



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

June 2008
Volume 15, Number 3

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce their next meeting to be held, on Saturday June 14th, 2008. (Please note that this is a change from the date previously announced). The meet will be held at Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene, located at 3060 Germantown Pike in Fairview Village, Pennsylvania. Look for the converted barn located close to Germantown Pike at the West end of the church campus. For directions and a map please see page 7 in this issue of The Philadelphia Dispatcher. The doors will open at 8:45 AM with the meeting beginning at 9:30.

There will be two clinics presented at this meeting in addition to our important board elections. All members are encouraged to attend.

Our first clinic for the meet will be presented by Fred Monsimer. This clinic will actually be two mini clinics combined into one presentation. The first portion will be on modeling telegraph poles. These poles were along virtually every rail line in North America, and yet they are seldom included on our layouts. Fred will give a presentation on how to add this often over looked detail to your railroad. The second portion will

be on modeling Pennsylvania Railroad milepost markers. This is another often overlooked detail that was and is still today present along nearly every railroad right of way in this country. Fred will demonstrate how we can add these line side details, and though he will discuss PRR style posts, the information presented can help you improve your right of way, no matter the prototype.

Our second clinic will be presented Dave Messer, MMR. Dave will present a show-and-tell program featuring several examples of scratch built; kit bashed and detailed kits that exemplify his passion for building interesting model railroad structures. They include models of actual prototype buildings plus a few that were built just to fill an industry space.

The contest for this meet, in keeping with the theme for one of the clinics will be off line structure. This can be any type of building normally seen along the tracks, but not railroad related. Examples might be barns, houses, stores, etc.

Coffee and donuts will be available to you for a small donation.

At the conclusion of the meet around 12:00 Noon there will be time for you to grab a quick bite

to eat in one of the local eateries. Then beginning at 1:00 PM there will be several local layouts open for you to visit. As always, when you visit remember you are a guest in someone's home so behave accordingly.

Important Election Information

The June meet will be the location for the annual meeting and election of the new Board of Directors. All members are encouraged to attend and get an update on the Divisions planned activities and future direction. Included in this issue of The Dispatcher is an official ballot with a list of all candidates. Please take a moment to read the enclosed information.



With the generally beautiful weather we have had this spring getting down into the basement to make progress on the railroad can sometimes be a challenge. In addition, the warm weather and spring rains have brought about the rapid growth of that lush green carpet we call a lawn, with the associated task of keeping it well trimmed and manicured. That, in addition to other non-railroad related activities can keep us from pursuing our favorite pastime.

Such was the case for me this year. In case you missed it, the Philadelphia Division once again sponsored the RPM Valley Forge meet, and by all indications it was a tremendous success. With 213 people registered and a full slate of great clinics, dealer tables and a model display room, the feed back from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. This year a great theme developed that revolved around water fronts and the railroads that served them. The list of clinicians was fantastic, and with at least three and often four different clinics going on at the same time there was sure to be something of interest for almost everybody. With the water front theme, it was a great disappointment to me that I couldn't get there. But that's just the way life goes sometimes. There's always 2010 to look forward to. Boy does that seem odd or what?

On a slightly different note, I hope you'll take time to look over the ballot for this years Board elections very carefully. Unlike some other divisions (as editor I get complimentary copies of a number of divisions newsletters) we are pleased to have more people on the ballot than we have positions to fill. That is great

news for the future of the Philadelphia Division. Even if someone is not elected they can still find a place to be involved. The board would like to start up some committees to spread the work around and increase the amount of information the board has to work with. Among the committees we are looking at are clinic, layout tour and meet location groups. These groups would support the board and give others a chance to help out. If you would like to serve on one of the committees please let a board member know.

OK, I hope you noticed. My name is not on the ballot this time around. Sorry, but that doesn't mean I'm going away. And it also doesn't mean I won't be doing the Dispatcher any more (unless the board decides not to re-appoint me). I think I have a few more years in me to continue doing it. I just feel that with so many willing hands I can continue to serve but now in a different way. I'll still go to board meetings (that is if they let me), and continue to bug you to start writing articles for the Dispatcher.

Speaking of which, the article file is a little thin at the moment. Any of you thinking of working on your Author Certificate? Unlike some of the bigger magazines we will print almost anything that's of interest to model railroaders. And don't feel you need to have perfect English skills. With careful use of spell check and other on line helps we can make almost every thing look gooder.

Happy Railroading

Steve

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Editor

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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. '08. Due out approx. Aug. 30th. Deadline: August 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."

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(615) 892-2946
Dues: \$51.00 per year,

Model Railroading is not just for Geeks: continued

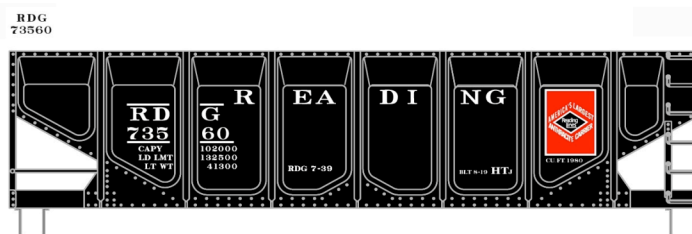
After running the above feature in the January issue I received the following note from member Tom Matthews from Emmaus:

You can add Roy Campanella to the list. I had the pleasure of mowing his lawn back in 1953 - 55. He used to take my brother and me to games at Ebberts Field on Saturdays. One day on the way home, he asked if we thought our mom (who knew when the game ended as she listened on the radio) would be upset if we took a side trip to a hobby shop. Having the usual high rail trains as a kid, I got the bug for HO there. The store, long gone and forgotten, in Manhasset, was a train only place. Campy was a Lionel guy but he did build his own structures and quite nicely at that. Sort of interesting, considering his large arthritic hands.

New Division Car Project!

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 we have arranged with Accurail to make available for a small fee numbers so you can change as many of the cars numbers as you wish. Below is the artwork for the car. The cars are in stock and will be available at all Division meets and by mail at:

Philadelphia Division Cars
308 W. Walnut St.
North Wales PA, 19545-3323



Cars are \$15 each. Shipping \$7 for 1st model, 2 or more models, add \$3.00 each. Money orders preferred, checks must clear prior to shipping. Make Money Order payable to Philadelphia Division MER.

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.

Philadelphia Division Board Elections

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to present the following candidates for the board of directors. All names listed are members in good standing and have expressed a willingness to serve the division. As per our bylaws, (Article 5, part 2) from the board members elected by simple majority the board will elect a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Clerk-Paymaster (Clerk-Paymaster may be split into two positions). There are several names on the ballot who are currently sitting members. In addition there are several new candidates and each has provided a short description of themselves and their qualifications. From the names listed on the ballot please vote for no more than seven (7). If you vote for more than seven names your ballot will be disqualified. Ballots may be mailed to the clerk at the address listed on page 2 of

this issue of the Dispatcher, or may be brought to the meeting at Fairview Village on June 14th. Mailed ballots must be received by Friday, June 13th.

The division would like to thank the outgoing board for the great service they have provided over the last few years. Their accomplishments have been many. The Division hosted Independence Junction 2006, sponsored three very successful RPM Valley Forge meets, completed one car project (Hercules reefer), and have launched a new car project, the one of a kind Reading hopper. In addition they have held at least four meets per year with a great selection of clinics, contests and locations. Please take a moment to thank your board for the outstanding service they have provided.

New Board Candidates

The following individuals are new candidates for the Philadelphia Division board of Directors.

Brian Good: Brian is a partner and co-founder of the DGK Group, a CPA and consulting firm located in Plymouth Meeting, PA. He is currently a member in good standing with the NMRA as well as its associated regional and local divisions. Brian served the national office as well as the local-host steering committee as Fan Trip Manager for the NMRA national convention - Independence Junction 2006, as well as assisted in the past with Philadelphia Division clinic presentations. Brian models the PRR Schuylkill division and most recently received his Golden Spike Award. As administrator of a loose band of local railroad modelers primarily in their early to mid stage phases of completion, Brian enjoys the team-approach leadership style. Brian was born and raised in Montgomery County; is married with two children and currently makes his home in Harleysville, Pa.

Earl Paine: Earl has been an NMRA and Layout Design SIG member since 1988. He has attended National Conventions in Pittsburgh, Valley Forge and most recently in Philadelphia, where he volunteered as a layout tour guide. He has attended many division and region events in both the Philadelphia and Syracuse, NY areas. He participates in several round robin groups in the division. He has recently been bitten by the "operation bug". Earl is a life long rail fan and has spent many years observing Abrams Yard (spread over three railroad companies). He moved from Blue Bell to Skippack, PA in 2001 and is 5 years into modeling the Reading Main Line (and its branches) from Conshohocken, Pennsylvania to Belt Line Junction in the early 1970's. The layout is under construction in his 45 foot square basement and is just starting to blossom past the plywood central phase. Earl is retiring in June from a 35 year career in public school teaching and technology administration. He is looking forward to having significantly more time to devote to the hobby and serve the division as well as the LDSIG.

John Seibert: I grew up with model railroading. Our father always had an HO model railroad going in the basement. He built 5 over his lifetime and his boys all shared in the hobby. I started building my own n-scale layout 11 years ago and have started my 2nd after a move to a bigger house 3 years ago. I model the Reading Wilmington and Northern branch in the late 50s and am a member of a very active round robin group located in Montgomery County. Professionally; I am a global product manager for a very large locally-based electronics firm whose name is sometimes confused with a toy company we all know. I bring sales, presentation and marketing skills to the division along with a life time of model railroading enjoyment. There is a common thread among the NMRA constituency when it comes to sharing ideas and talents. I would like to see that extended more to new-comers to the hobby. The new structure of the NMRA on the regional and division levels is allowing more grass roots access to the hobby and I would like to see us capitalize more on that. The more people there are enjoying this hobby the better it is for everyone in terms of product availability, new ideas, more willing hands and more friendships.

Board of Directors: continued

Greg Shindledecker: For many, model railroading is seen as a solitary hobby. However, it is the social, interactive nature of the hobby that really makes things so enjoyable. Sharing of knowledge, along with a healthy dose of camaraderie, takes the hobby to a new level for most of us. Our Philly Division serves as a gathering point – allowing us to share and interact in a regular forum.

After actively participating as part of the staff of IJ2006, I realized how much others in the division contributed to my enjoyment of the hobby. It is my wish to participate more fully by running for the Board of Directors of the division. As a relative newcomer to the division (at least as an active member), I hope I can bring a different perspective to the planning of our activities and provide a helping hand with the duties required for the successful operation of the division.

In addition to the above mentioned candidates, the following members are currently serving and have agreed to continue to serve on the board.

Dick Landt
Dave Messer

Rich Newmiller
Val Pistili

Please take the time to review the list, and then you can either send your ballot to the clerk at:

Philadelphia Division NMRA
46 Meadow Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Or you can bring your ballot to the Division meet at Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, June 14th. All mailed ballots must be received by June 13th to be counted.

Philadelphia Division Board of Directors Ballot

Name _____

Please vote for no more than 7 (seven) names. If you vote for more than 7 your ballot will be disqualified.

Brian Good _____

Earl Paine _____

Dick Landt _____

Val Pistili _____

Dave Messer _____

John Seibert _____

Rich Newmiller _____

Greg Shindledecker _____

Creating Moss on Roofs

Have you ever wanted to add a moss coating to one of your structure roofs? Here are a couple of ideas on how to do it, and remember moss usually grows on the North facing side of a roof.

Three layers of materials.

1. Ground up pencil shavings from an electric pencil sharpener. Don't use the pencils with the bright yellow paint on them as that will show up. Shave off the paint on a couple and run them both through the sharpener and you will have plenty to work with.

I brush Elmer's on each individual shingle and sprinkle on the shavings, press lightly into place and allow to dry. This represents the older dead moss. Brush off the excess when dry.

2. Spray the roof with Aqua Net hairspray and sprinkle on a medium brown Woodland Scenic's fine foam. Lightly press into place. Let dry thoroughly and then lightly brush off the excess. This represents the old growth moss which is still living.

3. Spray the roof again with hair spray and add tiny pinches of brighter green material to represent the new growth moss. Let dry thoroughly and lightly brush off the excess.

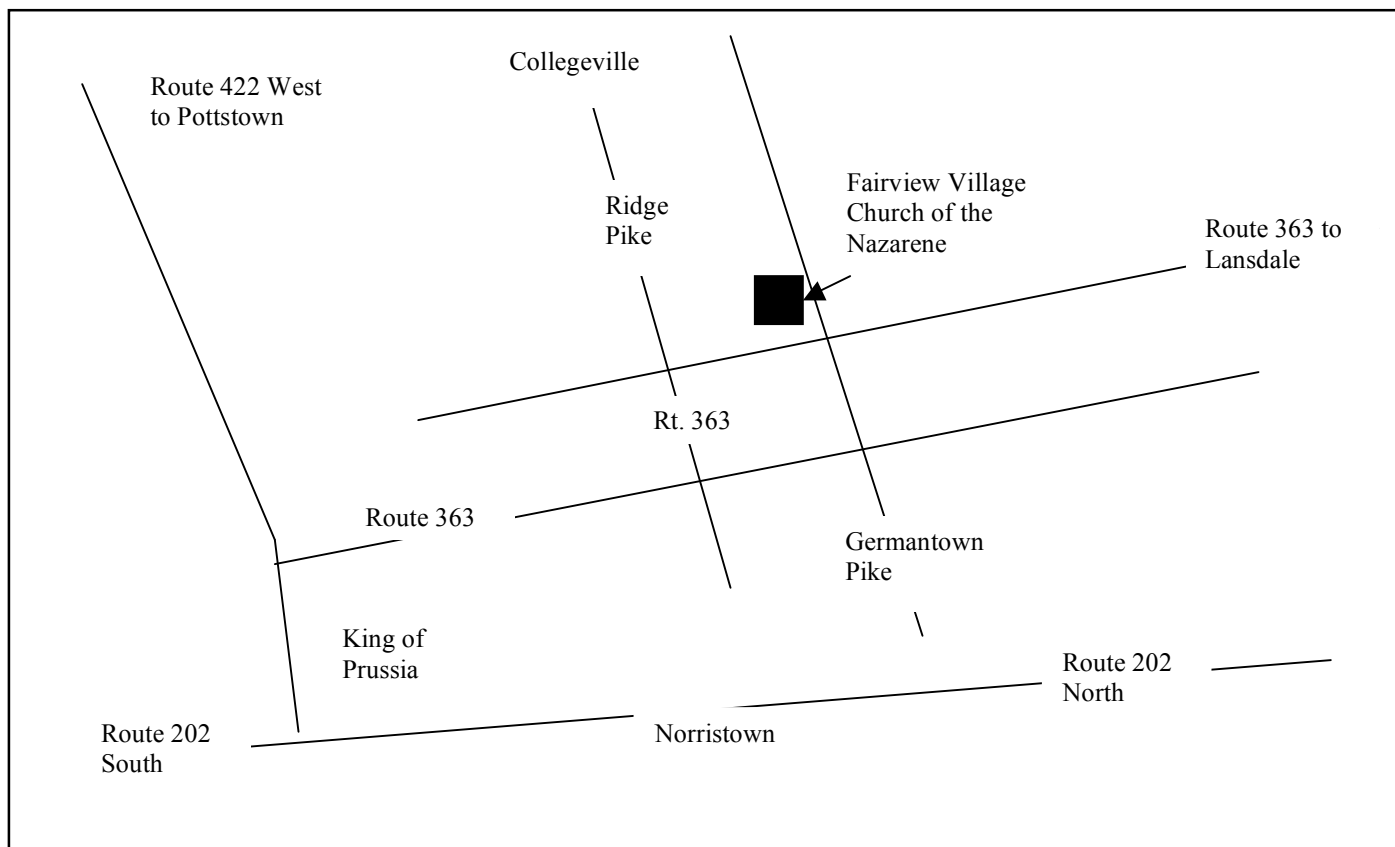
Signs of the times

Ever wonder how to price things for signs on the railroad? Well, here are a few examples from 1945. These are gleaned from magazine circulars from the era. Hope you find them enjoyable!

Roasting chickens 48c lb	Fresh white cauliflower 10c lb
Broilers 48c lb	Iceberg lettuce 15c large head
Chicken pies 35c ea	Pascal celery 25c large bunch
Felber's saltines 20c pkg	Sweet potatoes 33c 3 lbs
Borden's Liederkranz cheese 27c pkg	Super Suds 23c pkg
Armstrong dog meal 49c	Spic and Span 21c pkg
Blue Moon cheese spreads 22c pkg	Medium eggs 61c dz.
Sparkling Canada Dry Water 15c qt	Long grain rice 43c 3 lbs
Spic and Span 23c	White meat tuna fish 30c can
T-bone steak 42c lb	Rum & Brandy fruit cake \$1.98 2 lb tin
Fresh ground hamburger 28c lb	Lobster paste 43c can
Mutton legs 21c lb	Van Camps baked beans 12c jar
Chuck roast 26c lb	Dill pickles 39c qt jar
Hot Dogs 37c lb	John Alden catsup 17c large bottle
Fancy large fowl 42c lb	Cigarettes 35c for 2 packs,
Roasting chickens 48c lb	RINSO, LUX and IVORY FLAKES all 23c large pkg,
Slices American cheese 38c lb	Women's hats \$3.99
Fresh haddock fillets 35c lb	Sweaters \$3.99,
Fresh fish steaks 25c lb	Skirts \$5.99
Sunkist oranges 39c 2 doz.	Handbags \$2.99 to \$4.99 and
Macintosh apples 15c lb	Hosiery 89c. Slips \$1.00
Seedless grapes 15c lb	Men's suits \$16.50, polo shirts 95c,
Bartlett pears 35c 3 lbs	Planter's peanuts 75c 3 lbs,
Alberta peaches 39c 3 lbs	Venetian blinds \$6.96
Large sweet cantaloupes 29c ea	Sears tires \$13.95, inner tubes \$6.00

I'll let it go for now but it's fun looking at these old papers not only for prices but reading the sports, comics, and movie ads. Maybe some time we can discuss making signs using some of this information!

Map to Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene



Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene is located at 3060 Germantown Pike in Fairview Village PA. From the King of Prussia area follow 422 West to Route 363. Follow PA 363 North to Germantown Pike. Turn Left onto Germantown Pike, and the church will be approximately ¼ mile on your Left. Enter at the 2nd driveway and the meeting will be in the building on your Right as soon as you turn in.

Schedules The following information is presented for your convenience

June 14th Philadelphia Division Meet

Fairview Village Church of the Nazarene, 3060 Germantown Pike Fairview Village PA
 Clinics: Line side details and structure show and tell.
 Contest: Off Line structure.
 Layout tours following

July 13 – 19 2008 NMRA National Convention, Anaheim California
www.nmra.org/2008

September 13th Philadelphia Division Meet:

The tentative plan is for a joint meet with the Susquehanna Division at a location to be

determined. Watch the web page and the September issue of the Dispatcher for full details.

September 11 – 14, 2008 Empire Junction
 NER fall convention,
 Syracuse, New York
www.empirejunction.org

October 16 – 19, 2008 Potomac Junction
 MER Fall Convention
 Reston, Virginia
www.home.comcast.net/~Potomac_nmra/mer2008

October 11th & 12th Timonium Train Show
 Great Scale Model Train Show

Timonium MD (410)-730-1036

November 8th Philadelphia Division Meet

Brandywine Town Center Community Building (just off 202 right below PA/DE line) Clinics, contest, layout tours. For more information see the next issue of the Dispatcher.



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46 Meadow Road
Collegetown, PA 19426

Inside: Division Meet
Elections
And More!

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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