



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

March 2011 Volume 18, Number 2



<http://www.phillynmra.org/>

UPCOMING DIVISION MEETS

March 12, 2011

May 7, 2011

The March Division Meet will be held, once again at the Montgomery Baptist Church on Route 309 in Montgomeryville, PA. The meeting will start at 9am. Maps and directions are printed in this issue.

Our first Clinician will be Harry Kyriakodis, who spoke to our group last May. He will be showing the second half of his slideshow presentation:

THE FORMER CALLOWHILL INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR OF PHILADELPHIA: A VIRTUAL WALK THROUGH TIME.

The first part of this presentation was presented to us this past spring and covered the former industrial and rail district between Vine and Spring Garden Streets from the Schuylkill River to Broad Street.

This follow up presentation will cover the same corridor from Broad Street to the Delaware River, and will focus on the Reading Railroad's City / Willow Street Branch, which crossed that region.

The Reading Viaduct and the Reading's Delaware Avenue waterfront facilities will be also covered.

Along the way, the projected images will show the changes that have occurred in the Callowhill district of Philadelphia.

Our second Clinician will be our own Rich Newmiller. Rich will present his clinic describing the design and construction of his award winning **Hawk Lumber Company**. Rich has submitted a detailed description of his clinic which is printed on page 6 of this issue of the Dispatcher.

If time permits we will open the floor for show and tell presentations from those present. This was trialed at our November meet and was well received.

Two layouts will be open for visiting in the afternoon. It was decided to reduce the number of layouts open to increase the number of visitors per layout and allow more time to talk to the hosts.

Maps will be available at the meet.

The May Division Meet will be a special event! We will be merging with the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Spring Meet held at the Doylestown Campus of Delaware Valley College. This meet will commence Saturday Morning and proceed throughout the day on Saturday.

Several out of town clinicians will be present including:

- Steve Priest, Editor of the NMRA Magazine
- Dick Bronson from RRCircuits Company
- Josh Shedecker from Tony's Train Exchange

In addition, there will be clinics from local presenters, including Don Borden and our own Mark Wallace. Clinics will occur into the afternoon and, as a result, there will be no layout open houses.

There will also be auctions, member sales and white elephant tables as well a plenty of time to informally interact with the presenters and with each other.

There will be plenty for non-Santa Fe modelers as most, but not all, of the clinics planned so far are generic, rather than road specific.

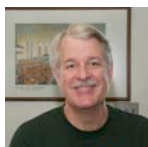
Word has it that the Santa Fe guys will be bringing a lot of eastern road equipment for sale at their tables.

There is a fee for attendance this time around, but the Division will be covering the entrance fee for all Philadelphia Members in good standing.

There will be much more detailed coverage of and maps to this joint meet in the next issue of The Dispatcher so stay tuned!

******* PRE-REGISTRATION *******

We need to get a tentative non-binding count of those Philadelphia division members who might be planning to attend this meet to make sure the venue is properly sized. Please see the directions on page 3 of this issue for more information on pre-registration.



I have been settling in as the Dispatcher Editor for the past several issues. One of larger challenges of the job has been wrestling with change. Changed logos, changed masthead, changed layout, changed distribution and the addition of on-line material have kept me busy to say the least.

Most of the changes have been externally influenced by NMRA national events as well as the direction of our own Division's Board of Directors. I can, however, claim some of the changes as my own.

Starting this year, I have begun a series of article "threads" which build upon themselves from issue to issue.

Several threads have been evident, such as:

** The coverage of and re-connection with area clubs.*

** The coverage of the AP program with a local viewpoint*

** The "made in the Division" series of articles.*

I'd like to propose some new threads in the hope that members will be encouraged to contribute articles.

** Modeling on a budget*

** Exposure to, and coverage of new, smaller or previously unpublished member layouts.*

** A "How complicated can you get?" thread featuring solutions to complex problems faced by our division modelers.*

** Modeling in our Division's "Senior Communities", a great source for new members!*

** A continuation of the "Netherworld Forces" series.*

** Other threads suggested by readers.*

Yes, the last one involves you! This is your publication and will only survive with your input and contributions, so "step up" when you can. Let us hear from you. All of our contact info is printed immediately to the right.

Related to the above...

Our "on-line" readership has now surpassed (in numbers) our "in print" readership. Also, this issue contains more pages on line than in print.

Easy downloading, color photos and expanded article coverage have contributed to this. We intend to continue expanding on-line while still supporting the shorter printed and mailed version.

This allows more area for the above-mentioned new threads as well as unlimited color photos in the on-line area (but not in the print version). No longer are we limited to constrained space and fewer photos. On line publishing incurs NO additional cost to the Division.

Our current Dispatcher expenses center on postage and printing the mailed version. Those wishing to keep their mail delivery happening will have to re-up their \$7.00 per year subscriptions as they expire.

We have email addresses for approximately 80 percent of our membership, but that leaves the remaining 20 percent in limbo. Are they reading the Dispatcher? Do they even use email?

The Board of Directors has discussed various methods to reach out to them and make sure they are receiving the Dispatcher in one of its 2 forms.

Stay tuned for news on that process.

In the meantime, make sure you keep Mark Wallace (our Clerk) advised of your correct contact info.

Regards, Earl

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Official publication of the
Philadelphia Division,
National Model Railroad Association
www.phillynmra.org

Editor
Earl Paine
4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, Pa, 19473
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. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

Next issue: Mar. '11. Due out approx. March 5. Deadline: Apr 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 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
1454 Oakwood Road
Coatesville, PA 19320
greg@schindledecker.com

Assistant Superintendent
Joe Bergmaier
531 Fillman Road
Downingtown, PA 19335
mojo@bergmaier.com

Clerk
Mark Wallace
665 Bonny Brook Ave.
Trappe, PA 19426
mwallace665@verizon.net

Treasurer
Brian Good
578 Hawthorne Lane
Harleysville, PA 19438
b3good@verizon.net

Achievement Program Coordinator
Dave Messer, M.M.R.
263 Mingo Road
Royersford, PA 19468-3112
dmesserpr@comcast.net

Board Members at Large
Pat McTeigue
tonightowl1@comcast.net
John Seibert
johnhseibert@comcast.net

Division Website
<http://www.phillynmra.org/>

Mid-Eastern Region, N.M.R.A.

Fred Miller MMR Business Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686
(704)-752-5138

**New Directions....**

If you attend a Saturday morning division meet, you can count on seeing somewhere around 30 – 35 attendees. What you may not know without looking at the Philadelphia Division roster is that we have over 300 members! So, where are all these folks? Some people may be “lone wolf modelers”, who join the NMRA for the technical benefits but do not care to socialize or learn in a group setting. Some people may have problems with mobility. For some, the distance is too much.

Obviously, we can't address some of these issues, but we are trying to appeal to a wider range of member interests. Your Board is currently experimenting with some new directions for our meeting offerings. Last year and again this year, we are trying to pick a few meeting places that are in different geographic locations so that we can experience different layout open houses and the charm of a new venue. This September, we will be heading back to the Lukens Office in Coatesville, and will endeavor to have steel-related talks.

We are also expanding the role of technology to enable a wider range of presenters. This past fall, we successfully used a mobile phone and amplifier to enable Marshall Abrams to present a clinic remotely from his home near Washington. This opens up a wide range of new and exciting clinician possibilities. How many more remote clinicians would be willing to present for us if we did not ask them to travel many hours for just a morning meeting? The possibilities are endless!

Lastly, we are pursuing more joint meetings with other divisions and with other modeling organizations. Elsewhere in this publication you will find details of our May joint meet with the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other modelers whom you may not know and learn things that may be outside your usual range of subjects. For all, this is an opportunity to pull in presenters who could not be obtained if each group was on their own.

If you haven't been to a division meet recently, please give it a chance. We'd love to meet you!

Greg Shindledecker
Division Superintendent

Pre-registration for the May Meet

Please follow the below directions to pre-register for the May Meet. This procedure will insure that the venue at Delaware Valley College will be properly sized. It will also assist the Division in planning financially for the entrance fees of our members. Please note that only Philadelphia Division members in good standing will enter with no fee.

This pre-registration is non-binding!

- Method #1 – Give Pat McTeigue a phone call. Pats phone is 215-441-8407.
If Pat can't answer, leave your name on his voice mail.
- Method #2 – Drop an email to Board Member Pat McTeigue who is assisting with registration.
Pat's email address is <mailto:tonightowl1@comcast.net>
- Method #3 - Sign up at the March 12 meet in person. Our Clerk, Mark can help you sign-up at the registration table.

Classifieds

This is a new free benefit to Philadelphia members. Feel free to e-mail the Editor with model railroad related items you are either looking for or are willing to sell. Last issue member Joe Bergmaier posted a classified in this section and got responses before the printed versions were even mailed out.

The online version of The Dispatcher is circulated via our website to other Divisions and is presumably read by model railroaders outside our divisional boundaries. Take advantage of this service... members only please.

E-mail postings to the Editor at <mailto:earlpaine@verizon.net>

* Joe Bergmaier --I Need a copy of Triumph I and Triumph 4, new or used. Please contact me at:
mojo@bergmaier.com or (610) 269-8558



Ask John Greene what he does and he'll tell you he "buys stuff and puts it in a box." Fortunately for we model railroaders, what he puts in the box turns out to be some of the finest HO passenger car, caboose and reefer kits on the market.

A visit to Bethlehem Car Works in Telford, PA won't end in a factory tour. My recent visit took place in John's living room. He has an office in a spare room, his storage in a closet, and some rented workspace nearby. Except for some occasional part-time help on an as-needed basis, John Greene is essentially the complete work force of Bethlehem Car Works, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

John started his business as a means to have something to do when he retired by leveraging his experience as a professional purchasing agent. During his career, John had made a lot of contacts and got to know tool and die vendors, molders, and other future resources for providing parts for his model kits. He had the know-how to manage materials, build a supply base and bring it all together into a business that would keep him active well into the future. 25 years and over 50 kits on the market are a tribute to his success.

The quantities involved with producing model railroad kits, especially with road specific prototypes, do not lend itself to mass production or expensive hard-tooled injection molded plastic. John's strategy for building car kits follows prototype practice. A particular railroad's car designs usually followed the druthers of the road foreman of equipment. He may have liked a particular type of roof, car end, sill design, brake wheel, etc. Bethlehem's kits have separate sides, ends, roof, and detail parts so that the kit strategy becomes a mix-and-match of the right car parts to suit the practices of the prototype road.

Tooling for plastic components of these kits involves aluminum molds that are economical to build, repair and modify yet robust enough to provide pristine detail over the run-life of a part. Other parts are produced by casting or photo-etched brass. Photo etching, while being a relatively slow process, yields excellent detail to the car sides for comparatively little tooling expense. Bethlehem Car Works utilizes a UK based vendor that also provides multiple parts per sheet thus providing some economy. Sometimes roads would copy another road's car or actually buy second hand equipment. This has advantage as in the case of John's Long Island coaches, which were former Maine Central coaches. John just had to put The LIRR's "Dashing Dan" decal set with nearly the same kit as the MEC car.

John admits that there is no science, no marketing study that goes into determining what he produces. He has a plethora of Reading and Jersey Central prototype cars because "they're personal to me". He also attends between 10 and 15 shows a year and this not only gives him the informal marketing input he needs but also the satisfaction of the many friendships he has made and maintained over the years. In fact, it is these contacts that provide him with the ideas and research for his kits. For instance, attending the Amherst show has led to contacts with modelers of Rutland, Boston & Maine, Maine Central and Central of Vermont which has led in turn to models for cars of those roads.

Marketing in this fashion has admittedly been a hit or miss proposition. One of John's most successful cars has been the Pennsy scenery car, which was used to transport stage scenery for Broadway shows when they took to the road. Another success was his Pennsy horse car with 3 doors on each side. Each of these kits has sold around 700 units. On the other extreme, his B&O RPO/baggage car has only sold 4.

Bethlehem Car Works is also well known for its line of "Kit Bits". In keeping with the mix-and-match nature of prototype car building, John has accumulated a variety of different styles of trucks, car ends, doors, brake parts, etc. Having these available as individual parts satisfies a modeler's need to have prototype specific parts to scratch build or kit-bash that special elusive car that no kit manufacturer has ever offered. It also helps Bethlehem sell more parts and further recoup the tooling expense for the castings. The "Kit Bits" line is extensive.

So who, or what, is Sparrows Point? Well, it has to do with economics. Bethlehem Car Works also sells through distributors; including Walthers and Branch Line, who get a very sizeable discount so that they can also pass on a discount to dealers. The benefit to Bethlehem Car Works is that they get more exposure and larger orders that can give them some economy of scale. But there are some things that John builds that are just too expensive to produce to have an attractive enough price for the consumer while still making it worthwhile for John after the discounts. Kits that fall into this category are sold direct under the name Sparrows Point. These tend to be very esoteric, and very nice, kits that aren't for the masses.

I asked John what advice he would give to prospective model railroad entrepreneurs and his response was philosophical and astute. Times are changing and it is no longer feasible to expect to work

....Continued on page 6



Most of us are familiar with the Golden Spike Ceremony, held at Promontory Point in 1869 to celebrate the completion the Transcontinental Railroad, and some of us have even held our own ceremonies at the completion of a loop on our model layouts. The Golden Spike Award that is part of the NMRA Achievement Program is a similar celebration of the completion of a series of accomplishments in the primary areas of the hobby, rather than a demonstration of in-depth expertise in multiple areas that characterizes the Master Model Railroader Award.

For those who don't wish to pursue the MMR, the requirements of the Golden Spike Award are spelled out below:

?

1) **Rolling Stock** (Motive Power and Cars)

- Display six units of rolling stock (scratchbuilt, craftsman or detailed commercial kits). Models must show some added detail over RTR or simple kits.

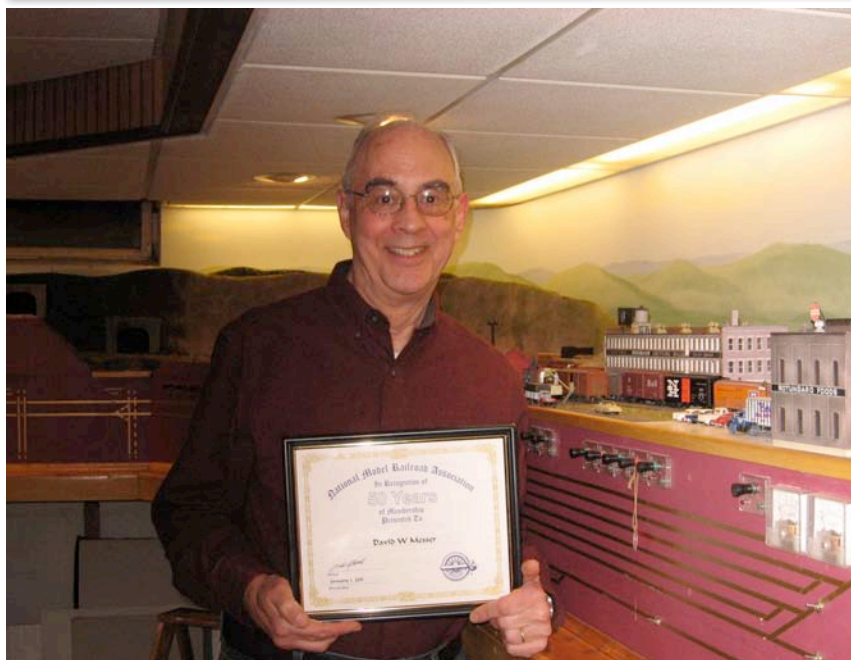
2) **Model Railroad Setting** (Structures and Scenery)

- Construct a layout of a minimum of eight square feet. The requirement can be met by a display module or a portion of a larger layout, but must show some scenery and structures
- Construct five structures (scratchbuilt, craftsman or detailed commercial kits). These can be separate or part of the layout above. Again, they must show some detail beyond the commercial kit

3) **Engineering** (Civil and Electrical)

- Three types of trackage are required (turnout, crossing, crossover, etc). Commercial trackage may be used, but all must be ballasted and installed on appropriate roadbed.
- The trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (Double-track main, single-track with sidings, block or command control).
- Provide one additional electrical feature such as powered turnouts, turnout indication, signaling, or lighted buildings.

As always, I am available to answer questions at dmesserpr@comcast.net or (610) 948-2191, or to review your accomplishments.



Editor's Note:

You are not seeing double! Dave's by-line photo (above) and the one to the left are indeed the same. When the cropping is removed however, Dave is pictured holding a certificate. That certificate was presented recently and denotes **FIFTY YEARS** of membership in and service to the NMRA.

Dave was instrumental in the formation of the Hudson/Berkshire Division before moving to the Philadelphia area.

He continues to serve our Division as a former Executive Board Member and our current Achievement Program Coordinator.

In addition, Dave chairs our division car Projects, helping to select models which will be most attractive to our members.

We are indeed fortunate to have Dave's presence and advice at NMRA functions. Congratulations Dave!

....Bethlehem Car Works continued from pg 4

at one company or one job for an entire career. "Everyone needs something to do with their life. Something worthwhile and not just for the money. Find something you like to do, learn the ropes, save and when you are 40 or so, start your own business or at least have something to fall back on." He is also concerned about the future of our hobby as it seems "to be getting a lot older". He would like to see more nurturing of younger and newer participants in our hobby.

What does the future hold? John would like to work more with laser cut wood sides but he is not crazy about resin kits. Watch for the LIRR and MEC coaches as well as a CP 3-door baggage car coming soon. Next time you see Bethlehem Car Works at a show or train meet, stop by and say hello to John Greene and tell him you read about him in your Philly Division Dispatcher. While you're there, be sure to pick up an ample supply of Kit Bits for that next project.

2011 Railroad Prototype Modelers Seminar – East

Sponsored by Division 2, MCR, NMRA

1:00 pm Friday, March 25 through 11:00 pm Saturday, March 26, 2011

Registration will begin at 10:00 am on Friday. Set up after 8:00 am

Sheraton Four Points Hotel. Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA.

Room rate: \$95.00 +tax. (724) 836-6060 Mention "Prototype Modeler's Meet"

<http://www.greensburgpa4points.com/>

- A large display room will be available for models. Please bring your models.
- Layout tours will be available on Sunday, March 27
- **Early Bird operating sessions Thursday Evening, March 24, 6:00PM.**
- Limited number of tables available for vendors @ \$20.00 each.
- Hotel overlooks the Norfolk Southern (PRR) main line

For information contact:

Clinic volunteers please contact:

Dick Flock
337 Elm Drive,
Greensburg, PA 15601.
Phone: 724-850-8882.
Email: jlerr337@verizon.net

Larry Kline
4130 Bigelow Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-422-0678
Indkline@verizon.net

Or check the Division 2 website www.keystonedivision.org

FULL BROCHURE LOCATED IN ONLINE SECTION

Newmiller Clinic Information

by Rich Newmiller, MMR

If you have an interest in lumber operations, scratchbuilt wooden structures, scenery, trees, water, realistic logs and cants, machinery and vehicle detailing, and how to construct a removable access hatch then the Hawk Lumber Co. presentation will be fun and educational.

The scratchbuilt on-line saw mill display is a collection of fourteen (14) integrated structures as follows: log dump, jack slip, saw mill with a second floor saw filer's room, drying kiln, power house, saw dust shed, office, cook house with a dining area, four (4) bunk houses, a short wooden plank road bridge and a two (2) stall outhouse. The scenery includes a sloping terrain, a log pond, a small pond connected to a drainage ditch, multiple rock outcroppings, cut logs, tree stumps, five (5) large evergreen trees, firewood, bushes, shrubs, tall grass, and low ground cover, piles of bare tree branches, dirt roads, foot paths and walking planks.

Metal components include the mill machinery (Ames Iron Works twin cylinder steam engine, Keystone Locomotive Works bandsaw, live rolls, edger, planer, cutoff saw, shotgun carriage, forklift, tie carts), below deck drive line system, corrugated roofing, aerial electric wires, mill light conduits, electric services and disconnects, multiple guy wires and many small tools and cast details.

The interior equipment layout in the saw mill was closely duplicated from the plans provided by the

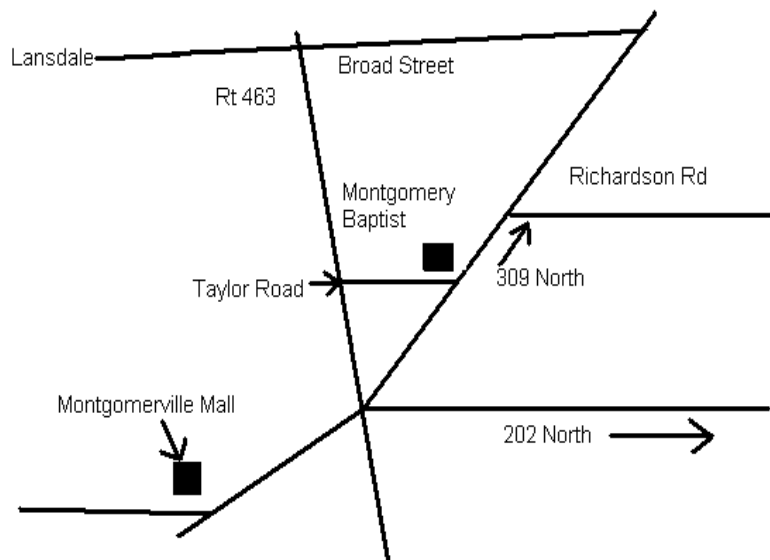
Keystone Locomotive Works.

The design of the sawmill roof truss was duplicated from the Historic American Engineering Record of the Hull-Oakes Lumber Co. in Monroe, Oregon. Scale sketches and layout templates were drawn for all of the building structures.

The roofing materials varies per building and includes: a three tab asphalt shingled roof hand-made from sheets of 320 grit wet and dry sand paper on the saw mill, a wood shake roof on the cook house made from strips of Campbell's embossed paper, a metal roof on the powerhouse made from cut strips of Campbell's corrugated aluminum sheeting and multiple flat roofs made from scale strips of standard 8.5" x 11" 20-pound copy paper.

Grandt Line windows and doors were cleaned, painted, weathered and installed with clear styrene glazing. Sheet and strip styrene as well as tubing and elbows were cut, fitted and glued to construct all of the scratch built dust collection system and the steam/condensate piping as well as the supports and mounting brackets. The dust collection system starts under the saw mill deck where three bins collect falling debris from the bandsaw, edger and planner. Individual vacuum pipes at each bin combine to form the main header which connects to the separation centrifuge at the top of the saw dust shed. The collected saw dust is gravity feed via a large pipe to awaiting firemen inside the power house.

March 12 Meet Directions



**Montgomery Baptist Church, Tailor Road & Rt. 309, Colmar, PA
MEETING STARTS AT 9AM**



Planning Ahead ----Division Meeting 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.

March 12 , 2011- Division Meet

Montgomery Baptist Church,
Montgomeryville, PA
Details in this issue – pg. 1.

May 7 , 2011- Division Meet

Del Val College, Doylestown,
PA Joint meet with East Coast Santa
Fe Modelers. Pre registration
requested (see page 3 of this issue)

November 12, 2011 – Division Meet

Wilmington Town Center
Joint meet More information to
follow in future Dispatchers

March 25-26 – RPM Meet

Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Greensburg, PA – See additional
Coverage in this issue

Sept. 17, 2011 Division Meet

Coatesville, PA. More information to
follow in future Dispatchers.
Clinics, layout tours, contest.

May 13-14 – National Trolley Meet

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
Oaks, PA – Clinics, layout tours
Contests, displays, more

Club coorespondents wanted!!!!

The Dispatcher wishes to continue the Division's growing relationship with Philadelphia area clubs. We have already heard from GATSME, Logan and several senior citizen centers. We would like to hear from other area clubs including Royersford, Phoenixville, Abington, Coopersburg and others. It is our intent to offer regular space for Club news releases, current events and other related information. Please let the editor know of club members willing to interface with The Dispatcher.

MAKE SURE THE CLERK HAS YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS

VIEW THE DISPATCHER ONLINE !! ADDITIONAL PHOTOS, NATIONAL NMRA REPORTS, ...MORE

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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**4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

March/May Joint Meet Info

Bethlehem Car Works Article

Hawk Lumber Company

Golden Spike Info

On-line content

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 194446
5% in addition to already discounted prices

VIEW THE DISPATCHER ONLINE !! ADDITIONAL PHOTOS, NATIONAL NMRA REPORTS AND MORE

AROUND THE DIVISION



Two photos of Nick Brownsberger's growing Pennsy Layout showing how he overcame the engineering challenges of threading FOUR decks of four-track main line behind his crowded utility closet! Look for an article on this in an upcoming Dispatcher.



Editor Earl Paine's solution to an intruding hot water tank was to tear it out and replace it with a tankless unit. This created room for the trains to pass beneath the new unit and gain access to another basement area for a railroad extension.

Dick Foley's January Meet open house brought many of us into the city to see his prototype-based layout based on Reading operations in Philadelphia. He is discussing his design with John Seibert.

NMRA National News and Announcements

January NMRA InfoNet News

Greetings, Presidents & Superintendents --

Welcome to the February edition of the NMRA InfoNet News.

PLEASE forward this to your newsletter editor and officers, mention it in your editorial, bring it up at meetings. Your members like to know what's going on at National!

- Thanks to generous donations of members, The NMRA Online Archives is getting very close to opening for business. Right now it appears that March 1 will be the magic date. With the funds already collected we've been able to scan and post almost 10,000 photos, drawings, and plans, which will be available for download at a discount by NMRA members, and at full price by non-NMRA members. Keep your eyes on *NMRA Magazine* for the big Grand Opening announcement! And keep reminding your members to continue their donations -- the more money we receive, the more photos we'll be able to scan!
 - The NMRA is planning to help Regions and Divisions promote **National Model Railroad Month** this November by making available materials that can be downloaded from our website, such as poster and flyer templates, press releases, etc. Watch *NMRA Magazine* and the InfoNet news for more details sometime this summer.
 - As part of our National Model Railroad Month promotion, we'll be publishing **a special story in NMRA Magazine** about how Regions and Divisions celebrate and promote it themselves. **If your Division or Region does something special to promote National Model Railroad Month** please write a brief 200-word description of your activities and send it to me at this email address before June 1. We'll try to include as many descriptions as we can in our story, which will probably run in the August issue. If you don't do anything for National Model Railroad Month, maybe that story will give your Division or Region some good ideas... and you'll have some time to get ready to implement them!
 - Last month I reminded everyone to make sure Division Business Car columnist Jim Zinser was regularly receiving your newsletter. But I neglected to mention the biggest reason Jim's column is so important to you: it's one of the best places to see what other Divisions and Regions are doing to promote themselves, to raise money, and to have fun with model railroading. So take a few moments every-other month to read Jim's column to see if there are any **ideas that your Division or Region could use!**
 - The **winter Board Meeting** is being held concurrently with the Budget and Operations meetings this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel (about 5 miles from the airport). The Budget and Operations meetings, which are by invitation only, begin on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 a.m. The Board Meeting runs from 9 to 5 (or later) on Wednesday, February 23, and 9 to 5 (or later) on Thursday, February 24. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.
 -
 - Just a reminder that we continue to run a "**Help Wanted**" ad in *NMRA Magazine*. We've already filled several positions, thanks to generous volunteers. But we still need help. Remember, we're a volunteer organization and always in need of able bodies to lend a hand. Here are the positions we're looking for -- if any of your members fit the qualifications below, please pass the their names along to us!
 -
- Electronics engineers** with experience in setting up control systems needed to take part in discussions and development of NMRANET. Current bus is designed using CAN. Time commitment: several hours per week.
- IT staff volunteer** with experience in Content Management Systems. Able to program in PHP and PostGreSQL/MySQL, and good experience in HTML and CSS. IIS and VB experience a plus. Time commitment: ~3 hours per week.

February NMRA InfoNet News.

I'm going to start out with **two homework assignments for all Regions and Divisions:**

- We're going to try to really promote **National Model Railroad Month** this November. So we'd like any Region or Division who does something special for it to please write up a 200-word description of what you do. We'll compile everyone's story and run it in *NMRA Magazine* this Summer. Please send your write-ups to me at this email address by May 1.

•
If your Region or Division gives **adult or family classes on model railroading**, Fred Bock, the NMRA's Education Department Chair, is looking for ideas. Whether your program runs as a one-day seminar or multi-week course, Fred would like to know what your program is about and is looking for lesson plans or other course material. Please email Fred at fbrockLSRDiv6@aol.com. Use "Adult Education" as the subject of the email.

Now on to the rest of our InfoNet News:

- The **winter Board Meeting** is being held concurrently with the Budget and Operations meetings this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel (about 5 miles from the airport). The Budget and Operations meetings, which are by invitation only, begin on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 a.m. The Board Meeting runs from 9 to 5 (or later) on Wednesday, February 23, and 9 to 5 (or later) on Thursday, February 24. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.
-
- The **X2011 West NMRA National Convention site** went "live" in January, allowing online registration and online selection and payment for tours, events, meals, and even Convention merchandise! This is the *first time ever* that a Convention committee has provided complete online registration and tour signup. Even OpSIG and LDSIG signups are being handled online. Easy, fast, and you immediately know if a tour or event is sold out. Hotel reservations are also being done online through the Convention website. The Convention website is www.x2011west.org
- The **"Members Only" section of our website** is getting very close to opening to the public. In addition to some content we're preparing right now, we're also looking for some ideas from NMRA members of things we can add to that section. If you or your members have some ideas, please forward them to Bob Robbins at marrob17@optonline.com.
- Just a reminder that there are still several prints of our **75th Anniversary Painting** available for sale. The prints measure 30"x20" and are signed and numbered. The price is \$150 plus shipping and handling, and can be ordered by calling Headquarters.
- Two "new" **model railroad podcasts** have popped up within the past several months. One is "Model Rail Radio," and features the NMRA's own Board Member Clark Kooning as a regular guest. Shows run from 20 minutes to three hours and cover a wide range of topics. You can find out more about that podcast at www.modelrailradio.com. Another podcast, hosted by Trevor Marshall and Jim Martin, features two in-depth interviews in a concise, 20-minute period. Find out more at www.themodelrailwayshow.com. Both podcasts can be downloaded via iTunes.
- Just a reminder that we continue to run a **"Help Wanted"** ad in *NMRA Magazine*. We've already filled several positions, thanks to generous volunteers. But we still need help. Here are the spots we're hoping to have volunteers fill:
 - **IT staff volunteer** with experience in Content Management Systems. Able to program in PHP and PostgreSQL/MySQL, and good experience in HTML and CSS. IIS and VB experience a plus. Time commitment: ~3 hours per week.
 - **Travel specialist**, preferably a professional travel agent, with experience setting up and organizing group tours. Time commitment: several hours per month.

NMRA Data Sheets Project

From: **M. David Johnson** <mdj@bds-soft.com>

Date: Sun, Jan 30, 2011 at 6:59 PM

NMRA President Mike Brestel has recently appointed me to the position of NMRA Data Sheets Coordinator, with Van Fehr (vanfehr@comcast.net) as Assistant Coordinator. Our charge is to reorganize and reinvigorate the NMRA Data Sheets program.

One of our responsibilities will be to work closely with the NMRA Regions and Divisions in a support and service capacity, and **we want to ask you to help us** with the first three tasks we've identified:

1. Perform a survey, by sections (Van is starting with D3 and I'm starting with D9), of the existing Data Sheets to determine revision needs and set priorities, and to assess the need for new and additional sheets – We'd like you to brainstorm ideas for new Data Sheets for us: please send us anything that comes to mind now or in the future.
2. Assemble a database of existing and potential Data Sheet authors – If you know of anybody whom you think would be a good candidate, please send us their name and contact information, along with an indication of in which area(s) you believe they have expertise. We will then contact them to discuss their possible involvement.
3. Assemble a peer review committee to check proposed Data Sheets before publication. This is where we need your help most. Please send us the names and contact information of anyone whom you think would be a good choice for membership on that committee.

We're not looking for a formal "Professional Journal" type of committee, nor for one that would be meeting on any regular schedule, but rather for a collection of NMRA members with particular areas of expertise to whom we could refer submittals on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

The members of the peer review committee would not all review each and every submittal. Instead, each submittal would be referred to a select sub-group of the committee members who have relevant expertise. Thus, the burden on any given committee member should not be too heavy.

Van will chair that committee and will coordinate the review process. Tony Koester is our first committee member. Is there anyone whom you might recommend we invite to serve on that committee? Would you, yourself, be willing to serve on that committee?

Any and all suggestions will be gratefully received and carefully considered.

--

M. David Johnson NMRA No. L02746 442 Michael
Manor Glenview, IL 60025-4636 847-998-1656 (Home
Office) 708-476-6882 (Cell) 847-657-8359 (Fax) mdj@bds-soft.com



HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. All available to NMRA members for the cost of postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing.

Then, get that popcorn ready.



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2011

Railroad Prototype Modelers Seminar – East

Sponsored by Division 2, MCR-NMRA

1:00pm Friday, March 25 through 11:00pm Saturday, March 26, 2011

Registration will begin at 10:00am on Friday. Set up any time after 8:00am

Sheraton Four Points Hotel. Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA.

Room rate: \$95.00 plus tax. (724) 836-6060 Mention “Prototype Modeler’s Meet”

<http://www.greensburgpa4points.com/>

- A large display room will be available for models. Please bring your models.
- Layout tours will be available on Sunday, March 27
- **Early Bird operating sessions scheduled for Thursday Evening, 6:00PM, March 24.**
- Limited number of tables available for vendors @ \$20.00 each.
- Hotel overlooks the Norfolk Southern (PRR) main line
- Amtrak stops in Greensburg, East bound in morning (Approx 8:02am), West bound in evening (Approx 7:00pm), East bound on Sunday approximately 2:00pm
- Check the Division 2 website for more info. **www.keystonedivision.org**

For information contact:

Dick Flock
337 Elm Drive,
Greensburg, PA 15601.
Phone: 724-850-8882.
Email: jlerr337@verizon.net

Clinic volunteers please contact:

Larry Kline
4130 Bigelow Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-422-0678
lnkline@verizon.net

Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$35.00

Please make checks payable to: **Dick Flock**. You can memo RPM East on the bottom of your check.

Name_____Email_____

Mailing Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____Phone_____

Saturday Evening Buffet \$25.00 Yes ___ No ___ Thursday Operating Session Yes___ No ___

Number of Dealer Tables ____ @ \$20.00 each



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD

APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR

Member's Name: _____ NMRA#: _____ EXP: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratch building and super detailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.

QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

Display six units of rolling stock either scratch built, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.

Construct five structures either scratch built, craftsman kits or super detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

Three types of track required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used.

All installed track must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).

Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Print Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____

OUR AP COORDINATOR IS DAVE MESSER
CONTACT INFO ON PRINTED PAGE 2

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Join the NMRA for 6 months for just \$9.95*!

Sign me up!

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

☐ Check

☐ Credit card

Credit Card # _____

Credit Card Exp _____

Signature _____

*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
- Get admission to local model railroad meetings & events
- Receive 6 monthly issues of *Scale Rails* magazine
- Have access to standards info and data sheets
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So few bucks.**

National Convention Information



EXTRA 2011 WEST

The Unconventional Convention
2011 NMRA National Convention
Sacramento, California
July 3 to 9, 2011



Connect with X2011 West

Anyone can see the X2011 West Facebook page, including all photos and videos - you don't have to be a Facebook member and you don't have to login to Facebook. Enjoy!



Convention Hotels

Sheraton Grand Sacramento
1230 J Street
(13th & J Streets)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hyatt Regency Sacramento
1209 L Street
(12th & L Streets)
Sacramento, CA 95814

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skills. And your hobby.



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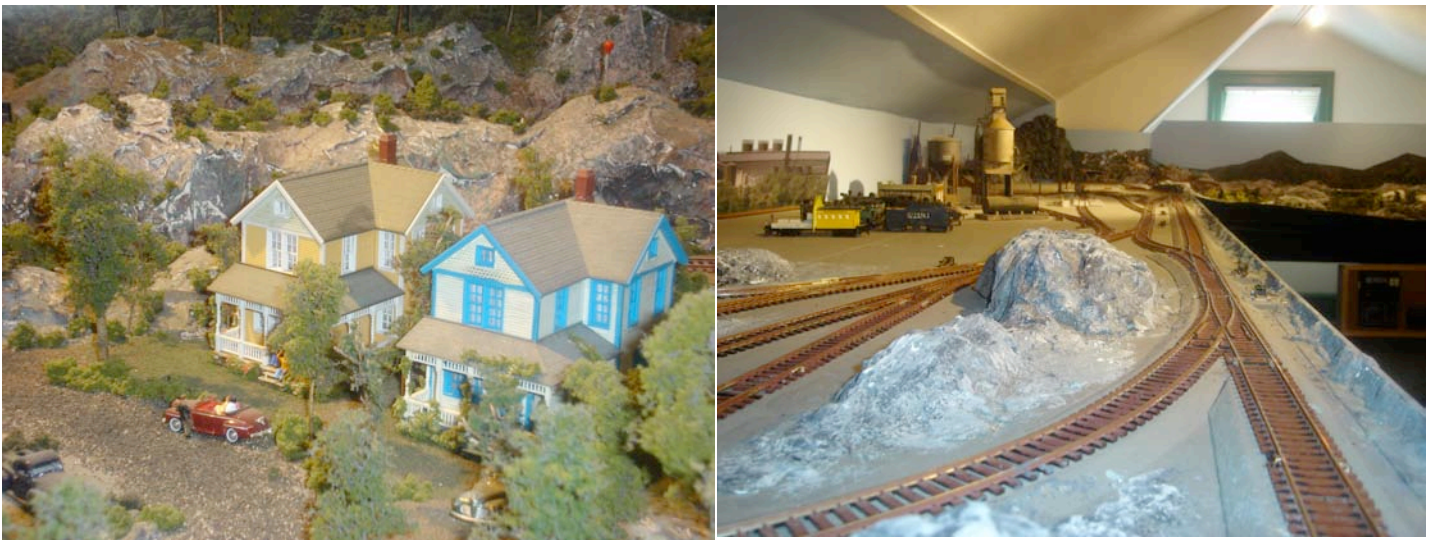
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423-892-2846



AROUND THE DIVISION



Two photos of Joe Bergmaier's new Pennsy and Reading layout. Joe is constructing the layout in in three levels to gain maximum main line length. Joe is making rapid progress since starting this layout just 1 year ago. Look for future open houses from Joe.



Division member Charles Butsch progresses with the combination of and expansion to his legacy layouts. He is currently converting the railroad to DCC. The railroad will soon progress throughout Charles's third floor office and Den.

Editor's note The Dispatcher seeks to offer on-line coverage of new and upcoming division layouts as many of our newer members are taking the "construction plunge". There is a lot to be learned from viewing layouts in their early stages. The builders also benefit from the wisdom experienced members as the builders share their design and operational goals. Feel free to submit photos to the Dispatcher of other new, or previously unknown, modeling endeavors. We have unlimited access to on-line space ...