

# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division, Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA Vol 24 No. 3





Several folks try their hand at a Make-and-Take clinic at the April Mini-Con. This event was sponsored by the South Mountain Division and Mainline Hobby Supply, with Susquehanna Division support.

## From the Superintendent's Desk - Barry Schmitt

### Greetings All,

I was on a 2-week business trip recently and apparently missed spring and summer. But that's not all bad since the cold and rainy weather allows more time to enjoy working on carried-over winter model railroading projects. At least that's the story I'm having trouble selling to my wife.

Here we are in May 2016 and that means our Division must conduct its bi-annual officer elections. As you know I've made many requests over these past several months for volunteers to run for the position of Superintendent but to no avail. Back in December I asked Wayne Betty, our Assistant Superintendent, to conduct a thorough search for my replacement and Wayne's diligent efforts recently paid off. I'm delighted to announce that Tim Himmelberger from Lebanon has graciously volunteered to run for the position of Susquehanna Division 11 Superintendent.

Tim and his son Joshua have attended just about every Division activity since they joined the NMRA. Tim was also one of the first members to volunteer to serve on our 2017 MER Convention Committee and at the first organizational meeting volunteered to serve as the publicity chairman. I am confident Tim's enthusiasm and passion for our great hobby will serve him well as he accepts the position of Division Superintendent.

You will find the ballot and voting instructions on page 19. You will also note that Wayne Betty, Assistant Superintendent, and Paul Tice, Chief Clerk (treasurer and secretary); have also volunteered to continue in their current leadership positions. I realize the ballot only contains one member for each position; however, by sending in your vote you are demonstrating your personal confidence in your leadership team and thanks for their many hours of work on your behalf.

We have two great events ahead – our May 14 morning clinics and afternoon layout visits starting at the Quakertown PA train station are outlined on page 4, and our Sunday, June 26 Live Steam Day event at the Pennsylvania Live Steamers facility in Collegeville PA as discussed on page 7. Please note that both events require advanced registration due to facility size limitations at the Quakertown train station and club requirements at the live steam event.

Please take time to view the three full page hobby shop advertisements at the end of this newsletter. All three have been strong supporters of the NMRA and specifically our Division activities and each is owned by wonderful and devoted model railroaders. Their loyal support helps offset the printing and mailing expenses of our Sidetracks and other Division expenses. When you next visit their shops, which I hope will be soon, kindly take time to meet the owners and personally thank them for their dedication to our hobby and financial assistance to our Division. And please support them as they graciously support us.

Once again I sincerely appreciate Tim volunteering to take the Superintendent throttle and to Wayne and Paul for their many years of dedicated service to our Division and willingness to continue in their leadership positions!



## Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA 138 Old School House Lane Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

#### **Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks**

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from the Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be sent to the Editor at the e-mail address listed below or the street address above. Deadline for submission for the next issue is June 22, 2016.

#### **Board of Directors**

#### 2014-2016

2015-2017

#### Superintendent

Barry Schmitt

bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org

#### **Asst. Superintendent**

Wayne Betty

wsb@susquehannanmra.org

#### **Chief Clerk**

Paul Tice

ptice@susquehannanmra.org

#### Director

**Dave Collison** 

dcollison@susquehannanmra.org

#### Director

Lee Rainey

Irainey@susquehannanmra.org

#### Director

Ron Smith

rsmith@susquehannanmra.org

#### Director /

**Membership Chairman** 

**Howard Oakes** 

hoakes@susquehannanmra.org

#### **Committee Chairman**

Achievement Program Chairman Robert Charles, MMR

rcharles@susquehannanmra.org

Training Chairman Alan Mende

amende@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Program Chairman Sidetracks Editor
John Wissinger. MMR Ron Smith

<u>jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org</u> <u>rsmith@susquehannanmra.org</u>

#### **Membership Information**

Susquehanna Division website: Mid-Eawww.susquehannanmra.org www.r

Mid-Eastern Region website: www.mer.nmra.org

National Model Railroad Association 8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200 www.nmra.org

Cover photo credit: Ron Smith Inset credit: Ron Smith

## Second Section - Ron Smith

Hello everyone!

I had thought Spring was here in full force, as the other day it was a sunny 82 degrees here in south-central PA. As I type this, it is now a damp, windy and chilly 44 degrees...

I was impressed by the large turnout for the Mainline Hobby Supply / South Mountain Division Mini-Con on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 people had come through the door by 11 AM! Photos of the Mini-Con appear elsewhere in this issue (as well as the cover); I observed several younger folks participating in the make-and-take clinic as well as trying their hand at the Timesaver layout. Several Susquehanna Division members helped out by manning the sign-in table or presenting clinics, and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

We have two events coming up in the next two months and I hope you will have the chance to attend one or both. They are in the southeastern portion of our area, as we do try to provide activities for you throughout our large Division.

Enjoy your Spring – if it ever truly arrives – and happy modeling!

Ron

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**

Martin Nussbaum
Donna Casperson
Maddox Neapolitan
Frank Carbalan
Michael Ensminger
Hugh O'Hare

New Oxford, PA
Dillsburg, PA
Shrewsbury, PA
Boalsburg, PA
York, PA
Mount Penn, PA



**IS COMING** 

Division 11 will hold the spring event in the Quakertown Train Station, 15 Front St., Quakertown PA 18951 (approximately 15 miles south of Allentown). The date is **Saturday May 14** beginning at 9:30 AM. The station will open at 9:00 AM for meet, greet and registration along with coffee and donuts.

Cost is \$2 for NMRA members and \$5 for visitors paid at the door. Due to space limitations you need to pre-register for this event. **Please register by May 12**<sup>th</sup> by contacting Howard Oakes at <a href="https://hoakes@susquehannanmra.org">hoakes@susquehannanmra.org</a> or 717-632-5990.



The morning program will consist of 2 clinics, the Model Showcase program and door prize drawings for 6 items you won't want to miss; 2 books, 2 DVDs, a building kit and a PRR print ready for framing.

All attendees are encouraged to bring a model for display during our Model Showcase segment. This is not meant for the experienced modelers to show off their super modeling skills. It can be your pride and joy, something under construction, a new purchase, and in any scale – in short, anything related to model railroading. All will be on display throughout the morning program, and each model owner will have a few minutes to describe their item. This is not a judging event - it's simply an opportunity to share some aspect of this great hobby with your fellow modelers.

The morning will start with a David Long presentation on the Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers (C.A.S.M.E.). David will discuss the origins of the club, current location, how they arrived at their track plan, operations, challenges and future plans. As a bonus, this club is on the afternoon layout tour. Also, David will talk briefly about the Quakertown train station. For a virtual visit of this beautiful station go to <a href="http://www.qtshs.org">http://www.qtshs.org</a>.

Division 11's Tim Himmelberger will present a clinic on modeling a brick plant. He will begin with a history of brick plants and how their looks have changed over the years. He will discuss what kits are available to construct a realistic plant, as well as what modifications would be necessary to adjust the model to your era. Since modern brick plants tend to be very large he will offer suggestions on how you can compress one for your layout.

Before departing the station you will want to visit the J&D Whistle Stop hobby store just across the tracks at 106 E. Broad St. The store is offering a special discount to all attendees wearing their name tag. A full article on the hobby shop is in this issue.





The afternoon features layout tours to 2 home and 3 club layouts. <u>Larry Reynolds</u> in Wescosville and <u>Jim Hertzog</u> in Mertztown will open their home layouts for us. You won't want to miss a visit to these 2 well known venues. The club layouts on the tour are the <u>Keystone N-Trak</u> permanent layout in Dublin, the <u>Lehigh & Keystone Valley Model Railroad Museum</u> in Bethlehem and the <u>Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers</u> in Coopersburg. Detailed layout information and photos are in the March Sidetracks at <a href="http://www.susquehannanmra.org">http://www.susquehannanmra.org</a>

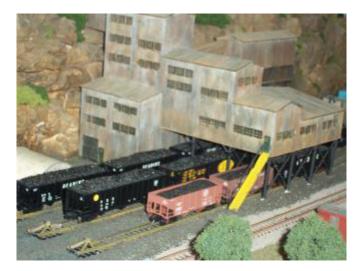
The Quakertown train station, J&D Whistle Stop hobbies and the L&KV layout are handicap accessible. Directions to the layouts and nearby eateries will be given after the clinics; a GPS is recommended.

Please support this activity located in the eastern area of Division 11. It's been a few years since we were in this part of the Susquehanna Division, and there are plenty of new and interesting sights and layouts to see.

Finally, I want to thank David Long for his help in making this day possible.

**Howard Oakes** 

Editors note: There are some representative photos of the club layouts on tour on the following page. RLS













**Pennsylvania - NMRA Susquehanna Division.** Sunday, June 26, the Susquehanna Division will present a Live Steam Day event at the PA Live Steamers (PLS) club located in Collegeville, PA. The program begins at 11:00 AM with an introduction covering the history, construction, and operation of the railroad that operates a variety of steam and diesel equipment in 1.5", 1", and 3/4" scale as well as 1 gauge. Train rides will be provided for those who would like to ride around the mainline.

The PA Live Steamers own a five-acre property located at 468 Gravel Pike, Collegeville PA, which is about 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Specifically the facility is located .5 north of the intersection of routes 29 and 113 in Rahns. It will be on the east side of Route 29 while traveling north.

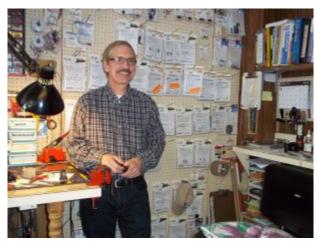


For more information about the PLS visit their website at <a href="www.palivesteamers.org">www.palivesteamers.org</a>. PLS club regulations require advanced registration. To register contact Dan Horting at 717-285-7320 or email Dan at <a href="mailto:K4sbuilder@comcast.net">K4sbuilder@comcast.net</a> by June 20. Dan will send a liability form that must be completed by persons planning to attend.

#### J&D Whistle Stop Hobbies - Quakertown, PA

Want a great setting for a hobby store specializing in model railroading? How about a store right next to an active rail line, a refurbished station, a restored Raritan boxcar and a couple of engines. And throw in a decrepit pillar crane just down from the station parking lot. J&D Whistle Stop Hobbies has all that before you even get to the door. And on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> attendees at the Division 11 spring event, held in the refurbished Quakertown station, will be eligible for a special store discount when showing their name tag.





Owner David Long wears several railroad hats. In addition to running the store, he is involved with the Quakertown Train Station Historical Society and is president of C.A.S.M.E., the Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers. J&D Whistle Stop Hobbies is an authorized dealer for Digital Command Control systems and carries a generous selection of HO, N and Lionel merchandise. The shop installs decoders as well as performing general locomotive repairs.

J&D has items from Athearn, Atlas, Chooch, Plastruct and other familiar model railroad manufacturers. Don't see what you need? David and his friendly staff will order your item and the store also features advance reservations on upcoming new releases for adding that special item to your roster.





As you wander the aisles you will find structures, detail parts, accessories and track. Scenery items, paint and a large book section help you plan and complete your next project. There is on-street parking as well as a lot on the side of the store. Be sure to plan some hobby shop time on your visit to Quakertown on May 14.







J&D Whistle Stop Hobbies Hours:

106 E. Broad St. Sun & Mon Closed

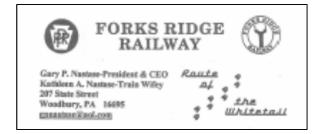
Quakertown, PA 18951-1710 Tue - Fri 10:30 - 6:00 215-538-0501 Saturday 10:00 - 5:00

> Web <u>www.jdwhistle.com</u> Email jdwhistle@verizon.net

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6-issue year. This fee helps to further offset the cost of mailing hard-copy newsletters, and your support is greatly appreciated. For information about placing an ad, please contact Ron Smith at <a href="mailto:rsmith@susquehannanmra.org">rsmith@susquehannanmra.org</a>

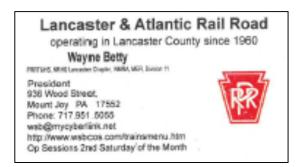
# PIKE

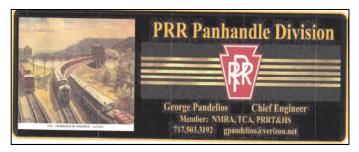
# **ADS**





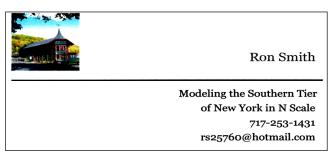












## Saturday May 7, 2016 Newport, PA 10 AM - 7 PM **Conrail Historical Society** Annual Rail-B-Q

Oliver Township Park Free admission, but donations appreciated! Open to all; good food, softball, and trains on the Harrisburg-to-Pittsburg mainline!

www.thecrhs.org

#### Saturday May 14, 2016 **Quakertown PA 9 AM**

See page 4 for more details

May 19-21, 2016 Camp Hill, PA **PRR Technical & Historical Society** 

2016 Annual Meeting www.prrths.com

(Note, you must be a member of the PRRTHS to attend.)

Saturday, May 21, 2016 Hollidaysburg, PA 10 AM, 12 PM, and 2 PM

#### **Armed Forces Day Train Rides**

As part of the Hollidaysburg Community Benefit Day, veterans and active-duty service members receive a 10% discount.

www.everettrailroad.com

May 28-29, 2016 Vienna, VA 1-5 PM Open House in the Vienna VA Depot (ca. 1859)

In conjunction with the ViVa Vienna Memorial Day Festival, free admission (donations accepted). The layout was featured in the Feb. 2016 Model Railroader.

www.nvmr.org

June 3-4, 2016 Manassas, VA **Norfolk Southern 611** 

Steam excursion from Manassas to Front Royal VA (round trip). www.nscorp.com

> **Sunday June 26, 2016** Collegeville PA **Pennsylvania Live Steamers** See page 7 for more details

June 25 and 26, 2016 Hollidaysburg, PA

World War II Victory Train Weekend on the Everett Railroad www.everettrailroad.com

2016 N Scale Enthusiast National Convention **Overland Park, KS** June 29 - July 3

> 2016 NMRA Convention Indianapolis, IN July 3-10

2016 Nat'l Assoc. of S Gaugers Convention Novi, MI **August 10-14** www.nasg.org

> N Scale Weekend Altoona PA **August 19-21**

www.n-scaleweekend.com

2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention Augusta, ME September 7-10

2016 MER Fall Convention Durham, NC October 20-23



Make your plans now to join us this Fall from October 20 – 23, 2016 at Tracks to the Triangle in Durham, NC!

October 20-23, 2016

> 2016 MER Fall Convention

Tracks to the Triangle

www.mer2016.org



On April 16<sup>th</sup> I attended the Mini-Con that was co-sponsored by South Mountain Division NMRA and Mainline Hobby Supply. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Mini-Con was held; however this was the first one with noticeable participation from Susquehanna Division. Several of our members either presented clinics or manned the registration table to help support SMD with this event. Thanks to all of our folks who participated and who attended. I know Mainline Hobby was busy all day, so it was a successful event by all measures.

I also observed several young people participating in the clinics, including the Timesaver layout that was on display. It was great to see youngsters having fun! We need to be mindful that when we are attending open houses, we should encourage the kids to run trains and ask questions. After all, they are the future of our hobby.

Ron Smith



Above, part of the crowd at the TCS table.



Above, the Timesaver layout in action.



Above, an overview of the venue. Over 200 attendees!



Above, part of Steve Sherrill's "Dead Rail" modular layout.

# The Susquehannock Is Coming!

The long awaited MER convention in the Susquehanna Division is now in the planning stages. Your committee decided on the name Susquehannock. Some have thought that difficult to spell, some opined it was obscure, and others thought something with "Keystone" more appropriate as Pennsylvania is the Keystone State - though this has often been used in the past in various areas of the MER.

The name Susquehannock appears to have originated as an Algonquin name meaning the "people of the Muddy River" (Susquehanna). Their territory ranged along the Susquehanna River and its branches from the north end of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland across Pennsylvania into southern New York, very much the area encompassed by our division.

Moving forward, the Pennsylvania Railroad chose to name its passenger train which ran from Williamsport to Philadelphia "The Susquehannock." Wanting to know more about this train I went to Jerry Britton's Keystone Crossings website <a href="https://www.pennsyrr.com">www.pennsyrr.com</a> to look at consist lists. The April 28, 1957 edition gives the list as; (1) B60, Mail-Baggage-Express Messenger, (1) P70CGSR, Coach, and (1) PL, Parlor Car — Buffet10 Table seats — 24 Coach Seats. On the trip to Philadelphia the B60 was dropped there and the Coach and Parlor Car were attached to train #604. And on the return trip #605 The Coach and Parlor Car were added to the B60 for the remainder of the trip to Williamsport. A three car passenger train - sounds like a perfect prototype train to model! But why would the Pennsy name a three car passenger train? My only conjecture is that they were catering to the crowd that lived along "Millionaires Row" in Williamsport. These "nabobs" did a lot of business with the Pennsy and needed to be pampered. Also, let's be honest, it sounds more impressive when writing to someone that I'll be taking The Susquehannock to Philadelphia rather than train # 528.

The more we explore the name the more it applies to our model event. The name Susquehannock and our being the Susquehanna Division is obvious. The PRR route was from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, then on to Williamsport following the Susquehanna River, thus specifically designed to service the area our division services. And finally it is the perfect prototype to model, no selective compression required. So, there you have it, some very good reasons your committee selected THE SUSQUEHANNOCK!

The committee would like to extend the invitation to every division member who has not volunteered to help with the convention planning to please consider how you would like to help. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Bob Charles (<a href="mailto:rcharles@aol.com">rcharles@aol.com</a>) or Brian Kampschroer (<a href="mailto:rrelf@aol.com">rrelf@aol.com</a>). You'll be glad you did.

Tim Himmelberger

# **End Of Track**

Member Randy Knaub provides us with these recent photos of locomotives and parts in the shop area of the Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad in Scranton. Enjoy!













## **End Of Track**





Randy also captured a video of the recently-restored Baldwin # 6 at Steamtown; the link to it is here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvYDCSy70RY

And ironically enough, I captured some of the D-L ALCO's at Slateford PA on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, awaiting the next days' crew to pick up cars for Scranton. Dinosaurs still roam in northeastern PA!





Ron

# **The Station**



213 Ninth Street New Cumberland, PA Phone: 717-774-7096

Please call for directions

Open Monday-Friday 10 AM to 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

TRAINS EXCLUSIVELY

ALL GAUGES (G-O-027-HO-N-Z)

Sales & Service

# **MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY**



15066 Buchanan Trail East Blue Ridge Summit PA 17214 (717) 794-2860 Monday-Friday 10-6 Saturday 10-5 Sunday 1-5

www.mainlinehobby.net

Serving the hobby for over 25 years!!

You're one-stop source for all your model railroading needs.

From Z to O, from DCC to Detail Parts, we have it all!

e-mail: mainlinehobby@comcast.net

# Choo Choo Nuts

Model Train Hobby Center

WANTED!!!
WE Buy Trains!

- \* Model Trains Sold Here
- \* Central PA's Best Kept Secret

Store Hours T-F 10-6 Sat 10-4 Call for Holiday Hours

717-208-3398

444 E. Roseville Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601 (1821 Oregon Ppike Behind McDonalds)



COME SEE US WHEN YOU'RE IN THE AREA!!!

# NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 (MER) 2016 Officers Ballot

In accordance with Division by-laws, the positions of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Clerk are open for the term July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. Below are the only volunteers for these three positions.

Division by-laws allow electronic (email) voting. It is not necessary for you to email this form for your vote. You only need to indicate who you are voting for in any convenient format, such as "I vote for the 3 listed candidates."

Please send your email vote to Richard Wurst, Voting Committee Chairman, at the following address: <a href="mailto:rjwurst@comcast.net">rjwurst@comcast.net</a> Be sure to include "NMRA Elections" in the subject line to assure your e-mail is processed. Rich will confirm receipt of your vote by return email within 3 days of receipt. If you vote by email and do not receive an email confirmation within 5 days from when you sent it please resend another email vote.

You may also mail your vote by sending an appropriately marked ballot back to: Richard Wurst, Attn: Division Election, 5 Hardy Court, Lancaster PA 17602-4176. The reason for including your name, signature, and return address (email or mailing address) is to provide confirmation of your vote.

Results will be presented in the July Sidetracks.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u> <u>VOTE</u>		<u>VOTE</u>
SUPERINTENDENT	TIM HIMMELBERGER		
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT	WAYNE BETTY		
CHIEF CLERK	PAUL TICE		
MEMBER NAME	BER NAME SIGNATURE		RE
EMAIL OR HOME ADDRESS			

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

138 Old School House Lane Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

# Susquehanna Division #11 Newsletter MAIL Subscription Form Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Send form to: Paul Tice, 6710 Moul Road, Thomasville, PA 17364

<b>\$15.00</b> per Year	Change of Address	
Number of Years	Total Amount Enclosed	
Blair, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Columbia, Cumbe	I portion of Pennsylvania. The Counties served are: Adams, Berks, rland, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, roe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill, yoming, and York.	
If you wish to have the newsletter mailed to you, ra	ather than having it sent via e-mail, you must subscribe.	
Make checks payable to "Susquehanna Division 1"	1"	
Name		
Address		
	State & Zip Code	
Telephone	NMRA #	