



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

January 2006  
Volume 13, Number 1

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce we will be holding a joint meeting with the New Jersey Division on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, in the cafeteria at the Haddon Township High School, located on Memorial Avenue in Haddon Township. This location is near Sattler's Hobby Shop (what a great reason to go!). The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM. For directions and a map please see page 7 of this issue.

There will be three clinics at this meet. From the New Jersey division, Dick Perry will be giving a video presentation of his recent visit to the Citibank Holiday Train Display in New York City. This massive display is a sight to behold and a favorite attraction during the holiday season. Save yourself the hassle of traveling to the city and trying to find a parking space. Come to the meet and see it in relaxed comfort!

Also from the New Jersey division, Mike McNamara will be giving a mini clinic on using foam core board mountains to enhance his back drops. No matter how large the layout space we have, there never seems to be enough. This technique will prove valuable in making our scenes more believable.

From the Philadelphia division, Paul Backenstose will be giving a clinic on making Golden Rod Trees. As we all know, a layout can consume massive numbers of trees. The techniques Paul will discuss can help you produce large numbers of trees at reasonable cost to help fill the barren hillsides.

After the meet, there will be layouts available for you to tour. Maps will be provided at the meeting. Here is a great opportunity to see some layouts you might not normally have the chance to visit.

The contest for the meet will be Steam Locomotives. The popular vote contest is open to all. So grab your best steamer and bring it along to show off. We have had an increase in participation at our meets so let's keep it going!

Coffee and donuts will be available in case you need nourishment after the long journey to New Jersey. Will we see you at the meet?

### **In Memoriam:**

It is with sadness that we note the passing of division member Casimir P Smuda. Casimir passed away on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

### **Welcome New Philadelphia Division Members**

With the New Year comes the start of the new one membership system for the NMRA. Once you join the NMRA you are automatically a member of the division in which you reside. As new members we invite you to be a part of our regular activities. The Philadelphia Dispatcher is available free on our web site, which is hosted by the GATSME Model Railroad club.

To find the web site, search for GATSME and follow the links, or go to [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org) and go to newsletters. Or, if you would like to continue to receive The Dispatcher in your mailbox, send \$7.00 to the clerk at the address listed on page 2 of this issue. You will receive one year of approximately 5 issues, with each issue coming about three weeks before each meet. The division holds 4 or 5 meets per year.

Welcome to the Philadelphia Division!



By the time you read these pages we will have already been through the Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Boxing Day Holidays, which ever your persuasion leads you to celebrate, and I hope Santa, the wife/kids/family or whoever, were good to you and you found what you were looking for under the tree (how's that for a politically correct statement?). Now before I get fired (*PLEASE* fire me) Can you believe the date at the bottom of the page shows 2006? After many years of planning we are down to the last few months before Independence Junction '06 happens.

An unbelievable amount of work has gone into what we hope will be the best convention in recent or long time history. The tours are almost complete, the clinicians are being lined up, and before you know it, it will all be over. What are you going to do to make this event a success? We need bus captains, tour hosts, office workers, clinicians, and on and on the list could go. Please contact our volunteer coordinator as soon as possible to get your name on the list. His name and address are on the volunteer form located elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatcher.

Also looming on the horizon is our Prototype Modelers Meet at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel in Frazer, PA. This year's meet is shaping up very nicely, and I hope we'll see you there. For more information and a registration form see the article on pages 5 and 6 of this issue. If you would like to give a clinic at the meet, contact Jim Dalberg at the address in the box at the right side of this page. There are still a few slots left, but don't delay.

One benefit (if you want to call it that) of holding a convention in your local area is the amount pressure it puts on us to get some of those lingering projects done. When you are expecting company isn't the house cleaner than it normally is? And so it is with the railroad. Knowing my life will get crazier and crazier as the next couple months roll around has helped me to push ahead on a number of projects that have languished untouched for what seems like ages.

One example of that on the Susquehanna is the Paterson City branch. The Susquehanna had a \_ mile branch in the center of downtown Paterson, New Jersey that existed basically for passenger service only, with only one or two freight customers. I have had the bench work and sub roadbed in place for the branch for years. Guess what, the track is in place, the industries started, the fascia is on, some structures are almost complete, the freight database has been updated; the timetable is almost complete, the phone is installed, and I'm starting on scenery! Man I should have company more often. Add to that the rebuild I did on Butler last summer and there is some significant progress being made on the railroad.

And one more thing my operating crew will like, I've gotten the huge Ford sign started for the plant in Edgewater. With that in the works, now I need to finish the track work and start the structures. That lonely piece of flex track just won't cut it anymore.

Happy Railroading

Steve

## THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division, Mid-Eastern Region,

National Model Railroad Association

### Editor

Stephen F. Salotti  
46 Meadow Road  
Collegeville, Pa, 19426  
(610) 489 1940

**Submissions:** The PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER welcomes any model railroad- or railroad-related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc. Submissions are preferred typed, double-spaced. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

**Next issue:** March 2006. Due out approx. March 10th. Deadline: February 15th.

**Subscription:** \$7.00 per year. Address all subscription applications, renewals; address changes, etc. to the Clerk. If the date in the upper-right corner of your mailing label is highlighted, your subscription will expire soon. Please pay at the next meet or mail payment to the Clerk. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Division, NMRA."

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Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119  
(615) 892-2946  
Dues: \$33.00 per year,

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## From the Superintendent

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Division Members,

We had an excellent Division meet this past November 12th in Delaware. Roger Cason arranged for us to use the same place as last year, and it's a great place. For those that like to plan ahead, next November's meet will be at the same location on November 4th. Karl Siefert gave an excellent clinic on DCC decoder installation. Since he's done over 500, he had a lot of great hints. One hint was to make sure the engine is properly tuned up to run well in dc mode. Installing a decoder in a poorly running engine will not improve its performance. Karl is planning to give a clinic at next November's meet on sound decoders. There's a lot of action in sound decoders, and by next year, he should have a lot to say about this topic.

Our next meet is a joint meet with the New Jersey division on January 21st, with Philadelphia division member Paul Backenstose giving a clinic on making trees from goldenrod. Those Jersey folks consistently put on excellent meets, and they are well attended, with

sixty to seventy members showing up. I'm not sure how they do it. We have as many members, have great layouts open in the afternoon, and have good clinics. Maybe their coffee is better!

Well, I'm making only one new years resolution, and that's to finish my industrial switching area behind my staging tracks and to build my classification yard. I've gotten hung up on back drop scenery and filling in the details to go with the industries I've built. It's tough when you not too creative! But, in looking at some layouts during November's open house tours, I've gotten some ideas that I can "borrow" from what I've seen. I'll keep you up to date on sticking to my resolution and the progress that I'll be making. Of course the first thing to do is clean up the mess!

Happy New Year,

Dick Foley  
Division Superintendent

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## Welcome new Philadelphia Division NMRA members!

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Well, its official, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 all NMRA members within the 5 county Philadelphia area are automatically members of the Division. The officers of the Philadelphia Division would like to invite you to be a part of our activities. To receive a paper copy of the Philadelphia Dispatcher send \$7.00 to the clerk listed on page 2 of this issue. Or you may download an electronic copy from the division Web site at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org). The Dispatcher is posted approximately 2 weeks before each meeting. Feel free to visit our Web page (hosted by GATSME) to keep informed of the Divisions activities.

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## Important Subscription Information!

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It is once again time for all division members to check their subscription date. If your label shows 2005 or earlier, you need to renew your subscription by the end of 2005 in order to continue receiving The Philadelphia Dispatcher by mail. We will not be sending renewal notices, but will include a subscription form in the last two issues of the Dispatcher for the current year. Please mail the form to the Clerk, or bring it to any division meet to renew. We hope all members will renew early in order to continue receiving their newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any board member. It is also important to note that due to the cost of printing and postage, the Division can no longer to afford carry those members who do not renew promptly. Your name will be moved to an inactive list.

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### Subscription Renewal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_ MER #: \_\_\_\_\_ Div. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription: \$7.00 per year. Please mail to the Clerk or bring to the next meeting.

# Independence Junction 2006 Volunteer Survey Form

Independence Junction 2006 needs a large group of volunteers to perform a host of functions in preparation for, and during the convention. Please indicate on the form below what you can bring to this effort. Thanks for your willingness to participate to make IJ2006 the best ever.

## Administrative Functions

- Registration/Information \_\_\_\_\_
- Publications \_\_\_\_\_
- Door Prizes \_\_\_\_\_
- Publicity \_\_\_\_\_

## Outside Activities

- Layout Tour Guides \_\_\_\_\_
- Prototype Tour Guides \_\_\_\_\_
- Railfan Tour Guides \_\_\_\_\_
- Tour Departure Mgr. \_\_\_\_\_

## Inside Activities

- Clinics Staff \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-Rail Activities \_\_\_\_\_
- Auction Staff \_\_\_\_\_

To assist us in assigning volunteers, please indicate your previous convention (National, Division, Region) experience, as well as professional skills (computer literacy, word processing, administrative, etc).

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IJ2006VolSurvey-Rev11/23/02

Return Form To:

**IJ Volunteer**  
**818 George Street**  
**Norristown, PA 19401**

**Do It Today!**

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## RPM Update!

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After the success of our meet in 2004, we don't want to rest on past accomplishments. To that end, the committee has been hard at work lining up clinicians and vendors we believe will provide a great boost to your modeling efforts. Below are partial lists of those who have signed up so far, with more on the way.

Clinician	Topic	Dealers
John Teichmoeller:	Hopper cars, pre-and post war; Waterfront, updated	Westerfield Bethlehem Car Works
Charles Conway:	Brooklyn waterfront Terminal	Pro Custom Hobbies
Garry Spear:	PRR Passenger Cars	JJL Models
Ted Culotta:	Freight Cars	Funaro & Camerlingo
Lance Mindheim:	Trackwork	PA Merchandise Service
Dick Flock:	Modeling Small Buildings	Brad Bower
Mike Schleigh:	The WAG	Bob's Photos
Vince Lee:	Erie's 128th St Terminal	B & O historical Society
Dr. John Greene:	Covered Hoppers	

Due to scheduling issues with the Hotel, we have adjusted our schedule slightly from our last meet. The meet will start Friday at 6:00 PM

### Friday, March 24th

4:00 PM	Early Registration	Desmond Lobby
6:00 PM	Registration opens	
	Vendor Room and Model Display room open for SETUP ONLY	
7:00 PM	Clinics begin, Vendor room and Model Display room open for viewing	
11:00 PM	Clinics end, Vendor and Model Display rooms close	

### Saturday, March 25th

8:30 AM	Registration opens
9:00 AM	Clinics begin, Vendor and Model Display rooms open
5:30 – 7:00 PM	Buffet Dinner (see description below), Vendors and Model Display rooms closed
7:00 PM	Clinics resume, Vendors and Model Display rooms open
10:00 PM	Vendors and Model Display rooms close

### Sunday, March 26th

9:00 AM	Registration opens
	Clinics begin, Vendors and Model Display rooms open
10:30 AM	Last clinic begins
12:00 AM	Vendors room closed – teardown
	Model Display room closed – ALL MODELS MUST BE PICKED UP BY NOON
12:30 – 4:00 PM	Home layouts open
	Maps will be provided at the registration desk
	<u>You must wear your RPM Valley Forge name badge to visit these layouts</u>

## Dinner

On Saturday, a dinner (not a banquet) will be held. There will be no speeches or awards. The dinner will be buffet style, with a cash bar available. The cost for the dinner will be \$30.00, and THERE ARE ONLY 60 TICKETS AVAILABLE, so register early to be sure you can get a seat (this sold out quickly last time).

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge**  
**March 24-26, 2006**

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (print neatly, please!)

Registration \$35

Vendors tables # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Phila. Div., NMRA - RPM

SEND CHECKS TO: Paul Backenstose  
103 W. Uwchlan Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335

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office use, do not fill in

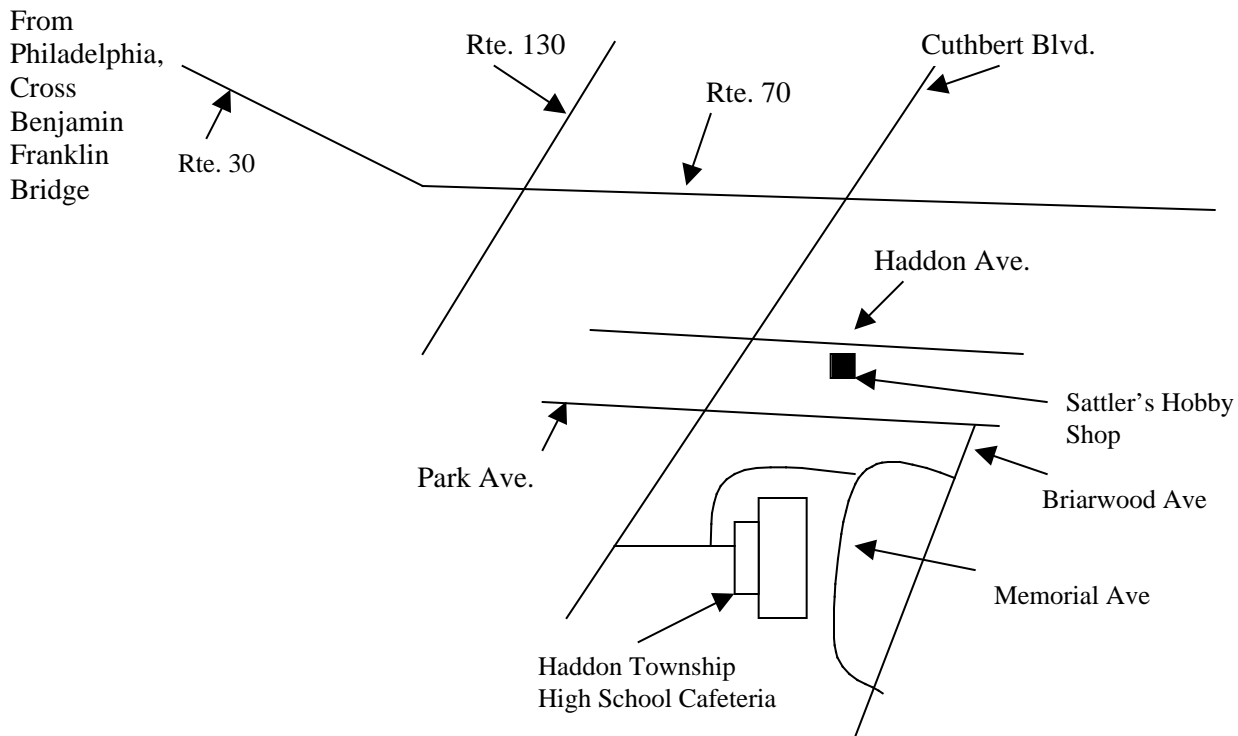
rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ reg. no. \_\_\_\_\_ ck. # \_\_\_\_\_ conf. sent \_\_\_\_\_

Print this page and send, with check, to Paul Backenstose  
103 W. Uwchlan Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335

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## Map to Haddon Township Division Meet

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Starting at the Ben Franklin bridge, go East on Rt. 30 (Admiral Wilson Blvd.) That goes to Rt. 130. Follow the signs for Rt. 38 and Rt. 70 (stay in left lane). After going over Rt. 130, stay to the right to take Rt. 70 East. Travel for about 2 miles to Cuthbert Blvd, exit on the right. Take this exit and go about 2 miles, to the 5th traffic light. (The 4th traffic light is Haddon Avenue/Rt. 561 and is where Sattler's is located.) After crossing Park Avenue, watch for the driveway to the rear of the school on your left (shortly after the 7-11). If the rear driveway is closed due to weather, turn around and go back to Park Avenue. Turn right and go to Briarwood Avenue (about    mile) and turn Right. Take the first right onto Memorial Avenue and follow it around to the school. The meet will be in the cafeteria at the back of the school.

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## Schedules

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**Joint Philadelphia & New Jersey Division Meet.** January 20 & 21, 2005 Haddon Twp. area. Clinics 9 – 12 Saturday, layout tours Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Contest: Steam Locomotive

**GATSME.** See a 50' by 60' HO & Hon3 Scale view of '50s railroading in the Northeastern United States. Located in Fort Washington, PA and open the following dates: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. GATSME Lines open house in the basement of the New Horizons Montessori School, Prospect and Madison Avenues, 12 Noon to 4 PM. Admission by donation. For info: Ed Wilson at 215-646-2033 on Thursday evenings.

**Cheltenham Model RR Club Open House** January 7 & 8, and 14 & 15, 2006 (Snow dates: Jan. 21 & 22) 12:00 noon till 4:00 PM 8000 Old York Road (at railroad bridge)

Adjacent to Elkins Park Square, Elkins Park, PA 19027 Call: 215-635-9747 for Information No admission cost, donations gratefully accepted.

**Gateway Model RR Club** 100 E Browning Road, Brooklawn, NJ January 14, 15, 28 & 29, 2006. 10:00AM – 4:00 PM \$3.00 Donation Information: Nicky Caccavo, 8 Forrest Drive, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (215) 514 6591

**Philadelphia Division RPM Meet,** March 24, 25 & 26, 2006. Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern, PA.

**Indepence Junction '06** July 2-9, 2006  
NMRA National Convention, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. For more information visit: [www.ij2006.org](http://www.ij2006.org)