



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

January 2008
Volume 15, Number 1

It seems hard to believe, but the calendar has already moved on to 2008. And to start the New Year off right, the Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce its next meeting. On January 19th the Philadelphia division will cross the Delaware River, not to attack Trenton or Princeton, but to a joint meet with New Jersey division! The meet will be held 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.

This meet is shaping up to be a very interesting one. There will be two clinics, one from each division. From the New Jersey side, the clinic will be on the sugar industry, including a video featuring a processing plant in Holy, CA.

From the Philly side of the river, member Greg Schindledecker will be presenting a clinic entitled "Designing a basement sized version of the Western Maryland, Thomas subdivision". This presentation is aimed at providing Philly and New Jersey Division members an opportunity to study a large

layout in progress. The presentation will include a discussion of the layout room preparation, design influences, track plan development and progress on the bench work. This should be a very interesting presentation as Greg has put in a lot of time doing the research to create a very interesting and fun to operate railroad. I can't wait to see the progress reports over time!

There will be a popular vote contest at the meet, with the subject being detailed and weathered reefers. Bring your favorite model to add to the contest and you might bring home the prize!

There will be coffee and donuts available for your enjoyment. Don't quote me, but I hear the coffee is free, and the donuts are only a small donation. It doesn't get a "hole" lot better than that!

There will be swap tables available for you to look for that special item. If you would like to reserve a table to sell some of your surplus items, contact the New Jersey division Vice President by E-mail at the following address:

lackawanna500@comcast.net

Tables are free if you reserve in advance, and are \$10.00 or a

donation to the door prizes if you request it at the meet.

There will be layout tours on both Friday night and after the meet on Saturday afternoon. To obtain copies of the Friday night tours you go to the New Jersey Division web site at: www.njdivnmra.org and follow the resources link to the Newsletter "Clinkers". Maps for the Saturday tours will be available at the school.

This should be a great way to spend a January weekend. And if the weather stays the way it is now there will be no excuses not to see you there!

In Memoriam

It is with deep sorrow that we must announce the passing of long time Philadelphia Division member and friend Ray Bilodeau. Ray was, among other things, the Contest Chair for the Mid Eastern Region, and was heavily involved in Independence Junction '06. Ray was fighting several illnesses. Ray's wish was to be cremated and have his ashes spread over the Colorado narrow gauge country. Cards can be sent to his wife at:

Rita Lynam

9 Roosevelt Avenue

Wilmington, DE 19804-3044

Once again the calendar has too quickly come around to a new year. Where did the last one go? And what are we going to do with this one? There are a few things on the radar for my family and I, but more on that some other day. Did I mention we have a new Grand Daughter? Our oldest son and his wife welcomed Bayleigh London Salotti on December 21st, 2007. She weighed in at 7 lb 5 oz and 21 inches long. Mother and daughter are both doing fine, and thank you for asking!

OK, so much for bragging rights, now down to something of a more general interest to the rest of you. How's your railroad coming? I'm sure there were some toys under the tree for each of you. And if not did you hint clearly enough? The only thing my tree brought was cold hard cash. But hey, that works for me!

A couple of new projects have begun taking shape over the Christmas Holiday on the Susquehanna.

For a long time there have been some pictures of the old A&P warehouse in North Hawthorne that the Susquehanna once served lying around on the workbench. A perusal of the hobby supply levels led me to believe I could get started on this project without spending too much of my new found wealth. And so with expectations high the project was undertaken. Sadly, time not money, has slowed progress on this worthwhile project. Life just seems to do that to us from time to time. The older portion of the warehouse is $\frac{3}{4}$ completed, and some parts of the "newer" addition are underway, but now I find myself with one more started project. Hey, maybe I could go down stairs now and work on it.

Hmmm, maybe not, I'm facing a publication deadline this week. I know you'd like to get this before the joint meet with the New Jersey division is over. And besides, I should probably go over and see my new Grand Daughter one day this week. Did I tell you how beautiful she is? Oh, sorry about that, back to the railroad.

There was another project that went awry over the holiday. For a long time I've planned to put one of DPM's townhouses on a small parcel of land next to the overpass at the entrance to Paterson City station. One day the thought came to me that two side by side would look even better. A quick test setup revealed they would fit, so plans went into high gear. Now, when I spend time with my mother I often take kits along to work on during "down time", and such was the case here. The kits and all the supplies I thought I would need were packed up and off I went. Over the next couple of days I hacked, glued and painted until the building was nearly completed. And it looked pretty good, with the two units together, the bump out on the sidewall and "late" addition to the back wall of one of the units. A trip home and down to the basement to see how she looked, and "what do you mean it doesn't fit"? Sure enough, there just wasn't quite enough room for it to sit where I had planned it. Oh well, it will fit in Pompton Lakes, so I guess there's no loss.

Maybe I will go over and see Bayleigh and her sister Jordan this week.

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 electronically. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

Next issue: March 2008. Due out approx. March 15th. Deadline: February 20th 2008.

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: \$48.00 per year,

Model Railroading is not just for Geeks

Some people may be a bit uncomfortable about "adults playing with toy trains" or may be worried about what their friends and relatives might say. Who cares what they think? But just to set your mind at ease, there are many celebrities who are (or were) also model railroaders, such as:

Winston Churchill

Tom Brokaw

Phil Collins

Joe DiMaggio

Walt Disney

Michael Gross, the actor

Ed Dougherty, the professional golfer

Merle Haggard

Tom Hanks

Elton John

Michael Jordan

Ricardo Patrese, the Formula-1 race car driver

Frank Sinatra

Joe Regalbutto, the actor

Bruce Springsteen

Rod Stewart

Donald Sutherland

Mel Torme

Neil Young, the rock star. He's also a part owner of Lionel.

Get active in the hobby. It's Fun and you too could be famous!

RPM Valley Forge!

As we move into 2008 it's time to start planning to attend Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge. The committee is hard at work developing a program that will have something of interest for almost everyone. Yes, there is a cost to attend, but it will be money well spent. The clinics will run from dawn until you can't stay awake anymore. Then there is the model display room. This isn't a contest, just an opportunity to show off some of your work and view what others are doing. And then there's the dealer room. We have many signed up already and are working to add more. There will be 40+ tables of items for you to look over, and this won't be the train show stuff. This will be some of the finest hobby items available. Looking for a hard

to locate piece of information? There will be several photo dealers to aide in your research.

This year's event will be held again at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, located at One Liberty Boulevard in Malvern, PA. The meet will run from 6:00 PM Friday, March 28th until 12:00 PM Sunday the 30th. Then in the afternoon on Sunday the 30th there will be numerous layouts open for you to tour.

For more information and a reservation forms look on pages 4 through 6 of this issue of the Dispatcher.

Important Subscription Information!

It's once again time for all division members to check their subscription 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.

TIMETABLE

Friday March 28

- 4 p.m. Early registration – Desmond lobby
- 6 p.m. Registration open
Vendors Room and Models Display Room open **FOR SETUP**
- 7 p.m. Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 11 p.m. Clinics end, Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

Saturday March 29

- 8:30 a.m. Registration open
- 9 a.m. Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 4:30-5:30 Happy Hour/cash bar – Desmond lobby
- 5:30-7 p.m. Buffet dinner (see description below), Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed
- 7 p.m. Clinics resume, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 10 p.m. Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

Sunday March 30

- 9 a.m. Registration open
Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 10:30 a.m. last Clinics begin
- 12:00 Vendors Room closed ---teardown
Models Display Room closed ---**ALL MODELS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11 A. M.**
- 12:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. Home Layouts open
Maps will be provided at the registration desk
You must wear your RPM-Valley Forge name badge to visit these layouts

VENDORS INFORMATION

Tables are 2 ft. X 5 ft. (please note size)
\$10 per table-indicate number desired on registration form
Vendors must pay registration fee.

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 is \$30. Only 60 tickets are available.

HOTEL

The Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
One Liberty Boulevard
Malvern, PA 19355

Hotel phone: (610) 296-9800

Reservations: 1-800-575-1776 between 8:30 a.m. and 6 pm., Monday thru Friday or by e mail:
reservations@desmondgv.com

Room rate is \$105 per night plus tax. **You must mention Railroad Prototype Modelers to receive this rate.**

NOTE: You must e mail or call in your reservation on or before March 7, 2008 in order to receive the reduced rate for RPM. Please be advised that a reservation is not confirmed until a confirmation number is received from the Desmond reservations department. Reservations received after March 7 are based on availability and at available rates. You may cancel your reservation up until 12 noon on the day of arrival without penalty.

Hotel directions:

From Route 202 Northbound: Take the Great Valley/ Route 29 North exit. Turn right at the traffic light, then right at the first traffic light onto Route 29 North. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on your left.

From Route 202 Southbound: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 North exit. At the end of the ramp, proceed through the traffic light onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on your right

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, east or westbound: Take Exit 24, Valley Forge. After the toll booth, take Route 202 South, West Chester. Follow the above directions.

REGISTRATION

- Registration cost is **\$35**
- Make check payable to: Phila. Div., NMRA - RPM
- Mail check to: Paul Backenstose
103 W. Uwchlan Ave.
Downingtown, PA 19335

You will receive a confirmation by e mail (preferred) or U. S. Mail.

NOTICE: The last day to mail registrations is March 20.

Walk in registrations will be available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

REGISTRATION FORM
Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge
March 28-30, 2008

Please print

Name _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E Mail: _____ (print neatly, please!)

Registration \$35

Vendors tables # _____ X \$10 = _____

Dinner \$30 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

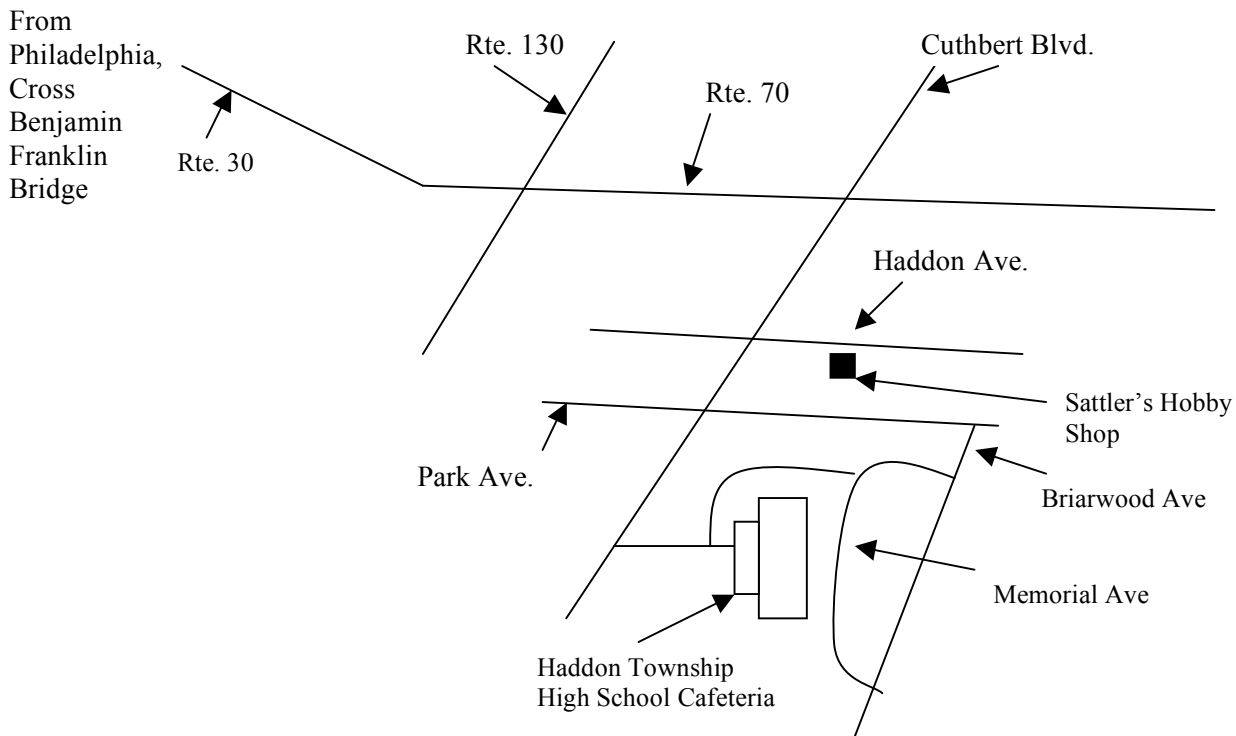
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Phila. Div., NMRA - RPM

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

office use, do not fill in

rec'd _____ reg. no. _____ ck. # _____ conf. sent _____

Map to Haddon Township Division Meet



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 1/4 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.

Schedules Check dates below

Joint Philadelphia & New Jersey Division Meet. January 18th & 19th, 2005 Haddon Twp. area. Clinics 9 – 12 Saturday, layout tours Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Contest: Detailed and weathered reefers

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 19th, 20th, March 8th & 9th, 2008. 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 Hills Model RR Club Open House January 12th & 13th, 2008, 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 26th & 27th, 2008. 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 28th, 29th & 30th, 2008. Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern, PA. Clinics, dealers, layout tours. For more information see this issue of the Dispatcher

Great Scale Model Train Show - Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD. February 2nd & 3rd. Dealers, display layouts, door prizes.

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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

46 Meadow Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Inside: Division Meet
RPM

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

Main Line Hobbies

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

Mitchell's Family Store

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

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