



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

June 2007
Volume 14, Number 3

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce it will be holding its next meeting on Saturday, June 9th at Saint Alban's Church, located on Chapel Road in Newtown Square, PA. For directions and a map please see page 5 of this issue of the Dispatcher. The doors will open at 9:00 AM, with the clinics and other activities beginning at 9:30 AM.

We will have two clinics for this meet. Dennis Tiley will give a presentation entitled "The Reading as I saw it", and will cover most of the system during the period from 1965 to 1975. Dennis worked several years in the engineering department during the 1960s. Going back to his grandfather and several uncles, the Tiley family had approximately 102 years of continuous service to the Reading Company. (Yes, there was more than one railroad in the Philadelphia area, though some don't want to admit it.)

Our second clinic will be a presentation by Gerard Fitzgerald on his freelanced C&O branch line layout. Gerard gave this clinic at the Pittsburgh RPM meet this past March and it was very well received.

Our contest for this meet will be model railroad photographs. At our last meet we had a clinic

on photography, now you have the opportunity to try out the things you learned! Grab the camera and get snapping. Both digitally enhanced and standard film shots are eligible.

Dealer tables are available for a \$5.00 donation if you need to thin the collection a bit. Contact a member of the board (contact information is on page two of each issue) to reserve your space. We will also be having our popular 50/50 drawing.

At the conclusion of the meet there will be several layouts open for your enjoyment, including StARR's extensive modular layout. Please remember you are a guest in someone's home and act accordingly. There are numerous food outlets in the Newtown Square area for lunch.

We hope you will join us for this interesting meet. See you in Newtown Square.

Clinicians Wanted!

One of the most difficult parts of arranging meets for the division is finding interesting topics for clinics and presenters willing to give one. If there is something in this hobby that you enjoy doing, odds are good there are others who would like to hear about it. Why not give it a try? We haven't had anyone booted out yet. Topics can be on any model

railroad subject, and if you need help with photography for your presentation we may be able to help you with that. Please contact any member of the board for more information.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of two division members.

George Wiessgerber passed away on Monday April 30th. He was a long time Philadelphia Division member, and very active in the GATSME Model Railroad Club, where he held many offices, including 20 years as president. He also did many things for the Division. George will be remembered as a gentleman, always dependable, never complaining.

Bud Kaiser from Cherry Hill New Jersey passed away on Sunday, May 6th. Bud was a division member for many years, and did a great amount of work for our Independence Junction '06 convention, working with Dick Foley on prototype tours, and worked on the RPM Valley Forge staff.

They will both be greatly missed by all of us.

Unbeknownst to most model railroaders in this area, on the weekend of April 26th to the 29th the loosely organized group known as Pro Rail came to town. This function, which means "Prototype Railroaders" hosts an annual event that moves to different areas each year. (It will be about 10 years before it returns to this area). The sole function of the group is to get together with like minded others and operate on prototype based model railroads. I had the privilege of being asked to host two operating sessions on my New York, Susquehanna & Western based layout.

On the appointed days, 8 guests plus a few of my regular operators descended on my basement. To say I was a little intimidated would be putting it mildly. How would my railroad hold up? Would it be a disaster, or would the sessions go smoothly? One of my regulars quipped to me quietly "are any of these guys not authors?"

Among the attendees for the Saturday session was one gentleman in particular that I had based almost all of the operating procedures I use on articles he had written for the model railroad press. He had requested my railroad, and wanted to be the dispatcher! He had spent his career working on the railroad, and had held that position for many years. In addition, he offers training sessions for those who want learn how the prototype did it (maybe I should have taken the class).

After a brief introduction and safety meeting where we go over a few of the rules and other general information about the throttles and the railroad, we handed out assignments and started to run. Under normal circumstances, having an almost

entirely new crew can cause things to bog down in a hurry. Simple things like "which way is west?" or "where is East Paterson?" need to be answered. And one of the most frequently asked; "where is the bathroom?" (Top of the stairs on the left). And on my railroad, which uses a simplified version of Timetable & Train Order to control traffic, it doesn't take long for folks to be thoroughly befuddled.

If you've been in this hobby for long, you probably know that a few of us take this thing a little too seriously, and I'd have to admit I'm one of the worst. (Remember, we're only playing with toy trains). But to my surprise and joy, these guys knew how to play the game. For the most part they had a good basic knowledge of TT&TO and wanted to follow the rules. The dispatcher worked calmly getting things started; the crews knew what they were supposed to do, and for the next 8 hours (with a break for lunch) we played trains. As the day wore on I started saying "we can quit anytime you're ready" (they had to go back to Allentown at the end of the day), but they wouldn't stop until there were no trains left to run. This was the first time ever we ran every train on the schedule for a whole day (I normally run first a morning schedule then the next month an evening schedule). As the guests started leaving well after 6:00 PM, they all expressed appreciation for a great day, including the dispatcher! The dispatcher did offer a couple of suggestions which I hope to incorporate, but said he had great fun. Do we really have to wait 10 years to have these guys back again?

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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: Sept. 2007. Due out approx. Aug. 31. Deadline: Aug. 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."

Division Personnel:

Superintendent

Dick Foley
2021 Wallace Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215-232-4926

Assistant Superintendent

Jim Dalberg
529 Foxwood Lane
Paoli, PA 19301
(610) 648 0089

Clerk

Stephen F. Salotti
46 Meadow Road
Collegeville, PA 19426
(610) 489-1940
jmsfca@netzero.com

Treasurer

Dick Landt
561 Beck Road
Souderton, PA 18964

Achievement Program Coordinator

Dave Messer, M.M.R.
263 Mingo Road
Royersford, PA 19468-3112
(610) 948-2191

Module Team Foreman

Tom Cancelmo
238 Jackson Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050
(610) 259-7216

Mid-Eastern Region, N.M.R.A.

Fred Miller MMR Buisnes Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686
(704)-752-5138

National Model Railroad Association

4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
(615) 892-2946
Dues: \$45.00 per year,

Division Tour to Steamtown National Historic Site

What: The Philadelphia Division is sponsoring an all day bus trip to Steamtown which occupies about 40 acres of the old Scranton yard of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. The heart of this renovated site, which is managed by the National Park Service, is the operating steam locomotives, their roundhouse and the expansive full-service back shop. In addition there is a daily excursion, a theater, history museum, technology museum, an HO scale layout as well as a large collection of static, standard-gauge steam locomotives, freight cars, passenger cars and maintenance-of-way equipment from several historic railroads. Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/stea/>

Why: Support the Division, come out and meet some of the 460+ members and share your railroading experiences with old friends and new acquaintances. In addition, this museum provides a wealth of prototype information. All of the static equipment in the yard can be inspected, measured and photographed (no climbing). As a bonus, we will be raffling off a cab ride in the locomotive of the local excursion.

How: Leave you car in the parking lot of the Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene located at 3060 Germantown Pike, Fairview Village, PA. The air-conditioned motor coaches, with rest room facilities, will depart at 7:00AM and return at approximately 5:00PM.



When: Saturday, September 15, 2007 – 7:00AM sharp.

Cost: \$40.00 per person (no discounts for children or seniors) includes transportation and admission to the museum. Guests are welcomed but one person in each party must be a current NMRA member. A full refund for written cancellations received 30 days prior to departure. Limited seating on a first come basis. Lunch can be purchased in the food court of the adjacent shopping mall.

Make your check payable to: **Philadelphia Division, NMRA**. Send to: Rich Newmiller, 3276 Pebblewood Lane, Dresher, PA. 19025. Rfnewmiller@aol.com Phone # 215-885-0174.

Steamtown Tour Registration Form – Philadelphia Division

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

NMRA Member #: _____ Number in Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Special Invitation for Philadelphia Division members

Please see below for a special invitation to all division members for the next operating session at the StARR model railroad club. In order to be assured of having a spot you need to contact Les Kushner at the E-mail address or phone number listed at the bottom of the page. Thank you to StARR for making this available to the division.

StARR, St Alban's Railroad Fellowship next operating session is on June 9th, 2007. We start at 7:30 PM. NMRA members that are interested at running on a HO DCC operating layout are welcome. The HO layout fills the basement room that is 50' by 80'. You can bring your own DCC locomotive and caboos. The layout is a Digitrax DCC system. If you have your own throttle please bring it. The radios we use are the FRS radios using channel 8.1.

The Saturday night session is an operating session using a card system. We use an error friendly card system. If you make a mistake you won't mess up the card system and we don't have to stop to look for the rolling stock. It will be picked up or delivered in the next operating session.

We have a schedule of trains and you sign up for a train. We will have Starr members available to guide you. You must communicate with the dispatcher in order to get clearance for train departures. The dispatcher also controls the mainline turnouts from a computer. The two different yards and the local industry turnouts are manually controlled.

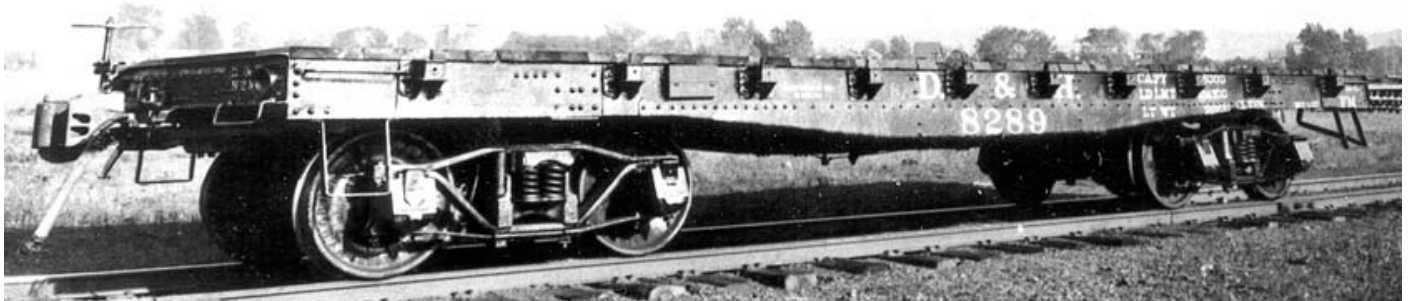
Please contact me to make a reservation. We have a limited number of guest positions. I will confirm that the guest positions are available. There is no cost to run at an operating session.

Les Kushner, Main Line Hobbies a member of StARR

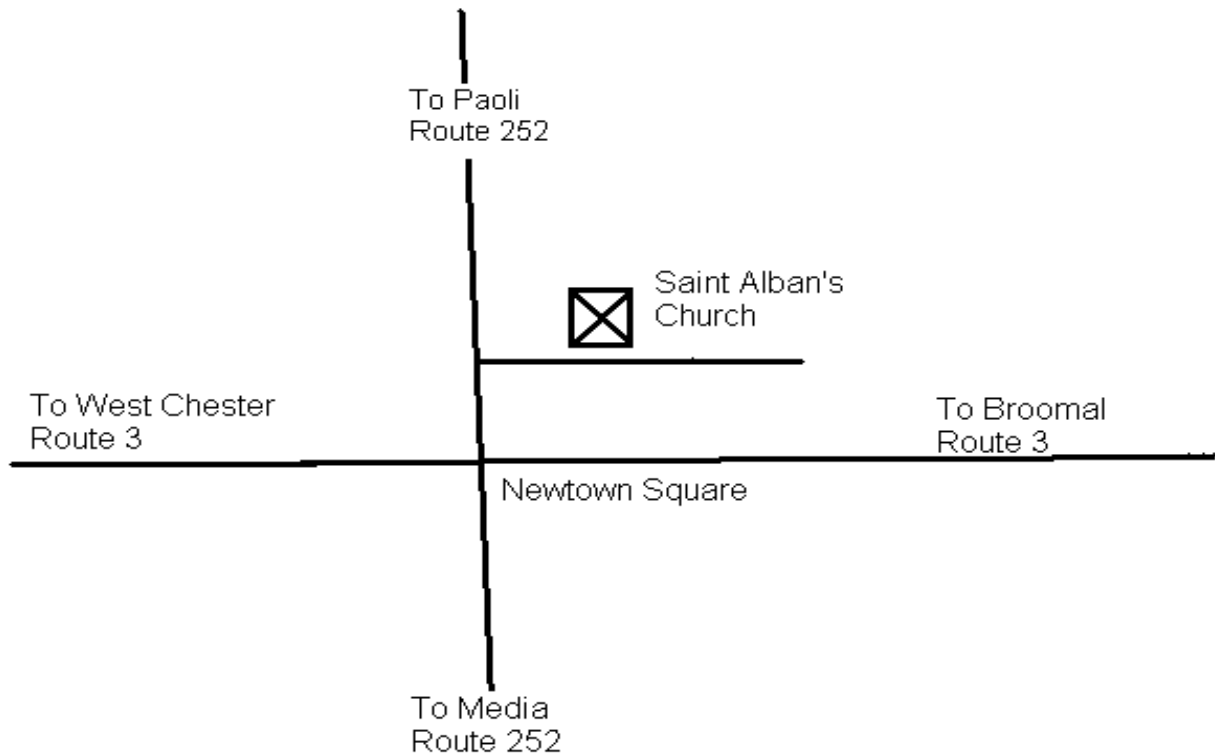
Store phone number 610-527-1925.

Email; les@mainlinehobbies.com

Website; www.mainlinehobbies.com



Map to Saint Alban's Episcopal Church



Saint Alban's Church is located on Chapel Road in Newtown Square, PA. It is located just north of Route 3, the West Chester Pike. If coming South on Route 252 turn left at the first light after Goshen Road onto Winding Way (look for Commerce Bank on the corner). Bear to the right at the stop sign and continue up the hill to the traffic circle. Go ¼ way around the traffic circle and right onto Chapel Road to just before the end, where you turn right into the church parking lot. From all other directions turn onto route 252 north and turn right onto Chapel Road then left into the parking lot.

Schedules

June 2nd.

New Jersey Division Garden Layout Tour

Location: Throughout South Jersey.

Time: 10:00AM to 4:00PM

Rain Date: Sunday, June 3, 2007 (12pm-5pm)

June 9th

Philadelphia Division Meet.

St Albans' Church, Newtown Square, PA. Clinics, contest, layout tours. More details in this issue of the Dispatcher.

September 15th Philadelphia Division Steamtown Trip

Bus trip to Steamtown in Scranton PA. More information elsewhere in this issue of the Dispatcher.

October 18-21, 2007 - NER Fall Convention

Commodore Vanderbilt

Location: Albany, NY
More info: [NER Conventions web site](#)

October 18-21, 2007 - MER Fall Convention

James River Flyer

Location: Lynchburg, VA
Contests, clinics layout tours, and more.

November 3, 2007 –

Town Center in Wilmington
Clinics: Scratch building cars, Making/painting figures
Contest: Scratch built & kit-bashed cars, Layout Tours, Elections

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Inside: Division Meet
Steam
Town!

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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

Main Line Hobbies

2915 Hannah Ave
East Norriton, PA 610-275-4340
20% off list prices