

Susquehanna Sidetracks



Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division 11 of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association
<http://www.susquehannamra.org> March 2009 Volume 17 Issue 2

Upcoming Division Events

Saturday, April 18, 2009 – State College/Centre Hall Model Railroad Visits

Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 10 AM. We will meet Saturday, April 18, 2009 at John Kocet's Norton Division model railroad in State College, PA at 10 AM. From there, we will travel as a group to 3 other layouts (Jere Herr's PRR Lancaster Area, Mike Redin's Stillhouse Hollow, and PSU's University Park & Eastern club layout. We will have lunch at a converted 1885 train station in Centre Hall. **Non-NMRA members are invited.** You must RSVP for this event to Jeff Warner at (717) 932-9929 (between 1 PM and 9 PM) or jwarner@susquehannamra.org. More information can be found on the division website and in the February 2009 issue of Susquehanna Sidetracks.

Saturday, May 30, 2009 – Visit to Steamtown

Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 9 AM. We will visit Steamtown National Historical Site. We will take a short train ride (most likely behind steam power), and get a private shop tour NOT available to the public. **Non-NMRA members are invited.** You must RSVP for this event to Bob Martin at 717-848-3640 or email cprbross@comcast.net. More details are found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Sunday, June 14, 2009 – Harford County Maryland Model Railroad Visits

Sunday, June 14, 2009 from 1 PM to 5 PM. In conjunction with the new Chesapeake Division, three HO model railroads in Harford County, Maryland will be open for visitation. Alan Anderson models the 1920's with all steam power and heavy influence of logging. Alan has a new unique control system that is not DCC but a hybrid DC with wireless remote control. Ken Poznaniak's DCC, two level, contemporary layout features long trains, automated coal loading at the mine and rotary dumping at the power plant. Dave Renard, MMR's, mid-sixties railroad contains a lot of scratch-built structures, rolling stock and trackwork and is DCC controlled. **Non-NMRA members are invited.** More information and directions will be in a future newsletter and on the website when available.

Saturday, August 22, 2009 – Reading area Model Railroad Visits

Saturday, August 22, 2009 at 10 AM. We will visit the model railroads of Bob Bucklew, Charles Kadyk, and Joel Holubec. Bob will present a clinic on using the J/MRI suite for CTC. More information and directions will be in a future newsletter and on the website when available.

Banner photo courtesy of Christopher Muller, SteamPhotos.com

Susquehanna Sidetracks

<http://www.susquehannamra.org>

Superintendent/Editor/Webmaster

Jeff Warner

605 Hill Point Drive

Etters, PA 17319

(717) 932-9929

jwarner@susquehannamra.org

Assistant Superintendent

John Frantz

1126 Hanover Road

York, PA 17408

(717) 324-9449

jfrantz@susquehannamra.org

Chief Clerk

Paul Tice

6710 Moul Road

Thomasville, PA 17364

(717) 225-1688

ptice@susquehannamra.org

Director/Achievement Program Chairman

Alan Frame

2430 Opal Road

York, PA 17404

(717) 767-4998

iframe@susquehannamra.org

Director

Howard Oakes

301 Moulstown Road

Abbottstown, PA 17301

(717) 632-5990

hoakes@susquehannamra.org

Director

Gale Smith

8861 King's Highway

Kempton, PA 19529

(610) 756-4311

gsmith@susquehannamra.org

Previous Superintendent

Scott Turner

24 Yankee Drive

Mount Holly Springs, PA 17065

(717) 914-1336

sturner@susquehannamra.org

Division 11 Happenings

Jeff Warner

First, I want to thank everyone that made the March 7 event at the Elizabethtown & Masonic Village Model Railroad Club one of the most successful ever. We had nearly 70 people attend!!! For those interested, notes from Barry's scenery clinic, a link to Tony Segro's scratchbuilding website, and the handout from Jeff Warner's operations clinic have been added to the event page of the division website. Everyone had a great time, so if you have any suggestions for future events along the lines of this one (clinics you'd like to see, model railroads you'd like to visit, a location you'd like to suggest to hold the next event), please let me know.

The move of Clinton county from our division to the I-80 group of the MCR has been finalized by the National BOD. Because of this move, I have changed the division logo on the website. If anyone wants to design a better one, please contact me.

I am still working with the MER to find a suitable hotel (price, availability, location) for the 2010 convention. Hopefully, I will have something to report on this front soon.

It is very likely that the joint meet with the Philadelphia Division will be Saturday, September 26th in Downingtown, PA. It will include clinics and model railroad visits. I hope to have more information on this by the next issue.

There's a new banner on this issue with an excellent photo courtesy of Christopher Muller. You can check out his other work at his <http://www.steamphotos.com> website.

We are always looking for more model railroads to visit. If you have one, or know of one, please contact me so we can set up a division visit to your area.

Remember:

Model railroading is fun!!!!

Saturday, May 30 visit to Steamtown National Historical Site

Here is the schedule for the day:

9:00 AM – arrive at Steamtown

9:15 AM – meet tour guide

9:30 AM – turntable demonstration

9:45 AM – view engine ash dumping

10:00 AM to 11:20 AM – special “behind the scenes” tour of the shop facilities

11:30 AM – train ride (behind steam locomotive)

12:00 noon (approx) – free to do browsing of public areas of facility. You may leave for lunch and return the same day. After the train ride, everyone in the group will be “on their own”.

Cost will be \$6.00 for admission to the park and \$3.00 for the train ride. WE WILL NEED TO MEET NEAR INFORMATION/TICKET BOOTH AND PAY AS A GROUP TO GET THE SPECIAL TOUR!!!

Non-NMRA members are invited.

You must RSVP for this event to Bob Martin at 717-848-3640 or email cprboss@comcast.net.

For those interested, the Electric City Trolley Museum is located across the parking lot from Steamtown and will have scheduled trips at 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM. An additional fee of \$10 will be charged by the trolley museum for entry and a ride, or \$5 without the ride (pay individually as you enter). A description of the Electric City Trolley Museum can be found on page 4.

Directions to Steamtown:

Take I-81 north to exit 185. Follow the downtown map below.



Electric City Trolley Museum

The Electric City Trolley Museum is a collaborative effort involving many partners. Together they have created a premier electric railway museum in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1887, Scranton was Pennsylvania's first city with a successful pioneer trolley line and became known as "The Electric City." The museum collection provides a highly representative picture of the electric railway history of eastern Pennsylvania, from the Philadelphia region to Northeast Pennsylvania.

The museum was created by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. Lackawanna County manages the museum day-to-day. The facility itself, located on the Steamtown National Historic Site, is on long-term lease from the National Park Service. The trolleys operate over tracks owned by both Steamtown and the Lackawanna County Rail Authority, including a portion of the historic Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley "Laurel Line" third-rail interurban right-of-way.

During the operating season, the trolley excursion will depart from the main passenger platform of the Steamtown National Historic Site. Trips are scheduled at 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM. Please note that tickets for the trolley excursion are sold at the Trolley Museum building and are not available on the car. The trolley excursion boarding area is between the Trolley Museum building and the main Steamtown facilities. The scenic route follows a portion of the former Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley (Laurel Line) Railroad right-of-way as it parallels Roaring Brook and makes stops at the Historic Iron Furnaces and continues through the Crown Avenue Tunnel – at 4747 feet long, one of the longest interurban tunnels ever built. An additional extension to the Lackawanna County Stadium at Montage was completed July 14, 2006.

The trolley ride takes about 50 minutes.

Steamtown website is located at: <http://www.nps.gov/stea/>

Electric City website is located at: <http://www.ectma.org/>

Also in the area for those looking for something else to do in the afternoon, is the Lackawanna Coal Mine Museum and Tour (about 30 minutes from Steamtown).

Website is located at: http://www.lackawannacounty.org/attractions_coal.asp

Local Industries Using 4-Sided Waybills – A Variation

Jeff Warner

One thing that has always bothered me with using 4-sided waybills for local industries is the “predictability” of which car goes to which industry. Yes, there are some cars that would regularly go to a certain industry... Many of these cars were specifically purchased by the railroads for a certain industry. For example, Westinghouse regularly received the same depressed center flat cars which PRR purchased for their loads. However, for a “typical” industry shipping in standard 40 foot box cars, the odds of a single box car being sent repeatedly to the same industry (as happens regularly with standard 4-sided waybills) is really, really low.

This becomes even more noticeable on the model when the box car is not a typical PRR box car (of which my model railroad has about 50 identical ones except for road numbers). Cars in special paint schemes, or foreign road cars are very easy to spot. For example, I had one RF&P box car on the model railroad and it went to a the Cleveland Brothers industry in Harrisburg. I got tired of hearing the Rutherford Yard Master say, “Here comes the Blue car for Cleveland Brothers again”. The same could be said of 8-10 other cars at various industries around the model railroad.

To “solve” this problem, I removed all local industries from the 4-sided waybills EXCEPT those cars that were dedicated to a certain industry (the Westinghouse flat car still goes to Westinghouse in the 4-sided waybill cycle). Instead, I have all cars going on standard “empty-load-empty-load” sequences with empties going to the various interchange gateways (usually staging) around my model railroad. Next, I made single waybills (not 4-sided) for each industry on the model railroad (1 waybill for each car that I wished to go to the industry). I treat these single waybills as “inserts” that go in front of the standard 4-sided waybill to send cars to the industries.

When I restage, the first thing I do is to “pull” all the inserts for the cars that have made it to the correct industry. Inserts in cars that are still “in-route” are not changed during the restaging process. Next, as I restage, I find appropriate cars billed as “empty” that are at their interchange gateway (usually staging). I place the local industry insert in front of the 4-sided waybill WITHOUT changing the 4-sided waybill to its next destination (so after it goes to the local industry, it will return to its empty destination).

Using this method, I have a large pool of empty cars that I can send to the local industries and virtually eliminate the predictability of the 4-sided waybill system when it comes to which car goes to which local industry, providing a more prototypical distribution. And, it keeps the Yard Masters reading the paperwork!!!

Division Director Nominations

It's once again time to ask for nominations for the three director positions. Each will be elected for a two year term from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. To be a director, you must be a member of the NMRA, reside in the Susquehanna Division 11, and be at least twenty one (21) years of age. You MAY nominate yourself or another person you feel is qualified.

Over the past year, we have conducted all of our business via e-mail, so attending division meets is NOT a requirement for being a director. Directors have one vote each on any division business and provide valuable input when planning division events. With the 2010 convention likely coming to the division, a willingness to help plan the division's part of the convention would be welcomed, but is not required.

If you are interested in being a director, please contact me at jwarner@susquehannanmra.org or (717) 932-9929 between 10 AM and 9 PM. Include a brief (under 200 word) bio-sketch that will be printed in the newsletter for each candidate.

Summary of results from last year's survey

40 members answered the survey. Several people model in multiple scales and eras. 32 model in HO scale, 6 in N scale, and 13 in other scales. 24 model the 1950's, 11 the 1960's, 8 the 1940's, 8 "modern", 6 the 1970's, and 4 "other". 14 requested future visits to model railroads, 3 prototype tours, and 2 museum tours. Of the 19 people that expressed a preference for where division events are to be held, 14 asked for the Harrisburg-York-Lancaster area. Other responses were spread out over the division with no more than 2 for any place. Saturdays were the preferred day for division meets, with Sunday a distant second. Spring was the most requested season.

For clinics, 25 requested layout design. 22 structure super-detail. 21 for scenery and backdrops. 20 for signaling and bridges. 19 for layout wiring and operations. 18 for DCC overview and locomotive tune-up. 17 for benchwork, DCC decoder installation, locomotive super-detail, and model railroad photography. Other topics went down from there.

We hope to present more topics from these areas at upcoming division events.

Thanks to everyone that answered.

**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 Scale Rails, 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 thirty months, I have not been a member of NMRA.

=====

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail _____

Scale(s) _____ Date of Birth _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of "Recruiter" _____

(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

When this form is completed, mail it to:

**Fred Miller MMR
MER Business Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686**

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

Date of form: 1/31/07

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Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
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If you wish to have the newsletter mailed to you, rather than having it sent via e-mail, you must subscribe.

Make checks payable to "Susquehanna Division 11"

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Upcoming Division Event
Local Industry Waybills
Director Nominations
Survey Results

Inside:

605 Hill Point Drive
Etters, PA 17319-9025

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