



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

November 2009  
Volume 16, Number 5

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be holding our next meeting on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Brandywine Town Center, located on Route 202 North of Wilmington, Delaware. This location has been our regular meet location for the last couple of years and is easy to find and 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 two clinics scheduled for your enjoyment and education at this meet.

- “Red Rosin Paper Scenery” will be presented by Paul Cappellonni. This scenery method was made popular by Howard Zane in an article in Model Railroader a number of years ago. Paul has used it extensively on his DL&W based railroad. There will be a power point presentation plus a mock up to show how easy it is to use. In addition, Paul will demonstrate the Noch Grassmaster and the great scenery results that can be achieved with it.
- Earl Hackett will be presenting “Casting in Plaster and Epoxy”. This clinic will take you through the entire process from creating a pattern, making the molds and the final molding process. He will include a discussion of making one, two and three piece molds and the great parts you can cast to improve your modeling skills.

After the meet there will be a number of local model railroads open for your enjoyment. These railroads are gleamed from the model railroad open house schedule. There will be maps available for a few selected layouts, but if you want to find your own to see visit: [www.modelrropenhouse.com](http://www.modelrropenhouse.com). to find the ones you would like to see.

Our contest for this meet will be “Reefers”. 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 was pleased to announce that almost 200 copies of The Dispatcher were distributed with no returns! The board will be moving ahead with expanding the number of electronic copies distributed. One of the greatest benefits of this process (besides cost reduction) is the color pictures! The cost of printing in color is just too high, but electronically it doesn't cost one cent more. 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.

## In Memoriam: Robert J. Beebe June 25, 1928 – August 7, 2009.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce Bob Beebe's passing. Bob loved model railroading, woodworking, gardening and his family. He served the Philadelphia Division as Superintendent during the '80s and in other capacities over many years. I remember him from my earliest involvement with the division. He was always gracious and friendly and willing to lend a hand. Our sincere condolences to his family.

All too soon we have come around again to the month of November, which you all know by now is National Model Railroad Month. Now that's not a bad thing, but why does it seem that life fly by so fast?

Has there been any progress on your railroad this year? For me the process has been painfully slow. There just isn't enough time to get any major projects done. But how about a few small ones instead?

As I was looking around the railroad the other day I looked behind where I was sitting at the pile of boxes of partially completed projects that I like to keep near the work bench for those times when I just have a few minutes to work. It kind of stunned me to realize how many little things were there to do. There are several half finished truck kits (this one needs decals, that one needs a few more details, this one needs a paint job that I just haven't decided the colors for). Then there are the three car kits that need to be finished (repair a botched paint job on one, and add those last few details and get them painted and decaled for the other two).

And then there are the structure kits. Several of them need some kind of interior detail such as an appropriate photograph to put in the window to give the appearance of being occupied. Others need paint and weathering. And some just need to have a few details added and get their place on the railroad ready.

It's amazing how fast the back log can pile up! And often it's those little details that stall progress. I have this one building that is almost ready to go into Paterson. The problem is finding enough good photos of building

interiors to fill all those store fronts. And once the building is installed there's no way anything else can be done to it. So what do you do? That's right, it just sits there waiting.

And then there are those others that are hidden away in the storage box. One example is the two tank car kits I bought a while back. With the way the manufacturers bring in products today if you don't buy it when it's available you may never have the opportunity to get it in the future. I wanted to add a couple more tank cars to the fleet that services the Spencer Kellogg plant. Good tank car models are few and far in between. So when I found the Life Like kits a while back I grabbed them. They weren't the correct road name but I can strip them and repaint them. But where would I find the correct decals? Fortunately a manufacturer came out with kits for cars for Spencer Kellogg and he agreed to sell me a couple sets of the decals. But now there's one more project waiting for my attention. So far I've resisted the temptation to start one more project, but I don't know how long I can hold out.

Do I have an answer for my dilemma? None to date. But if I keep plugging away maybe some day I'll get a few dozen of those projects finished and on the railroad.

If you'd like to come by and see the Susquehanna sometime I'm on the open house list in November. For details go to: <http://www.gardenrropenhouse.com/m111409.html>.

I'm on the schedule for November 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Railroading,  
Steve Salotti

## THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

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 electronically. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

**Next issue:** January 2010. Due out approx. January 5<sup>th</sup>. Deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Schindldecker  
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 Buisnes 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: \$58.00 per year,

---

## From the Superintendent

---

Volunteer (vəl'ən tir'). Verb. 1. A word used to describe what you hope the guy sitting next to you will do so that you won't have to. 2. A great way to get to know other modelers in the Division 3. Not as painful or time-consuming as you may think.

OK. I admit that I may have altered Webster's definition a bit on the above paragraph. But when someone volunteers for a position on the board of directors, to open their layouts for others following a Division meet or to give a clinic everyone benefits from the experience. Luckily, our Division is full of those willing to give time and make the effort to enrich others modeling lives.

Your current board of directors is looking for a few interested members to run for the board this year. While all of us currently serving are happy to do it and enjoy it immensely, changing the guard once and a while is healthy.

New "blood" on the board translates into fresh ideas and new perspectives to old problems. Case in point: the Reading hopper that is our current Division car for sale is selling more slowly than we'd like. We've tried several new venues, such as eBay and Yahoo's HOYardSale group with limited success. Brian Good, who along with me is a newer member of the board, suggested that we approach Lin's Junction as an outlet to help us sell the car. He talked to Linda, who was happy to help us. Thanks to the Brian's idea and Lin's Junction's help, we've managed to sell many cars!

I hope to see everyone in at the Wilmington Town Center for our next meeting!

Greg Shindledecker  
Division Superintendent

---

## NEW DIVISION PROJECT! SUNOCO TANK CARS

---

Tank cars were used extensively during World War II to transport petroleum products to the East Coast by railroad, safe from enemy attack. Most of these cars were of riveted construction, but fusion welding techniques developed for military use during the war were applied to tank car construction, resulting in the ICC Type 103W welded car. The Red Caboose model accurately reflects a late 1940's car of this type, owned by GATC and leased to Sun Oil Company, with the pre-1954 Sunoco logo. These types of cars ran from 1949 through the late 1960s.

Price will be between: ~ \$28 - \$30 per car

Quantity discounts will be available



### **Availability:**

### **Early 2010**

This is a special run from Red Caboose/InterMountain of their 10,000 gallon welded tank in the attractive Sunoco scheme (which is not available commercially at this time), with 8 new numbers exclusive to us. Unlike previous division offerings, these cars are **ready to run**.

---

# PRM Valley Forge 2010!

---

## TIMETABLE

### Friday March 26

- 4 p.m. Early registration – Desmond lobby
- 6 p.m. Registration open
- Vendors Room and Models Display Room open **FOR SETUP ONLY**
- 7 p.m. Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 11 p.m. Clinics end, Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

### Saturday March 27

- 8:30 a.m. Registration open
- 9 a.m. Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 4:30-5:30 Happy Hour/cash bar – Desmond lobby
- 5:30-7 p.m. Buffet dinner (see description below), Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed
- 7 p.m. Clinics resume, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 10 p.m. Vendors Room and Models Display Room closed

### Sunday March 28

- 9 a.m. Registration open
- Clinics begin, Vendors Room and Models Display Room open
- 10:30 a.m. Last Clinics begin
- 12:00 Vendors Room closed ---teardown
- Models Display Room closed ---**ALL MODELS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11 A.M.**
- 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Home Layouts open
- Maps will be provided at the registration desk
- You must wear your RPM-Valley Forge name badge to visit these layouts**

## VENDORS INFORMATION

Tables are 2 ft. X 5 ft. **(please note size)**  
\$10 per table-indicate number desired on registration form  
Vendors must pay registration fee.

## DINNER

On Saturday, a dinner (not a banquet) will be held. There will be no speeches or awards. The dinner will be buffet style, with a cash bar available. The cost is \$35. Only 60 tickets are available.

## HOTEL

The Desmond Geat Valley Hotel & Conference Center  
One Liberty Boulevard  
Malvern, PA 19355

Hotel phone: (610) 296-9800

Reservations: 1-800-575-1776 between 8:30 a.m. and 6 pm., Monday thru Friday or by e mail:  
reservations@desmondgv.com

Room rate is \$109 per night plus tax. **You must mention Railroad Prototype Modelers to receive this rate.**

**NOTE:** You must e mail or call in your reservation on or before Monday March 8, 2010 in order to receive the reduced rate for RPM. Please be advised that a reservation is not confirmed until a confirmation number is received from the Desmond reservations department. Reservations received after March 8 are based on availability and at available rates. You may cancel your reservation up until 12 noon on the day of arrival without penalty.

### Hotel directions:

From Route 202 Northbound: Take the Great Valley/ Route 29 North exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right at the traffic light onto Matthews Road, then turn right at the first traffic light onto Route 29 North. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on your left.

From Route 202 Southbound: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 North exit. At the end of the ramp, proceed through the traffic light onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond is on your right

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, east or westbound: Take Exit 326, Valley Forge. After the toll booth, take Route 202 South, West Chester. Follow the above directions from Route 202 Southbound.

## REGISTRATION

- Registration cost is **\$35**
- Make check payable to: Phila. Div., NMRA - RPM
- Mail check to: Paul Backenstose  
103 W. Uwchlan Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335

You will receive a confirmation by e mail (preferred) or U. S. Mail.

**NOTICE: The last day to mail registrations is March 18.**

**Walk in registrations will be available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge**  
**March 26-28, 2010**

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (print neatly, please!)

Registration \$35

Vendors tables # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Phila. Div., NMRA - RPM

SEND CHECKS TO: Paul Backenstose  
103 W. Uwchlan Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335

office use, do not fill in

rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ reg. no. \_\_\_\_\_ ck. # \_\_\_\_\_ conf. sent \_\_\_\_\_

---

## November Meet Directions

---

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 7th Philadelphia 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.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Joint meet with the New Jersey Division**

Location and more information to  
follow in the next Dispatcher.  
Clinics, layout tours, contest.

**March 26 – 28, 2010 RPM Valley Forge**

Desmond Great Valley Hotel and  
Conference Center. Clinics, layout  
tours, model displays

---

## Important Subscription Information!

---

It’s once again time for all division members to check their subscription date. If your label shows 2009 or earlier, you need to renew your subscription by the end of 2009 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.

# The Philadelphia Dispatcher

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division  
of the National Model Railroad Association

---

46 Meadow Road  
**Collegeville, PA 19426**

Inside:     Division Meet  
              RPM  
              And More

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