

Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

November 2013

Volume 21 Number 6

From the Superintendent's Desk

Barry Schmitt

Greetings to all and happy trick or treat! Since I live just 3-miles from the Hershey chocolate factory I hope you helped out local citizens by purchasing lots of their treats – yum, yum!

As you can tell we have a lot of information to pass on in this newsletter. First, I hope you took time to read Sidetracks Editor Ron Smith's Mail Car letter in the October NMRA Magazine titled Membership Value on page 10 - an excellent way of looking at the value of our membership. For me the main benefits I receive from NMRA membership are attending operating sessions throughout our Division area, learning from experts at Division, Regional, and National clinics and conventions, and knowing I'm helping to support a rigorous national program aimed at developing and monitoring our product conformance standards. But most important is the many friendships I've made among modelers throughout the country.

The recent MER Convention was a great opportunity to meet modelers from throughout the region, attend to some important business with the MER, and attend several top-quality

clinics. Although I was unable to visit any of the layouts I heard many great stories from those who did in spite of the almost continuous heavy rain. I thought you might enjoy one story passed on by BOD member Howard Oakes following one layout visit. It seems Howard and fellow member Phil Peters visited Larry Nyce's great O-scale narrow gage layout. Larry told them how he got his layout area from his wife and it includes half of a downstairs room. His wife was house hunting and found what she thought would work for both of them. She had Larry come look at it and he agreed. Then she said that he could have half of the downstairs for his layout and she the other half. He finally picked one side he thought would work. When Charlie Getz (NMRA President and retired lawyer) visited the layout and was told the same story Charlie said he would have chosen the top half and she could have the lower 4 feet giving Larry the upper 4 feet. Larry responded that after hearing that when important decisions were needed, he would contact Charlie first!

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

Schedules

November Open Houses

November 2nd, 9th and 16th 2013

Tree Making Clinic

Jan. 14, 2014 Masonic Village & E-Town Model RR Club, Elizabethtown PA

Division Meet

Feb. 8, 2014 Grace United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg PA

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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 12-15-13

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www.susquehannanmra.org

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For those of us who have met Charlie he is not what one expects for a long time California lawyer – he is deeply committed to making the NMRA a better organization, an avid narrow gauger, and absolutely has a great sense of humor.

Our Susquehanna Division had three modelers enter five models in the Convention judging contest. As our article on page 9 explains our three members walked away with awards for all five models. Again, congratulations to Alan Mende, Fred Phillips, and Ron Parisi!

In September our Division, for the first time, co-sponsored the annual Mainline Hobby Supply weekend open house event where several layouts throughout southern PA and central MD were open for visitors. We manned an NMRA membership table outside the hobby shop and signed-up three new members. One of the layout owners, Ken Kime of Gettysburg, also joined. Area modelers rated it a very successful event as evidenced by two turnout statistics - Dave Trone reportedly had well over 100 visitors while Ken Kime had over 60. See a picture of Ken (2nd from left) on page 11 below. Picture 2 on page 11 shows the Dispatcher station at the Mechanicsburg Model Railroad Club with proud Grandpa Harry Owens being trained by Grand-Son Logan Trump. We were told later that Harry finally passed Logan's rigorous tests.

Ever since January we have waged an aggressive membership drive. The NMRA

Rail Pass program has greatly helped that effort. As I'm sure you know for those new members who complete the application form and provide it to a Division officer for forwarding, the MER pays the \$9 fee which makes it a 6-months free trial membership. A copy of the Rail Pass form is provided in this newsletter on page 15, so offer it to one of your modeling friends, but be sure it is given to a BOD member who will authenticate it and forward it for the free program. The following is a list of new members who either recently joined our Division or transferred here from another Division: Bradford Brown, Rob Garman, Steve Groft, Steve Henderson, Richard Kenney III, Ken Kime, Jim Lomison, Dan Manganello, Robert Morgan, Andrew Plank, Dave Rees, Horace Reynolds, Richard Sauerwine, Bruce Smith, John Sweeney, W. Richard Vollmar, Bob Wilson, Orsbie Wingfield Jr., and John Wissinger (MMR). A hearty welcome to each of you!

By the time you receive this newsletter our first Saturday layout open house program in our Southern Sub-Division may be just a day or two away – Saturday, November 2. The Eastern Sub-Division open houses will be on Saturday, November 9, and our Western Sub-Division open houses will be on Saturday, November 16. Visit our Division website (www.susquehannanmra.org) or the Keystone Crossing website (<http://svmr.pennsyr.com>) to see what layouts will be open, their addresses, and open hours. If you use the SVMR website, select the "Upcoming Open Houses – Nov 2, 9, 16, 23 2013 – NMRR

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

From **Super's Desk** page 2

Month" link which takes you to a page where you select the appropriate Saturday date, which will then present the specific layouts and associated information. Note there are no open houses in our Northern Sub-Division this year. Enjoy your visits!

For those members who have elected to pay the annual fee to have paper copies of Sidetracks delivered to their home the rate will increase in 2014 from \$9 to \$11 dollars to cover the ever increasing cost of printing and mail service. Several members are paid up for both 2013 and 2014, and will incur no added cost for 2014. All others will receive a bill and SSAE in their December Sidetracks Express issue. If you want to send your payment before receiving that notice mail your check made out to Susquehanna Div 11 to our Division Chief Clerk, Paul Tice, 6710 Moul Road, Thomasville PA 17364-9447. Those who do not pay the 2014 fee by Feb 1 will be dropped from the home delivery program. Any member wishing to receive Sidetracks by home delivery, please e-mail Membership Chairman Howard Oakes.

We had another very successful and enjoyable LSOP5 operations-till-you-drop weekend in early October. Thanks to excellent project management by Assistant Superintendent Wayne Betty and our gracious six layout owners it was a great success. The layout owners by area were: in the Lehigh Valley Jim Hertzog, Larry Reynolds, and Gail Smith; and in the Susquehanna Valley our hosts were Wayne Betty, Steven Mallery, and

Bob Martin. Thanks gents for an excellent operating experience! *(Due to publication deadlines we will provide an article about the October 4-5 event in our next Sidetracks issue – Ed.)*

On August 18 we held our first 2014 Event Planning Committee meeting. Since then our committee members have been developing a series of events that span the Division area and will hopefully attract more member attendance. The plan is nearing completion and will be presented to our Division Board of Directors (BOD) in mid-November for final approval. Once approved, it will be presented to you in a mid-December Sidetracks Express issue. From that you should be able to see all our events planned for 2014, their dates, locations, hours of operation, and a general description of each. Obviously with such a long planning period things happen, i.e. an event planned for Jul was recently cancelled because the layout owner where the event was to be held is retiring and moving to Montana in early 2014. But because of the advanced planning process and dedication of our committee members another event is now being developed to fill that void.

To be sure you have plenty of notice for future events we included a heads-up article in this issue so you can begin planning to attend. On January 14 the E-town and Masonic Village Model Railroad Club will present a mini tree making clinic at their club – see their article at page 12. Also, on February 8 we are planning to hold an all-day event in Mechanicsburg that

includes morning clinics, a historical station tour, and layout visits. At that event we are introducing a new program during the morning clinics titled Model Showcase so be sure to read about it in MMR John Wissinger's article on page 4 and begin thinking about what models you will bring for display and discussion.

We had another change in our BOD members. Jerry Britton recently resigned his Director and Event Committee Chairman positions. State College member Lee Rainey graciously agreed to fill the Director position and will continue as a key member of our 2014 event planning committee. Welcome aboard Lee!

You will notice we now have two hobby shop advertisers and their ads are at the end of this newsletter. Our newest advertiser is Choo Choo Nuts of Lancaster and they are also the Focus Hobby Shop that is presented at page 5. Please let these shops know that you saw their advertisements here and that their money was well spent. Their support helps offset some of the costs of our Sidetracks mailing program. Please support them as they help support us.

Happy Modeling to all!



From the Editor's Desk

Ron Smith

Hello everyone,

Autumn is here! With the changing colors and fall / winter "train show season" upon us, this is definitely my favorite time of year. I spent a fair amount of time working on the layout over the summer, and am ready to continue the forward progress. I hope all of you will find your way back to the layout room or workbench too!

Since November is National Model Railroading Month, we encourage you to get out and visit local events, whether they are club shows, fire hall shows, railroad historical society meetings, or events like the one Jerry Britton helps to organize. If you've never opened your home layout for visitors before but have considered it, November provides you an excellent opportunity to do so. I've done it for years and always enjoy meeting new people and seeing old friends. This year, I will be part of Jerry's event and will be open on Saturday November 2nd for visitors. Please see the Upcoming Events page for more info and the link to Jerry's website. I plan on visiting a few layouts in the Allentown area on November 9th.

As always, I am looking for feedback on *Sidetracks*. We'd like you to tell us about your layout too, so please send in your photos of op sessions you've attended, modeling projects you've been working on, and your tips and techniques. And as noted in the next column by John Wissinger, you are

encouraged to bring your models to Division meetings for display.

My contact information is

rsmith@susquehannamra.org

I hope to meet you at one of our upcoming events.

Ron

A New Meeting Feature Model Showcase

We are adding a new and interesting addition to our Division meetings called "Model Showcase." This will be a dedicated part of the meeting where you Show Case a particular model of your choice. This can be a favorite model, one that has significant meaning to you, an unusual model, a recent acquisition, or one that you have done a lot of work on. It can also be a current project that is not finished yet. Examples could be an RTR car or loco that is a favorite prototype; or It could be a car, loco, or building that you super detailed, weathered, kit-bashed, or scratch built; or It could even be an electronic item that is used on your home or your club's layout.

Categories are wide open, and it can be in any scale from Z, N, HO, S, O, garden RR, and even live steam - if you can get it through the door. The models will be put on tables before the meeting, and then, during a time set aside for this program, you will be given the opportunity to talk about your model. The only limitations are: it has to be a model railroad oriented item, one model/item per person, and a max five-minute time limit for your presentation; otherwise, the giant hook will be employed.

This is not a model contest. However, if you want your model judged for a merit award (87.5 points or more), you can make arrangements for that by contacting our Division Achievement Program Manager, Bob Charles (MMR), prior to the meeting – Bob's contact information is listed on page 2. So look at your layout, your model collection, or elsewhere and bring a model to our next meeting. This can be a fun thing and will add interest to our meetings, so let's see 50 models on display at our February 2014 meeting previously discussed!

Note: the handling of models by others will be forbidden and enforced.

John Wissinger

FOCUS HOBBY SHOP: Choo Choo Nuts, Lancaster PA

Bill Weiss

Choo Choo Nuts – A New Hobby Shop

I have often been puzzled by the model railroad hobby shop situation in South Central Pennsylvania. The area is sort-of a hot bed of railroad history and modeling that includes the Pennsylvania State Railroad Museum in Strasburg, the Strasburg Tourist Railroad, The Toy Train Museum, etc. yet the choices in full service model railroad dedicated hobby shops are few. That situation worsened this past January when the well-known, 50+ years Rule's Hobby Shop of Manheim closed its doors.

Now, happily, a “replacement” model railroad hobby store recently opened in Lancaster. It is called Choo Choo Nuts, and is located on the east side of Oregon Pike, about ½ mile north of US Rt. 30, behind the McDonalds, in a free standing building.



The proud owner is Rob McClenaghan who is seen happily pointing to his large sign on the Oregon Pike in the photo below. Rob is a longtime local model railroader who grew up in York, developed his interest in model railroading like many of you younger modelers during his youth in the 1970's, and remains a member of the Miniature Railroad Club of York. More recently, while working out of his home, he was the only ExactRail dealer in the area, until they went to direct sales only.



FOCUS HOBBY SHOP: Choo Choo Nuts, Lancaster PA

Bill Weiss

Over the years, Rob has developed exceptional professional model painting skills as evidenced by his great custom graffiti decorated HO cars which he sold on E-Bay, and he now offers that service to his store customers. Each of these air brushed and hand painted gems is a near carbon copy of a real life freight car. Be sure to ask him to show you a classic graphitized on-the-rail freight car vs his model – the likeness will surprise even the most discriminating rivet counter. Here is an example of his graffiti work:



This new store is fully stocked with many of the products from just about all the major model railroad manufacturers and also includes detail parts, paints, tools, and other required building supplies. And as with any such highly specialized hobby business it is impossible to have every possible item in stock so Rob emphasizes he will special order whatever you need and call you as soon as it arrives. For example, a fellow Ephrata Short Line club member ordered a unique mountain scenery product not in stock in any PA hobby shop that he contacted from Pittsburgh to Philly. So he ordered it from Rob on Sep 18 and Rob called my friend on Sep 25 that it had arrived. I'd call one week special order delivery excellent response.

Rob opened his door to the public in April of this year after purchasing most of Rule's remaining inventory. HO is his primary product line but he also carries an extensive N-Scale inventory and may just have some O, G, or Z scale models in the sales area. And remember, if it's not in stock but on your just-got-to-have-it list Rob will do his absolute best to order exactly what you need and get it to you ASAP.

In addition to all the new products to tempt your modeling desire, Rob also offers a large selection of well cared for, previously owned equipment that includes trades, in-store consignments, and estate sales. This well stocked hobby shop is currently open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:30am to 6:30pm, Wednesday from 10:00am to 8:00pm, and Saturday from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Starting on Nov 20, store hours become simplified to Monday - Friday, 11:00am to 7:00pm, and Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Under both schedules the shop will be closed on Sundays.

Another great high demand offering at Choo Choo Nuts is Rob's excellent repair and specialty painting service. For example, an N-Scale friend of mine had been hunting for several B&O GP-30 diesel locomotives but to no avail. When he mentioned that problem to Rob a quick find of three engines appeared. They were three Atlas products from Rule's former collection but there were issues as always seem to be the case. First, only one of the three had DCC installed while the other two were DCC ready. Also, two were painted in Conrail colors and the other was in PRR livery. Rob said, "Not a problem – I'll install DCC in the two that need it, paint all three in your desired sunburst B&O scheme, and decal each with whatever road numbers you want." A great let's-make-a-deal price for the entire package secured the transaction. So whether it's painting, DCC installs, or just about any kind of repairs, Choo Choo Nuts is a great one stop model railroading center in central PA.

FOCUS HOBBY SHOP: Choo Choo Nuts, Lancaster PA

Bill Weiss

It is great having this new and well-appointed hobby shop owned by an enthusiastic and friendly model railroader to feed our hobby passion (addiction?). The last photo is a picture of Rob inside his new pride and joy shop. And to demonstrate his personal commitment to the hobby and his local modeling clientele Rob recently joined the NMRA. As you can see in this issue, Choo Choo Nuts has become a proud advertiser of our Sidetracks publications. He also is helping our Division plan an all-day modeling event next fall so be on the lookout for those details. So, stop by and welcome Rob and his new shop to our Division area with a friendly smile and a good ol' down home "howdy"! And while you're there, "Go Nuts" and pick up a few things you're missing or just can't live without!

Bill Weiss



CHOO CHOO NUTS

444 E. Roseville Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone (717) 208-3398

www.choochoonuts.com

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM
Wednesday 10 AM to 8 PM, Saturday 9:30 10 AM to 3:30 PM

Beginning November 20, 2013:

Open Monday – Friday 11 AM – 7 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM

Closed Sundays and major holidays

Please call for directions if needed

Upcoming Events – In or Near Our Division

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities!!

Nov 30, 2013 – Jan 12, 2014
Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 PM
11 S. State St, Ephrata PA
The Short Line Model RR Club
24th Annual Holiday Train Show
www.slmrc.com

Nov 30, 2013 – Jan 5, 2014
Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 PM
159 Main St, (2nd floor) New Eagle PA
Mid-Mon Valley Model RR Club
Annual Holiday Open House
www.mmvmrrc.org

Nov 19, 2013 – Jan 4, 2014
Tuesdays thru Saturdays 10 -8
203 W. Main Street, Bloomsburg PA
“Chasing Trains” Art Exhibit
Moose Exchange Stairwell Gallery

December 7, 2013, 9-3
8th Annual Hatboro Train Show
Horsham PA
Keith Valley Middle School
227 Meetinghouse Rd
120 tables. \$5, kids under 12 free
www.hatborotrainshow.org

Dec 15-2013, and Jan 5-26, 2014
Sundays ONLY 1-4 PM, Frederick County
Society of Model Engineers
423 E Patrick St, Frederick MD
Annual Open House
www.fcsme.com

December 14-15, 2013
Greenberg’s Toy & Train Show
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
Oaks, PA

10-4 each day. \$8 adults, kids under 12 free
www.greenbergshows.com

January 11-12, 2014
Greenberg’s Toy & Train Show
York, PA

10-4 each day. \$8 adults, kids under 12 free
www.greenbergshows.com

January 18-19, 2014
World’s Greatest Hobby On Tour
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
Oaks, PA

www.WHGShow.com

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL RAILROAD MONTH: OPEN HOUSE TOURS

For the past several years Jerry Britton has put together a number of model railroad open house tours in south-central Pennsylvania, including in November in support of National Model Railroad Month. These have been organized as the Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMR). This year the tour was expanded to include all of the counties covered by the Susquehanna Division!

To make the tour more manageable over 33 counties, the territory has been divided into four “sub-divisions,” each holding open houses over consecutive Saturdays during the month. For 2013, the tour schedule is as follows:

November 2nd -- Southern Sub: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.

November 9th -- Eastern Sub: Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, and Schuylkill counties.

November 16th -- Western Sub: Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, and Union counties.

November 23rd -- Northern Sub: Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit:

<http://svmr.pennsyrr.com>

This website is where you will find layout descriptions and map information.

MER Convention Highlights

Story by Barry Schmitt, Photos by Ron Parisi

Susquehanna Division 11 Scores Big At MER Convention!

Three Susquehanna Division members garnered several awards at the Mid-Eastern Region's C&P Junction Convention in Rockville MD. Heading up the stellar teams of contest judges, Martin Brechbiel was overheard saying they were "nice models." Having personally viewed each model at the convention I'd call that a major understatement considering their superb quality and awards earned at the convention banquet.



Award Photo 1: Model by Alan Mende

Our top convention winner was Alan Mende from Hummelstown who earned awards in two major modeling categories – Locomotives and On-Line Structures. First was his scratchbuilt HO Chimney Rock Quarry Shay Locomotive (see Award Photo 1). That little jewel earned Best of Show Award, First Place Steam Award, and a Merit Award. Alan's second

winning model was of the Central Railroad (CRR) of NJ Freight Station in Dunellen NJ (see Award Photo 2). That model earned Third Place in the On-Line Structures category and a Merit Award. Alan also won a Merit Award for his CRR of NJ East Bound Passenger Station in Dunellen NJ (see Award Photo 3). Way to go Alan!



Award Photo 2: Model by Alan Mende



Award Photo 3: Model by Alan Mende

Next, Fred Phillips from Pine Grove in Schuylkill County earned Second Place On-

Line Structures Award, a Merit Award, and Best in Show Award based on popular vote.

His exacting scratchbuilt Minersville Passenger Station replicates a 100-year old restored station that still stands today (see Award Photo 4). This model was Fred's first MER Convention entry, and he is now finalizing a scratchbuilt model of a wooden WW II anthracite coal breaker that he plans to enter in the modeling contest at the 2014 Cleveland OH NMRA National Convention. Keep that X-Acto knife going strong Fred!



Award Photo 4: Model by Fred Phillips

Our final award winner was Ron Parisi of Harrisburg. You may recall Ron won best of show award at last year's MER Convention for his weathered NYC gondola that was converted to cement hauling service. This year Ron entered his superbly detailed and scratchbuilt NYC 1921 Stock Car (see Award Photo 5). That model earned Second Place

MER Convention, Rockville MD

October 10-13, 2013

Freight Car Award, a Merit Award, and the Bud Kaiser Award for Best Detailed and Weathered Rolling Stock, which was presented by the Valley Forge Railroad Prototype Modelers. Great weathering Ron and thanks for not modeling the smell!



Award Photo 5: Model by Ron Parisi

It is rumored that these three winners are already back in their basements crafting next year's entries for the MER Convention in Hagerstown MD. So how about you – surely out of 270 members there are more than three who have top quality models for local, regional, and/or national judging. Suggestion - take that first easy step – call or email Bob Charles (MMR), our Achievement Program (AP) Chairman, for an evaluation – it's that easy. And who knows, we may celebrate your well-earned achievement next year!

Finally, mark your calendar now for the February 8, 2014, morning clinics and afternoon layout tours event – our first major 2014 activity. Both Alan and Ron will display

their models at the event; however, Fred has a previously planned commitment on that date but promises to bring his model and perhaps his in-progress breaker model to the next event. Details about the Feb event will be presented in the Mid-December Sidetracks Express that will outline all Division programs planned for 2014.

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.

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 15 of this issue and provides it to a Susquehanna Division Board of Directors(BOD) member. The BOD member will then authenticate the application with his signature and personally forward it to the MER Business Manager, Bob Price.

Be sure the prospective member does not send the form to either the MER address on the form or NMRA headquarters – doing so will invalidate the free membership opportunity.

Photos from the Mainline Hobby Supply Open House

September 21-22, 2013



Ken Kime, second from left, poses with visitors during Mainline Hobby Supply's annual Open House.



Harry Owens with his grandson Logan Trump at the dispatcher's panel at the Mechanicsburg Model Railroad Club.

January Tree-Making Clinic

Article by Jay Green

January 14, 2014 Masonic Village & E-Town Model Railroad Club Tree Making Clinic

Several model railroad clubs within the Susquehanna Division area are beginning to hold mini clinics for their members and frequently also invite other interested model railroaders. The first such open clinic in the greater Harrisburg area will be presented by members of the Masonic Village & E-Town Club on January 14, 2014. This mini clinic will be held during their weekly Tuesday evening work session, and the clinic will begin at 7:00pm.

Their HO ace tree making team of Gary Joline and Jay Green has developed a very detailed process for making all sizes of trees. Several completed and “planted” trees will be available for viewing on their layout. Their modeling method starts like most all others with Scenic Express “Super Trees” armatures and various flocking supplies. Their clinic will present their step by step procedures and techniques to create trees and the various tools they use in their building process. In essence Gary and Jay have taken the basic Scenic Express tree building process and enhanced it to build excellent looking and very durable trees that have held up very well in their club operating environment.

Specifically, you will learn how to:

- Prepare armatures.
- Develop the proper mixture of Matt Medium for sealing.
- Use their spray painting technique.
- Use various flocking materials.
- Tree placement considerations on your layout.



The tree-making assembly area

Come prepared to have fun, learn one method of building high quality trees, and leave with all the information you need to build what they believe is the “best” way to build great looking trees next to Mother Nature herself of course! To be sure sufficient room will be available for clinic attendees, we suggest you call Jay Green at 717-679-0067 to reserve a seat at the clinic and advise how many will be attending.

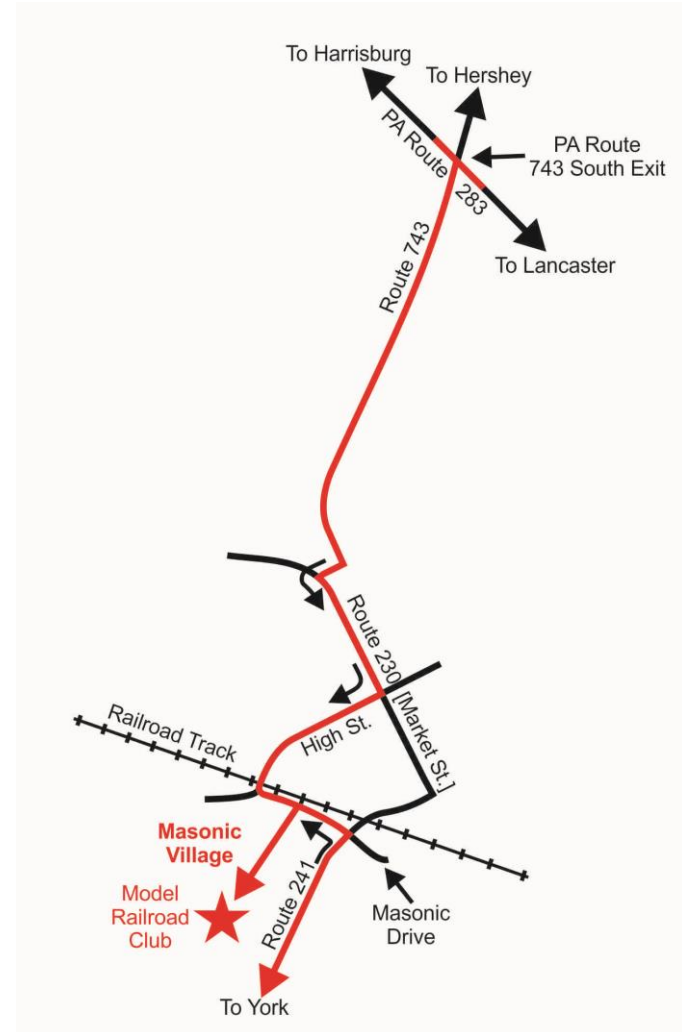
January Tree-Making Clinic

Article by Jay Green



Two completed trees, planted on the layout.

Directions: A map from the intersection of PA 743 and PA 283 to the club is presented at the right. Since you will most likely be arriving after dark please follow these driving instructions: The driving distance from the 283/743 intersection to entering the Masonic Village campus is 3 miles. As per the map you will enter the campus on Free Mason Drive – the tree-lined main entrance road just to the south of the E-Town Amtrak station. Follow that road until you reach a “Y” intersection and bear left, drive past the large Cultural Center on your right, drive past the Ben Franklin printing press statue on your right, and then turn left into the Model Railroad parking lot - easily identified by the flashing railroad cross-bucks sign. After entering the campus there are signs all along your route on your right directing you to all sorts of places of which one is the Model Railroad Club. The distance from entering the campus to the Club parking lot is ½ mile.



Jay Green

An Update on the EBT in Mt Union PA

An article from the Daily News

Workers are replacing ties and pieces of track in Mount Union where the multi-million dollar refurbishment of the East Broad Top Railroad is now underway after years of planning. Larry Salone, president of the East Broad Top Preservation Society, said the first phase of the project stretches from the EBT's junction with the Norfolk Southern mainline just west of town to the Route 522 Bypass crossing.

The second phase will carry improvements out to Riverview Business Center in Shirley Township. Despite some workers' encounters with angry bees, "It's moving very well," said Salone. "We'll be to the bypass right after the end of the year and will probably be to the business park by May," he said. "We're putting in new ties, new rail — whatever we need to do to meet short line standards." Salone said the tracks are being upgraded to a three-rail alignment to accommodate both standard-gauge trains and narrow gauge trains as included in the EBT's collection of vintage engines and cars.

"We're doing this mainly for economic development reasons," said Salone, noting once refurbished from the mainline to the Riverview Business Center, business park tenants will have the option of shipping their goods by rail instead of solely by truck. "But we're going to make sure the tourism aspect isn't ignored," he said. "We're constructing a three-track system so that some day, visitors can ride all the way into Mount Union. We're building it with that in mind." The new activity along the tracks, which have sat dormant since the 1950s, has certainly caught the attention of the borough's residents and leaders. "We are excited to see work commence," said councilman Jonathan Shapiro who has expressed support for the project since it was first brought to the borough's attention in 2011. The borough is acting as a pass-through agency for government funds secured by Salone for the project.

"There are many potentials for this thing — possibilities for both tourism and industry," he said. "It has potential to have a huge impact on Mount Union and give us opportunities to branch out in so many directions." The rail has helped breathe new life into the borough's longtime linear park plan, developed in 1989, then shelved until several years ago when Shapiro rediscovered the proposal.

Planet LoveJoy, in collaboration with Salone, is now running with the project which envisions a stretch of landscaping, walkways and seating areas parallel to the railroad along Pennsylvania Avenue. As landowner, Salone said he's supportive of the park and said it would give Mount Union "a cool place for everyone to hang out," but he's also offering encouragement from the sidelines for another project that runs parallel to his railroad. "I'm a big, big, big supporter of whatever they can do on that wall," said Salone. The century-old stone retaining wall which supports the upper end of Pennsylvania Avenue continues to vex council as they explore various funding and corrective options. Engineer estimates put even the simplest of solutions over the \$1 million mark. "I've listened to all the information and that's a very complicated project," said Salone. "It's going to take a lot of people to do a lot of good things there. I hope they fix it and whatever they do, we'll support it. It's going to be tough on them." Despite the long road ahead for the wall project, "It's fantastic they are putting the effort into it and it shows a lot of initiative," he said.

Shapiro said watching the railroad project unfold over the past several years has been a lesson on resolve as the borough tackles its own formidable wall. "I'm learned patience over this rail project," he said. "I knew from the beginning it wasn't going to happen overnight. Everybody needs to realize that we're all going to have to have patience." As head of an organization that is investing approximately \$3 million in private funds and government grants into Mount Union, Salone says he is impressed by the time and efforts community leaders are investing in their hometown. "The borough and Planet LoveJoy have been absolutely magnificent," he said. "These people really care about their town."

By REBECCA BERDAR - Daily News Staff Writer - sent in by Howard Oakes

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.)

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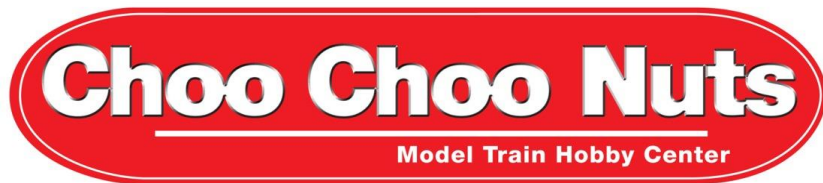
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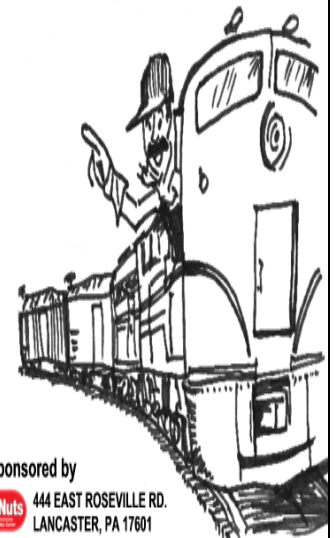
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