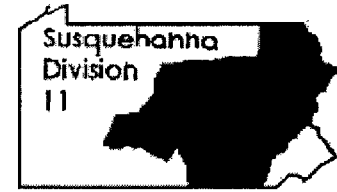


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# Susquehanna Sidetracks



Serving the Susquehanna Valley, MER, NMRA, Inc.

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of the Mid-Eastern Region,  
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The warm weather is finally behind us and the colors of fall can be seen everywhere. This marks the start of a busy time for model railroaders.

November is model railroad month. A time for us to open our layouts to visitors and to spread the word about our great hobby. A lot of the area clubs will be having open houses as well. I encourage you to visit the clubs in our area and bring your family and friends.

December is the start of the holiday season and a time that most of us got our start in model railroading, with our first train set as a gift. If you have young kids or grand children, why not pass along the enjoyment of our hobby and give them their first train set?

## Take a Model Train to Work Day

On Friday, November 12, 2004, Model Trains: the World's Greatest Hobby encourages model railroaders around the country to bring their favorite

locomotive or other hobby artifacts to work and show off their love of the hobby to friends and colleagues.

Participants are encouraged to send photos and success stories from Take a Model Train to Work Day to Model Trains: the World's Greatest Hobby, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612. A selection of submissions will be published at [www.greatesthobby.com](http://www.greatesthobby.com) and in affiliated magazines.

## Down the Tracks

**South Mountain Express**  
MER Fall 2004 Convention  
Hagerstown, MD  
November 11-14, 2004  
<http://members.cox.net/~hide/MER/SMJ2004/SM-Junction.html>

## Miniature Railroad Club of York

Open House  
381 Wheatfield St.  
York, Pa 17403  
Sundays - Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12,  
19 & 26 from 1 to 5 PM

## PenNscalers N Scale Modular Open House

Hampden Township Hall  
295 S. Sporting Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
Saturday, December 18  
1 to 4 PM  
No snow date  
Directions:  
- At the intersection of Rt 15 and Rt 11, take Rt 15 north one half mile  
- Turn left (west) at light onto Trindle Road.  
- After approx 3 miles, turn right (north) at light onto S. Sporting Hill Road  
- At second light, turn right (There is an old greenhouse/floral shop at the light)  
- The Hampden Township Hall has a fire station in the front and the meeting hall in the back. The modules will be set up in the meeting hall.

## Great Scale Model Train Show

Timonium, MD  
February 5-6, 2005  
9 AM - 4 PM Saturday  
10 AM - 4 PM Sunday  
<http://www.gsmts.com>

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

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**Submissions:** The Susquehanna Sidetracks welcomes any model railroad or railroad related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc.

## Super's Corner – Scott Turner

It's hard to believe that it is almost November. Where did this year ago? Speaking of November, it is model railroad month. Are you planning on opening your layout to visitors or if you belong to a club, are you helping out with the open house? This is the month to get out there and show the public what model railroading has to offer and share our great hobby with others. Try opening up your layout to the people in your neighborhood, you just might spark the modeling bug in someone.

I am looking forward to the MER convention in Hagerstown next month. This will be the first regional convention I have been to in a few years. While I look forward to the clinics and visiting the layouts that will be open, my main reason for going is to talk with the MER BOD about the dues changes at the national level and how this is going to affect the division. I will report back to you in a later newsletter on what I find out. For those of you that are attending the convention, I will see you there.

As always, if you have any suggestions for a division meet or have any questions, I would like to hear from you. Feel free to call or email me.

## Museum To Offer Virtual Locomotive Driving Experience

LANCASTER, Pa. -- Starting Saturday, visitors to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania can climb inside a 140-ton locomotive and drive the train down the tracks from Lancaster to Harrisburg -- at least virtually.

The cab of an electric locomotive built in 1969 by General Motors for Conrail has been equipped with a new flat-screen monitor and computer hardware designed to simulate the experience, complete with signals, grade crossings and radio transmissions.

"It's as close as most of us will ever come to actually being a railroad engineer," David Dunn, railroad museum Director, said.

The museum used a \$36,000 grant from the North American Railway Foundation to install the simulator. Norfolk Southern donated the cab.

The simulator will be dedicated at a ceremony in Strasburg.

## Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMR) - November 12 - 14, 2004

The Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMR) is a very loose association of model railroad owners in southcentral Pennsylvania, banded together for the purpose of facilitating organized layout tours. Starting on Friday, November 12th thru Sunday, November 14th they will be having their First Annual Layout Tour. Sunday's layouts will be in conjunction with MER Convention in Hagerstown, MD as part of the going home layouts, but you do not have to attend the convention to visit these layouts on Sunday. The layout tour is open to the public, so please bring your family and friends. For additional information and maps to each of the railroads on this tour, please visit their web site at <http://kc.pennsyrr.com/svmr/>. They are also looking for new layouts to add to future tours, so if you have an interest, please contact Jerry Briton at [jerry@pennsyrr.com](mailto:jerry@pennsyrr.com).

Host/Railroad	Friday, Nov. 12	Saturday, Nov. 13	Sunday, Nov. 14
Nick Kulp - Cornwall Railroad	7:00 - 9:00 PM		
Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society		12:00 - 3:00 PM	
Randy Mower - Greenbriar Cheat & Elk Garden Railway Co		1:00 - 4:00 PM Weather Permitting	
Jeff Warner - PRR/RDG/WM South Central Region			1:00 - 5:00 PM
Bob Martin - Central Pennsylvania Rail Road			1:00 - 5:00 PM
Miniature Railroad Club of York			1:00 - 5:00 PM
Steigle Valley Model Railroad Club			1:00 - 5:00 PM
Columbia Historical Society Museum			1:30 - 4:30 PM

### Nick Kulp - Cornwall Railroad

**Benchwork:** 100% **Scenery:** 65%

**Scale:** HO **Control:** Digitrax DCC

The "Cornwall Railroad" depicts iron ore operations in central Pennsylvania and includes a portion of the PRR's Lebanon Branch as well as some Reading right-of-way. For operations, Dave Husman's MS Access car-card program is used and a computerized CTC system written in JMRI is utilized. The location is not handicap accessible, and bathroom facilities are not available.

Layout Web Site: <http://kc.pennsyrr.com/layouts/kulp/>

560 Windy Hill Road, Shermansdale PA 17090 -- Kliner Lane is on the left just before my home. Please park there. The home's driveway cannot accommodate visitors. Do not park in front of the house as this is a state road and very busy.

### Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society

**Benchwork:** 100% **Scenery:** 80%

**Scale:** HO **Control:** DC

833 West Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg PA 17055

### Randy Mower - Greenbriar Cheat & Elk Garden Railway Company

**Benchwork:** 100% dirt **Scenery:** 100% alive

**Scale:** G **Control:** Battery Power R/C

The GC&E is based on the logging and coaling regions of West Virginia in the 1930's era. There are two major towns which contain over 40 scratch built and commercial structures. The buildings are fully illuminated and the towns include working street lights. There is a fish pond with a stream which flows from a dam and over a working scratch built water wheel.

Layout Web Site: <http://www.trainweb.org/randysrr/>

5218 Eton Place, Mechanicsburg PA 17055

### Jeff Warner - PRR/RDG/WM South Central Region

**Benchwork:** 100% **Scenery:** 66%

**Scale:** HO **Control:** Digitrax DCC

The "PRR/RDG/WM South Central Region" features the PRR from Marysville to Baltimore and Lancaster, the Reading from Lurgan to Rutherford, and the Western Maryland from Baltimore to Hagerstown (via the "Dutch Line") and Lurgan. Computerized CTC. Digital on-board sound in nearly all diesel and steam locomotives. Scenery mostly complete.

Layout Web Site: <http://kc.pennsyrr.com/layouts/warner/>

605 Hill Point Drive, Eters PA 17319 -- Enter via door at end of driveway and please don't park in front of neighbors driveways!

### Bob Martin - Central Pennsylvania Rail Road

**Benchwork:** 100% **Scenery:** 90%

**Scale:** HO **Control:** Digitrax DCC

The "Central Pennsylvania Rail Road" is a freelanced layout set somewhere in the hills of southcentral Pennsylvania. In addition to its own traffic, the line sees Pennsy bridge traffic. Steam and diesel. Excellent scenery and town scenes.

Layout Web Site: <http://kc.pennsyrr.com/layouts/martin/>

45 W. Locust Lane, York PA 17402 -- From I-83: Exit 24; turn east at light (right if northbound, left if southbound) go about 9/10 mile to signal light at "T" intersection (George St); right on George St for about 9/10 mile; just before top of hill turn right on to W. Locust Lane; third house on right at red caboos mailbox.

### Miniature Railroad Club of York

**Benchwork:** 100% **Scenery:** 100%

**Scale:** HO **Control:** DC

Club layout featuring multi-track main line with working position light signals.

381 Wheatfield Street, York PA 17403

### Steigle Valley Model Railroad Club

**Benchwork: ?? Scenery: 70%**

**Scale: HO Control: DCC**

The layout represents the Reading and Columbia branch of the Reading Railroad. Included on the layout are Dillerville Yard (Lancaster), Lancaster Junction and Manheim. Also on the layout is the Mount Hope branch which runs north from Manheim to a connection with the Cornwall Railroad at Mount Hope. The time period is the late 1940's to the early 1950's.

Layout Web Site: <http://www.paonline.com/seg57/photo.html>

230 S. Charlotte Street, Manheim PA 17545

### Columbia Historical Society Museum

**Benchwork: ?? Scenery: 60%**

**Scale: HO Control: DCC**

Size: 35ftx23ft. Scenery is 60% mostly from original layout. Layout being reconstructed in sections. Columbia section is 40% complete. Scratch built structures. Layout in center of room with 5 ft. aisles on all sides and a 2'9" center aisle. Several Magnuson kits on original layout.

Layout Web Site: <http://www.paonline.com/seg57/cola.html>

21 N. 2nd Street, Columbia PA -- Parking available along the nearby streets. 1-1/2 blocks from old COLA tower, old PRR RR station, and newly renovated Reading RR freight station, Port Road and Cola branch to Lancaster.

### Bowser Purchases Stewart Hobbies

On Tuesday, October 19, 2004, Stewart Hobbies, Inc., Chalfont, Pa., was purchased by Bowser Manufacturing Co., Inc., Montoursville, Pa. The sale was announced jointly by the two companies.

A 20-year-old business, Stewart Hobbies was founded in 1984 by Steve and Terry Stewart, producing HO scale locomotives and freight cars. Recent releases by Stewart included a 70 Ton G39A Pennsylvania RR ore car and several new diesel locomotive models including an Alco C-630 and Baldwin S-12 and VO660 switchers.

Bowser announced that it plans to continue Stewart's tradition for producing fine-quality models. Effective immediately, all orders for Stewart products will be handled by Bowser. Inquiries should be directed to Bowser Manufacturing, Inc., 1502 Jordan Avenue, P.O. Box 322, Montoursville, PA 17754 or visit its Web site at [www.bowser-trains.com](http://www.bowser-trains.com).