



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

November 2007
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The Philadelphia Division will be holding its next meeting on Saturday, November 3rd at the Brandywine Town Center Community Building, which is located north of Wilmington Delaware just south of the Pennsylvania State line. This will be our 4th year at this excellent location, and it is always well attended. For directions please see the map located elsewhere in this issue of The Dispatcher.

The doors for the meeting will open at 9:00 AM, with the meeting scheduled to begin at 9:30. Our speakers for this meeting are presenting an interesting variety of topics for your entertainment and education.

Our clinics for this meet both sound very interesting. First up will be the newest Master Model Railroader in the Philadelphia Division, Rich Newmiller (loud applause)! Rich will be giving a clinic on scratch building freight cars. The subject of the clinic will be some of the cars used in achieving his MMR certificate. He will describe the techniques used and share some of the tricks he developed to complete the outstanding model. For more detail on this clinic please see page 3 of this issue of the Dispatcher.

Our second clinic will be presented by Fred Monsimer, and is entitled Making and Painting Small Figures. One of the hardest parts of building an outstanding model railroad is coming up with enough scale citizens to make it look like there are enough inhabitants to make rail service worthwhile. Fred will demonstrate the techniques he has developed over the years to create believable figures. We hope you will find these two presentations enjoyable and informative, and will make plans now to join us for this exciting meet.

In keeping with the theme of Rich's clinic, our popular vote contest for this meet will be scratch built and kit bashed cars. Look over your collection and bring your best to share with the group in this popular vote contest.

At the conclusion of the meet there are numerous restaurants in the immediate area for you to select from.

Throughout the afternoon there will be many local model railroads in the area open for you to visit. We will be providing a few selected maps for your use, but due to the large number of layouts open and the distances between them we cannot provide a comprehensive map.

Please see page 3 of this issue of the Dispatcher for information about the new format in place for this year's open house list. From there you can select any layout you would like to see and create your own maps.

We hope you will join us "South of the Border" on November 3rd for a great day of inspiration and education.

Important Information!

On page 3 of this issue of the Dispatcher there are two important pieces of information. Please take the time to read them carefully.

The first is about elections. The division needs a few good people to step up to the plate and help out. We want to keep the division moving in a positive direction, and your ideas can help us do that.

The second is about the open house list and the changes being made in the distribution process. Please note there will be no more printed copies distributed. The steps are not difficult and I think the new format will work very well in keeping this tradition going for years to come.

Once again the calendar has rolled around to National Model Railroad Month. Or November as it may be more commonly known, but what do they know anyway? And as you all well know by now, that means model railroad open houses. To spark your interest or get you out of the easy chair I've featured a couple of railroads in this issue of the Dispatcher that have been open for us in the past. Why not get out there and see some railroads this year? And maybe drag the kids or grand kids along. Maybe we can light a flame in some future model railroaders.

Schedule conflicts have caused me to cut back on the number of days I'm open this year. There will be just one weekend, November 17th & 18th. Both days the time is from noon until 5:00 PM. I hope you'll take the time to stop in.

There hasn't been as much progress on the railroad lately as I would like, but is there ever? Work still continues on the Edgewater branch in the form of a couple of barges and some structures. It is a wonderful thing to find new tidbits on the internet that help to make our modeling more interesting and accurate. One of the groups I belong to recently had a few pictures of a New York Central barge posted by one of its members. And can you believe it? Sitting right there on the deck were several packing crates, all with Ford Motors painted on the sides! Now I have photographic proof that some of the parts that went to the Edgewater plant came by barge. And those crates should be pretty easy to model. Oh well, one more project to work on.

In the last issue of the Dispatcher I mentioned that we will be offering you the opportunity to get your Dispatcher electronically. Well, here are the details. It may take us a little while to get everything in place, but it is on the way.

As you take the time to renew your subscription, please make sure to include your E-mail address. From this list we will be developing a test group to make the first trial runs, hopefully in the early part of 2008. Please rest assured that we will never use your address for any purpose other than division mailings, and your information will not be made available to any other individual or group without your express permission. And have no fear; if you want to still receive a paper copy it will continue to be available to you.

So, as you take the time to renew today, make sure to give us your E-mail address on the line at the lower right near the bottom of the form on page 2 of this issue. And, if you change service providers or change your address, please add the division to the list people or groups you need to give the change to. It doesn't cost anything to send out an E-mail that gets bounced, it just takes or mailers time to track down the errant message.

And, don't forget! We need a few good individuals to step up and volunteer. How? Give a clinic, run for the board, write an article, and the list could go on, but you get the idea.

Happy railroading,

Steve

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Editor

Stephen F. Salotti
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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: Jan '08. Due out approx. Dec. 15th. Deadline: Dec 5th.

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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(704)-752-5138

National Model Railroad Association

4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
(615) 892-2946
Dues: \$48.00 per year,

Scratch building 101 - Prototype Freight Cars and an open load using styrene

This clinic provides an overview of all the steps required to construct four types of basic freight cars for the first time scratch builder. In addition, construction and super detailing techniques will be presented for the advance modeler. The first model reproduces the Southern Railway steel under frame box car (updated with modernized Hutchens ends) that was originally built between 1922 and 1926. The second model reproduces the Pennsylvania Lines KF class stock car built by Pressed Steel Car Co. in McKee's Rocks, Pa in

1909. The third model represents the PRR USRA Mill Gondola originally built by Standard Steel Car, Butler, PA in 1919 (1954 lettering with the shadow keystone). The fourth model reproduces the Pacific Fruit Express (PFE) reefer built by AC&F in Detroit of 1907. The open load is a rolling mill frame built by United Engineering & Foundry of Pittsburgh, PA (scaled from one of the famous "Bob's photos").

New format for this year's open house listing!

This year the open house list normally distributed at this time of year is not being printed as in the past, but is using a new electronic format for distribution. With so many railroads open it is expensive to print and distribute the books. To access the list of railroads go to:

www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com

From there you can either download the entire list, or using the calendar on the left column, select the date

you are interested in, and a complete list of the railroads open on that date will open. From there you can click on the address for the railroads you select and a Google map will appear. Then a click of the mouse and you can print only the maps you need. This is only a quick summary of the steps; there are complete instructions on the web page. If you don't have a computer of your own, most local libraries have them free for your use.

Elections! (No; not for President)

The time has come for the Philadelphia Division to hold elections for the Board. If you are interested in being a member of the board, we would like to hear from you. We anticipate some openings this year, and would like to see some new people involved. The work load is not great; we just need some willing hands. Please send your name and address along with a brief description of yourself to the clerk at the address on page 2 of this issue.

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.

A couple of layouts for you to visit!

Looking back into the files from Independence Junction '06 (remember that?) we came across a few photos that weren't used in any of the press releases and thought you might enjoy seeing them. As an added bonus, you can go see these railroads in the flesh! I've included current open house dates for both of the layouts featured here. Please take the time to visit and thank them for being willing to share their railroad with us. For directions and a map see the open house list directions on page 3 of this issue.

Bill Kachel's Pennsylvania Railroad

Bills extensive model railroad is quite the experience to see. It fills two rooms in his basement and includes one of the best harbor scenes I've seen in this area. The ships are huge and very well done. In addition, the railroad includes some of the Pennsy's signature catenary, working coal dumpers, and too many industries to count.



Bill's railroad is open on the following dates:

November:
4th 1 - 5 PM
11th 1- 5 PM
17th & 18th
12 - 5 PM
25th 1- 5 PM

Take your camera and be prepared to spend a lot of time there.



In these two scenes we can see some of the catenary, numerous industries, and if you look carefully in the background of the photo to the left you can see two of the stacks from one of the ships in the harbor. These models alone are worth the time to go see.

Jerry Powell's PRR

Jerry's 28 X 40 ft model railroad is 98% complete and includes some amazing statistics. There is nearly 6 ¼ scale miles of mainline trackage (380 + feet), 4 ¾ scale miles of yard trackage (295 feet), and 2 ¼ scale miles of branchline trackage (142 feet). In addition there are over 100 buildings, over 175 vehicles, over 1,000 trees, and miniature people of an un-numbered quantity (maybe more later if comes to Frad Monsimer's clinic on the 3rd). based on the title, the Pennsylvania Railroad is the featured line here, but the reading also puts in an appearance.



An unidentified Norfolk and Western articulated passes a PRR T-1 on a passenger train run on Jerry's railroad. In the background is a tank car loading facility. To see these shots in person Jerry is open on the following dates:

November 4th, 10th, and 17th.

All days from 1:00 until 4:00 PM.



Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

Sponsored by Philadelphia Division, MER, NMRA

March 28-30, 2008

at the

**Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
Malvern, PA**

- **Clinics**
- **Model Displays**
- **Vendors' Room**
- **Home Layout Tour (Sunday)**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

www.phillynmra.org

OR

Paul Backenstose
103 West Uwchlan Avenue
Downingtown PA 19335

(Please include an SSAE for a reply)

prrpaul@aol.com or (610) 269-2763

INTERESTED IN PRESENTING A CLINIC?

Jim Dalberg

610-648-0089 or jedalberg@aol.com

VENDOR INFORMATION

Steve Salotti

610-489-1940 or jmsfca@netzero.com

November Meet Directions

Getting to the meet location is actually quite easy. Curiously, describing how to get there is a little harder. But, here goes

The **Brandywine Town Center** is a large shopping complex located on an “ell”-shaped piece of property near the intersection of the Concord Pike (U.S. 202) and Naamans Road (Del 92). You may remember this as the former site of a race track. One leg of the “ell” joins the Concord Pike. The other leg joins Naamans Road. The complex includes the Regal Cinema, Lowe’s, Michael’s Arts & Crafts, Target, and many other stores. The main structure is surrounded by a maze-like parking lot which, in turn, is surrounded by a road which circles the perimeter.

The Center’s **Community Building** (our meet location) is separate structure with a prominent central atrium. It is located next to a large decorative fountain, on the south side of the complex near the Naamans Road entrance.

From Concord Pike (U.S. 202) going south – a fraction of a mile south of the PA/DE state line, turn left into the Brandywine Town Center (the marker is the sign for Lowe’s and Target, among others). Follow the perimeter road in either direction until you see the Community Building (near the decorative fountain).

From I-95 going south – at the state line, there is a three-way split – I-95, I-295, and Naamans Road (Del 92). Stay to the extreme right, and take the exit to Naamans Road. At the top of the ramp, turn right (west) on to Naamans Road. After a little over four miles, turn right into the Brandywine Town Center (it is opposite Shipley Road, which comes in from the left only). Turn right on to the perimeter road, and then left into the parking lot near the Community Building (which is near the decorative fountain).

Schedules

The Philadelphia division is pleased to offer the following activity dates for your planning. If you have an item you would like included, please contact the editor. They will be included on a first come, first served space available basis.

November 3rd Philadelphia Division Meet:

Brandywine Town Center Community Building (just off 202 right below PA/DE line) Clinics: scratch building freight cars, detailing scale people, contest: kitbashed or scratch built freight cars, layout tours. Details elsewhere in this issue of The Dispatcher.

Cheltenham Hills Model Railroad Club

The following open house dates are given for your advance planning:

November 24 – 25, 2007

January 5 – 6, 12 – 13, 2008

January 19 – 20, 2008 (snow date)

All dates 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Cheltenham Hills Model Railroad club
8000 Old York Road (at RR bridge)
(adjacent to Elkins Park Square)
Elkins Park, PA 19027

For more information: 215-635-9747

No admission cost, donations gratefully accepted.

GATSME. See a 50’ by 60’ HO & Hon3 Scale view of ‘50s railroading in the Northeastern United States. Many museum quality buildings and trains will be on display and operating. Located in Fort Washington, PA and open the following dates: December 8th & 9th 2007, January 5th, 6th, 19th & 20th, and March 8th & 9th 2008. GATSME Lines open house in the basement at Prospect and Madison Avenues, 12 Noon to 4 PM. Admission by donation. For info: Ed Wilson at 215-646-2033 on Thursday evenings.

StARR Model Railroad Fellowship

open house schedule:

December 2007:

1st & 2nd, 8th & 9th, 15th & 16th, 29th & 30th (Note– no show 22nd & 23rd).

January 2008:

5th & 6th, 12th & 13th, 19th & 20th.

Hours are from 1:00 – 4:00 PM each day. For more information see their web page at:

<http://home.comcast.net/~stalbansrr/>
or send an e-mail to:
stalbansrr@comcast.net

Royersford Modular Club

Open House: December 1st & 8th,
January 5th & 12th. All days 10:00
AM – 4:00 PM

Open Door, 350 Main Street,
Royersford, PA Info:

http://www.geocities.com/royersford_modular/

January 19th 2008 Joint Philadelphia & New Jersey

Division meet. Haddon Twp High School. More info next issue of the Dispatcher.

Clinics, layout tours, contest

March 28, 29 & 30 2008, RPM Valley Forge:

Desmond Great Valley Hotel
Malvern, PA

Clinics, layout tours, dealer room.

Details at: www.phillynmra.org

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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

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 19446
5% in addition to already discounted prices

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail