



# THE DISPATCHER

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



December 2017

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

Volume 24, No. 6

## January Joint Meet in Jersey

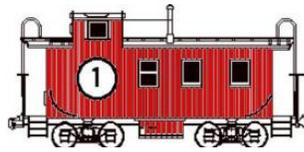
On Saturday January 13, we once again join forces with the New Jersey Division, but this time at an all new venue, the Grace Episcopal Church in Merchantville, New Jersey. Maps and directions can be found on page 7. The time is 9:00am with doors opening at 8:30.

To start out, Jersey member Pete Suhmann will offer a clinic titled, *“Off Layout Car Float Staging.”* Pete, ever creative, developed an idea for a flexible staging of rolling stock that you may find useable on your model railroad. Most modelers understand the use of staging tracks to simulate those distant destinations where our trains go to or come from, i.e. off layout or hidden. Where do you put those staging tracks? Does your layout room allow you the space for a multi-track yard to hold entire trains? Won't that take away valuable space you would rather use to model another town or industry for switching? Come and see what Pete offers as a possible solution.

This is not about any particular prototype as each railroad designed their floats and bridges to meet their particular environment. Pete will explain how and why a small layout can benefit from the carfloat staging added to a yard. He will show examples of prototype operations and his way of building carfloats, from construction lumber, and float bridge and apron, and then move on to describe a method for storing the car floats and transporting them without accidentally dropping the cars and damaging them. The floats actually are drawers used to store his rolling stock.



The second clinic titled, *“Creating Focal Point Trees,”* addresses the ever challenging modeling problem of tree production. Former Jersey and now Philly member Bob Koury will present his approaches to modeling trees with special emphasis on those found in the western United States.



Bob describes his presentation as follows: Trees can make a scene on your model layout pop and help add realism to your pike. I separate trees and other scenic vegetation into two categories: mass vegetation covering large areas of your layout and focal point vegetation. This clinic is about how to think about and create focal point trees.

There have been countless articles on making trees so I doubt this clinic will add much that is new. However, what might be new is the thought process I use in determining when and how to use focal point trees.

I model the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe in California, so the trees and brush that I create are from the west. Even though the examples provided are from a western railroad, the techniques, supplies, and ideas can be applied to any geographical area. This clinic will discuss the techniques, procedures, and supplies I use in creating focal point trees for my layout. I will use four types of trees to demonstrate my technique. Although this is a well discussed topic, I think it is still useful to see how others have created scenery (trees, brush, etc.) and that it may inspire new thoughts on how you can create the right scene for your layout.



As usual, our gracious hosts will provide coffee and donuts, swap tables, a model contest, and more. The afternoon fare will consist of open house tours of some of the excellent layouts the Jersey Division is known for. Check out their website at <http://njdivnmra.org> for more info and the link to their current issue of *Train Orders*. Contact Superintendent Bill Grosse for swap table info at [njdiv.super@gmail.com](mailto:njdiv.super@gmail.com).

## MER 2019 Convention Meeting

Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of the next convention committee meeting, sometime in January. Chairman Rob Hinkle will also be arranging walk-throughs of the convention hotel for those who haven't yet seen it. Information will be posted on the Division website as it becomes available.

*(Division news continues on page 3)*

## Form 19



### From the Super...

If you recall, in last issue's column I discussed how I worked out the problem of adding weight to empty hoppers.

While working on two open-top hopper cars I became curious about the road name on them. They were labeled Carbon County & Northern. I wanted to find out whether such a railroad actually existed. I don't recall where I got them—probably a train show or maybe one of our meets. I went online first to discover that there are at least three counties with the name “Carbon” across the country: Utah, Wyoming, and, of course, Pennsylvania.

Utah has a Carbon County Railway that provided cars to move coal from mines in the state. It appeared that they never had much of a locomotive fleet. The company apparently had scratched their plans to purchase a locomotive in favor of renting one or more (one at a time) possibly from the D&RGW.

I came up with blanks on Wyoming and Pennsylvania for the CC&N.

I don't have the original box for the hoppers, but I found the name Accurail on the trucks. I emailed Accurail to see if they knew where CC&N is, was, or had ever been.. Bingo! Or so I thought.

I received an email from Eric Cote of Accurail the next morning. He stated that his information on the CC&N hoppers was pretty limited. He had checked their archives and found that the artwork for that hopper was actually a custom print run they had done for a customer back in March/April 2004 (see page 8–back cover). They printed only one road number (2000) and extra road numbers were sent as decals, with my 2024 and 2048 among them. So my guess is that they were renumbered at some point.

Unfortunately that was all he had. There were no photos in the folder and no other information to be found, so it likely was sent back to the customer. There wasn't even an invoice with the

*(Continued on page 3)*



### From the Editor...

The Achievement Program within our division has recently received a sharp increase in interest. As Editor, I volunteered to assist AP Coordinator Dave Messer, MMR in recruiting new applicants for the program. In addition, board member Bill Fagan stepped up to help by “talking up” the AP program during his many “video visits” to layouts across the region. The result has been multiple Golden Spike awards based on Bill's visits alone.

The Golden Spike alone is not an AP certificate, but is designed to spark interest and motivate recipients to start applying for the actual AP certificates. This has indeed been the result. More than 20 AP certs have been awarded over the past 18 months and there are many more being worked on.

This effort requires additional help as the program widens. Several members have participated in training sessions to learn judging techniques at MER and other conventions. This has widened the pool of judging talent that can work with Dave as Coordinator.

It has been personally rewarding to attend those training sessions as a “future judge” and to work under Dave's tutelage. I often accompany him when traveling to layouts to evaluate and award certificates, comparing my numeric scores with his. Being able to “pick Dave's brain” in the process has greatly increased my knowledge base both as a judge and modeler. I hope to increase my efforts to receive the remaining 3 certificates to be an MMR.

I have always believed that our division is replete with countless outstanding modeling efforts just waiting to be recognized, and that has indeed been the case. Stay tuned for the flurry of additional AP certificates which will be awarded during 2018!

Board member Howard Kaplan, in addition to recently receiving his own

*(Continued on page 3)*

## THE DISPATCHER

### Editor

Earl Paine 610-831-9466  
4325 Wendy Way  
Schwenksville, PA 19473  
[earlpaine@verizon.net](mailto:earlpaine@verizon.net)

### Co-editor/Publisher

Howard Kaplan [hakaplan@rcn.com](mailto: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 editors reserve the right to, when necessary, paraphrase portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

**Next Issue:** March 2018. Due out approx. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>. Deadline: Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Online Subscription:** Free. Make sure the Clerk has your current e-mail address and that you keep your info updated at [nmra.org/members](http://nmra.org/members).

**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 / Member Outreach

Charles Butsch 610-446-2375  
227 Mill Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
[cabutsch@gmail.com](mailto:cabutsch@gmail.com)

#### Assistant Superintendent / Ops /

Rob Hinkle **Social Media**  
1755 Slayton Dr.  
Blue Bell, PA 19422 610-279-2394  
[robhink@comcast.net](mailto:robhink@comcast.net)

#### Clerk / Membership

Mark Wallace 610-454-9510  
665 Bonny Brook Ave.  
Trappe, PA 19426  
[mwallace665@verizon.net](mailto:mwallace665@verizon.net)

#### Treasurer / Webmaster

Howard Kaplan 610-626-4506  
620 Edmonds Ave.  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
[hakaplan@rcn.com](mailto:hakaplan@rcn.com)

#### Directors at Large

**Layouts / Video** – Bill Fagan  
[wfagan@comcast.net](mailto:wfagan@comcast.net) 215-675-4098

**Events / Clinics** – John Seibert  
[johnhseibert@comcast.net](mailto:johnhseibert@comcast.net)  
267-319-5391

**Scouting** – Joe Bergmaier  
[jober922@gmail.com](mailto:jober922@gmail.com) 484-431-7005

#### Achievement Program Coordinator

Dave Messer, MMR 610-948-2191  
263 Mingo Road  
Royersford, PA 19468-3112  
[dmesserpr@comcast.net](mailto:dmesserpr@comcast.net)

#### Achievement Prog. Committee Chair

Earl Paine 610-831-9466  
4325 Wendy Way  
Schwenksville, PA 19473  
[earlpaine@verizon.net](mailto:earlpaine@verizon.net)

## Division News (continued from page 1)

### RPM–Valley Forge 2018

Once again the RPM–Valley Forge will hold its biennial meet at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Malvern, PA, March 23–25, 2018. This is arguably the premier RPM in the country so you won't want to miss it. The flyer with all the information can be found in the online section. [Go There](#)

### Ops Call Board Forms

Ops Chair Rob Hinkle has created ops registration forms which will be used to compile an email list to enable operators to be matched up with layout owners. Even if you are a regular operator, or have enough operators for your layout, we encourage you to sign up anyway. If the time ever comes when you do need extra help, you'll have a reliable source at your fingertips rather than worrying

## From the Super (continued from page 2)

customer's information as they just sent paper invoices back then, so there wasn't any way of knowing which part of the country the cars got sent to.

He did find one detail which I believe pointed the way. A zoom-in on the builder's badge in the artwork revealed it to be Bethlehem Steel, who made a great many hoppers for Reading...which might lean it toward Pennsylvania. And that works for me.

And with that, Happy Holidays to all, and hope to see you in January.

*Charles*

[Go Back](#)

about last minute scrambling.

The forms are available on the Division website in the Members area on the website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/members/operations-call-board>. Return it to Rob at [ops@phillynmra.org](mailto:ops@phillynmra.org) or [robhink@comcast.net](mailto:robhink@comcast.net). [Back to page 1](#)

## AP Report

by *Dave Messer, MMR*



I am pleased to report that two of our Philadelphia Division officers have completed the requirements for Association Volunteer: Division Superintendent Charles Butsch and long-time Clerk Mark Wallace.

Congratulations and well deserved!

If anyone has any questions on the Achievement Program, feel free to contact me at 610-948-2191 or [dmes-serpr@comcast.net](mailto:dmes-serpr@comcast.net).

## From the Editor (continued from page 2)

Volunteer certificate, has stepped up to assist me as Editor by taking over the layout and publication duties of *The Dispatcher*. This is indeed appreciated. I am now functioning as more of a contributing editor with Howard doing the actual newsletter assembly. Without his help behind the scenes, none of the above could have happened.

This is the type of teamwork, between multiple members, that has enabled us all to push forward our association's primary thrust, which is the promotion of this great hobby! See you in New Jersey.

*Earl*

[Go Back](#)

## Hatboro Train Show Report

by *John Seibert*



On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Philly Division of the NMRA had a table at the Hatboro Train Show held at the Keith Valley Middle School on Meeting House Road in Horsham. This was the show's 12<sup>th</sup> year. The show supports Main Street Hatboro revitalization projects and Hatboro is proud to have this successful event as a fundraiser. We were there for outreach to model railroaders in the area who may not know what we are all about or that we are even here. The Train Show committee was very pleased to have us there promoting the hobby and we had a special location right inside the entrance.

Howard Kaplan, Mark Wallace, and I manned the table and greeted folks as they came in the door. The big question we asked was "Have you heard of the NMRA?" Most modelers did but very many thought of us as just a group of guys who creates standards for the hobby. It was our opportunity to tell people that we are so much more than that and a great way to meet other modelers, share experiences, learn some new skills, and network. We handed out a lot of tri-fold brochures, business cards, and copies of our *Dispatcher* and the *NMRA Magazine*.

It was my first time at the show and I was impressed that it was much larger than I thought. I pictured it as being just in the gym, but it was in the gym, the cafeteria, and hallways in between! Well over 100 tables with regular guys selling anything from Lionel to HO to N to railroaders. Several of our members had tables including Bill Fagan, Earl Paine, Mike Taber, and Bill O'Connell who says he "cleaned up" with his surplus collection of N-scale equipment. I relieved him of some of it myself.

The show is held the first Saturday in December and if you haven't attended before I urge you to check it out. I'm sure that you will run into other Division members. We sure did. You may even want to consider getting a table to "turn over" your inventory of stuff. We all have that loco or freight car that was really cool when we bought it on impulse and now realize we could use it for money to buy what we really need. That's why out West they call these things "swap meets." Save the date for 2018!



## November Meet Report

by Mark Wallace, Clerk



Our celebration of National Model Railroading Month continued with approximately 40 members and guests venturing out to our Philadelphia Division Meet on Saturday, November 18, 2017, held at the Community Center that is part of the larger Brandywine Town Center in Wilmington, DE.

After a few opening remarks and announcements, Joe Walters presented the morning's first clinic on flat casting using two-part resin. Joe demonstrated his methods of using flat molds with his mixture of resin to cast a variety of walls, autos, cars, and many items useful for creating a model railroad scene. He shared several examples of his work with the group. Joe lives in nearby Bear, DE and his layout can be viewed on one of Bill Fagan's recent videos found on our website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/>.

After a short break our Achievement Program Coordinator Dave Messer, MMR presented a Golden Spike certificate to Joe Parisi. Others not present will receive their certificates at a future meet.

We continued along with Mike Baker's presentation on building or modeling HO vehicles. Mike presented examples of autos, trucks, tractors and similar vehicles as part of a model railroading or diorama scene. A professional model builder, Mike is also founder and owner of "Nick & Nora's Designs" providing a variety of HO & N scale craftsman kits and supplies based in the Division in Newark, DE. Mike shared with the group the various stages or approaches he uses to assemble, or kit-bash when necessary, his HO scale models. He described some of his techniques for painting and weathering to get his models to look "just right." His clinic included a good discussion on the types of glue, paint, and weathering techniques used on the various models.



Joe Parisi receives his Golden Spike from AP Coordinator Dave Messer and displays it proudly

Part three of the morning's activities included a "Show & Tell," where 3 members shared their work. Earl Hackett showed some of his cast models with a lively Q&A session. Guest Dennis Blank from Denver, PA/Susie Q Division, showed his growing collection of hoppers he is developing. Finally Fred Monsimer brought a section of a module being of an earlier version of the PRR Philadelphia Station before the advent of 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Fred is constructing an elaborate network of track as he works from maps and photos. The module is part of the larger GATSME layout being built in Rockledge, PA.

The door prize drawing was held and Steve Richardson was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle. Congratulations. The meeting ended shortly before noon.

Following the formal Division Meet, our MER 2019 Committee met under Rob Hinkle's leadership for another round of planning. The committee is growing, but many positions still need filling to properly pull off the convention. Anyone interested in contributing or volunteering is welcome to attend. For the foreseeable future, the Committee will be meeting after the Division meets or as otherwise announced.

Afternoons are for visiting layouts and with the November Model Railroad Open House layout tours annually conducted at this time, seven nearby layouts were open for visiting.

Many thanks to our clinicians, Mike and Joe, to our Show & Tell contributors, and to Earl Hackett for once again procuring this wonderful venue. Our next meet will be held jointly with the New Jersey Division at a new location in Merchantville, NJ. See page 7 for maps and directions. Hope to see you there!

Photos by Rob Hinkle



Superintendent Charles Butsch kicks off the meet with greetings and announcements



Clinician Joe Walters (right) receives his appreciation certificate from the Super

**MORE MEET PHOTOS ON PAGE 12**



We continue with our series on the safe and proper use of hand tools with a focus this issue on pliers.

Before starting this article I had spent some time wondering what specific tool I would present next. I then thought that it might be good to wander into the mind of ancient mankind and perhaps think about what would be needed for hunting and gathering or forming some type of habitat or protection from other beasts or from the weather. After so many generations removed from these people of olden times, I can scantily imagine what life might have been like, but I have heard from woodworkers in Williamsburg, VA. that seal-skin was used for smoothing wood long before sandpaper was developed, and prior to that, wood was burnished by rubbing with another piece of wood to smooth the surface of splinters.

I did cover hammers and saws previously as they surely must have been early tools made and used by our forefathers of long ago. I think they may have needed some means to grasp and hold with more force than the hands could have provided, so I present pliers as the next tool.



Medieval pincers found in Hamburg-Harburg (15th/16th century)

Although the article below dates pliers to perhaps 3000 BCE it's very likely that ancient mankind may have used

## TYPES OF PLIERS



Slip joint or gas pliers



Diagonal pliers or side cutters



Lineman's or combination pliers



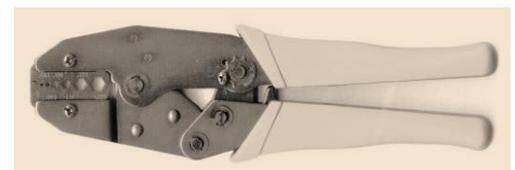
Pincers or end cutters



Tongue-and-groove or adjustable pliers



Electrical wire stripping and terminal crimping pliers



Crimp tool for N, R-SMA, TNC connectors for RG174, RG58 and HDF/LMR200

If you missed the previous three articles in this series, you can find them in the back issues of **The Dispatcher** at <http://www.phillynmra.org/library/newsletter>.

While there, be sure to view the other excellent articles presented by other authors and enjoy the pages wonderfully crafted by our Division's editors and contributors.

the branches of a tree to form the first means of grabbing and holding objects since the splitting off of one branch into two could have been the predecessor of the idea. Also two branches might have been spliced together with strips of animal skin to form an early type of pliers, therefore string or rope from animal hide or twisted from grasses like hemp may have been one of the early tools developed.

I sometimes wonder what it must have been like back in the time when the first tools were developed as ancient man looked for an answer to whatever problems he may have encountered.

As pliers in the general sense are an ancient and simple invention, no single point in history or inventor can be credited. Early metal working processes from several millennia BCE would have required plier-like devices to handle hot materials in the process of smithing or casting. Development from wooden to bronze pliers would have probably happened sometime prior to 3000 BCE. Among the oldest illustrations of pliers are those showing the Greek god Hephaestus in his forge. The number of different designs of pliers grew with the invention of the various objects which they were used to handle: Horseshoes, fasteners, wire, pipes, electrical, and electronic components.



Heavy duty crimping pliers with interchangeable RJ heads



Hand crimp tool (MH-17)



Bent-nose pliers



Round-nose pliers for making loops in wires



Locking pliers, also known as vise grips



Needle-nose or long-nose pliers



Circlip pliers for fitting and removing retaining rings



Hand crimp tool (DX-1008) for insulated and non-insulated terminals; also has a wire cutter and stripper, and screw cutter

## MAINTENANCE

Keep all pliers lubricated at the joints and protected from rust with a coating of paraffin/sealing wax. If the pliers are used for electrical work, then insure that the insulated handles are not damaged; if so, they can be redipped in insulation material or replaced.

The slip-joint pliers shown on the previous page are an example of a simple lap joint. The bolt or rivet used to hold them together does not insure close alignment of the head sections, so they may need to be tightened occasionally as they may loosen in time with use. Several other pliers such as the linesman's, diagonal, needle-nose, or bent-nose pliers have what is known as a box joint and these do not get retightened.

Pliers are not meant to be used as a hammer to strike nails or other objects; doing so may damage the joints. If a hammer is needed then use a hammer (words of wisdom from my dad, the toolmaker). Pliers should not have their handles extended with pipe to increase the force as that may bend or crack the joint rendering them useless; instead use a larger pair meant to handle the required force.

**REFERENCES:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliers>

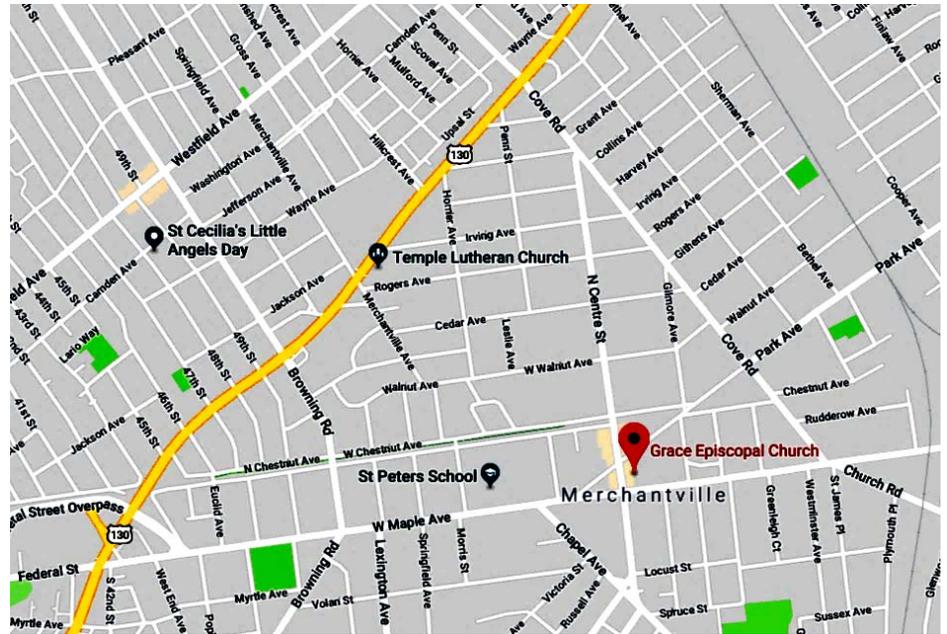


## Directions to the January Meet

**From the Delaware Memorial Bridge or Commodore Barry Bridge** – I-295 N to Exit 26/I-76 W to US-130 N. Approx 3.5 miles turn right on Maple Ave. for about a mile. Church is just past Center St. on left.

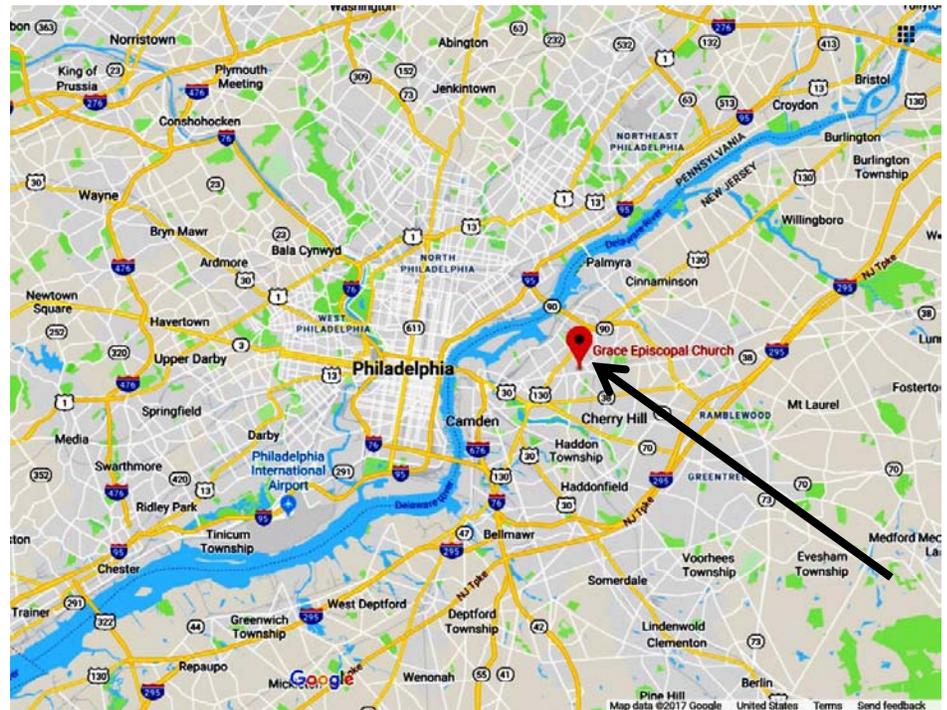
**From PA Tpk, Burlington-Bristol Bridge, Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and other points north** – Take US-130 S to NJ-90, continue south on US-130 following directions below.

**From Betsy Ross Bridge (NJ-90)** – Take US-130 S about 1 mile. Left on Cove Rd. Third street on right is Center St. – bear right. Follow about ½ mile to Maple Ave. Turn left. Church is on left.



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
7 E. Maple Ave.  
Merchantville, NJ 08109

**PARKING:** Merchantville Fire house behind and to the right on Park Avenue. There is also a lot across the street from the fire house. Address is: **22 E. Park Ave., Merchantville, NJ 08109**



### We Welcome Our New Philly Division Members

Connor Chinoy, Wrightstown, PA  
Drew McCann, Glenolden, PA  
Brian Crozier, Cheltenham, PA  
John Trout, New Castle, DE  
Eric Binns, Prkasie, PA  
Michael Wacey, Berwyn, PA

## Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

### January 13, 2018

NJ / Philly Division Joint Meet  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Merchantville, PA

### March 2018

New Jersey Division Meet  
Switlick Park  
Hamilton Twp., NJ

### March 23–25, 2018

RPM–Valley Forge  
Desmond Great Valley Hotel  
Malvern, PA

### April 7, 2018

Philadelphia Division Meet  
Southampton Community Center  
Southampton, PA

### June 9, 2018

Philadelphia Division Meet  
Philadelphia First Church of the Brethren  
Wyndmoor, PA

### August 5–12, 2018

NMRA Kansas City Convention  
Westin Kansas City at Crown Center  
Kansas City, MO

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

[Go Back](#)

# THE DISPATCHER

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

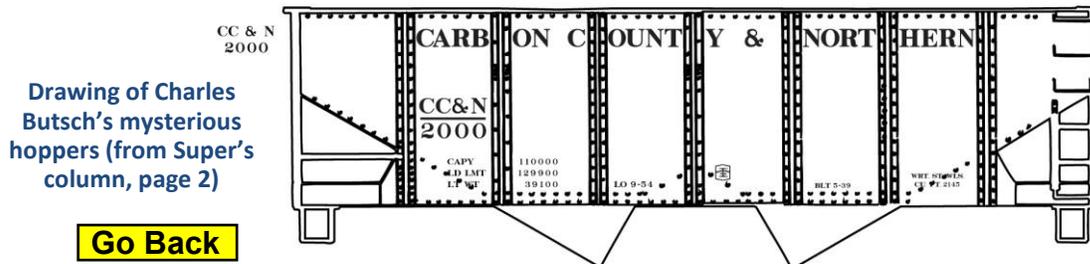
**4325 Wendy Way  
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

## Inside:

January Meet Info .....	1
Division News.....	1, 3
From the Super.....	2
From the Editor .....	2
AP Report .....	3
November Meet Report .....	4
All About Pliers .....	5
January Meet Map & Directions .....	7
Upcoming Events.....	7

**Note:** New members receive one complementary printed copy.

**Subscribers:** If the date on your address label is circled or highlighted, please renew for uninterrupted service.



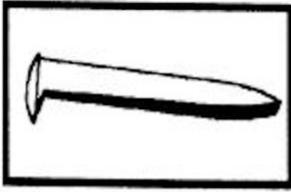
**Discounts for Division Members at Local Hobby Shops**  
Be sure to patronize the area's hobby shops that are now offering discounts on model railroading purchases to members of the Philadelphia Division.

**Iron Horse Hobby Shop**  
60 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Reading, PA 19602  
10% discount with \$10 min purchase

**Nicholas Smith Trains**  
2343 West Chester Pike (PA-3)  
Broomall, PA 19008  
10% discount (excludes O & G items)

**Henning's Trains**  
128 South Line St.  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
10% in addition to already discounted prices

**VIEW THE DISPATCHER FREE ONLINE IN FULL COLOR! ADDITIONAL ARTICLES, PHOTOS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS, SALE ITEMS & ORDER FORMS, NMRA NEWS, AND MORE!**  
[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.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



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](http://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](http://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)								
<b>S-XL</b>	16	18	21	23	21	21	13	17	21
<b>2XL</b>	18	20	23	25	23	23	15	18	23
<b>3XL</b>	20	22	26	28	25	25	17	19	26

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

1 2 3 4 5 ↓ Enter Size ↓	Polo				Button-Down		Sweatshirt			First name as you'd like it to appear (if desired - add \$5 each shirt)	Qty	Price	Total	
Patch @ \$3 each														
<b>SHIPPING: Shirts @ \$5 + \$2 each additional shirt Patches @ \$2 any quantity (ships free with shirt order)</b>														
<b>PICKUP: Future meet or by special arrangement</b>													Free	
<b>Make check payable to: PHILA DIV NMRA</b>							<b>We accept PayPal—email for invoice: phillynmra@gmail.com</b>					<b>TOTAL</b>		



**Bill Fagan:**

# *The Video Vigilante*



I've been videoing model railroads for a few years now. Visiting layouts in California, Idaho, Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware – 141 layouts and 596 videos on YouTube.



← **Dr. Bud Strause's Reading Railroad**

HO Scale, 38 years in the making, 48" to 60" inches high, over 30 engines and hundreds of cars. Code 83 track, NCE DCC controlled, originally a DC layout with blocks. Excellent scenery, one of the best layouts I've visited.

**Ray Machler's Schuylkill Valley RR →**  
O Scale. All track is hand laid.  
Digitrax DCC controlled.





← **Chuck & Kathy O'Malley's Migrit RR**  
HO scale, North Coast Engineering wireless DCC. Layout is 700 square feet with a 1200 foot mainline. Code 83 PECO track. Not modeled after any particular railroad.

**Mike O'Shaughnessy's Old West RR →**

HO Scale, DC, 12 years old, 4' high. Has a cowboy movie theme. Even has John Wayne on his horse.



You can see these videos and other layouts on the Philly Division website: [PHILLYNMRA.org](http://PHILLYNMRA.org)— just click on Cab Ride Layout Videos.

If you want to see future videos send me your email address and I'll put you on the distribution list. Do you want your railroad or a friend's railroad videoed? Email me at [bfaqan777@hotmail.com](mailto:bfaqan777@hotmail.com).

More to follow in the next issue of *The Dispatcher*.

Enjoy,

*Bill*



Glues and paints slide from Mike Baker's clinic on modeling vehicles



Mike Baker (left) receives his clinician certificate from the Super



Joe Walters discusses resin casting from rubber molds



Slide from Joe Walter's clinic – Translation: Don't try selling castings made from molds of commercial models



Fred Monsimer makes important announcements regarding club open houses



Lots of activity at the registration table



Attendees peruse the White Elephant, vendor, and model display tables



Mike Baker sells his wares



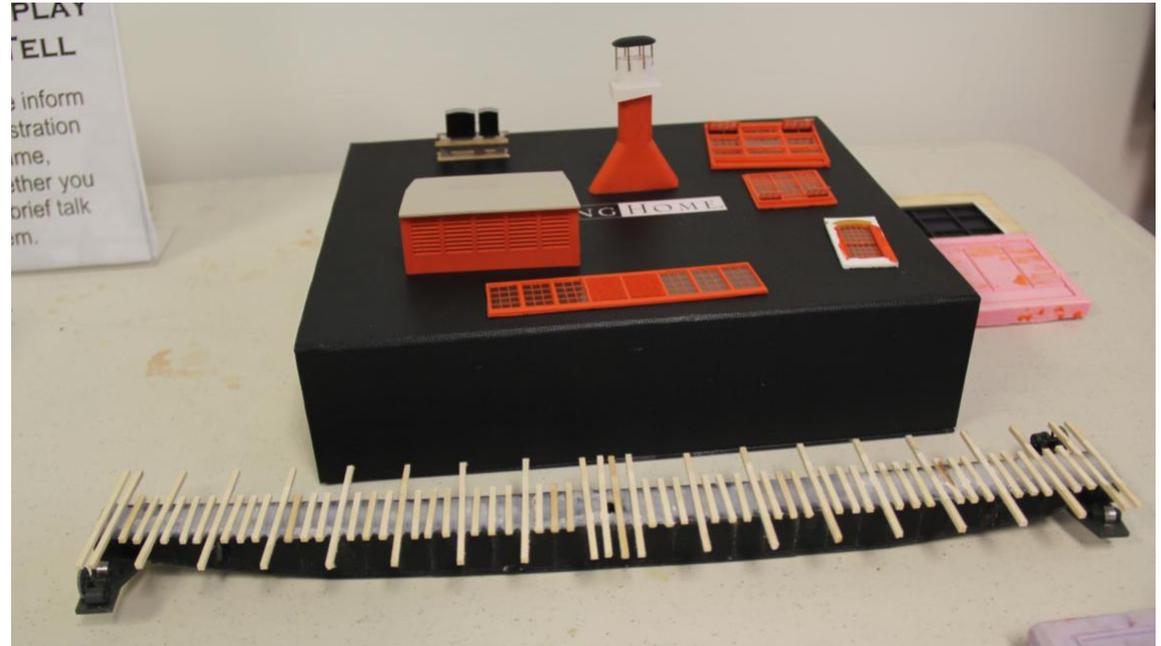
Mike Dettinger's curious Show 'n' Tell projects



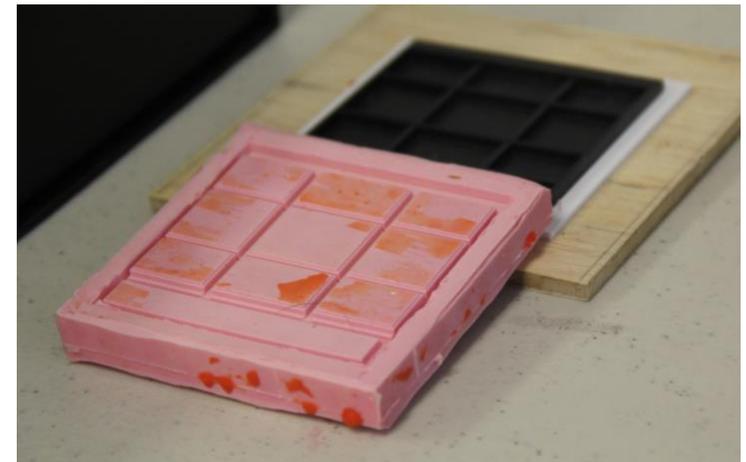
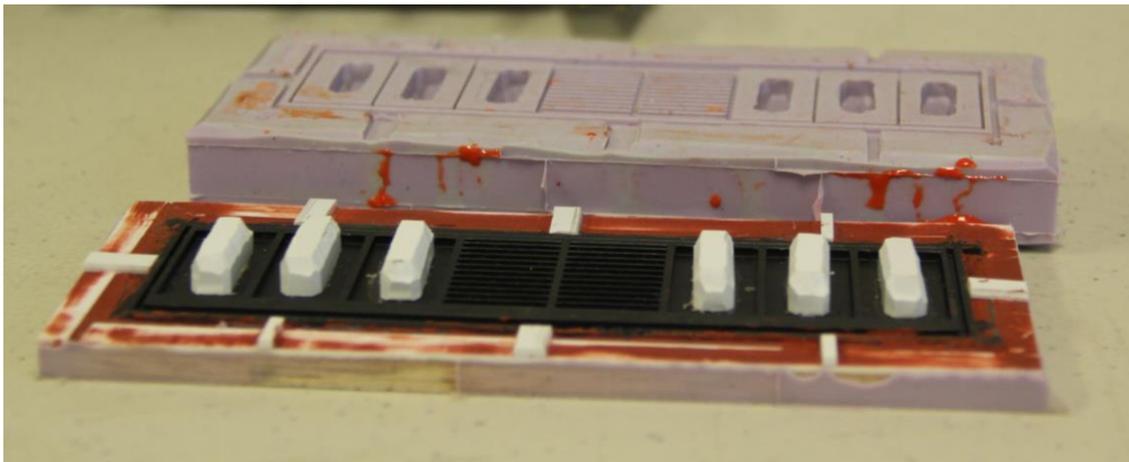
L to R: Charles Butsch, Mike Dettinger, and Howard Kaplan talk trains



Attendees gather for the Show 'n' Tell



Show 'n' Tell: Earl Hackett describes his mold-making techniques and projects





Show 'n' Tell: Dennis Blank talks about his fine bevy of custom painted and lettered hoppers



Show 'n' Tell: Fred Monsimer discusses the track arrangement and mock-up of the Pennsylvania RR Station that preceded 30<sup>th</sup> Street – a project for the GATSME club's new layout



Joe Walters displayed some of his casting molds as well as examples of rolling stock and vehicles he produced using the techniques he described in his clinic

[Go Back](#)







# Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

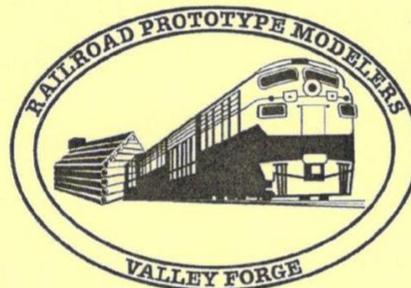
Sponsored by a 100% NMRA Club

**March 23-25, 2018**

at the

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

**Clinics  
Model Displays  
Vendor Rooms  
Sunday Home Layout Tour**



**INFORMATION AND UPDATES  
RPMValleyForge.com**

OR

Paul Backenstose  
103 West Uwchlan Avenue  
Downingtown PA 19335  
(Please include an SSAE for a reply)  
prrpaul@aol.com or (610) 269-2763

**INTERESTED IN PRESENTING A CLINIC?**

Jim Dalberg  
jedalberg@aol.com or 610-648-0089

**VENDOR INFORMATION**

Steve Salotti  
salotti.steve@gmail.com or 610-489-1940

[Go Back](#)

# Delmarva Model Railroad Club 32th Annual Holiday Open House

**4 Weekends of great fun for the whole family!**

Come see over 8,000 sq.ft. of operating train layouts.  
Z Scale, N Scale N Trak Modules, HO layout, S Gauge, O Gauge Tinplate,  
O Scale Lionel, and LGB (G gauge).

Free Admission – Free Parking  
103 E. State Street (google 103 W. State), Camelot Hall, 2nd floor Delmar DE  
19940.

Next to St. Stevens United Methodist Church

Saturday November 25, 2017  
Sunday November 26, 2017

Saturday December 2, 2017  
Sunday December 3, 2017

Saturday January 6, 2018  
Sunday January 7, 2018

Saturday January 13, 2018  
Sunday January 14, 2018

Saturday hours 11 – 4  
Sunday hours 12 -4

More information at: <http://www.delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org>  
or like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DMRRC>  
Or contact: 302-856-9250 or 410-723-1709  
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/uFCbiHATm362>

Located in downtown Delmar at 103 E. State Street on the second floor of Camelot Hall. State Street (54) is the main East/West route through Delmar. (Google 103 W. State St) The building is just one block East of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. Coming from the railroad tracks it is on the left. Parking behind St. Stevens Church.

## Classified Ads

### Free for the Taking

Former Railroad Equipment: Five-Drawer Plan File Cabinet  
28" d x 46" w x 20" h

Great for storage of your extra rolling stock, locomotives and even plans of that great layout.  
Pick-up and take it away. Yours Free

Contact: Charles A. Butsch  
cabutsch@gmail.com

### Help Needed

Looking for person interested in helping man with autism put together a 4' x 6' HO layout in his home.  
Lives in Phoenixville, PA and happy to financially compensate helper.

Email: [cindyhenn@yahoo.com](mailto:cindyhenn@yahoo.com) if interested or with questions.

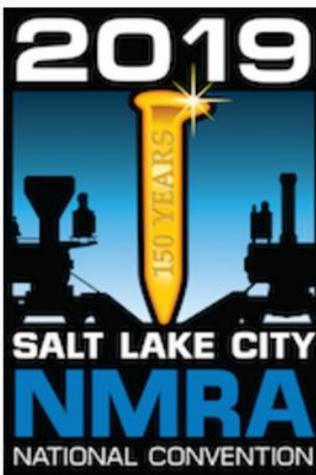
## Upcoming NMRA Conventions



### NMRA 2018 Kansas City

2018

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



### NMRA 2019 Salt Lake City

2019

<http://www.nmra2019slc.org/>

**“AROUND THE DIVISION”** seeks to highlight through publishing, the activities of any and all clubs, round robins, or individuals throughout our Division. The editors encourage all readers to submit photos and news “blurbs” for publication. No high end digital cameras are required. Many of the photos you see were captured using smart phones!



Ron Bigham has completed the helix on his PRR main line layout and is working on the upper level. The upper level will feature a depiction of Cassandra, Pa., which Ron fell in love with on a railfan trip with wife, Carol. Carol is an enthusiastic supporter of Ron's railroad efforts, but insisted that the future bar area be included in the railroad basement! Look for bar development near the foot of the stairs in the rear of the photo

There is a convention coming to your neighborhood in 2018. Your NMRA neighbors, the Garden State and Hudson Valley Divisions, are hosting the NMRA Northeastern Region convention on September 13-16, 2018 at the Doubletree Hotel in Mahwah, NJ.

Mahwah gets its name from the Lenape Indian word, “mawewi” which means “meeting place” or “place where paths meet.” This area is also known as “The Crossroads”, where multiple highways intersect, making travel easy for all convention attendees. The Erie Railroad’s mainline between Jersey City, NJ and Chicago, IL passed through Mahwah. The railroad’s premier passenger train, The Erie Limited, traveled on this route with its E-8’s as the headend power, providing the inspiration for the convention logo. And, Mahwah is centrally located in the combined Garden State and Hudson Valley divisions.

The Doubletree Hotel provides quick access to many of the area’s highways, getting you on your way to your next operating session, tour, or non-rail destination. Breakfast is included in your hotel stay. But, if you are looking for lunch or dinner to maintain the energy level you will need during the convention, there are many area restaurants to choose from, including the hotel’s Boom Burger restaurant and several popular New Jersey diners. A list of restaurants and map will be provided in your convention program.

There are 55 clinic times planned for the convention in several formats. Peter Youngblood, one of the leaders of the NMRA’s “Modeling with the Masters” program, will be giving one of the program’s clinics during the convention. This program is very popular at NMRA National conventions, offering a hands-on learning experience in building a model. The convention will also have a “Works-in-Progress” session as part of the clinic program. For those of you not familiar with this format, it provides close-up demonstrations of modeling techniques. Multiple clinics are run simultaneously and repeatedly in the clinic room, giving the conventioners an opportunity to learn new skills, up close. The remainder of the clinic program will be filled with traditional classroom style clinics, covering railroad history, modeling techniques, operations, and many other topics.

A model railroad convention would not be complete without offering layout tours and operating sessions. The nation’s oldest model railroad club, the New York Society of Model Engineers, will open its club for the convention, featuring their O scale and HO scale layouts. Those of you that are interested in operating sessions will not want to miss Ted Pamperin’s HO scale C&O and HOn3 Mann’s Creek layout. The layout is set in 1943, is fully scened, and has a CTC system installed for a portion of the layout as well as ABS signaling. Many other layouts will be open for tours and operating sessions, for the convention.

In addition to layout tours, there are several prototype tours planned for the convention. The Sterling Hill Mining Museum will be a very popular tour for both rail and non-rail attendees. The mine produced over 11 million tons of zinc ore, is one of the oldest mines in the country, and was the last operating underground mine in NJ, closing in 1986. Between the Sterling Hill Mine and others nearby, 90 different mineral species have been identified as fluorescent and are highly regarded by collectors around the world. You will have the opportunity to tour this underground mine and see its vast collection of mining equipment and minerals. For information about the museum, visit their website at <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/>.

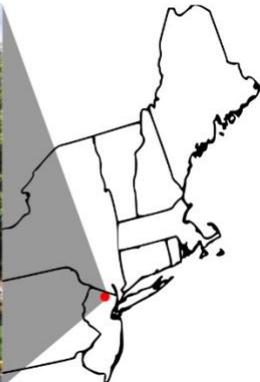
For those interested in the non-rail program, a tour of Ringwood Manor is a must. The history of the property ties in with New Jersey’s iron industry and the prominent families that owned and operated them, dating to the Revolutionary War. The home and its gardens are a National Historic Landmark and more information can be found on the park’s website at <http://www.ringwoodmanor.org/>.

The planning for the Erie Limited Convention is well underway and Mahwah is the perfect meeting place. There are several ways of staying up to date with convention news.

The first way is by sending monthly emails through Constant Contact, providing readers with information about the convention. If you are not receiving the email and would like to subscribe, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ErieLimitedSubscribe> and enter your email address and optionally, your first and last names. At the end of the convention, your email address and name will be removed from the NER’s Constant Contact account.

You can also keep up to date with the convention plans by bookmarking the convention website found at [ErieLimited.org](http://ErieLimited.org) or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ErieLimited2018/>.

Meet you in Mahwah.



The Doubletree Hotel and location of Mahwah, NJ.

Photo by Fred Dellaiacono



The Erie Railroad's original Mahwah passenger station currently serves as part of the Mahwah Museum.

Photo by Bruce DeYoung



Jim Homoki presenting his Works-in-Progress clinic on adding wood flooring to gondolas.

Photo by Jim Walsh



The Lackawanna's Phoebe Snow travels over the New York Society of Model Engineers' O scale layout.

Photo by Mike Sullivan



A C&O Allegheny rolls through Thurmond, West Virginia on Ted Pamperin's HO scale layout.

Photo by Ted Pamperin



One of the entrances to the Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ. The mine will be one of the prototype tours featured during the convention.

Photo by Chuck Diljak

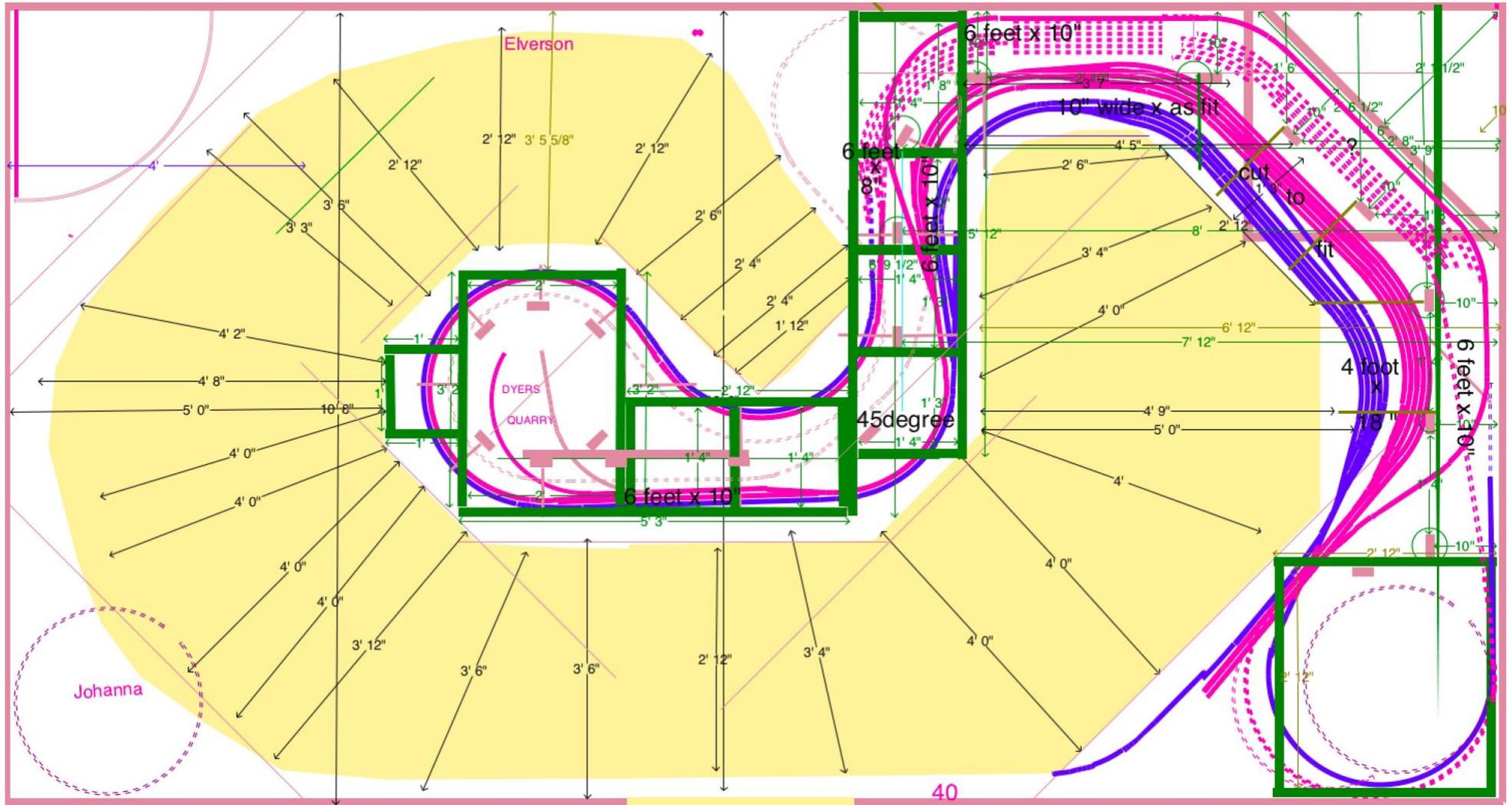


Ringwood Manor will be one of the destinations as part of the non-rail convention activities.

Photo by Dmadeo



**Board Member John Seibert takes the N-scale plunge. John is modeling the Wilmington and Northern branch of the Reading. He has moved sections of his former layout to his Montgomeryville townhouse. This is phase 1 of the model which will eventually fill the room. You can view his track plan on the following page. Look for further coverage of John's efforts.**



Track Plan of John Seibert's new layout



# BULLETIN

November / December 2017

## UP, BNSF, KCS and more... boy are we planning tours!



We've been working diligently on tours for the convention over the past month and think that you'll be delighted to hear about what we already have approved and what's in the

works.

Many of you asked at the 2017 Orlando Convention if we were going to be able to schedule a tour of the UP Harriman Dispatching Center in Omaha, NE. I'm pleased to announce that the UP Railway has agreed to allow two tours during the week of the Convention. This will be an all-day tour as it is roughly 3.5 hours from the hotel to the UP Headquarters in Omaha. This is truly a great opportunity at an inside look of UP's operations, so once this tour is posted for sale on the [KC2018.org](http://KC2018.org) website, make your reservations fast.

UP isn't the only game in town. BNSF has their largest yard on the BNSF System just minutes from the convention hotel. The committee is hard at work securing tours of the Hump Yard and the locomotive shops at Argentine Yard.

KCS has their corporate headquarters located just on the other side of downtown from the convention hotel. They have their dispatching center located in their corporate office and it is a beautiful office building.

But we're not just focused on trains in Kansas City. We've got a full lineup of non-Rail activities planned for the week as well. The Kansas City Royals Baseball Club will be in the middle of a home stand during the convention. The World War I museum is within walking distance of the hotel and the Steamboat Arabia museum is accessible from the KC Streetcar in the River Market area.

All of the tours will be finalized by February 2018, so keep checking the convention website at [kc2018.org](http://kc2018.org). Get your caboose to Kansas City!!!

## A few words from the President



### Model railroading is fun!

Back in the day, *Model Railroader* magazine used that motto above on their cover. Around 1965, they tried "For Enjoyment with Everlasting Challenge," which always struck me as a little pretentious, albeit accurate.

Well, guess what... model railroading *is* fun! Few things are more satisfying than accomplishing some goal or finishing a modeling project. For me, and I suspect you, this hobby serves as a great source of enjoyment and requires a knowledge on a variety of subjects. Just consider the skills you need to build a model railroad. That is the basis of the Achievement Program leading to the Master Model Railroader award. Now, one can build a respectable model railroad without becoming an MMR but admittedly, building a model railroad can form the basis and encourage the skills needed to become an MMR.

Similarly, one can build a model railroad without being a member of the NMRA. Yet, the NMRA is crucial to the success of that effort. Without the NMRA, that layout and its components would not work together. Our standards ensure that the products you select will work with each other on the model railroad you build. That is why Hasea, the Chinese model railroad enthusiast network, partnered with the NMRA: to ensure our standards would be employed in Chinese manufacturing of model railroad components.

The NMRA assists with your education also. Did you know we have over 100 clinics from national conventions on our Member's Only pages to help you on a wide range of model railroading topics? Did you know that attending the upcoming National Convention in Kansas City is akin to attending a college-level course on model railroading? Or if Kansas City is too far to go, that there will be model railroad conventions and clinics nearer you sponsored by your Region or Division?

These Conventions, our Partnership/Discount program, the Model Railroad Registry, the *NMRA Turntable*, *NMRA Magazine* and yes, this *NMRA eBulletin*, are all part of our effort to make model railroading more fun! We have been doing so for over 80 years now and never has this hobby been more enjoyable, rewarding and challenging. So maybe it is "enjoyment with everlasting challenge." But for me, heck, model railroading is fun!

Let me also take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season. Fall marks for many the start of the model railroading season. At least in the Northern Hemisphere, the days grow shorter while the air grows crisper. The end of the year brings Christmas, the holiday most associated with our hobby, and the year's end, a good time to reflect. Thanks for being a member and thanks for being the NMRA.

Whether you agree or disagree with me, we always welcome your thoughts, insights and comments. As I always say.....those are my thoughts.....what are yours?

## Duration Changes On Jan. 1

By unanimous vote at the last Board meeting the Board decided to change the dues and duration of a RailPass membership.

### **Beginning January 1, a RailPass membership will cost \$19.95 and will last for 9 months.**

The new, longer duration will let new members see more issues of NMRA Magazine and take advantage of more Division events.

A new RailPass Membership sign-up form is available as a downloadable PDF on our website. Sign in as a member (**see article below**), and click on "Promo Materials" in the large, red bar at the top of the page.

## **More New Partners added to the NMRA Partnership Program**

The NMRA Partnership Program, announced at the Orlando Convention, continues to add new partners every month. If you haven't visited the Partnership Program webpage, make sure you log in to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) as a member. Then click on "Membership," then "Member Home." Once you're there, click on "Benefits" in the red bar, and "NMRA Partnership Program."

Here's a listing of the current partners. For the discount amounts they're offering NMRA members, see the [Partnership Page](#).

CatzPaw Innovations  
Green Frog Productions  
Jason's Brass Poles  
LARC Products  
Logic Rail Technologies  
Micro-Mark  
MinuteMan Scale Models  
Model Railroad Benchwork

## **Winter Board Meeting to be held in Atlanta**

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will once again be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 10, and 11 at the Drury Inn & Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 3:00 PM on Friday, February 9, 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 10. 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](http://www.nmra.org) for details.

## **2018 Election Slate of Candidates and Nominations by Petition**

**By Rick Coble**  
**Assistant NMRA Secretary**

The following are the candidates for NMRA offices in the 2018 election:

**President:**  
Pete Magoun

**Vice President-Special Projects:**  
Gerry Leone

**Vice President-Administration:**  
John Stevens

**At-large Director North America:**  
Jim Gore  
Mike Mackey

**Eastern District Director:**  
Bob Hamm  
Walton Liles

**Pacific District Director:**  
Peter Burrows  
Dion Koch  
Robert Peterson

## **2018 Election Nominations By Petition**

There were no nominations by petition received by the Assistant Secretary or the Headquarters office.

Modelers Decals and Paint  
Monster Modelworks  
Motrak Models  
MRC (Model Rectifier Corporation)  
OK Engines/Streamliners  
RR-CirKits  
Rusty Stumps  
Scalecoat Paint  
Team Track Models  
Train Installations, LLC  
Unreal Details (Magic Water)

If you're a manufacturer or know of one who'd like to join our Partnership Program, please contact Peter Youngblood, At-Large North American Director, at [alnadir@nmra.org](mailto:alnadir@nmra.org).

**Remember: you have to be registered on the website to get to the Members Only section!**

Remember that you have to be **registered on the website** to take advantage of the Members Only features! This means that even though NMRA Headquarters has your email address, you still have to register your email address on the website itself.

If you haven't done this, go to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org), click on "Registration" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen, and enter the email address that's on file at NMRA HQ. If you've changed email addresses, please call NMRA Headquarters at 423-892-2846 and have them change or verify your email address.

Enter a password that you'll remember, and you're all set. If you have problems, please read the "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" page, or contact the [NMRA Webmaster](#).

**The NMRA Discount Program needs your help!**

By [Bob Weinheimer, MMR](#)  
Discount Program Manager

## 31 Orlando Convention clinic videos have been added to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) !



You say you couldn't make it to the Orlando "Orange Blossom Special" convention and you feel you missed out on some great clinics? Now you have a second chance. You can see 31 of the clinics offered in Orlando right on our website. That's about 1/4 of all the clinics presented!

Four videographers -- John Crellin, Bob Shreve, David Williams, and Gerry Leone -- gave up part of their convention time to drag video equipment from clinic to clinic to make this possible. Leone then brought home the raw footage, edited it, and uploaded it to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).

The guys recorded some great clinics from all aspects of model railroading. From "Arduinos: The Very, Very Basics" to "Layouts: U.S. vs U.K.," from "CTC Demystified" to "Railfanning Your Model Railroad," from "Remote Dispatching" to "Steam Locomotive Parts," you'll be able to see some of the highlights of the Orlando clinics presented this year.

All together, the NMRA website now has 115 clinics from a dozen conventions, all free, and all of which can be streamed by NMRA members. (Sorry, no downloading!)

To get to the Convention Clinic video page, log in to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) as a member (**see the article in the left column**), click on "Membership" and then "Member Home." You'll see a giant red button next to the photograph that says "Watch Clinic Videos." Click on that, sit back, and get ready to learn.

The Clinic Video page is already sorted by the date they were uploaded, so all the Orlando clinics will appear at the top of the list in alphabetical order.

## Four hours of "how-to" videos from Model Railroad Academy and Model Railroader Video Plus are now on our website



As you know, last year we entered into partnerships with three professional model railroading video production companies: Model Railroad Academy, Model Railroader Video Plus, and Trainmasters

TV.

The 2017/2018 batch of Model Railroad Academy and Model Railroader Video Plus videos just arrived and are now posted to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). In total, it's well over four hours of great "how-to" instructional videos. (TrainmasterTV videos will arrive later this year.)

To see these videos, or any of the other professional videos from our partner production companies, make sure you're logged in to our website as a member (**see the article in the left column**), click on "Membership," then "Member Home," then "Benefits." Click on "Member Video Library" and use the "Posted Date" search bar on the page, just below where it says "NMRA Video Library." Type in "October 1, 2017" and you'll see all the new partner videos!

We need members -- yes, individual members like you -- to identify hobby shops that offer discounts to NMRA members. We think there are many out there but it's difficult for me to find them by myself. You're the one who knows the hobby shops in your area and can help us share the information about those discounts.

If you know of one that does offer such a discount, please send me an email at [mweinheimer@gmail.com](mailto:mweinheimer@gmail.com).

## Smile. It's Amazon!

By [Alan Anderson](#)  
Fundraising Manager



The holiday season is fast approaching

and there's a way you can shop for family members AND donate to the NMRA. It's with Amazon Smile.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop on [Amazon.com](#), at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](#), you'll find the exact same prices, vast selection, convenient shopping and fast shipping as you do with [Amazon.com](#), with the added bonus that Amazon will donate .05% of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization -- including the NMRA. There's no add-on donation to the price you already pay!

No matter what you're looking for, just go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and log in to your regular Amazon account. Select **National Model Railroad Association, Inc.** as your chosen non-profit. You only have to sign up once and all future AmazonSmile purchases will benefit the National Model Railroad Association.

::

## Add your layout to the Model Railroad Directory and you could win a free year of NMRA membership!

By [Phil Piet](#)  
Model Railroad Directory Moderator

Are you an active NMRA member with a layout to show off? Here's your chance! Last July we introduced an exciting new member benefit: the Model Railroad Directory. Our Directory gives all NMRA members a chance to connect with and visit others with similar interests.

Add your qualifying layout to the Directory by January 15th and you'll be eligible to win one of two \$75 one-year NMRA membership extensions (or equivalent credit for merchandise in the Members' Company Store). Already listed? No problem! All previous listings will also be included in the drawing.

To enter, log into [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) as a member (see article in left column), go to Member Home, then click on the Model RR Directory link in the red bar. Or go directly to <https://www.nmra.org/members/layout-directory>. Then simply click on the "Add Your Layout" button near the top, and you're on your way. Data entry is straight-forward, and you can always contact me, your Moderator, for help.

### LISTING REQUIREMENTS

A qualifying layout must be a physical layout, indoor or outdoor, of any type, in any stage of completion, owned by you, and must be currently running trains. It may be a module *if it can be operated independently for guests*. Don't be bashful! We have listings for very modest efforts under construction as well as completed model railroad empires. You also need to include a valid email address and a street address searchable by Google Maps in your listing. Club layouts are not included at this time.

### PRIVACY NOTES

Only NMRA members can access the Directory. The only address information viewable by members is your city, state, and country. If you click on a map pin, you'll only see name of the model railroad and its owner.

## Region and National Conventions

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



Nov 9-12: [Northeastern Region, Newport, RI](#)

Aug 5-12, 2018: [National Convention, Kansas City, MO](#)

# NMRA continued...

Editors:

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

::

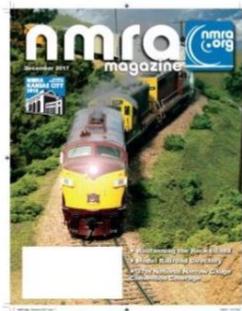
The NMRA eBulletin is an official bi-monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department ([Don Phillips](#), Manager). Its purpose is to keep every NMRA member informed about organization news and events. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, 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. ©2017 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.

## Newest Master Model Railroaders



Gary Lee - #598  
Warner Swarner - #599  
Sam Swanson - #600  
John Siegle - #601  
John Hemsath - #602  
Mike O'Connell - #603

## In an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine



- Coverage of the 37th Narrow Gauge Convention
- Everything you need to know about the new Model Railroad Directory
- A Slow Approach to the End of the Line
- Let's Build a Layout Room - Part 3

# Holiday Season Model Railroad Open Houses

November 2017-March 2018

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

Note: The grid is in Adobe pdf format.

If you don't already have the Adobe reader, you can get a free download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

## Abington Lines Model Railroad Club

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

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

Phone: (215) 598-7720

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

Scale: HO (standard, narrow gauge & traction)

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

Open 12-4pm on Dec. 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 30 & 31, Jan. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, Feb. 3 & 4, 10 & 11.

## Black Diamond Society of Model Engineers

Admission \$5 - Donations Appreciated; 12 & under free.

Location: 900 E. Macada Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017 (We share an ample parking lot with St. Thomas' UCC)

Phone: (610) 867-2591

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

Scale: HO, O (scale and three-rail), On30 and S.

Information: Come see 2 floors of multiple trains in continuous operation with Legacy, DCS and DCC systems and plenty of smoke and sound. Organized in 1965, the first floor 650 square foot display nicely blends O, On30 and S scale action. Operating signals and accessories further enhance the display. The 2nd floor 800 square foot HO display showcases trains traveling thru rolling hills, rugged mountains and industry, and past parks and towns. We suggest those with children under 40 inches tall bring a step stool.

Open 1-5pm on Dec. 2 & 3, 9 & 10, Jan. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, Feb. 10 & 11.

## Burlington County Model Railroad Club

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

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

Phone: (856) 733-0010

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

Scale: HO

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

Open 11-4pm on Nov. 18; 12-5pm on Nov. 25 & 26, Dec. 2 & 3, 30, Jan. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, Feb. 10 & 11, 17 & 18.

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

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

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

Phone: (215) 538-0501

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

Scale: HO

Information: Our layout dimensions are 35' x 44' and when finished, there will be in excess of 3500 feet (58 scale miles) of track and over 100 switches. A computer-assisted dispatching program using JMRI software, controlling our Digitrax DCC system, allows up to 12 trains to be operated through beautiful scenes and past operating signals over the layout.

Open 12-5pm on Nov. 25 & 26, Dec. 2 & 3, 9 & 10, Jan. 6 & 7.

## Cheltenham Hills Model Railroad Club

Admission Free - Donations Greatly Appreciated!

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

Phone: (215) 635-9747

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

Scale: HO

Information: Join us for our 71st year! Highlights include 1750 feet of track, 300-car freight yard, steam and locomotive engine facility with operating turntable, and industrial yard. The centerpiece is our operating lift bridge, which allows trains to cross between parts of the layout. Our DCC control system allows us to run multiple trains on the mainline and yards with realistic sound. Wheelchair accessibility available by appointment - please call any Thursday evening to schedule this access.

Open 12-4pm on Dec. 9 & 10, Jan. 6 & 7, 20 & 21; Snow Dates Jan. 27 & 28.

## Gatsme MRRRC - now located at the Rockledge Model Railroad Museum (RMRM)

Location: 323 Montgomery Ave. Rockledge, Pa. (corner of N. Sylvania & Montgomery Aves.)

Websites: <http://www.gatsme.com> and <http://www.rockledgemrm.org>

Scale: HO

During the past few years we have moved, and renovated an old mill building into our new home, featuring a 3000 square-foot walk-through layout, parts of which are already running. This single-deck multi-level layout features the PRR Schuylkill Branch and the Reading Company line to Shamokin. The museum will also have other displays. We are handicap accessible.

**See web sites or facebook for open days, when scheduled. Visits can be arranged at other times.**

**Contact us for more information. Memberships are also open - join us in building this new railroad!**

### Keystone N-Trak

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

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

Website: <http://www.keystonetrak.us> Scale: N

Information: Keystone is a modular N Scale club modeling to N-Trak international standards. This enables each member's modules to link to form model railroads at public and private events. We travel to various N scale events and are a participating member of the Eastern N Lines Partnership. New members are always welcome. Meetings are every Tuesday at 7 pm. Check facebook or our web site for any last-minute schedule changes.

Open 11am to 4pm on Nov. 11 & 12, 18 & 19, Dec. 10, 16 & 17, Jan. 6 & 7, 20 & 21, Feb. 3 & 4

### Royersford Modular Model Railroaders

Admission Free (\* see note below)  
Donations Appreciated

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

Phone: (610) 888-4306 Website: <http://www.royersfordmodular.org> Scale: HO

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

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

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

More shows may be added - please see the web site for additions or changes.

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

### Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

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

Phone: (610) 935-1126 Website: [www.svmrrc.com](http://www.svmrrc.com) Scale: HO (standard and narrow gauge)

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

Open 1-5pm on Nov. 25 & 26, Dec. 2 & 3, Jan. 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21

### Saint Alban's Railroad Fellowship - StARR

Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

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

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

Information: Layout fills 4000 square feet with 200 feet of 4 track mainline with working signals, 3 branch lines, large steel mill, coke plant, oil refinery, meatpacking plant, three working classification yards and a large passenger terminal. We have a new switch list system for freight and passenger operations that routes over 1100 pieces of equipment throughout the system. A large variety of roads and eras are featured. The layout is controlled by DCC with computer enhancement. Also, a Thomas the Tank Engine layout for the kids to operate.

Open 1-4pm on Nov. 11 & 12, Dec. 28 (7pm-10pm), 30 & 31, Jan. 4 (7pm-10pm), 13 & 14, 27 & 28, Feb. 10 & 11, 24 & 25.

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

### Holiday Season Model Railroad Open Houses - November 2017-March 2018

Converted for the web by Fred Monsimer of Royersford Modular Model Railroaders  
Copies may be made for personal use and non-commercial distribution.  
version 1.0 posted 2017-Oct-04

**GO BACK TO  
BEGINNING**