



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

August 2011 Volume 18, Number 4

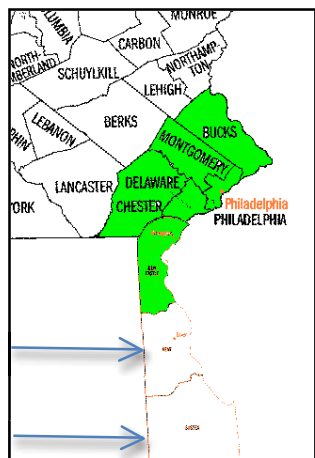


<http://www.phillynmra.org/>

THE PHILADELPHIA DIVISION EXPANDS

The Mid East Region Board of Directors has just expanded the Philadelphia Division! Welcome new members!

For many years a group of NMRA members from the Dover, Delaware area have been attending events here in the Philadelphia Division. Per national rules, any NMRA member can attend any Divisional activities world wide, so their attendance had never been a problem. Those members attended our Division events so regularly, that few members were aware that they were technically not members of the Philly Division.



Prior division boundaries have included only New Castle County in Delaware (which includes the greater Wilmington area), but members in middle and southern Delaware were apparently not members of any NMRA division.

The Dover area members recently petitioned the Mid East Region for the inclusion of central Delaware (Kent County) into the Philadelphia Division.

It is the Region's task to consider such requests, investigate the feasibility and impact on other local Divisions, and then grant or deny the requests.

The Philly Division Board was recently notified of the Region's decision. The Region added not only Kent County, but also Sussex County, Delaware to the Division. All NMRA members anywhere in Delaware are now Philadelphia Division members.

This has added approximately 21 new Delaware members to our Division, in addition to the New Castle County members already on the rolls.

In recent years the current Board has made it a point to rotate Division meetings throughout all geographical areas of the Division, and regularly schedule a November meeting in Northern Delaware. That rotational planning has been continued into 2012. Please note the schedule of Division meetings located elsewhere in this issue.

The new members will be mailed a complimentary printed version of this issue of The Dispatcher. At that point they can individually decide if they want to pay for printed delivery or take advantage of the free online editions.

All current members should be on the lookout for new faces at upcoming meetings and do everything we can to make them feel welcome.

SEPTEMBER 2011 DIVISION MEET AND ELECTIONS

We are pleased to announce the details of the next Division meet to be held on **Sept. 17, 2011 at 9 AM**. The Division will be again returning to the site of the Lukens Steel Museum in Coatesville, PA. Directions are located elsewhere in this issue.

The Division will finalize the election process for the four Board seats that are open. A cut off ballot is

printed on page 6 of this issue. Ballots may be mailed in or brought to the meeting. The results will be announced at the meeting. Election details and candidate bios are on pages 5 and 6.

In addition, the following clinics will be presented:

#1: Mike Rabbit – Steel Industry

#2: Benjamin Hom – Post War Freight Car fleet

Afternoon open houses will be announced at the meet.



Greetings everyone. I'll be brief this month to allow more coverage of the upcoming Division election.

The last time I prepared this column we were approaching the May 2011 Division Joint Meeting in conjunction with the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers. As a Board member, I fully supported the concept of doing something "out of the ordinary" and that's just what was intended with that joint effort!

I personally was very pleased with the outcome and the chance to interact with the nationally recognized clinicians who presented. Look for a meeting report from Clerk Mark Wallace elsewhere in this issue.

Kudos to all those who helped with the joint meeting effort !!!!!

On a personal note, you might have noticed that I am not running for another term on the Division Board. I will be returning part time to academia this fall and will have to devote significant time to that effort.

I also applaud the fact that my not running will allow the election of some new members on the Board..... always a healthy thing!

I will still be serving the Division as Editor of The Dispatcher and will be in close contact with all meetings and business conducted by the Division.

See you next issue! Earl

From the Division Superintendent



It seems that I've been a model railroader most of my life. During most of my active modeling years, my happiest memories are those in which I've been actively involved in the hobby through a club or the division. Living in Baltimore, I was an officer or board member of the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers in the 70s and 80s. I moved to the Downington area in the late 80s and gradually withdrew from active participation in the hobby until a call from Dave Messer sometime in 2004 or so spurred me to become re-involved through planning for the Independence Junction National Convention. I met so many great people from this area that I just had to find a way to continue to participate.

Being involved in the hobby – really involved – is what helps drive my enthusiasm for the hobby. Meeting knowledgeable people, learning from them, and sharing with others are all major parts of the hobby that add to the enjoyment. Being invited to operating sessions where there is always something to learn, lots of camaraderie, and always tons of laughter and enjoyment is what drives me to work on my layout. Someday, it will be my turn to invite friends and maybe some new hobbyists to enjoy my handiwork and learn about my little modeled corner of the Western Maryland.

So, I urge you to be part of the social end of the hobby. Give your time, your talents, and your enthusiasm for model railroading to others. It will come back to you multiplied many times over. There is no requirement that states that you must have a long term commitment. Just get involved as your time permits. Share your expertise with a clinic or article for the Dispatcher. Lend a hand at a Division gathering. Meet people – we have so many great folks in our Division who are willing and able to share with you!

Greg Shindledecker

ONLINE EDITION OF DISPATCHER CONTAINS 10 ADDITIONAL PAGES

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the
Philadelphia Division,
National Model Railroad Association
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. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

Next issue: Oct. '11. Due out approx. Oct 10. Deadline: Sept 20.

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.

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Where does the time go? The summer is nearly half over and the Registration Period for the November Open House List is nearly upon us.

For a quick review, the Open House List consists of Railroad Modelers who open their home layouts to fellow modelers to visit and share their experiences in the hobby. If you would be interested in opening up your layout for visitors, you can register between August 15th and September 15th on the WEB Site www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com.

The list is for layouts in the area from Eastern shore Maryland (and Baltimore) north to the Pennsylvania border, Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania (west to Harrisburg), and southern New Jersey including the Trenton area. The updated list of layouts that will be open this year is available on the WEB Site on October 1st. The list contains the Name and Address of the Layout owner, the scale of the layout and the Date and Time the layout owner has chosen to be open.

Some layout owners go beyond the Open House List and advertise their open dates in their community newspapers and at their local Libraries. Their goal is to attract many of their neighbors and share the fun with the future modeling generation. It is hoped that this year, modelers will bring with them some friends and family in order to generate some more interest in the hobby.

This year, I'm hoping more of you will open again to show your progress, and on your non-open days, get out and visit some layouts that you haven't seen for some time.

The May Joint NMRA/Santa Fe meet**by Mark Wallace**



Our recent meet to help celebrate National Train day was held primarily on Saturday May 7th as a joint event with the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers (or ECSFM). While this group is independent of the Division, they are nonetheless, devoted to all things involving the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Rwy. Though far away from the territory where the prototype railroad ranged, the ECSFM folks are part of a larger network of Santa Fe modelers. The ECSFM normally meets once a year with events, auction and guest speakers.

Our Division was invited partly due to involvement several of Board members have with a round-robin group involving Don Borden's' Cajon Pass ATSF layout. We'd like to thank Don and ECSFM for inviting the Division to share in, what turned out to be an exciting, all day event!

Though their Meet includes Friday night and Saturday, the Division was invited to attend during Saturday at the Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA. After the Saturday morning registration and setup, the ECSFM held their business meeting and elections. Meanwhile our Clerk Mark Wallace gave a clinic on 'The Layout Room.' Discussion ranged from a poll on where folks have built their layout in their houses, to architectural and practical tips on making the overall room work to become part of the layout. The clinic was joined and enlivened by guest Steven Priest MMR, NMRA Editor, along with others sharing helpful comments about their layouts. The entire group joined together in the Music Room to then hear Steve Priest give a clinic on the NMRA's preservation program to digitize photos, documents and all things railroad for the Kalmbach Library. Steve demonstrated how the system works so that all of our members will have greater access to the treasures contained in the Kalmbach Library. Dick Bronson then presented a clinic on his latest signaling design ideas from RR Circuits. Dick's display was very popular with discussion continuing well after the clinic. Meanwhile, in the next classroom a few vender tables and many other tables were filled with items for auction. Folks were free to shop, purchase, sell or window-shop.

After lunch Steve Priest gave another clinic; "ATSF 3 Shop Scrapbooks, Cleburne, San Bernardino, and Albuquerque." He shared from his vast collection of photographs the Santa Fe's system of shops with an insider's point of view. As many of you know, Steve worked as an ATSF locomotive engineer after graduating from architecture school. His photos and talk gave us an accurate description of the enormous scale of operations; very comparable with Altoona, Hagerstown or similar in terms of all-purpose, heavy-duty locomotive rebuilding as well as maintenance. Norm Stenzel of QSI, followed with a presentation of their new Quantum Q-3 Sound Decoders. Exciting news about the new features of the decoders in both steam and diesel includes the ability to mix and match

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sounds; a particular type of engine or prime mover with a different whistle or horn instead of the present limited choices. Members of this group have a close association with Josh for some of the decoders included in ATSF locomotives. Josh spent time with suggestions from the audience. One example concerned the idea of 'routines' or the ability of the decoder to 'play' a special order of sounds when a function button is pushed. For example; a diesel locomotive shutting down or a steam engine going through various activities such as 'reversing direction' or taking on coal or water. The future seems very lively indeed when these decoders come on the market later this year.



Figure 1 - The opening session of the day

evening clinic "Working with Manufacturers To Create Santa Fe Prototypes." He explained how his company 'Paired Rail' works with manufacturers to develop model locomotives and rolling stock. Photos included a peek into the factories in China where these 'jewels' over varying scale and size are assembled. Afterward, the annual auction was held. This featured donations of books, locomotives, models and equipment including a Digitrax system. Once folks got into it, the bidding was brisk!

Finally Steve Priest closed out our evening with his clinic: "The Life and Death of the Emporia Subdivision." Keying off of some of Mark's earlier clinic topics, Steve told the story of his building with family and round-robin friends, the 'ATSF Emporia Subdivision' down in the basement of his townhouse. The layout has graced the pages of MR, RMC as well as featured on video. Sadly in a recent

business decision that involved relocating Paired Rail's offices to Steve's house, the railroad has been demolished. Steve however was gracious to give us glimpse into his workshop, as well as tips on layout building, design and operations.

A gracious 'Thank You' to Don Borden, Jim Albanowski, Mike Davis, NMRA Magazine Editor Steven Priest, Members of the Board who helped coordinate and to all of those from the ECSFM and Philly Division on a successful meet. There's already talk of a 'next time.' Stay tuned!



Figure 2 - Greg Shindledecker confers with ECSF Chair Jim Albanowski

This Issue's on-line content ...

- Division Financial Statement
- NMRA National News
- Article - GATSME makes progress on building procurement
- Photos from May Joint Meet

Next Issue preview ...

- Greg Shindledecker article – Installing metal backdrops
- Model Railroading at Shannondell Retirement Community
- Board Reorganization report
- Manual Turnout controls on a budget

Editors note:

Printed subscriptions to the Dispatcher have dropped below the 75 mark. Many of those paid subscriptions are also delinquent.

The obvious assumption would indicate that the balance of our 300+ members are going the online route.

That might, however, NOT be the case. This year's ballot has a place to let you choose and supply an updated email to our list.

Those who wish US mail delivery should check their mailing labels for delinquency.

Those already receiving the email notifications need not respond on the ballot!

Candidates Bios and Statements

Greg Shindledecker

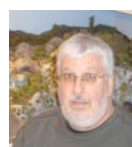


Being involved in the hobby through the “people” side of things is what I find most enjoyable. Leading, organizing and actively participating in railroad and model railroad events is certainly work, but there is no greater reward for me than experiencing a program or event that I’ve spent time helping to make a reality.

I’ve been an active member of the Philly Division since just prior to Independence Junction in 2006. I served as the Publications Editor for this National Convention. This position provided me the opportunity to meet the great people who made the convention a reality, and those who also made the Division so active. In 2009, I was lucky enough to be elected to the board of directors and have served as the Division’s Superintendent since that time. I have been honored to serve with a group of active, enthusiastic board members who share the vision of a quality program and who are not afraid to change direction when something is not working or requires a new vision.

My greatest disappointment (shared too by others on the board) is that we have only marginally been able to increase the actively participating members in our Division. I would like the opportunity to continue to work on this and other ongoing projects by serving another term on the Philly Division Board.

Charles A. Butsch



I began my fascination with trains with the family set of American Flyer trains during the Christmas season. During my teen years I got a Gilbert HO train set and have been hooked on HO since.

That Gilbert set lay in an old toy chest for several decades, through architectural school, dating, and my early days of my marriage. It was not until my first daughters Christmas that I pulled the old Gilbert set out to make a simple circle around the tree. That was a quite a memorable Christmas. I had recorded the event on a tape recorder, in the hopes of getting her first impressions of Christmas. The old train hum came out loud and clear much to my wife's disappointment.

Flash ahead to 1998. I had completed all my major home renovation projects and had served for three years volunteering with Habitat For Humanity. It was time to satisfy my creative energies on something else. So started my ever-evolving train layout. It started in the basement as most layouts do, but ended moving to our third floor when other personages felt that I was intruding into their territories.

I now have a man cave (as Earl Paine decries it) on our third floor with heat and A/C comforts. It started as a 5'x8' platform and has grown to extend the full length and width of the 15'x30' space. The center ridge of the ceiling is a whopping 6'-1", which is fine for my 5'8" stature. I recently locked in to modeling The Reading Railroad just north of Tamaqua in a fictional town of Himmelville, Pennsylvania.

I have several grand kids who have shared my interest in trains over the years; my one grand daughter has even pulled wires for the new DCC system. I think it's important to share our interest in railroading to the younger generations, not only because we enjoy it but also because railroading is still an important means of transportation for Americas goods and people.

Our membership can and should be reinforced with the inclusion of the younger generation. I would hope that an effort would be made to replenish and expand our ranks before there are none to follow us.

Howard Kaplan



My name is Howard Kaplan and I'm running for a position on the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Division. I live with my wife in Drexel Hill, where I practice dentistry in my home. As you might expect, my waiting room is plastered with railroad pictures and maps. Setting up the office in my basement involved a lot of careful planning, primarily in order to allow as much room as possible for the model railroad--heck, I know my priorities. Now if I can only get the thing built!

Model railroading has been in my blood since childhood; I built a N scale layout in my parents home. 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. My eventual layout will reflect these railroads in the city in N scale. I'm a member of both the Reading and Anthracite Societies and an avid collector of maps, atlases, timetables, reference books and other paper.

I have been a member of the NMRA for 30 years and an active member of the Philadelphia Division for 18, having attended most of the meetings in that time.

I have witnessed many changes over the years and believe that provides me with a unique perspective into what implementations might be the most successful in the future. My passion for model railroading also led me to join the New Jersey Division as an associate member, where, in my years attending their meetings, I have gained knowledge of their organization and insight into some ideas that might have potential in our division.

One issue of particular interest to me is that of recruiting new members. I first learned of the Philadelphia Division at the Valley Forge Convention in 1993. I never even knew it existed, despite having been a member of the NMRA for more than a decade by that time; no one had ever contacted me. I'd like to concentrate on continuing efforts to not only promote the NMRA in

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efforts to not only promote the NMRA in general, but to increase awareness of the division among existing members and encourage them to attend meetings and perhaps become more involved.

Unlike many of the other candidates, I can't really lay claim to much management expertise. I was a bus captain for layout tours during the 2006 NMRA convention, so I did gain some experience in bossing people around. However, if I am elected, there's one thing I can guarantee: free toothpaste for everyone! Thank you.

Brian Good



Brian is a CPA partner and co-founder of the DGK Group, an accounting tax and consulting firm located in Plymouth Meeting, PA. He is currently a member in good standing with the NMRA as well as its associated regional and local divisions.

Brian served the national office and the local-host steering committee as Fan Trip Manager for the NMRA national convention - Independence Junction 2006, as well as served as the division's Treasurer and Board Member for the last three years.

As Treasurer, he has been instrumental in improving the division's financial reporting and compliance as a non-profit with the IRS and PA Dept of Revenue.

He is a Golden Spike award recipient and models the PRR & RDG Schuylkill divisions. Brian was born and raised in Montgomery County; is married with two children and currently makes his home in Harleysville, Pa.

John Seibert



I grew up with model railroading. Our father always had an HO model railroad going in the basement. He built 5 over his lifetime and his boys all shared in the hobby. I started building my own n-scale layout 11 years ago and have started my 2nd after a move to a bigger house 3 years ago. I model the Reading Wilmington and Northern branch in the late 50s and am a member of a very active round robin group located in Montgomery County.

Professionally; I am a global product manager for a very large locally based electronics firm whose name is sometimes confused with a toy company we all know. I bring sales, presentation and marketing skills to the division along with a lifetime of model railroading enjoyment.

There is a common thread among the NMRA constituency when it comes to sharing ideas and talents. I would like to see that extended more to newcomers to the hobby.

The new structure of the NMRA on the regional and division levels is allowing more grass roots access to the hobby and I would like to see us capitalize more on that. The more people there are enjoying this hobby the better it is for everyone in terms of product availability, new ideas, more willing hands and more friendships.

--- PRINT OUT (IF NECESSARY) AND CUT HERE -- PRINT OUT (IF NECESSARY) AND CUT HERE ---

2011 Philadelphia Division Board of Directors Ballot

Please vote for no more than 4 (four) names.

Your name _____

Brian Good	_____	Greg Shindledecker	_____
John Seibert	_____	Howard Kaplin	_____
Charles Butsch	_____		
Dispatcher selection (choose one below)			
____ I receive the Dispatcher electronically		Email _____	
____ I will subscribe to the mailed edition		Please send \$7.00 (yearly) to Clerk	
Detach and send ballot to Clerk Mark Wallace, 665 Bonny Brooke Ave, Collegeville, PA 19426 (or bring to the September Meeting)			
POSTMARK NO LATER THAN SEPT 13th			

September 17 Meet Directions

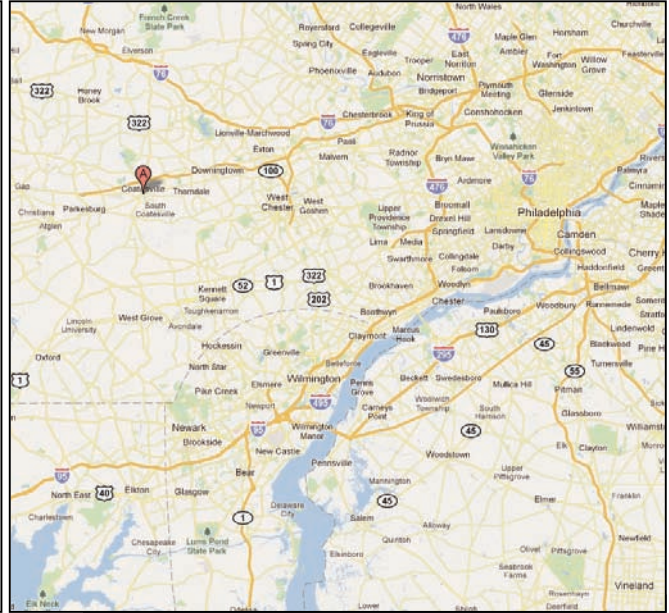
LUKENS STEEL is located in Coatesville, PA.
50 S 1st Ave, Coatesville, PA, 19320

From the Turnpike, get off at Downingtown (Rte 100) and go south to the 2nd light (Rte 113). Turn right and go about 3 miles to Rte 30 bypass - west.

Take the Rte 30 By-Pass (not Business 30) to Rte 82. Coming from the east, make a right at the bottom of the ramp onto Rte 82 south and go directly into Coatesville. Proceed across business route 30 where the street name becomes 1st Ave.

The Lukens Building is the first building on the right after the traffic light at business 30. Parking is in the rear. Delaware members should come up 202 to the Rte 100 by-pass in West Chester and go down to the Rte 30 bypass and head west.

The meeting starts at 9AM



**PARKING
AREA**



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.

Sept. 17, 2011 Division Meet Coatesville, PA. More information to follow in future Dispatchers. Clinics, layout tours, contest.	January 2012 – Division Meet Haddon Twp, NJ. Joint meet with the New Jersey Division More information in future Dispatchers	May 2012 – Division Meet TBA – possible repeat of a joint meet with East Coast Santa Fe Group.
November 12, 2011 – Division Meet Wilmington Town Center, DE Joint meet with New Jersey Div. More information in future Dispatchers	March 23-24-25, 2012 – Valley Forge RPM Meet Desmond Hotel, Great Valley, PA Additional Coverage to appear in subsequent Dispatchers.	The Dispatcher will be happy to display hobby related dates submitted by members

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

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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

4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473

Inside:

Election Ballot

Candidate Bios

Joint Meet report

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

Phila. Div. Mid Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc.

Financial Report
for the Year Ended June 30, 2011

Statement of Activities

Income

Newsletter Subscriptions	\$28
Non Dues Programs	1,086
Investment Income	153
Total Income	1,267

Expenses

Non Dues Programs	1,565
Program Expenses	1,616
Depreciation	300
Total Expenses	3,481
Net Loss	\$(2,214)

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$26,174
Equipment, net	885
Total Assets	\$27,059

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	-
Deferred Income	-
Total Current Liabilities	-

Fund Balances

Unrestricted	27,059
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$27,059

DIVISION FINANCIAL POSITION

NMRA National News and Announcements

JUNE 2011

It's the pre-convention June edition. Not much news this month because everyone is getting ready for Sacramento next month.

- **IMPORTANT!** Region Presidents and Division Superintendents, please note: In the next few days you will be receiving a copy of the new **Member Information Policy** adopted by the Board of Directors. Be sure to read the policy carefully and adopt the changes at the regional and divisional level of the NMRA. Recent changes in personal privacy laws make these changes necessary in order that your local group – and you personally – can avoid the ever-stronger consequences and penalties for sharing members' personal information without their permission. Please direct any questions concerning this new policy to Mike Brestel, NMRA President, at nmrapres@zoomtown.com, or Robert Amsler, NMRA General Counsel, at nmrlegal@charter.net.
- Remind your members that the NMRA has a **Facebook page and is on Twitter**. For up-to-the-minute news members should follow us at either (or both) of those two social media sites!
- The **National Train Show also has a Facebook page**. When they follow us, your members can get all kinds of information about which vendors will be at the show, show specials, and other good-to-know previews about the NTS!
- As has been the case for several years, **NMRA Membership numbers are remaining stable**. The membership count, as of May 31, was 19,495. This represents an increase of 0.34% (that's 1/3 of 1%) over May of 2010, and a decrease of 0.32% (1/3 of 1%) over May of 2006. When you hear rumors of the "constant decrease in NMRA membership," please quote these figures -- it's **STABLE** and has been for at least five years!
- Repeating last month's news, **the 2011 NMRA election results** are in!
The new NMRA Canada Director will be **Don Hillman**, replacing Clark Kooning, MMR.
The new Central District Director will be **Peter Magoun, MMR**, replacing Bob Beatty, MMR.
The new Regional Advisory Council Director will be **Stephen Priest, MMR**, replacing Bob Ferguson.
All new Directors will take office at the Sacramento Board Meeting.
- The **Summer Board meeting** will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention and will begin on Friday, July 1, 2011. Current plans put the meeting in the Beavis Room in the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. Tentative starting time is 9 am. All locations and times are subject to change -- be sure to keep an eye out for updates to this information. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.
-
- For the last time this year, a **notice of 2012 elections**. The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, davoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than June 15, 2011 -- **THAT'S THIS COMING WEDNESDAY!**

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net

-Gerry Leone, MMR NMRA Communications Director

JULY 2011

NOTE: Please forward this email 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!

In this edition, we have some news from the Sacramento convention earlier this month.

- This year's Sacramento convention **attendance topped the 2,000 mark** -- the continuation of an upward attendance trend.
- The folks at the NMRA Membership Booth at the National Train Show signed up **243 new members in three days!**
- Many of the clinicians at the Sacramento convention have **uploaded their handouts or full presentations** as PDF files to the x2011 website at www.x2011west.org. Anyone can download them. Just look for the Clinics tab, then Clinic Handouts.
- Based on two big proposals for the 2015 National NMRA Convention, the Board of Directors selected **Portland, Ore. as the winner**. Details and exact timing of the convention will be announced in the coming months.
- The "Carpet Cutting" at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento marked the **official start of fundraising for a scale model railroading exhibit** in the museum's Gallery area. No NMRA dues or regular revenue streams will be used to fund this project, so its construction will rely entirely on donations. For more details about the Gallery Exhibit, see the article in the May 2011 issue of *NMRA Magazine*.
- The Board continues to review the **timing of all future conventions**. While a mid-summer date has been traditional because of lower hotel and convention center rates over the July 4 weekend, many NMRA members have voiced the concern that it conflicts with family functions. Constructive suggestions may be directed to the Convention Committee, headed by Pacific Director Peter Jensen.

For a complete summary of the Board of Directors meeting, visit the homepage of our website at www.nmra.org in the next few weeks. The report will also be published in *NMRA Magazine* in the near future.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net

Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

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Storm Clouds Clearing Over GATSME

By Jerry Anderson President GATSME and Eric Dervinis

As you may know, the GATSME model railroad club has been facing uncertainty about its current location. Eighteen months ago Upper Dublin Township decided to begin the process to dispose of the little used school building that GATSME has leased from the township since 1975. Over the last month, signals have been moving to green and it looks like GATSME will not have to move.

Back in November 2009, the GATSME building committee had a meeting with the Upper Dublin Township Manager. He told us that the Board had directed him to dispose of the school building that GATSME leases. The auditorium above GATSME is rented to community groups by the Upper Dublin Parks and Recreation Department.

The building committee spent the next year looking at alternatives. The recession and the lack of available financing made every plan not economically feasible. Thanks to a model railroader with development experience, the committee was introduced to the not for profit Autism Living and Working (ALAW). They would tap into government grants to remodel the classroom structure into eight specialized apartments. This use would be very compatible with the residential neighborhood and fills a desperate need for housing adult autistics.

GATSME and ALAW made presentations at the June meeting of the Upper Dublin Board of Commissioners. Residents and friends of ALAW had the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Each board member spoke in positive terms about our plan. They did not take a vote and charged the lawyers and staff to study the details. The board has a responsibility to make a decision that is in the best interests of the township.

In an agreement to be hammered out, ALAW and GATSME would share the old school building. ALAW would remodel the newer class room structure for their residents. GATSME plans to add modern bathrooms and make other improvements that enhance the value of the community room, a valuable resource to the residents in the Fort Washington area. Down the road GATSME will seek funding to back date the exterior of the building to its' former glory.

The plan proposed by GATSME might be approved by year end. With many government entities involved, the final decision could be postponed into 2012. Once we have an agreement, the club will be reaching out to the model railroad community to find contractors and others that can help us remodel and preserve our 1891 building. The club is grateful to everyone that shared their concern, visited during the open house, and made extra donations to our general fund.

NMRA Clinician Harry Kyriakodis releases publication

John & Greg, My book, *Philadelphia's Lost Waterfront* has just been released by The History Press! I begin at Spring Garden Street and proceed south along the Front Street and Delaware Avenue to Washington Avenue. In addition to discussing the Philadelphia Belt Line, I also cover the Delaware Avenue El and Reading RR facilities at the foot of Willow Street. Plus, I discuss the PA RR activities at the foot of Washington Avenue.

Ultimately, though, *Philadelphia's Lost Waterfront* is a lament on all that has been lost due to the heartless routing of Interstate 95 through Philadelphia's two-mile-long riverfront corridor decades ago. As such, the book is a study of the conflict of land use--recreational vs. commercial vs. residential vs. transportation--along the Delaware River over time.

See <https://historypress.net/indexsecure.php?prodid=9781609493714> for the publisher's ad for the book, or search for "Philadelphia's Lost Waterfront" on Facebook (hope you "Like" it!). A quick Google search will bring up online bookstores that sell the book; it's now available for pre-order via amazon.com, powells.com, barnesandnoble.com, and will soon be at brick & mortar bookstores. I've posted the Preface, Introduction and Epilogue at www.scribd.com/cchali.

Please help spread the word about this, the first book about Philadelphia's original/central port district along the Delaware River.

Joint NMRA / East Coast Santa Fe Meet Photos



Figure 2- NMRA Scale Rails Editor Steve Priest presenting one of multiple clinics



Figure 31 - Greg conducts the business meeting



Figure 4 Brian, Greg and John take a break

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 ...



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**

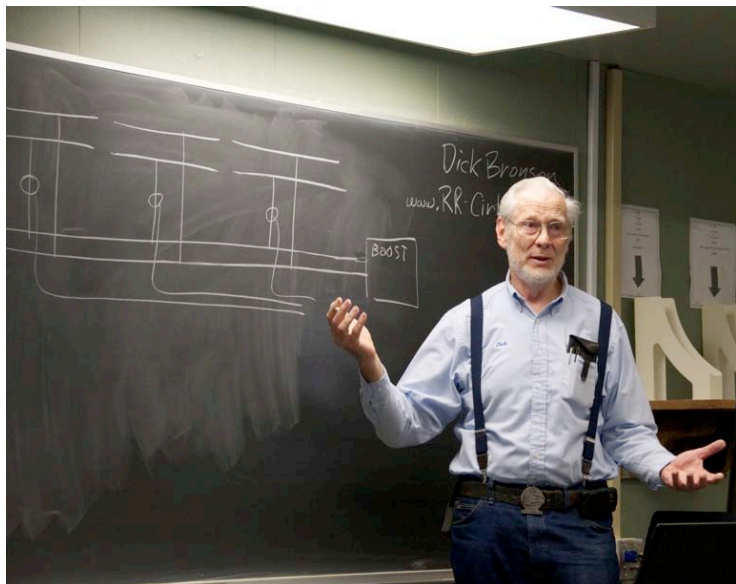


Figure 1- Dick Bronson presents from RR Circuits

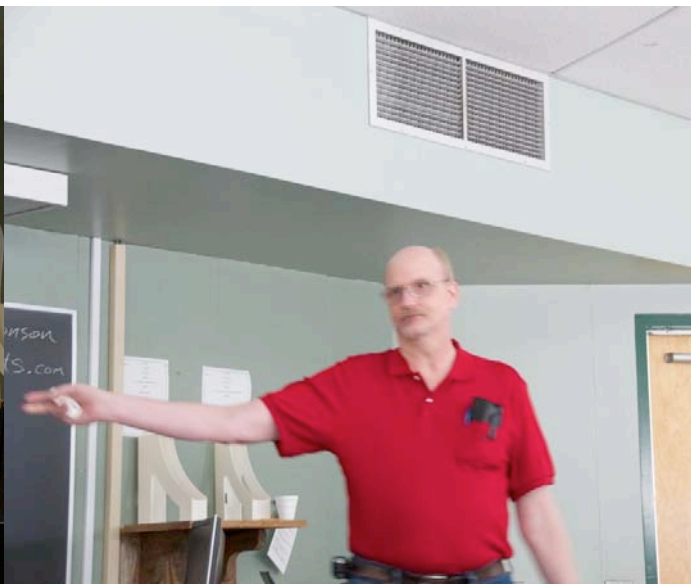


Figure 2- Norm Stenzel presents the newest generation of QSI sound decoders



Figure 3 - Charles Butsch and Mark Wallace spending big bucks at the auction!

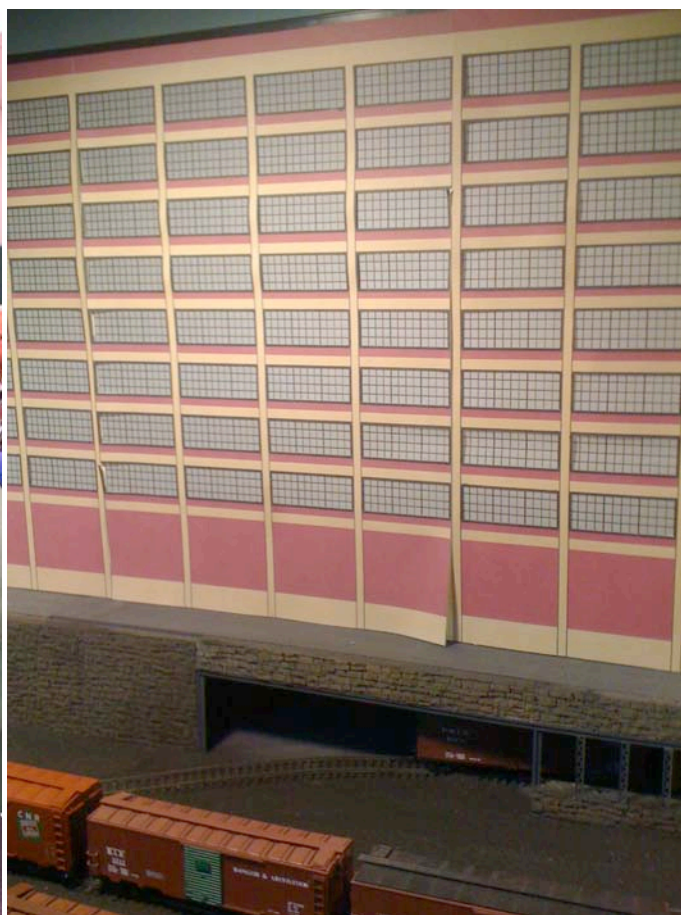
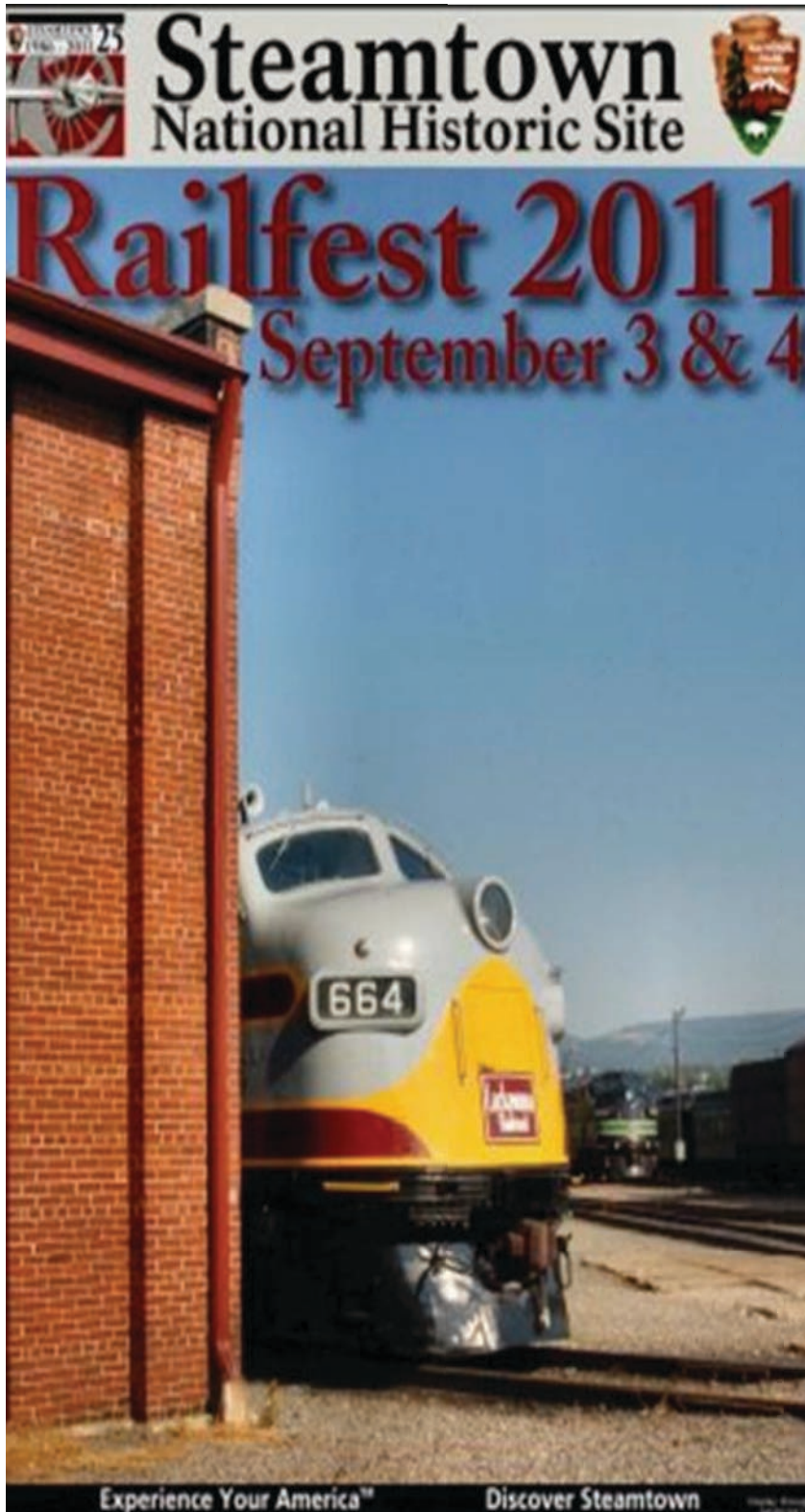


Figure 4 - Computer printed factory flat on Dick Landt's layout... a future clinic?

STEAMTOWN RAILFEST 2011



These two historic stream-lined diesel-electric locomotives are among those scheduled to be at Steamtown during Railfest, 2011.

September 3 & 4, 2011

Included in the [Park Entrance Fee](#)

Railfest 2011 celebrates the 25th Anniversary Year of Steamtown National Historic Site, the 40th anniversary of Amtrak, and the 125th anniversary of Scranton's electric trolley system.

Locomotive Shop Demonstrations

removing wheels from axles using

Steamtown's newly restored 300-ton wheel press

replacing a tire on a steam locomotive drive wheel using a 'ring of fire'

Wheel lathe demonstrations to resurface and profile railroad wheels

Running 100 vertical boring mill demonstration

Visiting Equipment

Amtrak 40th Anniversary Train

Canadian Pacific Railway

SX Railroad

Norfolk Southern Railroad

YS&W Railroad

and more

Excursions & Train Rides

Boat rides

Live Steamers

Trolley Rides

Scranton Limited Short Train Ride

(additional fee is required for those ages 6 and above)

Moscow Excursions (Advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended)

Special Exhibits & Programs

Track demonstration

Big Boy Cab tours

Big Band Music

Special Ranger Guided tours

<http://www.nps.gov/stea/planyourvisit/railfest-2011.htm>

S

AROUND THE DIVISION



Figure 1 - Mark Wallace presents his clinic



Figure 2 - Mark and Steve Priest confer



Figure 1 - Joe Bergmaier is open for business



Figure 4 - Our three out of town clinicians resting!



Figure 5 - The "commanders" of the two groups confer

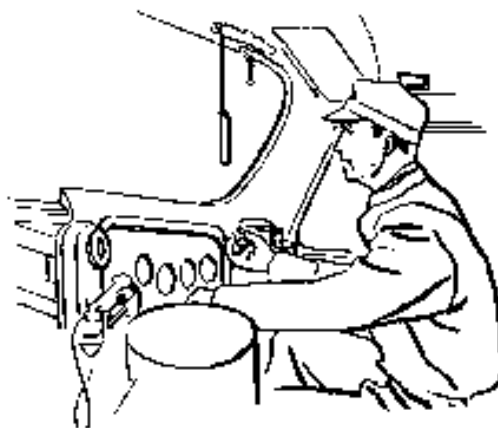


Figure 6 - This fill-in graphic could be a photo of your layout ... Send them in!!!

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