

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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

46 Meadow Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Inside: RPM Independence Junction

Do you need to renew? If the date on your mailing label is highlighted, please renew promptly. Thank you for renewing promptly.

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.

Kenwood Model Hobbies

8436 Perry Hwy, Rt. 19
Pgh., PA 15237-5228
10% discount
(412)-364-2913

Herb's Hobbies and Crafts

200 W. State St. in Doylestown

\$25 of free merchandise for every \$250 spent

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

60 S. 6th St. in Reading
10% discount with \$10 min purchase

Nicholas Smith Trains

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Bromall
10% discount (excludes O & G items)

Jenkintown Train & Hobby

Greenwood Ave & Leedom St
Jenkintown, PA 19046
10% in addition to discounted prices

Lin's Junction

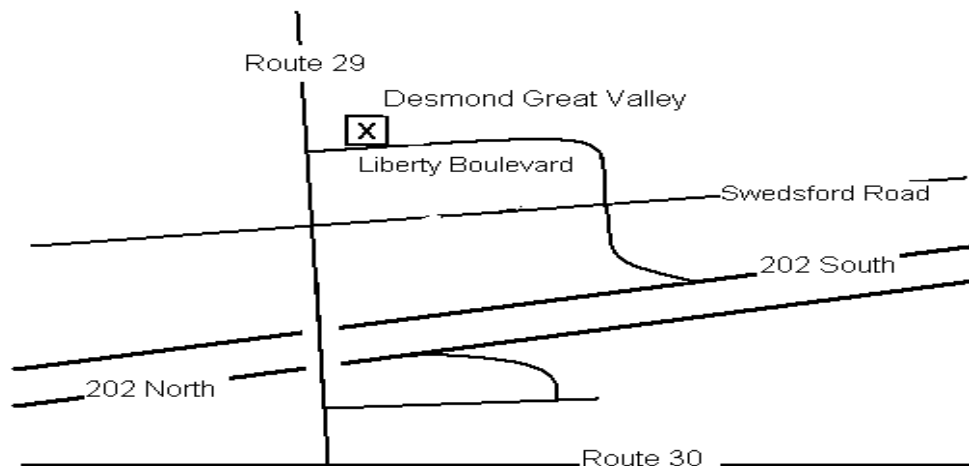
128 South Line St.
Lansdale, PA 194446
5% in addition to already discounted prices

Mitchell's Family Store

2119 Concord Pike (202) in Wilmington DE
10% discount on train department items

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail



From 202 North: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 exit. Turn right at the light, then right at the second light onto 29 N. Take 29 North to the second traffic light, then right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your left.

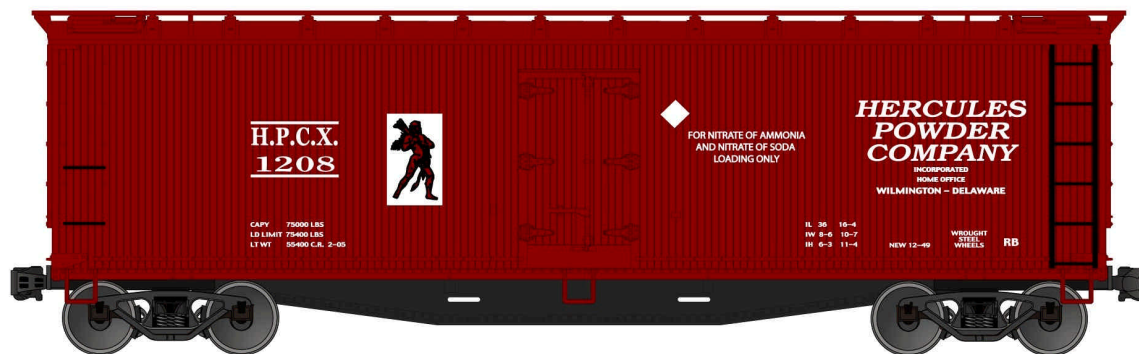
From 202 South: Take the Great Valley/29 exit. At the end of the ramp proceed through the traffic light onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your right.

Philadelphia Division Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet Valley Forge

Normally at this time of the month you would be receiving a regular issue of the Dispatcher. However, since the board scheduled 5 meets this season instead of the usual 4 (which is a good thing for you!), we are over budget and I have to save some money! Well, not really, but we do have 5 meets planned, and we are on the eve of the first major function of the year, the RPM Valley Forge meet to be held at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel on March 24, 25 & 26. The hotel is located at One Liberty Boulevard in Malvern, PA. For the last two issues we have included registration and hotel information. If you need more information than we have given you, check the Philadelphia Division web site at: www.phillynmra.org. The clinic list continues to grow and covers a multitude of topics from freight and passenger cars, waterfront railroading, to DCC and more. One more good thing is we needed more vendor space so we had to rent another room! Please note that you must register to attend this meeting. If you want to stay at the hotel, don't wait any longer our block is almost full. To get the discounted rate you must mention RPM Valley Forge.

RPM Valley Forge Car Project!

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce a special project done just in time for this years RPM meet. The Hercules Powder company had a series of 10 former reefers (numbers 1201 – 1210) used to handle Nitrate of Ammonia and Nitrate of Soda. We have developed the car shown below based on the information we have been able to uncover. These cars are being made for us by Accurail, and will be available for the first time at RPM Valley Forge. The cars are an oxide red color, with the Hercules emblem on a yellow background. Accurail is making decals available for free to change the number of the cars (a coupon will be included in the kit for you to send for the additional numbers). These cars are only \$15.00 each and \$14.00 each for two or more. This is an extremely limited run, and we expect to sell out quickly, so don't delay. If there are any left they will also be available at the June meet.



Independence Junction Update!

Do you realize that Independence Junction is now less than 4 months away? Where has the time gone! Plans are moving forward at a fevered pitch. The need for volunteers to step forward is now! We will be planning training sessions in the near future so we need to know who you are and what you are willing to do. With over 120 tours, and many of them may go to more than one bus, it isn't hard to see the need.

In addition, we need people to work in the convention center manning customer service areas, running errands, announcing clinicians, doing clerical

work. You name it, we probably need it. What's in it for you? There will be a few small perks for those who volunteer, but most important of all is helping to create a great experience for our guests. People are coming from around the world to see and experience model railroading in the Philadelphia area.

Can we count on you to get involved? This effort can only be a success if the entire Philadelphia Division steps up to the plate and gives their all.

See You at The Junction!

Concerned about the size of this issue? Don't worry, next time we'll be back to regular size, hopefully with an article on detailing downtown Paterson on my New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad. That is if I can find time to finish it between RPM and Independence Junction. What are you going to do to help with these exciting functions?