



SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



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

Volume 27

Number 6

What is a Makerspace?

Makerspaces, sometimes known as fab labs, hackerspaces and by a variety of similarly named fabrication locations, are student, hobbyists, laymen or any other interested persons who come together to produce, design, craft, solve problems, collaborate, develop new skills or enhance existed abilities. These Makerspaces can be either public, private or institutional locations having tools and equipment which allow people to enter with an idea and leave with a completed project.

Makerspaces have a website <https://www.makerspaces.com/250-makerspace-resources-free-ebook/> that gives in-depth information about the concept and reality of these modern idea sharing locations. Communal sharing of information is the keystone to these volunteer groups.

One such Makerspace is located in Lancaster County, PA. It is known as **make717**. One might ask how is this facility related to model railroading? Some of the foremost offerings are routing, machining and 3D design/printer. These tasks certainly allied with designing, constructing and modifying model structures and rolling stock.

article continued on page 10



Wes Bischel, Board President of make717, stands beside a 3D computer and 3D printers.

From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

Superintendent's Desk

This has been a busy two months for model railroaders. September was the Mainline Hobby open house tour. Josh and I spent some time during the first weekend in October at Strasburg getting some photos of the N & W 611. Some of which are in this issue. October 10th to the 13th was the MER convention in King of Prussia. With division members Jerry Lauchle, MMR and Alan Mende winning numerous awards in the contest room. Also, during the business meeting on Sunday morning Jerry Lauchle, MMR was installed as a MER director.

It is not too early to start making plans for next year's convention. The dates are October 15th to the 18th. It will be at the Crowne Plaza, Charlotte, NC.

November is the Division wide open house tour. Please go to <http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com/> You select the day you are interested in visiting layouts and you will be able to view who is open on that day. This is a sight that lists layouts in eastern PA, Southern NJ, DE, and MD.

Our first meeting of the new year will be February 29th in Allentown. Yes 2020 is approaching very rapidly. Scott Ungar has been busy working on this meeting. Please see his article on pages 16-20.

Time to go back in the basement and work on trains.

Tim Himmelberger

In This Issue

Superintendent's Desk	2	How to.....	26-29
Non-NMRA Events	3-7	Second Section	30
N & W #611	8-9	Division Calendar	31
What is a Makerspace?	1, 10-14	Model Showcase	32-35
NMRA Event	15-20	Pike Ads	36
RR Club Holiday Shows	21-23	Member's Section	37
37367NMRA Event Report	24-25	Sponsor Ads	38-40



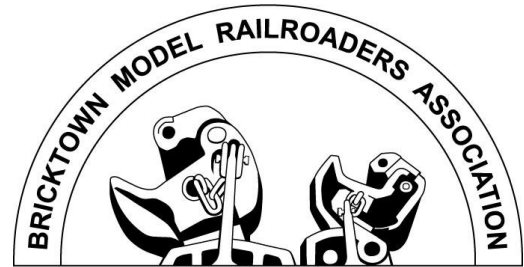
2019 Fall Reunion

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.

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 or visit www.febt.org

Harris Tower Museum is a tribute to local rail history — and to the men who helped preserved it.



John Smith and Dan Rapak stand in front of the large interlocking machine inside Harris Tower.

Rounding the corner onto Walnut Street in Harrisburg, I could see the Harris Tower out of the corner of my eye. It's one of those places I'd seen before in passing and recognized, but never really gave a second glance.

The tour began as soon as I walked up to the building. John Smith welcomed me and assured me he had turned the AC on over the weekend so it would be cool enough on this day that was already pushing 90 degrees.

“Railroads built this country,” Smith said. “Towers like these at one time dotted the landscape.”

Harris Tower once functioned as a command center of sorts for railways in Harrisburg, controlling how track connections moved, allowing trains to pass through safely. During the height of rail travel, more than 120 trains passed through the Harrisburg station each day, Smith explained.

In 1991, the tower shut down, but, a few years later, the Harrisburg Chapter of the NRHS began restoration of the building, with hopes to showcase the heyday of Harris Tower circa the 1940s.



The exterior of Harris Tower in Harrisburg.

The main attraction at the small museum is a large interlocking machine, which takes up most of the upstairs space. Rapak was instrumental in getting the machine functioning again as it did years ago—this time as a simulation.

When Dan Rapak and his buddy Jeff Vinton began work on the machine, they had no previous experience. Both were engineers working at a television station in New Jersey at the time, but never touched a piece of equipment like this. All they had was a love of trains and the determination to get the machine up and running.

Smith remembered seeing parts—panels and levers—lying all over the floor. “Guys from the chapter thought, ‘Do these guys know what they’re doing?’” he said.

The interlocking machine has come a long way from a mess of scattered parts on a grease-stained floor. Visitors to the museum can now interact with the machine by guiding simulated trains through a course on the same schedule they would’ve run in years past.

Now it was my turn. With more than 470 indicator lights on the board, Rapak graciously pointed out the ones I needed to pay attention to as I turned the levers, switching imaginary tracks and guiding my train on its way.

To get the Harris Tower back to a functioning state, where visitors could be part of the railway action, it’s taken Smith and Rapak thousands of hours. Not to mention all the time other volunteers have given.

“Anything you see in here that’s brass, I’ve polished it,” Smith said.

A quick scan of the room, and I could see that was no small feat as there were brass knobs, hinges and detail everywhere.

I wondered—why would these guys put in so many hours to this tiny brick building that was just a small part of railroad history? But then Rapak told me the story of Don Rittler, a former train director in Harris Tower who has since passed away.

He painted a picture of Rittler, who was 82 at the time and going in for a double-knee replacement in a couple of weeks. Rapak remembers him hobbling up the staircase to the upstairs room as he started up the interlocking machine. Rittler directed trains just as he had done during his years working at the tower.

Seeing visitors, young and old, interact with the tower is exactly why Smith and Rapak are so invested.

“It’s not only about preserving it, but experiencing it,” Rapak said.

The Harris Tower Railway Museum is located at 637 Walnut St., Harrisburg. It is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., through the end of October. Admission is free. For more information, see visit <http://www.harristower.org/> or <http://www.harrisburgnrhs.org/>.

Reprinted from THE BURG, Greater Harrisburg’s Community Magazine

Norfolk & Western #611 visits Strasburg Railroad

For most of the month of October, Norfolk & Western streamlined 4-8-4 #611 visited the Strasburg Railroad. Crowds of riders and railfans flocked to the small town of Strasburg, PA to see, hear, smell and ride this unique locomotive. Here are a few photos courtesy of Tim Himmelberger and Rich Wurst





This 4-8-0 Strasburg Railroad engine #382 is ex Norfolk & Western #475. #382 and #611 are the only remaining N & W steam locomotives still operating.

What is a Makerspace?

What is a Makerspace? *continued from page one*

More than four years ago a group of forward-thinking individuals and faculty began a foray into the avocational aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). With the focus on problem solving, design and creation these technology and community leaders formed **make717**, a Lancaster County technology haven. There are other Makerspaces in other areas of Pennsylvania, however, the author recently had the pleasure of visiting **make717** and experienced a personal and in-depth tour of the facilities with Wes Bichel, **make717** Board President.

make717, a non-profit 501c3 corporation, comprises a 4,200 square foot, climate-controlled facility on the campus of Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster, PA. The building complex was once the Community Hospital. The college uses the majority of the facility as dormitory and classroom space.

Laymen and skilled individuals are all welcome

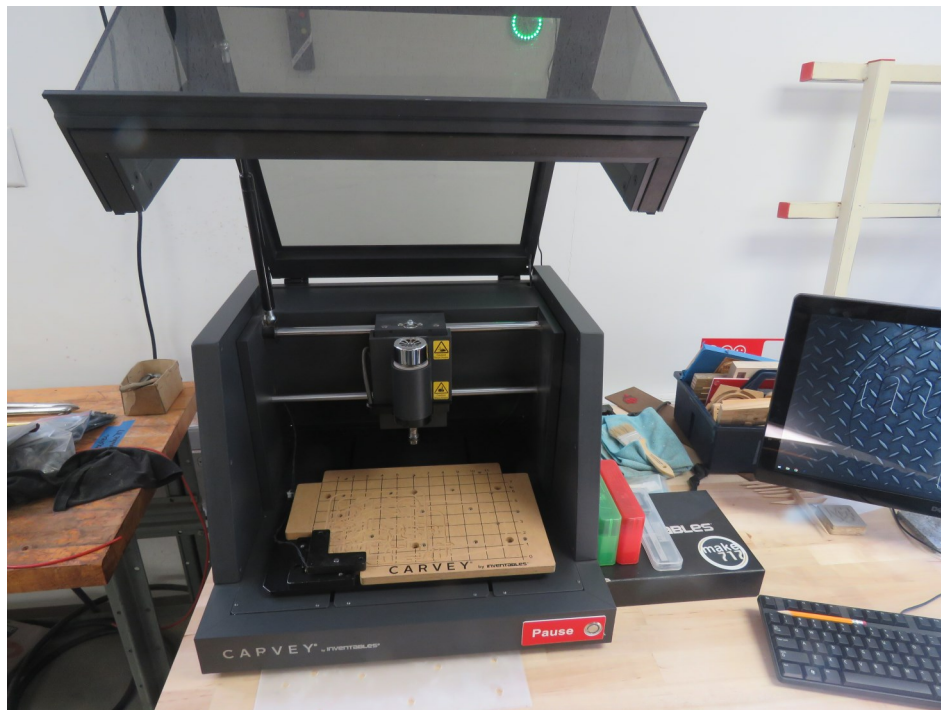
at this Makerspace. Technology areas include: manual machining (lathe and milling), CNC (Computer Numerical Control), metal milling and wood routing, metal spinning, metrology (measurement), 3D printing (resin and fused deposition), 3d computer software, and fused deposition printing. Future expansion includes woodworking and metal fabrication.



make717

Makerspace for Area Code 717
info@make717.org

1100 E Orange St
Lancaster PA 17602
www.make717.org
717.537.1067



Carvey Numerical Controlled router

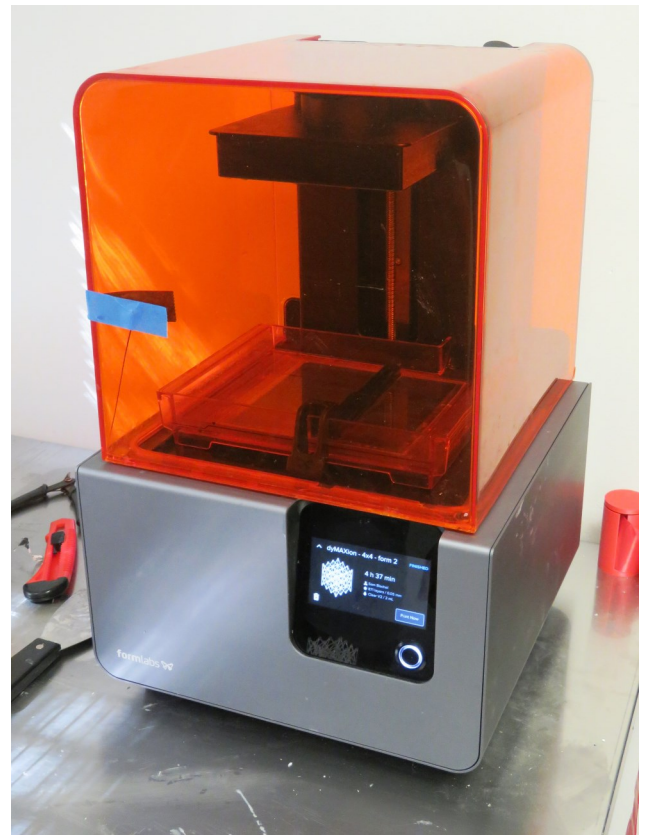
Even though a membership fee is required for access to **make717**, there is an interesting means of trying out this Makerspace community. Every Lancaster County Library location has two STEM passes (two-week checkout) that you can sign out using your library card. This pass gives you the opportunity to explore the offerings and facilities of **make717**. For specific information you may contact Wes Bischel at wes@make717.org.



Grizzly G0759 milling and drilling machine



Tomach PCNC 770 Computer Controlled milling machine



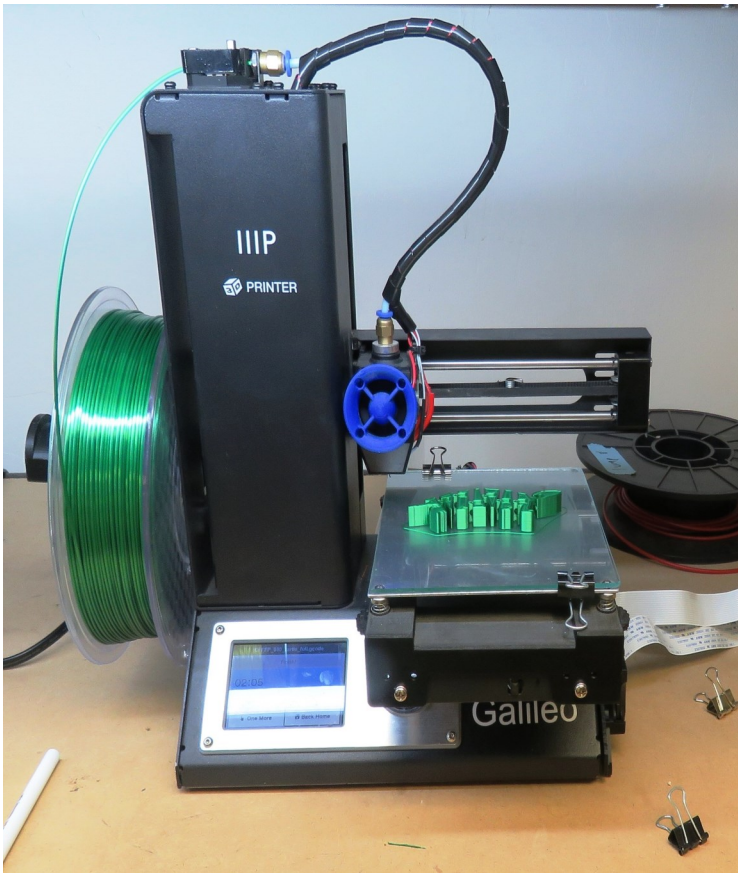
FormLabs FORM2 resin 3D printer



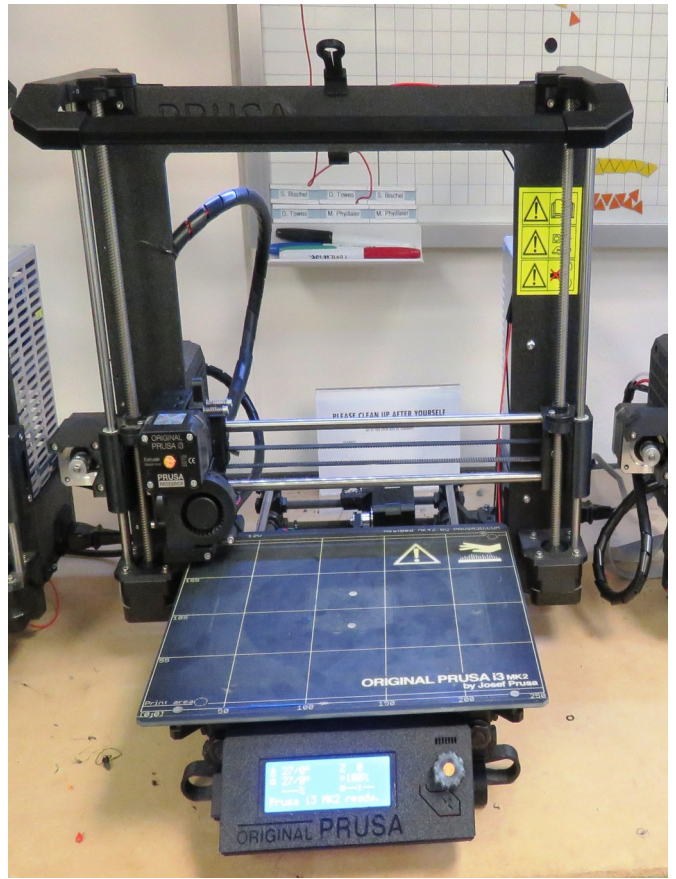
Computer workstations



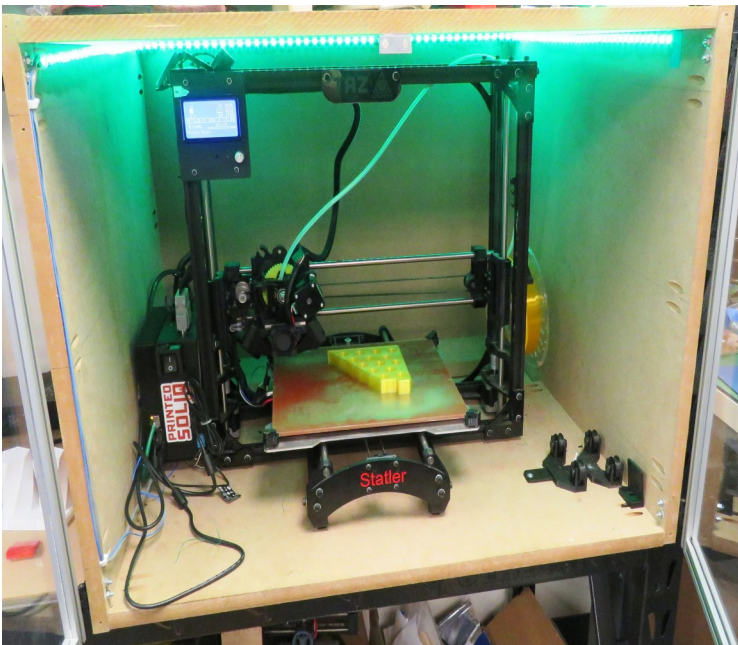
Electronic testing and soldering stations



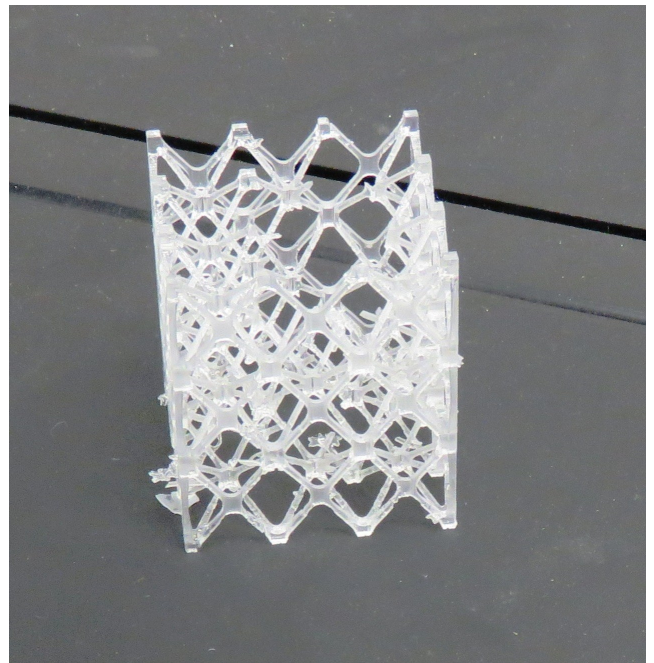
Monoprice Select Mini 3D printer



Prusa i3 MK2s 3D printer



Lolzbot TAZ 5 3D printer



Sample 3D printed structure



Additional samples of 3D printed objects

article submitted by Russ T. Nale



PhillyNMRA News **Upcoming Meet!**

Join us for our November Division Meet

When: Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 9:00am (Doors open at 8:30am)

Where: Brandywine Town Center Community Center, 4050 Brandywine Pkwy, Wilmington, DE 19803 (Naaman's Rd. DE-92 at Concord Pk. US-202)

Why: We love trains!

Highlights:

Joe Walters – Building a UP Rotary Snow Plow

Mat Chibarro – Model Railroading in Small Spaces

Model Display Table – bring your projects (discussion if time permits)

White Elephant Table – sell your stuff or buy someone else's

Door Prizes

50/50 Raffle – take a chance to win half the pot

Philly Division apparel and patches for sale

Refreshments – coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels

Layout Tours in the PM. Two Philly Division member layouts plus other layouts courtesy of www.ModelRailroadOpenHouse.com. Check that website for maps and schedules. Maps and directions will be available for some of the nearby layouts at the meet.

You can also check out the event page for this meet on the Division website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-division-meet-110919>.

Admission is free to all NMRA members. We welcome guests, but ask that you join the NMRA if you want to continue attending events. Nine-month, introductory memberships are available at reduced cost.

Hope to see you there!

Leap Day Division Meet February 29, 2020

The Bridgeworks Enterprise Center will be the location of a late winter Division event in Allentown for the second consecutive year. Mark your calendars for the Susquehanna Division's Leap Day Division Meet on February 29, 2020. Last year's event, the first held by the Division in Lehigh County in a long while was attended by more than 30 NMRA members from the Susquehanna Division, Philadelphia Division and the New Jersey Division.

Built as part of a Mack Trucks assembly plant operated until the late 1980's the Bridgeworks Enterprise Center is located at 905 Harrison St. Allentown, PA 18103. The Mack Trucks plant complex was served by both the Reading and Lehigh Valley Railroads with the Lehigh Valley portion continuing in very limited operation under Conrail until being removed in the mid 1990's following the sale of the line to RJ Corman Short Line's Allentown Division (RJCN Reporting Marks).

Prior to the event we will start with coffee and donuts and some time to chat with other members about their modeling projects or other pursuits over the winter. Following the greetings and refreshments we will convene the annual business meeting for the Susquehanna Division.

While it sounds formal and about as fun as a gluing your fingers together, the business meeting can be really informative and interesting. There are some business items that require attention but the meeting is generally full of useful announcements and updates about the Division and Region as well as the dates and locations of the upcoming NMRA activities. The business meeting also includes introductions of any new members, officers or noteworthy volunteers. The meeting will wrap up with the presentation of any awards and achievement program certificates earned by the Division members since the last meeting.

Join us at the virtual track side as Jim Hertzog treats us to an outstanding collection of fallen flag railroad images he took in the Allentown area between 1968-1976. The brightly colored locomotives of the pre-Conrail Reading, Lehigh Valley and Central Railroad of New Jersey will provide an enjoyable break from the black and white we are now accustomed to in the area. In addition to a variety of paint schemes we might also catch some Alco's in contrast to the current blend of EMD and GE power seen today.

The final morning activity is the model showcase where each member is encouraged to bring a model to discuss. It can be a finished project, a work in progress or even some photos, sketches or a mockup of something you are researching. This is a very relaxed discussion on what you are working on and not a presentation so just grab a model from your workbench or railroad and bring it along. The model does not have to be a piece of rolling stock, locomotive or a structure. We have members discuss examples of a diorama, signal equipment, control panels, track assemblies and MOW equipment. We all know you have at least one of those items! So bring one along and share it with the group.

After lunch you can tour some local model railroads that will be open for tours.

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: “1970’s Rail Fanning in the Lehigh Valley” by Jim Hertzog
11:30am-12:00pm	Model Showcase
12:00pm	Lunch on your own
1:00pm-4pm	Local Model Railroad Tours (locations provided at event)

The Model Railroads available to visit include:

Tom Luckey’s CSX Cumberland Subdivision

Tom’s model railroad captures the CSX Cumberland Subdivision from Patterson Creek West Virginia to Weverton, Maryland. The multi-tier model railroad occupies a 35 foot by 40 foot space and covers the time from June 1, 1999 (the Conrail split-up day) through 2006.



A mixed power consist pulls auto racks under the classic B&O signal bridge at Orleans, WV.

Including over 700 feet of double track mainline and four large staging yards the railroad was designed for operations. Train movements are coordinated using a 100% complete prototype signal system featuring B&O Color Position Light (CPL) signals and a homemade dispatchers panel board located in the garage. The signals are also homemade and utilize “old school” analog electronics and circuits. Trains reflect the traffic, rolling stock and motive power for the modeled time period. Following the establishment of the track and signal infrastructure to support the operations, Tom has turned his attention to filling in the scenery.

Charlie Smith's Lehigh Valley RR

Charlie models the Lehigh Valley Railroad in the post steam era. He did not select any particular geographic location but chose instead to reflect the general feel of the Lehigh Valley and built a proto-lanced model occupying a 12' x 25' area. The railroad is a double track, double loop main line using DC block control. Track and switches are Atlas code 100 nickel silver.



A pair of Lehigh Valley Alco RS11's await their next assignment as they idle behind the tower

While Charlie has many more pieces of rolling stock, the railroad can handle about 150 railcars at any given time. He purchased some of these cars in the early 1960's and has fitted them all with Kadee couplers. His locomotives are from Stewart, Atlas, Bowser, Proto, and a few from Athearn.

The railroad features nearly completed scenery with only few locations remaining to fill in. The mainline is ballasted with actual limestone and the long strings of hopper cars are loaded with authentic anthracite. He admits that sometimes enhancement projects are delayed because he enjoys just watching the Lehigh Valley trains move through his railroad and who could blame him!

Bob Stetser's Penn Central Wilkes Barre Branch, Eastern Region, Harrisburg Division

Bob's modeled his railroad, locomotives, freight cars, and locations to follow the Penn Central prototype. However, he used a freelance approach for the actual industries, locations of yards, and other scenic details. The railroad is on two separate levels with the lower level representing the Wilkes Barre Branch and the upper level modeling the Buffalo Main Line. While not physically connected both levels capture the look, feel and action of the Penn Central in 1975.

The lower level runs from Sunbury, PA to Wilkes Barre, PA including Buttonwood which was an actual name of a yard in the Wilkes Barre area. Here, the Penn Central interchanges with the Lehigh Valley and Delaware & Hudson railroads at Buttonwood yard. In Sunbury the Penn Central exchanges traffic between Northumberland Yard and the nearby yard of the Reading Railroad. The lower level incorporates numerous industries both large and small including a steel mill, coal mine and ore dock along about 230 feet of single-track main line with passing sidings.



Penn Central Alco RS3 5340 (ex NYC 8340) works the yard while a freight sits in the siding.

The upper level models the Buffalo mainline from Northumberland Yard to Renovo Yard. Switching on this level includes an interchange area with the Reading Railroad at Milton PA, a coal mine located on the Montandon Branch and a large industrial park in the North Bend area. The upper level action takes place along a double tracked, 220 feet long main line.

Work on the lower level started on January 1, 1998 and was “finished” on June 15, 2005 occupying his entire 25’ by 40’ basement. The addition of the upper level provided quite a surprise for his regular group that attends his monthly operating sessions. The bench work, track and electrical components of the upper level were completed in the spring of 2016 in about three weeks between and April and May operating sessions. The scenery for the upper level was completed in the following year.

The railroad operates using car card/waybill system with Timetable and Extra schedule. Train movements are controlled by a dispatcher, including the use of operating signals. Crews communicate with the Dispatcher using radios and trains are controlled by wireless Digitrax DCC. During a normal operating session crews use roughly 40 locomotives to move about 500 freight cars.

article submitted by Scott Ungar

Holiday Season Model Railroad Open Houses
November 2019 - March 2020
Side 1 of 2

Abington Lines Model Railroad Club

Admission Free, Donations Appreciated

Location: **2066 Second Street Pike (PA Rt 232), Richboro, PA 18954** (2miles north of PA332, on the right)

Phone: (215) 598-7720 Website: <http://www.abingtonlines.org> Scale: HO (standard, narrow gauge & traction)

Information: Come see multiple trains with digital radio control and sound, operating on our 20' x 60' two-track mainline exceeding 1,000 feet in length. Enjoy the scenery depicting the PA rolling hills. Marvel at our trolleys, life like village, detailed buildings, operating roundhouse, industrial switching areas and waterfront complete with rail car ferries. Also enjoy our extensive narrow-gauge section with old time operating engines.

Open 12-4 PM on Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15, 28 & 29; Jan. 4, 5, 11 & 12; Feb. 1, 2, 8 & 9

Black Diamond Society of Model Engineers Admission - \$5 Donation Appreciated; 12 & under free

Location: **900 E. Macada Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017** (we share an ample parking lot with St. Thomas' UCC)

Phone: (610) 867-2591 Website <http://www.bdsme.org> Scale: HO, O (scale and 3-rail), On30 and S.

Information: Come see 2 floors of multiple trains in continuous operation with Legacy, Bluetooth, DCS and DCC systems and plenty of smoke and sound. Organized in 1965, join us as we mark 55 years of model railroading! The first floor 650 square foot display nicely blends O, On30 and S scale action. The 2nd floor 800 square foot HO display showcases trains traveling thru rolling hills, rugged mountains and industry, and past parks and towns. We suggest those with children under 40 inches tall bring a step stool.

Open 1-4pm on Dec. 7, 8, 14&15; Jan. 4, 5, 11&12; Feb. 8&9

Burlington County Model Railroad Club

Admission Free, Donations Appreciated

Location: **Basement (right side), Burl. Co. Footlighters Playhouse, 808 Pomona Rd, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077**

Phone: (856) 733-0010 Website: <http://www.bcmrc.org> or find us on Facebook! Scale: HO

Information: We call our miniature railroad the Rancocas Valley Lines based on our physical location in NJ. We represent portions of a freelanced railroad that goes from tidewater to mountains, running through the typical stations and industrial areas of a large city, then countryside, while serving industries. We run 5-8 trains simultaneously on a double track mainline along with several other trains operating in various yards using an NCE DCC system along with JMRI. We ask that adults bring a step stool for children under 40 inches tall.

Open 12-5 PM on Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 14, 15, 28, 29; Jan. 4, 5; Feb. 8, 9, 15, 16

Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers/C.A.S.M.E. - Admission Free, Donations Appreciated

Location: **Basement of Borough Building, 5 North Main St. Coopersburg, PA 18036**

Website: <http://www.casme.org> Scale: HO

Information: Our layout dimensions are 35' x 44' and when finished there will be more than 3500 feet (58 scale miles) of track and over 100 switches. A computer assisted dispatching program using JMRI software, controlling our Digitrax DCC system, allows up to 12 trains to be operated through beautiful scenes and past operating signals over the layout.

Open 12-5PM on Dec. 7, 8, 14, & 15; Jan. 4, 5, 11 & 12

Cheltenham Hills MRC

Admission Free - Donations Greatly Appreciated!

Location: **8000 Old York Rd. (Route 611), Elkins Park, PA 19027** (located in former Old York Rd. station)

Phone: (215) 635-9747 Website: <http://www.cheltenhamhillsmrr.org> Scale: HO

Information: Join us for our 72nd year! Highlights include 1750 ft. of track, 300 car freight yard, steam and diesel locomotive facility with operating turntable, and industrial yard. The centerpiece is our operating lift bridge, which allows trains to cross between parts of the layout. Our DCC control system allows us to run multiple trains on the mainline and yards with realistic sound. Wheelchair accessibility available by appointment—please call any Thursday evening to schedule this access.

Open 12-4 PM on Dec. 14 & 15; Jan. 4, 5, 18 & 19; Snow Dates: Jan. 25 & 26

Note: All Dates are Saturdays and Sundays unless otherwise noted. Not responsible for errors or omissions in the schedules.

Holiday Season Model Railroad Open Houses
November 2019 - March 2020
Side 2 of 2

GATSME MRRC - located at the Rockledge Model RR Museum.

Location: **323 Montgomery Ave. Rockledge, PA (corner of N. Sylvania & Montgomery Aves.)**

Websites: www.gatsme.com and www.rockledgemrm.org Also see our Facebook page! Scale: HO

GATSME has renovated a 1920s mill building into a new permanent home. Featuring a 3000-square foot operating walk-through layout, which will include parts of the PRR Schuylkill Branch and the Reading Company's line to Shamokin, the museum also has displays of railroad & model railroad history **and is handicap accessible**. The layout is progressing, with over 700 feet of operating main line. Memberships are open, join us as we continue to grow!

Open 12-3 p.m. on Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 & 15, Jan. 11 & 18, Feb. 8 & 9, then on the 2nd Saturday of each month.
See our web sites or Facebook for additional news and events.

Keystone N-Trak

Admission & Parking Free - Donations Appreciated

New Location: 100 North Second Street, North Wales, PA. 19454. (GPS: 113 N. 2nd St)

Parking: Municipal Lot behind St. Luke's Church

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/keystonetrak> Scale: N

Information: Keystone is a modular N Scale club modeling to N-Trak international standards. This enables each member's modules to link to form model railroads at public and private events. We travel to various N scale events and are a participating member of The Eastern N Lines Partnership. New members are always welcome. Meetings are every Tuesday at 7pm. Please check our Facebook page for any last-minute schedule changes.

11am-4pm Nov. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24; Dec. 8, 15, 21 22, 2019; Jan. 4, 5, 18, 19, 25, 26; Feb. 1, 2, 8, 2020;
10AM-2PM Dec. 14th, 2019

Royersford Modular Model Railroaders Admission – Greenberg's Train Show - Donations Appreciated

Location: **The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center 100 Station Dr. Oaks, PA 19**

Phone: (610) 888-4306 Website: <http://www.royersfordmodular.org> Scale: HO

Information: Movable modular railroad layout, on display at the Greenberg's train show.

Jan. 11 & 12 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days). There is an admission fee to enter the Greenberg's show, which also includes other layouts, vendors and manufacturers.

Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club CLOSED FOR 2019-2020 SEASON

Location: **400 S. Main Street (rear entrance), Phoenixville, PA 19460; diagonally across from Library**

Phone: (610) 935 1126 Website: <http://www.svmrrc.com> Scale: HO (standard and narrow gauge)

Information: We will not be holding open house this year and would like to thank the people that have attended open house for the past 40 years. Currently the building is undergoing major renovations and we plan to be back on board in a year. Please refer to the website about any changes or upcoming events that we may hold or attend.

Thanks from the Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club!

Saint Alban's Railroad Fellowship STARR Admission Free - Donations Appreciated

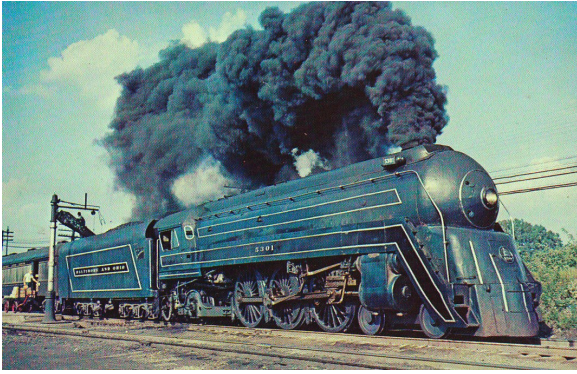
Location: **Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, 3625 Chapel Rd. Newtown Square, PA (Under Thrift Shop)**

Website: <http://www.StARR-MRC.org> Scale: HO

Information: Layout fills 4000 square feet with 200 feet of 4 track mainline with working signals, 3 branch lines, large steel mill, coke plant, oil refinery, three working classification yards and a large passenger terminal. We use a Switch list system for freight and passenger operations that routes over 1100 pieces of equipment throughout the system. New layout sections constructed this year. The layout is controlled by DCC with computer enhancement. Special layout w/Thomas the tank engine for kids to operate.

Open 1-4PM on Nov. 16, 17; Dec. 28, 29; Jan. 4, 5, 18; 19, Feb. 1, 2, 15, 16; 7-10PM on Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

Note: All Dates are Saturdays and Sundays unless otherwise noted. Not responsible for errors or omissions in the schedules.



DE-MD-NJ-PA

Model Railroad Open Houses

November is National Model Railroad Month sponsored by the NMRA. Since our Division membership region reaches to Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey, as well as neighboring Divisions, listing Club and Private Open Houses would be a voluminous task. Therefore, if you go to this link

<http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com/index.html>

You can search by calendar date and peruse all the Open House offerings. Explore the unique layouts that are hidden gems!

Message from Lee Rainey:

November is National Model Railroad Month and I want to make you aware of two layout open houses here in State College that I believe will be of interest to you.

Open for the first time this year is Jerry Lauchle's HO rendition of a Central Pennsylvania logging and mining short line. Jerry is an NMRA Master Model Railroader whose modeling skill has been featured in several national publications. His superbly detailed layout includes numerous scratch-built structures and pieces of rolling stock.

Only about a mile from Jerry's house is my own S/Sn3 layout focused on Mount Union on the PRR Middle Division. Hand laid track, photographic backdrops, and Lenz DCC with sound highlight monthly operating sessions. (We just held our 26th!) New this year is the Franklin St. peninsula, which will feature the EBT engine terminal and the General Refractories brick plant.

Jerry and I are both open from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, Nov. 2. (There's no football game in State College that day, so there is no traffic to fear.) In addition, I will be open from 1 pm to 4 pm on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Visit modelrailroadopenhouse.com for driving maps.

We hope to see you in November.

NMRA Event Report

August 17th Susquehanna Division Event

The event was held at the Smokestown Fire Hall in Denver, PA. It was a warm and humid day; however, the facility was air conditioned providing a comfortable atmosphere for the model railroading program. Delicious donuts and coffee added to the welcoming of members and guests alike.

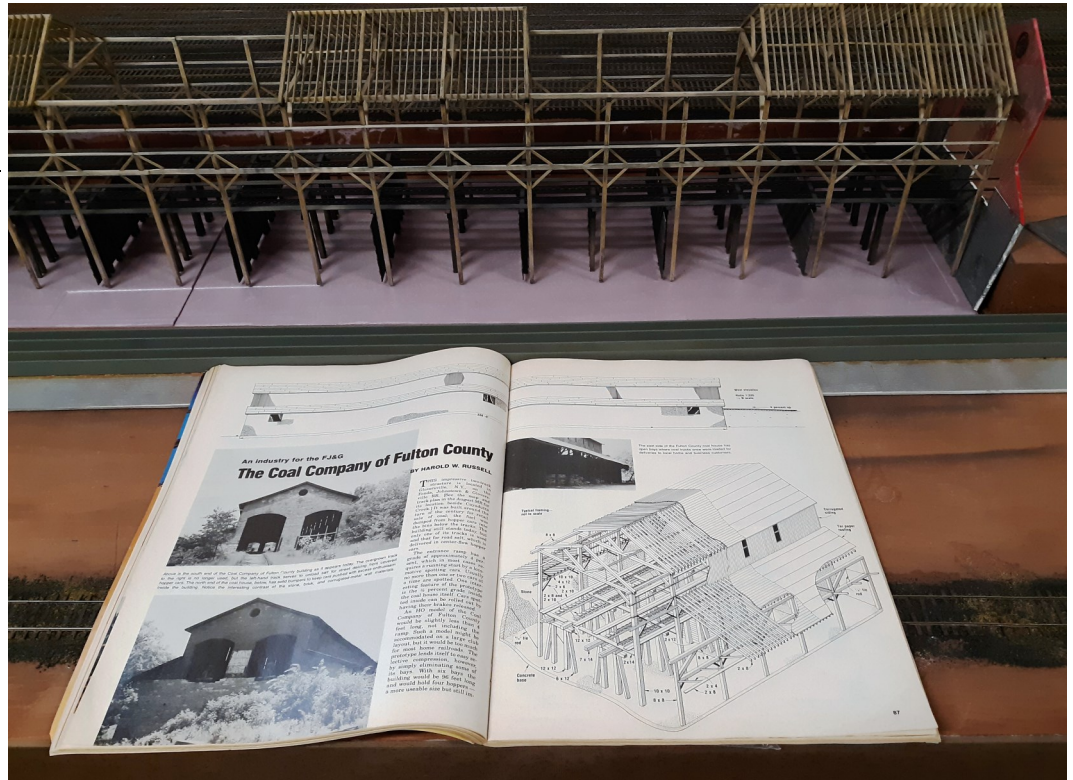
Twenty-two attendees signed the guest registry and several of those in attendance brought models in several stages of construction for the Model Showcase.

Phil Peters had a laptop running showing photos of his recent trip to the NMRA National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also had photos of the Golden Spike Event at Promontory Point, Utah.

Two clinics were presented. The first was by Dennis Blank on the model he is building based on the 1979 article in Model Railroader magazine called the Coal Company of Fulton County. The second clinic was by Bob Bucklew on using JMRI and tablets/smart phones for virtual signals, switching and train control. All these operations were enabled by the Wi-Throttle app (free from JMRI).

The afternoon program included visitations to personal layouts. Four layouts were made available for viewing. Dennis Blank, Bob Bucklew, Pat Mulrooney, and Chris Saporito graciously opened their homes to visitors. All of these layouts were prime examples of fine model railroading.

This was the first division event that I organized. I would like to thank Dean Johnson for helping to get the ball rolling for this event and Bob Bucklew for presenting his clinic. Additionally, I would like to thank Bob Bucklew, Pat Mulrooney, and Chris Saporito for opening their layouts this day; the Susquehanna Division Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to act as a Project Manager and especially those members who attended this meet.





Fulton County Coal Company side view



Fulton County Coal Company front view

article submitted by Dennis Blank Jr.

Making Foam-Lined Storage Boxes for Train Models

by Jerry Lauchle, MMR

Imported brass locomotives and rolling stock are always well protected in their boxes by soft foam inserts with cutouts that precisely accept the shape of the model. I have attempted over the years to duplicate these cutouts for my scratch-built models using thick furniture upholstery foam. However, I have never been satisfied with the cutouts I made in this foam using a long-bladed knife; in particular, the bottoms, which could not be cut cleanly. I have now replaced all of these upholstery foam inserts with a new type of foam that has recently come on the market. It is called Kaizen Foam™ from FastCap (www.fastcap.com). It is produced in 1/8" thick layers that are weakly bonded together forming 2' x 4' sheets of thicknesses 7/8", 1-1/8", and 2-1/4". Kaizen Foam™ is designed to organize tools in drawers and on shelves. It peels away in layers helping to create a perfect fit around a tool, or in the subject case, a train model. This is illustrated in the following photographs.



Step 2. Trace the outline of the model onto the foam. A blue felt tip pen works well for this.



Step 3. Cut out the opening for the model using a long-bladed knife such as a wall paper knife as I am using here. The break-off indents on this type of knife helps you to get the depth of cut right.



Step 4. Peel away the foam, two or three layers at a time to reach the final depth.



Step 5. Insert the model and cover it with a thin piece of upholstery foam and you are finished! I like to wrap the model in thin plastic such as that from a storage baggie or a plastic drop cloth.



In some cases, you may want to include finger spaces in the foam next to the model to help in getting a grip on the model to remove it. The finger spaces can be created using a knife, but I find that a Forstner bit in a drill press makes a very clean opening; see the following photographs.



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 December 15, 2019.

Board of Directors

Superintendent

Tim Himmelberger
timh@susquehannanmra.org

Asst. Superintendent

Tedd Pounds
director@susquehannanmra.org

Chief Clerk

Paul Tice
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Dennis Blank
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Pat Mulrone
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Phil Peters
director@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Jeff Thompson
director@susquehannanmra.org

2018-2020

2019-2021

Committee Chairmen

Achievement Program

Chairman

Robert Charles, MMR
director@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Program

Chairman

John Wissinger, MMR
director@susquehannanmra.org

Membership Chairman

Howard Oakes
director@susquehannanmra.org

Training

Alan Mende
director@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks

Editor

Richard Wurst
rjwusrt@comcast.net

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

Editor's Message

Greetings!

This is my third issue and I am still learning to master the publishing software. I appreciate all the submissions made by contributors. It would be most helpful to send me WORD or PDF documents and JPEG photos. Sending text and photos as a written email is difficult to insert in Sidetracks. Always send attachments for your contributions. This would speed up the publishing process.

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

Rich



2019 Division Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Nov 2 – 3, 9 – 10, 16 – 17, Regional Open House Tours:
<http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com/>

2020 Calendar

February 29 – Allentown, PA – Scott Ungar

April 4, to be determined - Pat Mulrooney, Jeff Thompson

May 2, Railroads in Columbia, PA – Barry Schmitt, Bill Lesjak

May 16 – 19, PRRT&HS Annual Meeting

June - to be determined

August – Denver, PA – Dennis Blank (date to be determined)

October, LSOP, to be determined

Also working on a fall division meeting, to be determined

Upcoming MER Conventions

Look South in 2020 October 15 to 18, 2020- Crowne Plaza Charlotte, NC

Chesapeake Convention 2021 October 21 to 24, 2021- Delta by Marriott Hunt Valley Inn

James River Convention 2022- Location TBD

Susquehanna Division Convention 2023- Location TBD

Model Showcase

On August 17, 2019, the Susquehanna Division had their regular meeting at the Smokestown Fire house. There was the usual Model Showcase where there were about 15 models shown by seven modelers. The following is a review of the models shown.

1. Howard Oaks brought an HO scale Duluth Winnipeg & Pacific double door box car.



2. Jerry Lauchle built this beautiful abandoned railroad diorama with a station and derelict diesel locomotive.



3. Rich Wurst built several samples of an American Car & Foundry RD-52 Container Car. He cut maple blocks for the containers and used finishing staples cut to simulate lift bars., rather unique!



4. Dennis Blank had several models to show including two work cars, a gas station with a unique roofing material and a control module.



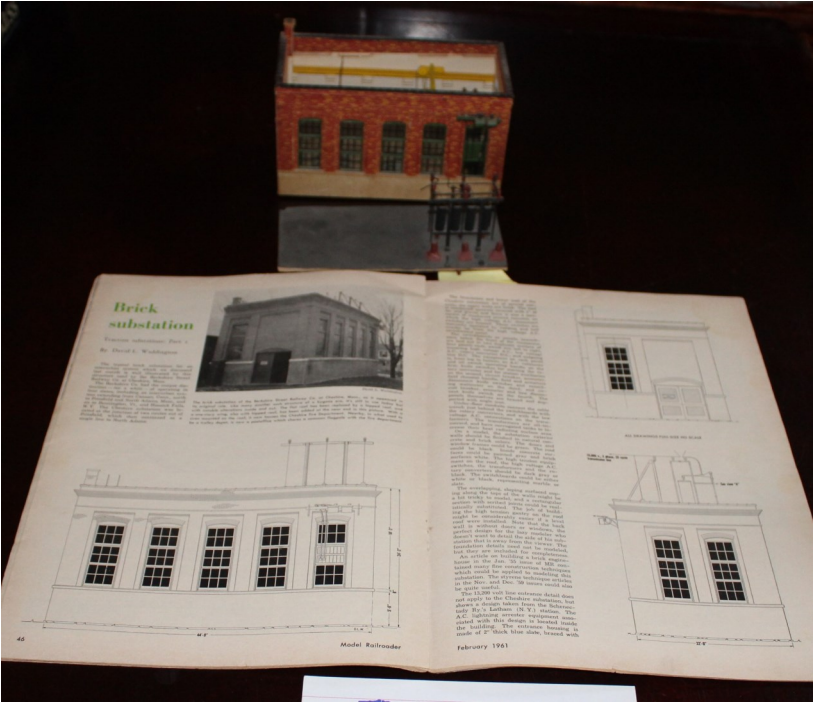
5. Phil Peters brought 3 N scale sheds that he scratch built.



6. Tim Himmelberger brought a train station that he is modifying for his layout.



7. John Wissinger brought a traction Substation that was used by street railways to cut the high voltage AC transmission voltage (usually 12,000 V) to 600 volts DC to power the trolleys. John scratch built the model in 1963.



We had a good turnout and some interesting models. We would like to see more so please bring a model to the next meeting. Please note, it is not necessary for you to get up in front of the group and talk about your model. Let's see if we can get enough models to run out of display table space!

article and photos submitted by John Wissinger

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 October thru April

Sat-Sun 2-4 PM

Extra times at Christmas




FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



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

*Route
of
the
Whitetail*



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

South Penn Division

Pennsylvania Railroad



Serving Eastern & Southern Pennsylvania and Maryland to Pittsburgh and beyond!

Superintendent - *Robert Charles, MMR*

E-Mail: rcharles@aol.com

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

SHORT LINE



ESTD 1989

≡ MODEL RAILROAD CLUB ≡



Mountain Division

Freelance-Cumberland, MD to Elkins, WV

"Mountains, Lumber and Coal"

Jim Long

Chief Engineer

Mechanicsburg, PA

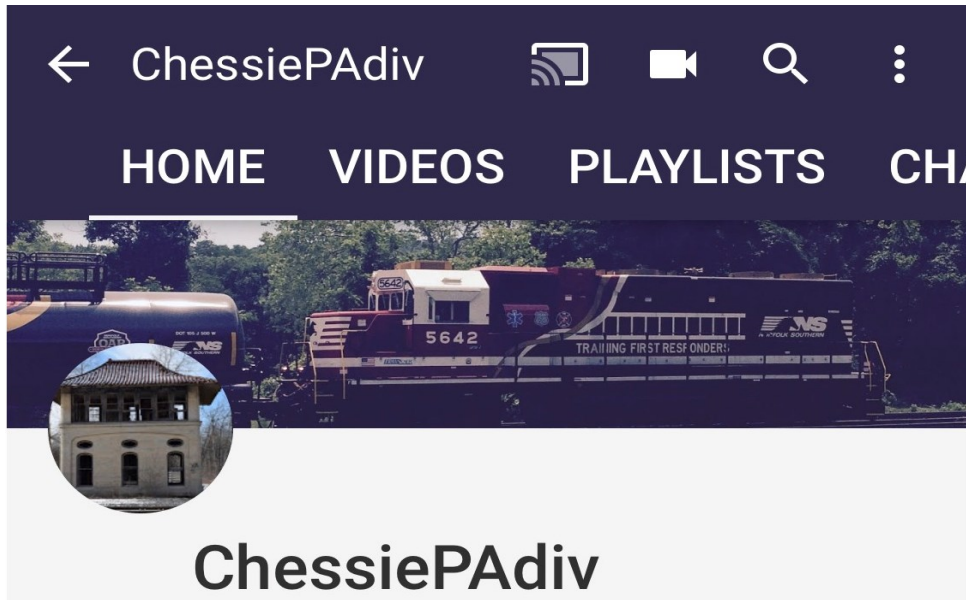
Visitors Welcome - Contact smlgf2000@aol.com

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6- issue year. For information about placing an ad, please contact SIDETRACKS editor,

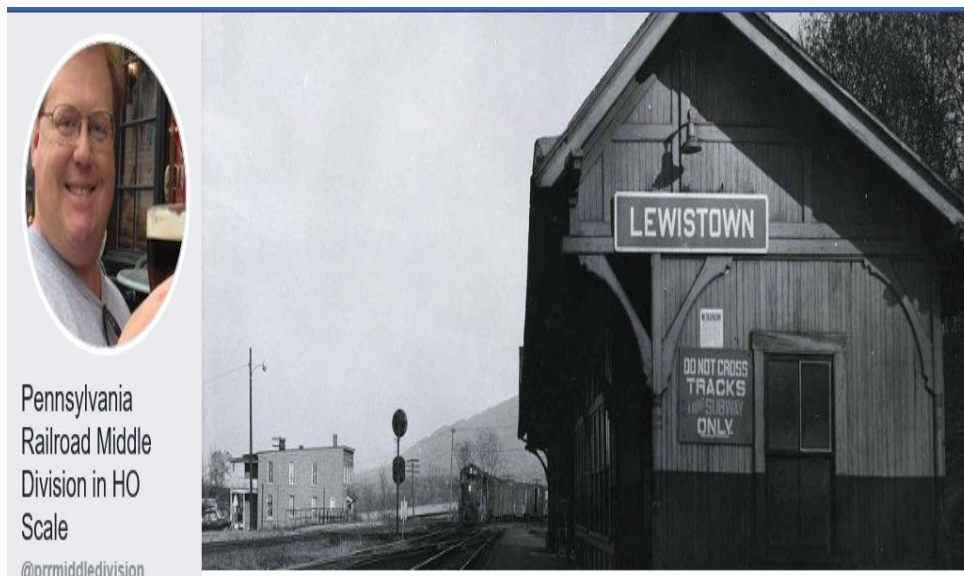
Members' Section

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



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!

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)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!

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

6 Hardy Court, Lancaster, PA 17602



Erie Railroad E8 diesel on display in Port Jervis, NY