

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad
Association

March, 2013

Volume 21 Number 2

From the Superintendent's Desk

Greetings!

Since my last writing your Division has added 2 very important non-voting Board of Director (BOD) positions. Ron Smith, who will provide additional introductory comments elsewhere in this issue, volunteered to be our new Sidetracks Editor and this issue is his first newsletter. By now I'm sure Ron has much less hair than when he agreed to take on this challenging position, but by all accounts he is well skilled for the job. Welcome aboard Ron!

Our second new BOD member is no stranger to many of you. Jerry Britton is our new Event Planning Chairman. He is a very active member of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society where he serves on their Modeling Committee that works with manufacturers to maintain the historical fidelity of new models. Jerry was recently elected President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society, North Central Chapter. And finally, many of you know him as the organizer of the Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders which arranges layout open houses throughout the region each November.

In the near future you will hear a lot more about that project and how your Division will support that program this November during National Model Railroad Month. And finally you will get to read Jerry's article in this issue documenting his extensive research efforts for his new HO model railroad, and it will be his first in a series of articles documenting his building progress.

For those of you who receive your Sidetracks by email you should have received a Model Railroad Alert Notice asking you to mark your calendar for our first 2013 event scheduled for Apr 20. The event begins with 4 excellent clinics that will be presented at the Elizabethtown Masonic Village Freemason Cultural Center Brossman Ballroom. The morning clinics will run from 9-12:15PM, and the afternoon will be devoted to visiting 4 great model railroads. Directions to the Masonic Village are on page 15 of this issue.

Schedules

NMRA National Convention

Atlanta, GA
July 14th to July 20th, 2013

LSOP-5

October 4th to October 5th, 2013

MER Convention

Rockville, MD
October 10th to October 13th, 2013

In This Issue

From the Superintendent's Desk.....	1
From the Editor.....	4
MER / NMRA Rail Pass.....	5
Building the PRR Middle Division – Jerry Britton	7
Notes from National.....	10
Around The Division	12
Upcoming Events.....	16

Banner photo courtesy of Christopher Muller,
<http://www.steamphotos.com/>

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Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
467 Lovell Court
Hummelstown, PA 17036

Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be mailed or emailed to the Superintendent at the address listed above. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned. Deadline for submission for the next issue is 4-26-13

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Membership Information

Online newsletter is always available at Susquehanna Division website.

www.susquehannamra.org

National Model Railroad Association
4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119

www.nmra.org

The clinic subjects and their presenters are: Bob Charles, MMR, former NMRA President, and Division Achievement Program (AP) Chairman, will host a discussion of the AP program. Bob will review the origins and intent of the program; discuss specific requirements, and hopefully debunk some of the myths surrounding it. This free flowing format will give you the opportunity to get answers to specific questions about any element of the program. Our 2nd clinic is An Intro to DCC by Assistant Superintendent Wayne Betty. Wayne realizes that many modelers still do not fully understand this great technical addition to our modeling bag of tricks, and is committed to demystifying the subject. Wayne will ratchet up the DCC subject during future clinics based on these building blocks. Clinic 3 is titled How I Built an Award Winning Scratch Built Freight Car by BOD member Ron Parisi. Ron won Best of Show for his NYC gondola converted to cement hauling service at the Oct 2012 Mid-East Region convention - our Jan Sidetracks included pictures of the model. The 4th clinic is an Intro to the Fast Track Switch Building System by new member Jody Gontero - a member of the Short Line Model Railroad Club in Ephrata PA. Jody helped introduce the system to their club. His clinic will be in 2-parts – the morning intro clinic followed by seeing the system in use during the afternoon layout visit.

The afternoon will be devoted to visiting 4 layouts between 12:30 and 4:30PM. The 1st and closest to the clinic site is the

Elizabethtown and Masonic Village Model Railroad Club which is located just a few hundred yards south of the clinic site. Many changes have occurred to their layouts since last open to the Div in 2009. Just about every modeling scale is represented - O, HO, N, Z, S, Historical Standard, and G are in various stages of development. Our 2nd layout is the home empire of Wayne Betty located just a few miles east of Elizabethtown in Mt Joy. Wayne holds monthly operating sessions and is in the very early stages of scenery construction. His layout, the Lancaster and Atlantic Rail Road, is focused on southern PA. The last 2 layouts are the Columbia Model Railroad Club and the Short Line Model Railroad Club located in Ephrata. Both were open for our Apr 2009 event, and both have undergone significant changes and major improvements. The Columbia Club has expanded their layout and completed many new fully developed scenes with several scratch built historical Columbia structures. The Ephrata Club has also undergone dramatic change over the past 5 years. Their layout has grown by at least a third and features the use of both Fast Track switches and hand laid track. Seeing the Fast Track switches in operation will compliment Jody's Intro clinic earlier in the morning.

As you can see our Apr 20 event will offer a full day of great modeling. During the morning clinics we will also have several tables set up for you to display

See **Super's Desk** on page 3

From **Super's Desk** on page 2

your best and finest – a feature we plan to include at all future clinic-based events. So bring your best for all of us to admire. And please bring a friend – NMRA membership is not required for attendance. All we ask is that everyone enjoy the great fellowship which is such a key part of this great hobby.

Several other events are being developed for 2013. We tentatively plan to hold a joint Div event in the Johnstown and Altoona area on May 19. Our excellent Johnstown modeling team - Forrest Lucas, John Bennett, and Dave Baker - are leading the charge for our first event in this area in many years. When details become firm we will get the word out by another Model Railroad Alert Notice because our next Sidetracks will not hit the streets until mid-May.

Next, we are beginning the planning process for a mini regional event in the greater State College, Lock Haven, Williamsport, and Lewistown area in the Jun-Aug timeframe. Then in the early fall we want to schedule an event targeted for the Reading, Allentown, and Easton area and another similar event in the south central area of Lancaster, York, Hanover, and Gettysburg. Except for the Johnstown event we need members in these areas to step forward and offer help in bringing these widely dispersed events to fruition. Call or email me if you have questions or want to lend a hand.

Also on our fall schedule are 3 other high priority events. In Sep we will sponsor all Div area layouts that will be open for the Mainline Hobbies Supply of Blue Ridge Summit annual weekend open house program. In Oct we will

once again cosponsor the Lehigh-Susquehanna Operations Weekend 5 (LSOP5) with the Operations Special Interest Group (OPS SIG). This highly successful annual event will be held Fri evening, Oct 4, and all day Sat, Oct 5, with 3 layouts each in the Lehigh Valley and greater Harrisburg area. The layouts are among our hobby's best. The Lehigh Valley area layouts are Larry Reynolds' PRR Altoona Area, Gale Smith's Lehigh Valley, and Jim Hertzog's Reading Shamokin Div. The 3 in the greater Harrisburg area are Bob Martin's Central Penn Railroad, Steven Mallery's PRR Buffalo Line, and Jeff Warner's PRR, RDG, and WM South Central Region. Wayne Betty is managing this event and recently opened a website for those who want more information about LSOP5 and those ready to complete the registration process. If you enjoy layout operations then you owe it to yourself to explore this website: <http://www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP5/>.

Our final 2013 event will be Div sponsorship of an all Susquehanna Div National Model Railroad Month series of layout open houses. If you are not already on his list and would like to add your layout to his program, contact Jerry Britton at: jbritton@susquehannanmra.org.

You will be contacted in the near future either by email or snail mail asking you to verify or update your contact info and verify your desired mode of Sidetracks delivery – email or USPS. We had a high number of non-deliverable email Sidetracks during the last two issues. Also, we mail 27 newsletters at an average annual cost of \$14.25 per mailing but only collect \$9 per mailing from those receiving USPS delivered copies. Obviously from a business perspective we have to get this program on a more solid footing and be sure each member receives their

newsletter as requested. Your help in updating our data base will be appreciated.

We also need to update our Div By-Laws. If you are interested in working on this project please contact me. We would like to have the proposed rewrite completed and ready for membership vote during our Jun BOD elections. And speaking of that election please give serious thought to putting your name in the hat to help lead your division. And definitely do not believe only Harrisburg area members can do the job. Your BOD only meets face to face as a group twice a year - the rest is done by email and phone. Therefore, residing in one of our distant counties does not preclude you from becoming a key member of your division management team. Never forget, this is YOUR Division and like any other membership based organization we need new ideas and leaders committed to keeping this train on the track. So be ready to respond to the May call for BOD candidates. As that great Florida philosopher says, lets "Getter Done!!"

Per our advertising policy, please review The Station advertisement at the end of this newsletter. Please visit them and let them know you saw their ad here and that their money was well spent. Their support helps us offset the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter. So kindly support them as they help us.

Happy modeling and I look forward to seeing you at our Apr 20 event!



From the Editor's Desk

Ron Smith

New Sidetracks Editor – Introduction

Hello! My name is Ron Smith, and I am your new Sidetracks Editor. I am a Program Manager at an electronics firm near Carlisle PA. Some of you may already know me as I was a part-time employee at Mainline Hobby Supply in Blue Ridge Summit PA for many years. I was usually a part of their home layout tours when I lived in Fairfield PA; I had a fairly complete N scale layout based on the St J & LC RR in northern Vermont. I relocated to Mechanicsburg PA in 2009, and am currently working on a new N scale layout based on the Erie / DL&W / EL in New York's Southern Tier. My new layout was on Mainline Hobby's most recent tour last September. Over the next several issues I hope to share with you how I transitioned from one prototype to another, and how my "givens and druthers" changed over time.

For now though, please let me know of any ideas you have for improving our newsletter – your BOD and I want to hear from you! We are always in need of articles that would be of interest to our Division.

This issue contains the first of a series of articles by Jerry Britton. We are delighted to present Jerry's story of his new layout, based on the PRR's Middle Division – a hallmark of our geographic region.

We'd like you to tell us about your layout too. Are you in the middle of a layout

project? Are you building scenery, kitbashing a structure, or setting up your layout for operations? We would like to present articles that share ideas and techniques that have been put into practice. Do you have a topic but are not sure how to write it up for an article? Drop me a note and we'll start the ball rolling. The last three issues of *Scale Rails* contain articles by M. R. Snell on taking photos for articles and preparing a feature for submission. There is some very useful information there, so I encourage you to give them a read if you have not already done so.

Also, if your club or group has an event planned, please let us know so we can include it in our Upcoming Events column.

My contact information is

rsmith@susquehannanmra.org

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Ron

Free Railpass Trial Membership Sponsored by the MER

Do you know a modeler who needs a nudge to take the next step to become more involved in this wonderful hobby? The trial membership program may be just what is needed to further a modeler's development, skills and interest.

Here is a brief summary of this program:

The NMRA began a 6 month 'Railpass' trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. The Mid-Eastern Region (MER) has built on this program by paying the \$9.95 Railpass fee for applicants residing in the MER. In other words, the MER is furnishing a free 6 month NMRA membership to encourage the recruitment of new members.

Railpass applicants will receive 6 issues of the NMRA Magazine, 3 issues of the Local, eligibility to attend conventions and meets and to participate in contests. Railpass applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national. Anyone living within the MER who has not been an NMRA member during the past 2 years can use this program.

The prospective member fills out the free MER Railpass membership application form shown on page 6 of this issue (not the standard NMRA Railpass form), includes a sponsor signature, and it is forwarded to Bob Price at the address listed on the form. Do not send this to the NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga, TN; the MER will forward the application to the NMRA with the payment.

MER Convention, Rockville MD

October 10-13, 2013



Monroe Stewart's Hooch Junction N Layout on tour



Marty McGuirk's Central Vermont (HO) will be the subject of a clinic



Howard Zane's HO Layout on tour

C&P Junction Convention: All Aboard!

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, please visit our website.

Google:

C & P Junction-Comcast.net

Or

<http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>.

For questions, email
CandP2013@comcast.net.

Marshall Abrams, Co-Chair, C&P Junction

Kurt Thompson, Co-Chair, C&P Junction

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division, NMRA

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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)

When this form is completed,
mail it to:

Bob Price
MER Business Manager
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108

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

=====
Date of form: 2/1/2013

Introduction

After an eight year stint in N scale, I decided to return to HO scale early in 2008. In this series I will share concepts and progress during the construction of the new model railroad. This installment will offer an overview.

Following my decision, I established my givens & druthers, as follows:

Scale:	HO.
Gauge:	Standard
Era:	Fall, early 1950s
Region:	Central Pennsylvania
Prototype:	Pennsylvania Railroad
Space:	Approx. 32' by 32' overall, with obstacles.
Governing Rolling Stock:	85' passenger cars on main line 50' cars on secondary lines

Operating Priorities:

- Branch line operations with a meaningful level of switching operations.
- A main line interchange yard with classification opportunities.
- A locomotive maintenance facility.
- Tower (not CTC) operations.
- Main line operations, at least at the vignette level.
- Passenger traffic; I love varnish!
- An era and locale where steam and diesel power can coexist.
- Opportunities for stunning scenery.

Control Systems:

- Digitrax Super Chief DCC system.
- Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI).

For the next two years, I considered various locales to model. I eventually decided upon the Milroy Secondary. I had been fascinated with the Milroy line from an early age. I frequented Penn State football games with my family and the trip to those games passed over the

line several times. It had very unique white ballast, compared to the gray ballast typical on Pennsylvania railroads. In my early research, I learned that this fairly short line boasted a ton of traffic during the 1950s. A Bethlehem Steel-owned quarry ran dedicated trains of limestone from a quarry to their steel mills in Johnstown. Standard Steel in Burnham exchanged 30 or so cars a day; the American Viscose (rayon) plant in Lewistown was busy enough to be shifted twice a day. Lewistown had a classification yard at its junction with the main line, as well as a downtown yard for shifting the many inbounds and outbounds from the immediate area. The striking mountain passes and trout streams along the line offered much potential for scenery.

Construction on the new railroad began in May 2010.

The PRR Middle Division Main Line

The main line is presented as a vignette. The four track mainline makes a 120 foot loop around the train room. There is an in-line 18 track staging yard, with four or five tracks routed to each of the four main line tracks. Each staging track holds a train consist that is "representative" of one or more trains that run during the schedule. Passenger trains are modeled after the actual Makeup of Trains book; freights per the Schedule of Arranged Freight Service.

Other than running the throttle and obeying the signals, there won't be much for the main line road crews to do. But then again, I have several operators that prefer to run through trains. There are also opportunities for JMRI to automate their operation.

The end of staging to the east represents Harrisburg/Enola; to the west, Altoona. Heading west, a train will exit staging just east of the Lewistown Station, pass the "upper yard" at Lewistown Junction, pass through LEWIS interlocking, pass Mt. Union, then head into staging again.

See **PRR Middle Division** on page 8

Modeling in the Susquehanna Division: Building the PRR Middle Division

By Jerry Britton

A few passenger trains stop at Lewistown, but not many. One east bound freight and one west bound freight stop at Lewistown to exchange a block of cars. There is also one dedicated freight from Altoona that brings an entire train into Lewistown and takes another back.

Tower Operations:

LEWIS tower commands a full four-track interlocking at the end of the “upper yard” at Lewistown Junction. An additional set of crossovers in front of the Lewistown station is remoted to the tower. LEWIS talks to WALL tower to the east and JACKS tower to the west. The tower operator controls all signals and switches in the interlocking and maintains the tower sheet.

The operator is also responsible for providing clearance for the use of the Lewistown Secondary and the Milroy Secondary. Passenger traffic ceased on these lines in 1941, allowing them to be downrated from branches to secondaries.

The PRR Lewistown Secondary

The Lewistown Secondary begins at the “upper yard” by the main line. From there, yard crews pick up and drop off interchange traffic for the branch. The Lewistown Junction yard has 19 classification and advance tracks, car shops, MoW stores, and a locomotive facility.

The locomotive facility is larger than one would expect. With a 110 foot turntable, this shop maintained “stand by” power for the main line; typically in the form of M1 Mountains.

The yard prepares an east and west local for the main line each day, plus a dedicated train to the stone quarry at the end of the Milroy Secondary. The yard generates locals for the secondaries on an as-needed basis, and exchanges inbounds and outbounds with a downtown yard.

The downtown yard features numerous online customers, typically in the form of warehouses, a freight terminal, and a passenger station which is no longer in service. A connection to the Furnace Branch Siding leads to a dozen or so online customers, several being fuel dealers.

Beyond the downtown yard, the Lewistown Secondary terminates and the Milroy Secondary and the Sunbury & Lewistown Secondary begins. The later is represented via staging.

The PRR Milroy Secondary

The Milroy Secondary is an 11 mile single track run with numerous passing sidings. Originally a “branch”, passenger service ceased in 1941 and the branch was redesignated a secondary. Crews communicate with LEWIS tower via telephone for permission to run.

Upon entering the branch, while still in Lewistown, the line serves several oil dealers and a creamery, followed by a feed mill.

A mile or so later the line enters Burnham, Pa., where there is a sand quarry, freight station, and Kovalchik Salvage. After crossing the Kishacoquillas Creek the line enters Yeagertown, Pa., home of Standard Steel. “The Standard” features several sidings for interchange plus a maze of internal trackage. The branch widens here to three tracks to allow numerous runaround operations. There are also two sidings for Yeager’s Mill, which is now in the building products business.

The line then enters Mann’s Narrows. Very steep mountains provide a backdrop for the right-of-way as it snakes along the cascading Kishacoquillas Creek, a popular trout stream.

See **PRR Middle Division** on page 9

Modeling in the Susquehanna Division: Building the PRR Middle Division

By Jerry Britton



An early view of benchwork. The lower level will be home to the main line and the Lewistown Junction yard. The “freefloating” upper level will be home to the Milroy Secondary – Yeagertown at this location.

Next up is Reedsville, Pa., with a wye interchange with the defunct Kishacoquillas Valley Railroad. There is a runaround track, freight station, and team track. The line then passes through a scenic area, crossing Honey Creek several times.

Naginey, Pa., is the site of a Bethlehem Steel limestone quarry. This hole in the ground yields a train load of limestone on a daily basis bound for Johnstown, Pa., to the west. The quarry also ships to other customers.

The end of the line is its namesake, Milroy, Pa. There is a mill here, along with a freight station and a few other interests yet to be researched.



A dedicated area was constructed for the control components of the new railroad. A Digitrax command station, two boosters, power supply, UPS, and computer are all integrated. The computer runs the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI).

Next installment: Yeagertown and the construction of local control panels.

Jerry Britton

You can read more about the model railroad and its progress at its blog, Middle Division Musings, at <http://britton.pennsyr.com>.

News from National

Selected Items from the last NMRA BOD Meeting

NMRA Organizational Changes – The following NMRA organizational changes were announced in the March *NMRA Magazine*:

1. Eastern District Director John Roberts is unable to continue serving on the BOD due to health reasons. Joe Gelmini has been designated as John's replacement to serve out the remaining years of John's term as Eastern District Director. We all wish John well. The family requests that you not contact John at this time.
2. Gerry Leone has resigned as Communications Director for personal reasons including some unfortunate personal snipes from other officials and the organization's slow pace of modernization.
3. At Large Worldwide Director, Tony Koester is retiring from the BOD due to term limits. Tony has served as a Director for the past six years. This position will be filled via the upcoming elections.
4. Atlantic District Director, Nobby Clarke is retiring from the BOD due to term limits. Nobby has served as Director for the past six years. This position will be filled via the upcoming elections.
5. As a result of a disciplinary action the BOD declared the At Large North America Director position vacant. As a result, Miles Hale is no longer the ALNAD. A replacement will be named according to NMRA policy and procedures. Reference the NMRA web page for additional information.
6. Bill Kaufman, Vice President for Special Projects has resigned for personal reasons.
7. Tom Draper has been appointed Director of Support Services to fill any vacancies until a replacement can be found starting initially with the publication of the InfoNet News.
8. Rick Coble was confirmed by the BOD as Assistant National Secretary supporting National Secretary John Stevens.

9. Most of the functions of the Member Services and Map Departments have been folded into the Marketing Department. Those functions that were not moved to the Marketing Department were assigned to other existing departments.
10. President Charlie Getz hastens to add there is no village coup in all of these changes but rather a combination of events that has led to a dynamic turnover. The NMRA is in good shape!

2016 National Convention Bid

An excellent presentation was made by the host committee for the 2016 National Convention in Indianapolis, IN ("Highball to Indianapolis") to the BOD which strongly approved the bid. The convention will be held July 3-10, 2016 in downtown Indianapolis at the Westin hotel and the Indiana Convention Center. The National Train Show will also be in the Indiana Convention Center which is located directly across from the hotel.

Future National Convention Dates

The BOD approved a motion to allow more flexibility in scheduling the dates and areas of the country for our conventions starting with the 2017 convention.

Donations to the NMRA

The BOD approved a motion to provide NMRA members a first opportunity to purchase items donated to the NMRA Museum or Library or which were undesignated but were deemed surplus. Any unsold items may be offered for sale to the general public.

Data Sheets and Calendar have been made the responsibility of the Publications Department.

News from National

Selected Items from the last NMRA BOD Meeting

NMRA Museum

It was announced that the NMRA Museum has reached over \$300,000 in pledges for the California State Railroad Museum Gallery Exhibit ("The Magic of Scale Model Railroading"). This pledge amount has triggered a matching pledge amount of an additional \$250,000 which puts the Museum closer to its goal of reaching the estimated cost of up to \$750,000. So fundraising will still be needed as we are not at our ultimate goal yet. The Museum is now in a position to ask for construction bids. It is estimated the gallery exhibit will probably be completed within 14 months of awarding a construction contract. It is estimated that the California State Railway Museum is visited by over 600,000 attendees each year.

The BOD offered its sincere appreciation for the recent donations to the fund raising program of \$10,000 by Model Railroader Magazine and \$50,000 by The World's Greatest Hobby. There were also four pledges of \$25,000 or more and 12 pledges of \$10,000 or more.

Financial Reporting

It was reported that the Summary of Financials for 2012 and the 2011 Auditors report will be published on the NMRA web site.

Both the 2012 NMRA Convention and the 2012 National Train Show made a profit from their operations.

HASEA Agreement Extended Indefinitely

The BOD approved extending indefinitely the one year working agreement with HASEA, an association of 100,000 Chinese Model Railroaders and railfans, to share the NMRA's standards and organizational knowledge. This agreement can be cancelled for no cause upon a 30 day written notice by either party.

Marketing Plan

Marketing Director Page Martin reported on a new ambitious marketing plan for the NMRA including in-package membership inserts with Walthers products as well as on-line and hard building hobby establishments, museums, special attractions and national and regional model railroad shows and conventions. An active program is being created for November which is National Model Railroad Month.

Also the Constant Contact email system has been set up and is ready for use by Regions and Divisions as a tool for them.

Awards

President Charlie Getz presented the President's Award to outgoing At Large Worldwide Director Tony Koester and outgoing Atlantic District Director Nobby Clarke for their years of service to the NMRA.

The BOD adjourned in Honor of John Roberts, HLM, MMR (MER), former President and Eastern District Director and in memory of Lt. Cdr. John M. Baker (USN) (MER), John Baker (AR), and Jim Long (PCR).

Regards,

Tom Draper

Director – Support Service

On the Road in the Susquehanna Division

Photos by Bob Martin

Those of us in central PA are very familiar with the “stink bug” infestation of the last couple of summers. They certainly managed to find their way into my house! Turns out I’m not alone, as these photos from Bob Martin demonstrate.

Obviously they missed the memo about layout etiquette and not handling the rolling stock!



On the Road in the Susquehanna Division

Article and Photos by Ron Parisi

Early in February I had the good fortune to be invited for an OP session on Bob Charles' immaculate layout, the South Penn Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.



Our good host , Bob Charles, just making sure everything was in shipshape (trainshape?) condition....



In case anyone of us set the throttle too high.....

Lots of well done scenery, compact, authentic towns, clean track work and jocular operators made the session great.



Steve Sherrill gilding the lily and making those rails *really* shine...



Mary Miller and Mark Czerwinski ponder a variation on a theme - the switch list was in Sanskrit...

On the Road in the Susquehanna Division

Article and Photos by Ron Parisi



The height of feather-bedding: One moving engine, three firemen at the layout's main Columbia yard.



Mark again swearing to himself that there was a bumper at the end of that blind curve....

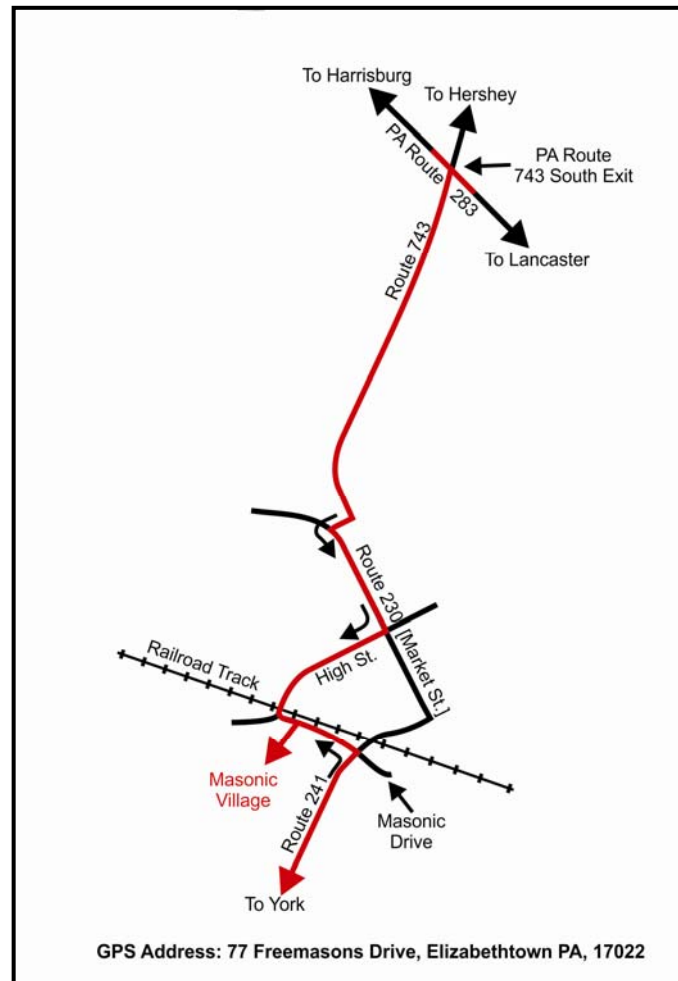


Cornelius "Bob Charles" Vanderbilt at the central tower with his scissor phone....



John King at the end of the Line waiting for a train....any train.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MASONIC FREEMASON CULTURAL CENTER



From Harrisburg or Lancaster

From Harrisburg drive East on I-283 and from Lancaster drive West on I-283 and exit at Route 743 South. Follow the red route on the map. When you enter the tree-lined Masonic Village road follow the signs to the Freemason Cultural Center. It will eventually be on your right and has a drive under entry portico. Park anywhere near the building and enter under the portico. Once inside there will be signs directing you to the Brossman Ballroom, and there will be a helpful guide at the visitor desk.

From York

Follow Route 30 East and take the Columbia Exit. Follow Route 441 North to Bainbridge. Turn right onto Route 241. After approximately 4 miles, turn left onto Masonic Drive (just before going under the Amtrak railroad bridge). Continue to the Masonic Village entrance on your left. Follow the signs to the Freemason Cultural Center. It will eventually be on your right and has a drive under entry portico. Park anywhere near the building and enter under the portico. Once inside there will be signs directing you to the Brossman Ballroom, and there will be a helpful guide at the visitor desk.

Upcoming Events – In or Near Our Division

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities!!

April 6, 2013

**James River Division Meet
Ft Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd
Lynchburg VA
www.trainweb.org/jrd/**

This event features a morning clinic by Model Railroader author Marty McGuirk and afternoon layout tours.

April 7, 2013

**Clinton Central Model RR Club
Annual Spring Meet
Mill Hall PA
www.ccmrr.org**

April 13, 2103

**South Mountain Division / Mainline
Hobby Supply Spring Mini-Convention
Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

On Saturday April 13th the doors will open at 10:0 AM and Close at 5:00PM at the Blue Ridge Summit Fire Hall across the street from Mainline Hobby Supply.

There will be FREE clinics and FREE Admission for everyone. Clinics include Track work, Scenery, Make & Take of Structure kits, etc., plus one of the guest speakers will be Paul Dolkos (writer of many articles in Model Railroader).

April 20, 2013

**Susquehanna Division Meeting
Masonic Village Freemason Cultural
Center, Elizabethtown PA**

On Saturday April 20th the Susquehanna Division will hold their Spring Meet at the Masonic Village Freemason Cultural Center in Elizabethtown. There will be 4 clinics in the morning and 4 layouts on tour in the afternoon. (See the Super's Corner elsewhere in this issue for more info.)

April 28, 2013

**Pittsburgh Model RR Jamboree
Robert Morris University
Moon Township, PA \$22
www.keystonedivision.org**

May 4, 2013

**New Jersey Division Meet
Jackson, NJ
www.njdivnmra.org**

Clinics in the morning, layout tours in the afternoon!

May 18-19, 2013

**Mechanicsburg Model Railroad Club
Open House
Mechanicsburg PA**

The Mechanicsburg Model RR Club will be hosting an Open House. They are located on Trindle Road in Mechanicsburg PA.

May 25-27, 2013

**Horseshoe Curve Special
Ft Wayne Railroad Historical Society
www.fwrhs.org**

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society is offering 3 round trips from Lewistown PA to Horseshoe Curve May 25, 26 and 27. Please see their website for more details.

June 15, 2013

**Tidewater Division Meet
Ft Eustis Army Transportation Museum**





The Station

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Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
Of the National Model Railroad Association

467 Lovell Court
Hummelstown, PA 17036

C & P Junction
ROCKVILLE

MER Convention

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

OCTOBER 10-13, 2013



**Layout Open House at
Howard Zane's
Piermont Division (HO)**



**Clinic by Marty McGuirk
on his Central Vermont,
Winooski Subdivision (HO)**



**Layout Open House at
Monroe Stewart's
Hootch Junction (N)**