



THE DISPATCH

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Mid-Eastern Region
National Model Railroad Association



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November Joint Meet with Jersey in Wilmington

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, the Philadelphia Division returns to the Brandywine Town Center Community Center to host a joint meet with the New Jersey Division. The address is 4050 Brandywine Parkway (at US-202 and Naamans Road), Wilmington, DE 19803. Doors open at 8:30am with the program set to begin at 9:00am. Maps and directions on page 3.

A special program: Both clinics will be presented by the divisions' superintendents, both of whom are Master Model Railroaders.



First up is Philly Division Superintendent **Joe Walters, MMR** titled, "**Scratch Building a Schnabel Car.**" The Schnabel car is a specialized type of freight car. It is designed to carry heavy and high and wide loads in such a way that the load makes up part of load. The load

is suspended between the two ends of the cars by lifting arms. When the car is empty, the lifting arms are connected to each other to form a freight car that can be moved in a regular freight trains.

Joe will discuss how he built the largest Schnabel car in HO scale using styrene and cast resin parts that he made for this project. The car is the WECX 801, built in 2012 by the car builder Kasgro Railcar for Westinghouse Corporation. The car has 18 trucks, 36 axles, and 72 wheels—truly the most interesting freight car out there.

Joe's career consisted of experience in the mechanical departments at the Reading Railroad, Conrail, and Amtrak. Over a 32-year period he has held jobs as a car inspector, car repairman, foreman, general foreman, manager, and assistant superintendent. Joe is a prolific modeler, having presented a multitude of clinics on scratch building cars both at the division and regional level. He earned his MMR within two years of joining the NMRA. He now serves as Philly's superintendent as well as its AP chair.

New Jersey Superintendent **Glyn Thomas, MMR** follows with his clinic titled, "**Zinc Traffic and Ore Cars on the CNJ.**" The Central Railroad of New Jersey never carried much iron ore traffic, but it did have long-

term and important traffic in zinc ore from mines in northern New Jersey to Palmerton, Pennsylvania. This traffic was shared with the Lehigh and Hudson River Railroad. In this clinic, Glyn will provide a brief history of this traffic, and then discuss construction of models for all the types of car used in the traffic. An addendum will discuss other related commercial models, and a try-it-at-home iron ore gondola project.



Glyn is the superintendent and AP chair for the New Jersey Division. He earned MMR #632 in 2018. Hailing from the UK he modeled European prototypes before switching to the US. His latest modeling projects have included a basement-size layout based on Central Railroad of New Jersey's Lehigh and Susquehanna Division, which is currently being rebuilt following a move, and a small layout based on the Minnesota Commercial's Hennepin Branch. He has had photos and articles published in *MR*, *RMC*, and *NMRA Magazine*.

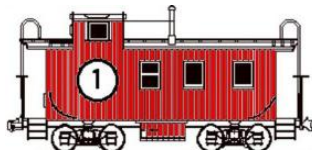
Many may recall last November's Show & Tell where Philly member Stephen Richardson brought his "hi-tech" version of John Allen's famous Timesaver switching module. So many had questions about the construction that Steve has prepared some very comprehensive documentation which can be viewed and downloaded at this link: [TIMESAVER](#). Check it out ahead of time so you'll understand it better when you see it in person.

All attendees are encouraged to bring a model to the meet to display and discuss, if you like, during our Show & Tell session. Make sure to include your name and description of your project.

In addition, the Achievement Program Committee is now judging models at the meets. If you wish to have a model judged, please inform either Earl Paine or Joe Walters in advance of the meet.

As usual we'll hold our 50/50 raffle, draw for door prizes, and offer coffee, donuts, and Philly soft pretzels.

The afternoon features some excellent model railroads for visitation. Hope you can make it!





From the Super's Desk

Well, the Philly Express 2025 MER convention is over! How did we do? Many people who spoke with me said it was the best in years.

The white elephant room was filled with many treasures. I was surprised by the number of people who came to see the train show. They all gave very positive reviews. The clinics were informative and unique. The contest room displayed the best of what the regional modelers are capable of doing. Both prototype rail excursions were successful as were the many op sessions. And many attendees availed themselves of the excellent layouts we had to offer.

I want to thank the staff and all the many volunteers who were the backbone in making this such a success. Rob Hinkle demonstrated once again that he knows how to organize a successful convention. If you run into Rob at a division meet, please reach out to thank him for his hard work.

Our next meet will be in north Wilmington. It will be a joint meet including our New Jersey friends. This is the last meet of our calendar year. I hope to see there.

Joe



From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to an abbreviated October 2025 edition of *The Dispatcher*. Well, the Philly Express MER convention is now behind us and we can relax a bit and get back to what this hobby is all about—model railroading! Hope to see you at the November meet.

Howard

THE DISPATCHER

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Submissions: *THE DISPATCHER* welcomes any model railroad- or railroad-related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc. The editors reserve the right to, when necessary, paraphrase portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

Next Issue: December 2025. Due out approximately December 20th.
Deadline for submissions: December 10th.

Online Subscription: Free. Make sure the clerk has your current email address and that you keep your info updated at nmra.org/members.

Print/Mail Subscriptions are no longer available. A brief summary of upcoming events is mailed to new members.

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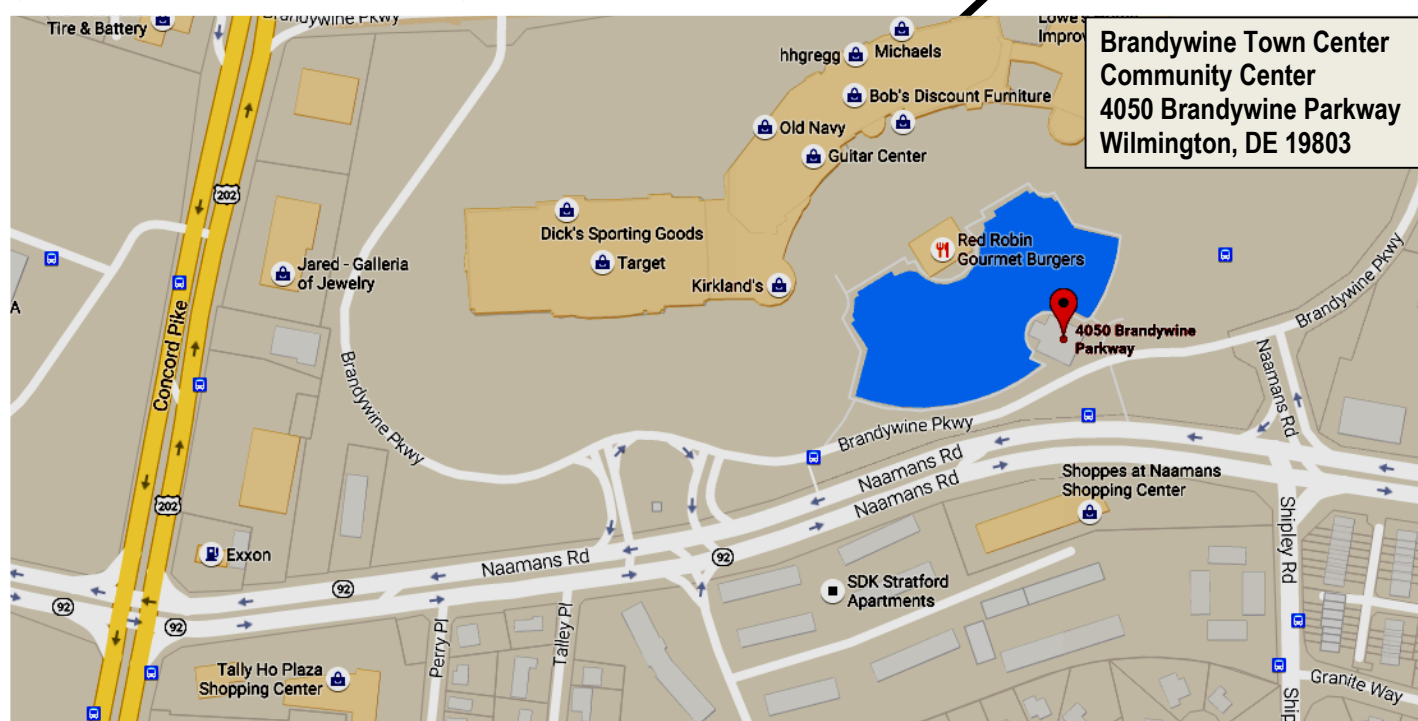
Directions to the November Meet

The **Brandywine Town Center** is a large shopping complex located on an “ell”-shaped piece of property near the intersection of the Concord Pike (U.S. 202) and Naamans Road (Del 92). You may remember this as the former site of a race track. One leg of the “ell” joins the Concord Pike. The other leg joins Naamans Road. The complex includes the Regal Cinema, Lowe’s, Michael’s Arts & Crafts, Target, and many other stores. The main structure is surrounded by a maze-like parking lot which, in turn, is surrounded by a road which circles the perimeter.

The Center’s **Community Building** (our meet location) is a separate structure with a prominent central atrium. It is located next to a large decorative fountain, on the south side of the complex near the Naamans Road entrance.

From Concord Pike (U.S. 202) going south – a fraction of a mile south of the PA/DE state line, turn left into the Brandywine Town Center (the marker is the sign for Lowe’s and Target, among others). Follow the perimeter road in either direction until you see the Community Building (near the decorative fountain).

From I-95 going south – at the state line, there is a three-way split – I-95, I-295, and Naamans Road (Del 92). Stay to the extreme right, and take the exit to Naamans Road. At the top of the ramp, turn right (west) on to Naamans Road. After a little over four miles, turn right into the Brandywine Town Center (it is opposite Shipley Road, which comes in from the left only). Turn right on to the perimeter road, and then left into the parking lot near the Community Building (which is near the decorative fountain).



Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

November 8, 2025 Philadelphia/NJ Division Joint Meet Brandywine Town Center 4050 Brandywine Parkway Wilmington, DE 19803	January 17, 2026* NJ/Philly Division Joint Meet Deptford Township Community Center 1219 Delsea Drive (NJ-47) Westville, NJ 08093	February 28, 2026 Philly/Susquehanna Division Joint Meet Upper Southampton Community Center 913 Willow St. Southampton, PA 18966
April 11, 2026* Philadelphia Division Meet TBA	June 13, 2026* Philadelphia Division Meet/Picnic Alverthorpe Park Jenkintown Road & Forrest Avenue Jenkintown, PA 19046	July 28–August 2, 2026 NMRA Convention “Scenic City Express” Chattanooga Marriott Downtown Two Carter Street Chattanooga, TN 37402

*tentative date Check <http://www.phillynmra.org/regional-timetable> for links to these and other upcoming events.



The tour group of the Colebrookdale Railroad excursion conducted by Steve Wysowski (4th from the left) as part of the Philly Express 2025 MER Convention.

In Memoriam: John Lohmeyer

John D. Lohmeyer, Jr. of East Norriton, PA passed away suddenly on September 28, 2025. John was 71 years old. He was born in Philadelphia and raised in Paoli and Devon, Pennsylvania. He attended Fryeburg Academy in Maine, Graham Junior College in Boston and completed a bachelor's degree at Ohio University. John had a long successful career with Williams Form Engineering Corp.

Beyond his professional career, John enjoyed many family activities. They enjoyed skiing, camping, hiking, biking, swimming, boating, and trips to Lake Mokoma. He especially enjoyed summer vacations to faraway places. One summer they ventured westward in an RV.

At his home in East Norriton he created a backyard oasis where he and his wife immersed themselves in nature. As a true outdoorsman, John could always be found working on a landscaping project.

John was an avid railroad and model train enthusiast. He designed and built his own model railroad. As a member of the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA, he and his friend Walt Zapor enjoyed train shows and seminars. John took his family on many scenic train rides and trips to the rail yard. John passed away unexpectedly doing the things he loved, on a hike with his family.



In Memoriam: Charles Long

Charles P. Long, 77, passed away on September 24, 2025 at his home in Fort Washington, PA. Charles was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Central High School in Philadelphia and went on to earn an engineering degree at Temple University.

Charles was employed as a telecommunication engineer for the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, later known as Verizon, for over 25 years before retiring in 1999.

Charlie was best known as an enthusiastic buff of railroad and trolley cars. He was a member of the East Penn Traction Club, the Electric City Trolley Museum Association, and Abington Lines Model Railroad Club—in all of which he served in many leadership positions. He was integral to the operation of all these organizations.

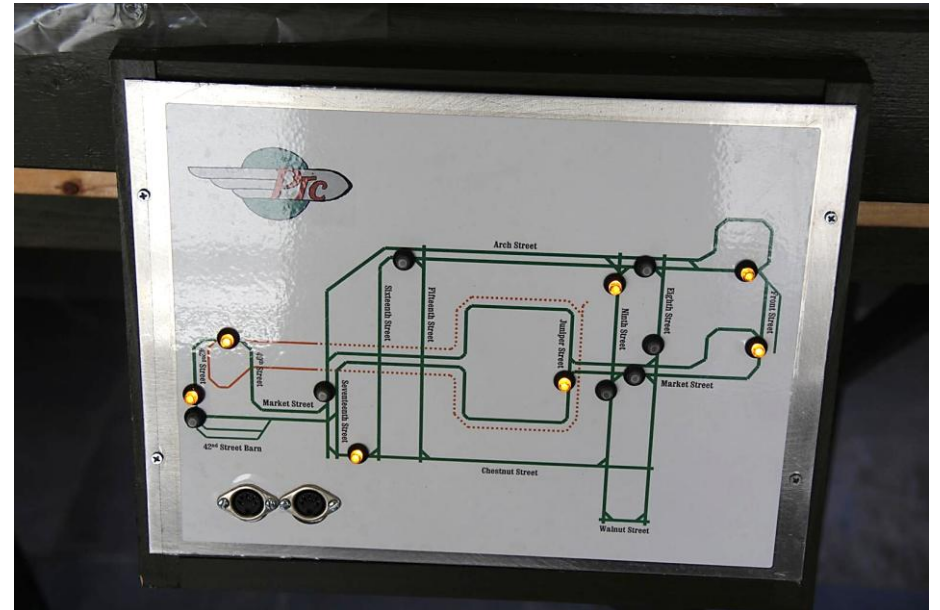
Most recently he served as the clerk of the Philadelphia Division of the NMRA of which he was a long-time member. He was an encyclopedia of local train, transit, and trolley knowledge. His passing is a tremendous loss to the railroading community and he will be missed.

Below and on the following pages are photos taken by Rob Hinkle in October of 2023 and Joe Walters in January of 2024 of Charlie's HO Philadelphia Transportation Company (PTC) layout. Note the most cherished piece of Charlie's collection of PTC memorabilia—his fully restored and operational Broad Street Subway station indicator.



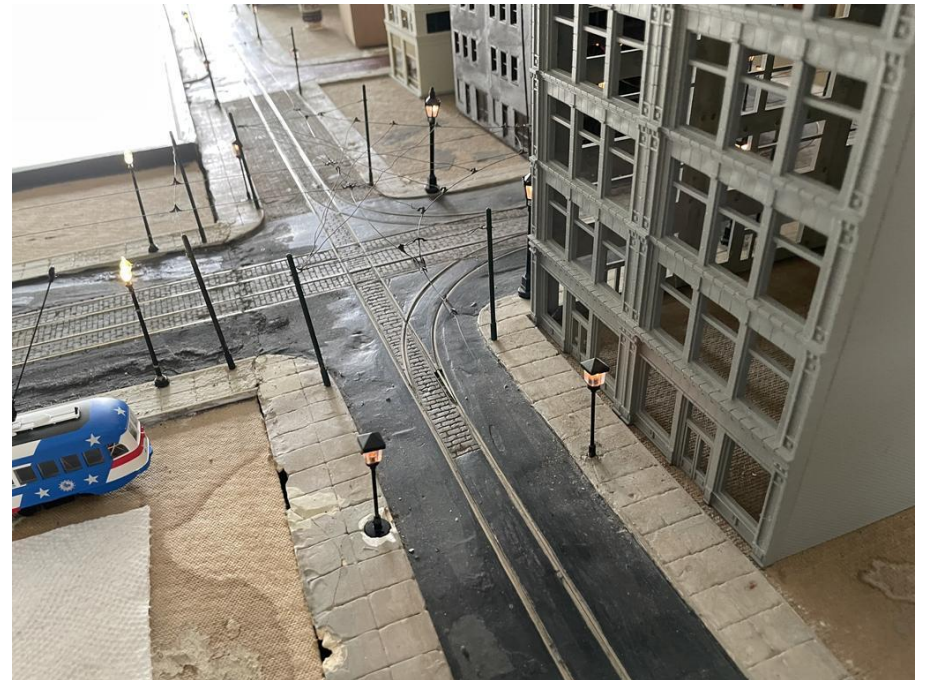
Photos by Rob Hinkle

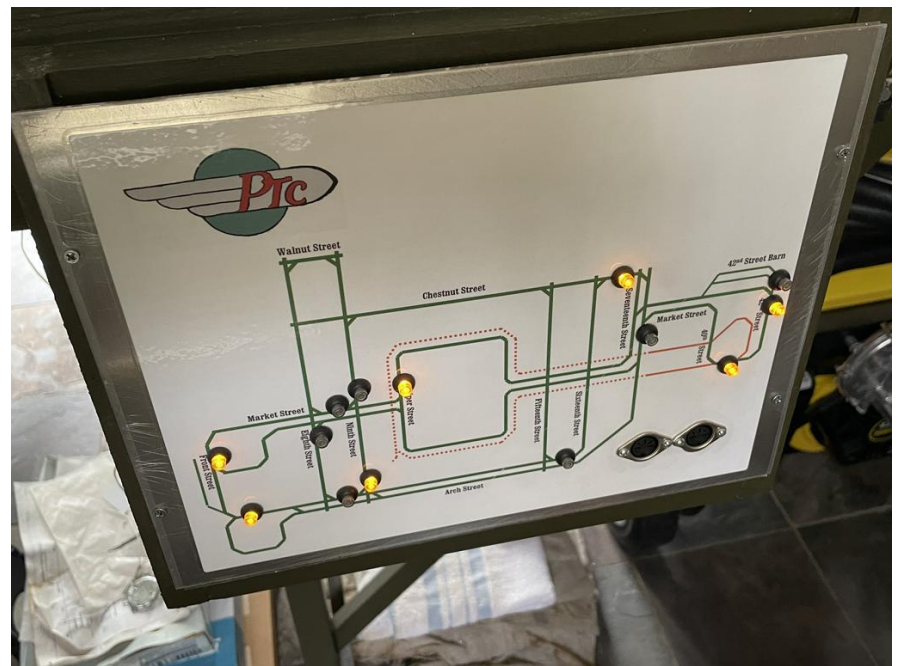












Charlie had begun construction on an HO PRR layout in his basement



Division Organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (elected)

OFFICERS

Superintendent – Joe Walters, MMR (2026)
Assistant Superintendent – Rob Hinkle (2027)
Clerk – Michael Junod (2026)
Treasurer – Jeff Witt (2027)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Mike Dettinger – Clinics (2026)
Steve Wysowski – Member Outreach (2027)
Alan Silverblatt – Venues (2027)



AUXILIARY OFFICIALS (appointed)

AP Coordinator – Earl Paine
AP Committee Chair – Joe Walters, MMR
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – Howard Kaplan

HELPER SERVICE

EVENTS

Clinics – Mike Dettinger
Layouts – Bill Fagan
Venues – Alan Silverblatt
Refreshments – Bill Fagan, Joe Walters, Kevin Feeney
Door Prizes – Mike Dettinger, Kevin Feeney
Certificates/Awards/Printed Materials – Earl Paine, Howard Kaplan

MEMBERSHIP

Member Outreach – Steve Wysowski
Membership Records – Michael Junod

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM - Earl Paine, Joe Walters MMR, Bill Fagan, Chip Stevens, Steve Hamilton, Mark Wallace

OPS – Rob Hinkle

ITEM DONATIONS – Kevin Feeney

MEDIA

Social Media – Rob Hinkle
Webmaster – Howard Kaplan
Newsletter – Howard Kaplan, Earl Paine, Bill Fagan, Joe Walters MMR, Michael Junod
Layout Video – Bill Fagan
Photography – Rob Hinkle, Howard Kaplan, Bill Fagan

DIVISION APPAREL – Howard Kaplan

Hobby Shops

Be sure to patronize the following hobby shops that are now offering discounts on model railroading purchases to NMRA members:

Henning's Trains
128 South Line Steet
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-362-2442
henningstrains.com
10% in addition to already discounted prices

HO Items for Sale

- NCE DCC power with a number of hand-held throttles, both wired and wireless.
- Circuitron Tortoise machines - I probably have 40-50 of them
- RailCrew uncouplers - some never used, others used
- Various power packs and wire of several gauges
- DC and DCC Locomotives and various rolling stock
- Buildings – some purchased, some built from kits
- Code 83 and Code 100 track – new and used
- Landscaping items – trees, backdrops, etc

Click [HERE](#) for the specific list of items.

Contact Scott Wilson at scottowilson@yahoo.com