



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

April 2009  
Volume 16, Number 2

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce their next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Montgomery Baptist Church, located at 510 Bethlehem Pike between Colmar and Montgomeryville PA. For directions and a map please see page 7 of this issue of the Dispatcher. The doors will open at 8:30 with the meet starting at 9:00 and running to approximately 12:00 PM.

There will be two clinics presented at the meet. The first will be presented by John Seibert, and is entitled "Weathering Transition Era Freight Cars with Weathering Chalks". John will show how easy, expeditious, economical and effective it is to do realistic weathering with this media. He will demonstrate some of the techniques he has developed in weathering over 70 N-scale cars with this method. The presentation will also show general weathering patterns for prototype transition era cars. Giving cars an appropriate level of weathering is one of the easiest ways to improve the overall appearance of your railroad.

The second clinic will be presented by Jim Schweitzer, and is called "Hands-on Timetable and Train Order 101". This clinic is an introduction to what Timetable & Train Order (TT&TO) operations are all about. It starts with a little

history, some examples for practical applications on our model railroads, and an overview of the basic rules. Some common situations that occur on both prototype and model railroads will be outlined. The bulk of the clinic will be hands-on practice in using basic TT&TO rules to operate a simple territory by breaking up into small groups to walk through sample operating scenarios. No dull rules class here, just an opportunity to get your feet wet in another enjoyable facet of this great hobby. Jim will be presenting this clinic at the Hartford National convention in July of this year.

At the conclusion of the meet there will be several railroads open for you to visit. We have not gone to this area very often so many of the layouts will be new or not frequently visited by our group. As always, you are a guest in someone's home so please show courtesy to our hosts and express your appreciation for them being open.

The popular vote contest for the meet will be weathered cars. These can be either freight or passenger, and any scale. Bring some of your efforts and share them with the group. Who knows, you may get some ideas to improve them too!

Coffee and donuts will be available during the meet, and there is a number of food outlets

scattered along the Route 309 corridor for your lunch. Mark your calendars and we'll see you on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

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## Painting Brick walls

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One method of painting brick walls is to work from dark to light. Start by spraying whatever brick material that you are working on with an inexpensive flat black. This helps you to have a standardized beginning and seals the material. Then wash in the mortar color (such as Doctor Ben's Aged Driftwood, gray paint or whatever you like). Once the mortar color paint is dry, add a dry brush coat of the base color of the bricks. There are a lot of colors available but one popular line is the Badger airbrush paints, which offer lots of colors, and not just railroad colors.

Once this is dry, come back with Sharpie permanent medium tip markers and scribble all over the brick faces, focusing darker under window sills for shadow and lighter colors for highlights. When you're satisfied that you have a diverse looking brick face, turn the structure upside down & spray or add a wash of aging material such as Doctor Ben's Instant Age or an alcohol and India ink mix all over the area and allow to dry.

Did you ever take a long pipe, and putting your mouth against it, try to talk? Did you notice the hollow distant sound your voice makes? That can sometimes be the way it feels to write a newsletter such as the Dispatcher. Is there anyone there? Can you hear me? How's life in your neck of the woods?

Speaking of life, how is the current economic downturn (is it just a recession or is it a depression now, maybe it depends if it's hurting you or your neighbor) affecting your hobby? I know I'm cutting back a little. But then again, it can also be an opportunity for you to spend a little more time on each model. Maybe it could be termed delayed gratification, or another way to look at could be cost per hour of enjoyment. Here are a couple of the current projects on my own railroad.

As you're probably tired of hearing about by now you know I'm working on Edgewater most of the time. As I was looking over the area and trying to figure out what to work on next, a thought came to me about the mix and volume of cars I wanted to go there during an operating session. On the real Susquehanna they ran repeated transfers each day and had switch crews on duty 3 shifts per day. Now I know my model is no where near the size of the prototype, but I want to see between 12 and 20 cars going there each session. That should keep a crew more than busy for an hour or more. And with the type of industries there it would mean tank cars, lots of them. On my roster there are probably about 12 in total. Clearly there aren't enough to come even close to the volume I want.

A quick perusal of the Walthers catalog and the internet confirmed what I feared: there just aren't many tank car kits out there anymore. Sure, some of the manufactures have tank cars, but they are almost all limited run and assembled. And if you don't get them while they are available, you're out of luck!

One kit I did find is the Intermountain 8,000 and 10,000 gallon kit, both undecorated, and only available by ordering them from the company. OK, now what? After some thought, I bit the bullet and ordered several of them.

The next search was for decals. Good news! I came across a number of suitable sets from Microscale for the Barret division of General Chemical, which had a large plant in Edgewater. An order was placed and the sets arrived soon after.

Now for the point of this little ramble. The car kits cost me about \$12.00 each, the paint will be around \$4.00, and the decals under \$3.00, for a total of about \$19.00 per car (there will be a total of 4 tank cars added to the roster). My guess is it will take about 1 hour to assemble each car. Then about another hour and a half to paint, figuring there will be a trip to the booth for the base coat, one for the gloss coat, then after the decals another trip for the flat finish, then finally, weathering. Add in ½ hour for decaling, and the total time is about 3 hours. Now at \$19.00 divided by 3 hours we get a cost of \$6.33 per hour of enjoyment, not bad entertainment for tough economic times!

Happy Railroading

Steve

## THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the  
Philadelphia Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region,  
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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 2009. Due out approx. May 20. Deadline: May 10.

**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: \$58.00 per year,

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## From the Superintendent

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New media. Is the printed page doomed to become history? Nowadays, everything seems to be “on-line” or electronically available. Does this mean we all need a computer science degree to get what used to come in the mail and be so easy to open and read? Personally, I don’t think so; however, there are some real advantages to being open to new forms of information. Over the next few Dispatchers I will discuss some of these new kinds of media and what they can do to make our modeling experience more robust. These will include on-line hobby magazines, pod casts, videos, pdfs, and other web-based sources of information.

Let’s start our examination with several forms of two-way communications. The merits of email are well known – group discussions, attachments, and essentially a written transcript of the communication are all able to be accomplished at the speed of the Internet. Computer forums and bulletin boards are just a slightly different form of email, and serve to provide a method for obtaining instant help from groups that collectively contain a large body of knowledge. Some good examples of popular forums are those found at sites like

[www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com), [www.trainboard.com](http://www.trainboard.com), and [www.railserve.com](http://www.railserve.com). Many of us are familiar with the groups found on Yahoo ([groups.yahoo.com](http://groups.yahoo.com)). Here, you can find discussion groups for specific railroads and particular interests such as operations or layout design.

On-line versions of newsletters provide a faster means of delivery at a lower cost and, in some cases, at a higher quality. Publishing a newsletter electronically means that the editor can include color, which may be cost-prohibitive in a printed one. He or she can also opt to provide increased content (more pages) with no additional cost for paper or postage. I am hoping that we can provide an eDispatcher in the near future. To that end, we are actively collecting email addresses for this purpose. If you have not given yours to our Division Clerk, Earl Paine, please do so.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our next division meet.

Greg Shindledecker  
Division Superintendent

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## New Division Car Project!

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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.



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## Quick Project

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Here’s a little picture of a model I picked up off the internet. Doesn’t look too hard to copy, and I’m sure it would look great on a period model railroad in good condition, or weathered and rusted sitting forlorn in the corner of a garage back lot. There are a number of manufacturers who produce truck kits that would be a good starting point. This one looks like a plastic kit to me, the detail is crisp and the tires look sharp. Any takers?



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## ERIC DERVINIS RUNNING FOR NMRA PRESIDENT

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Hello, Philadelphia Division members from this long time local volunteer and candidate for NMRA President. The ballot will be printed in the March 2009 Scale Rails. I am running alongside my friend from the Pacific Coast Region. Ray deBlieck for Vice President. We worked together as members of the NMRA board, chaired separate Regional conventions and held many other positions. In one of my last assignments, I chaired the national committee putting together the long range plan. Progress towards the objectives has been slow, and with your vote, we can speed the implementation of the long term goals.

My volunteer record goes back twenty years. In 1989, I joined the Valley Forge Express (1993) committee as the Clerk of the convention. From 1994 to 1996, I worked as Clerk / Paymaster for the Philadelphia Division and held the national position of Assistant Secretary NMRA. In the elections of 1996, I won a position on the MER board, serving as Secretary until 2000. Monroe Stewart stepped

down as Trustee that year, and I served as Trustee for the next four years.

My business experience includes sales, management and training. My model railroad interests are in operations, the Lackawanna RR and prototype research. I have earned certificates in Model Railroad Author, Association Official, Association Volunteer and Chief Dispatcher (in progress).

Eric and Ray stand for:

- Balanced budgets and frugal spending of your dues dollars
- Restoring Divisions, SIGs and Regions as the cornerstone of the organization
- Contemporary web resources - blogs, videos and the best current tools
- Lower cost conventions - those that worked on IJ 2006 know we can do more for less
- New thinking

Please visit our web site for more information: [www.ericandray.org](http://www.ericandray.org) and remember to vote for the team, when your ballot arrives in March. Thanks for your vote!

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## Member Aid Program

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Last fall your Board of Directors approved a new initiative called the Member Aid Program. The goal of this program is to provide the membership access to fellow modelers who are proud to share their accomplishments and willing to offer modeling advice. The first issue of the Member Aid Index is included in this month's Dispatcher. So far, 11 members have presented their profiles and areas of expertise. Let's take a closer look at the information. Their scales include N, HO and S; the eras range from 1876 to 2005; 3 layouts are freelanded and the other 8 are based on the prototype; the size ranges from 11'x14' to a club layout which is 40'x60'; the percent complete ranges from just starting construction to 100% complete; and 6 layouts have photographs published or linked on the Division web site. This profile information is just a brief snapshot of the layouts. Each of the layout owner's detailed data is also listed on our web site for your viewing.

In addition to the profile data, each of the layout owners is willing to share their individual areas of expertise with the membership. As you can see per the Index, this resource is rather extensive with 18 all-inclusive topics ranging from Layout Planning to Historical Research. As an example, 8 members will share information regarding Bench work, 6 members regarding Cars and 5 members regarding Digital Command Control (DCC). You are invited to contact the owners directly via their listed e-mail address. If the question is simple, a reply e-mail may suffice. For more complicated inquiries, you may want to speak to them at

one of our Division meets and/or view their layout during the scheduled after meet open house tours.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can still have your layout profile published and/or ask questions. Just send me a letter with your name, address, phone number and your specific request and I will act as a conduit to help you.

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# Philadelphia Division, NMRA - Member Aid Index

Updated: 3/12/09

Name	Member profile - willing to answer general inquiries						Areas of expertise Members are willing to share																	
	Scale	Era	Prototype	Size	Track/ scenery/ structures (% complete)	Photos posted	Layout planning	Bench work	Track work	Electrical	Engines	Cars	Backdrop	Plaster rocks	Trees/shrubs	Ground cover	Water effects	Structures	DCC	Operations	Scratchbuilding	Photography	Modules	Historical Research
Black, Jonathan <a href="mailto:PA.NY.CRCO@comcast.net">PA.NY.CRCO@comcast.net</a>	HO	Fall 1876	PA & NY/ Lehigh & Susq.	12' x 16'	100-100-100	Pending	X	X	X	X				X				X			X			X
Deiningner, Stephen <a href="mailto:sedeiningner@comcast.net">sedeiningner@comcast.net</a>	HO	2005	Susq. & Del. (freelanced)	31' x 41'	40 - 5 - 5	No	X			X									X	X				
Good, Brian <a href="mailto:b3good@comcast.net">b3good@comcast.net</a>	HO	1940's	PRR & Reading	27' x 11'	15- 0 - 0	Pending	X	X				X		X										
Messer, Dave <a href="mailto:dmesserprr@comcast.net">dmesserprr@comcast.net</a>	HO	1950's	PRR takeover of L&HR	15' x 30'	100-100-100	<a href="http://www.phillynmra.org">www.phillynmra.org</a>	X					X			X	X		X			X			X
New miller, Rich <a href="mailto:Pdaid28@aol.com">Pdaid28@aol.com</a>	HO	1964	PRR (freelanced)	11' x 14'	95 - 55 - 35	<a href="http://www.phillynmra.org">www.phillynmra.org</a>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Paine, Earl <a href="mailto:earlpaine@verizon.net">earlpaine@verizon.net</a>	HO	1966 to 1976	Reading w ith some Pennsy	38' x 42'	90 - 5 - 5	Pending	X	X	X	X									X					
Pistilli, Val (club + home) <a href="mailto:vpistilli@verizon.net">vpistilli@verizon.net</a>	HO/S	Early '50s	PRR, Reading	40' x 60'	95 - 85 - 85	<a href="http://www.gatsme.org">www.gatsme.org</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X		X	X	
Salotti, Steve <a href="mailto:jmsfca@netzero.com">jmsfca@netzero.com</a>	HO	1949	New York Susquehanna & Western	25' x 45'	98-90-85	<a href="http://www.phillynmra.org">www.phillynmra.org</a>	X	X	X	X		X				X	X			X				
Seibert, John via: <a href="mailto:Pdaid@aol.com">Pdaid@aol.com</a>	N	Late 50's	Reading: Wilm - ington & North- ern branch	16' x 20'	25 - 0 - 0	Pending	X								X	X			X					
Shindledecker, Greg <a href="mailto:gshindledecker@gmail.com">gshindledecker@gmail.com</a>	HO	mid 1970's	Western Maryland	50' x 30'	10 - 0 - 0	<a href="http://www.shindledecker.com">www.shindledecker.com</a>	X	X		X	X	X												
Siefert, Karl (club layout) <a href="mailto:ksiefert@comcast.net">ksiefert@comcast.net</a>	HO	Trans- ition	Penn Falls RR (freelanced)	28' x 58'	100-100-100	<a href="http://www.cheltenhamhillsmrr.org">www.cheltenhamhillsmrr.org</a>		X		X	X	X						X	X					



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## The contests at Hartford National

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Going to Hartford this summer? With the convention so close geographically I hope many of you will plan to attend. The convention committee is working hard to reinvigorate contest participation. Check out their web site for more information and start planning now to attend!

**CELEBRATE  
MODELS, PHOTOS, & CRAFTS  
AT THE  
NMRA'S HARTFORD NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**TRY YOUR HAND  
AT THE NEW "KIT-  
BUILT" MODEL CONTEST**

**BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE...**

**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES  
IN THE "PEOPLE'S  
CHOICE AWARDS"**

**CHECK US OUT AT:  
WWW.NMRA.ORG  
WWW.HN2009.ORG**

**MEET & GREET FELLOW  
MODELERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS,  
AND CRAFTERS**

**SHOW & TELL YOUR  
LATEST EFFORTS IN THE  
"MODEL SHOWCASE"**

**PLUS ALL THE STANDARD CONTEST EVENTS!**

MODELING, PHOTO & AD BY TONY BUCCA

NMRA 2009  
**National Model  
Railroad Association  
Hartford National  
Convention**  
www.hn2009.org

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## Building a Railroad Navy

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If you have followed this newsletter for very long you probably have a pretty good idea about what I model, the New York, Susquehanna & Western in 1949. You probably also know the Susquehanna served a water edge terminal across the river from Manhattan, New York City appropriately named Edgewater. This small parcel of land was often referred to as one of the most heavily industrialized areas in the State of New Jersey, including such notable companies as Ford Motor Co., Allied Chemical & Dye, Archers Daniel Midland, Lever Brothers, Hills Brothers Coffee and more. In addition there were numerous lesser known but no less important concerns such as Spencer Kellogg & Sons which manufactured products used by companies world wide. This intense concentration of industrial power generated many revenue loads for the Susquehanna. At the same time

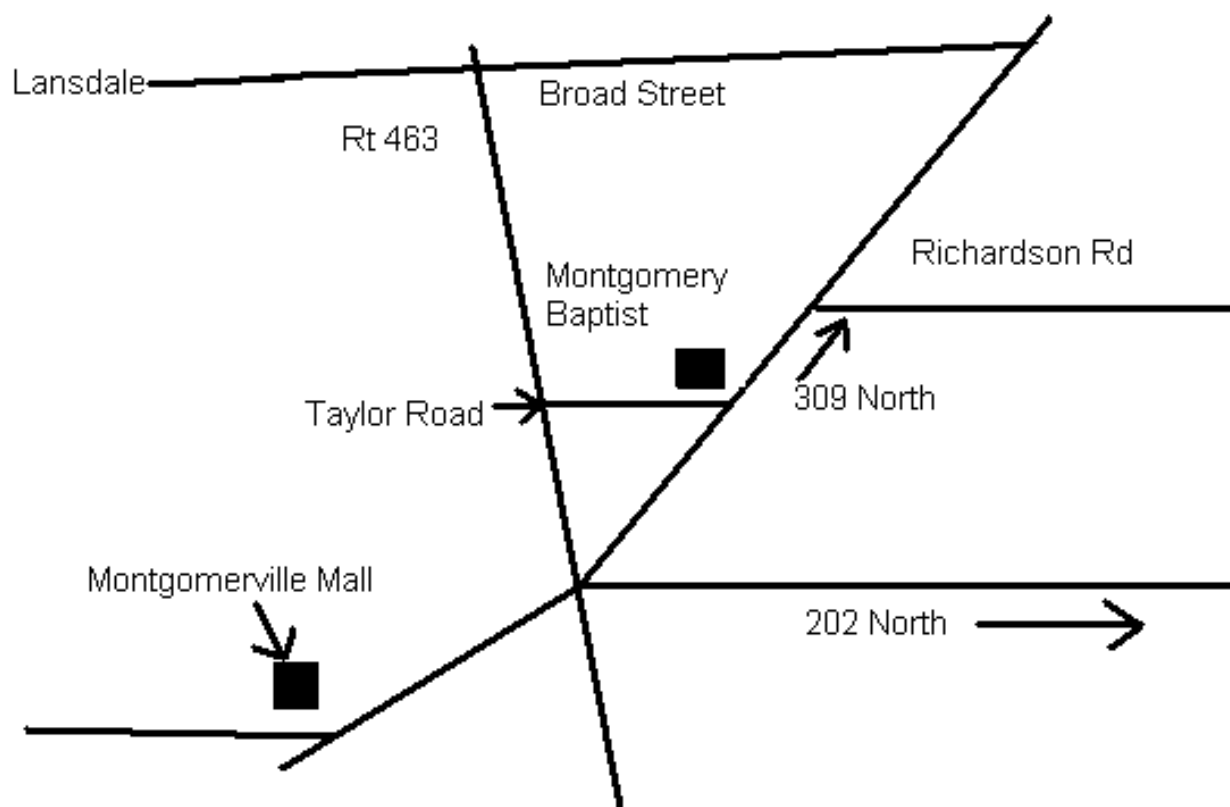
it also involved the use of many different types of water vessels, and if the truth were to be known, if I didn't do model railroads I would most likely build ship models. What a way to have the best of both worlds!

As Edgewater has developed, the need for various ships, tugs and barges has arisen. The first such adventure was with a forgotten model companies North Sea fishing vessel. The scale is 1:140 so most of the superstructure and other parts are too small, but the hull has a nice shape and with a few fittings and modifications it looked like it would do nicely. Unfortunately, just as this project was getting underway (the hull was cut to a water line model and a new deck was formed) interest in this project waned. Thus it still sits for now unfinished in Edgewater harbor, but more on this later. (To be continued)

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## Map to Montgomery Baptist Church

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Montgomery Baptist Church is located at 510 Bethlehem Pike (Route 309) between the towns of Montgomeryville and Colmar. From Montgomeryville, go North on Route 309 to the intersection of Taylor Road. The church will be just past the intersection on the left side of Route 309. Coming from Colmar, follow Route 309 South and watch for the church on your right.

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**Schedules:** The following information is presented for your convenience

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**April 25<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia Division Meet:**

**Montgomery Baptist Church**

Rte. 309 and Taylor Rd.

Montgomeryville, PA

Clinics, contest, layout tours

See page 1 of this issue of the Dispatcher for more information.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Division Meet:**

**Buena Township Municipal Building**

890 Harding Way

Buena, NJ

Clinics, contest, layout tours. For more information see the New Jersey Division web site at: [www.njdivnmra.org](http://www.njdivnmra.org)

**June 13<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia Division Meet:**

**GATSME Model Railroad Club**

Prospect & Madison Avenue

Fort Washington, PA

Clinics: Special Guest speaker:

John Teichmoller; Rail marine

modeling and more

Contest: Tank cars

Layout tours

**September 26<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia & Susquehanna Divisions joint meet.**

**Central Presbyterian Church  
Downingtown, PA**

Clinics, layout tours.

Contest: Mini Scene

**November: Philadelphia Division Meet**

Brandywine Town Center  
Community Building (just off 202  
right below PA/DE line) Clinics,  
contest, layout tours.



# The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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of the National Model Railroad Association

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46 Meadow Road  
**Collegeville, PA 19426**

Inside:     Division Meet  
              Hartford National  
              Railroad Navy

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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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