

Susquehanna Sidetracks



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Saturday, April 28, 2012 Easton Area Visits



Photo by John Frantz

The division will host a clinic on The Coal Industry and visit Easton area layouts on Saturday, April 28, 2012. More details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter or on our website.

Banner photo courtesy of Christopher Muller, SteamPhotos.com.

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Division 11 Happenings

Hello fellow model railroaders. Another year has started and so another year of planning events for our members has begun as well. This past December I was approached by Jeff Warner about completing the remainder of his term as Division Superintendent. He asked to be relieved from his duties as Superintendent for personal reasons. So, with great reluctance I agreed and have done what I can. I would like to thank Jeff Warner for his years of service as Superintendent. For now, he isn't completely stepping away though, still managing the website and serving as a director per our by-laws.

This months event was pulled together through the luck of an email by a division member, the rest is history. I'm looking forward to seeing any members there on the 28th. Echoing Jeff's response from last years newsletter, if there is a layout there worth visiting, I don't know about it. So, if you know of a layout you'd like to visit, please let me know and we'll try to set something up. Likewise, if you'd be willing to host the division at your layout, let me know and we'd be HAPPY to set something up.

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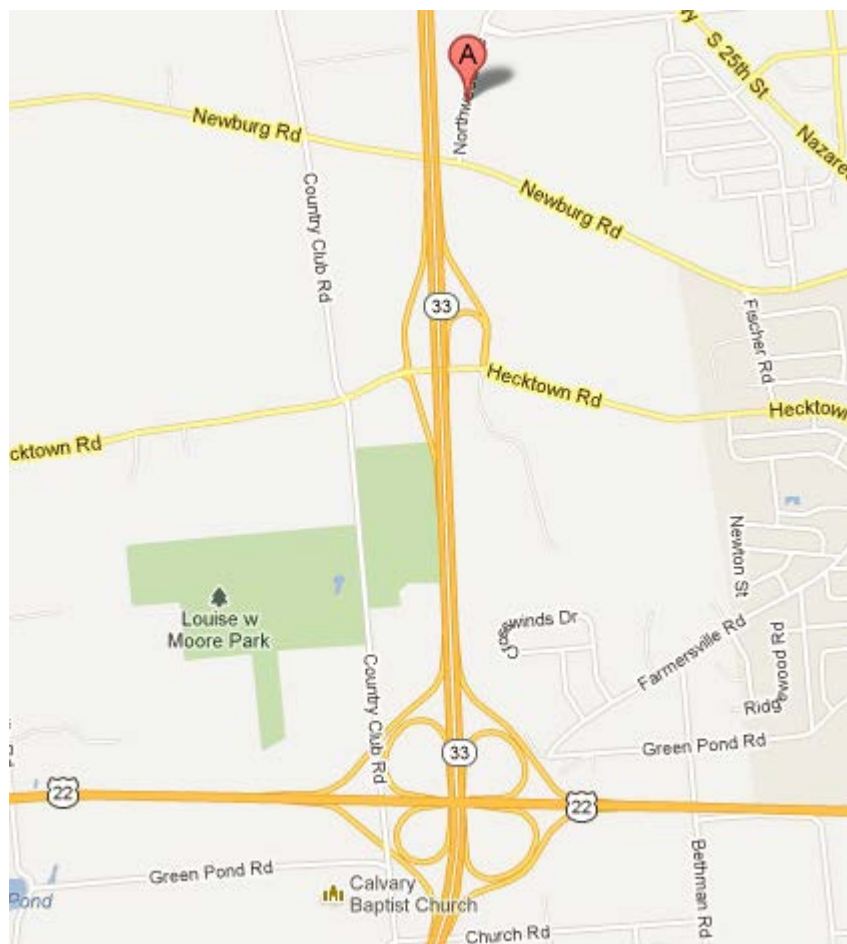
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Easton Area Visits - Saturday, April 28, 2012

Dave Tillman, our clinician recently retired from Detroit Edison in Michigan, but continues work for them as an independent contractor. His talk is about the "Coal Industry" he has extensive knowledge from working on various power plants across the country. His layout will also be open so you can experience first-hand the clinic presented in the morning.

The division will meet at the Trains and Lanes in Easton, PA on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 10 AM. The store opens at 10AM, with our clinic starting at 10:30 AM. This is a very well-stocked hobby shop. Following the clinic, there will be free-time for browsing the shop and getting lunch on your own. In the afternoon there will be layout open houses in the area from 1-4PM. Layout Open House information will be provided at the clinic in the morning.

The address for Trains and Lanes Hobbies is
3825 Northwood Ave
Easton, PA 18045



From US Route 22, take PA Route 33 North. Get off at the next exit, Hecktown Road. At the top of the ramp, take a Right onto Hecktown Road, then make a right onto Country Club Road, a right onto Newburg Road and a left onto Northwood Ave. Trains and Lanes Hobbies will be on the left. Park in their lot. The clinic will be on their 2nd floor.

For lunch, turn left onto Northwood Road, continue straight on Corriere Road, this meets up with the Easton-Nazareth Highway, and there are various food options available.

A Review of the Reading Trip

Photos and Story by Howard Oakes

Sixteen of us toured the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society Heritage Museum on Oct 22 as part of NMRA/MER Division 11 fall activity. In April 2008, the RCT&HS celebrated the grand opening of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in the former Pennsylvania Steel foundry complex in Hamburg, PA. The Museum provides a place where the Society's vast collection of Reading Railroad equipment, artifacts and documents can be preserved and shared with the public.

We spent about an hour on the outside tour visiting several pieces of equipment. Our guide had pictures of the locos when they were operational and in good shape. The pictures definitely helped as he described the locos in their glory days. In addition to the very fine tour of the outside exhibits, the folks inside were ready, willing and able to talk about the inside exhibits. We moved inside, watched a short film on the Reading Railroad and were given a tour of a replica of a station agent's office loaded with several Reading artifacts. 1930s Station Agent's Office Following is a description of the museum from their website.



The Museum's main Exhibit Hall contains a variety of artifacts from the Reading Railroad that showcase the impact the Reading had on the communities it served. The highlight of the Exhibit Hall is the 1930s Station Agent's Office, shown at right. Before the paperwork and "business" aspects of railroading were taken over by computers and electronic technology, most stations along the Reading Railroad had an Agent who was responsible for keeping track of freight traffic and delivering orders from the dispatcher to passing train crews. Step back in time and see what life was like for railroad personnel outside of the locomotive

cab - the replica office is a realistic depiction of a typical Reading station office from the early part of the 20th century, from the gate-arm telephone to the countless pieces of paperwork that had Reading Railroad Heritage Museum Artifacts to be completed to keep the freight moving!

Visitors will continue to learn what it was like to work on the Reading Railroad by viewing the sizable collection of railroad artifacts. From tools to signs to the bass drum from the Reading Shop Band, there is a broad variety of artifacts on display that tell the story of life on the railroad, and how the Reading influenced everyday life - whether by bringing coal to heat homes in the early part



of the 20th century, to the famous Reading Terminal Market - built by the Reading under its main passenger terminal in Philadelphia in order to increase business for the railroad. After exploring the exhibits at the Museum, you'll begin to see that the Reading Railroad is so much more than a space on the MONOPOLY board!

Throughout its 30-year history, the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society has acquired the largest collection of railroad rolling stock dedicated to a single railroad in the United States. Comprised of over 70 freight and passenger cars and locomotives, the Society's collection includes several historically significant examples of rail equipment, including the first production model of the General Motors GP-30 diesel-electric locomotive, #5513. When you visit the Museum, you will have the opportunity to take a walking tour of the outdoor display yard with a Museum docent, during which you will learn about how the Reading had a leading role in the development of railroad technology. You'll also gain an appreciation for the challenges faced by the men and women who worked for the railroad.

After the museum tour, we visited the Reading Society of Model Engineers. The RSME is a model engineering club focusing on all aspects of railroading. The 25 acre site is located near the city of Reading in Berks County, PA. The property features outdoor ride-able railroads including the 15" gauge Laurel Run Railroad, a 7.25" and 4.75" gauge live steam railroad. On the second floor of the clubhouse there is a large "O" scale, "On3" scale, and "O" gauge model railroad.

One of the other layouts available to visit in the Easton area following the clinic is the Nazareth Area Society of Model Engineers. They have 4 layouts, in HO, O, S and N.



Photo by John Frantz



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Easton Area Event
Review of Reading Area Visit

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