackett (left) and Earl Paine (center) receive their AP Certificates from Dave Messer

but most notably for its floor-to-ceiling scenery, something very bold and less common for that era. In addition, Allen was also a professional photographer and as such was renowned as a pioneer in model railroad photography. Jeff guided us on a journey back in time revisiting this amazing railroad with rarely-seen photos and material.

A long-time admirer of the G&D, Jeff joined a Yahoo G&D interest group, which ultimately led him to others who had amassed a wealth of historic material. Together with many of these modelers the G&D Reminiscence Project (GDRP) was founded, eventually producing a CD and several DVDs of photos and documents relating to John Allen's modeling.

John Allen actually built three successive layouts known as the G&D, the final one with which most modelers today would be familiar from



One of the scenes on the third and final G&D for which John Allen was so well known [Photo taken 1958 - courtesy of GDRP archives]

the later articles in Model Railroader. But John actually began publishing articles in Model Railroader in 1946 before he had even begun the first G&D. It was his interest in photography that led him to ultimately begin a layout. Also notable was that he was a pioneer in narrow gauge as well as techniques such as weathering, creating water, the use of

mirrors, latex rock castings, and casting building sections. All of his track, including turnouts, was hand laid. Many of his projects had been used as patterns to create commercial kits. Scenes from his layout were commonly used in advertisements and catalogs through the years. Thanks to Jeff's reminiscence group, the legacy of John Allen and his wonderful model railroad will live on.

After a break, we continued with Don Borden's presentation titled, "Prototype Operations and Sounds on Santa Fe's Cajon Pass in the Late 1940s." Don is a noted Santa Fe aficionado whose passion not only includes detailed



Don Borden's steam locomotive sound demonstration

modeling of Santa Fe steam, but extends to the accurate operation of those steam locomotives right down to the appropriate sounds.

Don began his talk with a Power Point presentation intermixed with videos of actual prototype steam locomotives. The engineers in the videos explained the operation of the various components and cab controls as the engines cycled through their various functions producing the associated sounds.

Don moved on to point out the benefits of the TCS Wow V4 Decoder and describe all the functions and the corresponding sounds when used in conjunction with the Digitrax

DT400/402 throttle. These included the following functions: Bell, long whistle/horn, air pump, whistle quill, cylinder cocks, brake release, brakes/brake squeal, mute, safeties, Johnson Bar up/down, blowdown, and a function to rotate the whistle/bell.

He then explained how to create a loco roster with uniform functionality, i.e. all models having the same button functions and similar performance. While the primary focus was on the WOW decoder, the principles apply to other types, as well.

Following the first part of the presentation, we took a break while tables were rearranged for Don's up-close-and-personal, live demo. During that time, the door prize and 50/50 raffle drawings were held. The winner of the 50/50 was member Glyn Thomas.

After the drawings, we reconvened for Don's demo. With a steam engine situated on a stretch of track, Don proceeded to describe the various sounds and characteristics discussed in the presentation, as he demonstrated how each could be reproduced using the Digitrax throttle controlling the WOW decoder in the locomotive.



Close up of Don's demo set-up (coffee cup not required)

In addition to the clinics and drawings, there were several swap tables, as well as displays of Jeff Witt's material on the G&D, and Earl Hackett's techniques and samples of 3-D printed and cast resin C&O signal bridges. And the attendees had their fill of ample refreshments.

The afternoon session consisted of layout tours courtesy of the annual November Model Railroad Open House event.

We wish to thank Earl Hackett for once again securing this wonderful venue, the clinicians, Jeff and Don, and all who attended. We hope you enjoyed yourselves. Please join us again for our next meet on January 7th where we join up with the New Jersey Division on their turf at the Haddon Township High School. 🚂

We Welcome Our New Philly Division Members

- William O'Connell, Elkins Park, PA
- Gloria Rozanski, Langhorne, PA
- Dave Baran, Haverford, PA
- Charles Bethea, Philadelphia, PA
- Joseph Callahan, East Fallowfield Twp., PA
- Michael Frost, Coatesville, PA
- Vicki Larimore, Drexel Hill, PA
- Stephen Richardson, Malvern, PA
- Charles Stevens, Quakertown, PA
- Don Walton, Malvern, PA

MORE MEET PHOTOS ONLINE ON PAGE 12



There have now been three “early operations” sessions on my Reading Main Line layout. I have been heeding the advice of the Ops SIG, as well as local modelers who are already operating, to jump in as soon as possible to work out problems while there is still time for changes to be effected.

My version of “early operations” included handwritten switch lists, handwritten train description cards; essentially handwritten everything. It took many hours to get ready, but it was well worth the effort. My Tuesday night round-robin group showed up 15 men strong and jumped right in. We attempted to run 12 main line freights and 4 switching jobs, as well as Abrams Yard.

I developed a method of identifying “people problems” during this third session. I realized at my first session that ops is as much about managing people as it is about trains, routings, and schedules. It’s no fun to be squeezing past a clogged aisle area to follow your train ☹️.

I took a scale diagram of the overall basement showing the basic outline of the track plan. During the session, I took notice of where semi-stationary operators were located and marked them with a black X. Those operators pretty much are assigned a single area. The exception was the Abrams Yard Supervisor who ranged over the 50” length of the yard. The aisles (minimum 36”/typical 48”) were planned to accommodate those operators and for the most part were adequate. The black Xs did not move.

I was most interested in places where it got crowded during the session. Whenever I noticed people congregating and delaying the passage of others, I marked it with a small circle on the chart. That process continued throughout the session and became somewhat of a scatter plot denoting problems.

In addition, I marked with a red X the occurrences and locations of problems which demanded my attention as the owner to keep things moving. The majority of those locations required me to get down on my hands and knees to rectify each situation. Ouch!

The next day I studied the diagram (shown below) and easily could see the problem areas.

The Abrams Yard limit areas caused clogs because there are yard limit signals at each end. Crews needed to stop on red and get permission from the Abrams operators to either enter or pass through the yard on their way east or west. The Abrams crew would switch the signal to green when ready. Better communication with the yard crews will rectify that problem. They were so busy that crews were forgotten and waited far too long. It turns out that trains not requiring attention in Abrams can pass through without needing permission.

My early version of OSing the dispatcher also caused a clog. Crews had to report to the dispatcher (3 feet away) on each level...all from the same location which was near the staging departure/arrival areas. That one is easy to solve now that the group has purchased FRS radios. I will spread out the OS locations.

The helix area, however, caused major problems. It is actually two separate helixes located one above the other, and mostly hidden from view. Crews have to navigate around the helix twice (on separate levels) and wait what seems like

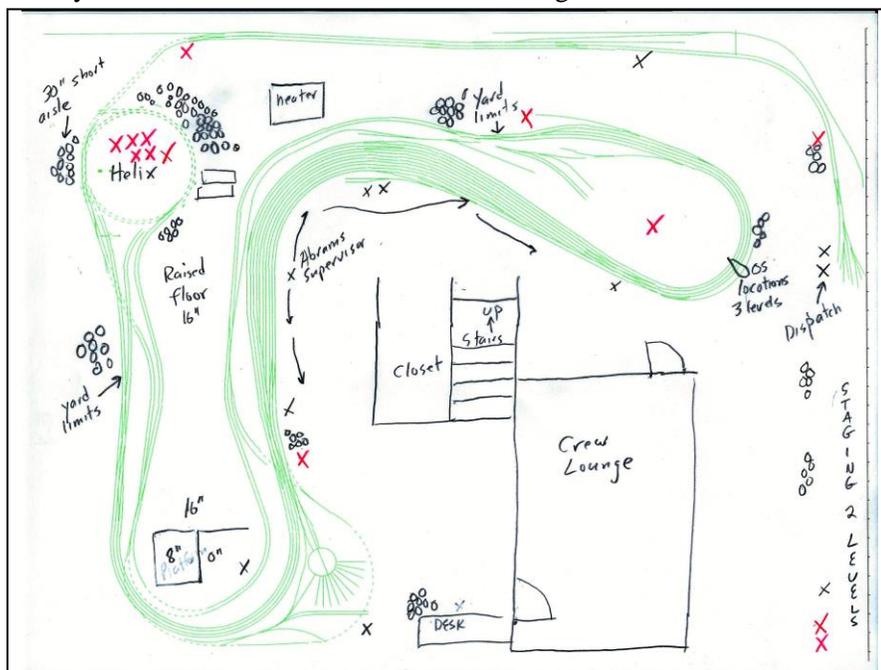


Diagram of ops session

forever for their trains to reappear.

In addition I had to crawl inside the helix no less than six times to rerail equipment. Needless to say I am rethinking the helix and its place in the operational scheme.

Stay tuned as I report on the “helix bypass project” which will bring the mains around the outside walls of the basement to gain the elevation between decks. This project, known as a “nolix,” will have the additional side benefit of spreading the crews out linearly throughout the basement. The project is major, but necessary. My knees will also thank me as I will be entering the inside of the helix on a FAR less regular basis!

I wouldn’t have known about the helix problems without the “early ops” sessions. I highly recommend that everyone building a layout do the same thing. Operate now!!! 🚂

Directions to the January Joint Meet

*From Philadelphia Via Ben Franklin Bridge

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

*From Del. Mem. Bridge or Com. Barry Bridge via I-295

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

*From Points North Via I-295

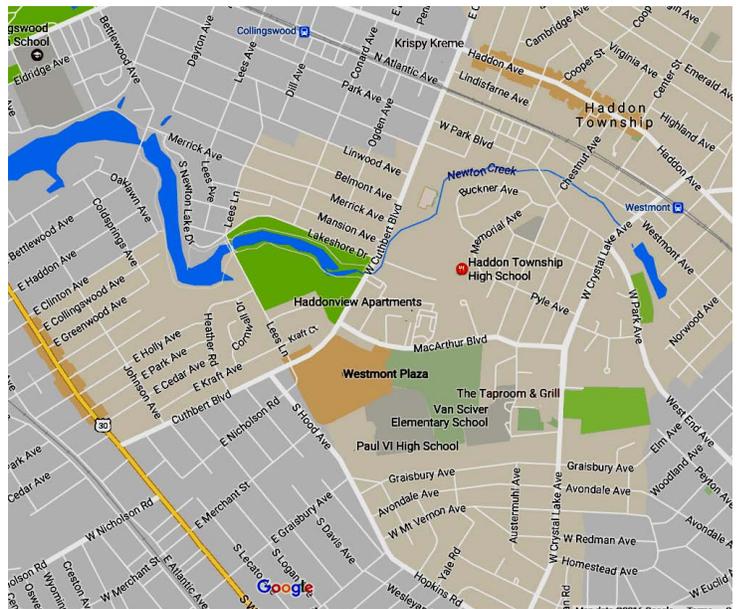
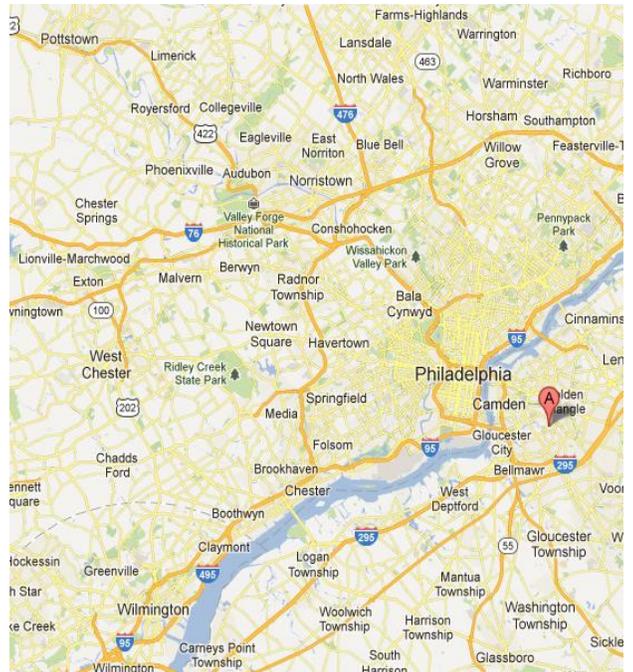
Follow **I 295 South** to **US 30 West (exit 29)**. **US 30** (White Horse Pike) west to Oaklyn. Turn **right** onto **Cuthbert Blvd.** and follow Local Directions below.

*Points Southeast in New Jersey

Use the **Atlantic City Expressway** or **US 322** (Black Horse Pike) and continue onto **NJ 42 Freeway North**. Exit onto **US 130 North** (Crescent Blvd.) Just before the second traffic light, turn **right** onto **Wilson Ave.** then bear **left** and follow around to **Nicholson Road**. Continue to the end at **US 30** and turn **left**. Follow local directions below.

*Local Directions

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



AP Report

...by *Dave Messer, MMR*



After the bonanza in the last AP Report, things have calmed down a bit, although there is more in the works. However, I am pleased to report the following Golden Spike A Awards: **Nick Brownsberger, Thomas Crop, and Don Henkensiefken**. Congratulations, and keep up the good work, gentlemen.

Dave Messer, MMR

Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

<p>January 7, 2017 New Jersey/Philly Division Joint Meet Haddon Township High School Westmont, NJ</p>	<p>March 11, 2017 New Jersey Division Meet Switlik Park Hamilton Township, NJ</p>	<p>April 1, 2017 Philadelphia Division Meet Upper Southampton Twp.Comm. Center Southampton, PA</p>
<p>May 2017 East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet Delaware Valley College Doylestown, PA</p>	<p>May/June 2017 Philadelphia Division Meet TBA</p>	<p>July 30–August 6, 2017 NMRA National Convention The Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando, FL</p>

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

THE DISPATCHER

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

**4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

- January Meet Info
- 2017 To Do List
- Developing Ops
- November Meet Report
- Upcoming Events

Do you need to renew? If the date on your mailing label is highlighted, please renew promptly. Thank you for renewing promptly. New members receive one complementary printed copy.

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.

Reading, PA 19602

10% discount with \$10 min purchase

J & D Whistle Stop

106 East Broad Street

Quakertown, PA 18951

15% discount on non-sale items

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)

Broomall, PA 19008

10% discount (excludes O & G items)

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

Division Shirts & Patches



Short Sleeve Polo



Division Patch



Short Sleeve Button-Down Work Shirt
(name can be added)*



Long Sleeve Button-Down Work Shirt
(name can be added)*

* Name and patch positions reversed for shirts with pocket

ORDER FORM ON NEXT PAGE

For more information check out these websites and search for the appropriate model number:

Port Authority – www.portauthority.com

Polos: K500, K500P (pocket), K500LS (long sleeve), K500LSP (long sleeve w/pocket)

Button Down: S508 (short sleeve), S608 (long sleeve)

Gildan – www.gildan.com

Sweatshirts: Pullover (G180), Pullover w/hood (G185), Zip-up w/hood (G186)

Philadelphia Division Apparel Order Form

All apparel comes in **black** (the official Division color), with Division patch sewn and ironed on, and, if desired, first name embroidered

POLO: Port Authority "Silk Touch" 65/35 polyester/cotton, soft, comfortable, lightweight, virtually wrinkle-free, available in short or long sleeves, with or without pocket (K500, K500P, K500LS, K500LSP)

BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT: Port Authority "Easy Care" Twill, 55/45 cotton/polyester, available in short or long sleeves, both with pocket (S508, S608)

SWEATSHIRT: Gildan "Heavy Blend" 50/50 cotton/polyester, available in crown-neck pullover, pullover hoodie, and zip-up hoodie (G180, G185, G186)

Note: Larger sizes are available—just ask

Size	Price (subject to change)								
S-XL	16	18	21	23	21	21	13	17	21
2XL	18	20	23	25	23	23	15	18	23
3XL	20	22	26	28	25	25	17	19	26

Name	
Address	
City, St, Zip	
Phone	
Email	
Signature	
Mail to: PhillyNMRA Sales 620 Edmonds Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026	
Questions: 610-626-4506 phillynmra@gmail.com	

	Size	Polo		Button-Down		Sweatshirt		First name as you'd like it to appear (if desired - add \$5 each shirt)	Qty	Price	Total	
		No pocket	Pocket	Long Sleeve	Long Sleeve + pocket	Short Sleeve	Long Sleeve					Pullover
1	↓ Enter Size ↓											
2												
3												
4												
5												
Patch @ \$3 each												
SHIPPING: Shirts @ \$5 + \$2 each additional shirt Patches @ \$2 any quantity (ships free with shirt order)												
PICKUP: Future meet or by special arrangement											Free	
Make check payable to: PHILA DIV NMRA						We accept PayPal—email for invoice: phillynmra@gmail.com				TOTAL		



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: _____



Bill Fagan: *The Video Vigilante*



I've been videoing model railroads for a few years now. Visiting layouts in California, Idaho, Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and now Delaware. In total so far, 113 layouts and 369 videos. Here are some of the most recent layouts:

Carl Huth's Reading Lines. Locale is in Southeast PA, HO Scale, time frame is between 1952 and 1976, with all diesel motive power. Most trains are mixed freight, 2 passenger trains, and a circus train. Operating nights consist of 24 scheduled trains, with coal extras and locals thrown in as needed.

The control system is EasyDCC by CVP Products. All main line switch motors are 28V DC rotary relays, controlled both from the CTC tower and at local positions. All track is code 100 flex, with various brands of switches. There are 13 yards of various sizes. The largest yard is Rutherford, PA with a capacity of 300 cars. Reading and Philadelphia yards are a little smaller.

The track plan is in the shape the letter "X", with Reading at the center. The Reading was a bridge line, passing trains on from the west to east and back. Coal was their major product with mines in the northeast Pennsylvania area. There are 4 hidden staging areas: West Trenton with 4 tracks, Harrisburg and Shippensburg with 3 tracks each, and 2 tracks at the east end of Philadelphia. The layout takes up about 1800 sq. ft. with a work shop, storage area and a rest room. It's about 25 years old now, a large work in progress.



← **Joe Parisi's Norfolk & Western RR, Radford Division.** Modeling 1955-1963. Freelanced based on N&W main line from Radford, VA to Norfolk, VA with a main classification yard at Roanoke and a branch line to West Jefferson, NC, known as the "Virginia Creeper."

HO Scale, 24'x30', code 83 nickel silver, nos. 4 & 6 turnouts, 40" to 60" high. Digitrax DCC controlled.

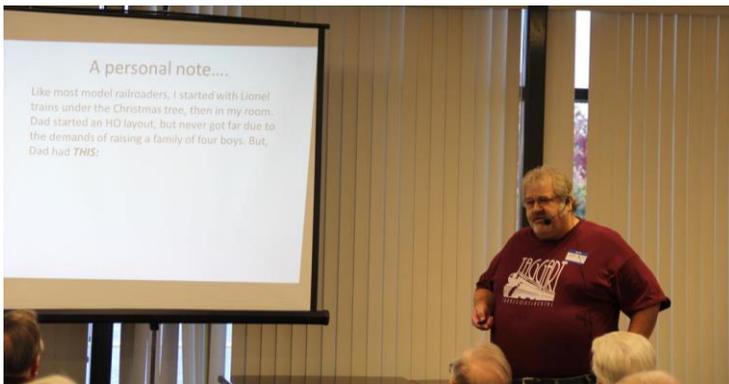
Bill Quinn's Susquehanna Short Line. Garden railroad, about 200' with one engine and 3 cars. G Scale.

Bob Jans's PRR Cumberland Division. Located in Bob's garage and in the beginning of construction using sections of his last layout including the lightning scene. Intends to have multiple levels when completed. HO Scale. More to follow.

You can see these videos and others on the PHILLYNMRA.org website, just click on **Cab Ride Layout Videos**. If you want to see future videos send me (bfagan777@hotmail.com) your email address and I'll put you on the distribution list. Do you want your railroad or a friends railroad videoed? E-mail me. More to follow in the next issue of *The Dispatcher*.



↖ ↑ Superintendent Joe Bergmaier greets the attendees and makes his announcements



↑ Jeff Witt presents his clinic . . . and receives congratulations along with his appreciation certificate ↑



↑ Don Borden surrounded by a captivated audience presents his steam loco sound demonstration . . . and later poses with his appreciation certificate ↗



↓ Attendees check out the White Elephant Table ↑



Earl Paine and Bob Schildt chat



Bill Fagan notices something of interest



Fine looking crowd

Figures 1-4: A sampling of Jeff Witt's collection of John Allen/G&D memorabilia



Figure 1 – Gorre & Daphetid rolling stock ↑

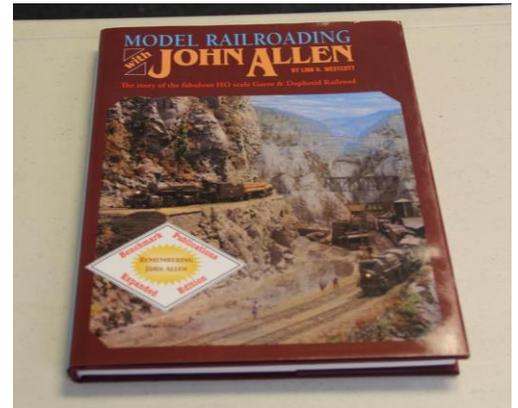


Figure 2 – Model Railroading with John Allen ↗

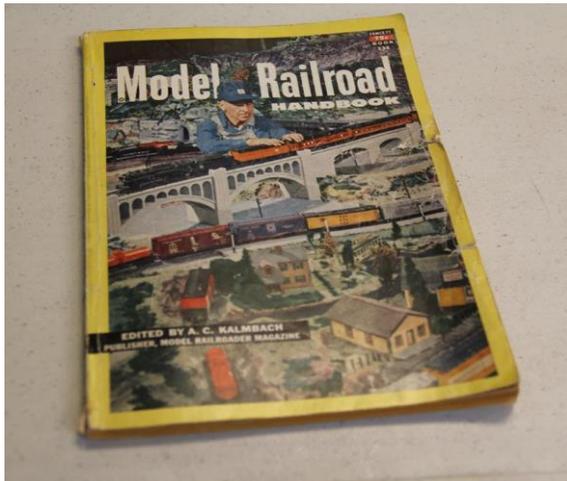
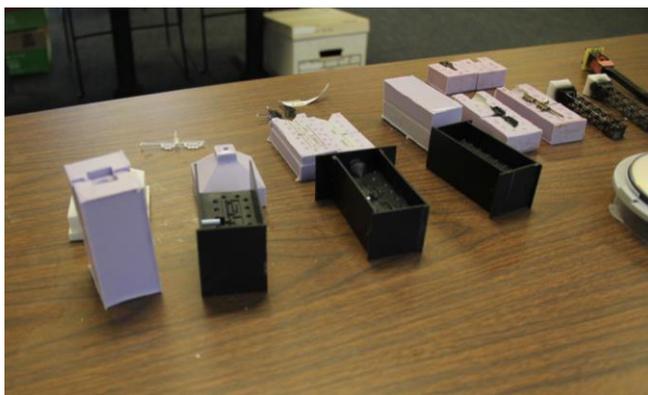


Figure 3 – Model Railroad Handbook featured articles and photos by John Allen



Figure 4 – Gorre & Daphetid Reminiscence Project CD and DVDs featuring John Allen photos and documents



Earl Hackett's display of resin casting molds and samples of his signals and signal bridges

Upcoming NMRA Conventions



NMRA 2017 Orlando

2017

<http://nmra2017orlando.org/>



NMRA 2018 Kansas City

2018

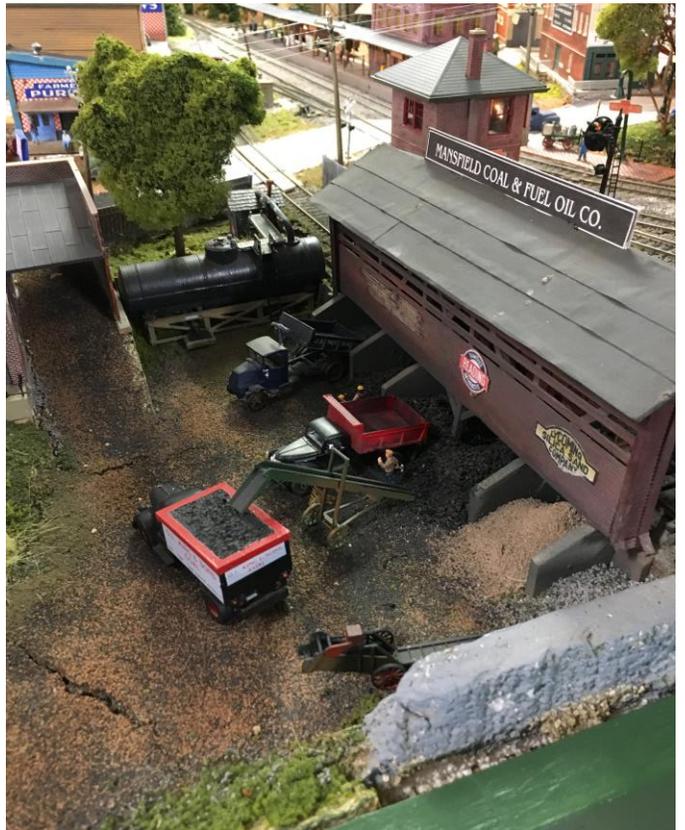
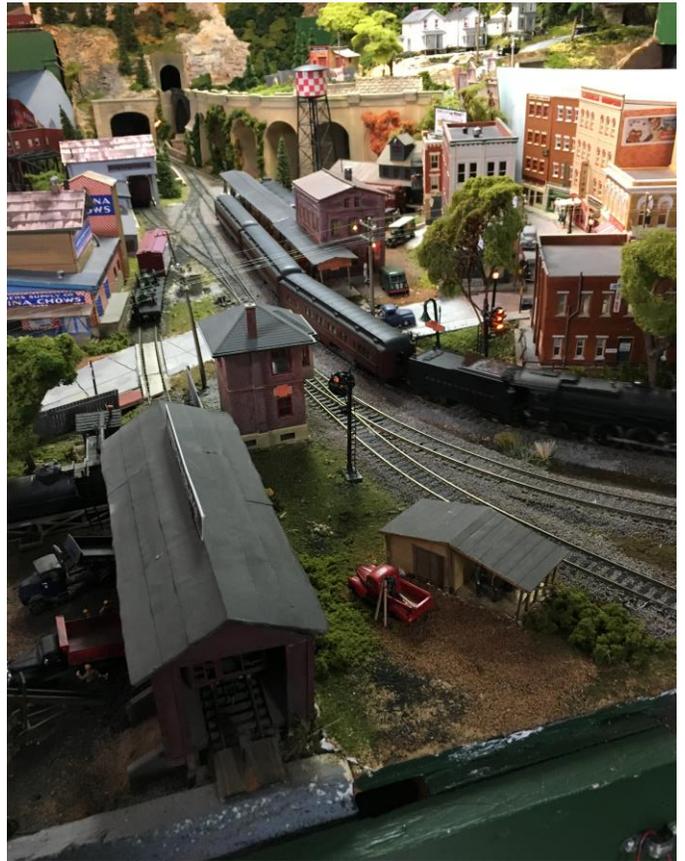
<http://www.kc2018.org/>

NMRA 2019 Salt Lake City

2019

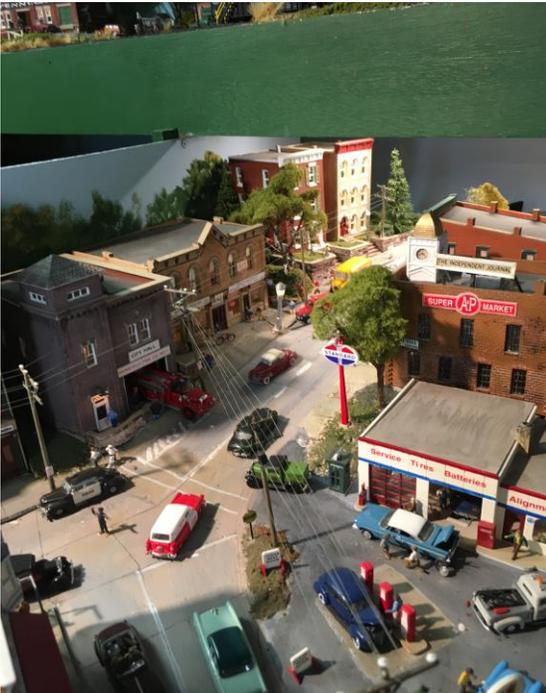
Around the Division....

This issue of *The Dispatcher* visits the layout of Al Zollers. Al's hand-painted backdrops and exquisite attention to detail are noteworthy. Al is also the chair of the yearly Hatboro Train Show.



Around the Division...

...more from Al Zollers's layout



Some pulled back shots of Al's layout.

Note the hand-painted backdrops.

Al's many structures on the layout have received additional details.

Al secures his liftout sections with wing nuts.

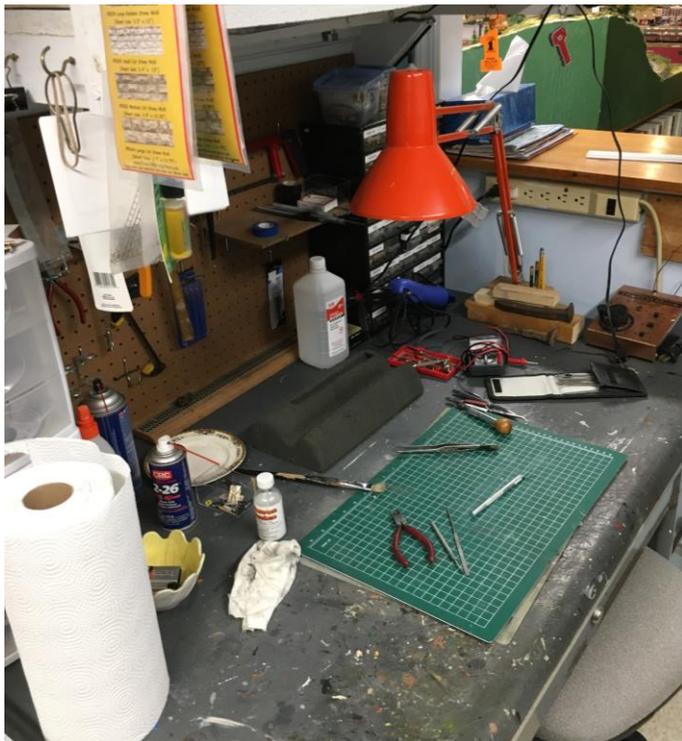


Around the Division...

...more photos of Al Zollers's layout



Photos taken of Al's attention to detail



Al's modeling work area

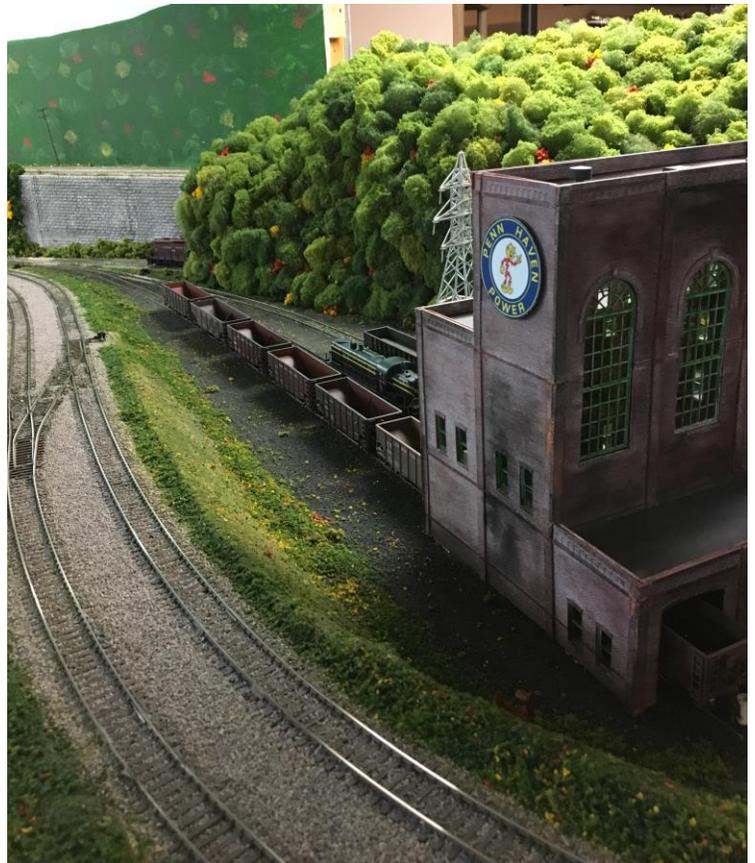
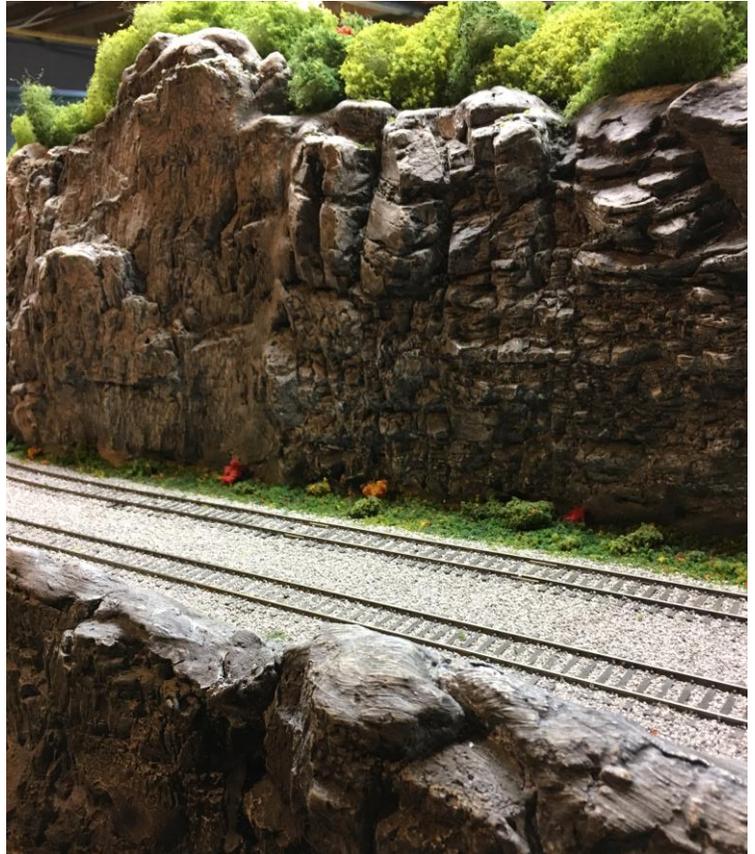


Overall view of the right half of the layout and lift-out section

Around the Division...

Member Tom Crop was our next layout visit. Tom used only half of his extensive basement for the layout. His scenery is complete and supports the overall finish of the layout.

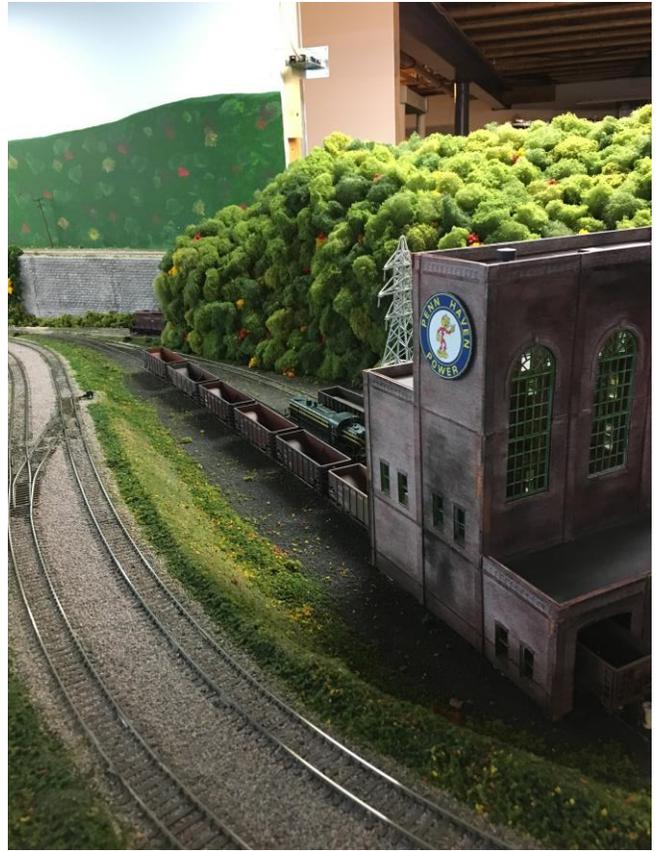
Tom holds regular operating session with local modelers. Chief Dispatcher will likely be Tom's first AP certificate!



Around the Division...



...additional photos of Tom Crop's layout



Around the Division...



...additional photos of Tom Crop's layout



The Dispatcher would like to thank our roving videographer Bill Fagan for setting up the layout visits covered in the “Around the Division” area of the online sections.

Bill is now a Division Board Member and continues to promote the AP Program. Look for AP certificate awards for both Tom Crop and Al Zollers in the near future!

A few words from the President



Going Digital Revisited?

Sorry! As I wrote last May, we are not going digital anytime soon with *NMRA Magazine* but we are headed toward digital publishing in an increasing digital age. I revisit this topic because of some interesting new information courtesy of a true digital pioneer in model railroad digital publishing, *Model Railroad Hobbyist*.

In their October issue, MRH published a survey of reader ages for their digital magazine. They certified accuracy with a 95% certainty. The results are very illuminating and very interesting. We have often heard that only the young prefer digital magazines. We have also heard that digital magazines, the wave of the future, appeal to those younger generations, whereas older readers are into print. Therefore, a decline in print circulation does not mean a decline in younger modelers for they are on a digital platform. These observations are often accepted as absolute truth. They are consistent with our expectations, for after all it is the younger generations who are most at ease with the electronic age and serve as inspiration for us older folks as to the wonders of the digital age. I stand in awe of their skill and of the potential of digital devices.

The death of print media has been projected for over thirty years now and while newspapers are slowly eroding, the end of print is still nowhere in sight. There is something satisfying about a magazine that is hard to replace. One would therefore expect that *Model Railroad Hobbyist*, being a digital pioneer, would naturally attract the younger demographic which the blogs assure us are out there.

Imagine my surprise to discover that 88% of MRH readers are 49 years old or older. Indeed 67% are 60 or older.

Two conclusions can be fairly reached from these numbers. First, the old chestnut that older modelers prefer print may not be true. Secondly, there are not hordes of young modelers reading digital and eschewing print. According to the MRH survey, less than 4% of MRH readers are 30 or under. Therefore the good news is that older modelers are not the fuddy-duddys portrayed who are out of touch in a digital world.

But the bad news is the postulated large numbers of young modelers who prefer digital platforms may also be a myth.

Interesting, no? Well, those are my thoughts; what are yours?

[Charlie](#)

Notice of Winter BOD meeting in Atlanta

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will once again be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 18, and 19 at the Drury Inn & Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 17, and the Board will be in caucus that evening. Both of those meetings are only open to invited guests.

The regular, open session of the BOD meeting begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 18. Because the agenda is not yet finalized, there's no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are invited to attend the open sessions. Watch www.nmra.org for details.

News about the 2017 NMRA Elections

By [John Stevens](#), NMRA Secretary

We are fast approaching the 2017 election. This election is different than the elections of the last two years. Those elections included worldwide positions that required ballots distributed through *NMRA Magazine*. The 2017 election has no worldwide positions and therefore there will be no ballot distributed in the magazine.

This election cycle has five positions under consideration. One of them is the Region Advisory Council Director, or RACD position. Each Region has a representative on the RAC and they are the only ones that are eligible to vote. There are three candidates for the RACD position. This election should be completed by Christmas.

Three of the positions in 2017 are the Canadian Director, NMRA Canada President, and NMRA Canada Vice-President. This election will be run by NMRA Canada. Those of you who are members of NMRA Canada should be receiving your ballots sometime around February 1st.

The last position up for election is the Central District Director, or CDD. The Central District includes the states of Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Only those members living within those states are eligible to vote for the CDD. In years past, the members have received a ballot in the mail. They then filled out the ballot and mailed it back to Headquarters.

This election cycle, we will be mailing ballots to the membership, but we are going to be offering the option of returning your ballot by voting electronically. We will be using a service called Election Buddy. This service has been used successfully by a couple of Regions. The service generates voting codes for each individual eligible to vote. The individual goes online and enters the voting code. They then view the ballot and vote. Once they complete the process, they can't use the voting code again.

At the end of the voting window, we receive two reports. One report is the results of the election. The second report tells us who voted electronically. Using the two reports there is no way to know how a member has voted. In the meantime, some of you will have filled out your paper ballots and mailed them to headquarters. The second report will be checked against the paper ballots. If HQ receives a ballot from you and you have also voted electronically, the paper ballot will be declared invalid and your vote will be the electronic one.

The current plan is to mail the ballots in mid-January. The election window should be February 1 through February 28. Since we will still have to process some paper ballots, the election results will not be known until the end of March.

Having trouble finding the "Promotional Videos" on our website? Search no more!

Several *NMRA eBulletin* readers have mentioned that they're having a hard time finding the "promotional videos" that Model Railroader Video Plus, TrainMasters TV, and Model Railroad Academy have donated to the NMRA online video library.

They're actually fairly easy to find!

If you're not logged into www.nmra.org as a member, you can find the videos which the general public can view by clicking on "Education," then "NMRA Videos." Again, these videos are available to members and non-members.

But once you log into www.nmra.org as a member, just click on "Education" then "NMRA Videos" and you'll be taken to a page that shows you all the donated videos.

If you're an NMRA member and you're logged into www.nmra.org as a member and you're on the *Members Only* homepage (by clicking on "Membership" and "Member Home" from the main page), click on "Special programs" then "Member Video Library."

Region and National Conventions

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

Jul 30-Aug 6: [National Convention, Orlando, FL](#)



Master Model Railroaders



#579 - Mike Blumensaadt (PCR)