



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

September 2007
Volume 14, Number 3

Welcome to the Philadelphia Division of the National Model Railroad Association

Via this letter, your elected management team wanted to contact all of the 468 registered members and extend a sincere welcome to the Philadelphia Division.

As you may be aware, there is only one simplified registration and dues payment which automatically enrolls you in the National, Regional and the Division (previously three separate registrations were required). We know there are many members who are not aware of the specific activities at the Division level and we are hopeful that you will take a few minute and read the enclosed information. In fact, a key section in this document is a member survey. The survey is your chance to let us know your likes and dislikes as well as ideas and comments in four (4) key areas: Meeting formats, Volunteer service, and Management team and Meeting clinics.

Also enclosed is the flyer for the all day bus trip to Steamtown, PA 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. As a bonus, we will be raffling off a cab ride in the locomotive of the local excursion. Do not delay - seating is limited. The bus leaves at 7:00 AM on Saturday, September 15, 2007.

After the Steamtown tour, we have four additional activities planned for the 07-08 calendar. On

November 3, 2007 we will be in Wilmington, DE with two clinics: making & painting scale figures, and scratch building cars. The popular vote contest will be kit-bashed & scratch build cars. The layout tours will be the 2007 Model Railroad Open House Schedule coordinated by Bruce Z. Friedman - there will be multiple railroads open throughout the Division.

On January 19, 2008 there will be a joint meeting with the New Jersey Division (location to be confirmed). One of the clinics will be presented by a NJ member and the second clinic will be Layout Design & Early Stage Construction Progress by one of our members. On March 28th to the 30th, the Division will again sponsor the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) meet in Malvern, PA. Yes, you will find some rivet counters in attendance, but the overall quality of both the modeling and the presentations are something to experience and modelers of all skill levels and interests are welcome! Our last meeting for the year is June 14 in Fairview Village, PA. The two clinics are Rail Marine modeling and a Structures show & tell. Officer elections are scheduled in addition to the contest and area layout tours.

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the membership. Tell us what you want (the survey) and join us at our scheduled events. The amount of knowledge and information in the meeting rooms at any given time is astounding - modeling help and advice is available just for the asking.

Model Railroading is fun! We hope to see you soon!

Have you had enough of the heat and humidity yet? As far as I'm concerned, I can't wait until summer is over. Yes, I'll have to put the motorcycle away for another year (at 90 plus degrees and 92% relative humidity it isn't much fun to ride anyway), and fall will bring its own chores, but at least it will be tolerable outside.

For me, one of the best parts of summer is getting into the cool of the basement and doing a little work on the railroad, and this summer has been no exception. My most recent projects have all centered around the Edgewater terminal on the Susquehanna. At its prime this area was considered one of the most densely industrial areas of North Jersey, with company names such as Ford Motor Company, Spencer Kellogg & Sons Co, General Chemical, Lever Brothers, Corn Products, and Allied Chemical and Dye's Barrett Division all vying for the limited amount of real estate. And for the Sussie Q, this meant traffic, and lots of it. During the era I model the railroad had numerous switch jobs stationed in the area, and maintained a double track tunnel through the Bergen Palisades to reach it.

Now of course on a model railroad we need to selectively compress all this. One example is the Ford assembly plant. This plant had several tracks on the outside along the piers, plus one track that ran into the center of the building and could hold 27 freight cars! Using 40' cars, each approximately 6" long, to model this plant would require a piece of bench work over 13' long! And that would only be the building. The approach tracks would need several more feet. Needless to

say, I don't have that much space, not to mention all the yard space I would need to sort all those cars into spot order and get them into the building. My solution? The building became a flat against the wall, with one track into it that holds 9 40' cars, and one track on the pier that holds 4 cars. Add in a three car track for the power plant and a two car track for tank cars of various oil products and you have a great switching job.

Another company that I wanted to include in Edgewater is the Spencer Kellogg & Sons plant, with its loooong pier and signature tanks with the name spelled out in large block letters (you may never have heard of this company, but I'm sure you've used their products. They were on of the largest manufacturers of Linseed and other oils used in manufacturing processes and food stuffs). I found some great shots of the plant on the Historic American Engineering Record web site, and was able to download and print them out. The pier is over 300 feet long, and one shot shows 8 barges tied up alongside it. On the layout, the best I could do was about 140 scale feet. So this meant selectively compressed barges. In the end I should have three, one full size and the other two scaled down by about 15%. I'm about half way into the compressed ones and they are looking pretty good so far (and at over \$100.00 each for a kit, they are looking even better).

Well, I'm about out of space and time, so bye for now. I hope you'll come by and see the progress during this year's open house season (one more good reason to look forward to the fall).

Happy Railroading! Steve

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Editor

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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: Nov. 2007. Due out approx. Oct. 25. Deadline: Oct. 15.

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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Dues: \$45.00 per year,

Philadelphia Division to offer paperless Dispatcher!

At the last meeting of the board, a decision was reached to start offering the Dispatcher via E-mail. This is happening with many Regions and Divisions in the NMRA and elsewhere, so we decided it's time for us to move into the world of electronic communication. Have no fear! If you still like receiving your issue in the mail box, you will be able to continue to do so. It may take us some time to work out all the bugs and get all the E-mail addresses right, but by the end of this year we expect to have it accomplished. If you choose to receive The Dispatcher electronically you no longer need to worry about remembering to send in your \$7.00 renewal form. Watch for full details in the next issue of The Dispatcher.

Hercules Cars almost gone!

After placing an add in the club section of Model Railroader, the Hercules cars are now almost gone. To be more specific, there are less than 2 cases left (approximately 23 cars), and they are available by mail! To get one for yourself, please contact Val Pistili at the following address:

Division Cars
308 Walnut Street
North Wales, PA 19454-3323

Please make sure to mention in your correspondence that you want the Hercules car,

since Val also handles sales for the GATSMC club. The cars are \$15.00 each for one and \$14.00 each for two or more. They will also be available at future meets as long as the supply lasts. Please include \$6.00 shipping and handling.



Important Subscription Information!

It is once again time for all division members to check their membership date. If your label shows 2007 or earlier, you need to renew your subscription by the end of 2007 in order to continue receiving The Philadelphia Dispatcher newsletter. 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 afford carry those members who do not renew promptly. Your name will be moved to an inactive list.

New Subscription /Renewal Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

NMRA #: _____ MER #: _____ Div. #: _____

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

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: _____

Membership Survey – Philadelphia Division, Summer 2007

Please check all items and mail or e-mail this form to:

Rich Newmiller, 3276 Pebblewood Lane, Dresher, PA. 19025
rfnewmiller@aol.com

This survey has four separate sections – Meeting Formats, Volunteer Service, Management Team and Meeting Clinics. Please respond to all four sections – your comments and ideas are welcomed.

Meeting Formats – what would you like to see or do at the Division meetings?

Format	Yes or No	Comments
<u>Standard Format</u> – 2 clinics, contest, raffle & local layout tours		
<u>Division Layout Tour</u> – Friday night & Saturday afternoon open house tours in two different geographical locations		
<u>Bus Trip</u> - A Saturday group tour of a railroading interest like the future day trip to Steamtown on September 15, 2007. Other potential locations: Horseshoe curve & the PRR museum in Altoona Strasburg Railroad and the RR Museum of PA Reading, Blue Mountain & Northern RR East Broad Top RR B&O RR Museum Other locations of interest?		
<u>Other Formats?</u>		

Volunteer Service – dedicate some time and join a committee to share an interest or gain knowledge (novices welcome)

Function	Yes + Comments or Questions
<u>Clinic Program</u> – create a database, identify potential clinicians, preview content, agenda, and help develop presentations (Word, Excel, Power Point), etc.	
<u>Membership Development</u> – use monthly electronic update from the Region, send welcome letters to new members, contact those with expired memberships, send out surveys and compile results, identify actions to promote participation, etc. Identify owners who are willing to open their layouts to Division sponsored tours.	
<u>Resource Center</u> – develop a pool of qualified members who are willing to share their expertise with other members and answer questions at meetings or through e-mail. Popular questions could be answered with a demonstration or a mini-clinic. Build a data base of Q&A's for web based reference.	
<u>Car Projects</u> – develop and research ideas for kits for sale by the Division, contact vendors, advertise and sell the kits (or ready-to-run) at sponsored functions.	
<u>Achievement/Educational Program</u> – join an educational group to help obtain the Golden Spike award and/or all the way to an MMR with 1-on-1 or group base instruction in the use of materials, methods and techniques as well as paperwork completion. Get to know the AP certificate holders in your Division.	
<u>Communications</u> – develop the content and ensure the distribution of the Dipatcher via US Mail or a future electronic format. Identify potential Division members to author articles and research web based sources.	

Management Team - volunteer your skills (management, organization, leadership, expertise, etc.) to support the Division

We have a need for both elected official candidates and committee chairs. The base requirements are a current NMRA membership, a strong interest in the subject area and a commitment to work toward the stated goals in a team environment. For consideration, please circle the positions of interest:

Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Clerk, Treasurer, Clinic Chair, Membership Chair, Resource Center Chair, Car Projects Chair, Education Chair, Communications Chair.

Meeting Clinics – what would you like to see at the meetings? Do you want to present?

Item	Presentation clinic	Hands-on clinic	Do you want to present	Comments
Design (track plan, access, lighting, etc.)				
Bench work & track installation				
Hand laying track & turnouts				
Wiring (cab control & DCC)				
Scenery (shell methods, ground cover, roads, water)				
Scenery (rocks, retaining walls, trees)				
Bridges and trestles				
Structure - kits				
Structures – super detailing				
Structures – scratch building				
Cars – kits				
Cars – super detailing				
Cars – Scratchbuilding				
Locomotives – kits				
Locomotives – super detailing				
Locomotives – scratch building				
Locomotive tune-up & decoder installation				
Backdrop painting				
Photography				
Operations				
Researching the prototype				

Name: _____

Ph#: _____

Scale: _____

E-mail: _____
(for future electronic communication)

Time period (era) _____

Thank you for your input!

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46 Meadow Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Inside: Steamtown
Member Survey!

X

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

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

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

Jenkintown Train & Hobby

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

Mitchell's Family Store

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

Main Line Hobbies

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

Herb's Hobbies and Crafts

200 W. State St. in Doylestown
\$25 of free merchandise for every \$250 spent

Nicholas Smith Trains

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

Lin's Junction

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

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail