



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

March 2008
Volume 15, Number 2

RPM Special Edition!

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce the 3rd Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge Meet to be held Friday, March 28th through Sunday the 30th, 2008. The location will once again be the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, located at One Liberty Boulevard in Malvern PA. This hotel has excellent conference facilities for our use, and is conveniently located just off of US Route 202. For directions and a map please see page 3 of this issue of the dispatcher.

The RPM Valley Forge crew has been hard at work on creating an exciting program for you to

participate in. The following is the current list of a few of the clinicians planned, and more are being added. There will be clinics going on in multiple rooms through out the weekend. There are sure to be many topics you will find to improve your modeling skills. Topics to be covered include weathering, rail-marine, cars and trucks for your layout, freight and passenger cars, prototype industries and too many to mention here. For a complete list of topics please go to the Philadelphia division web site at:
www.phillynmra.org.

Larry DeYoung
Steve Stewart
John Teichmoeller
Rich Newmiller
Roger Hinman
Mike McNamara
Ron Lutton

Paul Cappleoni
Bill Schaumberg
Ralph Heiss
Jim Dalberg
Mike Rose
Dave Ramos
John Roberts

George Barrett
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Vince Lee
Stan Rydarowicz
Tony Koester
Dick Flock
Ramon Rhodes

Dr. John Greene
Ben Hom
Andy Rubbo
Larry Kline
Lance Mindheim
Todd Sullivan
Chip Syme

Also a part of the action will be the model display room. This is not a contest! It is a chance to bring your best prototype work to show off and view the work being done by others. The work that has been displayed at past meets has been of the highest quality, and we expect much the same again this year.

Another reason to attend this year's meet will be the vendor's room. We are working to assemble an impressive list of vendors for you to find that one of a kind piece you may want to fill that void on your railroad. Among the vendors attending this year are Big Four Graphics, Funaro & Camerlengo, Bethlehem Car Works, Shortline Products, Bob's Photos, Pro

Custom Hobbies, B&O Historical Society, Shelf Layout Company and many more.

At the conclusion of the meet on Sunday there will be many layouts open for you to tour. You must be registered to tour the layouts.

We hope all Philadelphia Division members will plan now to attend this great event. Due to the cost of using the hotel for the location, you must pay the full registration fee to attend this meet. To download a registration form go to the internet address listed above and download one, or see the January issue of The Dispatcher. See you at RPM Valley Forge!

There are quite a few exciting things going on in the Philadelphia Division at the moment. What could be more exciting than the upcoming RPM Valley Forge meet? We expect this year to be better than it was in '06 with a great lineup of clinics, layouts and vendors. Each year it has grown a little bigger than before and if it keeps getting bigger we may need to look for a new location! Not a bad problem to have. I hope you are planning to go.

We also have our newest car project, the Reading Company panel sided hopper. This one of a kind car shows up in the middle of a sea of standard 2 bay hoppers once rostered by the Reading. Makes one wonder why it was never repeated. It allowed for an increase in capacity, and while many other roads adopted it, the Reading never did.

Then in June of this year we will be returning to Montgomery Baptist Church near Montgomeryville for another meet. We have a great group of clinics in the works for this meet, so keep watch in these pages for more information. Also at this meet we will be conducting our elections.

Speaking of elections, this is your first official notice that they are going to happen. We have a few candidates, but unlike the current presidential primary season, we could use a few more folks to throw their proverbial hat into the ring. There are a couple of folks who would like to step down after many years of service, and while we should be able to fill all the spots it would be nice to see more than "just enough" candidates for once. It doesn't require a large time commitment to do the job, or your vast

financial resources to fund your campaign. All we need is a willing pair of hands and a short paragraph about you and what you hope to see happen in the division. And don't worry about being eloquent in your bibliography, I'll be your speech writer and do my best to make you sound better than you are.

Progress on the railroad has been moving along in fits and starts. The barges are almost ready to be launched into Edgewater Harbor. I finally got the construction completed and they went to the paint shop for a nice coat of semi-box car red. If I must say so myself, I'm pretty happy with the outcome. Now the only problem is lettering them. I found some numbers about the right size, but trying to find the words Pennsylvania Railroad in the correct size has proved frustrating. HO is too small, and I hate to buy a bunch of O scale sets that will be useless except for the railroad name. In addition most sets don't have the word "Railroad" in them, only Pennsylvania. Here's a thought, any of you guys have an Alps printer (the kind that does white letters) and want to do me a favor? I need four sets. Contact me for details. Hmmm, is that a conflict of interest?

In addition the A&P warehouse in Pompton Lakes is almost finished. Now when the Butler Local comes into town it actually has a building to deliver the cars to! Progress is a wonderful thing.

Well, that's all for this issue. I hope I'll see you at RPM Valley Forge, and maybe even across the table at a future board meeting.

Happy Railroading, Steve

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Editor

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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: June 2008. Due out approx. May 20th. Deadline: May 10th.

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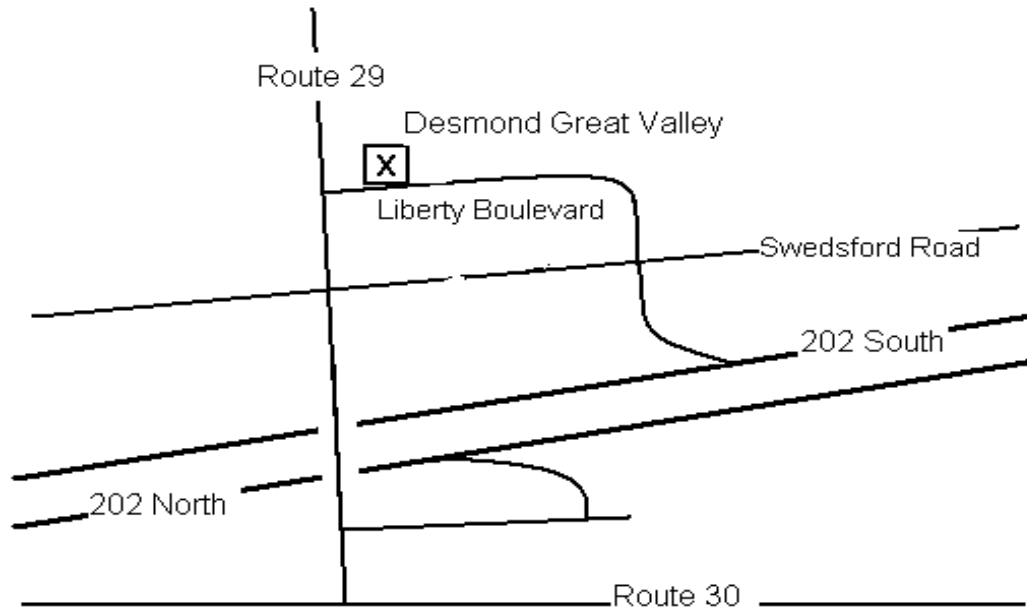
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Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
(615) 892-2946
Dues: \$51.00 per year,

Desmond Great Valley Hotel and Conference Center



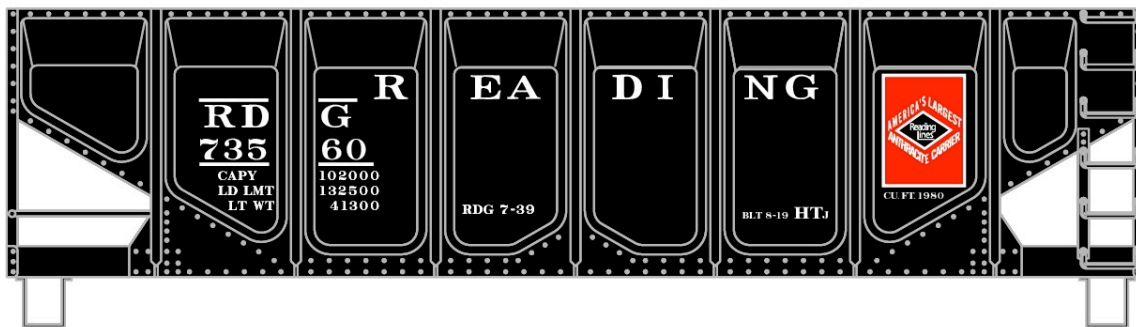
From 202 North: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 exit. Turn right at the light, then right at the second light onto 29 N. Take 29 North to the second traffic light, then right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your left.

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.

New Philadelphia Division car project!

As part of this year's RPM Valley Forge, the Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce the release of its newest project, a Reading Panel side hopper. Some may say such a car never existed, yet a careful search of the Readings roster will reveal that there was indeed one such car of this type on the Reading. In addition, old timers that worked for the company confirm that it did indeed exist and they had seen it many times at Port Richmond in Philadelphia. Working with Accurail we have re-created this one of a kind car for your own layout. The number selected is correct for this car, but don't worry! Do you want more? We have arranged with Accurail to make available, for a small fee, more numbers so you can change as many of the cars numbers as you wish. Below is the artwork for the car. We expect delivery in plenty of time to have them available for the first time at RPM Valley Forge.

RDG
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46 Meadow Road
Collegetown, PA 19426

Inside: Elections
RPM

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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

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