



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

May 2010  
Volume 17, Number 3

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce their next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 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 this Dispatcher. The doors will open at 8:30 with the meet starting at 9:00 and running to approximately 12:00 PM.

As always, here will be two clinics presented at the meet.

**Clinic #1:** Even though we are the Philly Division of the NMRA, how much do we really know about the rich industrial heritage of the city? For our main clinic for May, we will have something a little different but thoroughly entertaining and intriguing. Philadelphia industrial historian Harry Kyriakodis will present: "The Former Callowhill Industrial Corridor Of Philadelphia: A Virtual Walk Through Time". It focuses on the Reading RR's City Branch running through the area, the Norris & Baldwin locomotive works and other factories along the way, the Reading Viaduct, Willow Street, and the Reading's former operations along the DE River. Although Dick Foley gave a brief overview in January as to

how he will incorporate part of this into his layout, Harry is going much further in telling us the history of the industries in this area and how they were served by the railroads with many anecdotes of the "I never knew that!" variety. Harry is a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology whose members share a similar passion with model railroaders for industrial and railroad history.

**Clinic #2:** The originally scheduled DCC clinic has been unavoidably cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date. Assistant Super John Seibert will have a replacement by the meet.

At the conclusion of the meet there will be several railroads open for you to visit.

Our goal this meeting will be to expose some newer layouts on our open house tours. Some of these layouts are under partial or extensive construction and have scenery in various states of completion if at all. The owners have been hesitant to be open because they don't feel "ready", but we feel that there is a lot to be learned from seeing model railroads earlier in the construction process than we are used to.

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 passenger cars. These can be in 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 are a number of food outlets scattered along the Route 309 corridor for your lunch. Mark your calendars and we'll see you on the 15th.

## Important Election Information

The May meet will be the location for the annual meeting and election of three new members to the Board of Directors. All members are encouraged to attend and get an update on the Division's planned activities and future direction. Included in this issue of The Dispatcher is an official ballot with a list of all candidates. Please take a moment to read the enclosed information. Your vote is important!

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pick that which has been planted. With those words from the book of Ecclesiastes and made famous by the Birds in the early '70s, I announced my taking over as editor of the Dispatcher in the September '97 issue (if my memory serves me correctly).

This time as I quote these words I'm announcing my decision to step down as your editor. After nearly 13 years and an unknown number of issues it's time to turn over the reigns to a new editor. As you'll see in the column below, Earl Paine will be taking over these responsibilities. I wish him well in his new position, and feel confident he will do a great job.

My reasons for stepping down are multiple, including changes in life that don't allow me to often attend division meets, family responsibilities, and just a general feeling its time to give someone else a turn. This doesn't mean I'm quitting the division or tearing down the railroad or anything of that sort, I just need to step aside. I have enjoyed doing this for these last few years and will be working with Earl to make the transition as smooth as possible. I hope you will give Earl the same support and encouragement you have given me over the years.

Happy Railroading!  
Steve

Hi everyone!

Our collective hats are off to Steve Salotti for the outstanding job he has done as Editor of the

Dispatcher for the past 12+ years. I'm sure we will continue hearing from him as a regular contributor to the Dispatcher. His pen and advice will always be welcome here. I only hope that I can do justice to his work. I will surely try!

Print publishing worldwide is making a transition to electronic distribution. The debate rages over how this change will affect our communication rituals, but the transition still continues.

At the Division level we also find ourselves in the middle of this transition. More and more members are receiving the Dispatcher on line and our plans are to continue moving towards electronic distribution.

Having said that, we must realize that there remains a core of our membership who still desire printed distribution. In the near term, we expect to continue printing and mailing to those who want this format, but the future is coming like it or not! Stay tuned as we continue to discuss the future of the "on-line" Dispatcher. We welcome your input as we move forward.

By way of introduction, I have been active as the Division Clerk for 18 months but have been an NMRA member (and an armchair modeler) since 1968. In 2008, I retired from a career in education. In 2002, I started building the "basement empire" based on The Reading main line in the 1970's. I've made lots of mistakes in the process and have also learned an enormous amount from my Division colleagues. More about what I have learned and experienced will come in future Dispatchers.

See you next issue!  
Earl

# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association  
[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)

Editor  
Earl Paine  
4325 Wendy Way  
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earlpaine@verizon.net

**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:** Sept. '10. Due out approx. September 15. Deadline: August 15.

**Print Subscription:** \$7.00 per year.  
**On-Line Subscription:** Free

Address all print 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." Please provide e-mail address to the clerk.

**Division Personnel:**

Superintendent  
J. Gregory Schindledecker  
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Assistant Superintendent  
John Seibert  
3915 Township Line Road  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
johnseibert@comcast.net  
Clerk  
Earl Paine  
4325 Wendy Way  
Schwenksville, PA 19473  
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Treasurer  
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Harleysville, PA 19438  
b3good@comcast.net  
Achievement Program Coordinator  
Dave Messer, M.M.R.  
263 Mingo Road  
Royersford, PA 19468-3112  
dmesserpr@comcast.net

**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: \$58.00 per year,

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## From the Division Superintendent

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Clinics, open houses, division cars.

What do these have in common? These are the main activities that your Division supplies to you each year in various quantities. We do other activities too – the achievement program, member aid to name a couple - but not to the extent that we supply the first three to members.

I'm pointing this out because we want to do more for our fellow members. We have the financial ability to occasionally host a "big name" clinician to give a talk or to plan a road trip to an interesting rail-related venue. We might be able to arrange "make and take" clinics at reduced cost of kit materials or take a bus tour to the Altoona

Railroaders Museum. Anything is fair game as long as it is practical and supported by the membership.

So, what would you like to hear and see? Do you have suggestions for the next Division car? What can the Division do to supply you with the best opportunities to learn and participate as a modeler? Please, let your board know what you're thinking. Although we're a board of directors, we take our direction from you, the members of our Division.

Thanks for your support!

Greg

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New Division car a tremendous success! Get them no before they are gone.

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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/InterMountain 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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## Philadelphia Division Board Elections

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The Philadelphia Division is pleased to present the following candidates for the 3 open Director seats. Each has provided a short description of themselves and their qualifications. There are currently four sitting board members who will continue to serve until next year's elections. They are Greg Shindledecker, Brian Good, John Seibert and Earl Paine. All candidates are members in good standing and have expressed a willingness to serve the division.

From the names listed on the ballot please vote for no more than three (3). If you vote for more than three names your ballot will be disqualified. Ballots may be

mailed to the clerk at the address listed on page 2 of this issue of the Dispatcher, or may be brought to the meeting Montgomeryville on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mailed ballots must be received by Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The division would like to thank the three outgoing board members, Val Pistilli, Dave Messer, and Rich Newmiller for the great service they have provided over the last few years. All three have graciously agreed to continue as non-elected committee chairs. Please take a moment to thank them for the outstanding service they have provided and will continue to provide.

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## New Board Candidates

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The following four individuals are new candidates for the Philadelphia Division board of Directors.

**Mark R. Wallace:** My ancestors worked on the railroad, and it must have gotten into my blood. For as long as I can remember, I've been interested in railroading as a rail fan and a modeler. An architect in private practice, I enjoy designing layouts using CAD programs and kit-bashing models. As a member of the Western Maryland Historical Society, I am studying that line's infrastructure and rolling stock. I model a small portion of the WM in HO scale and guest operator on one of our member's layouts.

I'm in the process of dismantling a fifty-year-old 3-rail layout, which I inherited. My son and I are planning a larger HO layout that will incorporate scenes and operations of my favorite road. He's a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. As a member of the legendary RPI Model Railroad Club, he spends Saturday afternoons refurbishing their layout, and has given me some good ideas! I have been a member of the NMRA and the Philadelphia Division since 2006. As a member of the Board, my goal would be to continue and support NMRA's effective and efficient administration as well as to strengthen the role of the Division as your 'personal' contact point for model railroading. I am aware of and appreciate the wide variety of scale modeling that folks build and operate. Through our Division's meetings and programs, I see an opportunity to educate and immerse both members and non-members about the possibilities in model railroading. Growing our membership and maintaining a healthy, welcoming organization where modelers can share techniques and new ideas is vital to sustaining an active community of railroad modelers.

**Pat McTeigue:** My Model Railroading interest was rekindled in 1983 when my stepson got an HO Layout on a fold up platform made of Styrofoam. The following Christmas it was moved onto a 4x8 sheet of plywood because the Styrofoam took a beating. He lost interest by February, but I didn't. I joined the North Penn Model Railroad Club and enjoyed the camaraderie and opportunities to learn techniques needed to build a smooth running railroad with realistic scenery. I was an office holder in the club for a couple years. During this time, I joined the NMRA and eventually became a Life-Member. In '92 I decided to go back to school to upgrade my Associates to a Bachelors Degree. During this period, the club had to vacate the home it had enjoyed for many years. Half of the then members decided to find a new home for the club and the others decided to form a round-robin club. I went with the second group. We are still active and now have several layouts that we are running Operations schedules on.

In 2004, after an early retirement package, I offered to help Steve Salotti on the 2006 NMRA Convention. He accepted my offer and I ended up being the Chairman of the Layout Tour Committee. The committee members did a fabulous job, which resulted in many great tours. Dave Messer let me take on some responsibilities for Marketing and Promotions for the convention. Working with the model railroading magazine editors and layout owners, I managed to get some articles published to highlight some layouts that we would have on our Layout Tours. We also got extensive free filler space Ads from Railroad Model Craftsman magazine. It's a plug they deserve.

On October 10, 2006, I was in a near fatal auto accident, on my way to an operating session. As a result of the accident, I'm blind and some of my joints make strange noises, but that hasn't stopped me from being active in Model Railroading. I'm sure there are ways I'll be able to help the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Division. I had a successful career in Information Systems, including several years in management. I worked on systems for several business disciplines including: Sales, Marketing, Finance, Purchasing, Human Resources, production Operations including scheduling and inventory control. During these assignments, I was able to gain an understanding of their department's functional goals and how they hoped to use their resources to accomplish them. It will be my pleasure to serve on the Board as a Director to help our Division accomplish its Current goals.

Continued on next page....

**Howard Kaplan:** My name is Howard Kaplan. I live with my wife in Drexel Hill, where I practice dentistry in an office in my home. As you might expect, my waiting room is full of railroad pictures and maps. Trains have been a love of mine all my life, but other than a small, N scale layout during high school, I've mostly been an armchair modeler, waiting for that perfect time and basement to build a serious layout. Hopefully that's just around the corner.

I grew up in northeast Philadelphia and used to hang around at Reading's Cheltenham station taking photos and watching Reading, CNJ and B&O trains roll off the New York Short Line. And every chance I could I took the train into Reading Terminal. It shouldn't be suprising, then, that I intend to model the Reading primarily in Philadelphia in the '60s, including the commuter operations complete with catenary, with visits from B&O and CNJ, in N scale. And the dental instruments and materials should come in very handy. In fact I've even thought of having the railroad run into the treatment room and deliver materials chairside. In the meantime I have been honing my skills by helping a friend work on his N scale layout.

My related railroad memberships include the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society and the Anthracite Railroad Historical Society. I've been a member of the NMRA since 1981 and the Philadelphia division since 1993, and have attended almost every meeting since then. But until now my only real participation has been as a bus captain for layout tours during the 2006 Independence Junction convention. I feel I've reaped the rewards of membership for many years and now I'd like to contribute more. I'd very much appreciate your vote for Board of Directors.

**Joe Bergmaier:** My interest in railroading began when I was only a couple of years old. At that time we lived in Kensington on 2<sup>nd</sup> & Susquehanna. The block behind us was American Street and the Reading Railroad. My father used to take me over to watch them switch trains and tie up traffic on all the east-west cross streets. When I was 6, we moved to Bucks County and our house was a block from the PRR New York mainline. I grew up watching GG-1's in their full splendor. We used to call them "ghosts" because they came and went so fast.

A few years later, my father let me help him build the layout in the basement and that's when I started becoming a model railroader. Today I'm using that same frame work on my layout and still have a couple of the cars. My dad collected brass when it first came out and I was lucky enough to inherit his entire collection.

I started my own collection after I got married and have been involved with model railroading since then. I was a member of Cheltenham Hills for almost 20 years until my day job consumed all of my free time. I still tinkered with the trains, built some kits and dreamed of the day when I had the time, space and resources to build my dream layout. But a funny thing happened – it turns out my dream layout is now quite different than what I imagined.

I'm a big fan of the Pennsy, Reading and B&O and my layout is being designed to incorporate all three of these roads. Since joining the NMRA, I've met so many great people that are constantly inspiring me to push the limits of modeling. They have invited me to see their layouts, join operating sessions and round robin groups. It is a great gift to see how others approach this great hobby.

I would be honored to serve on the Board in any capacity. If elected to office, I promise to work hard to repay those who have helped me, by helping others succeed in achieving their dreams.

Please take the time to review the list, and then you can either send your ballot to the clerk at:

Philadelphia Division NMRA, 4325 Wendy Way, Schwenksville, PA 19426.....or you can bring your ballot to the Division meet at Montgomery Baptist on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. All mailed ballots must be received by May 14<sup>th</sup> to be counted.

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## Philadelphia Division Board of Directors Ballot

Name \_\_\_\_\_

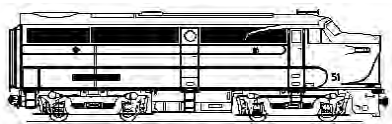
Please vote for no more than 3 (three) names. If you vote for more than 3 your ballot will be disqualified.

Pat McTeigue \_\_\_\_\_

Joe Bergmaier \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Wallace \_\_\_\_\_

Howard Kaplin \_\_\_\_\_



**SALE**

**Bill Gruber's**

**READING LINES**

**Saturday May 8th 10AM to 3PM**

**Mickleton, NJ**

**Engines (With Decoders & Some with Sound),**

**Buildings Cars (Some new in kits), Some Track & Switches**

**Digitrax Items, CMRI Items, Electronics, Memorabilia**

**Cash Only – No Credit Cards**

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## Membership Dues Clarification

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All members of the NMRA are automatically members of our Division without any additional dues payment. The \$7.00 per year fee that you see collected at meets (and requested through the Dispatcher) is only for printed US mail delivery of the Dispatcher to your home. All members are entitled to free electronic access to the Dispatcher through our website at <http://www.phillynmra.org>. More and more members are opting for electronic access.

Reminders of Dispatcher postings are sent out by email as soon as the latest issue is placed on the website. The Clerk receives your email address from the NMRA region level database. These email addresses are sometimes missing and/or out of date or inaccurate. Make sure that we have your current email address.

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## Call for Articles

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Interested in your author AP certificate? Want to share your knowledge? Here at the Dispatcher we are always looking for articles, tips and other info. As the Dispatcher expands on-line, there will be much more room for color photos, layout articles with trackplans and other features. We can help you with editing and layout. We will be setting up and email account for article submission (and other communications) directly to the Dispatcher. Articles can be directly submitted there for future publication. Stay tuned for future information on that account.

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## On Line Resources

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There are an enormous amount of model railroading resources as close as your Internet connection. The Dispatcher will periodically report on websites and other online locations that are of interest to our membership.

**Websites:** <http://www.phillynmra.org/> ---Our own Division website contains a wealth of information. This is where you go to access the Dispatcher (including past issues), the member aide program, member layouts as well as links to many other relevant model railroading sites. Maintained by Val Pistilli, it is the home base for our Division.

<http://www.readingmodeler.com/> --- an excellent resource for the Reading modelers. Tons of data and forums related to both modeling as well as railfanning the Reading.

**Podcasts:** Podcasts are similar to radio shows except that they are distributed over the net. They can be listened to while your on-line or downloaded for later enjoyment. They are commonly downloaded to portable MP-3 players and smart phones.

<http://modelrailcast.com> -- a weekly podcast covering all aspects of model railroading . Hosted primarily by Ryan Anderson, the topics are thoroughly covered both from a beginners as well as advanced aspect. Featured are interviews with many of the hobby's well known experts.

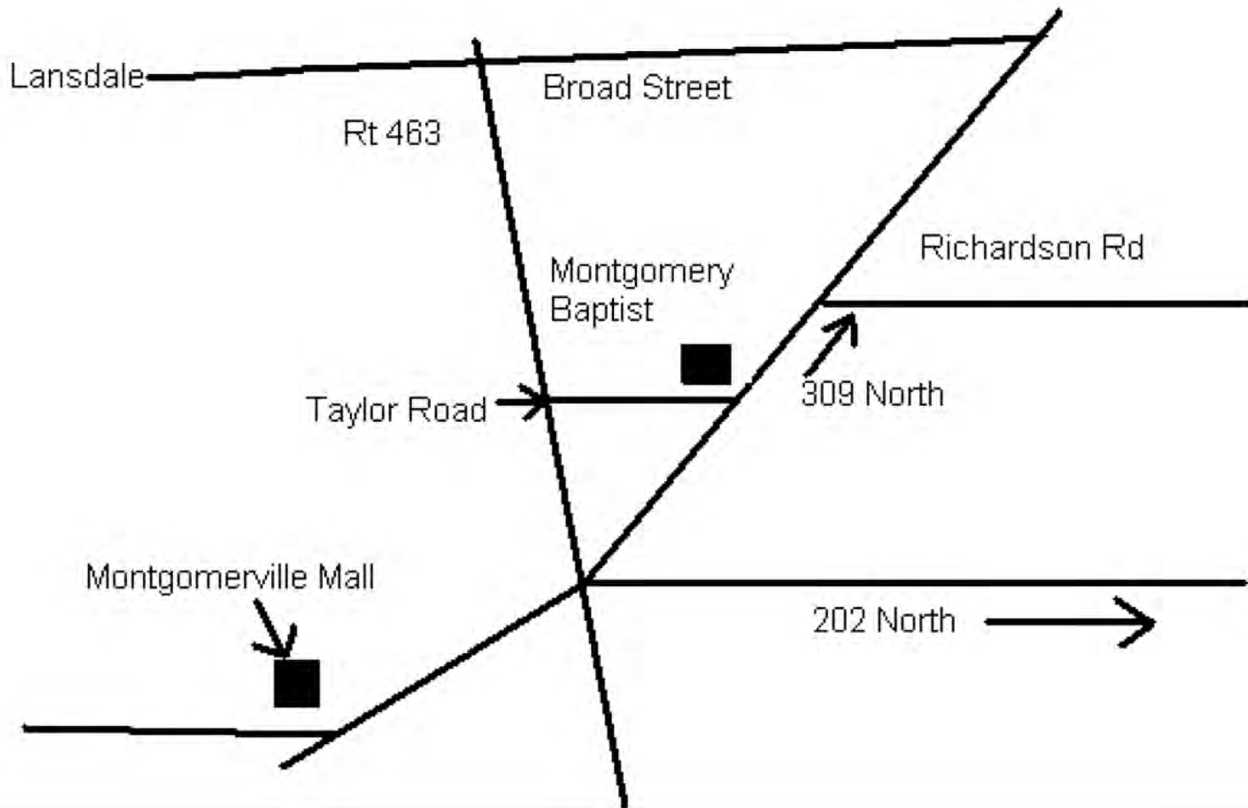
<http://www.modelrailroadpodcast.com/> -- Scotty Mason plays host to this podcast which delves into craftsman structure kit building among many other topics.

In future issues we will highlight model railroad blogs, wikis, and on-line magazines. Not sure what some of these are? Stay tuned.....

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# MAP TO MONTGOMERY BAPIST 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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**Milwaukee WI** - (75th anniversary of the NMRA.)

<http://www.nmra75.org>

**July 11 - 18, 2010**

**Princeton Junction**

MER Fall Convention

Princeton, NJ

September 30-October 3, 2010

More info: [MER Conventions](#)

**Fall Division Meet**

Saturday, Sept 25, 2010 at 9:30 AM.

A joint event with the Philadelphia and Susquehanna Divisions. More information will be posted when available.

**Lehigh-Susquehanna Operations Weekend 2**

Friday, October 1, 2010, and Saturday, October 2, 2010. We will co-host with the OPSIG the Lehigh-Susquehanna Operations Weekend 2

<http://www.susquehannanmra.org/lso/ps/>

**Timonium, Maryland Shows**

Below are the dates of upcoming Timonium Train Shows, which feature tons of items for sale and operating layouts. The show is in Timonium Maryland and is about 1.5 hour drive from Philadelphia Division territory.

Web Site: [www.GSMTS.com](http://www.GSMTS.com)

Phone: (410) 730-1036

Feb 6 -7, 2010

April 10-11, 2010

June 26-27, 2010

October 30-31, 2010

**November Layout Tours**

Each November, Model Railroading Month, many layout owners in MD, PA, DE and NJ open their layouts for the general public. Printed schedules appear in hobby shops in October.

You can also look up the information online by going to the [Model Railroad Open House Web Site](#).

# The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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

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**4325 Wendy Way**  
**Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside: Elections  
May Division Meet

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