

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 27 No. 1



Superintendents
Desk page 2

February Division
Meet, page 5 & 6

Columbia Railroad
Day Page 7 & 8

Mainline Hobby
Mini Con Page 9 &
10

Model Showcase
Page 10

2019 Calendar
Page 11

Members Section
Page 14



Scratch built Model of Columbia PRR Station on Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club Layout

A



Major On-The-Road CORY Repair Operation at Coatsville, PA Steel Mill

From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

January 2019, WOW, another year has come and gone. Time continues to fly by. No, I do not know where it has gone or how to slow it down or speed it up. That is beyond this mere mortal. However, the officers and directors have been hard at work putting together the Susquehanna Division's program for this year. I call your attention to the calendar for 2019 on page 11. Please note that there some details to be determined. So, please pay attention to the announcements in Sidetracks and email blasts.

Our first event will be in Allentown. Scott Unger has been working on putting together a great program for February. Yes, I know we have that thing called our annual business meeting. Please remember our by-laws require us to have one business meeting a year. First, I try to make them short. Second, there are some items that we need to discuss as a Division. I also feel that these are for the good of the Division. Please see Scott's article about the February meet on page 5 & 6.

April is the always popular Mini-Con at Blue Ridge Summit Fire Company. Please remember that Mainline Hobby Supply, which just happens to be located just across the street sponsors this event. They rent the fire hall. So please visit their store. You may find something that you "need".

May 4th, save the date. Tony Sergo and Barry Schmitt, Howard Oakes, Bill Lesjack, Rich Wurst and Jim Long along with the Columbia Historic Preservation Society, the Lancaster Chapter of the National Railway Historic Society and the Columbia & Reading Railroad are putting together a super program on Railroading in Columbia. Barry Schmitt has written an article on page 7 & 8.

2019 is an odd numbered year. While I know that this is not earth-shattering news, it is important for our Division. In odd numbered years we elect our four Directors to a two-year term. Our existing Directors, in alphabetical order, are David Collison, Pat Mulroney, Howard Oakes and Lee Rainey. They have all contributed to the running and operation of the Division and I for one am personally grateful for their contributions. I have not approached any of them and none of them have expressed their intentions for this year's election. This is not the presidential election so the field of candidates tends to be small. However, having said that, I would also add that the candidates have been very well qualified. I am asking each of you to carefully consider running for Director. The March issue of Sidetracks will have the Call for Nominations this will include your short (200 words or less) as to why you feel you will make a good Director. You do not have to wait for the official call in March. We will accept nomination beginning now. The May edition issue of Sidetracks will have the list of nominees and the ballot. The election will run for one month and the results will be posted in the July Sidetracks. The new Directors begin their term on July 1st.

This year has been an outstanding year for our Achievement program. As many of you know by now, we have a new Master Model Railroader in our Division. Jerry Lauchle has earned his MMR. So, on behalf of the entire Division let me congratulate you, Jerry for a job well done. A picture of Jerry's layout is in and on the cover of this year's NMRA calendar, just in case you missed it. Also, congratulations to all of you who have earned AP awards this year.

I will close with an update on our layout. Josh says it is my layout, but we both work on it, so I say it is ours. With the completion of the second helix we can now run trains continuously. The grandsons like that. However, for an operating session that is not an option. What it does allow for is running trains to see how cars and engines behave, or miss behave. Not exactly exciting but it needs to be done. So, we have found a few bad order cars that we pull and address the issues. Our next major project is to start work on the layout controls.

Tim



Have you visited the NMRA website? As a member you have access to a world of information on our hobby! I have included just one item that is available to each of us with our membership.

Model Railroader.

Model Railroader Video Plus Videos
A Member Benefit

**Over 160 minutes
of new MRVP videos
now in our
Members Only
Library!**

Click for a sample.

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
380 Taylor Drive, York, PA 17404

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 February 15, 2019 formatted in Times New Roman font 12.

Board of Directors

Superintendent

Tim Himmelberger
timh@susquehannanmra.org

Asst. Superintendent

Tedd Pounds
director@susquehannanmra.org

Chief Clerk

Paul Tice
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Barry Schmitt
sbschmitt@comcast.net

2018-2020

Director

Dave Collison
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Lee Rainey
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Pat Mulrooney
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director/Membership Chairman

Howard Oakes
director@susquehannanmra.org

2017-2019

Committee Chairman

Achievement Program

Chairman

Robert Charles, MMR
director@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Program

Chairman

John Wissinger, MMR
director@susquehannanmra.org

Training Chairman

Alan Mende
director@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks Editor

Tedd Pounds
director@susquehannanmra.org

Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:

www.susquehannanmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region website:

www.mer.nmra.com

National Model Railroad Association

8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B

Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200

www.nmra.org

Second Section – Tedd Pounds

Hello everyone!

I encourage all members to consider submitting an article or some photos of your layout or modeling projects to our newsletter. Do you have something that you have discovered that may be of interest to others? Put something on paper, include a few pictures and we will make it work. Thanks!

Tedd



No new members this issue

Division Event February 23, 2019

Scott Unger

Please join us in Allentown, PA for a Division Event on Saturday February 23, 2019. During the 1950's Allentown was served by four major railroads including the Lehigh and New England, Lehigh Valley, Reading and Central Railroad of New Jersey (CNJ). The number of railroads serving the City dropped to three in 1961 when the Lehigh and New England folded with some of its operations and equipment being assumed by the CNJ. Allentown became a one railroad town with the formation of Conrail in 1976. Allentown's significance to the railroad industry was supported by a large yard located on the north bank of the Lehigh River in between Allentown and Bethlehem. Today Allentown is part of the Norfolk Southern system with Allentown yard's hump facility continuing to provide substantial classification services as well as serving as the origin point numerous trains. RJ Corman also has a small yard in the City on former LV track that it purchased from Conrail.

The division event will be held at the Bridgeworks Enterprise Center located at 905 Harrison St. Allentown, PA 18013. The facility was originally constructed as Mack Truck Plant 4A in 1923 and was put to various uses over the years ranging from full truck assembly, transaxles, fire trucks and interiors. The plant ceased operations in the 1980's and was sold to the Allentown Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) in 1988.

AEDC completed renovations to the 60,000 square foot building and in 1989 opened the Bridgeworks Enterprise Center as an incubation program to assist start-up manufacturing companies. More than 60 companies have been through the incubation program with a total of 618 jobs created or retained. Currently there are 11 manufacturers operating in the building that employ more than 50 workers and generate combined annual revenue of \$4.66 million. While Plant 4A was not rail served, the adjacent Plant 4 was served by the Reading Railroad. Parking is available in the lot or along Harrison Street, just look for the water tower.



Photo of former Mack Trucks Plant 4A looking west from the 8th Street Bridge.

Division Event February 23, 2019

Scott Unger

In addition to catching up with other members there will be a business meeting and a model showcase (see the full agenda below). We will also hear a presentation on trolleys by Mike Szilagyi. Mike lives in North Wales, where he serves on the board of the North Wales Historic Commission and the Greater North Penn Area Partnership Transportation Management Association. He's employed by Michael Baker engineers where he plans and designs bicycle paths, including rails-to-trails projects. His Arcadia history book "Montgomery County Trolleys" was published in 2018 and he's currently gathering materials for this next book, "Bucks County Trolleys." Mike will present his "Montgomery County Trolleys" book for us and will also discuss the Doylestown and Easton Trolley line that was built into the cliffs above the Delaware River.

After lunch you can tour some local model railroads that will be open for tours or you can stop by the Allentown Train Meet Associates Spring Thaw event held nearby at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-plex.

Meeting Agenda

9:00am-9:30am	Greetings and Refreshments
9:30am-10:15am	Division Business Meeting
10:15am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-11:30am	Presentation: "Montgomery County Trolleys" by Mike Szilagyi
11:30am-12:00pm	Model Showcase
12:00pm	Lunch on your own
1:00pm-4pm	Local Model Railroad Tours (locations provided at event)
1:00pm-4pm	ATMA Spring Thaw Event at the Allentown Fairgrounds

Columbia Railroad Day – May 4, 2019

BARRY SCHMITT

Grab your 2019 calendar and add the following to May 4: “*Reserved All Day for Columbia PA Railroad Day*” from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Your Susquehanna NMRA Division will be participating with the Columbia Historic Preservation Society, the Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club, and the Columbia and Reading Railway (CORY) in this major Columbia Railroad Day event. This will be an exciting program for modelers, railroad history buffs, and the general public dedicated to celebrating the long history of railroading in Columbia, Pennsylvania.

This unique program will likely surprise many modeler railroaders as well as prototype railroad aficionados about the depth of railroad history attributed to Columbia. When asked to name Pennsylvania cities with extensive railroad history most would likely offer Altoona, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Reading, and/or Erie; but very unlikely if any would suggest Columbia. After attending the many presentations, railroad historical hotspots, and current day rail industry you will gain a new appreciation of Columbia’s significant railroad history and today’s varied railroad activity.

The program will begin at the Columbia Historic Preservation Society (CHIPS) located at 21 North 2nd Street in Columbia. An overview of the day’s diverse activities begins at 9:00AM in the society’s main meeting room where morning munchies will be available. Here you will have the opportunity to learn about Columbia’s railroad history from such noted historians as Pete Green who will present discuss the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, John Brown speaking on the Reading and Columbia Railroad; Doug Bosley, National Park Service Ranger and historian at the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Park; Pat Morrison, Director of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania; and a possible speaker from the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Also, Tony Segro and other model railroaders will present interesting clinics on model railroading.

Throughout the remainder of the day our railroad historical presenters will take you on a journey beginning with Pennsylvania’s 1824 goal of building a railroad westward from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. It all began with the construction of the 82-mile Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad (P&CR) to Columbia. Why Columbia? To transfer passengers and cargo from the P&CR to the Pennsylvania Canal System which then transported them westward by canal boats to Hollidaysburg PA where they crossed the 2100’ Allegheny Mountains on the Allegheny Portage Railroad to Johnstown, and finally back on canal boats to Pittsburgh – a most daunting 394 mile engineering accomplishment completed in 1834. Throughout the day expert historians will take you back in time to those early days and describe in detail this massive undertaking as well as many other key Columbia railroad developments. You will also learn about the major roles both the city and the Columbia and Reading Railway played during the Civil War and specifically the very unique way the railroads aided the historic Underground Railroad.

The Columbia Historic Preservation Society building is also home to the HO Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club which occupies the entire top floor of the building. This spectacular layout began as a recreation of Columbia back in the 1950’s era where the city was served by both the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) and Reading Railroad with each providing both freight and passenger service. Their respective passenger stations, extensive freight yards, and engine terminal as well as accurate replicas of most of the important city structures are front and center on the layout. Recently the club received a large home layout donation which will allow you to see how they are integrating it into their expansive layout room. There are also plans to locate an O-Gauge modular layout for our event at the Columbia Crossings building which is located just a few blocks from the club layout and positioned between the Norfolk Southern mainline and the Susquehanna River.

Columbia Railroad Day – May 4, 2019

BARRY SCHMITT

If that's not enough trolley bus rides will be available throughout the day that will include a Columbia history expert who will narrate your trip around the many railroad historical spots. A key trolley destination will be the Columbia and Reading Railway Company (CORY) which will host an open house. The company repairs and restores all types of railroad equipment, and you will be able to tour their shops and observe up close their current projects. For example they just completed restoration of an RDC for a museum in Bellefonte, PA and completed extensive work on Disney and Steam into History equipment. Rail Mechanical Services is a sister CORY organization that repairs all types of railroad equipment around the country. CORY employees plan to offer various show-and-tell demonstrations such as laying rail, speeder operations, hot riveting, and more. You will also be able to see their locomotives and equipment. Norfolk Southern will also have their Operations Lifesaver Safety Team and possibly other displays at the CORY facility. Our CORY event team members have also agreed to allow space on their property for railroad associated vendors, and the Lancaster Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is the first to agree to participate. After your CORY facility visit is completed you will return to the Historical Society building via the trolley that will be running on an approximate 30-minute cycle.

And last but certainly not least there will be one or more food trucks strategically located along the trolley route. Also a list a several nearby excellent local eateries within easy walking distance from the Historical Society building will be provided.

Below are several photos of various Columbia past and present railroad attractions to give you a taste of the planned program. More detailed information and a schedule of the many presentations and activities will be included in the March Sidetracks. If you have any questions about the planned activities contact our division project officer Barry Schmitt at sbschmitt@comcast.net.

This will be a big day for railroading fans so be sure to block your calendar today for this can't miss event.

We look forward to seeing you in Columbia on May 4th!



Mainline Hobby presents: The Seventh Annual SMD Spring Mini-Convention

When – Saturday, 4/13/19 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where - Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co. 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214 (The same place as past mini-cons)

A call to action!

Join your fellow NMRA members in a day of great fun and fellowship. And, oh by the way, spread the joy of model railroading. Saturday April 13 2019, with the support of Mainline Hobby Supply, we will again host the very popular Mini-convention. New members might not know and old members might have forgotten, our format for the event, so allow a quick review.

Morning – Informal clinics. Hopefully 10 folks (You!) will volunteer to give one from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and repeat it again from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Not a formal presentation, just talk about a model railroading topic that's of interest to you. Bring what you want to have as examples or visual aids. But remember, no projectors, no loudspeakers. It's just you, talking to the attendees as they walk past your table. The guests are free to stay and talk with you for as long as they like, or move on when they choose. So don't think of it as a speech, don't think of it as public speaking. It's just you, talking to another interested model railroader, and maybe another will join in. Note that officially you have an hour break from 10:00 to 11:00. That's to allow you to get a snack, visit the rest room, look around to see what other clinics are doing.

Then hopefully we get 10 other members to give 10 other clinics from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and again from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM.

As of this writing, Ron Polimeni, Harvey Heyser, Bill Wilson, Jane Clarke, Jerry Skeim, Jeff Adams, Andrew Dodge, Don Florwick, Bob Johnson, and Jay Beckham have signed up to give an informal clinic. Jay intends to bring his 3D printer and print items on site! That's 9, I still hope for 20, so there's plenty of room for you.

At 10:00 AM we will also have two "Make and take" clinics. Jeff Grove of Carolina Craftsman Kits will again donate a group of (small, easy) craftsman kits and Mainline will again donate (small, easy) styrene (plastic) kits. Just like last year we'll encourage young people by giving them priority on the make & take sign up lists. Also, another way you can help is by bringing tools to loan for these clinics. X-Acto knives, glue, and, well, look for a list of items once our build leaders (Brian Greenawalt and David Sweeney) have had time to think about it.

We hope to have a modular layout or two set up and running during the morning as well. Please contact me (Pete Clarke) if you are aware of a modular group and have contact information for that group. Email me at ebtmx5@aol.com or call 301- 253-4913

There will be some vendors there with model railroad stuff for sale. Carolina Craftsman Kits, Nyce Collectables (railroadiana), and Grant Berry (Misc stuff) have all signed up and we are waiting to hear back from more. And of course you can, and should, carefully walk across the street to Mainline. Tell them thanks for supporting this event by making a purchase, and while you are talking to them, say "Thanks for sponsoring the Mini" out loud.

Mainline Hobby presents:

The Seventh Annual SMD Spring Mini-Convention

Again, this year we will purchase a \$150 gift certificate from Mainline and sell raffle tickets (\$10 each) through the morning. Also, Hobbytown Frederick (Richard Benjamin) has donated a \$50 gift certificate that we will give as a door prize. Both of these will happen at 1:00 PM.

At 1:00 PM we convert from informal to formal clinics. Jeff Grove of Carolina Craftsman Kits will speak on Laser Technology in Modeling. Ira Silverman will speak about his new book, *The Canadian, the Last of the Great Streamliners*. Alex Polimeni will speak on Model railroading as game design.

We will have food on site. Hopefully, again this will be handled by the local Boy Scout troop.

And that's just what I know about already. There's more in the pipeline, so stay tuned.

Please contact me (Pete Clarke – ebtmx5@aol.com) and offer to help. Mostly we need folks to give informal clinics. Everyone who's done one of these clinics has had a great time. If you have questions I'd be happy to talk with you about it. There are other things you can do, we'll need extension cords, tools for the make & take clinics, morning set up and afternoon clean up. Know of a modular group? I'd love to hear from you. Just can't do any of those? Attend, tell others about it.

Did you catch the part about having a 3D printer working on-site?!! I intend to spend hours just watching that do its thing. Come on down!

Model Showcase

By John Wissinger

This is a reminder that there will be a Model Showcase portion at the February Meet. The showcase is open to anyone to show and talk about a model railroad or railroad item that may be special to you.

We are well into the New Year and perhaps you have been spending your time working on your layout. Did you receive a railroad item, either model or prototype for Christmas. Have you spent the winter building a kit or scratch building an item for your layout. Did you take a rail fan trip and have photos to share with the group. Now is the time to show it and take time (up to 5 minutes) at the February meeting to talk about it.

The model does not have to be finished. Show it as a work in progress. I have been working on a building for my layout which I will bring. It may or may not be finished (as I write this the meet is a month away). The building has an interesting history. It was inspired by an article in a 1960 issue of MR. The building was planned to be modified to fit on my layout which was designed in 1989. It is now that I am finally building it. Do you have something that has an interesting history or is unique in some way, bring it to the meeting.!

The Model Showcase is open to any model and model railroader, not just those of extraordinary talent. So bring that item which you want to show off.

2019 Division Calendar of Events

February 23 – Allentown – Scott Unger

March – Tedd Pounds is going to work on a program on rail container shipping

March 22 – 23, RPM East Meet, Greensburg, PA

April 6, Blue Ridge Summit, Mini-Con w/ SMD

May 4 – 5, Railroads in Columbia – Barry Schmitt, Tony Sergo

May 16 – 19, PRRT&HS Annual Meeting

June – Barry Schmitt will look into having an event at the Portage Museum possibly with a family picnic

September 16 – 17, Mainline Hobby Open House Weekend

October 10 – 13, King of Prussia, PA, MER Convention, Philadelphia Division

Oct 25 - 26, LSOP

Nov 4 – 5, 11 – 12, 18 – 19 Section wide Open House Tour

We feel that we have put together an interesting program plan for this year. There are many of the events that have been part of our program in the past and have been very popular. Also, some interesting new ones. Some items need to have the details completed. So, keep a lookout in future Sidetracks for details as they come available. Please note that the *italicized* items are not Susquehanna Division events but are very popular with many Division members. Also, I would like to call your attention to our web page. Wayne Betty has posted a listing of Mid-Atlantic Train Shows for 2019.

Tim Himmelberger



LAST CHANCE

2017 M.E.R. – N.M.R.A. CONVENTION CAR

PUBLICCKER-WARD DISTILLERIES TANK CAR

TICHY TRAIN GROUP KIT

\$18.95 + \$7.50 SHIPPING (up to two cars)

Send check to

Susquehanna div.

206 Stoever Dr.

New Holland, PA 17557

PIKE ADS

*The Standard Railroad of the World
Meets the Narrow Gauge of the East*

Modeling the Pennsylvania and East Broad Top Railroads in S/Sn3

Visitors welcome by appointment
Lee Rainey • leerainey@aol.com



Masonic Village & Elizabethtown
Model RR Club

Meets 7:30 PM First Tuesday
Sept—June

One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, Pa 17022

Phone 717-361-5180

Open Houses the first weekend
monthly Sept thru April

Sat-Sun 2 –4 PM

Extra times at Christmas

THE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY

1:87.1 DIVISION – ALAN MENDE, GEN'L MGR.

306 MANADA GAP ROAD, GRANTVILLE,
PENNSYLVANIA 17028-8824

PHONE: (717)-469-1047
EMAIL: ALANMENDE@YAHOO.COM



B&O WESTON SUBDIVISION

(Under Development)

Barry W. Schmitt, Superintendent
405 Ford Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

(717) 877-1810 sbschmitt@comcast.net

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

SHORT LINE

ESTD 1989



≡ MODEL RAILROAD CLUB ≡



FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



Gary P. Nastase-President & CEO
Kathleen A. Nastase-Train Wifey
207 State Street
Woodbury, PA 16695

*Route
of
the
Whitetail*

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6- issue year. For information about placing an ad, please contact Tedd Pounds at director@susquehannanmra.org

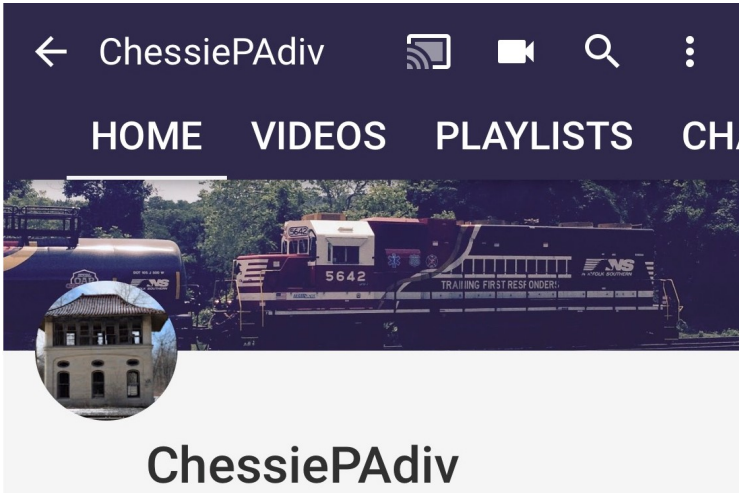
Members Section

Introducing a new section to our newsletter, if you have a Youtube page, Facebook page for your railroad, or a blog please consider including a link to it here.

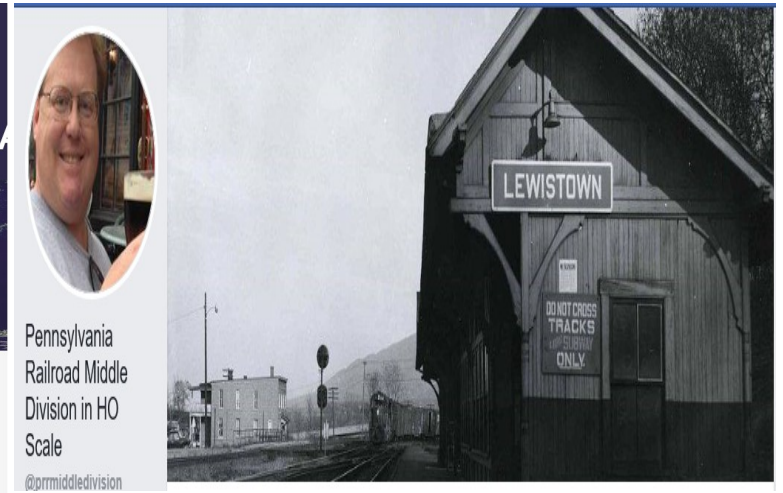
Also, it has been suggested we have a classified section for our members to post items that are searching for new homes.

Please submit your items to the editor in an email with a photo or two for inclusion in our newsletter.

Scott Unger's Chessie System Pa Dvision



Jerry Britton's Pennsylvania RR Middle Division in HO



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSERS!

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSERS!

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

**South Central Pennsylvania's
Premier Hobby Destination!**

**Carrying all major
Model Railroad brands
in O, HO and N Scales!**

**Your one stop shop for
all your model supply needs.**

**Also carrying Puzzles, Games,
and R/C cars, boats, and planes too!**

WHITE ROSE HOBBIES

4401 WEST MARKET STREET

YORK, PA 17404

WWW.WHITEROSEHOBBIES.COM

(717) 505-8676

HOURS:

MONDAY - SATURDAY 10 AM - 7 PM

Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

380 Taylor Drive
York, Pa 17404