



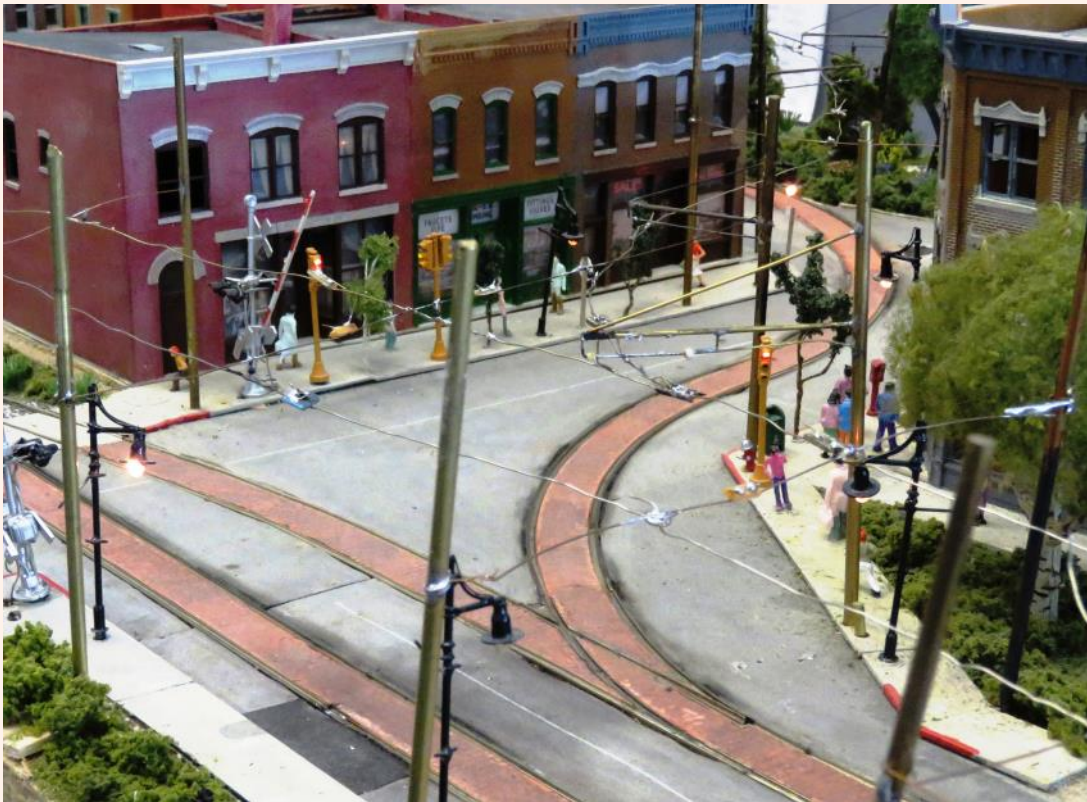
Volume 31

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA

Number 4



The Codorus Valley Traction Company is a compact modular layout designed and built by Don Yingling. Don has been an avid modeler and NMRA member for several decades. He was the editor for Sidetracks in the early 90's.

Don and his wife Evelyn have displayed the layout at numerous NMRA events. Recently, the layout was a featured attraction at Columbia Railroad Day which highlighted trolleys and streetcars.

Using overhead wire and one rail of the track, the Codorus Valley Traction Company is a small gem to behold. The feature continues on page 9.



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A Tribute to Paul Tice

Last May, Alan Mende and several other Division members gathered for a luncheon in honor of Paul Tice. Paul recently retired as the one and only Division Chief Clerk. He served for over thirty years from the formative years to present providing accounting and business services gleaned from his experience as a CPA.

A hearty well done is extended to Paul as he negotiates the road of retirement in his professional career and model railroading hobby. We hope to see him at future Division events!



Alan Mende (right) presents Paul (left) with his recognition plaque.



close-up view of Paul's plaque

From the Superintendent's Desk

Each month I get a roster of division members. As you may know the Susquehanna Division is made up of NMRA members from 31 Pennsylvania counties. As of April 2023, the number of members in each county was:

County	Division Region	Number of Members	County	Division Region	Number of Members
Adams	South Central	8	Lycoming	North Central	7
Berks	Southeast	13	Mifflin	North Central	3
Blair	North Central	2	Monroe	Northeast	2
Cambria	North Central	3	Montour	North Central	0
Carbon	Northeast	2	Northampton	Southeast	10
Centre	North Central	12	Northumberland	North Central	1
Columbia	Northeast	1	Perry	North Central	1
Cumberland	South Central	14	Pike	North East	3
Dauphin	South Central	8	Schuylkill	Southeast	5
Huntingdon	North Central	6	Susquehanna	Southeast	2
Juniata	North Central	0	Snyder	North Central	0
Lackawanna	Northeast	0	Sullivan	Northeast	0
Lancaster	South Central	37	Union	North Central	2
Lebanon	South Central	26	Wayne	Northeast	1
Lehigh	Southeast	11	Wyoming	Northeast	0
Luzerne	Northeast	4	York	South Central	17

Breaking this down we have:

1. South Central **centered on Harrisburg/Lancaster** with Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York (110 members)

From the Superintendent's Desk (continued)

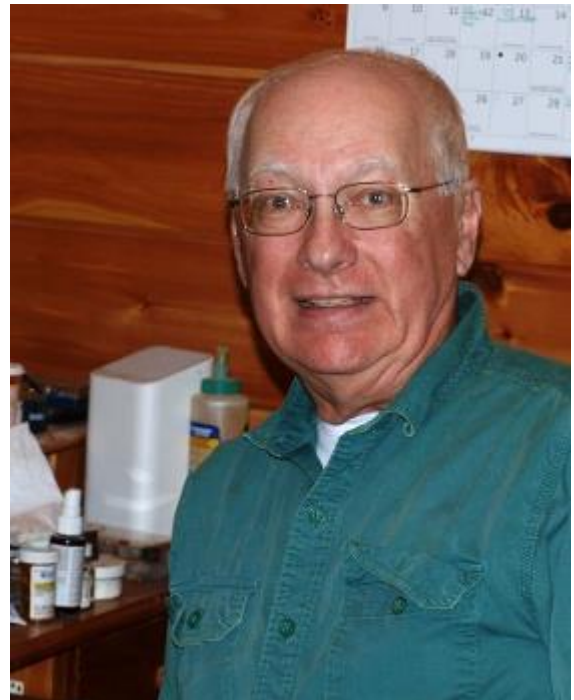
2. North Central **centered on State College/Williamsport** with Blair, Cambria, Centre, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry Snyder and Union with (37 members)
3. Southeast **centered on Allentown** with Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill with (41 members)
4. Northeast **centered on Wilkes-Barre/Scranton** with Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Sullivan, Wayne and Wyoming with (13 Members)

With the breadth of the division being so wide, my question is how do we reach everyone to get them involved? First and foremost, we need to plan meetings (gatherings or whatever you want to call them) in each of the four areas. A get together should have a short business meeting so you know where the division stands. Everybody likes the Modeler's Showcase so that's the second part. There should be at least one clinic. It doesn't necessarily have to be a "How I did this" type; it can be something to do with a railroad's history. Lastly, it's always nice to have layout tours. But it can also be an event like the ever popular Columbia Railroad Day.

Most of our meetings and events have been centered in the South Central and Southeast parts of the state because that is where the majority of our members reside. But for those of you in outlying counties, we need to bring the division activities to **YOU**. That means you have to take part in the planning. Present your ideas to your superintendent (super@susquehannanmra.org).

I would also like to propose something new: let's get members who attend our meetings to bring something they no longer need or want – as long as it's related to our hobby. It could be a kit, a tool, a video; just about anything. Then attendees each get a raffle ticket, and whoever has their ticket drawn gets to choose from the pile of donated items. File this under, "Who doesn't like to get stuff free?".

Alan



Second Section

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division 11
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
655 Willow Valley Square, L-308
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 August 15, 2023.

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www.mer-nmra.com

National Model Railroad Association

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Editor's Message

Greetings to All Members,
Congratulations to each of our new and returning Directors. We extend a special thank you for their volunteering!
The 'Round the Curve' to Altoona Convention is fast approaching. The Local Convention Committee members have been diligently working on events, clinics and activities that will be educational and enjoyable. Up and running is the convention website <https://mer2023.org/>. Check out all the opportunities that have already been organized. Especially noteworthy are the three outside activities to the Western Maryland Scenic Railway, the East Broad Top Railroad and the Railroaders Museum. Each of these events require pre-registration. If you are interested the available seats are going fast! Be sure to get registered as soon as possible!

The Division is still in need of various volunteers in Altoona. Opportunities to serve are varied with some requiring very little time and effort. We also have need for computer skilled members who can assist clinicians as they prepare their presentations. Please consider assisting the Division, whether it be at the Altoona Convention (October 19-22) or at local events. Your suggestions and ideas are always welcome. You can email any of the officers at the email listings seen on this page!

Happy Modeling!
Rich

Division Board of Directors' Election

In the last issue of Sidetracks the election process was outlined for filling the four open Director's positions. The procedure called for the announcement of candidates and their bios by mid-May with balloting taking place no later than June 30th. Unfortunately, only four candidates announced their intention to run for office. Therefore, having each position unopposed, Chief Clerk Dean Johnson certified the election of candidates.

Our new Directors are **David Ellis**, **Bill Lesjak**, and **Jim Mattern**. Returning for a second term is **Ken Roth**. We wish each gentleman success in their new positions!

We would also wish to extend a special thank you to our retiring Directors. **Pat Mulrooney**, **Lee Rainey** and **Jeff Thompson**. These gentlemen have served multiple terms as Division officers. They have contributed much to the events offered in past years. We look forward to seeing them at future events!

Ira Silverman Collection, Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

Volunteer Opportunities

The Susquehanna Division is looking for a few good people willing to support their model railroading organization. With membership covering the numerous counties (as mentioned by Alan in his Superintendent's Message) we are spread out over a vast area. We need some members to step forward and help organize and manage the Division. Please consider offering your services in any of the following areas:

Model Showcase Chair- This position is mostly that of an MC. At events having clinics, members are encouraged to bring a project they completed or in the stages of completion. The project could be a building, bridge, locomotive, rolling stock or any other layout feature. The Model Showcase Chair would allot five minutes for each modeler to explain their project and take questions from the audience. Photos would be taken of each modeler and their handiwork which subsequently would be published in **Sidetracks**.

Assistant Editor- This position would be assisting the **Sidetracks** Editor as the newsletter is published six times a year. Basic computer literacy is necessary as a foundation for this position. If one is reasonably proficient using WORD and PowerPoint then it would be a very easy transition to Publisher. Gathering photos, finding interesting modeling topics and discovering model railroad layouts are just a few of the very interesting tasks for this position.

Altoona Convention Assistants- With the upcoming MER Convention this October in Altoona, there is a great need for volunteers that can assist in various phases of the event. Clinic announcers/greeters, AV technicians, registration desk helpers, contest room security, Company Store helpers, etc. are just a few of the positions needing volunteers. Please contact any of the Division Officers noted on page 5 to throw 'your hat in the ring'!

NMRA Event Recap

May 20th Walkersville Southern Railroad Event Recap



Our Division's May 20th train ride event at the Walkersville Southern Railroad was pulled by the 0-4-0T Jeddo Coal Company #85 locomotive. This locomotive made a limited time appearance at the railroad and we were fortunate to ride behind it.

The brick building that houses the museum was originally the Walkersville Ice and Power Company which served the railroad and the community. The museum has several artifacts, displays of local railroad history and a small gift area. Special emphasis is given to the Walkersville Southern Railroad and its predecessors, including the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Before departure we had an opportunity to view several locomotives stored onsite. Outside the museum is the Maintenance Shop where the WSRR mechanics base their repair work and the Engine Shed which houses the WSRR engines. Rolling stock in the process of being restored is located on nearby tracks.

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Next to the museum is the **Catoctin Central Model Railroad** built and operated by the Frederick County Society of Model Engineers. Founded in 1966, the Club's unusual 70-foot, six-door Chesapeake and Ohio horse car houses a 56-foot HO scale layout. After 50 years in Frederick, the club car moved to its new location at the Walkersville Southern Railroad in 2022.

The historic railroad station across the street was constructed in about 1880 by the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) and originally served as a ticket office that offered Adams Express mail service and provided telegraph service to the community.

A gracious thank you to the Walkersville Southern Railroad for their hospitality.



article by Howard Oakes, photos by Alan Mende



Reading Railroad Days at the Railroad Museum of PA

<http://rrmuseumpa.org/events/>

Wednesday, June 28 through Saturday, July 8, 2023

Enjoy the remarkable Reading Railroad trains of eastern Pennsylvania history through tours of Reading Company equipment, a huge operating model railroad and special presentations.

[Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#)

300 Gap Road
Strasburg, PA 17579

Hours: Thurs-Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 12pm-5pm



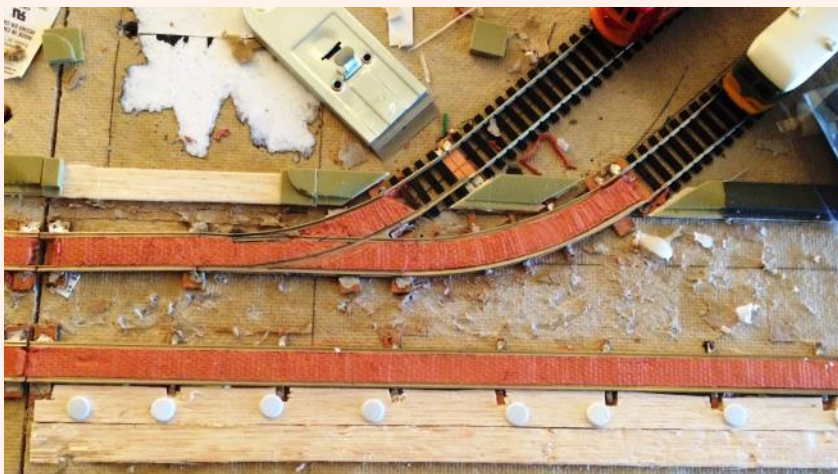
Codorus Valley Traction Company

- 1. What is the name of your layout?** The layout is the Codorus Valley Traction Company. The city section is East Codorus City. There will be more modules built to complete the city section. The park is Codorus Memorial Park.
- 2. What scale is your layout?** It is HO scale.
- 3. Does your layout have a specific era and/or location?** Since I live in the vicinity of the Codorus Valley (York County), I thought the name would be appropriate. The Codorus Creek runs through the valleys around here. It flows through the city of York. So this will be modeled on one of the next modules. That one will be Codorus City. The era is the late 50's. Many of the vehicles I have for the modules fit that era. That really sets the time when I have them on the streets.
- 4. What is the overall dimensions of your layout?** The city module is 24" wide by 48" long. The park module is 20" wide by 48" long. Overall, the combined modules are 2' by 8'. The planned additions will make it an "L" shape of 9' by 8'.



Codorus Valley Traction Company (continued)

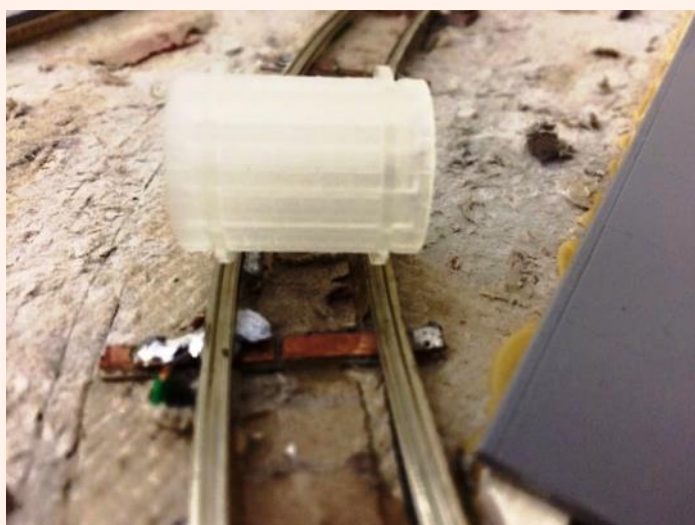
5. **By what means and brand of equipment do you control your layout?** The trolleys are run on DC. About 8 volts are applied through one track rail and the overhead wire. I just use a simple MRC power pack. Plus voltage is applied to the overhead wire and the left rail is common. For “automatic” control, I use a system of relays that are powered from a separate 12VDC power supply. I apply the +12 vdc to one side of the relay coil. The -12 vdc is hooked to the common rail. The other side of the relay coil is attached to the right rail of each blocked section of track. The trolleys are modified so that all the wheels are tied together electrically (shorted together). When a trolley runs over a blocked section, it completes the circuit with the -12 volts on the common to the other side of the relay coil. This energizes the relay and allows its contacts to operate signals and/or shut down the overhead in the previous block so any following trolleys will stop until the block is cleared. I did my own simple design using perf board.
6. **When did you first begin construction of your layout?** Construction on the modules started in 2016. Wow, I can't believe it was that long ago! It didn't take long to get the track laid and get something running. I worked on it a few evenings each week.



pavement and tie track bed under construction



road bed cross section



brick embossing roller used to put the brick impressions in the DAS clay between the rails



relays

Codorus Valley Traction Company (continued)

7. **Do you sponsor Operating Sessions on your layout?** No, I don't have operating sessions but since it is portable, I like displaying it. Then I hope everything works the way it's supposed to. When the next two modules are built, the city will have freight traffic so some kind of operation will commence at that time. That will be using steeple cabs and no freight equipment over 40'. A length of 34' will be the norm.



Codorus Valley Traction Company (continued)

8. **Do you have a track plan diagram for your layout (i.e. JPEG or PDF format)?** No, I don't have a track plan on paper, or at least I can't find it. It is basically a dog bone design. The majority trolley systems that use single ended cars have loops at each end for the trolleys to make a return trip in the opposite direction and just keep running that way.
9. **What type of track (sectional, flex track or hand laid) and switches are on your layout and what is its code?** Type of track. Here's where the learning curve really begins. It is all code 100. There is some Atlas flex track used but the majority is handlaid Richard Orr girder rail and switches. The profile of the girder rail is a code 100 with code 70 rail laid on its side with the head of the rail in the web of the code 100. This rail and switches are only available through customtraxx.com. A company owned by George Huckaby in California. The rail is produced in Sweden but George pours the castings for the nickle silver switches. All these are nickel/silver. The girder rail needs a special bender designed for this rail. It is also available from Customtraxx. The rail is soldered to PC ties that are available from Clover House. These ties are glued down to the sub roadbed. In my case, this is Homasote. It's also referred to as "Sound Barrier" at the Home Depot. The girder rail is well suited to NMRA RP-35 standards. Deep flange equipment will not run on it.



Codorus Valley Traction Company (continued)

10. If you were to brag about your layout, what would you describe as its outstanding feature(s)? Bragging rights. First of all, it was all done by me —not this person doing this and another doing that. It has scratchbuilt overhead. A few of the support poles that have arms on them are commercial but the rest are scratchbuilt, including the wire hangers. The overhead wire is .016" nickel/silver and the span wires are .016" phosphor/bronze. That was a big learning curve but the more you hang, the easier it gets. Don't be afraid of it. And yes, the trolleys get their power from the overhead wire. A couple of unique things I did was the way the streets are laid and the lighting. The rail and ties come to a height of .162". I didn't want to have a mess with sanding spackle or plaster, so I used 3/32" balsa wood planks with 2 mm grey foam sheets glued to that. That takes the height to .010" too high but rolling the balsa down (crushing it a bit) takes care of bringing the street level to the rail height. The brickwork between the rails is DAS clay with an embossing roller used to make the impressions. The lighting is all grain of wheat bulbs. The bulbs are 12 volts, but I run them on 5 vdc to get the glow that was so typical of the 50's.

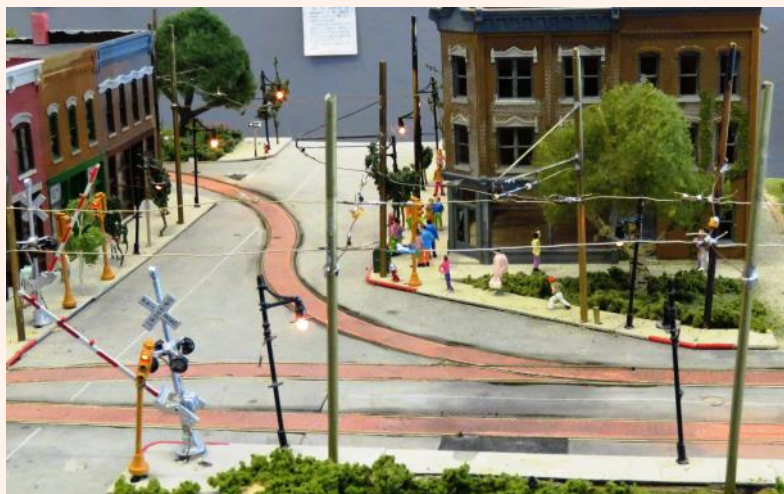


Codorus Valley Traction Company (continued)

11. **Approximately, how many engines and rolling stock is in your collection? Also, what brand of engines do you run on your layout?** Equipment: I like RTR equipment. What I have found the Boswer PCCs and the Bachmann Spectrum Peter Witt are good runners. I stick with them for the most part. The park module has 7" radius curves and these two brands will negotiate this curve with no problem. Everything else has to be modified to work. I have about 4 Peter Witt and 6 PCCs to run. Additionally, I have numerous Bachmann Brill cars. They need some modifications.



Codorus Valley Traction Company (continued)



The Company Store at the Altoona Convention

At the 2023 Round the Curve to Altoona MER Convention the Company Store will be in full swing. The Company Store will feature 'white elephant' items for sale by convention members. Saturday afternoon a raffle will be conducted for items donated by the hobby industry and division members. Hours of operation will be listed as the convention draws closer. Be assured there will be plenty of time for sellers to drop off items, and browsing time to purchase those articles you just can't resist. Transactions will be cash or check only.

Information and instructions on the 'white elephant' sales are posted on the convention website. Basically, you will download a spreadsheet from the website to list the items you want to sell. Then attach the spreadsheet to the email address provided.

We are asking for raffle donations from any member who would like to find a good home for any new or nearly new railroad related item. The items can be kit or built-up structures, engines, rolling stock, books, DVDs, paintings, photographs, railroadiana or anything else railroad related. Since this convention is in Altoona something with Pennsylvania Railroad on it would be a bonus. You can send your items to:

Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
c/o Howard Oakes
301 Moulstown Rd
Abbottstown PA 17301-8912

If you prefer to bring your items to the convention, you must contact me ahead of the convention so that I can print up description labels and have a box for the tickets. For any questions you can contact me at: business@mer-nmra.com. Thanks for any donations.

Layout Tours During the Altoona Convention

One of the many aspects of the Mid-Eastern Region's 'Round the Curve' to Altoona are model railroad layouts that include both private and public locations. Local Altoona members have agreed to open their layouts to convention visits. Each of the participating model railroads are conveniently sited around Altoona and can be accessed by private transportation. There will be no need to register for a venue. Interested conventioners will simply determine who, what and when to arrange their personal visit.

On the following pages you will find each layout that has agreed to be open during the convention. Times and dates may be adjusted if necessary. Be sure to consult the convention website for up to date information before proceeding to any site. The website is : <https://mer2023.org/layouts.html>

As always we ask that you demonstrate positive model railroad protocols and respectful behavior during your visit. We appreciate our volunteers who will be opening their private homes and clubs to conventioners!

Please take advantage of this special opportunity offered by the 'Round the Curve' to Altoona MER Convention!

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)

Alto Model Train Museum Association



9th Ave., Altoona
Behind the Railroaders
Memorial Museum
October 21, 2023 10 am-2 pm



- Style: Freelance Museum Layouts
- Era: Varies
- Scales: N, HO, S, and O
- Access: One step up at entrance
- Four operating layouts and displays of vintage model railroad equipment



MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)



Clinton Central Model Railroad Club

www.CCMRR.org

October 21, 2023 – 10 am to 4 pm

- Style: Freelance/Prototype
- Era: 1940's & 50's
- Scale: HO
- Size: 28' X 40'
- % Trackage and Wiring Completed: 100%
- % Scenery Completed: 90%
- Control: NCE DCC



The layout is located in the Castanea Station, just across the Susquehanna River from Lock Haven, PA, some 1.25 hour drive from Altoona. Railroads that have existed or exist in Clinton County from the earliest railroading days include the Pennsylvania, New York Central, Penn Central, Conrail, Norfolk Southern, Beech Creek, Clearfield & Western, and R. J. Corman. What has been built into the layout is a generic vision of Clinton County, Pennsylvania. Naturally, coal is a large component of the layout. Lumber and manufacturing also play a significant part. Mines, tipples, coal load-out facilities, yards, sawmills, brick factories, rock quarry and local small manufacturing plants all portray the historical vision an observer may have witnessed someplace in Clinton County during the mid-20th

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)

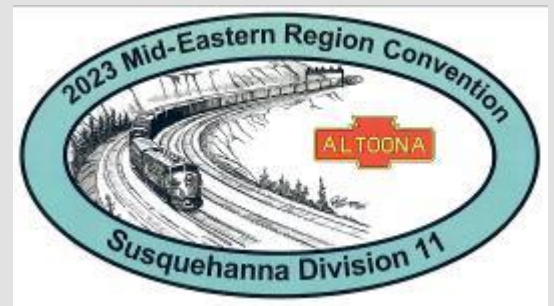


Foxdale Model Railroad Resident Model Railroaders

October 22, 2023

11 am to 2 pm

- Style: Proto Freelance
- Era: 1950's to early 2000
- Scale: HO
- Size: 16' X 24' with 2'X 5'extention near door
- % Completed: 100%
- % Scenery: 95%
- Control: NCE DCC Sound, wireless throttles
- Access: Elevator to 2nd floor



Model railroaders who are residents at Foxdale Village, State College, Pennsylvania formed a model railroading group in late 2014. After securing a space in 2015, they began construction of the Foxdale Model Railroad in 2016. There is 680' of track on the layout, with 82 turnouts, all controlled by Tortoise machines with frog power routing. The layout was designed to fit in the room for show. It is a double track mainline, each 106' long with 36" minimum radius curves. Areas on the layout are named after founding members and helpful staff that made the room possible for this use. Most of the equipment that is on the layout is from members' former home layouts.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)



Forks Ridge Railway

Gary Nastase

Open House Time and Date to be Determined

- Style: Proto Freelance
- Era: 1966
- Scale: HO
- Size: 24' X 30'
- % Completed: 100%
- % Scenery: 50%
- Control: NCE DCC Sound
- Access: Stairs to Basement



The HO scale Forks Ridge Railway (FRRY) is a proto-freelanced design based heavily on PRR practices set in 1966. It features a double track mainline approximately 150' each. At its highest point, it has a junction where the FRRY ties into the PRR. The FRRY circumnavigates the basement back to the junction. It has 2 coal mines, a quarry and petroleum depot. There is also a small engine facility and yard for the FRRY. The lower portion features an agricultural area, farm and small village with two industries. It also has an extensive yard and engine facility for the PRR, which will include several industries. It is wired for DCC using NCE products. All turnouts are controlled by toggle switches.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)



Galeton & Chestnut Lake

Jerry Lauchle, MMR

October 22, 2023 – 11 am to 2 pm


- Style: Freelance
- Era: Transition
- Scale: HO
- Size: 15' X 19'
- % Trackage and Wiring Completed: 100%
- % Scenery Completed: 100%
- Control: NCE DCC



The railroad is around four walls with a liftout for entrance. Within this area is the fictitious G&CL shortline that connects Galeton and Chestnut Lake in north-central Pennsylvania. The mainline is a two-lap arrangement with two interchanges with the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR); one at Williamsport and the other at Renovo. There are staging yards at those two locations and both have scratchbuilt turntables. There is a branch out of Chestnut Lake to a coal transfer station where coal carried on the G&CL standard gauge railroad transfers to narrow-gauge gondolas of an un-named railroad that disappears into a tunnel. Bituminous coal is mined near Chestnut Lake and a tipple there permits loading it into hoppers and gondolas. The Chestnut Lake Lumber Company, including a saw mill, is located midway between Chestnut Lake and Galeton. The yard and locomotive service area are located in Galeton. There are several spurs and sidings off the main that serve various customers including a brewery, a REA depot, a milk station, a crude oil loading station, and several freight stations. Operations use the car order system described in the March 2012 *NMRA Magazine*.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)

AAMR
THE ALTOONA ASSOCIATION
OF MODEL RAILROADERS
EST. 1949



Open Fridays
7:30pm - 10:30pm

2930 S 10th Ave
Altoona, PA 16601
(Corner of 30th St & 10th Ave)

www.theaamr.org | [@theaamr](https://www.facebook.com/theaamr) | president@theaamr.org

- Style: Freelance Club Layout
 - Era: Varies
 - Scales: N, HO, and O
 - Access: Steps to 1st and 2nd floors
- This club has three layouts situated on two floors of a dedicated building.



MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)

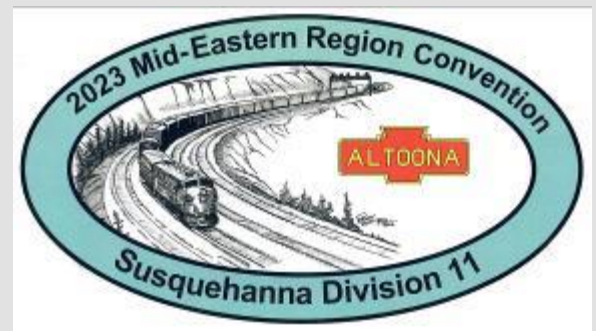


Norton Division

John Kocet

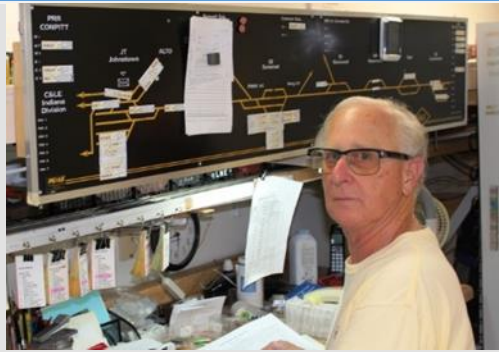
October 22, 2023 – 11 am to 3 pm

- Style: Prototype/Freelance
- Era: 40's, 50's, & 60's
- Scale: HO
- Size: 23' X 40'
- % Trackage and Wiring Completed: 96%
- % Scenery Completed: 80%
- Control: NCE DCC
- Access: Steps down to basement



The Norton Division is a double deck layout featuring a double-track mainline which is approximately 320 feet from point A and back to point A. It is a continuous run railroad but the design also permits point to point operation. There is a complete operating signal system that works almost perfectly. Turnouts are mostly Walters and Shinohara; mainline turnouts are all powered by Tortoise switch machines. The control system is DCC sound with NCE power cabs, three boosters, and several radio wireless throttles along with a few plug-ins. Railroad equipment features several railroads that worked the Appalachian coal fields such as the Baltimore & Ohio, Chesapeake & Ohio, Virginian, and Norfolk & Western.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)

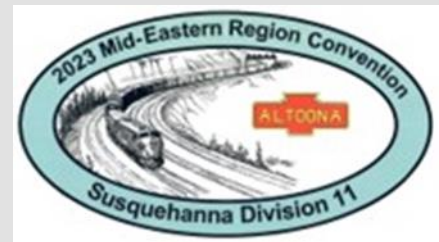


Cumberland and Lake Erie Railroad

David Baker

October 22, 2023 – 10 am to 5 pm

- Style: Proto Freelance
- Era: 1957
- Scale: HO
- Size: 36' X 34' around the walls plus one large peninsula
- % Completed: 100%
- % Scenery: 50%
- Control: NCE DCC Sound, wireless throttles
- Access: Ten steps down to basement from garage



The C&LE is a bridge route with close ties to the Western Maryland. It's a 2-level 270' walk around railroad with a single track mainline. There are two helper districts, 2 yards and 4 staging yards. Track is a combination of hand laid and Micro Engineering code 83, 70 and 55 rail. The two yards are Johnstown and Somerset. Johnstown handles mostly merchandise with interchange with the Pennsylvania Railroad, Conemaugh and Black Lick (Bethlehem Steel), and the Johnstown and Stoney Creek (United States Steel). Johnstown also makes up and receives local and through freights. Somerset yard handles mostly coal traffic making up five local coal trains that work the five modeled coal mines and one coke plant, plus coal trains to the mines that are represented on the Coleman and Boswell staging branches. Somerset makes up loaded east and westbound coal trains.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)



PRR Middle Division & East Broad Top Railroad

Lee Rainey

October 22, 2023 – 11:30 am to 2 pm

- Style: Prototype
- Era: 1954
- Scale: S/Sn3
- Size: 12' X 26'
- % Track Completed: 90%
- % Scenery Completed: 25%



My layout represents the town of Mount Union, PA; for many years the largest shipping point on the Middle Division of the PRR, and the junction between the PRR and the EBT. Emphasis is on recreating the industries that existed in Mount Union. Track on this S/Sn3 layout is primarily handlaid and much of it is dual gauge. The scenery features custom photo backdrops and scratchbuilt buildings. The layout is a switching layout with PRR through freights coming from both Enola and Altoona staging. Both a PRR shifter and a standard-gauge EBT shifter handle the car spotting.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)



B&O, WM, and P&WV Railroad

John Bennett

October 22, 2023 – 10 am to 5 pm

- Style: Prototype
- Era: 1957
- Scale: HO
- Size: 52' X 26'
- % Completed: 100%
- % Scenery: 50%
- Control: NCE "radio" control
- Access: Steps down to basement



The B&O and WM RR is a north/south railroad from Johnstown to Rockwood and an east/west railroad from Cumberland to Pittsburgh with a Connellsville connection to the P&WV RR and a connection to the PRR north of Johnstown. Significant freight movement occurs on the Cumberland & Lake Erie RR as well on two steel railroads: Bethlehem Steel (Conemaugh and Blacklick RR), and the US Steel RR (Johnstown and Stoney Creek RR). The railroad is a double main with two sections of single, signaled track with 350' main. The railroad has 15 coal mines, 2 coke plants, 6 power plants, 4 logging runs, gravel and sand pits, cement plant, paper plant, multiple oil depots, and multiple lumber yards. The staging yards hold up to 16 trains, the Cumberland yard can store 7 to 10 trains (loop) and the Pittsburgh (Connellsville) yard (stub-ended) can hold 10 trains of 16 to 40 cars in length.

MER 'Round the Curve' Convention News (continued)



Laurel Mountain Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad

Frank Coat

October 22, 2023 – 10 am to 5 pm

- Style: Freelance PRR fictitious Division
- Era: 1950-1970
- Scale: HO
- Size: 20' x 21' with 6' x 8' extension at one corner
- Mainline: 255'
- % Track Completed: 100%
- % Scenery Completed: 50-75%
- Control: NCE DCC Plug-in Throttles
- Access: Railroad in basement access by one flight of stairs



The fictitious Laurel Mountain Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad occupies most of our basement. The trains run around the basement twice and also traverse two peninsulas. This gives the mainline approximately 255' of track. The layout is not double decked but because of a carefully planned track plan and scenery techniques you don't realize you are passing the same area twice. The classification yard is the heart of the layout containing four arrival/departure tracks and eight classification tracks along with an engine facility and some industries. Eastbound from the yard winds through four small communities with lots of switching and then into the staging yard. Westbound from the yard also winds through the four communities with again lots of switching and then into the staging yard.

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Partnership Program

The NMRA has partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes who have agreed to give discounts to NMRA members. Discounts range from free shipping to 20% off all purchases. From Micro-Mark to Rusty Stumps, more manufacturers are being added every month. To see the current listing, see our website's Partnership page in the Members Only section.

• www.nmra.org, Membership, Member Home, Benefits, Partnership

Model Railroad Directory

Whether you're at home or traveling, you can contact other NMRA members for a layout tour, to talk trains, or even to join in an op session! There are maps, descriptions, photos, videos, and more.

• www.nmra.org, Membership, Member Home, Model RR Directory

NMRA Online Archives

More than 10,000 photographs, slides, plans, drawings, erection elevations, paint schemes and more, with additional scans being added all the time. High-resolution files are available for download at a discount to members.

• www.nmra.org, click "NMRA Archives" at the top of the page

Achievement Program (AP)

The AP helps modelers get more out of the hobby by providing an incentive to learn and master the skills necessary. Those who've completed the AP receive Master Model Railroader (MMR) certification.

• www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program

• Email Frank Koch: achiev@nmra.org

• Contact your Region or Division Achievement Program Manager (see www.nmra.org/regions/ for Region and Division website URLs)

Liability Insurance for Clubs in U.S. and Canada

\$1 million liability insurance is available to model railroad clubs in which every member is an NMRA member. Completed application, copy of roster, and \$50 administration fee required.

• www.nmra.org/100-clubs

• Email: club100@nmra.org

Liability Insurance for Meets and Shows in U.S. and Canada

This insurance offers liability coverage for all Region-, Division-, and NMRA SIG-sponsored events up to the specific limit provided for in the policy. Standard coverage is \$1 million; higher limits available for extra fees. Please see the website for important details.

• www.nmra.org/liability-insurance

(For clarity and assurance of coverage, SIG events should be co-sponsored by National, a Region, or a Division.)

Conventions - (National and Regional)

The annual National convention runs one week and usually features about 100 clinics, more than 50 layout tours, and dozens of prototype tours. The National Train Show runs for the final three days of the convention.

Regional conventions vary in duration from two to five days. Many feature prototype and layout tours, plus clinics and other activities.

• www.nmra.org, then click on the "Conventions" tab

• www.nmra.org/regions/ for Region and Division website URLs

Special Access to Places and People

As an NMRA member, you'll have access to all kinds of railroad locations you'd never otherwise see. Often National and Regional conventions will tour prototype facilities such as yards and maintenance shops, and will charter special excursion railroads that are usually never open to the public. You'll have the chance to see top-of-the-line model railroads that usually don't accept visitors. And you'll be able to spend time talking with some of the most famous personalities in model railroading today.

For information about upcoming conventions, see the links in the "Conventions" section above

Modeling With The Masters (MWTM)

This is an intense, multi-day regimen of direct instruction by Master Model Railroaders. Modelers get hands-on experience in beginning and intermediate modeling techniques. MTWM classes are usually offered at the National convention, but MTWM courses have also been offered in various cities and at Regional conventions across the country.

• Email Clark Kooning: ckooning@msn.com

NMRA Membership Privileges (continued)

Bi-monthly NMRA eBULLETIN and NMRA TURNTABLE

Every other month, we publish the electronic *NMRA eBULLETIN*, containing late-breaking news and reports of happenings in the organization. The *NMRA TURNTABLE* is a monthly electronic publication that rounds up some of the most interesting model railroad websites, videos, blogs, and articles on the web. We do the searching so you don't have to! Every member with a valid email address receives a copy of both publications.

- Update your email info: log into the website as a member, then <http://www.nmra.org/members/update>

NMRA MAGAZINE

The *NMRA MAGAZINE* is the monthly publication of the NMRA, and features news about the organization and its Regions and Divisions, along with modeling articles, product conformance reviews, and other information. Because the subscription rate/postage depends on where you live, check www.nmra.org for your rate.

To subscribe:

- Email HQ: hq@nmra.org
- Write HQ: PO Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
- Call HQ: (423) 892-2846
- To contribute articles, please see information in the masthead of the magazine

Online Video Library

The Members Only section of www.nmra.org features dozens of helpful "how-to" videos produced by professional video companies, as well as over 50 videos of clinics presented at National NMRA conventions.

- Log in to www.nmra.org as a member, click on "Benefits," then "Member Video Library"

Annual NMRA Calendar

Features spectacular model photographs, as well as dates for Regional conventions and more. Free to every U.S. member. Additional copies can be ordered for \$5 each from HQ. Outside the U.S., contact HQ.

- Email HQ: hq@nmra.org
- Write HQ: PO Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
- For information on submitting photographs, call Mike Brestel 513-481-0185

Local Divisions

There are more than 150 local Divisions in the NMRA, located in large and small communities across the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Britain. Most hold regular meetings and meets featuring clinics, presentations, layout visits, and more.

- www.nmra.org/regions to find website listings for most Divisions

- Call HQ: 423-892-2846 for the name of the Division nearest you.

Once you're a member, go to www.nmra.org and register for the Members Only section of our website to get all the benefits of NMRA membership!

Discounts and Advance Registration on New KML Books

Kalmbach Memorial Library periodically offers special books and book reprints to the general public. NMRA members receive a substantial discount on the retail price and can reserve copies in advance.

- www.nmra.org, then choose "NMRA Store," then "NMRA Members Only Company Store," then "Books"

Standards and Conformance

The NMRA constantly researches and sets Standards and Recommended Practices for all scales and gauges of train models, as well as adjunct items such as DCC and modules. The NMRA continually checks new products for conformance to Standards and RPs.

- Email Di Voss: tech-chair@nmra.org
- NMRA Standard Gauges in various scales are available in the Company Store at www.nmra.org

"Members Only" Company Store

The NMRA's Company store offers many items, from apparel to mugs to gauges, available only to NMRA members.

- www.nmra.org, then choose "NMRA Store"

Collection Insurance

This service offers NMRA members group property insurance for collections, layouts, live steam, tools, slides and photographs, books, magazines, railroad memorabilia, and more. This insurance also covers an individual's property if it resides on a club layout. Members receive NMRA Group Rates.

- Free quote or brochure, contact J.A. Bash & Co: 1-800-654-2256 or 300 Mt. Lebanon Rd., Suite 225, Pittsburgh, PA, 15234.

NMRA Standards Gauges, Data Sheets CD ROM, and Turnout Templates

NMRA members can purchase Standards Gauges at significant price reductions over retail prices. Data Sheets CD and Turnout Templates are available only from the Company Store. Many data sheets are being updated and will appear in the *NMRA MAGAZINE*, as well as available for free download from the Members Only section of www.nmra.org.

- www.nmra.org, then choose "NMRA Store," then "NMRA Members Only Company Store," then "Templates and Gauges"

Beginners' Guide

The Beginner's Guide pages on www.nmra.org offer those new to the hobby help in learning the basics of track, wiring, scenery, and more.

- www.nmra.org/beginner/



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