



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

November 2008
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The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be holding a joint meeting with the New Jersey Division on Saturday, November 8th at the Brandywine Town Center, located on Route 202 North of Wilmington, Delaware. This location has been our regular site for the last couple of years and is easy to find well suited to our needs. For directions please see page 7 of this issue. The doors will open at 9:00 AM with the meet beginning at 9:30.

There are three clinics scheduled for this meet. The following are being presented for your enjoyment. The first clinic is entitled "We dig coal", and will be presented by Paul Backenstose. Many model railroaders have an interest in (or "dig") coal and coal mines. This program will give you information on coal mines, modeling them more accurately, and modeling the traffic generated by them. Most of this program deals with bituminous coal, although some of the information is also valid for anthracite mining as well.

Following Paul, Kevin Feeney will present the second clinic, which will be a look back at the National Model Railroad Association convention held in

Anaheim, California this past July. Kevin will present an insightful look at the activities of this convention, and it will hopefully encourage you to make the choice to attend future events. Next stop? The Hartford National, July 5th – 11th, 2009.

Our final clinic for the meet will be presented by Earl Hackett, and is entitled "Operation without aggravation". This system, known as the "Car Order System" generates car movements without the use of car numbers, and allows for efficient movement of any number of cars based on industry demand. It is for great for clubs, modular layouts, and very large layouts where set up and keeping track of large numbers of cars can be very frustrating. Want to run a train between sessions? No problem, the system is self healing!

After the meet there will be a number of local model railroads open for your enjoyment. In addition, the model railroad open house schedule has numerous layouts open for you to visit through out the region, so I'm sure you can find something to visit on the way home. There will be maps available for a few selected layouts, but if you want to find your own visit:

www.modelrropenhouse.com. to find what you would like to see.

Our contest for this meet will be "Rail Marine". And, as in the past, there will be snacks and coffee available for you to enjoy for a small donation.

What better way to enjoy National Model Railroad Month than to take part in such a great line up of activities. See you in Delaware!

Philadelphia Division moving ahead with electronic Dispatcher!

At the last Philadelphia Division Board of Directors meeting the board recommitted itself to moving ahead with starting electronic distribution of the Philadelphia Dispatcher. There have been a number of obstacles to overcome, but they are being worked on as we speak. You may soon be contacted by a member of the board to verify your E-mail address. Want to continue receiving paper copies? No problem! This option will remain available for the foreseeable future.

Welcome to National Model Railroad Month! As is the case every year, November is designated as mentioned above by the National Model Railroad Association. What a great time to spread the word about the hobby and how much each of us enjoys its creative pursuits. Hold an open house on your layout, invite a friend to go with you to the November meet or a local open house, you know the drill. There are many ways you can spread the word about this greatest of all hobbies.

But how can we get more folks to come to meets or interested in joining the NMRA? One thing that has always troubled me is why the New Jersey Division can get 60+ members to their meets, but we can't consistently get past around 40.

Tough question, but it may not be as hard as you might think. When was the last time you asked someone to go to a meet? Or when you were there, did you see someone you didn't know? One way to make another person feel welcome and appreciated is to greet them warmly, then ask them about their interests in the hobby. When you are asked, do you have trouble talking about your layout? If you're like most of us I'm sure you can rattle off a number of projects you're working on. And it's always great to have someone to talk to about them.

So next time we have a meet lets all try to invite a guest. And if they aren't a member suggest they try the Rail pass program, you can't beat a 6 month trial membership for only \$9.95. But wait, it gets even better! The Mid Eastern Region is continuing the Free Rail Pass program this year. For details see the September –

October issue of The Local. So get out there and sign someone up today!

Not to switch tracks too quickly, but this is a good time for me to do a little promoting myself (or is that promoting myself, hmmm). Anyway, you are all invited to stop by and see the progress (or lack there of depending on when the last time you were here) on the Susquehanna. Most of the latest work has centered on the Edgewater section of the layout. There are a couple of new barges berthed at the Spencer Kellogg wharf. Hopefully they will be fully lettered and weathered if my friend comes through on the decals (hint hint). Ever try to find 2 3/4 inch long by about 3/8 inch high words saying "Pennsylvania Railroad"?

And if things go really well there may be a new freighter tied up at another pier. Sylvan Scale Models came out with a new resin kit for a Great Lakes lumber hauler. While it isn't exactly right for an ocean going vessel it is the right length and width, and that's what's important.

In case you're interested I'd enjoy having you stop by to see the railroad. I'm open this year on Saturday, November 15th and Sunday the 16th. Both days are from 12:00 until 4:00 PM. For directions and a map go to: <http://modelrropenhouse.com/> and click on November 15th or 16th. A listing of all layouts open those days will pop up. Scroll down to my name and print out the map. Hope to see you there (or here as it were).

Happy Railroading,

Steve Salotti

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Editor

Stephen F. Salotti
46 Meadow Road
Collegeville, Pa, 19426
(610) 489 1940
jmsfca@netzero.com

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: January 2009. Due out approx. Dec. 20th. Deadline: Nov. 30th.

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
J. Gregory Schindledecker
1454 Oakwood Road
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-383-7767

Assistant Superintendent
John Seibert
3915 Township Line Road
Collegeville, PA 19426
610-489-7780

Clerk
Earl Paine
4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473
(610) 831-9466

Treasurer
Brian Good
578 Hawthorne Lane
Harleysville, PA 19438

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 Business 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: \$55.00 per year,

From the Superintendent

Personal interaction. It seems like a missing ingredient from much of life nowadays. We have interactions, but many of them are at an arm's length. We send and receive emails, go to the web to interact with folks on FaceBook and feverishly IM and text people from our computers and phones.

With the fast pace of life, some of these things are necessary and desirable in order to stay in touch. But what about the non-verbal information that we miss by not interacting with someone face to face? What about the enthusiasm that is felt when someone describes a new modeling project or a new addition to his or her layout? What about the reward you feel when someone admires a contest model that just happens to be yours?

Personal interaction – hearing, seeing, expressing feelings – is part of the value of belonging to our Division. At a meeting, you can meet old friends, but also make connections with others who share your interest in a specific prototype or modeling interest. Case in point: I model the Western Maryland Railway. When I moved to Downingtown from Baltimore, I lost out on interactions with many other WM modelers. I feared that I would end up a lone wolf up here in PRR and Reading land. However, I met Paul Backenstose at one of his open houses and quickly discovered that there was a small army of modelers in the area who shared an interest in the “Wild Mary”. Eventually, I met most of them through an introduction at a meeting

or open house – up close and personal. I value each one of these new-found friends.

Are there other benefits of personal interaction? There are the good-natured prods that you might get from a group of friends at a gathering – such as, “Are you done that helix yet?” What a great motivator!

Where am I going with this? The Division can be a catalyst for interaction of all types. Contrary to what some believe, it is not a clique. If you want proof, just look at all the new folks (including me) on the board of directors this year. This year we are making a concerted effort to reach out and invite people – personally – into the great group of Philly Division members. We started last meeting by having everyone wear name tags so that each person could be addressed and associated with a name. This will continue in the future. With Rich Newmiller's enthusiastic leadership, we will also be starting a Member Aid program. Although this program starts via our website, it is meant to have users interact on a personal level after the initial web contact. There will be more information about this program in the near future.

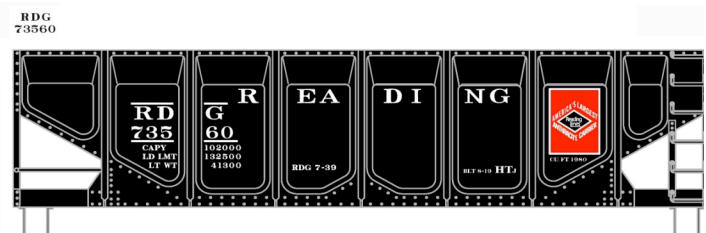
I will finish by extending a warm “welcome” to those who have not attended a Philly Division meeting. Please come see us at the next meeting to see what you're missing!

Greg

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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Those members that attended the meet today, September 20th need read no further. They know what a wonderful 'stew' the new division board prepared for us to enjoy. The division management turns over on a regular basis and each puts it own spin on the meets (full disclosure: I was once the Division Clerk).

First, a thoroughly researched clinic by Fred Monsimer on railroad mileposts. He concluded with tips on modeling and how to place them on a home layout, at the club and on modules. Dick Landt followed with a simple and instructive introduction to hand laying track. He spent many hours preparing five stations in the back of the clinic room and encouraged each to give it a try. All of the tools were available and even I gave this a shot, producing six inches of decent straight track. It is not that hard!

The afternoon was visits to four diverse model railroads - I will share one nugget from each -- you will want to visit these when the owners open up again. Jim Maurer built a railroad station in his backyard for his beautiful trolley models under working overhead trolley wire. Don Borden is modeling vast swaths of the Santa Fe on three, four or more layers (just

amazing). Nick Brownsberger hand lays complex track work into and out of his Enola hump yard. Roger Caines is building a forced perspective city with museum quality buildings. All are running DCC! Each was amazing and motivating -- thanks to all four that opened their houses to us.

So many options on a beautiful Saturday, but if you missed this, you passed on a real winning combination.

Regards,

Eric Dervinis



NYS&W Doodlebug 3001

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 NMRA

Member Aid Program/Layout Data Proposal

- Premise:** Model Railroading is fun but it can sometimes be frustrating and disappointing. Knowing where and how to start is challenging.
- Problem:** Selecting the right layout plan, materials, equipment, tools, developing specific construction techniques and maintaining operations is often very difficult.
- Solution:** Communicate with your fellow modelers, ask for help and utilize their experience and expertise.
- How:** Use and/or join the Member Aid Program/Layout Data base
- Benefits:** Access to fellow modelers who are proud to share their accomplishments and willing to offer advice.
- Assumption:** The majority of our membership will want to support and/or use this resource to enhance their modeling skills and enjoyment of the hobby.

Q&A

Q: Who can join? A: Only current Philadelphia Division members.

Q: How do I join? There are two options to fill out the questioner. One is to go the web site and download a text file. E-mail the completed questioner to Rich Newmiller at: Pdavid28@aol.com. The second is to complete a hard copy and bring it to one of the division meets or send it via US Mail to Rich Newmiller, 3276 Pebblewood Lane, Dresher, PA 19025.

Q: there seems to be two options to join? What are they? A: Member Aid - you can join as a member who is willing to be contacted by other members with questions regarding any of the areas of expertise you have chosen (Section 1 on the questioner). And/or Member Profile Data - you can have your layout data (and photographs) listed on the web site (Section 2 on the questioner), and answer general inquiries from other members.

Q: How do I access the information? A: Go to the Division web site at www.phillynmra.org and click on the Member Aid link.

Q: Who will be able to view my data? A: Since the data base will be hosted by our web site, anyone with internet access may view the information. We recommend only e-mail as the point of contact.

Q: Will you post a picture? A: We will post a picture(s) of the layout and a Board member(s) would be willing to visit your layout and take some photographs if you do not have any available.

Q: Who will control the data? A: Your Board will control the data and may edit the information if it is deemed inappropriate.

Q: How do I get my railroad listed in the data base? A: Submit a completed layout data questioner with a digital photograph (optional) or contact a board member to complete the questioner over the phone or schedule a personal visit.

Q: What if I do not have internet access? A: Use the computer resources at your local library or ask a member with internet access to assist you.

A couple of photos that didn't fit last issue

In the September issue on my journey to Russia there was not enough room for all I wanted to include. The following two photos show the roundhouse and turntable where I believe the two steam locomotives are stored. At the time there was a work crew doing structural repairs to the roof. In the first photo notice the enclosed water tower in the background. They are probably enclosed to keep the water from freezing in the frigid Russian winters, as was done in colder climates everywhere. Also out of view is a very old building which I would guess to be the yard office..



Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

Join the NMRA for 6 months for just \$9.95*!

Sign me up!

Fill out this form and include your payment. **U.S.:** Send \$9.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-Rail Pass Membership, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119. **Canada:** Send \$9.95 (Cdn) to NMRA-Canadian Rail Pass Membership, 69 Schroder Cres., Guelph, ON N1E 7B4, Canada.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

☐ Check

☐ Credit card

Credit Card # _____

Credit Card Exp _____

Signature _____

*Rail Pass offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

- ◆ Have easy access to one of the world's largest railroad libraries...which includes over 100,000 prototype photos, 6,000 books, and over 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical society magazines
- ◆ Experience the fellowship and fun of getting modeling help and discussing the hobby with other members in your area
- ◆ Receive reduced rates on special insurance for your layout or collection
- ◆ Get admission to local model railroad meetings & events
- ◆ Receive 6 monthly issues of *Scale Rails* magazine
- ◆ Have access to standards info and data sheets
- ◆ Be a part of programs like "Modeling With The Masters," the Pike Registry, Estate Counseling, contests, clinics, the Achievement Program and more!

Also available in Canada!



Visit www.nmra.org to see what you're missing!

**So much bang.
So few bucks.**

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 a 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 8th Joint Philadelphia and New Jersey Division Meet:

Brandywine Town Center Community Building (just off 202 right below PA/DE line) Clinics, 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 29 – 30, 2008

January 3 – 4, 10 – 11, 2009

January 17 – 18, 2009 (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 6 & 7 2008, January 10, 11, 24, & 25 and March 7 & 8 2009. 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:
November 29 & 30

December 27 & 28

January, 2009: 10, 11, 24 & 25

February: 21 & 22

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

January 17th 2009, New Jersey Division Meet:

Haddon Twp. Division Meet

Layouts Fri: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Clinics: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Layouts Sat: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

July 5-11, 2009

NMRA National Convention

Hartford, CT - Details:

www.hn2009.org

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Inside: Division Meet
 Member Aide
 Division Car

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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 Bromall
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