



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

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Once again the Philadelphia Division is planning to cross the Delaware River and join with the New Jersey Division to hold a joint meet. The meet will be held on January 17th at the Haddon Township High School in Haddon Township, New Jersey. For directions and a map please see page 5 of this issue of the Dispatcher. Doors will open at 8:30 with the meet and the clinics will start at 9:00 AM and running until 12:00 PM.

The clinics for this meet should provide something of interest for all. From the New Jersey side of the river there will be 2 clinics. One is a photographic look at locomotives of the 1970's with a primary focus on eastern roads. This was a time of great variety in motive power as opposed to today's rather uniform appearance.

The second clinic will be using commercial back drops to enhance our layouts. Not many of us are artists, so finding ways to increase the visual effectiveness of our railroads can be difficult. This clinic will help you do just that.

From the Philadelphia Division member Rich Newmiller will be presenting a clinic entitled "Modeling a Granite Quarry". Based on an operating granite

quarry in Barre, Vermont that was photographed in 1995, the author attempts to build a realistic looking quarry model that also doubles as a removable access hatch for layout maintenance. Techniques for reproducing distinctive features such as stone surface textures and drilling marks, derricks, hoist houses, scratch built equipment and weathering will be described through a series of detailed construction photographs.

With these clinics it should be easy for you to find something to enhance your modeling efforts and rewards. Take the time now to plan to join us at the Haddon Township High School.

The contest for this meet will be weathered steam locomotive. Look over your roster and bring your best work to show off.

The New Jersey Division will have layout tours on both Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Maps for the Saturday tours will be available at the meet. To take part in the Friday night tours, type the following link into your browser, click on the "Resources" tab in the upper right corner, and then go to Latest Issue of their newsletter in the Clinkers section. www.njdivnmra.org

Swap Tables are available at the Meet for free with a previous reservation and a donation to the door prizes. At the door requests for tables will cost \$10.00 and a donation to the door prizes. Contact their **Vice-President** via e-mail for more information (go to the web site listed and follow the links to the contact information).

Persons requesting swap tables are encouraged to bring their own table if at all possible. We unfortunately cannot guarantee that an actual table may be available at the Meet itself, as we do not control the resources at all Meet locations. This is rarely a problem, but by bringing your own table, you'll be assured of a having a place to display your items.

Sustenance for your journey across the river will be available at the meet for a small donation.

See you in New Jersey!



In case no one has said it to you yet (which I highly doubt), Happy New Year! Have you made any resolutions this year? And most importantly, are you still keeping them? Do any relate to our hobby?

If the truth could be told, I've made one that actually started back in November. This is going to be the year I finally get serious about working towards my Master Model Railroader certificate. After many years of thinking about it and saying "maybe someday" I took the first step of contacting our local coordinator, Dave Messer MMR, and started working on the paper work.

The first piece to be judged was a Fine Scale Miniatures kit I built for a friend who lives in New York City. Knowing the structure would not be here for long was a great motivator to pick up the phone and make the call. I know it isn't scratch built, but it is super detailed so it can qualify for the certificate. But there will need to be a few more models built to be judged, and having the kit and a deadline was a great motivator to actually finish a model completely (I can't count the number of half finished projects I have laying around).

Which, in a convoluted round about way is helping me to keep another of my resolutions (which my friends in local hobby shops may not like) to not over spend on the hobby this year. To be sure there are a lot of great kits and other things out there to buy, but with the new found direction I need to start planning ahead towards the next project for the Structures certificate. Which by the way does indicate the need to scratch build a few structures, and since, as most of us do, there

are a lot of odds and ends of windows, doors, siding, etc. laying around in my storage drawers that could be the basis for some interesting projects. How about that, this can even help me to reach another of my resolutions: cut down the amount of junk lying around the house (read work bench)! Not too bad for a way to have fun.

Another step in the process was to look around and see which of my projects would be easiest to complete or are already done and still could be counted towards a certificate. After a look around it dawned on me, why not complete the Chief Dispatchers certificate. I've been operating on my railroad and several others in the area for over 15 years (who's counting?). A quick look at the NMRA web site gave me the information I needed. So after drawing a new schematic for the railroad (which was sorely needed anyway), drawing a line chart to show the first class trains listed in my timetable, writing up a brief description of the forms and procedures we use during an operating session and documenting some of the time I had put in doing several different jobs on the railroad it was time to make the application. By the time you read this I should have earned the Dispatchers Certificate!

Looks like things are moving ahead this year, and it's still early. So what's next on the list? I'm not sure right now, but hopefully before too long I'll be able to add another certificate or two to the wall. Are you ready to start? How about a new resolution for this us year: another MMR or two for the Philadelphia Division.

Steve Salotti

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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 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 09. Due out approx. February 28th. Deadline: February 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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Dues: \$55.00 per year,

From the Superintendent

New Year's resolutions. Is there anyone who actually succeeds in fulfilling one of these during the year? We all make them – either out loud or just in our minds – but are they reflective of what we really wish to accomplish or are they just pipe dreams?

I'm sure all of us building a layout have resolved to spend more time on it in the coming year. I know I have. This is certainly an admirable goal. An achievable goal. Please notice that I resolved to spend more time on the layout, not resolving to complete it. Although I'd love to complete the layout (and that is a long-term goal), I want to accomplish something else at the same time. That something else is enjoyment – of the hobby, of loved ones, and of other hobbies too.

Most of us have other interests outside of model railroading (yes, I hate to admit it, but its true). Setting goals too high to achieve in a reasonable time, or setting goals requiring the exclusion of all else is just a recipe for misery. Your task list will rule your life and everything outside of “the list” will be shortchanged. Enjoyment of the hobby means achieving realistic goals and milestones. Be mindful to set them so that you can enjoy all life has to bring in the New Year.

I wish everyone on the Division a Happy and a wonderful 2009!

Greg Shindledecker
Superintendent

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.



Modeling Stock yards

Anybody out there ever try to model a stock yard? I'm pretty sure none of us want to model the smell, but on the Susquehanna there were 2 companies that received stock cars in my era (1949), so I'm going to have to model at least one of them. Here are a few of the ideas I've gathered from the internet. I'd love to hear of any others of you might have.

One idea is to use peat moss and screen it to get rid of the big chunks. It is held in place the same way you glue down you ballast. Another idea I heard was to use coffee grounds. This would be an easy one for me since I work in food service. I might get some strange looks from my staff, but it's free and I'm already using old tea leaves for ground cover. It is held in place the same way as mentioned before.

Another idea is decomposed granite. I'm not familiar with it but it is available at nursery yards. If it's less than a 500 lb bag I may give it a try.

Now the next thing to try is cow pies, or in my case pig or sheep pies. I grew up in farm country so I know how they smell. Rest assured when you visit the railroad next time there won't be any out of the ordinary odors.

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: _____

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Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

NMRA #: _____ MER #: _____ Div. #: _____

Subscription: \$7.00 per year. Please mail to the Clerk or bring to the next meeting.

Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

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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.

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*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
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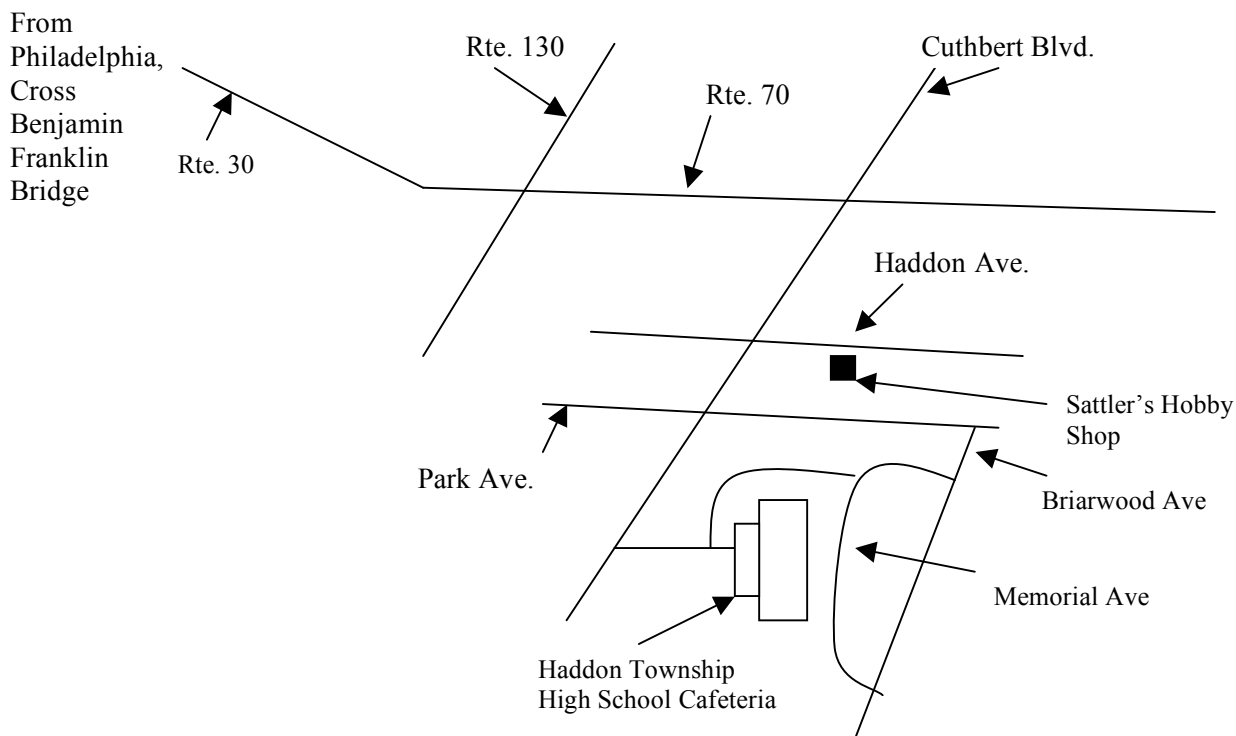
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Map to Haddon Township Division Meet



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 ¼ 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 16th & 17th, 2005 Haddon Twp. area. Clinics 9 – 12 Saturday, layout tours Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Contest: Detailed and weathered steam locomotive

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 10th, 11th, 24th & 25th, March 7th & 8th, 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 3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th 2009, 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 24th & 25th, and February 7th & 8th 2009. 10:00AM – 4:00 PM \$3.00 Donation. Information: Nicky Caccavo, 8 Forrest Drive, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (215) 514 6591

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Inside: Division Meet
 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.

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

60 S. 6th St. in Reading
10% discount with \$10 min purchase

Herb's Hobbies and Crafts

200 W. State St. in Doylestown
\$25 of free merchandise for every \$250 spent

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail

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