

N.M.R.A.

M.E.R.

DIVISION 11

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

SUSQUEHANNA

DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

1994 No. 2

NEXT DIVISION MEET: JUNE 11 AT MECHANICSBURG

By Don Yingling

Mark your calendars for June 11, 1994. That is when our spring/summer 1994 division meet will be held at the Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society, 833 West Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, PA, from 10am to 4pm.

There are be 2 clinics planned at this time with the possibility of 2 more being added. The club members presenting them will be sharing their ideas and expertise with us.

Favorite Model and Favorite Train contests will be held. These are popular vote contests. AP judging will be available for merit awards.

If you have a favorite video you would like to share with us, bring it along. A television and VCR are available at this meet.

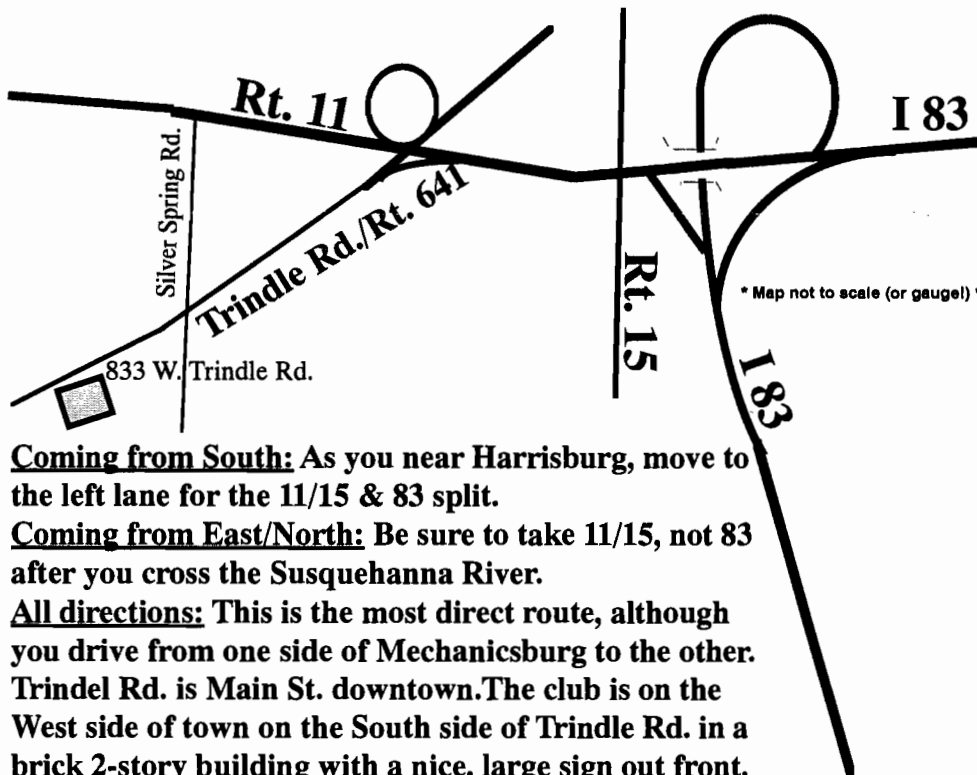
A white elephant table will also be there. If you have some model railroad equipment, supplies, rolling stock, etc. you would like to sell, bring it along. There is however a 15 item limit due to space limitations.

Since this is the spring/summer meet the Annual Meeting will be conducted at this meet along with the election of officers. The new officers will take office immediately following the meet. Light refreshments will be available at the club house.

If you haven't been to the KMRHS for a while you will notice something different when you walk in, scenery. Scenery is in progress along with fascia and controls. The last time we were here, in Dec. 1992, it was a little chilly. The weather for this meet hopefully will be as warm as the reception that the division got for coming back here. Thank you, KMRHS.

One more thing to mention are home layouts. KMRHS is working on having some open for the trip home. There will be more on this at the meet.

Hope to see everyone there on June 11th! It should be a real good time.



Coming from South: As you near Harrisburg, move to the left lane for the 11/15 & 83 split.

Coming from East/North: Be sure to take 11/15, not 83 after you cross the Susquehanna River.

All directions: This is the most direct route, although you drive from one side of Mechanicsburg to the other. Trindel Rd. is Main St. downtown. The club is on the West side of town on the South side of Trindle Rd. in a brick 2-story building with a nice, large sign out front.

Upcoming Events:

June 11, '94: Division Meet, Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society, 833 West Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, Pa. (717) 691-8033

November 23, '94: Conewago Valley Model RR Club Auction, 7pm, New Oxford Firehall, New Oxford, Pa.

Winter '94: Division Meet, ???, We're open to suggestions!

May 18-21, '95: White Rose '95, M.E.R, Convention, Holiday Inn Holidome, York, Pa.

Make a Date with a Nail

By Alan Frame

Cleaning brush south of Muddy Creek Forks, PA I noticed silver discs on some of the ties along the Ma & Pa tracks. Curious, my research took me through old Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad records to discover that they were tie date nails. When the railroad replaced cross ties, a nail was driven into the tie at a preset position to indicate what year the tie was replaced. The records indicated locations for nails from 1928 to 1942, 1946 to 1954. One record skipped the year 1937 but had it included. Mr. Jerome E. Murphy, a noted Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad historian, stated that "Tie date nails first used in 1923". He stated that tie date nails were not used after 1956.

1928: 4"	1929: 7"
1930: 10"	1931: 11"
1932: 12"	1933: 6"
1934: 7"	1935: 8"
1936: 9"	1937: 9"
1938: 10"	1939: 11"
1940: 5"	1941: 4"
1942: 8"	1946: 9"
1947: 5"	1948: 6"
1949: 12"	1950: 13"
1951: 13"	1952: 5"*
1953: 10"*	1954: 10"*
1955: 27"*	1956: 25"*

Measurements are taken from the outside edge of the tie. Those marked * are measured from inside the rails.

Main Track	Distance between ties			
	Number of Ties to Rail		c. to c. in inches	
	30' rail	35' rail	Min.	Max.
Tangents & curves not over 5°				
70# and 75# Rail	15	16	23	28
80# Rail and Heavier	14	15	24	29
Curves 5° to 15°				
70# and 75# Rail	16	17	22	26
80# Rail and Heavier	15	16	23	28
Curves 15° and over				
70# and 75# Rail	17	18	20	24
80# Rail and Heavier	16	17	22	26
<u>Yards and Sidings</u>				
Yard Tracks - Heavy Traffic				
Leads and curves	15	16	23	28
Tangents, Except leads	14	15	24	29
Ordinary Yard Tracks & Sidings				
On Curves	14	15	24	29
On Tangents	13	14	26	31
Industrial & Unimportant Sidings	12	13	28	33
Last 50 ft. of stub end tracks	11	12	33	38

The railroad ordered a total of 300 pounds of tie date nails in 1946. The nails were 1 3/4" long and made of copper with the numeral 46 raised in the head. The order was placed with C. G. Hussey & Co. of Pittsburgh, PA on 3/1/1946 for 100 pounds. The second order for 200 pounds was placed 3/18/1946 with the same company. The second order was received 3/23/1946 being shipped by the Pennsylvania Railroad. The nails were then shipped to Baltimore by the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad. An interesting note was found, the total order was for 20,000 nails, of that 5,000 were to go to the Canton Railroad. The total cost of the nails was \$81.67 with the discount. During 1947 the railroad switched to aluminum nails. They ordered 20,000 nails with "47" on them

with a length of 1 1/4". The Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad ordered the nails from Clendenin Bros., Inc. of Baltimore on 4/30/1947. This order weighted 59 pounds and cost \$35.05 with discount. As you can see the railroad was trying to save money. The aluminum nails were less than one half the cost of the copper nails. The Canton Railroad received 15 pounds or 5,000 nails from this shipment.

The Clendenin Bros., Inc. won the 1949 order for tie date nails. The Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad went back to copper nails that year. They were 1 1/4" long with "49" on them. Shipping weight was 188 pounds.

I didn't find any invoices for nails after 1949. Notes that I did find indicate 45 pounds of nails were distributed in 1950, 44 pounds in 1951 and 35 pounds in 1954. I have a 1954 date nail which is aluminum and the order weight of nails for 1950 and 1951 indicates they were aluminum also. During April, 1992 I field checked nails and found 1950, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 were made from aluminum.

(Continued on next page.)

Grade	Sawed or Hewed top, bottom, and sides	Sawed or hewed top and bottom
1	None accepted	6" thick x 6" wide on top
2	6" thick x 7" wide on top	6" thick x 7" wide on top 7" thick x 6" wide on top
3	6" thick x 8" wide on top	6" thick x 8" wide on top 7" thick x 7" wide on top
4	7" thick x 8" wide on top	7" thick x 8" wide on top
5	7" thick x 9" wide on top	7" thick x 9" wide on top

Wood types: Ash, Beech, Birch, Catalpa, Cedar, Cherry, Chestnut, Cypress, Elm, Gum, Hackberry, Hickory, Larch, Locust, Maple, Mulberry, Oak, Pine, Sassafras, Sycamore, Walnut

The quantity of nails was distributed to the 8 sections of the railroad along with the bridge and building section. The 1st. section was headquartered in Baltimore, MD, 2nd. in Long Green, MD, 3rd. in Fallston, MD, 4th. in Pylesville, MD, 5th. in Delta, PA, 6th. in Muddy Creek Forks, PA, 7th. in Red Lion, PA, 8th. in York, PA. The section foreman were supplied with the quantity of nails which corresponded to the number of ties to be replaced that year. The Chief Engineer of the

railroad would send out notes to each section foreman to tell them where to place the tie date nails. The notes were worded similar to the February 2, 1942 note from E.E. McLellan; "Place 1942 dating nails 8 inches east of base of east rail".

Please see tie date nail location chart for the various years I have information on. If you know of any other date nails along the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad please measure the distance from the rail and let me know where they are located.

I have included a copy of the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad Co. specifications for cross ties and the cross tie spacing chart with this article. This will provide information on the kinds of wood used by the railroad forties. The distance between each tie depended on the tie placement location and weight placed upon the tie.

You can simulate date nails on your railroad. Sharpen the point on a toothpick and dip the tip in silver paint then place the "nail" on the ties.

"Super's Corner"

By Don Yingling

We are going to have a great division down the road. How can I tell? By the response of the membership for renewing their dues and sticking with us. As I said the last time we were at 26 members at the end of 1993. We had a 25% growth in renewals since then. We are now at 33 members and some have renewed for as many as 5 years. This division is for the membership and I have a lot of faith in it. Gentlemen, congratulations on giving the division a solid foundation and thank you for your support of the officers. We appreciate it very much.

As you can see in another article we are going to have spring/summer meet. We were very warmly received at the Mechanicsburg club, KMRHS. They want very much to hold another meet for us and the weather should be a bit warmer than the last time. A new addition to the meet will be the white elephant table. It will probably be outside and if it rains they have a large shed were it can be set up. We have discussed this several times for meets and decided it's time to add it in. Future plans for meets include some dealer tables at meets and maybe running a scheduled event every 3 months alternating between division meets at clubs and train meets with dealers and modular layouts.

One more thing before I go, you may notice the newsletter looks a little different this time. Different software

and a different editor. Joe Krepps has taken over the duties of editor. I know Joe will try to do a fine job. Thanks Joe.

Until next issue, see you in Mechanicsburg.

(Editor's note: Thanks Don. You've done a wonderful job creating our newsletter, there will be very few changes - the hard work is already done. Any comments or suggestions about how you members would like to see your newsletter done, please let me know. Articles for the Susquehanna Sidetracks may be in any Macintosh format and all the popular IBM compatible formats, heck, even typed or neatly handwritten material is OK. Don't forget, articles published count towards the Model Railroad Author category for the AP program! "Computer nerds" :-)) can send me e-mail: "KreppApple@aol.com", I check the mail everyday.) (P.S. If anyone would like to be more involved in the Division by becoming the "S.S." editor, let me know.)

White Rose '95 Update

By Don Yingling

We are now one year away from our MER Convention. By June 1st we should have all our costs, budgets, and activities firmed up and in writing.

Some quick notes on dealers, they will be allowed to operate from their hotel rooms. This hasn't been done for a number of years. I remember going to conventions when this was the norm.

When all the other activities shut down for the night you could go to these rooms and they were still bustling with activity and conversation. We hope to put some of that fun back in conventions here at York. For the dealers not so inclined, they can rent tables in 1/2 the ballroom area set up for the swap meet. This will go on until

4 pm Saturday. So there will be plenty of opportunity to buy, sell, and trade here.

CLINICS, CLINICS, CLINICS. We have allotted 32 time slots for clinics over the 4 days. We now have all time slots filled and confirmed. There should be no problem finding some

(Continued on next page.)

that fit what you are looking for. I am not at liberty to drop names in this update, but think of some of the big names in the model railroad press and they will be here giving clinics!

Rooms at the hotel are \$59/night and you can start reserving them now. The hotel will be full at convention time. Just let them know it will be for

"White Rose '95" on May 18, 19, 20, & 21, 1995. The address and phone number are: Holiday Inn, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA 17404, 717-846-9500.

Volunteer registration forms will be available by mail to me or see me or Charlie Potter at the division meet on June 11th in Mechanicsburg. Lets

show the MER that Susquehanna vision 11 is alive and well with showing and the best convention done in the MER.

Don Yingling, PR Chair
White Rose '95, 2420 Heather I
York, PA 17404-4383

* ELECTIONS *

DON'T FORGET, ELECTIONS FOR DIVISION OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE JUNE MEETING. WE REGRET FAILING TO MAKE MEMBERS MORE AWARE OF THE ELECTIONS. AT THE JUNE 11 MEET IN MECHANICSBURG, WE WILL POST THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO WISH TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND PROVIDE SPACE ON THE BALLOT TO WRITE-IN YOUR VOTE.

ALSO, BEFORE YOU THROW OUT/RECYCLE THE ENVELOPE YOUR NEWSLETTER CAME IN, TAKE A LOOK AT THE LEFT TWO NUMBERS ABOVE YOUR NAME. IF IT SAYS 93, THEN THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. WON'T YOU PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

'94 WILL BE A GREAT YEAR LEADING UP TO A SUPER CONVENTION IN '95!

••• HELP! •••

THE DIVISION NEEDS YOUR HELP TO SPREAD THE WORD! PLEASE TAKE THE "5TH" PAGE OF THIS ISSUE TO YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY SHOP OR CLUB AND POST IT. WE NEED TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT OUR DIVISION. THE MAPS SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO FIND DIVISION MEETS (AND NEARBY CLUBS!).

Superintendent:

Don Yingling, 2420 Heather Rd.,
York, Pa. 17404 (717) 764-2676

Ass't. Superintendent:

Joe Krepps, 1278 W. Princess St., #3,
York, Pa. 17404-3447 (717) 845-7771

Clerk /Paymaster:

Paul F. Tice, 1709 W. Market St.,
York, Pa., 17404 (717) 843-9572

Susquehanna Division 11 Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

If applicable: M.E.R. # : _____ N.M.R.A.#: _____

Send \$2.⁰⁰ cash or check made out to Paul F. Tice, to Paul F. Tice, Clerk/Paymaster Susquehanna Div.
1709 W. Market St., York, Pa. 17404

DIVISION MEET

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION 11 OF THE M.E.R./N.M.R.A.

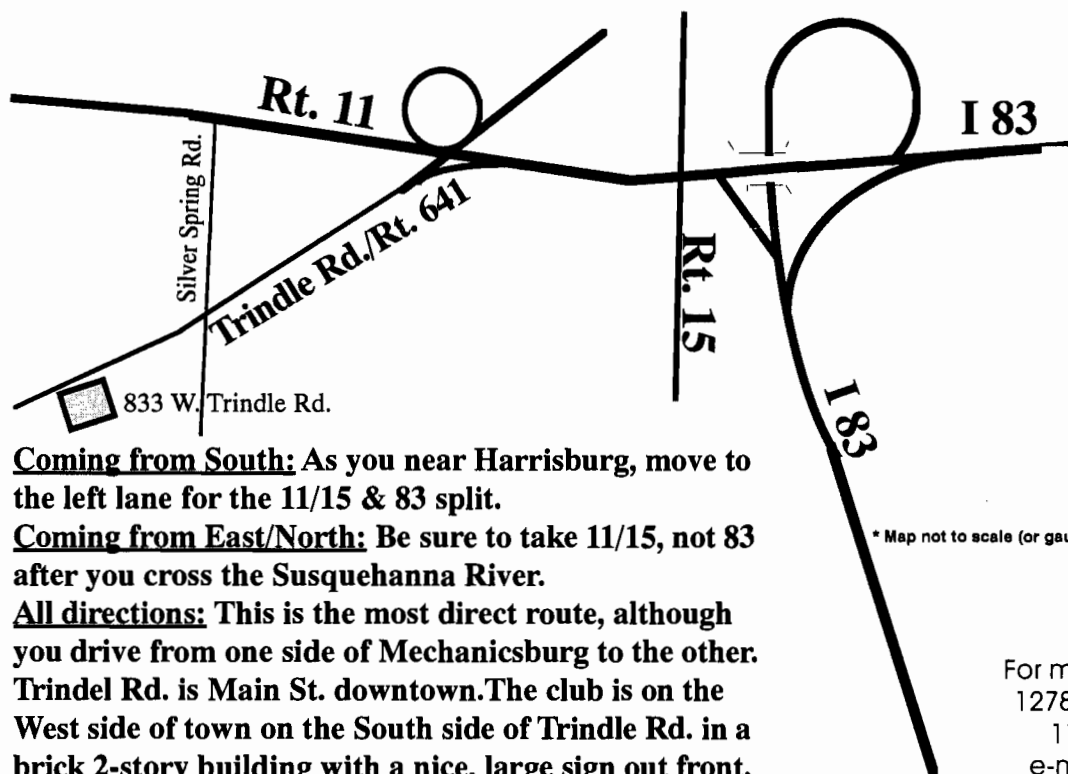
Semi-annual Meet: June 11, 1994
10 am to 4 pm

Where: Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society
833 West Trindle Road
Mechanicsburg, Pa. (717) 691-8033

Registration: Members \$1, Non-members \$3
Annual Division Dues \$2

CLINICS, VIDEOS ALL DAY LONG, OPERATING LAYOUT
"FAVORITE TRAIN" CONTEST, "FAVORITE MODEL" CONTEST*
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE, "WHITE ELEPHANT" TABLE

*Models may be judged for participation in the
N.M.R.A. Achievement Program by request only.



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For more information: Joe Krepps,
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17404-3447, (717) 845-7771
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