

Volume 27

Number 5

# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA



**PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD #3855**  
**K4s, a 4-6-2 Pacific built at the**  
**Juniata Shops in 1923, is pictured**  
**trackside with a passenger consist.**

**PRR K4s #3855 steams along the**  
**“Broadway” with passenger cars**  
**in tow.**



**Master modeler Dan Horting**  
**stands beside his live steam rep-**  
**lica of the Pennsylvania Railroad**  
**K4s #3855. The engine and ten-**  
**der are a 1 1/2 scale model of**  
**the real locomotive. See more**  
**information in “Model Spotlight”**  
**on page 22.**





# From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

Where did the summer go? Labor Day is fast approaching. In fact, by the time you are reading this it may be past. This has not been a good summer for me with time to work on the model railroad. I am looking forward to spending time trying to finish some projects that have been laying around all summer. Some of which I will need to finish if I am going to be open in November for the open house tour.

As I write this yesterday was the event at the Smokestown Fire Company. It was a good day. In the morning there were clinics and the model showcase. We also toured four open houses. A recap will appear in a future issue.

In September is the Mainline Hobby Supply Open House Tour. It will be on September 21 & 22. So, journey to Blue Ridge Summit and pick up your copy of the tour book. While there venture into the store and browse some. Who knows you may find another “must have” item that you need for you layout.

It is not too early to make your plans for this year's MER convention. This year it is hosted by the Philadelphia Division. It will be held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia on October 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. Yes, I have already registered. The web page is <http://libertybellspecial.org/>.

Calling all operators. The end of October is the OPSIG weekend. If you enjoy operations or if you want to learn about operations this weekend event is for you. There are still openings. Please see the article on page 21. Or if you would like more information please contact Wayne Betty at [cos@mycyberlink.net](mailto:cos@mycyberlink.net)

November is the Division wide open house tour. If you are considering opening your layout or if you are interested in touring layouts please see the calendar on page 20. Don't forget hosting an open house or staffing an open house will earn you points towards your Association Volunteer AP award.

I have been working with the officers and directors to schedule a date for the Board of Directors meeting. One of the primary tasks is to plan next year's schedule. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact any officer or director.

I have rambled on enough. It is time to get back to working on trains.

Tim Himmelberger

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# Chief Clerk's Report

National Model Railroad Association  
Mid-East Region  
Susquehanna Division #11  
Cash Flow Statement  
For July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Beginning Cash Balance- July 1, 2018 \$ 9326.87

Income for the Year

Subscription Income	\$ 90.00
NMRA (MER) Reimbursements	219.50
Tank Car Sales – Convention & Div.	239.15
Donation - Allentown	150.00
Allentown Meet	20.00
MER Convention – Final Profit	<u>500.00</u>

Total Income Received 1218.65

Total Cash Available \$ 10,545.52

Expenses for the Year

Postage	\$ 90.39
Newsletter	92.98
Allentown Train Meet	189.96
Bank Svc Charge – PNC Bank	24.00
PA Sales Tax	<u>4.28</u>

Total Expenses 401.61

Ending Cash Balance- June 30, 2019 \$ 10,143.91

All Unrestricted

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul F. Tice, P.A.  
Clerk/Paymaster- Susquehanna Division #11  
July 5, 2019  
York, Pennsylvania

# Non-NMRA Event



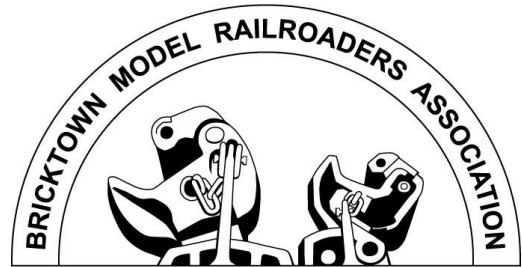
## 2019 Fall Reunion

November 8-10, Mt. Union, PA

The Friends of the East Broad Top Annual Fall Reunion will be held Friday, Nov. 8 through Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Bricktown Museum owned by the Bricktown Model Railroaders Association. BMRA's spacious building at 300 W. Small St. Mount Union, PA 17066 will be the center of activities but some events will also be around Rockhill Furnace and Robertsdale.

### Reunion to Feature Numerous Activities

- Clinics about the East Broad Top
- Walking Tours of Historic EBT Remains
- Speeder Rides in Rockhill Furnace
- Company Store with Books and EBT Modeling Materials
- Model and Photo Contests
- Auction
- Operating Layouts
- Home Layout Tours



Mount Union, Pennsylvania

### Registration for the Reunion

You can register at the BMRA building in Mt. Union from Friday, Nov. 8, beginning at 5 p.m., through Saturday noon. Registration includes access to all FEBT events in Mt. Union, Rockhill, and Robertsdale as well as the banquet. Registration is \$25 and limited to FEBT members (membership is available on-site).

### Getting to the Bricktown Museum (300 W. Small St. Mount Union, PA 17066)

From Route 522 North turn left at the bypass traffic light to Mount Union, continue straight through the next 2 traffic lights until Shirley Street ends, turn right on Lafayette and find the BMRA building one block ahead.

From Route 22, turn onto Route 747 South. At the first traffic light turn right onto Shirley Street. Continue on Shirley Street to the end, turn right on Lafayette and find the BMRA building one block ahead.

### 2019 Fall Reunion Photograph and Model Contest

Any FEBT member who is a Reunion registrant may enter the model and photo contests. Highlights of the rules appear below. For more information and complete rules about the Fall Reunion contests, contact Randy Lehrian by e-mail at [Randy.Lehrian@gmail.com](mailto:Randy.Lehrian@gmail.com).

**Photograph Contest.** All photographs must feature the East Broad Top Railroad or related restoration activities. All photos must be mounted. Only the photographer can enter a photo. Photos must be entered in one of the two categories. Both are open to color and black-and-white images.

Classic Original photos must have minimal alterations, either digital or mechanical, beyond cropping and minor improvements, such as brightening, removal of unwanted obstructions, and the like.

Artist's Choice entries may have any manipulations and enhancements done, either digitally or mechanically, to achieve the desired end. Artists are free to create any image in whatever manner they choose. This contest was added in 2015.

**Model Contest.** All models must be based on subjects directly related to the East Broad Top Railroad. Supporting documentation may be displayed with any entry, as long as the entrant's name does not appear on any of the documentation. The model contest categories are as follows:

Locomotives – Any self-propelled equipment except maintenance-of-way speeders;

Rolling Stock – Any revenue freight equipment, including cabooses; any revenue passenger equipment; and any nonrevenue equipment primarily intended for track or lineside maintenance;

Structures and Module/Diorama – Any building or other structure, either railroad-related or lineside; and any structure or structures that are mounted on a base which depicts a scene, with or without track.

"What If" – Any model depicting an imaginary facet of the EBT had history played out differently (had the EBT standard gauged, carried on past 1956, etc.)

Special Restoration Program Model – Any model that represents one of the projects undertaken by our restoration volunteers.

**For more information, contact [Randy.Lehrian@gmail.com](mailto:Randy.Lehrian@gmail.com) or visit [www.febt.org](http://www.febt.org)**





# Garden Railways Tour

## Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

Sunday, October 6, 2019  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Enjoy an exclusive, self-guided tour of operating model trains in various outdoor and garden settings. Plan your afternoon and choose from among the stops on this year's 13th annual tour.

**Tickets on sale at the**  
**Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania**  
**beginning August 1, 2019**  
**and**  
**All Stauffers of Kissel Hill**  
**garden center stores in central Pennsylvania**  
Dover, East York, Hummelstown, Linglestown, Lititz,  
Mechanicsburg and Rohrerstown  
**beginning September 1, 2019.**

Only \$10.00 per person, for ages 6 and over.

A roster of Garden Railways Tour homes, along with general directions and a map, are provided with your ticket purchase. We recommend that you plan your route in advance with the help of your GPS or travel advisor.





## Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania



## HISTORIC SOLARI BOARD ON EXHIBIT

Since it departed the William H. Gray III 30th Street Station in Philadelphia earlier this year, there's been a lot of flap about Amtrak's split-flip arrivals and departures board. Now, the historic Solari board, named for its Italian manufacturer, is on exhibit at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

You'll find it displayed in Rolling Stock Hall on Platform 5 West next to the 114-year-old H6 locomotive No. 2846. Museum staff and volunteers have thoroughly cleaned it and built a base on which to safely showcase this Solari board, which was the last one in service for Amtrak.

It's at the Museum on an interim basis, and will be displayed here until the developer considers if it can incorporate the board in redevelopment plans for Gray 30th Street Station. Because it is on loan, the Solari board will not be operational, so as not to risk damaging it in any way. Instead, it will be preserved just as it looked when it flipped for the last time at Gray 30th Street Station on January 26, 2019, its final day of operation.

Split-flip arrivals and departures status boards are electromechanical wonders dating back more than half a century, replacing chalk boards and other earlier methods for announcing and updating the arrival and departure times at train depots and terminals from the dawn of the railroad age. The sights and sounds of this Solari board were part of the daily lives of countless Philadelphia commuters and travelers for more than four decades, and they now live on in our fond memories of Pennsylvania railroad history.



# READING RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET VII

NOW also featuring other Anthracite Carriers



## ***SEPTEMBER 13-14-15, 2019***

***Reading Railroad Heritage Museum  
500 South 3rd Street Hamburg, Pa***

Clinics – Model Displays – Vendors

White Elephant Table – Raffle prizes

Reading Railroad Museum – Locomotive & Rolling Stock Displays

Saturday Lunch and Dinner Available

Sunday Home Layout Tours

More Information and Updates Go To-  
***[www.ReadingRRMM.com](http://www.ReadingRRMM.com)***

Registration form on the back of this flyer!

Interested in presenting a clinic or being a vendor?  
***Barry Hensel   [barry76Lt@wowway.com](mailto:barry76Lt@wowway.com)   734-649-3056***



Hosted by: ***The Reading Railroad Heritage Museum and  
Reading Company Technical & Historical Society***







# Alleghany Western Mini-Meet 2019

September 14, 2019

**Saturday's events at the Ambassador Center\***

**I-90 Exit 24 – 7794 Peach Street**

**Erie, Pennsylvania**

(\*Home of the *Northern Express*, 2021 MCR Regional Convention)

Registration and Continental  
Breakfast 8-9 AM

Clinics throughout the day

T-TRAK layout on display

Door prize and *awesome* raffle  
prizes

White elephant tables

*Your* models on display

Judging offered for merit awards

Raffle drawings and hors d'oeu-  
vres 4-5 PM



Friday evening before the meet and Sat-  
urday evening afterwards, participate in  
off-site activities!

Tour local model railroads and meet  
with the modelers

Operate on local model railroads

Watch for program schedules, clinic lists, white elephant forms, display and judging information, railroad tours, OPS-sessions, vendor and donors, raffle prizes, and other information on our website: [www.div12mcr.org/mini-meet/](http://www.div12mcr.org/mini-meet/)



## NMRA Mid-Eastern Region 2019 Convention

October 10 - 13, 2019  
King of Prussia, PA

Prototype Tours  
Clinics and Contests  
Company Store & Silent Auction  
Select Vendors  
Operating Sessions  
Self-Guided Layout Tours  
and  
**MORE**

More details at:  
[www.libertybellspecial.org](http://www.libertybellspecial.org)

## Modular and Free-mo Layouts

being displayed at the hotel,  
both offering operating opportunities



**Reading Company Technical  
& Historical Society Modular Layout**  
(used with permission)



**New Jersey Division  
Free-mo Layout**

## Operating Sessions

An additional six operating sessions  
are planned. Check the website for the  
most up to date information and availability

[www.libertybellspecial.org](http://www.libertybellspecial.org)



## Self-Guided Layout Tours

Over 40 layouts open for visitation during the convention.

Scales between N and Live Steam will be represented

**Don Borden - Santa Fe**



**Earl Paine - Reading Lines**



**Dan Pantaleo - BNSF Hi Line, Montana**



**Steve Smith - Northeast Corridor**



**Bob Koury - SP Tehachapi East**



**Ron Hoess - PRR Chestnut Hill**



**Joe Walters - Northeast RR**



**Ken McCorry - PRR Buffalo Line**





## New Jersey Free-Mo modular HO photos







## Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA 2019 Convention

# Liberty Bell Special



October 10<sup>th</sup> to 13th, 2019

[www.LibertyBellSpecial.org](http://www.LibertyBellSpecial.org)

[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)

**Use Online Registration for Secure Payment and Best Up To Date Activity Availability. See Info below.**

Please enter (print legibly) all names **as you wish them to appear on your registration badges**. They will not be changed at the convention.

Primary Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_ MMR? Y / N, Any Title for Badge? \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Other Attending (living at same address): \_\_\_\_\_

Children Attending (18 & under - list all + age): \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar's  Use  Only!	Address: _____
	City: _____ State: _____ Zip : _____
	Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____
	NMRA #: _____ Region: _____ Division: _____
	Favorite Scale: _____ Is this your first MER Convention? _____ Putting Items In Sale/Auction? _____

Description	Act. #	Cost	#	Paying
Early Registration (through August 31)	E	\$50		
Basic Registration (September 1 thru October 3 )	B	\$55		
At Door Registration (October 10-12)	D	\$60		
Non-NMRA Member Extra Fee	N	\$20		
Significant Other & Children Under 18	O	\$0		No Fee
Banquet – Saturday Night _____ Railroad-Themed Banquet _____ Vegetarian _____ Gluten-Free	401	\$50		
Friday Breakfast, price includes tax	402	\$15		
Saturday Breakfast, price includes tax	403	\$15		
Sunday Breakfast, price includes tax	404	\$15		
Supers/Editors - Breakfast, Circle 1, Division Super 405 Division Editor 406	405/406	\$0		No Fee
<b>Call Boards / Ops – Expanded Call Board Info Available on Website</b>				
Steve Salotti's New York, Susquehanna & Western (HO), Thu 7pm-10pm	801	\$5		
Steve Salotti's New York, Susquehanna & Western (HO), Sat 1pm-4pm	802	\$5		
St. Alban's Model Railroad Club (STARR) (HO), Fri 9am-12pm	803	\$5		
Bob Zeolla's Conrail Conemaugh Division (HO), Fri 7pm-10pm	804	\$5		
Bill Blackburn's Pennsylvania RR Great Valley Division (HO), Thu 7pm-10pm	805	\$5		
<b>Prototype Tours – More Info on Website When/If Available</b>				
Colebrookdale RR Excursion/Tour, Friday, All Day w/Lunch Included	201	\$75		
<b>Extra Fare Clinics – Registration Required, Info On Website When/If Available</b>				
Hunterline 30' King Post Truss Bridge Make 'n Take Scale: _____ N (\$39) _____ HO (\$42) _____ S (\$46) _____ O (\$53)	601			
T-Track Hands-On Clinic, Fri 8am-10pm	602	\$75		
Electrical AP Certificate, Fri 7pm-10pm	603	\$0		No Fee
Hands-On Resin Kit Build –PRR F25 Well Flat Car, Fri 9:30am-12pm	604	\$25		
<b>Made in the MER Tours – More Info on Website When/If Available</b>				
	701	\$		
<b>General Interest Activities – More Info on Website When/If Available</b>				
	501	\$		
<b>Would You Like To Be A Contest Judge At The Convention – Circle YES or NO</b>				
<b>Have You Been A Contest Judge In The Past – Circle - Yes or NO</b>				
<b>Total Being Paid</b>				

Online Registration – <http://merregistrar.coffeecup.com/forms/2019%20Online%20Registration/>

Fill in Form, Press Submit Form for Invoice, then Press PayPal Button and Make Your Payment. **A PayPal Account Is Not Required.**

**Payment [Check Only] must accompany Print Registrations sent by USPS.**

Checks payable to: MER Conventions, Send to: MER Conventions, PO Box 426, Sykesville, MD 21784-0426

Any Questions and/or additional information, e-mail to [MER-Registrar@mer-nmra.com](mailto:MER-Registrar@mer-nmra.com), or 410-442-0446

**Hotel – Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-King of Prussia, 260 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia 19406**

**Reference-Mid-Eastern Region-National Model Railroad Assoc.,** Reservations: 610-265-7500

**Online Reservations use –** <https://www.tinyurl.com/MER2019>

**Room Rate –** \$109.00 night + tax, Room Rate applies 10/7/19 to 10/16/19

Watch web sites for information: [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org), [www.LibertyBellSpecial.org](http://www.LibertyBellSpecial.org), [mer-nmra.com](http://mer-nmra.com) Updated 8/14/19

## **September 21-22 Mainline Hobby Layout Open Houses**

This September marks the seventh year our Susquehanna Division is sponsoring the annual Mainline Hobby layout open houses program - their 29<sup>th</sup> year presenting this very popular annual event. The exceptionally well stocked Mainline Hobby Supply Shop is located in Blue Ridge Summit, PA, and will be open extended hours both days.

The highlight of this well attended annual event is the opportunity to visit a variety of model railroads, covering just about every scale, under various stages of construction to fully scenicked and operational, both in homes and club buildings, DC versus DCC control, prototypical vs freelance - in short: the rare opportunity to explore the vast diversity of our great hobby. Having personally visited over 30 layouts since 2013 I've picked up countless modeling tips, learned a variety of new techniques, and made many new friends.

So how do you find out what layouts are open, when, where, and basic information about them? Simple – visit Mainline Hobby either day at 15066 Buchanan Trail East, Blue Ridge Summit, PA where you will receive a booklet containing detailed information about each layout, their address, which days and times their open, and a map from Mainline Hobby to each layout location. The booklet will also include two broad area maps depicting the relative location of all the layouts in relation to Blue Ridge Summit to help you efficiently plan your route of travel. And of course you also have the opportunity to shop Mainline's extensive model railroad inventory, meet their friendly and very knowledgeable staff including owner Brian Wolfe, and then begin your layout tour.

So block your calendar now so you, your family, or a group of fellow modelers will be sure to attend this September's long-standing "gotta-be-there" South Central PA model railroading tradition.

article by Barry Schmitt



# NMRA Event Report

## Columbia PA Railroad Days

### May 4, 2019 Program Review

On May 4, our NMRA Susquehanna Division, the Columbia Historic Preservation Society (CHIPS), the Columbia and Reading Railway Company (CORY), Lancaster NRHS Chapter, and Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club sponsored the first all day Columbia Railroad Day event. The primary event goal was to introduce Columbia's extensive Pennsylvania railroad history to model railroaders, prototype aficionados, and the general public. The program included a series of historical presentations by noted historians, an open house at the CORY rail restoration and maintenance facility, and an all-day open house of the Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club.

The historical presentations were held throughout the day at the CHIPS building. Noted historian and author Peter Green began the day by taking the audience back to 1829 when Pennsylvania began building its first railroad, the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad (P & C), which ran 82 miles from Philadelphia to Columbia. Its purpose was to connect Philadelphia with Pittsburgh, 400 miles to the west, using the newly constructed Pennsylvania Canal that originated in Columbia. The P&C Railroad cars that carried both freight and passengers were actually canal boats set on train rail trucks so they could be lifted off their wheels and placed directly in the canal. Another presentation provided by National



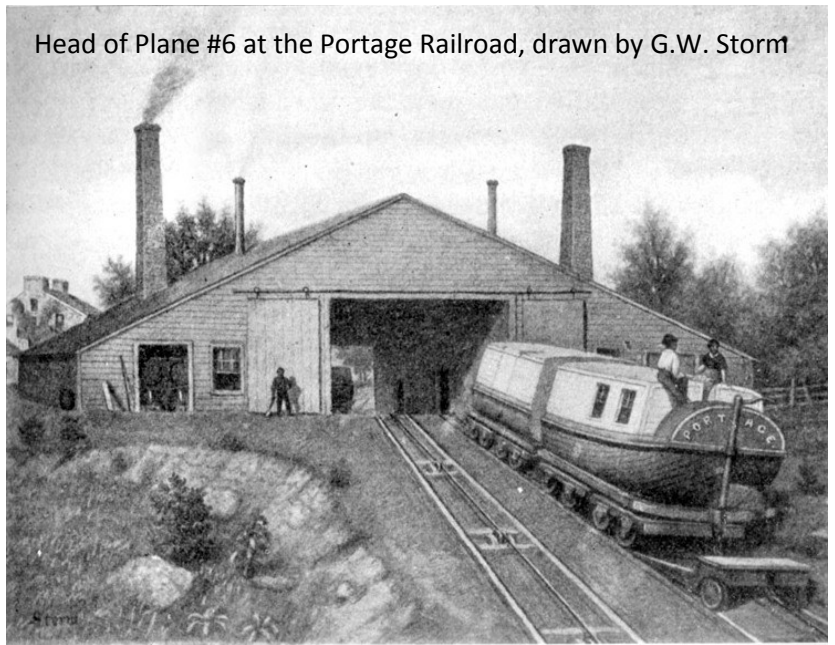
Allegheny Portage Railroad Park Ranger Doug Bosley described how the canal boats that ran from Columbia to the base of the Allegheny Mountains at Hollidaysburg PA were transported 1,399 feet over the mountains via the Allegheny Portage Railroad. Using both animal towing for light grades and steam powered lifting hoists similar to modern ski lifts for the steeper climbs the barges were then transported down 1,172 feet and 36 miles by rail to Johnstown where they were lifted back into the canal system for the remaining trip to Pittsburgh. An 1839 drawing below shows one of the hoist buildings and two canal boats nearing the top of one of the many climbing segments. The system could lift 21,000 pounds of cargo and reduced a typical 23-day wagon trip to a 4-day canal ride.

Two other exceptional historical presentations were provided: Pat Morrison presented attendees with a nostalgic overview of two centuries riding Pennsylvania rails while John Brown introduced the extensive historical background of the Reading and Columbia Railroad.

Supplementing the above historical presentations were two discussions presented by Tony Segro from the Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club. Their large and excellent layout depicts Columbia in the early 1950s and most of the extensive city structures are scratch built. He explained how they build accurate models of famous Columbia buildings that no longer exist using various historical photos and drawings. Their club was open throughout the all-day event.

Prototype enthusiasts had the opportunity to visit a busy railroad maintenance and repair facility – the Columbia and Reading Railroad (CORY) and their sister company, Rail Mechanical Services (RMS). These two companies build, repair, and restore all types of railroad equipment both at their Columbia facility, at various customer locations, and also accident sites. The very friendly and enthusiastic CORY and RMS employees demonstrated a variety of routine rail maintenance tasks such as hand spiking track, hot riveting, and many other typical shop tasks. Also, all of their current on-site projects, yard locomotives, and shop support equipment were on display. A definite hit with attendees was a group of rail speeder maintenance-of-way vehicles that operated on the four mile CORY owned rail line and were also on display by their owners.

Head of Plane #6 at the Portage Railroad, drawn by G.W. Storm



Several railroad model and prototype vendors were located at the CORY facility as well as a well-known local food vendor who pleased hungry attendees with the locally famous “Shifter” sandwich and many other goodies throughout the event. To be sure attendees did not have to walk or drive to all the event sites a continuous hop-on, hop-off trolley shuttled attendees to and from the CHIPS building and the CORY facility and around the city to observe both historic and current railroad hotspots. An onboard historian provided background information along the route.



model railroad and railroad memorabilia vendors

One final special happening occurred during the event. Norfolk Southern operates a daily roundtrip freight between Lancaster and Enola heading to Enola usually in the late morning and returning in the late afternoon. Their main-line track runs within a few feet of the CORY property which provided attendees a great up close view and great photo op.



NS freight returning from Enola

The following event photos were taken at the CORY facility in Columbia.



CORY ALCO S2 #226



CORY trackmobile





**cableless speeder**



**Central Oregon Pacific decorate speeder**



**Baltimore City PCC being refurbished by CORY**



**Reading Railroad decorated speeder**



**flat car being rebuilt by CORY into coach for  
Steam into History Railroad**



**Thomas decorated speeder**

article and photos submitted by Barry Schmitt



## Salt Lake City NMRA National Convention 2019

July found my wife, Barbara, and me in Salt Lake City, Utah for the 84<sup>th</sup> annual national convention. Since we had never been to Utah, this was a must do. We arrived a day early and checked into the Little America Hotel. We were pleasantly surprised to find that, not only was our room ready before noon, but after lunch the pre-registration office was open in the lobby and our registration materials were all ready for us. We were set for a week of trains and new sights and friends.

We relaxed and walked around the center city, made easy by free rail transit in the downtown area. Rail passes were available from the convention committee. Clinics started Sunday afternoon and the convention was under way.

Conventions are always a wealth of goodies, and like a kid in a train store, it is always hard to choose what to do. Tours. Clinics. Prototype Trains. Layouts. SIG events. Local Interest Tours. Wow!

We tried a bit of everything. This was not our first convention; we have attended quite a few, in fact, most of the national conventions in the past 28 years. This has taught us to pace ourselves as we have gotten older and thereby enjoy the experience all the more.

We took in the tour of the city and went to the Red Butte Gardens. As a volunteer with Penn State Cooperative Extension I always try to take in the botanical garden tour.



Lee Nicholas's layout

Of course, no trip to Utah would be complete without visiting Promontory Summit, particularly in its 175<sup>th</sup> year. Despite the National Park Service's efforts it is still out in the middle of beyond. High plains, grassy fields, steep snow-covered mountain slopes, and a unique spot – the tie where the rails connected East and West. The Jupiter and the No. 119 pulled up at the appropriate time and the reenactment of the historic moment occurred. There was plenty of time to inspect and photograph the beautifully restored locomotives and have lunch.

Then it was off to visit Lee Nicholas's amazing Utah Colorado Western HO layout. What a treat! Beautiful scenery and smooth running made our day complete. Barbara usually doesn't accompany me on layout tours. So she finally got to see what a large, incredibly well-scenicked layout looks like and why we like to visit them.

I really like visiting other layouts. They are great to look at and I always learn something new. Age keeps me from doing the marathon all-day tours. I chose one that took me to Brian Brendel's N-scale C&O Mountain Sub as well as two HO scale layouts: Gary Brooks Great Northern Kettle Falls Branch, and Bill Hughes's UP line. Warm welcomes, good cookies, and smooth running set in excellent scenery were the order of the day. It is especially interesting to visit layouts where the scenery is not complete or the track and wiring are going in. You can see how the work is done and ask questions and look under the layout to see how a neat wiring job looks (Eat your heart out!).

And there are lots of clinics. You can learn about everything from the operations of the local railroads to the most recent modeling techniques, from using Raspberry Pi and LCC on your layout (or not, it's a good time to check it out and decide), operations schemes, new products. Modeling with the Masters clinics are particularly instructive and always worth the cost of materials



Steve Beals's scratch built Santa Ana River Viaduct



Barbara found plenty to do and kept herself busy visiting the city, shopping and reading. We went on tours together and had fun having lunch and dinner out all the time.

Then there are the SIG rooms. This year I happened to wander into the SIG rooms just as the opening meet-and-greet was about to get under way. I must say I have never had such an enthusiastic welcome as I got from Seth Neumann and Bob Randall. They and others were at the door and individually greeted everyone who came in and invited them into the meeting. An introductory speech and we were each given 2 minutes to introduce ourselves and tell what we were interested in and what we were doing on our layouts. An invitation to use the rooms during our down time and meet others was a nice touch, and sincere.

Oh yeah. There was a train show at the end. Barbara and I both went. She thoroughly enjoyed it and I took advantage to fill up my suitcase. Did I mention that I always go with a half-empty suitcase for just this reason? Here is the time and place to load up on things you really, really need, can't get along without, etc. You can meet the manufacturers, Model Railroader authors, and others. There was a large Free-mo N layout. The hall was spacious. There were places to sit. There was also a lot of space devoted to moms with small children with railroad themed toys and block sets. There were time-saver switching modules and boxcar racing tracks enjoyed by enthusiastic children.



boys enjoying box car racing



The Central Pacific  
Railroad 4-4-0 Jupiter  
#60



Union Pacific 4-4-0 #119 arriving at Promontory



details on the Jupiter



presentation of the Golden Spike

**article and photos by Phil Peters**



# Second Section

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division  
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA  
5 Hardy Court, Lancaster, PA 17602

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 October 14, 2019 formatted in Times New Roman font 12.

### Board of Directors

#### Superintendent

Tim Himmelberger  
[timh@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:timh@susquehannanmra.org)

#### Asst. Superintendent

Tedd Pounds  
[director@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:director@susquehannanmra.org)

#### Chief Clerk

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#### Past Superintendent

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Dennis Blank  
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2018-2020

2019-2021

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## Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:

[www.susquehannanmra.org](http://www.susquehannanmra.org)

Mid-Eastern Region website:

[www.mer.nmra.com](http://www.mer.nmra.com)

## National Model Railroad Association

8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B

Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

## Editor's Message

Greetings!

Thank you for your patience as I continue to learn the processes and functions of an editor.

It takes many hours of computer work for an issue to be finalized. I, therefore, must rely on our members for articles and photos. If you have an interesting topic or visit to a railroad entity which you felt was worthwhile please consider sharing with fellow members through Sidetracks.

If you have articles, events or photos you wish to share please contact me via email ([rjwurst@comcast.net](mailto:rjwurst@comcast.net)).

*Rich*



## 2019 Division Calendar of Events

September 21 – 22	Mainline Hobby Open House Weekend
<i>October 10 – 13</i>	<i>King of Prussia, PA, MER Convention, Philadelphia Division</i>
Oct 25 - 26	Lehigh/Susquehanna Operations (LSOP) weekend
Nov 2-3, 9-10, 16 -17	Division 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* item is not a Susquehanna Division events but the 2019 MER Regional convention.

Also, I would like to call your attention to our web page :

**<http://www.susquehannanmra.org>** . Wayne Betty has posted a listings of Mid-

Atlantic Train Shows for 2019.

Tim Himmelberger



# Operations?!

## What is an LSOP and why is this number 11?

The Lehigh/Susquehanna Operation 11 is the NMRA MER Susquehanna Division 11's eleventh operations weekend. The LSOP was started by former Division 11 Superintendent Jeffery Warner in 2009 as a way to open up local layouts to individuals that are either too far away to be part of a regular operation session or more importantly for those within the Division that have never operated before and would like to try Operations.

All the layouts used for the LSOP are dispatcher controlled. Basically, the operator is the engineer of a train with the dispatcher aligning the way to get you over the road. As a train operator, you are responsible for your train, which includes, but not limited to; listening and responding to the dispatcher (very important), obeying the signals, working industries or yards as needed, paper work and having fun while doing all of the above.

I will assure you that all of the layout superintendents are gentle and kind to novices (and everybody else too). We really want you to have fun and enjoy the layouts. All the layouts have scenery (yes even I have more scenery than I did before – buildings too). Four of the layouts have working signals and or repeater boards. Three of the five layouts use PRR type signals, and one uses both PRR and Reading search light signals (Bob Bucklew uses both). Jim's is verbal block control (remember always listen for the dispatchers call)

This is an NMRA, MER, Susquehanna Division 11 event, sponsored in conjunction with OPSIG. The OPSIG or "The Operations Special Interest Group" <http://www.opsig.org> is all about promoting operations from the smallest of layouts to the largest.

Model railroaders are typically a solitary creatures. Operating with a bunch of similarly minded individuals is a great way to expand beyond the basement. Just curious and want to check out the various control methodology, this is the place to do that too. Two of the layouts are Digitrax DCC and three are NCE DCC. Two are JMRI controlled and two use Bruce Chubb's SMINI for signal control. There are two transition period layouts, two PRR based diesel era layouts and one that covers the Northeast.

It is not all road work either; all of the layouts have yard jobs available too. All the layouts also have various locals for those that like to do some road switching.

LSOP11 is the last weekend in October. Can't do both Friday and Saturday, no problem sign up for the Saturday session or one layout only. All the information for the LSOP will be found at <http://www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP11/default.htm>. Four of the five layouts operate on a regular monthly schedule too and we are always looking to increase the operator pool. Please see <http://www.pamodelrailroads.com/> and check out the Operations Calendar.

If you have any questions on the LSOP please email me – [wsb@mycyberlinkl.net](mailto:wsb@mycyberlinkl.net). I am always happy to talk model railroading with fellow hobbyists.

article submitted by Wayne Betty

# Model Spotlight

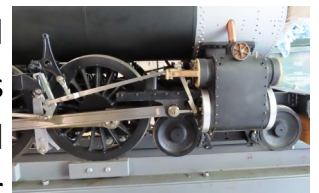
## Continued from Cover Page

Dan Horting, a retired Air Force pilot, has been fascinated with steam locomotives since he was six years old. While growing up in Newport, PA, Dan watched in awe as PRR steamers traveled the rails along the Juniata River. Besides real-life trains, he was captivated by the 1/8 scale miniature steam Carolwood Pacific Railroad built in Walt Disney's back yard and "The Great Locomotive Chase" feature film highlighting *The General*, a Western & Atlantic Railroad 4-4-0 locomotive. As his interest in steam locomotives grew, he became absorbed with scale model steam locomotives. Dan avidly read issues of "Little Engines" a catalog featuring live steam engine kits and other sources about miniature scale steam locomotives. During his years in the military he closely followed the hobby and upon retirement decided to build his own engine.



Since Dan grew up seeing many K4s engines he decided to model that premier PRR design and selected #3855 since it was built in the Juniata Shops not far from his childhood home. Work commenced in 2006 with research at the Pennsylvania State Museum and the assistance of live steam hobbyists. Dan has always had a knack for working with tools but needed higher skill levels for building his steel replica that would eventually generate heat and steam as it transformed circular motion into linear travel. As a result, Dan took welding classes and relied on a master machinist who taught him how to operate a machine lathe, vertical milling machine, drill press, arbor press, shaper, etc.

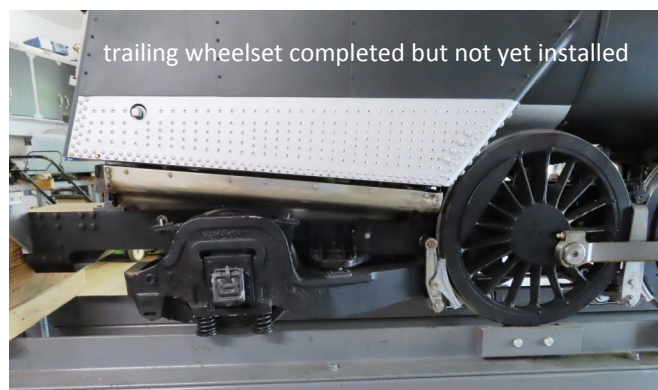
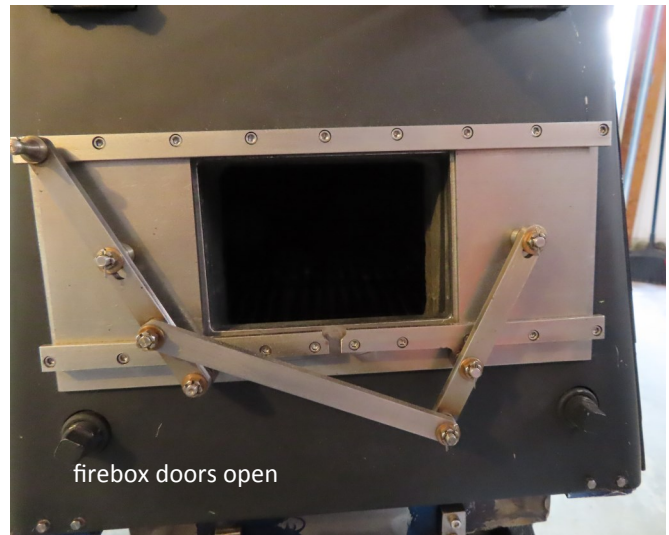
Throughout the years Dan has had many ups and downs. Some parts needed to be re-done or tolerances required tweaked. The most challenging task was the fabrication of sheet metal panels that sheathed the Belpaire firebox and the tapered boiler. Attaching these jacketing plates to the firebox and boiler required hundreds of holes drilled and tapped for the four hundred machine screw fasteners.



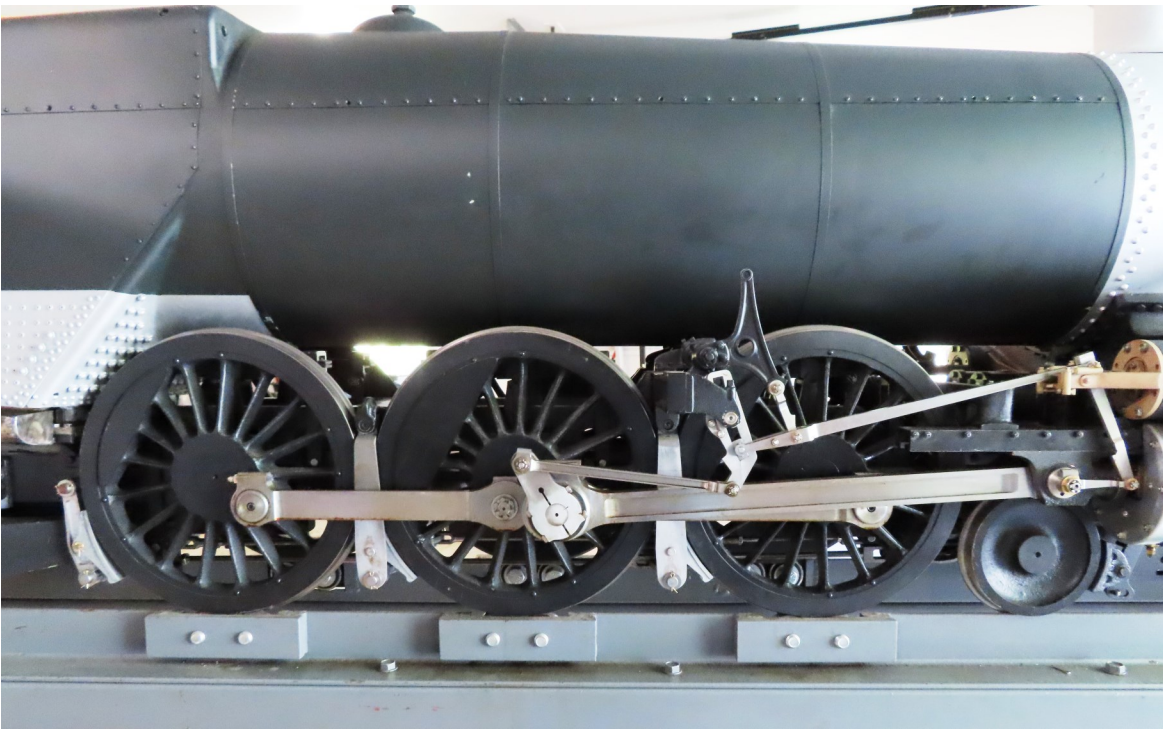
Dan has kept a log of work and hours since #3855 began life when the first parts were constructed. To date he has logged 6,579 hours on his dream project. The engine presently weighs 1,000 pounds and the tender 360 pounds. The tender has over 2,000 handset rivets and houses a compressed air generator and storage tanks for the locomotive's air brakes.



Dan Horting is a master modeler! His patience, dedication, skills, work ethic and especially perseverance can easily be seen in the beautiful and awesome example of his miniature live steam locomotive. Live steam is a very small portion of the model railroad hobby; however, it is the closest a hobbyist can get to the real thing!







article and photos submitted by Spike Puller





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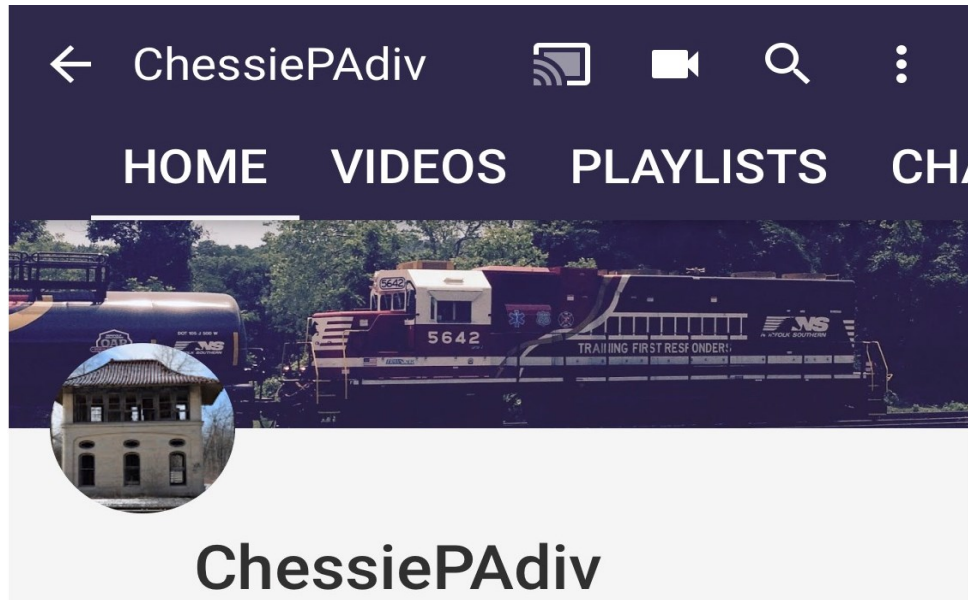
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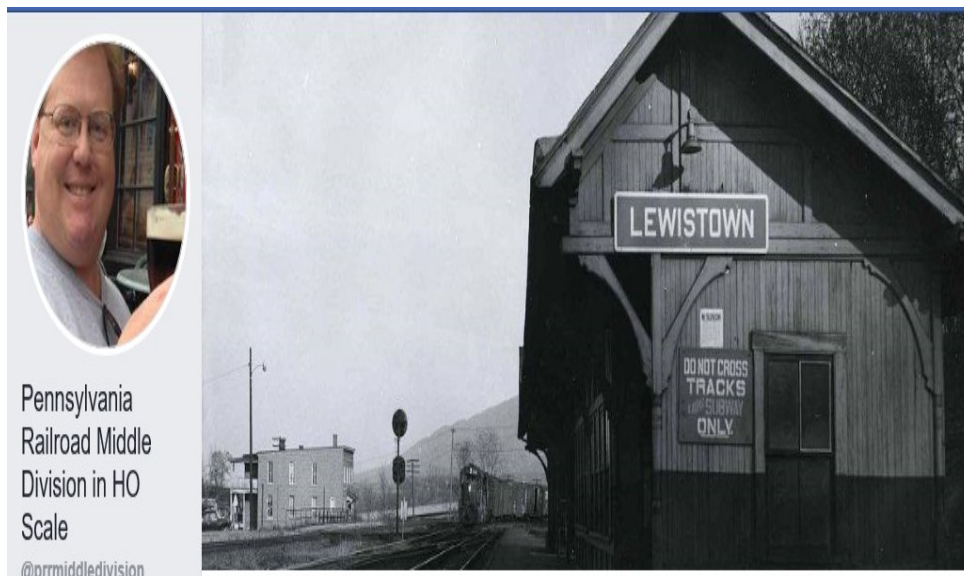
# Members' Section

If you have a YouTube page, Facebook page for your railroad, or a blog please consider including a link to it here. 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 Division



Jerry Britton's Pennsylvania RR Middle Division in HO



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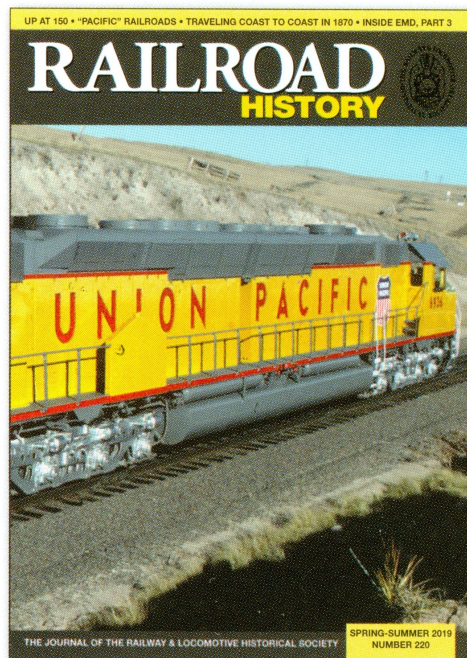
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