

# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

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## RPM Special Edition!

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce the 4th Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge Meet to be held Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The location will once again be the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, located at One Liberty Boulevard in Malvern PA. This hotel has excellent conference facilities for our use, and is conveniently located just off of US Route 202. For directions and a map please see page 3 of this issue of the Dispatcher.

The RPM Valley Forge crew has been hard at work on creating an exciting program for you to

participate in. The following is the current list of a few of the clinicians planned, and more are being added. There will be clinics going on in multiple rooms through out the weekend as well as operating sessions on selected home railroads. There are sure to be many topics you will find to improve your modeling skills. Topics to be covered include weathering, rail-marine, cars and trucks for your layout, freight and passenger cars, prototype industries and too many to mention here. For a complete list of topics please go to the Philadelphia division web site at: [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org).

Dick Flock  
Mike Schleigh  
Sam Reynolds  
Larry Kline  
Ralph DeBlasi  
Vince Lee  
Nick Fry  
Ron Parisi  
Keith Jordan  
Steve Stewart

Todd Sullivan  
Lance Mindheim  
John Johnson  
Ralph Heisse  
John Teichmoeller  
Rich Newmiller  
Jay Held  
Dick Foley  
Jim Schweitzer  
Jim Dahlberg

Joe Loftland  
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Craig Bisgeier  
Jim Harr  
John Rogers  
Ron Hoess  
Bob Karig  
Frank Martin  
Andy Rubbo

Mike Rose  
Stan Rydarowicz  
Ramon Rhodes  
Dave Ramos  
Bill Schaumberg  
Ed Olsjewski  
Tony Koester  
Larry DeYoung  
Roger Hinman  
Henry Freeman

Also a part of the action will be the model display room. This is not a contest! It is a chance to bring your best prototype work to show off and view the work being done by others. The work that has been displayed at past meets has been of the highest quality, and we expect much the same again this year.

Another reason to attend this year's meet will be the vendor's room. We are working to assemble an impressive list of vendors for you to find that one of a kind piece you may want to fill that void on your railroad. Among the vendors attending this year are Stella Scale Models, Funaro & Camerlengo, Bethlehem Car Works, Shortline Products, Bob's Photos, Pro Custom Hobbies, Lin's Junction, Scotty Mason, PCRR Historical Society,

Stan Rydarowicz, Matt Herson, B&O Historical Society, Kenwood Model Hobbies, and many more.

At the conclusion of the meet on Sunday there will be many layouts open for you to tour. You must be registered to tour the layouts.

We hope all Philadelphia Division members will plan now to attend this great event. Due to the cost of using the hotel for the location, you must pay the full registration fee to attend this meet. To download a registration form go to the internet address listed above and download one, or see the January issue of The Dispatcher. See you at RPM Valley Forge!

There are quite a few exciting things going on in the Philadelphia Division at the moment. What could be more exciting than the upcoming RPM Valley Forge meet? We expect this year to be better than it was in '08 with a great lineup of clinics, layouts and vendors. Each year it has grown a little bigger than before and if it keeps getting bigger we may need to look for a new location! Not a bad problem to have. I hope you are planning to go.

We also have our newest car project, the Sunoco Oil Company Tank car. For each RPM meet the division board looks for a car that is related to the industries or railroads that were located in this area, and Sunoco is one of the largest. Similar cars have been done before, but this car has the earliest herald style and is being done in 8 different numbers so you can have a large fleet! For more information see the advertisement on page 3 of this issue.

These cars are also another first for the division: ready to run cars! All past products have been in the form of kits, but the board decided to test the waters what seems to be a growing trend within the hobby. Yes, they are a little more expensive than past offerings, but based on the artwork used they will be a great addition to your roster.

The meet location for this year has not been selected as of this writing, but we expect it to be in the central Montgomery County area. Watch for the next issue of the Dispatcher to provide the information. As usual there will be clinics and a contest. In addition, this will be the meet where elections for the next board

will be conducted. We are pleased to have several new hats being thrown into the ring. The next issue will provide you with a list of candidates and an official ballot.

Now that the business of the day has been taken care of, it's time to move on to something a little more fun. There has been some progress on the railroad during the last few months, but as always, not as much as I would like. And the old habit of starting too many projects to complete is so hard to shake.

The main area of work has been in downtown Paterson. The Susquehanna had a branch that came off the main line at Broadway Street and headed almost due west about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile towards Straight Street near the Erie's station. The line ran behind many dwellings and small businesses. There was very little industry on the line, but the passenger traffic was quite heavy during my modeling period. I've started working on a number of store and housing units that will go up against the backdrop. The hardest part is finding good photos of store interiors to fill all those windows. The one's I've found are either too old or don't reproduce well. But I keep plugging away at it, and maybe sometime soon the line will start to look like it's going through the proverbial "urban canyon". There is certainly no shortage of kits available to kit bash, and then add a few details to make them unique.

Well, that's all for this issue. I hope I'll see you at RPM Valley Forge. If you haven't done it, get your registration in soon.

Happy Railroading, Steve

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[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)

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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:** May '10. Due out approx. May 10. Deadline: April 15.

**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." Electronic versions are available at no cost. Please provide e-mail address to the clerk.

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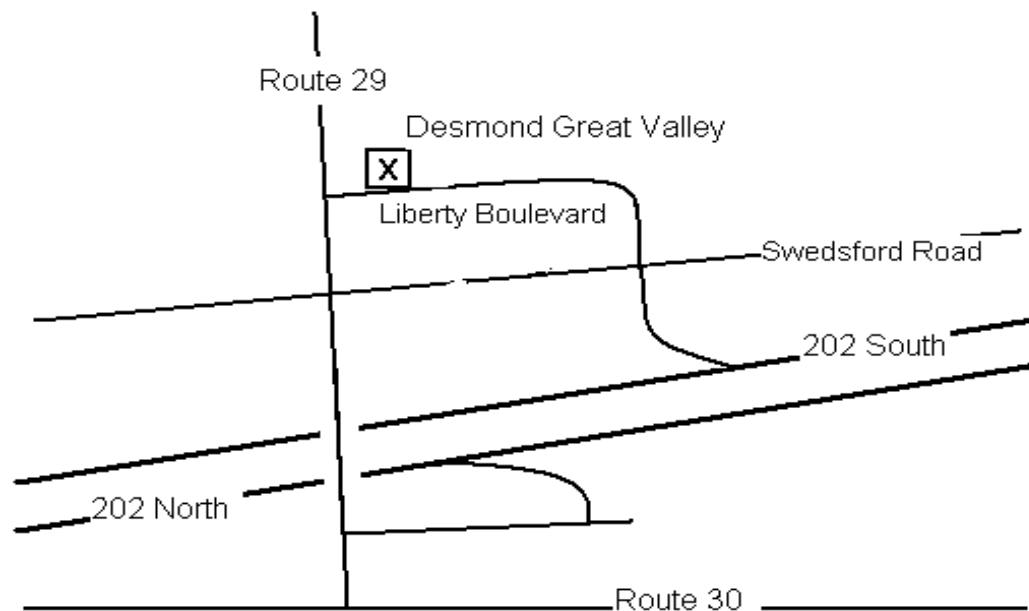
### National Model Railroad Association

4121 Cromwell Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119  
(615) 892-2946  
Dues: \$58.00 per year,

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## Desmond Great Valley Hotel and Conference Center

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From 202 North: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 exit. Turn right at the light, then right at the second light onto 29 N. Take 29 North to the second traffic light, then right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your left.

From 202 South: Take the Great Valley/29 exit. At the end of the ramp proceed through the traffic light onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your right.

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## New Philadelphia Division car project!

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### Philadelphia Division, NMRA SUNOCO 10,000 Gal. TANK CARS

**Availability: Early 2010**

ICC Type 103W welded car  
owned by GATC and leased  
to Sun Oil Company, with  
the pre-1954 Sunoco logo

Era: 1949 through the late  
1960s.



This is a special run of HO  
cars from Red Caboose/In-  
terMountain with 8 new  
numbers exclusive to us.  
**Cars are ready to run.**

Price: \$32 per car; \$110 per  
four-pack, \$220 for all eight  
cars

Shipping: \$6.00 for 1 or 2 cars, \$8.00 for 3 or 4 cars, \$11.50 for 5 to 8 cars.  
Insurance (optional): \$2.25 for 1 or 2 cars, \$2.75 for 3 or 4 cars, \$3.50 for 5 to 8 cars.  
Payment: Money orders preferred, checks must clear prior to shipping. Make checks and  
money orders payable to Philadelphia Division, NMRA.

Send order to:  
Philadelphia Division Cars  
308 W. Walnut St.  
North Wales, PA, 19454

*The latest information can also be found on our web site at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)*

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46 Meadow Road  
Collegeville, PA 19426

Inside: RPM Valley Forge  
Special Issue

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 194446  
5% in addition to already discounted prices