



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

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

April 2013 Volume 20, Number 3

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



The Philadelphia Division of the NMRA Joins the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers at their Spring Meet *On the Campus of Delaware Valley College Doylestown, PA May 10 - 12, 2013*

Note: NMRA participation will not begin until Saturday morning. NMRA members, however, are still welcome to attend the Friday night activities assuming that they are pre-registered or will be registering Saturday morning.

TIME SCHEDULE AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE LOCATED ON PAGE 4 OF THIS ISSUE

NMRA members planning to attend are requested to pre-register with:

Pat McTeigue

215- 441-8407

tonightowl1@comcast.net

Walk-in registration is still permissible for those planning to attend last minute if space permits. The registration fee will be paid by the division for Philadelphia Division members in good standing who live within the division boundaries.

Therefore once pre-registered, please make every effort to attend.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

There are four board-of-director seats (out of seven) open for election this May. The division is required by our bylaws to conduct this election yearly. These four directors will serve for a two-year term. After these four directors are elected, the division board will internally elect four officers from among the seven board members at the annual board reorganizational meeting in June, when the new term begins.

There are four excellent candidates this time around including two who have never served before. Bios for each candidate are located in this issue on pages 5 and 6. Please exercise your right to vote.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

You will find a ballot on page 6 of this issue. It is permissible for online readers to print out and/or photocopy the ballot for submission by US mail. To guarantee a valid election, you must sign your ballot. Ballots will be kept confidential by the clerk and election committee. Signed ballots may be mailed to the clerk (address is on the ballot) or may be hand carried and delivered to the clerk at the joint May meet (details above). Ballots will be counted and the winners announced at the NMRA business meeting portion of the agenda.

From the Editor



I've never been one to follow best practices. I like to go my own way in the design of my layout and am usually pleased with the results... but not this time! I have learned a lesson the hard way.

I'll explain. My layout consists of 3 levels, the highest one being 78" from the floor. I did this to fit in as many "signature scenes" as possible and to create a very long main line.

I have always liked looking up at trains and had no problem with such near-ceiling heights. To help guest operators, I compensated by installing two strategically placed raised platforms to allow operators to step up and view their 3rd level trains from afar.

I decided to make an exception to my avoidance of best practices and for once listened to my fellow modelers. They advised an early ops "test session" to try out the railroad.

I invited my round robin crew over to give things a try. No car cards or switchlists yet, just some basic handwritten instructions to test the three-tier concept.

After watching my guests arrive at level 3 and quickly lose sight of their trains, I realized I had a problem. They wandered around on tiptoes looking for their motive power rather than looking for a platform. Despite the platforms, they started a "search for stools."

After the session, we debriefed. Nobody was satisfied with the third level. The main line would be over 500 feet even without level 3 and all felt it was unnecessary. Go figure.

So now I am redesigning the layout and significantly reducing the third level. Better now than later! I'll report my progress in later issues. I have now learned respect for "best practices." See you in Doylestown.

Earl

From the Superintendent



How Are We Doin'?

Last month we had a great meet, made even greater by the location; the beautifully restored Quakertown station. Judging by the large turnout, the choice of the venue was well received. Due to all the positive comments we received from those of you who attended, we have decided to be there again sometime during the next year. We also had vendor tables at this meet, which is something new. There was also a chance to see the seldom seen Coopersburg club's great layout.

Your division board of directors has been trying to think of ways to increase interest in our meets and to "change it up" every once in a while. What we would like to know from you, our constituency, is: How are we doin'? What do you like, not like, want to see changed, improved, done away with, resurrected, or burned at the stake? Notice I typed what, not whom. Like the 3X5 card on the desk in your hotel room says, "We value your feedback."

As to other railroad related venues, we have been racking our brains out trying to come up with some other possibilities. We would like to find one at another area of the division-- one that would be big enough to house our typical turnout of at least 40 people. We tried the Phoenixville station but they reserve Saturday mornings to show the place to prospective customers. If you like this sort of thing and know of a place that would be enticing to the other members, please let us know. We are also open to thinking outside the box on this as well as venturing a little outside the physical boundaries of the division.

Something else to ponder: What do you think about field trips? Just to throw some things out there **if** we

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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.

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could pull them off: Reading and Northern tour of their Port Clinton facility? Amtrak Wilmington shops? "Railfanning" the Perkiomen Trail or the Schuylkill Trail? We're always looking for ideas and any assistance you could volunteer in helping to arrange

things is always welcome. Thanks for your continued support of your Philly Division!

Happy Railroading ... John

Quakertown Meet Report

..... By Mark Wallace

March 9, 2012, our Philadelphia Division including 53 members and as many as 6 guests from other Divisions, met at the Quakertown Railroad Station in Bucks County. It was a warm sunny Spring day.

The station was constructed in 1902 by the Philadelphia & Reading on the Bethlehem branch on what is now the SEPTA R5 – Lansdale Line. The passenger station was actively used until SEPTA assumed all of the Reading passenger operations in 1974. The building was no longer used as a station and was leased to a private entity. In May 1989, a fire damaged a large portion of the roof and interior. The Quakertown Train Station Historical Society was formed and has painstakingly and patiently restored the damaged portions of the building including much of the original interior and exterior woodwork. To the south is a building that functioned as a freight station that is also slated for restoration. The station is listed on the National Historical Registry.



Figure 1 - Richard Lush wins division laptop

Our Superintendent John Seibert first introduced David Long who is the current president of the nearby Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers. They are a club operating in the basement of the Coopersburg Boro Building. They were one of the available layouts and David gave a short talk on the clubs history and visiting opportunities. David is also the 'D' in J&D Whistle Stop Hobbies that is located across the tracks and a few steps east of the station.

David wears several hats and is also the secretary of the Quakertown Train Station Historical Society. He turned the meeting over to the Society's president, Don Fenstermacher. Don described to us a verbal history of the station, its construction, how it operated, and work to date on the facility by the Society and projects in planning. The building can be rented and it is popular as a venue for parties. While the division meet was held in the main waiting room, various

vendors were in a separate room that had been used for baggage handling. Coffee and donuts were in the hall next to the ticket office.

After Don's talk, John introduced John Forsythe of Train Control Systems better known as TCS. John gave the group a talk on the latest products from TCS including a new line of "WOW" sound decoders having the frequency response similar to that of a CD, DVD or HD sound. He also discussed the expanding line of "Keep Alive" decoders for N scale and other scales, that include LED resistors, configured in a variety of installations such as drop-in, 8-pin NMRA and others. TCS had a demonstration table as one of our guest vendors located in a separate room. The signal-to-noise ratio of the WOW sound decoder is impressive – like having a hi-fi or hi-def audio with very little background noise.

John Greene of Bethlehem Car Works gave a short talk on the latest products including the Reading Company Milk Car as well as several other passenger cars. John had a vendor table present in another room containing a variety of different products and had some miscellaneous items for sale as well.

After a short break, guest speaker Ben Bernhart gave a slide presentation of the Reading Railroad's port operations in Philadelphia. Known as "Port Richmond," the Reading had constructed a variety of docks and storage facilities to handle various commodities such as coal, grain, freight and merchandise either bound for overseas or being imported. This facility and the surrounding community became known as the Port Richmond neighborhood within the larger city. In its hey day, Port Richmond was Philadelphia's largest port entity among several water-front facilities that extended south to the navy yard. The loading and unloading of coal to ships was particularly fascinating.

...continued in the on line section page 4

Announcing our 21th Annual Spring

Joint East Coast Santa Fe / NMRA Modelers Meet

Friday, May 10, 2012

3:00pm to 5:00pm Registration, set-up of sales tables, networking

5:00pm to 5:30pm Dinner in the Coffee House room

5:30pm to 7:00pm Norm Stenzel "Titan Decoders"

7:15pm to 9:00pm Andy Sperandeo "The Fast Mail"

9:15pm on Don Borden invites all to his home to see his version of Cajon Pass

Saturday, May 11, 2012

7:00am to 8:00am **Registration for NMRA and ECSFM** (separate tables)

8:00am to 8:15am Welcoming comments

8:15am to 9:00am ECSFM business meeting in Coffee House room NMRA business meeting in Music Room

9:10am to 10:30am John Forsyth clinic on "Revolutionary New Sound Decoder"

10:40am to 11:50pm Andy Sperandeo clinic "The Four Pullmans"

12:00pm to 1:15pm Lunch in the campus-dining hall and browsing of sales and auction tables

1:15pm to 2:45pm Auction

3:00pm to 5:15pm Round Table Clinics: (Four 30-minute sessions?)

5:25pm to 6:25pm Dinner in the Dining Hall and informal talks with the clinicians (Andy in the Music Room, John Forsythe and Norm in the Coffee House.)

6:25pm to 7:25pm Norm Stenzel clinic on the "Digitrax LNR Module"

7:30pm to 8:45pm Andy Sperandeo clinic "Planning for Signals"

8:45pm Closing comments and thank you

8:50pm to 9:45pm Cleanup and load out

9:45pm on Don Borden invites all to his home to see his version of Cajon Pass

Sunday, May 12, 2012

10:00am to 12:00pm Open House and Full Operating Session at Don Borden's home Everyone is welcome to this event. You can operate with one of our experienced group operators. Andy, Norm and John will be available to answer further questions.

For latest info check the web site

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

Directions to this meet are published on page 7 of this issue

Candidates Bios and Statements

John Seibert



My brother Lane and I were born into model railroading. My earliest memories include the little layout that my Dad built when we lived in an apartment near Lansdale. Later he built other layouts in the basement of our house in Hatfield and encouraged his children to participate. I currently have an N-scale Reading-based layout in my home in Collegeville. Yes, three communities served by the Reading.

I have always enjoyed the social aspect of model railroading as well as the satisfaction of a job well done on the layout. I strongly support the NMRA as the glue that holds the hobby together. The NMRA isn't just about standardization; it is a driving force for sharing ideas, advancing the hobby, and networking with people who share your passion.

I am a firm believer that the Division is the important link that brings the NMRA to the grass roots level. In recent years, your division board has been making a concerted effort to continuously improve the value the division brings to your membership in NMRA. With your support, I would like to continue serving on the board and working to make your division a source of pride for all of us. We welcome your feedback on the job we have been doing.

Charles A. Butsch



I began my fascination with trains with the family set of American Flyer trains during the Christmas season. During my teens I got a Gilbert HO train set and I 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 daughter's first Christmas that I pulled the old Gilbert set out to make a simple circle around the tree. That was quite a memorable Christmas. I recorded the event on a tape recorder in the hopes of getting her first impressions of Christmas. The old train's hum came through loud and clear much to my wife's disappointment.

Flash ahead to 1998. I had completed all my major home renovations 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 do, but ended in my third floor when other personages felt that I was intruding into their territories.

I now am on my third floor in heat and air conditioning comfort. It started as a 5'x8' platform and has grown to 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 into modeling the Reading Railroad just north of Tamaqua in a fictional town of Himmelville, Pennsylvania.

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



Two years ago the members of the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA elected me to their Board of Directors, and for that I am very grateful. In my current capacity as treasurer with the responsibility of overseeing the division accounts, I can report with a fair degree of certainty that no funds have been embezzled...yet. That doesn't mean I won't keep trying. These days a treasurer's job is not just limited to managing the checkbook--there's hopper car inventory, asset depreciation, filing taxes, and a year-end financial statement to boot. You almost need to be an accountant. Fortunately we have a real accountant, fellow board member Brian Good, and with his generous assistance along with Quickbooks I was able to tackle the job. Who knows, it could be a backup career should people ever stop getting cavities.

In addition to my treasurer duties, I was able to contribute in other ways, such as improving the division logo and various division documents, and bringing the division shirt project to completion. It has also been my pleasure to

Kaplan Bio continued.....

assist Dispatcher editor Earl Payne in proofreading his fine publication. Having spent some time doing research, and with assistance from MER archivist Bob Price along with anecdotes from past superintendents we have been able to learn about the division's founding, and begin to piece together its history. The year of our formation, 1969, now appears on our logo.

I also participated in a special committee to create a resolution to clarify and strengthen our relationship with the RPM Committee (Rail Prototype Modelers - Valley Forge) and our continued sponsorship of their outstanding event.

I have found the members of the board to be a unique group of individuals with new ideas to carry our division forward, and it has been a privilege to work with them. Again I would be very grateful if the division members would see fit to extend their confidence in me for another term on the board. And, of course free toothpaste to all who vote for me (heck, it worked the last time).

Rob Hinkle



I have been a model railroader since a very young age when each Christmas would involve a setup of a Lionel set around the tree. I visited a number of tourist railroads and museums growing up that influenced my interest in trains, as well as reading numerous library books around railroads. I drifted into and out of the hobby until I joined the NMRA in 2001. I attended my first NMRA national convention in Philadelphia in 2006 and been a regular at conventions since then.

During the summer of 2008 I joined a round robin group and started attending local Division meets gathering valuable knowledge and meeting great people. The experience I've gained between the round robin and division meets has been influential in the layout and operations planning of my currently under construction layout based on the Reading Company's Lebanon Valley Branch.

My goal for the division would be to look to expand membership and attendance at the division meets. I think the division has a lot of members that are willing to help other out and I think we need to look towards social media sites to draw in members (young and old) who are getting back into the hobby and aren't sure what the NMRA and the Philadelphia Division can do for them.

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

2013 Philadelphia Division Board of Directors Ballot

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

Your name _____

John Seibert	_____	Charles Butsch	_____
Howard Kaplan	_____	Rob Hinkle	_____

Detach and send ballot to Clerk Mark Wallace, 665 Bonny Brook Ave,
Collegeville, PA 19426-1913
(or bring to the May Meeting)

POSTMARK NO LATER THAN MAY 3rd

MAY MEET DIRECTIONS ...

Delaware Valley College is located on business route 202 at 700 East Butler Avenue, Doylestown, PA.

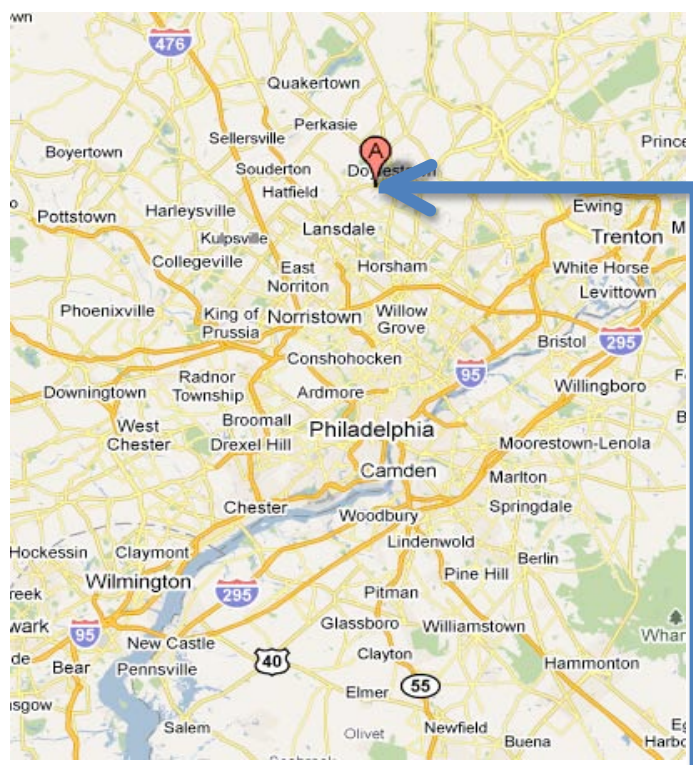
From the south east and west:

Use the Penna Turnpike – exit at Willow Grove. Proceed on 611 North to Doylestown bypass. Follow the bypass to route 202 South (not north) exit at Doylestown Hospital. Follow 202 South 1/3rd mile to Del Val College on the left at Iron Bridge Road. Turn left into the campus.

From the north: Use 611 south to Doylestown bypass. Exit onto 202 South at Doylestown Hospital. Follow directions above.

Local directions: Enter the Del Val campus at the main entrance on route 202. The Student Center is the second building on the left as you enter. Use the parking areas to the right (towards the stadium).

Enter the Student Center from the center courtyard entrance. The Meet is on the second floor to the left of the entrance (Music Room).



Region Convention News

The C&P Junction Convention in Rockville, Maryland, will pay special attention to operations. Modelers who replicate prototype railroads with engineers, yardmasters and brakemen will find call board operations involving more than ten layouts, some nationally known and published in the hobby press. Some of the operating layouts are free-lance; others follow railroads such as the Erie Lackawanna mainline and the Pennsylvania, Reading and Western Maryland. Operations expert Steve King will present a three-hour clinic on Timetable and Train Order Operation, followed by offering modelers designated layouts for operating. Those who have met with Steve swear by his approach. C & P Junction, Crowne Plaza Hotel (www.cprockville.com) with a free shuttle to the Metro and other points. For the latest information and news, visit our website: Google C & P Junction-Comcast.net or <http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>. For questions, email CandP2013@comcast.net.

Marshall Abrams, Potomac Division, co-chairman
Kurt Thompson, Chesapeake Division, co-chairman

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.

May 10 - 12, 2013 – Division Meet Joint meet with the East Coast Sante Fe Modelers – Del-Val College Doylestown, PA	July 14 – 20, 2013 – Nat’l Convention PEACHTREE EXPRESS Atlanta, Georgia	September 28, 2013 – Division Meet Church of the Nazarene Germantown Pike Fairview Village, PA
Oct 10 – 12, 2013 MER Convention Rockville, Maryland	November 2, 2013 Division Meet Brandywine Town Center Wilmington, DE	March 28-30, 2014 RPM Valley Forge Meet Malvern, Pa

The Dispatcher is happy to post model railroad related events. Please submit relevant info to the editor

The Philadelphia Dispatcher

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**4325 Wendy Way
Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

March Meet Report

May Joint Meet Info

Candidate Bios

Election Ballot

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

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail

J & D Whistle Stop

106 East Broad Street
Quakertown, PA 18951
15% discount on non-sale items

Lin's Junction

128 South Line St.
Lansdale, PA 194446
5% in addition to already discounted prices

Nicholas Smith Trains

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Broomall
10% discount (excludes O & G items)

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



A few words from the President



Welcome to the first of many editions of the **NMRA eBulletin**. This new communication tool is intended to keep you informed of any breaking news, important dates, events or happenings in the NMRA. It is our hope that you will find these communications of value, so stay with us.

Best of all - the **NMRA eBulletin** is a new member benefit that costs you absolutely nothing other than providing a valid e-mail address. So should you change your e-mail address please visit [this page](#) on our website..

Remember, the **NMRA eBulletin** does not and is not intended to replace the *NMRA Magazine*. It's purely an important tool to stay directly in touch with our membership and to keep you informed what's happening in the organization.

A lot of folks have been crucial to the success of this effort. In no order of importance, I want to acknowledge the work of Bill Kaufman, Gerry Leone, Chuck Diljak, and Tracy McKibben, with technical assistance from Mike Brestel, Ben Sevier and Page Martin. Without their help, and the help of many others who have had input into this process, you would not be reading this first **NMRA eBulletin** now.

Let us know what you think - send your thoughts to me or any of the Board members listed in the *NMRA Magazine* or on our website. We'd love to hear from you. Over the coming months, you will see the **NMRA eBulletin** evolve and become a very valuable method of instant communication with you, our NMRA members. Above all, thanks for being a member and full steam ahead.

[Charlie Getz](#)
NMRA President

Philadelphia Division Car Sales Form

Philadelphia Division is extending its discount pricing to all Mid-Eastern Region members. Print this form, fill in the blanks. Remember to enter your NMRA number to get MER member discount.

Pricing Matrix - MER Members (Proof of active membership in the MER required for discount pricing)						
Number of cars:	1	2	3	4	5	6
MER Members only	\$30	\$60	\$87	\$116	\$145	\$168
Shipping First car is \$7.50, plus 'add xx'	\$7.50	add \$3.00	add \$6	add \$9	add \$12	add \$15
Total:	\$37.50	\$70.50	\$100.50	\$132.50	\$164.50	\$190.50

Enter your NMRA membership number here:

NOTE: DISCOUNTED PRICES WILL NOT BE HONORED IF YOU ARE NOT A MER MEMBER. Your payment will be returned.

Pricing Matrix - NON-MER Members						
Number of cars:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Non-MER Members	\$36	\$72	\$105	\$140	\$175	\$200
Shipping First car is \$7.50, plus 'add xx'	\$7.50	add \$3.00	add \$6	add \$9	add \$12	add \$15
Total:	\$43.50	\$82.50	\$118.50	\$156.50	\$194.50	\$222.50

Number of cars: .	Amount Enclosed: .
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Send cars to		
Name:		
Address:		
Address2:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:		

Payments are accepted via:

1) **MONEY ORDER** with this form, payable to "Phila Div NMRA".

2) or via PayPal. For PayPal, please email us at phillynmra@gmail.com and we'll send you a payment invoice. Make sure to include the number of cars desired and your NMRA membership number if you are requesting the MER member discount. You do not need a PayPal account to send money.

Mail Form to:
Philly Division Cars
P.O. Box 117
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Announcing our 21th Annual Spring

East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet

May 10, 11, & 12, 2013 in Doylestown, PA

Student Center of Delaware Valley College
700 Butler Avenue, Doylestown, PA 18901

<http://www.delval.edu>

NMRA MEMBERS:

This is additional information on our May, 2013 joint meet repeated from the last issue of *The Dispatcher*. The meet time schedule can be viewed in the main section on page 4. Please remember to pre-register if you are definitely coming (see page 1).

You can find all of the Meet information and much more by visiting us on the web at:
<http://www.ecsfm.org/>

Our 2013 Spring event continues to expand on our tradition of excellence. First, we have one of the most well known Santa Fe researchers, modelers and authors as our guest speaker. We also have an expert in Digitrax systems and QSI Sound Decoders as well other well known and experienced modelers and manufacturers to provide quality presentations. One of our special presentations will be the announcement of a brand new, revolutionary sound decoder from a new manufacturer.

[Andy Sperandio](#) (we missed Andy last year due to an illness but are very pleased that he is willing to come this year and do his fabulous presentations) *returns* to the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers to share his knowledge and experience on general railroading areas as well as specific Santa Fe topics.

[Norm Stenzel from Tonys Train Exchange](#) is visiting with us again this year will be sharing his knowledge and experience with Digitrax systems and the newest technologies of the QSI Titan sound decoders.

[Jeff Adam from Motrak Models](#) will be visiting with us this year to introduce his new Kit of the Santa Fe Systems Standards Multi Room Bunkhouse. Jeff will also make his carloads and structure kits available to anyone who is interested.

[John Forsythe from TCS Decoders](#) will be joining us this year and will be introducing his new SOUND DECODERS. We heard this for the first time at the Amherst Train show the end of January and we were literally “blown” away with the quality of the sounds. This is something that you will not want to miss!

[Jim Elster from Scenic Express](#) will be joining us this year to introduce his line of scenic materials to our attendees, including some new scenic southwest products.

This year we are adding a Sunday event: an operating session on Don Borden’s Cajon Pass Layout.

We are also returning to one of our earlier clinic formats with simultaneous round table clinic presentations during the event. Some of the clinic titles will be:

- TCS Decoders new “Keep-Alive” units
- Motrak Models new Santa Fe Multi-Room Bunkhouse kit modifications
- Digitrax systems clinic on the “LNRP” units, its function and purpose
- Sound decoders; what is the difference?
- A special presentation of the QSI Titan stereo sound decoder
- Bill Van der Meer on Diamond Scale Turntable drive alternatives

Intermountain, during their visit to our 2011 meet, brought a number of their cars which we were able to purchase at cost. We still have a number of these left from last year and Intermountain has agreed to let us trade these for other cars from the list below.

We are putting this list out to you to allow you to order cars that you want which we will have for you at the meet. This will be a pre-order and you'll be committing to purchase the car(s). We are trading in a limited number of cars, so we will take your requests on a first come first served basis. These cars will cost about 60% of list price plus your donation to ECSFM. You can see list prices for these cars at: <http://www.ircmodelersclub.com/hoscale.htm> and links from that page. Please email me indicating the car model number, description, and quantity you want.

Mike Davis

ECSFM, Treasurer

mjdavis55@gmail.com



Figure 1 - Mark, Joe and Greg at the Coopersburg Club

regular operations. Chris's N scale layout represents the Sandpatch Grade in the CSX era that was the original B&O line between Cumberland and Connellsville, PA.

A gracious "Thank You" to the Quakertown Train Station Historical Society for providing a venue for our meet, and for welcoming us and making us feel at home. Thanks to our speakers, Donald, Dave, Ben, John Forsythe and John Greene. We



Figure 4 - Bob Stetser's coal unloaders

sample. So please register by contacting Pat McTeigue by phone or email as indicated on the first page of this issue. The Division will pay your expenses but we do need to know ahead of time. See you then!

Finally the division's old lap-top computer was raffled. The lucky recipient was Richard Lush from Delaware. Good luck and we hope you enjoy the computer and the JMRI software that came with it. The meeting ended and we were free to browse, examine the collection of freight cars on the nearby siding and to explore Quakertown.

Open House Tours: Saturday afternoon featured layouts that were all located in a short driving distance from our meeting location.

The Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers layout, located in the basement of the Coopersburg Borough Building, is a proto-freelanced layout occupying the main portion of the basement and is constructed as a multi-level layout. Various cities including Lancaster Station, portions of the PRR's Middle Division, a large yard, some fairly dramatic bridges with a lively variety of locomotives and rolling stock representing several different railroads. This club holds regular meetings, and operating and project sessions.

Both Bob Stetser and Chris Boscoe opened their home layouts to our members. Bob's layout features the Penn Central circa 1975 depicting the region between Sunbury and Wilkes Barre, PA. It is a point-to-point railroad in HO with



Figure 2 - Rob Hinkle at Bob Stetser's layout

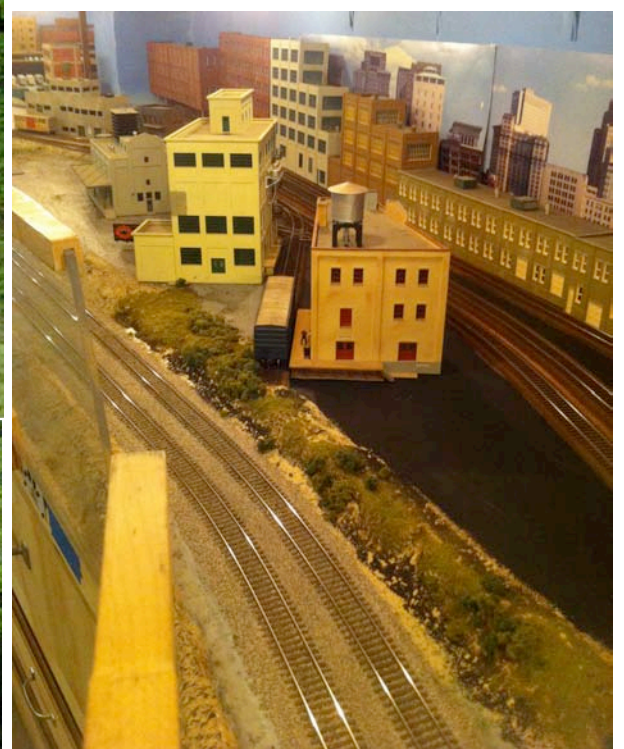
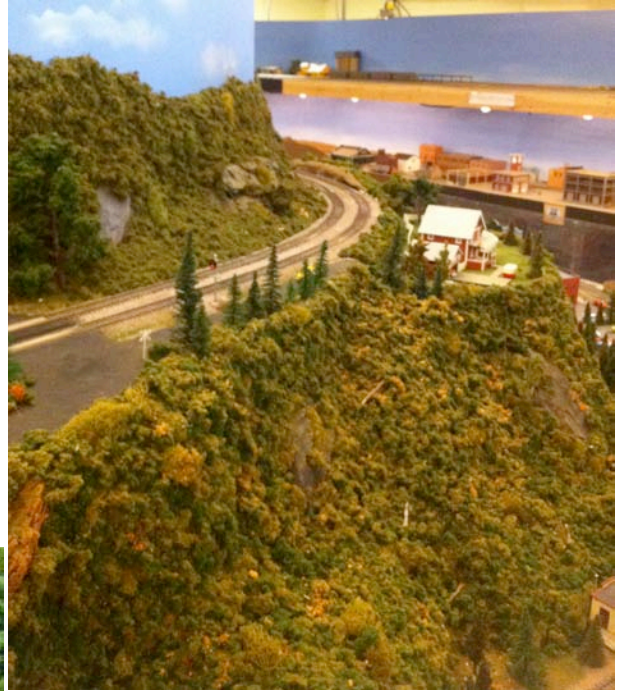
thank the various layout owners; the Coopersburg Society of Model Engineers as well as Chris and Bob for allowing us the opportunity to visit with them and their layouts. We also thank Board Member Pat McTeigue for coordinating the meet and arranging for the layout visits.

To all of the members of the division, thanks for coming out to our event; it was great to see you. On Saturday morning, May 11th, we will be at the Delaware Valley College in Doylestown for our next meet with the East Coast Santa Fe Modelers (ECSFM) featuring guest speaker, clinician and former editor Andy Sperandeo, plus the division's annual business meeting. With more hoppers to sell, division shirts, plus an opportunity to compare Western railroading with what many of us model in the East, there is a lot to



Figure 3 - Bob Stetser's card pockets

Photos from the March Open Houses



Above: Coopersburg club photos

**Left: Chris Boscoe's CSX layout
Photos by Howard Kaplan**

New Membership Recruitment Program

As an aid to membership recruitment, NMRA recently instituted a six month "Railpass" trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. Building on this idea, the MER is instituting a program whereby it will pay the \$9.95 Railpass fee for interested applicants in the MER. In other words, we are making available FREE six month Railpass trial memberships to encourage recruitment of regular members.

What's covered?

Same as Railpass—receive six issues of NMRA Magazine, three issues of The Local, eligibility to attend conventions and meets, eligibility to participate in contests.

What's not covered?

Same as Railpass—applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national (it's rather expensive).

Who can be recruited?

Anyone living within the MER who has not been a member of NMRA during the past two years.

How will the recruitment process work?

(1) The prospective member fills out the MER trial membership application form which was sent to all division superintendents (not the standard NMRA Railpass form) (2) The "recruiter" should also sign the form, and then forward it to: Fred Miller, MER Business Manager, 333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504, Charlotte, NC 28202-1961. (3) Fred will record the information he needs in his data base, and will forward the application to the MER Treasurer. (4) The Treasurer will add the necessary check and forward the application and check to the national headquarters in Chattanooga.

What happens after the member's six month trial period?

The Railpass trial member will receive a standard dues notice from national headquarters. We hope a substantial number of Railpass trial members will sign up to become regular members.

Are there limits on the program?

The MER initially allocated \$2,000 for this program. The Board recently allocated an additional \$1,000 to extend the program to the end of 2010, or when the funds are spent – whichever comes first. When and if we approach either limit, Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At that time, the program will be evaluated by the MER Board of Directors. If successful, we will try to continue it.

For questions?

Contact Fred Miller, MER Business Manager (mailing address is above, 704-332-1753, tractionfan@aol.com), or John Janosko, MER President (see contact information on page 2). □

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Mid-Eastern Region Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership

YES, please sign me up for a free six month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA—which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region, and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive NMRA Magazine, the monthly national magazine, and The Local, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pak.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.)

At the end of the six months, I may join NMRA, paying the regular active member dues. During the past two years, I have not been a member of NMRA.

===== Name: Street

Address: City/State/Zip:

Phone: ()

Email:

Scale(s): Date of Birth:

Signature of Applicant:

Signature of Sponsor: (Required) (A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

Date of form: 1/31/07

When this form is completed, mail it to:

Fred Miller, MMR MER Business Manager 333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504 Charlotte, NC 28202-1961

Do not mail it directly to MMR headquarters in Chattanooga, TN.

More Photos from the March Open Houses



Figure 1 – 5 --Photos of Bob Stetser's layout

News Highlights



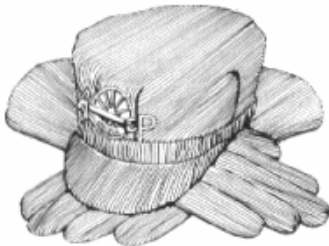
Gallery Update

The WISE Division in Wisconsin voted last week to donate \$5000 to the Gallery Exhibit with an immediate payment of \$2500 and a second payment of the same amount later in the year or early next. Thanks, WISE Division



NMRA Conventions

Apr 3-7: Pacific Coast Region, Dublin CA
 Apr 26-28: Niagara Frontier Region, Mississauga, ON
 May 2-5: Midwest Region, Indianapolis, IN
 May 15-18: Mid-Central Region, Dayton, OH
 May 16-19: Thousand Lakes Region, Minneapolis, MN
 May 29-Jun 2: Lone Star Region, Irving, TX
 Jul 14-20: National Convention, Atlanta, GA



Master Model Railroader

503 - Joel Priest, MCoR
 504 - Jack Parker, MER
 505 - Herbert Gishlick, MER
 506 - Roger Walker, PNR
 507 - Stephen Wood, MER

Help us plan the future of the NMRA

Western Director Jack Hamilton and his committee are working on a new Long Range Plan for the NMRA. Jack is still looking for input from members. This is your opportunity to make a difference and have some direct say in the direction the NMRA takes into the future. Please make your thoughts and ideas be known to Jack at westdir@hq.nmra.org, or mail them directly to him at 10731 Warren Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383

Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

Sponsored by Philadelphia Division, MER, NMRA

March 28 - 30, 2014

at the

**Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
Malvern, PA**

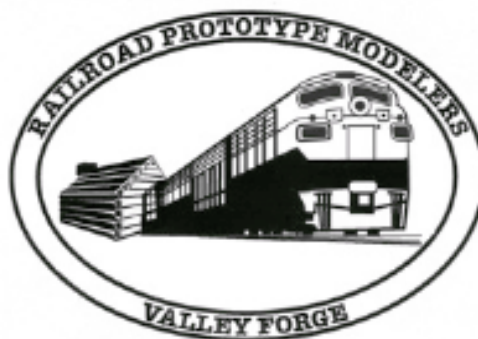
Clinics

Friday Operating Sessions

Model Displays

Vendor Room

Sunday Home Layout Tour



Information & Updates

www.phillynmra.org

or

Paul Backenstose

103 West Uwchlan Ave.

Downingtown PA 19335

(Please include an SSAE for a reply)

prrpaul@aol.com or (610) 269-2763

Interested in Presenting a Clinic

Jim Dalberg

610-648-0089 or jedalberg@aol.com

Vendor Information

Steve Salotti

610-489-1940 or Salotti.steve@gmail.com

For The Family



**The Rock and Roll
Hall of Fame & Museum**



**The Great Lakes
Science Center**

Other Area Attractions

- Cleveland MetroParks Zoo & Rain Forest
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Cedar Point Amusement Park
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Fine Restaurants

Cleveland Railroad History

Cleveland is located on the south shore of Lake Erie. Home to the Cleveland Indians (baseball), Browns (football), and Cavaliers (basketball), Cleveland is also home to attractions such as The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, The Great Lakes Science Center, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and many others. Cleveland is also the birthplace of Superman.

Cleveland has a long, rich railroad history. Cleveland was the original home to the Electro-motive Engineering Company and the Winton Engine Company. The Van Sweringen brothers, owners of the NKP, C&O, and Erie railroads, built Cleveland Terminal Tower in 1923 as a combination "union station" and office building. Cleveland is located along the East-West mainlines of CSX and NS providing numerous railfanning hotspots.

Getting to Cleveland is easy. Cleveland is located on I-71, I-77, I-80 and I-90 for those planning to drive here. Cleveland is home to Hopkins International Airport (CLE) which is a United/Continental hub and is served by Southwest Airlines and most other major carriers. Amtrak services Cleveland with two trains daily in each direction.



Division 4
The North Coast
Division



Division 5
The Western
Reserve
Division



Division 1
The Akron-
Canton-
Youngstown
Division



**The 2014 NMRA
National Convention**

**Website: www.2014cleveland.org
E-mail: 2014cleveland@neo.rr.com**



**THE 2014 NMRA
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OH
JULY 13 - 20, 2014**

www.2014cleveland.org



EXCLUSIVE NEW JERSEY DIVISION CAR

Don't be left out!

Your New Jersey Division has teamed with Bowser Manufacturing to bring you this

PRR H-30 covered hopper

These freight cars are similar to the standard Bowser offering, but have subtle “return to...” lettering that makes them uniquely South Jersey even though they were found throughout the Pennsylvania Railroad system and its connections.

The build date is 5-35 so they are appropriate for all eras from steam through the early 70s.

Scheduled to arrive in September, these ready to run cars are being offered at \$25 each, or a set of four different numbers for \$90.

If you have questions, or to reserve yours now, email BobcatCS@comcast.net with “H30” in the subject line or call 856 696 0463



ONLY FROM THE PHILLY DIVISION!

Close up high-resolution photo of the 2012 Division car offering.

The cars are offered with 6 different numbers exclusive to the Philadelphia Division.

On-line sales details (with shipping costs) will soon appear in the Dispatcher and on the division website.

Photo by Val Pistilli

**CAR ORDER FORMS ON PAGE 2 OF
THIS ON-LINE SECTION**

DIVISION SHIRT ORDER FORM

The shirt is a black, cotton/polyester knit polo with the division logo on the left chest and, if you desire, your first name embroidered on the right chest. Shirts may be ordered at most meets or anytime by mail. Multiple orders for non-identical shirts should be placed on separate forms.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Circle Shirt Size: S M L XL @ \$15 2X @ \$17 3X @ \$19 Quantity: _____

First Name added? No Yes @ \$3 ea. Name as you'd like it to appear: _____

Check one: _____ Shipped @ \$5 + \$2 ea add'l _____ Pick up from Howard* _____ Pick up at next/future meet*

Total: \$ _____ Make checks payable to: **PHILA DIV NMRA**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

* You will be contacted when your shirt is ready to be picked up. Mail to: **Howard Kaplan, 620 Edmonds Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026**
Info/Questions: **610-626-4506** hakaplan@rcn.com

Please use order forms from this newsletter, or the division website.

<http://www.phillynmra.org>