

THE DISPATCHER

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



August 2022 PhillyNMRA.org Volume 29, No. 5

It's Back to Southampton in September

n Saturday September 10, the Philadelphia Division returns to the Southampton Community Center, 913 Willow Street, Southampton, PA 18966 for our early fall meet. The time is 9:00am with doors opening at 8:30. Maps can be found on page 10.

Southampton has significance in having served as a station on the Reading's Newtown Branch, and the structure still stands a few blocks from our meet location. Plans are underway to restore it.

Clinic 1: Reality and Model Railroading for an Engineer by Mike Byle



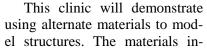
The presentation will cover some of my family background and how a lifelong interest in railroads has influenced my career and pastimes; from my first train set to complex real life design projects in under and around rail lines including Amtrak's high-speed rail clear-

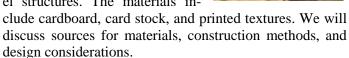
ance improvement project, CSX double stack low grade in Philadelphia and many bridges and some of the unseen realities of rail infrastructure.

Mike Byle has over 30 years of experience in civil and geotechnical engineering. He is currently senior consultant at Tetra-Tech, Inc. We welcome him as a new member

of the NMRA and the Philly Division.

Clinic 2: Modeling with Alternate Materials by Barry Rosier





Barry is a long-time member of the New Jersey Division and has contributed numerous clinics through the years often involving unique perspectives and materials in modeling.

All attendees are encouraged to bring a model to the meet. At the end our clinic, we have a show and tell. It is an open mike opportunity to share a recently completed project or give a glimpse of an in-progress work.

As usual we'll hold our 50/50 raffle, draw for door prizes, and have coffee, donuts, and Philly soft pretzels.

The afternoon promises to be a real treat with two excellent model railroads open for your viewing pleasure. Hope you can make it!

Division Board Reorganizes

At the June meet the board of director election results were finalized as follows: Joe Walters MMR, Mike Dettinger, and new board member Charles Long. At the

first board meeting following the meet, officers and officials were elected and appointed as follows:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent: Joe Walters, MMR Assistant Superintendent: Rob Hinkle Clerk/Membership: Charles Long

Treasurer: Kevin Feeney

Director at Large: Mike Dettinger Director at Large: Chip Stevens Director at Large: Jeff Witt

APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND CHAIRMANSHIPS

AP Coordinator: Earl Paine

AP Committee Chair: Joe Walters, MMR Newsletter and Website: Howard Kaplan

Layouts/video: Bill Fagan

Clinics/Door Prizes: Mike Dettinger

Venues: Jeff Witt

Ops/Social Media: Rob Hinkle Donations/Shows: Kevin Feeney

Publicity/Member Outreach: Chip Stevens

It is not necessary to be on the board to contribute to the operation of the division. Anyone interested in helping out in any capacity is encouraged to contact a member of the board. We greatly appreciate all efforts to contribute.

Form 19



From the Super's Desk

As I write this, summer is half over. Wow! It's been hot! I would like to thank all

those involved in making our June meet/barbecue a terrific success. I hope we are able to pull it off again next year. The venue was perfect for our needs. I'd like to thank Jeff Witt and Kevin Feeney for their hard work in procuring it.

Upcoming events include the fall MER convention in Charlotte, North Carolina in October. Our November meet will be held in north Wilmington, DE. Also in November will be our annual model railroad open house

event which includes our regional area. This year as in the past two years we will be using the JET form to sign up for this event. The URL is www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com.

You personally sign up on the days you wish to be open. There will be no more phone calls to ask for your dates.

In December we finish the year with the division's second annual train show and swap meet. I hope this will once again be a huge success. We are in search for a larger venue to accommodate a larger show.

I hope you all have a safe and fun rest of summer. I hope to see you at the model railroad wayside.

Joe



From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to our August edition of *The Dispatcher*. In this issue you'll find information on our upcoming Septem-

ber meet at the Southampton Community Center in Southampton, PA.

Unfortunately I have not been able to include the special feature I had planned for this issue. I suddenly succumbed to illness resulting in an abbreviated issue with delays in publishing. Hopefully the October issue will return to normal content.

What is included is newly-elected Clerk Charlie Long's June meet report complete with many of Rob Hinkle's excellent photos of the meet itself as well as those from the GATSME club.

In response to my plea for articles, I have received some submissions for which I am very grateful. I ask those authors to be patient as I gradually work them into upcoming issues. Nevertheless, I continue to urge members to provide more material. Please look around at your model railroading life and come up with something that you'd like to share with others. Again, you need not be a "writer," just an enthusiast. And, of course, remember that whatever you contribute will receive AP Author credit upon submission.

Howard

WE WELCOME OUR NEW PHILLY DIVISION MEMBERS

Rev. John Conner, Hulmeville, PA Kris Kafka, Norristown, PA Andreas Nesemann, Newark, DE Nesemann Family, Newark, DE

THE DISPATCHER

Editor

Howard Kaplan P. O. Box 399 Honey Brook, PA 1

Honey Brook, PA 19344

howard@phillynmra.org 610-626-4506

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: October 2022. Due out approx. October 10th. Deadline: October 1st.

Online Subscription: Free. Make sure the Clerk has your current e-mail address and that you keep your info updated at 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 Editor. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Division, NMRA."

Division Personnel:

Superintendent / AP Committee Chair

Joe Walters, MMR 840 N Gwynn Ct.

Bear, DE 19701 302-521-5884

josephfwalters@yahoo.com

Asst. Superintendent / Ops / Social Media

Rob Hinkle 1755 Slayton Dr. Blue Bell, PA 19422

robhink@comcast.net 610-279-2394

Clerk/Membership

Charles Long 227 Locust Rd..

Fort Washington, PA 19034

prtptc17@navpoint.com 215-247-1951

Treasurer / Item Donations

Kevin Feeney

1447 Wheatsheaf Ln.

Abington, PA 19001

<u>ic4277@yahoo.com</u> 203-246-1675

Directors at Large

Clinics/Door Prizes - Mike Dettinger detting@comcast.net 972-795-1348

Publicity/Outreach - Chip Stevens

ReadingChip@yahoo.com 774-283-2681

Venues - Jeffrey Witt

<u>ilwitt@yahoo.com</u> 267-261-3229

Achievement Program Coordinator

Earl Paine

4325 Wendy Way

Schwenksville, PA 19473

earlpaine@verizon.net 610-831-9466

Layouts/Video - Bill Fagan

<u>bfagan777@hotmail.com</u> 215-675-4098

Webmaster - Howard Kaplan

howard@phillynmra.org 610-626-4506



The Philly area AP program has been bouncing back from the "COVID" years rapidly. Our AP Coordinator of many years, Dave Messer, sadly passed in 2020 just as COVID restrictions were imposed. Back then we called it the corona virus, and had no idea of the impact

it would have on our lives. Earl Paine, who assisted Dave until his death, was appointed as his replacement by the Region AP Chair.

True to form, many Philly modelers have been busy throughout the isolation period working on their modeling. The extra time at home has allowed members to make more rapid progress on their AP certificates than they expected to. Several new names have appeared as applicants as well.

Earl has reorganized the AP team, and added Superintendent Joe Walters and Board Member Chip Stevens as adjudicators. Joe is the most recent Philly MMR,

and is well versed in his knowledge of the AP requirements. Chip has had extensive experience adjudicating in the Hub Division (Boston) when he lived there. In addition, Mark Wallace, and new member Steve Hamilton have expressed interest in helping.

Recently the following AP certificates have been awarded. Congratulations to:

Chip Stevens, Author Nick Brownsberger, Chief Dispatcher Eric Dervinis, Chief Dispatcher Of interest is the fact that all three applicants used points and hours recorded many years ago, and once properly documented and witnessed, all counted towards the certificates. Interested AP applicants with a long history of modeling (many of us), would do well to look back at past experiences to see if they might be applied. Earl and the committee would be happy to assist in your research.

Since the last issue of *The Dispatcher*, six more modelers have submitted applications for certificates, some of them for multiple certificates. Joe, Earl, and the

crew are gearing up for several evaluation and adjudication sessions at home layouts. The attempt, where applicable, will be made to

judge and award more than a single AP on the same visit. The record in the Philly area has been 5 in a single visit!

Members should feel free to bring any models to a Philly Division meet for evaluation and/or formal AP judging. With prior notice, the models will be evaluated and officially scored towards

the AP certificates without participating in a contest. Members may take advantage of this to get scoring and feedback for improvement, then re-submit the same model for judging at a later date.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the committee with questions. Contact information can be found in the masthead of each issue of *The Dispatcher*. They are there to help!

November Model Railroad Open House Event – PA, NJ, DE, MD

For those wishing to have their layouts open for this event, please go to <u>modelrailroadopenhouse.com</u> and fill out a form. Deadline is September 15th, so don't delay.

Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

September 10, 2022 Philadelphia Division Meet Southampton Community Center 913 Willow Street Southampton, PA 18966	October 20–23, 2022 MER Convention "Carolina Special" Hilton University Place 8629 Maynard Keynes Drive Charlotte, NC 28262	November 12, 2022 Philadelphia Division Meet Brandywine Town Center Community Center 4050 Brandywine Parkway Wilmington, DE 19803
November 2022 Model Railroad Open House Event Layouts open to the public in PA, NJ, DE, MD modelrailroadopenhouse.com	December 3, 2022 Philly Division/GATSME Train Show Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein 9130 Academy Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19114	February 18, 2023 Philadelphia/Susquehanna Division Joint Meet Bridgeworks Enterprise Center 905 Harrison St., Room 120 Allentown, PA 18103

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



On Saturday, June 11th the Philadelphia Division met in Montgomery County at Abington Township's Alverthorpe Park. A picnic was held to celebrate the Philadelphia Division's 50th Anniversary, albeit three years

late.

Twenty-seven division members had signed in, but there probably were a few more in attendance who missed the check-in. We also had a new member and a guest who signed in.

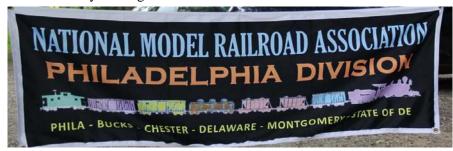
Superintendent Joe Walters welcomed everyone and conducted the annual business meeting. Reports were given by the officers and committee chairmen. And the board of directors election results were announced.

The first clinic presentation featured Mike Dettinger who discussed the United States Army Transportation Corps \$100 class 0-6-0



Taking his new duties seriously, Clerk Charlie Long is hard at work checking in members at the registration table. Former Super Charles Butsch (R) provides assistance.

steam locomotive that was designed for switching duties in Europe and North Africa during Word War II and subsequently used on railways throughout the world.



Next up was Val Pistilli presenting his titled, "Why Do Trains Derail?" Val, who is an NMRA life member as well as a model railroader in several clubs, round robins and operating groups, did a PowerPoint presentation describing the variety of reasons why model trains derail. Issues from track alignment, joints, car and wheel repair; issues with mismatched or improperly maintained

couplers; plus problems of scale and weight at a miniature size all conspiring to defeat the smooth running of long and short trains. Val is responsible for much of the hand-laid track work at GATSME (both the old and the new layout) so he could easily be considered an expert. He fielded many questions that led us all into some good group discussion.

Charcoal grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixins were provided for lunch by our pitmasters Jeff Witt and Bill Fagan. Alverthorpe Park proved to be a great facility and we thank our treasurer, Kevin Feeney for making the necessary arrangements.

After the meet, attendees were able to travel less than



two miles east to visit the GATSME/Rockledge Model Railroad Museum layout or less than four miles west to visit Kevin Feeney's home layout. We express our gratitude to both for graciously allowing our members to visit.

Super Joe Walters calls the annual business meeting to order



Steve Wysowski (L) and Jeff Witt take in the scene





Treasurer Kevin Feeney delivers his report



Dispatcher Editor Howard Kaplan discusses the need for more articles

Val Pistilli (L) receives his clinician certificate

(Right and below) Grillmaster Bill Fagan insures that all attendees' appetites are satisfied



AP Coordinator Earl Paine discusses the latest Achievement Program activity in the division



Attendees peruse the swap tables

clinician certificate



Director Mike Dettinger mans the door prize table. As usual with Mike, everyone's a winner.



Mike Dettinger's Blue Rail display – the subject of one of his previous clinics



Division Director Jeff Witt and Howard Kaplan confer



Super Joe Walters (R) tries to "buy" the winning raffle ticket, while Director Chip Stevens (L) sees if he can get in on the action.



T-TRAK and tunnel mockups



Rivarossi HO models representative of the S100 class locomotive that Mike Dettinger discussed in his clinic







Swap tables



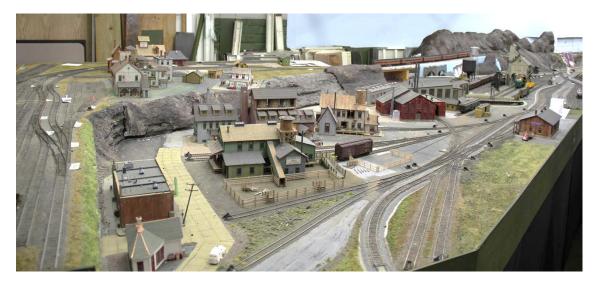
Attendees wait patiently to check in



Grillmaster Jeff Witt hard at work

GATSME/Rockledge Model Railroad Museum Layout Photos

The HO scale layout is undergoing rapid progress and is looking great!















A tale of two supers: John Seibert (L) and Charles Butsch





Fred Monsimer (L) points out specifics to Director Jeff Witt

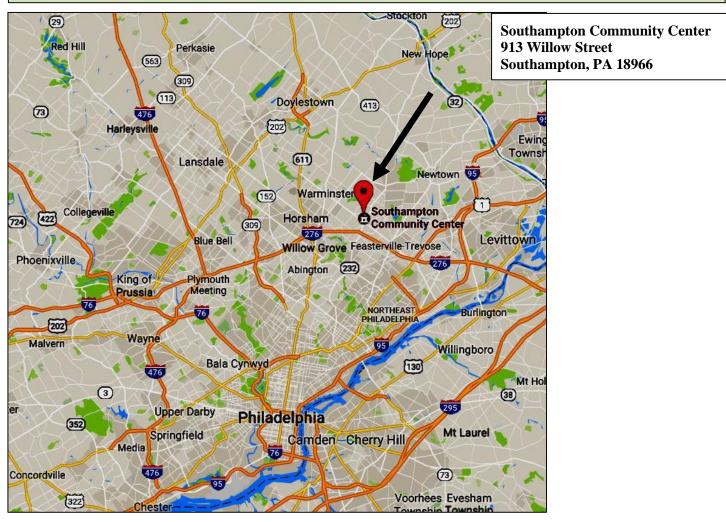


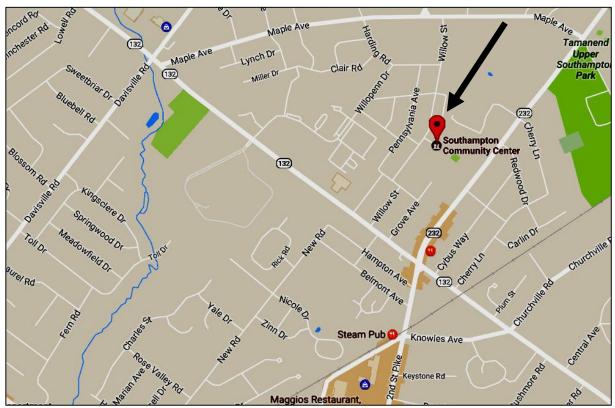
The entire GATSME track plan and operating scheme



Clerk Charlie Long and Super Joe Walters man the division table at the Oaks Train Show on July 16, 2022.

Maps to the September Meet





Division Organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (elected)

OFFICERS

Superintendent - Joe Walters, MMR (2024) Assistant Superintendent – Rob Hinkle (2023) Clerk – Charles Long (2024) Treasurer - Kevin Feeney (2023)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Mike Dettinger – Clinics (2024) Chip Stevens – Publicity (2023) Jeff Witt – Venues (2023)



AUXILLIARY OFFICIALS (appointed)

AP Coordinator - Earl Paine AP Committee Chair - Joe Walters, MMR Newsletter Editor/Webmaster - Howard Kaplan

COMMITTEES/DUTIES

EVENTS

Clinics - Mike Dettinger Layouts - Bill Fagan

Venues – Jeff Witt, Kevin Feeney

Refreshments – Bill Fagan, Joe Walters, Kevin Feeney

Door Prizes - Mike Dettinger, Kevin Feeney

Clinic Video - Chip Stevens, Rob Hinkle

Certificates/Awards/Printed Materials – Earl Paine,

Howard Kaplan

Publicity – Chip Stevens

MEMBERSHIP

Member Outreach - Chip Stevens Membership Records - Charles Long ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM - Earl Paine, Joe Walters MMR, Bill Fagan, Chip Stevens, Steve Hamilton, Mark Wallace

OPS – Rob Hinkle

ITEM DONATIONS – Kevin Feeney

MEDIA

Social Media - Rob Hinkle

Webmaster - Howard Kaplan

Newsletter - Howard Kaplan, Earl Paine, Bill Fagan, Joe Walters MMR, Kevin Feeney, Chip Stevens

Layout Video - Bill Fagan

Photography - Rob Hinkle, Howard Kaplan, Bill Fagan, Rob Ischinger, Mark Wallace

DIVISION APPAREL – Howard Kaplan

Hobby Shops

Be sure to patronize the following hobby shops that are now offering discounts on model railroading purchases to NMRA members:

Henning's Trains

128 South Line Steet Lansdale, PA 19446 215-362-2442

henningstrains.com 10% in addition to already discounted prices

Please let us know of any hobby shops that would be interested in advertising or offering discounts to NMRA members.







Mid Eastern Region National Model Railroad Association E-GRAM



BULLETIN

2022 MER Carolina Special - ALL ABOARD! Charlotte North Carolina Convention Update







Carolina Special

Hilton University Place

Lobby







Carolina Special, 2022 MER Convention Update

The Carolina Southern Division is looking forward to hosting the 2022 MER convention, 20–23 October, in Charlotte!

Be sure to register soon as the registration cost goes up on September 1st! Here are highlights of the latest Convention information.

The website has been updated several times since the last email I sent about this fun event. The 2022 MER convention website is http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022.html where all the information you need can be found.

The Banquet will be a great meal with an exciting guest speaker, Shane Wilson, President of Scale Trains. Be sure to sign up.

There are Layout Operating Sessions and information on these can be found at: http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022tours.html

A full clinic schedule, with a broad range of exciting topics, with 4 Make-and-Take clinics of which three of these clinics are conducted in 2 sessions and information can be found at: http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022clinics.html

We have three special tours before and during the convention.

Tour #201 is a pre-convention backstage tour being held at the North Carolina Transportation Museum at 1 Samuel Spencer Drive, Spencer NC. Don't worry about checking into the convention hotel until after the museum tour. The private tour takes place on Thursday, October 20, 2022 starting at 12:30 pm. Try to be in place at noon. Information can be found at: http://www.carolinasouthern.org/2022%20Convention/NCTM%20Tour%20Notice-V3.pdf

And a map of the Museum grounds can be found at:

http://www.carolinasouthern.org/2022%20Convention/NCTM%20Tour%20Map-r.jpg

After the tour you can visit <u>The Little Choo Choo Shop</u>, the largest model railroad hobby shop in NC across the street from the museum.

Tour #202: The second special tour is the UNIFOUR SPECIAL which includes the Southeast Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum in Newton, NC and six very nice layouts in the Hickory, NC Metro Area. This is a Friday all-day mini-bus tour and will leave the convention hotel on Friday morning and return about dinnertime. Information on this tour can be found at: http://www.carolinasouthern.org/MER2022unifour.html

Tour #203: The third special tour is of Lionel Corporation Headquarters. This will be a self-drive tour on Friday, October 21, 2022 starting at 9:30 am at 6301 Performance Drive, Concord, NC. The Lionel Headquarters is approximately 5 miles from the convention hotel.

A Carolina Special Look South in 2022 convention shirt is now available to purchase during early registration. One Day Registration is now an option.

We will have hand sanitizer in the clinic rooms and masks are welcome if someone feels safer wearing one.

For our friends in the Southeastern Region, a home layout in Greenville SC will be open on Sunday Oct 23 for our SER visitors returning home!



New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Car

Tangent Scale Models Bethlehem 70-Ton Riveted Drop-End Gondola in HO Scale All cars are ready-to-run.

We have produced the car in two numbers to commemorate our 50th anniversary:

1968 & 2018

The car has reporting marks NJDX, black with white lettering and data for the 1950s.

The cost is \$35.00 each

OR

a set of both numbers for \$65.00. To have them shipped USPS Priority: \$9 for 1 car, \$10.75 for 2 cars

The cars are available now. Checks should be made payable to "NJ Division"

They are selling fast so don't be left out!

(Photos/drawings on next two pages)

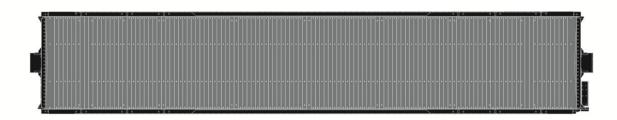
Website: https://njdivnmra.org for questions

Name		
City, State and Zip	ode	
Telephone	Email	
See Tangent websi	for more info support@tangentscalemodels.	.com
Return this form to	NJ Division, P.O. Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08!	515



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Artwork for New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Car



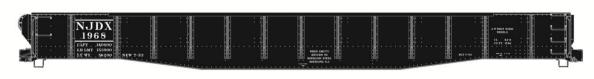












NMRA/MER Publications



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Page: https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org/

Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/nmragroup/

YouTube channel:

http://www.youtube.com/c/NMRAORGModelRailroading
If you missed out on any of our previous events, all of the videos are saved on the NMRA YouTube channel:

http://www.youtube.com/c/NMRAORGModelRailroading

Upcoming NMRA Conventions



2023 Texas Express

2023

2023 Texas Express

Upcoming MER Conventions

2022 Convention - "Carolina Special Look South in 2022"

Full information at: http://carolinasouthern.org/MER2022.html



Our new apparel source is Daylight Sales. Website: https://www.daylightsales.net/ You can do a search for "PhillyNMRA" to find our items, or click here for the direct link. Email: daylightsales.met/ Phone: (888) 557-9899.

We continue to offer the Port Authority polo, with or without pocket, and the short- and long-sleeve button down shirts. As before, you can have your name added. A new offering is a matching cap. Unfortunately patches are no longer available as our emblem is now being directly embroidered onto the items.

Manufacturer's descriptions and specs:

POLO W/POCKET LONG SLEEVE BUTTON DOWN SHORT SLEEVE BUTTON DOWN



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

Member's Name:	NMRA#:	EXP:
Address:		City:
State/Prov:	_Country:	Postal Code:
Date Submitted:	Region:	
list, obtained the necessary sign gional and divisional AP Chairs To qualify for the award the me sional AP Chair or another NM	atures and who does not hold MMR sta a. AP regulations and definitions apply mber must complete the following chec	for scratch building and super detailing. cklist, obtain the signature of the divi- al Chair. The divisional Chair will sub-
QUALIFICATIONS CHEC	KLIST:	
1. Rolling Stock (Motive	Power & Cars):	
Display six units of rolling s	tock either scratch built, craftsman k	cits or super-detailed commercial kits.
2. Model Railroad Settin	g (Structures & Scenery)	
Construct five structures eit	tht square feet of layout including so her scratch built, craftsman kits or s e structures, additional structures se	
3. Engineering (Civil & E	Electrical)	
ballasted and installed of All installed track must be p (e.g. double track main,	ed (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, in proper roadbed. Commercial trace properly wired so that two trains can single track main with sidings, and be trical feature such as power operated igs, etc.	k may be used. be operated simultaneously lock or command control).
Witness:	Print Name:	NMRA #:
and a second second second second		Region:

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No, it's not a bunch of contests. It's modelers helping modelers become better modelers, to get the most out of their hobby. It's a way to hone your skills and become the modeler you've always wanted to be.

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