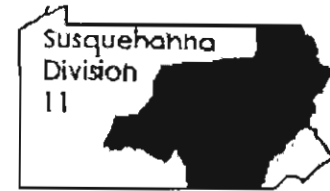

Susquehanna Sidetracks



Serving the Susquehanna Valley, MER, NMRA, Inc.

Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
of the Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

May 2005
Volume 13, Number 2

Please visit the Official Division web site at <http://moosevalley.org/nmra/index.htm>

Cincinnati Limited 2005

In case you have not yet registered for the upcoming NMRA Cincinnati Limited 2005 National Convention, procrastinate no longer as the time to do so is "now"!

The convention is the week of July 3 and some layout tours, general tours, as well as the banquet, are almost sold out!

Some highlights of CL2005 that may pique your interest:

- Cincinnati is one of the "TOP 10" Model RR cities
- There are over 100 layouts that will be open for tours
- Fabulous non-rail events the likes of which have not been seen before
- National & Local Clinicians galore
- The banquet will be held in the rotunda of the historic Art Deco Union Terminal
- Op SIG events
- LD SIG events
- RPM meeting space & displays
- Within easy driving distance
- Great local rail fanning

- National Train Show
- Cincinnati Reds Baseball

Further details and contact information, along with the registration form, can be found in the February issue of Scale Rails, or better yet, please visit the web site at www.CL2005.com

Don't delay - register today!

Bylaws Revision

Because of the new NMRA regulations, both the Mid-Eastern Region and our division needed to revise our Bylaws to bring them in line with nationals. Starting on page 3 you will find the revised division Bylaws. Please review them and if you have any comments or questions please contact one of the Division Board Members. Their contact information is listed on page 2. A ballot will be included in the June newsletter to vote to approve these Bylaws.

Division Directors Election

In June we will be holding elections for the three Division Directors positions. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact Scott Turner.

Down the Tracks

Reading Society of Model Engineers

Spring Open House
Reading, PA
May 21-22, 2005
12 PM - 5 PM
<http://www.rsme.org>

Great Scale Model Train Show

Timonium, MD
June 25-26, 2005
9 AM - 4 PM Saturday
10 AM - 4 PM Sunday
<http://www.gsmts.com>

Rails to Raleigh

MER Fall 2005 Convention
Raleigh, NC
October 27 - 30, 2005
<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/mer05/index.html>

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official publication of the
Susquehanna Division 11,
Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

Superintendent & Newsletter Editor

Scott Turner
101 Hilltop Drive
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065
717-486-4189
scotteturner@comcast.net

Assistant Superintendent

Brian Brandt
337 Bracken Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-560-9542
brianbrandt3@comcast.net

Chief Clerk

Paul F. Tice
6710 Moul Road
Thomasville, PA 17364
717-843-9572

Director

Howard Oakes
301 Moulstown Road
Abbottstown, PA 17301
717-632-5990
hornut@netzero.net

Director & Achievement Program Chairman

Alan Frame
2430 Opal Road
York, PA 17404
717-767-4998
aframe@gettle.com

Director

Bob Martin
45 W. Locust Lane
York, PA 17402
717-848-3640
cprboss@aol.com

Web Master

Mel Agne
48 Oakwood Drive
Delta, PA 17314
717-862-3937
mel.agne@thomson.net

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 looks like spring is finally here. This is normally the time when most of us stop working on our model railroads and spend more time out doors. For me, this will most likely be the time I get the most done on my railroad.

I would like to thank Bob Martin for hosting the division meet back in February (was it really that long ago?). We had a great turnout at this meet, with 24 people in attendance. Charlie Potter (MMR) gave an excellent clinic on painting figures. We even had Clint Hyde and Noll Horan (MMR) from the MER visiting with us.

We have an exciting meet planned for the end of June. Please make sure you read all the information about it on page 3. I look forward to seeing you there!

While most of us may dread going to visit our in-laws, I personally look forward to it. Why you might ask? It's because my in-laws live in Ebensburg, PA which is a little farther west on PA route 22 past Cresson, PA. So when I go to "visit" my in-laws, I spend some of my time track side at either Cresson, the Gallitzin tunnels, or in Cassandra. My last visit was over Easter weekend. I spent a good part on Saturday afternoon watching trains. The below photo was taken in Cresson. So which way is this train going? It is actually heading east (to the right in the photo). These are the helper engines pushing hard up the steep grade. As you can see, there was still snow on the ground and it was a rather foggy day. Not the best day for train watching, but it is better than not watching trains at all.

So where are your favorite train watching locations? Send me an email and maybe a photo or two and I will share them with your fellow division members in future newsletters.



Next Susquehanna Division Meet - Saturday, June 25, 2005 - 10:00 AM to ?? PM

Susquehanna Division 11 is pleased to announce the next division meet will be held at Independent Live Steamers in Shermans Dale. This is an outdoors 1 inch to the foot railroad with a track gauge of 4¾ inches. There are over 1,000 feet of track in two separate loops, several bridges, a roundhouse, and a turntable. Usually there is between 20 and 30 engines at this event, with 2/3 of them being steam. Pennsy is the dominate roadname. There are also dozens of freight cars.

This is an **Invitation Only** event. Our division has been invited to attend, but we need to turn in a list of who will be attending prior to this day. Please contact Bob Martin (his contact info is listed on page 2) to put your name on the list before June 11th. Feel free to bring along a guest or two. Just make sure you give their names as well to Bob. Even if you are not sure you can attend, contact Bob to have your name put on the list. If you or your guest is not on the list, you will not be allowed to attend. This is done for insurance purposes by the owner of the railroad. Bob will provide you with directions.

So mark your calendar now, contact Bob to get on the list and spend your day with fellow train enthusiast.

Division Bylaws Revision

By-Laws of the Susquehanna Division 11 Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

ARTICLE I Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of the organization is the Susquehanna Division 11 (the "Division"). It is established under the provisions of the By-laws of the Mid-Eastern Region (MER), and the Regulations of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). If a conflict should develop between these By-laws and the Regional By-laws and/or the NMRA Regulations, the Regional By-laws or the NMRA Regulations will govern.

Section 2. The Susquehanna Division 11 serves to promote the hobby of model railroading through educational, fellowship, and historical activities in accordance with the policies and actions of the MER, NMRA.

ARTICLE II Territory

Section 1. The Susquehanna Division shall include the area of Pennsylvania bounded to the east by the Philadelphia Division, to the south by the South Mountain Division, to the west by Mid-Central Region, and to the north by the Northeast Region and the Niagara Frontier Region, as specifically determined by the MER and NMRA.

Section 2. Throughout these By-laws, "residence" means the member's principal residence.

ARTICLE III Fiscal Year

Section 1. The Division fiscal year will be from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE IV Membership, Dues and Finances

Section 1. Regular Membership

A. In general, each NMRA member is automatically a member of the Region, if one exists, and of the Division, if one exists, in whose territory the member resides.

B. Except for voting and holding a Division office, all NMRA members, regardless of residence, are entitled to attend or participate in any activity of the Division.

Section 2. Guest Membership

A. Guest privileges will be granted to model railroaders, without discrimination, in the Susquehanna Division to encourage their participation in the Division's, Region's, and NMRA's activities. A time limit of six months shall exist for guest privileges. At that time, the Division will encourage the Guest to become a full member of the NMRA. Guests will have no voting rights with the Susquehanna Division, nor will they be allowed to hold any offices or any committee chair positions.

Section 3. Dues

A. All dues are paid at the NMRA level. No additional dues will be required for Division membership for NMRA members who reside within the Division's territory.

Section 4. Finances

A. The Division newsletter, SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS, will be distributed via electronic mail. Members who do not have access to electronic mail may receive the newsletter via regular mail for a charge on a yearly basis. This charge will be decided by the Division Board of Directors based on the cost of printing the newsletter and the cost to mail it.

B. The Division may sponsor fund raising activities as approved by the BOD. Such activities will be limited to model railroading/railroading activities such as train shows/meets, mini-conventions, open houses, and similar activities. For such activities, the fees will be the same for all NMRA members, regardless of residence.

Section 5. Audits

If the MER or NMRA requires periodic financial audits, the Susquehanna Division membership recuses itself in total due to possible conflict of interest. Therefore, if the MER or NMRA requires it, an audit at the agency requiring should conduct the audit.

ARTICLE V Voting and Office Holding Rights

Section 1. All Division officers, members of the Board of Directors, and officials must be members of the Division. To vote or hold office in the Division, members must live within the Division's territory. Each voting member will have one vote at any meeting of the members.

ARTICLE VI Board of Directors

Section 1. Officers

A. Officers of the Susquehanna Division shall consist of: the Superintendent (with duties as president), Assistant Superintendent (with duties as vice-president), and Chief Clerk (with duties as secretary and treasurer). They shall be elected for a two year term in Spring of even-numbered years, actually holding office from July 1 of the first year to June 30 of the second year. There will be three (3) Directors (with duties as assigned by the Superintendent). They shall be elected one every year for a three year term in the Spring, actually holding office from July 1 of the first year to June 30 of the third year. All Officers and Board members have full voting rights at all meetings. All officers and board members must be members of the Susquehanna Division 11, the MER, and the NMRA.

B. The Chief Clerk shall keep an account of all funds received and dispersed, render a proper accounting for these funds at the annual business meeting, and make books available for an annual audit by a properly qualified member of the Susquehanna Division 11 as appointed by the Superintendent and prior to each time any Chief Clerk leaves office. The Chief Clerk shall be Bonded by Division 11 in regards to their activities as the Division Treasurer. The bond shall cover any and/or properties and monies held by the Treasurer.

C. The Superintendent shall appoint to fill out the unexpired term of any Board of Directors position subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board Of Directors

The Board Of Directors shall consists of the elected Officers and three Directors and the Past Superintendent (until he is replaced by the next Past Superintendent) and be chaired by the Superintendent. A member of the Board of Directors only has one vote at a Board meeting or a General meeting. The Board of Directors shall hold legal title of all Susquehanna Division 11 property and monies in trust for its members.

Section 3. Committees

Superintendent shall create Committees as needed and shall appoint Committee Chairpersons as required. The Superintendent shall also disband committees and dismiss members as necessary and require reports from committee chairs as necessary..

Article VII Conflict of Interest

Section 1. No Board member will cast a vote, or take part in the final deliberation, on any matter in which he or she, or members of his or her immediate family, have a personal financial or other interest.

ARTICLES VIII Conduct and Practices

Section 1. General Business Meeting

There shall be one general business meeting each year in the spring. Business shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, by Susquehanna Division 11 By-laws, by MER By-Laws, and any subsequent changes required. Each year by August, the Superintendent will submit an Annual Report to the MER Board and the NMRA on the State-of-the-Division per MER/NMRA requirements. This report will also be made available to the division membership.

Section 2. Meetings

A. Susquehanna Division 11 will hold a minimum of four meetings a year with a minimum of thirty days notice of each to the members.

B. The officers and any committees shall do their utmost to arrange and present to the members and the general public programs and activities that promote the hobby of model railroading. They shall work cooperatively with other divisions of the MER, with the MER itself, and with division area Model Railroad Clubs in the planning of model railroading activities.

ARTICLE IX Nominations

Section 1. Nominations for an elected office position may be made by (1) a written submission from any member in good standing to the Nominating Committee or (2) by the Nominating Committee of members in good standing. Nominations are to be published in the division newsletter at least sixty (60) days prior to the election to include a bio-sketch, not to exceed 250 words.

ARTICLE X Elections

Section 1. Voting shall be by secret ballot of the regular members of Susquehanna Division 11, by mail ballot. Elected positions will be filled by a simple plurality of votes.

ARTICLE XI By-Laws Changes

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership responding to the mail ballot. Proposed changes must be published in the division newsletter not less than sixty (60) days prior to any vote. The amendment(s) to take place after approval by the MER Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII
Publications

Section 1. The Susquehanna Division 11 shall maintain a publication, SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS, to be electronically mailed to all members to keep them informed of division activities. Copies will also be electronically mailed to the Editor of the MER LOCAL and other MER division Superintendents or newsletter editors. Paper copies will be mailed to the NMRA Library and the NMRA President.

Article XIII
Indemnification

Section 1. By resolution of the Board, the Division may indemnify any officer, board member, or agent against any and all expenses and liabilities incurred by him or her in connection with any claim, action, suit, or proceeding to which he or she is made a party by reason of being an officer, board member, or agent.

Article XIV
Dissolution

Upon dissolution of Susquehanna Division 11, all assets must be distributed per the Constitution of the NMRA (Article i, Section 2). If the purpose of the NMRA should change, then the Board of Directors, Susquehanna Division 11, may designate any other model railroad organization(s) that subscribe to the same purposes as fostered by Susquehanna Division 11 to receive the divisions assets.

Proposed Revision 4/5/2005