



SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



Volume 30

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division II,

Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA

Number 2

Happy *30th Anniversary,* Sidetracks !

If you didn't notice on the mast head of the January/February edition of Sidetracks, year 2022 is the 30th Volume of our Division's newsletter. To commemorate this occasion let's look back over the years.

In its infancy, Alan Frame, Joseph Krepps and Paul Tice composed, signed and delivered the first edition. You can read the initial correspondence, dated November 6, 1992 on page 8.

Our celebration of model railroading rounds out this feature by spotlighting modelers and their railroads featured over the past few years. So, sit back and enjoy a peek into the past few years!



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From the Superintendent's Desk

Time keeps moving very quickly. By the time you read this we will have had our first Division meet in quite some time. It will be very good to finally meet again.

Our next meeting will be in Lancaster on March 12th. Pat Mulrooney and Jeff Thompson have been working hard on this event. Please see their announcement on page 24.

We will be hosting a display table at the National O scale convention in Harrisburg on April 2nd. Alan Mende, Bob Charles and Brian Kampschroer will be doing some clinics at this convention.

On May 7th we will be having our annual Columbia Railroad Day. Bill Lesjak and Barry Schmitt have been working with other organizations to provide a unique event. See page 26 for details.

Also, in this edition, you will find the announcement for nominations to run for three Division officers. The election will take place in the spring. Please note there are no incumbent candidates. The field is wide open. If you have ever considered running for one of the officer positions now is the time to do so. Please get your nomination in as soon as possible. See page 6 for details.

The return to in-person Division meetings is a giant step forward. The calendar is full with great events. I am looking forward to seeing you at some or all of the upcoming events.

It is time to go back to the basement and work on the trains.

Tim Himmelberger



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 April 15, 2022.

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Pennsylvania Railroad GG1 #4800 rests in the outdoor yard of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. It is the first GG1 built and is affectionately known as “Old Rivets”.

Division Calendar of Events

March 12 –	Lancaster – Pat Mulrooney and Jeff Thompson
April 1 & 2 –	Harrisburg – O Scale Narrow Gauge Convention
April 23–	Blue Ridge Summit– Mainline Hobby/South Mountain Division Clinic Day at Blue Ridge Summit Firehouse
May 7 –	Columbia Railroad Day – Bill Lesjak and Barry Schmitt
June 18 –	New Oxford – Phil Peters, Don Stafford and Howard Oakes
September 17 & 18–	Blue Ridge Summit – Mainline Hobby Supply Open House Tour
October –	LSOP – Wayne Betty
October 20 – 23–	Charlotte, NC, MER Convention, Carolina Southern Division
November –	Division-wide Open House Tour

Division Officer Nominations

Division Officer Nominations

It is now 2022. This being an even-numbered year, it's once again time to ask for nominations for our three Division Officer positions. The three officers are: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk (Secretary – Treasurer). Each officer will be elected to a two-year term from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. To be an officer, you must be a member of the NMRA, reside in the Susquehanna Division 11 area, and be at least 21 years of age. You may nominate yourself or another member you feel is qualified; however, in fairness to the individual please verify they would be willing to serve. If we receive more than four nominees, each of you will be asked to provide a short (200 words or less) bio-sketch that will then be provided to all members in the May edition of Sidetracks.

The timeline for the 2022 officer voting is:

- March 30, 2022: Submit nominations to Tim Himmelberger, Superintendent, either by phone at 717-454-8033 or email at timh@susquehannanmra.org. I need to know as soon as possible so that, if need be, I can turn the dogs loose for some serious recruiting.
- April 15, 2022: Candidate bio-sketches due either to Tim by email (see above address) or USPS (19 Penny Lane, Lebanon, PA 17046). Short bio-sketches (200 words or less) are required only if there are more than one candidate for each office. This deadline is necessary for ballot distribution in the May/June **Sidetracks**. Rich Wurst, **Sidetracks** editor, will need your submission/bio-sketch no later than April 15th so publication deadlines can be met.
- May 1, 2022: Ballots and nominee bio-sketches (only if we receive more than one candidate for any position) will be sent to members in the May/June edition of **Sidetracks**.
- May 31, 2022: Ballots must be returned by either email or USPS.
- July 2022: Election results will be published in the July/August **Sidetracks**. The newly elected officers will take office effective July 1st.

Please seriously consider running for a Division Officer position. This year we are in a unique position. We have no incumbents running for any of the three officer positions. Our annual programs are developed under the leadership of your Board of Directors (BOD) and all Division policies are approved by your BOD. Therefore, this is your opportunity to get involved in deciding the future direction of your NMRA Division. I know most members are very busy with job, family, hobby projects, and other community programs and therefore believe serving on our BOD would simply require too much time. On the contrary, our BOD only meets in person once per year – all other matters are handled by either email or phone. So once again, please give this important request your most thoughtful consideration. This is an excellent opportunity for you to have a direct say in how your division is managed, and it does not require a great deal of your valuable free time. Please give me a call or send me an email if you have questions about the elections or our BOD operations at timh@susquehannanmra.org or 717-454-8033.

Happy Anniversary (continued from page 1))

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION II

November 6, 1992

Dear Division Member,

Welcome to the Susquehanna Division. The results of the election held June 13, 1992 are as follows: Superintendent - Alan Frame, Assistant Superintendent - Joseph Krepps, Clerk/Paymaster - Paul Tice. Thank you for your vote.

The first division meet I went to was on April 22, 1989. (The division did not function until you helped us on June 13, 1992.) To keep interest high in the division, we are holding our second meet December 5, 1992 starting at 10 AM. It will be held at the Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society, 833 W. Trindle Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Please join us for a day of railroading fellowship. Bring your favorite train and any models you have built to be judged under the N.M.R.A. achievement program rules. This would be a good opportunity to learn about judging without the crowds of a regional or national contest. If you have any videos or railroad memorabilia that you wish to share with us, bring it along.

The Susquehanna Division covers an area from Chambersburg to Lancaster, north to the Williamsport, Pottsville area. This will be the second meet in the southwestern portion of the division. We need help finding a place in the Lancaster, Manheim or Ephrata area for a spring meet and in the Reading or Pottsville area for a fall meet. If you have any suggestions and can't make the meet, please write to us or phone.

We are holding meets at various locations in our division for a very important purpose. We have received approval to hold a Mid-Eastern Region convention in York, PA on May 18-21, 1995. We will need your help to run this event. We also need a name for the convention! Once we have enough active division members, the convention will not be a difficult task for us to make it a success. Further information will be available at the meet.

Other local events: November 25th 7PM at the New Oxford Fire House for the Conewago Valley Model Railroad Club auction, the Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society show will be November 27, 28 & 29 call 691-8033 for information, the York club will be open November 29, December 6, 13, 20 & 27. Don't forget to register for the August 1-8, 1993 N.M.R.A. convention in Valley Forge.

This letter is also being sent to local model railroaders who have been long time N.M.R.A. members. We hope they will join us for the recognition that is do them.

Nominations for division officers will be open during this meet. If you wish to run for a division office please let us know.

We will see you December 5th in Mechanicsburg.

Sincerely,

Officers of the Division

Alan Frame 717-767-4998 (H)
2430 Opal Rd. 717-848-7287 (W)
York, PA 17404 1-800-632-9067 Ext. 7287 York

Joseph Krepps 717-845-7771
1278 W. Princess St.
York, PA 17404

Paul Tice 717-225-1688
RD #1 Box 104B Rambler Rd.
Thomasville, PA 17364

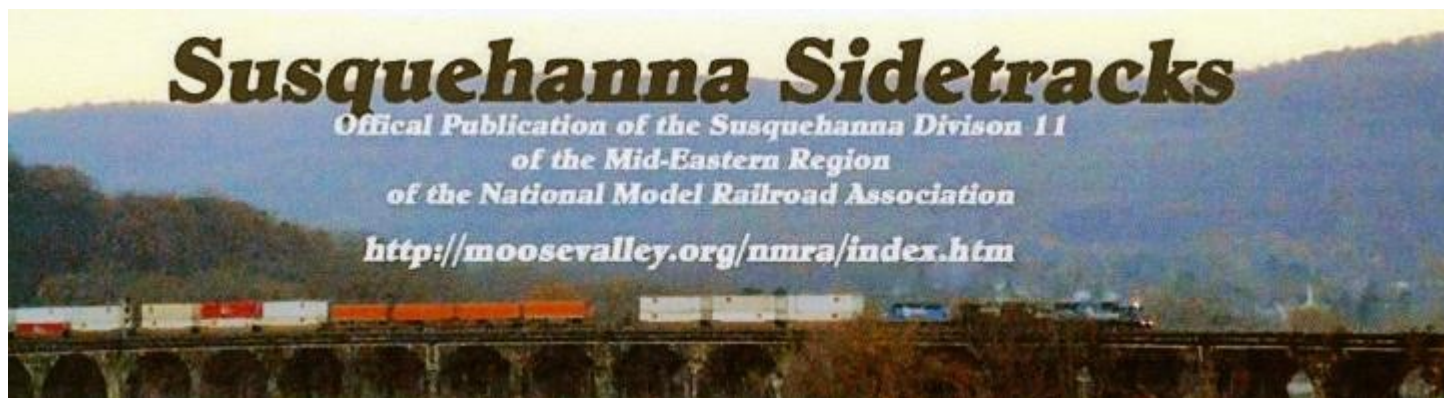
This is the first Sidetracks newsletter found in the Division's Archives.

Happy Anniversary (continued)

Over the years the following members have served as the Sidetracks Editor*. Our thanks for their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Don Yingling	1993-2000
William Turner Nesbit	2001
Scott Turner	2002-2008
Jeff Warner	2009-2011
John Frantz	2012
Ron Smith	2012-2017
Tedd Pounds	2017-2019
Rich Wurst	2019-present

*The position of Editor was created in 1993. The first year's newsletters were penned by the Division officers.



This is the first color photo used in Sidetracks. It was published on March, 2006.

Happy Anniversary (continued)



Appearing in the July/ August 2019 issue, this Erie Railroad 2-8-8-2 triple steam engine #2603 named the "Matt H. Shay" was carved by Ernest Warther from ivory and ebony.

In the September/October 2019 issue, Dan Horting displayed his live steam K4 project. This 1 1/2" scale model was being constructed by following original drawings available through the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum.



Happy Anniversary (continued)

The Willow Valley Retirement Community's HO Model Railroad Club was featured in the January/February 2020 issue. This photo depicts the two track main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad as it winds around a rural farm.



These speeders were part of the first Columbia Railroad Day event. This photo was featured in the March/April 2020 issue.

Happy Anniversary (continued)



This photo is a small vignette of Jerry Lachle's HO Galeton & Chester Lake Railroad. Jerry's layout was featured in the May/June 2020 issue.

Bob Stetser's HO Penn Central Railroad's Wilkes-Barre Branch was a feature of the July/August 2020 issue. Here we see Dickerson Steel Mill which was a highlight of Bob's layout.



Happy Anniversary (continued)



Charlie Smith's HO Lehigh Valley Railroad was depicted in the July/August 2020 issue. The turntable and three-stall engine house was a fine example of craftsmanship.

Bill Lesjaks' HO layout was featured in the September/October 2020 issue. Bill's eclectic collection of numerous railroad rolling stock has led to generic railroad theme.



Happy Anniversary (continued)

Jim Long's HO Western Maryland Railroad is an extensive layout which was featured in the September/October 2020 issue. This photo depicts the logging line on the layout that has finely crafted details.



Dan Horting's O gauge Lionel layout is a joy to behold. Dan's modeling efforts were highlighted in the November/December 2020 issue.

Happy Anniversary (continued)



Pat Mulrooney's HO Bethel, Susquehanna & Northern Railroad was highlighted in the November/December 2020 issue. Pat's expertise in modeling is seen here in this dockside yard scene.

Ken Kime's O scale Western Maryland Railway, Hanover Subdivision (The Dutch Line) was featured in the January/February 2021 issue. Here is a long freight finally emerging from a mountain tun-



Happy Anniversary (continued)



Phil Peters's N scale Hanover Valley Railroad was highlighted in the January/February 2021 issue. This photo depicts a freight crossing over George's Creek on the layout.

Bob Charles's HO South Penn Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad was featured in the March/April 2021 issue. This photo depicts K4s #3808 passing under a flume carrying runoff water into the Susquehanna River.

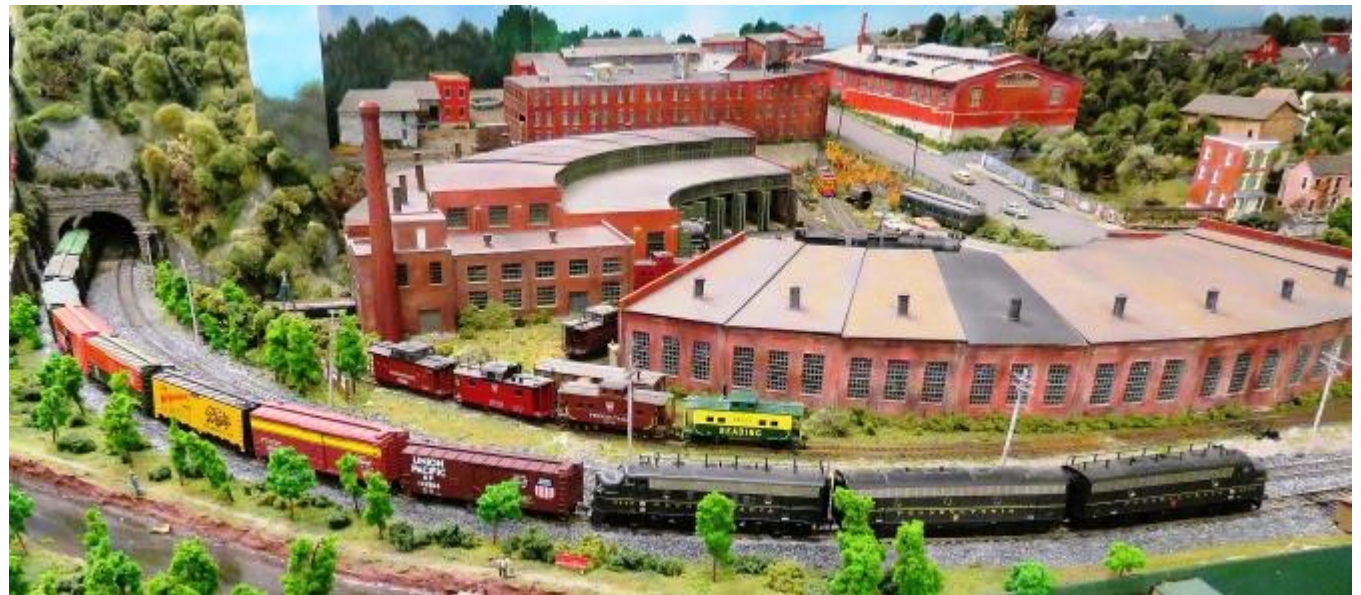


Happy Anniversary (continued)



Frank Grill's On3 Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad was seen in the May/June 2021 issue. This photo of a narrow gauge passenger train crossing a timber trestle is just one of many scenes on Frank's layout.

The Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club (HO) was featured in the July/August 2021 issue. This photo shows a replica of the PRR roundhouse that existed in Columbia, PA.



Happy Anniversary (continued)

Rick Spano's N scale Sceniced & Undecided Railway was highlighted in the September/October 2021 issue. The photo shows an operating rotary coal dumper featured on the layout.



Lee Rainey's Sn2 Maine FreeMo narrow gauge modules were part of the November/December 2021 issue. This photo is the Damariscotta Station with waiting passengers and buck snow plow.

Happy Anniversary (continued)



Lee Rainey's S scale Pennsylvania Railroad and East Broad Top Railroad in Mount Union was depicted in the November/December 2021 issue. This photo shows the timber transfer mock up placed in position on the layout.

In the recent January/February 2022, Alan Mende's upgraded HO scale Central of New Jersey boxcab #1000 was featured. This model represents the first commercially successful diesel/electric locomotive.



What's On Your Workbench?

The model railroad club to which I belong, began building an HO_n3 logging area. This area is an off-shoot of the overall HO layout built in stages over the years.

After much haggling over the track plan, it was decided to incorporate a small engine facility and crude turntable. The turntable selected was an HO_n3 Cliff Line wooden Gallows turntable (Figure 1). This model has a wood superstructure and a cast metal, two-piece rotating base. The kit did not include a turntable pit. After another club member volunteered to build the wooden structure, I volunteered to design and build a pit.

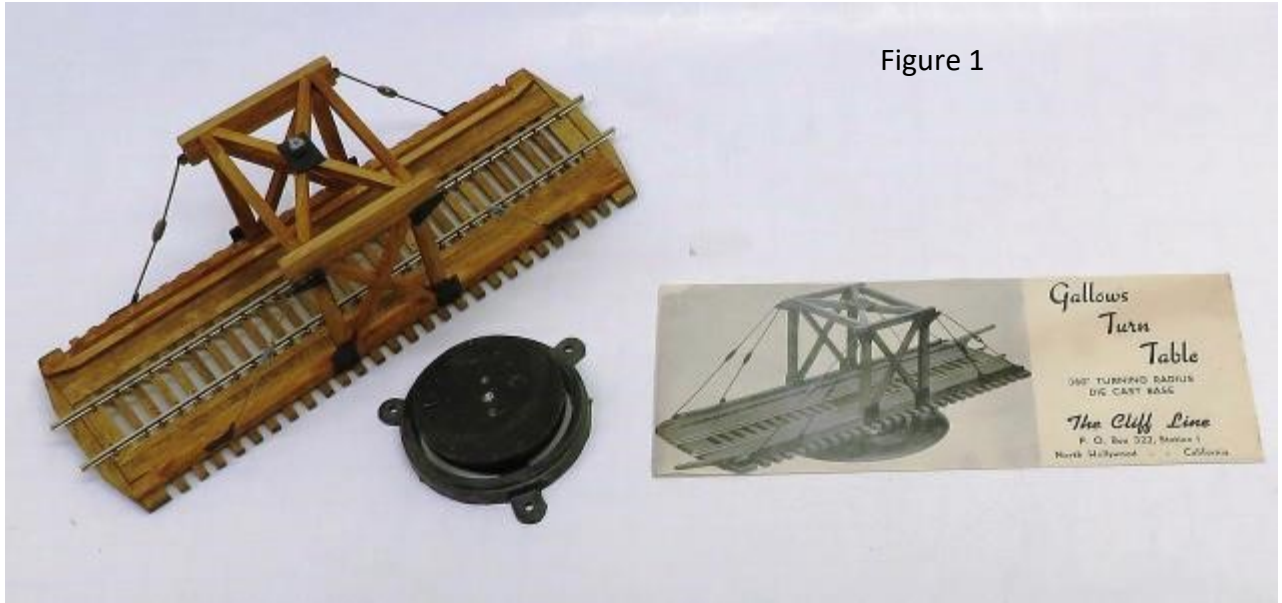


Figure 1

The project started by selecting wood that was close-grained, semi-hard and appropriate for wood lathe turning. I chose Poplar as it fit the requirements closely. The pit began by cutting four pieces of Poplar $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5" x 10". Next, I edge glued each of two $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5" x 10" pieces (Figure 2) so the result would allow me to stack two pieces giving me an overall measurement of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" x 10" (Figure 3).

Using more clamps, the stacked stock was glued together with the grain of each piece turned at a 90-degree angle (Figure 4 and 5) to lessen the chance of warping. The glued stock was then marked with the $9\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter needed for the turntable pit (Figure 6).



Figure 2

What's On Your Workbench?



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

What's On Your Workbench?

The next steps were to prepare the stock for lathe turning. I marked the center of the disc and attached a wood lathe faceplate (Figure 7). A bandsaw was then used to trim the stock from its square shape to the rough round shape of the pit (Figure 8).



Figure7



Figure 8

What's On Your Workbench?

With the stock and faceplate mounted on the lathe, I began to rough cut the outside shape. I also marked the turntable diameter and traversing mechanism location on the stock face (Figure 9). Using round nose and square tip turning chisels, I began forming the pit walls and floor (Figure 10).



Figure 9



Figure 10

What's On Your Workbench?

After much time and flying wood chips, the pit began to take shape. Testing the correct diameter for the turntable trestle (Figure 11) resulted in a passing grade. The next test was the turntable traversing assembly and how well it fit into the pit. Fortunately, this cut proved acceptable (Figure12).

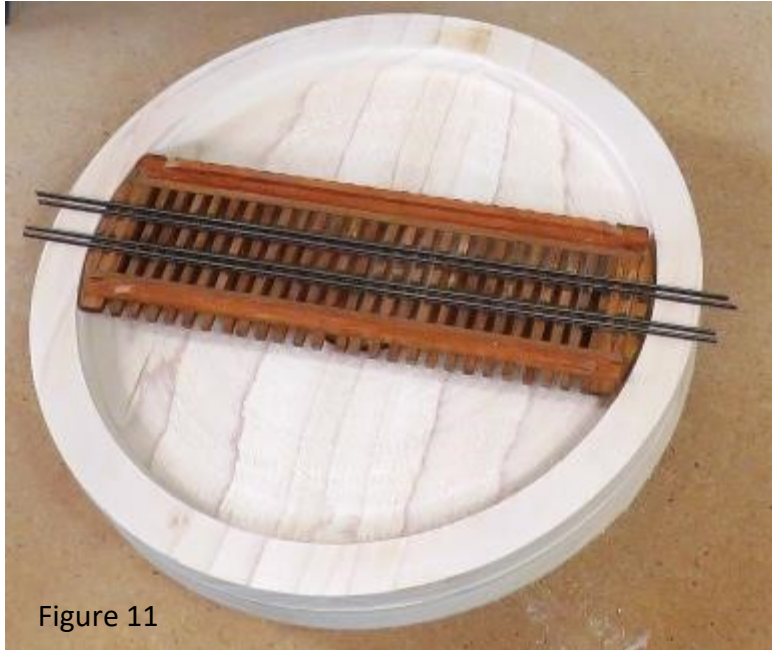


Figure 11

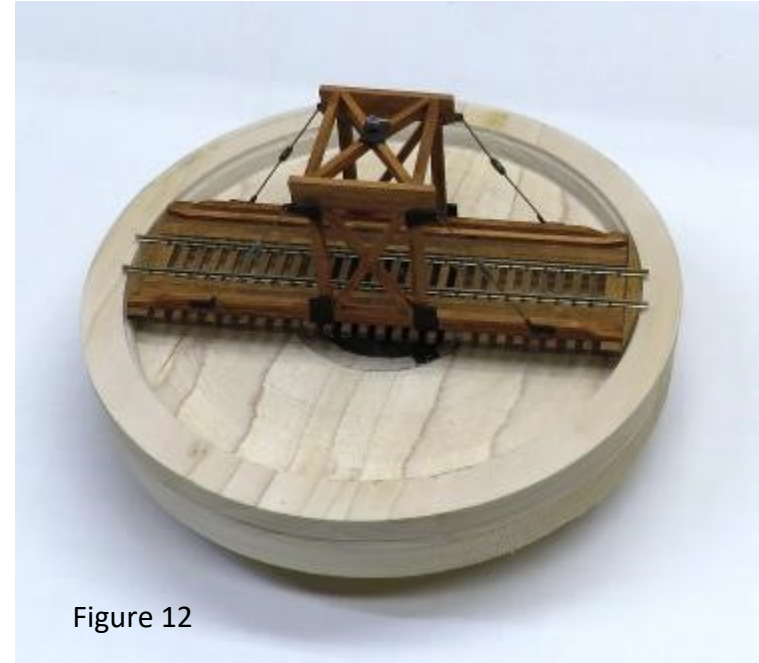


Figure 12

The turntable pit is far from finished. The pit floor and walls need to be sanded smooth and then finished (still contemplating what type of floor material to use). The traversing mechanism will also need some fine tuning so the rotation of the turntable is level and smooth. Eventually we will have to cut an opening in the layout to accept the pit and turntable. I cut a shallow lip on the pit edge to match a mating lip in the layout for mounting purposes. The final part of this project will be to electrify the four rails on the turntable and design a control for selecting correct usage. You may have noticed that the turntable roadbed has four rails. That is due to the fact that areas of the logging line yard will be dual gauge (HO and HO_n3). Hopefully, this project will be successful, not only visually, but functionally.

article and photos by Ben Kubelski

NMRA Event

NMRA Susquehanna Division Meet

March 12, 2022

The NMRA Susquehanna Division will host an event on Saturday, March 12th at the 'Crossings at Rocky Springs' Clubhouse , 54 Duncan Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Meet Schedule:

- 8:30 Meet and Greet – refreshments
- 9:00 Division Business Meeting
- 9:20 Break
- 9:30 Dwarvin Enterprises Presentation with Joel A. Mitchell
- 10:20 Break
- 10:30 Alan Mende presentation of Scratch Building Techniques
- 11:20 Break
- 11:30 Member Model Showcase
- 12:00 Adjourn for lunch on your own followed by Layout tours

You will not want to miss this one-time event where the presenters of the day will bring you innovative solutions to your modeling. First up will be a presentation by Joel A. Mitchell, manager from Dwarvin Enterprises, with a demonstration of layout lighting without wires. He will show us how lighting with fiber optics can effectively create scenes without the need for LEDs, wiring, wire connectors, soldering and all the fussiness that goes with it. With the Dwarvin system you can light a building, a vehicle and/or an entire scene in a lot less time than it would take to light a building with current LED/Incandescent methods. He will have examples on display and will be available to answer questions.



sample of Dwarvin lighting applications

NMRA Event (cont)

Next up will be a presentation by Alan Mende on Scratch Building Techniques. Alan has been featured several times in Railroad Model Craftsman with different articles showing how he applies various techniques in building Locomotives and rolling stock from scratch. He was recently featured in Susquehanna Sidetracks with his article on making upgrades to his Jersey Central boxcab. Alan is a Susquehanna Division member and has extensive background with the NMRA and this division. He is sure to please with his presentation and offer tips for those of us who wish to take on a scratch build project. He is sure to be informative and entertaining.

We hope to see you there on March 12th at “the Crossings at Rocky Springs” Clubhouse at 54 Duncan Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. When entering the community please be aware of the “nasty” speed bumps in the roadway. Parking is limited in the Clubhouse lot so car-pooling is recommended. Be sure to come for coffee and donuts at 8:30 AM. The program will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.



Central of New Jersey Railroad class C-39 camelback 2-8-0 #683

Alan Mende's kitbashed and scratchbuilt replica of the CNJ C-39 2-8-0 #683 still under construction.

Mark your calendar!
Clinics Day, April 23, 2022

Doors open 9:00 AM

How to Clinics all morning, guest speakers in the afternoon.

Admission is **FREE!**

Come out and see how other modelers do their projects.

There will be a Make & Take Structure Clinic,
(Build a free kit and take it home with you, and it's FREE)

**Location is at the Blue Ridge Summit Fire Hall,
directly across the street from the store (1506 Buchanan Trail East, Blue
Ridge Summit, PA 17214.**

It's always a good time for everyone, and it FREE!

**This event is sponsored by Mainline Hobby Supply,
but presented by the NMRA South Mountain Division.**

NMRA Event

COLUMBIA RAILROAD DAY

Saturday, May 7, 2022

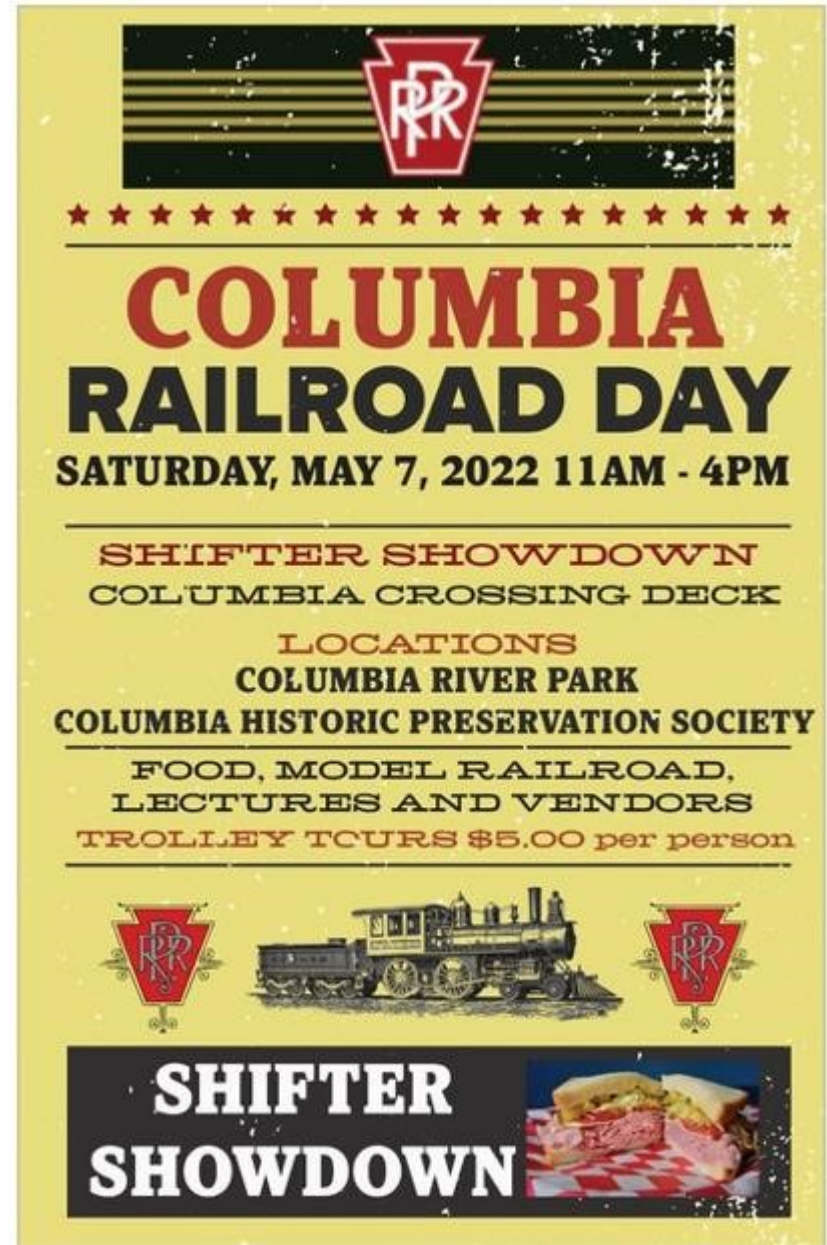
The Columbia Historic Preservation Society and the Susquehanna Division of the NMRA will host a special event in Columbia, PA. This year's program will feature lectures about the Pennsylvania Railroad, trolley tours of historic Columbia, PA, HO and O scale model railroad layouts, memorabilia and model railroad vendors, and a unique "Shifter Sandwich" tasting contest!

The event will begin at 11AM at the Columbia Crossings Trail Center on the banks of the Susquehanna River in Columbia, PA. Lectures will commence at 11:00 AM and continue until 4 PM. Trolley tours will be continuous throughout the day with step on/step off opportunities.

The Columbia & Susquehanna Model Railroad (HO scale) and the Lower Susquehanna Model Railroad (O scale) will be open for visitors during the day. Both model railroads are located several blocks (walking distance from the Trail Center) at 21 North 2nd. Street in Columbia.

Still in the planning phase is the possibility of 'speeder rides'. Speeders are small, gas powered inspection cars that usually held two track maintenance workers. Once track permissions are granted, visitors can experience riding the 'rails' for a short jaunt in Columbia. A nominal fee for this event is projected.

Since all other Columbia Railroad Days events are free, plan a visit to this annual historic and educational day! If you have any questions concerning the event please contact Bill Lesjak (717-751-2391)/



The poster for Columbia Railroad Day features a yellow background with a black and red logo at the top. The logo consists of a red shield with a white 'RR' inside, set against a black background with white horizontal stripes. Below the logo is a row of red stars. The main title 'COLUMBIA RAILROAD DAY' is written in large, bold, red and black letters. Below the title, the date and time 'SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 11AM - 4PM' are listed in black. The event activities are listed in red and black text: 'SHIFTER SHOWDOWN', 'COLUMBIA CROSSING DECK', 'LOCATIONS', 'COLUMBIA RIVER PARK', 'COLUMBIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY', 'FOOD, MODEL RAILROAD, LECTURES AND VENDORS', and 'TROLLEY TOURS \$5.00 per person'. At the bottom, there is a black banner with the text 'SHIFTER SHOWDOWN' in white, and a photograph of a sandwich on a red and white checkered tablecloth.

NMRA Event

Mark Your Calendars for this upcoming Division 11 Event

Saturday, June 18, 2022, 9 AM New Oxford PA

Guest speaker Lisa Matsinger of the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation will discuss railroad safety, trends in the railroad industry and misrepresentation of trains in Hollywood movies. She will also give insights to safety details that should be present on our prototype models and layouts.

Since we are close to the former Western Maryland Dutch Line, a short history will be presented on this topic. We are coordinating with the Western Maryland New Oxford Train Station Museum and the next-door model railroad club layout to be open on that Saturday as well. An existing telltale is nearby the station and is a cool sight to see. A few other local layouts will be open for your viewing and enjoyment.

More information will follow in the next [Sidetracks](#).

Existing 'telltale' stands adjacent to the restored New Oxford Station in New Oxford, PA. Photo courtesy of Howard Oakes.



Non-NMRA Event

2022 HARRISBURG All O Scale Meet

O Scale 2 Rail – O Scale
Traction - Proto 48 - On3
On30 - On2 - On18

Saturday April 2 - 9:00 to 4:00

LOCATION: New Hope Church
584 Colonial Club Drive
Harrisburg, Pa. 17112

Guest admission: \$10 – *Spouses and children under 12 free.*

Clinics and instructional displays: On going throughout the Event. **Food and drinks:** Available throughout the event.

Vendors: For table information, availability, admission and fees please email us at millcreekrr@yahoo.com for detailed information.

A vendor list, Clinic topics and presenters, a list of displays along with any additional information or updates can be found on the Meet's Facebook page under the title "Harrisburg All O Scale Meet".

Near by hotels for any one staying over. **Quality Inn Harrisburg-Hershey Area**, 200 N Mountain Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (717) 540-9339 or **The Ramada Inn**, 300 N. Mountain Road, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112 (717)-461-9602 Both are only about 3 minutes from the New Hope Church venue.

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