

Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

<http://moosevalley.org/nmra/index.htm>

"Serving the Susquehanna Valley"

October 2007

VOL. 15 ISSUE 1

Susquehanna Division 11 is pleased to announce the next division meet to be held on Sunday, November 11th. We will be visiting 3 model railroads in the Allentown area. Starting at 11AM we will be visiting Larry Reynolds' PRR Altoona Area in HO scale. Following the visit to Larry's railroad will be lunch on your own. There are many fast food and other restaurants in the area. Then at 1 PM we will visit Jim Hertzog's Reading Railroad - Shamokin Division in HO scale. Following the visit to Jim's railroad we will visit Gale Smith's Lehigh Valley in HO scale.

We need to know who is going on the tour and, as with past tours, Bob Martin will take care of this chore for us. Everybody who is going to attend should notify Bob at cprboss@comcast.net or at 717-848-3640. If you are driving, let Bob know who your passengers are and if you are a passenger, let him know with whom you are riding. I know it sounds redundant but there's a method to his madness.

We would like to meet up with everybody at the Wawa convenience store on Hamilton Blvd. in Wescosville around 10:30 a.m. on November 11. Wawa is at 4900 Hamilton Blvd in Wescosville, PA (just west of Allentown). This is at the intersection of Hamilton Blvd (OLD route 222) and Brookside Road. We will wait there until about 10:50 a.m. and then depart for Larry Reynolds layout as a group. There are two reasons for this: one is for everybody to use the restroom facility before going to the layout. All of the layouts are in private residences and I'm sure you can understand that our hosts don't really want 30 or 40

people using their bathroom. In addition, two of the three have on site water and septic systems and are concerned about water use. The second reason is that we would like to arrive as a group and not early. If you decide to go directly to a layout, please wait outside for the group to arrive.

People in the York and Adams County area are invited to meet in the York area at the same location used last year for the Howard Zane layout visit. Bob will send that send information upon request. We can meet up with folks along the I81/I83/I78 corridor if requested and practical. Let Bob know if you'd like to do that.

We will not be coordinating car pools this time. You must make your own arrangements for a ride.

Mark your calendar now and make plans to join us for a fun day of model railroading!

Larry Reynolds' PRR Altoona Area - 11 AM

HO scale layout modeling the Pennsylvania Railroad, Huntingdon, PA to Tunnelhill. 27 x 43 foot single deck layout featuring The Horseshoe Curve and Altoona railroad facilities. Signaling currently being installed with CTC dispatcher controlling train movements. Digitrax radio DCC. The layout was featured in the December 2005 issue of Railmodel Journal. Website at <http://lreynolds.pennsyr.com>.

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Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division 11
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA

The Susquehanna Sidetracks welcomes any model railroad or railroad related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters, reviews, photos, and other items to the editor.

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Visit us on the internet at:

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For information about upcoming events, links to web pages for upcoming conventions, and for an electronic copy of this newsletter.

Super's Corner

By Scott Turner

I hope you are having a good fall and are making progress on your model railroad. Don't forget November is model railroad month. This is a great way to introduce people to our great hobby.

I was not able to attend the MER convention in Lynchburg, VA over the weekend of October 20th. If you were able to attend, I would like to hear about it.

It is my understanding that Alan Frame has been busy with the Achievement Program (AP). If you have questions about the AP or would like to have something judged, please contact Alan at the information on the left.

I would like to welcome Jeff Warner as Division Director. Jeff has already been busy at helping to improve things in our division, including organizing the division meet on November 11th. Please welcome Jeff when you get a chance. His contact info can be found at the left.

You will find in this newsletter a Membership Survey. The Board of Directors would like to get your feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see from the division and how we can improve things. Please take the time to fill out the included survey or go to <http://home.comcast.net/~jeffrywarner/NMRASurvey.html> to fill it out on line.

We are always looking for ideas for Division meets, people to help organize a meet, people willing to open their layouts for visits, or even to present a clinic. If you have any suggestions or are willing to help in any way, please contact me.


I hope that you will be able to attend the division meet on November 11th. I look forward to seeing you then!

Financial Update

Susquehanna Division #11
Mid-Eastern Region
National Model Railroad Association
Revenue and Expense Statement - Cash Basis
For The Fiscal Year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Northwest Savings - Savings Account		\$1,224.79
Sovereign Bank - Checking Account		<u>471.63</u>
<u>Beginning Cash Balance - July 1, 2006</u>		\$1,696.42
<u>Revenue For The Fiscal Year</u>		
Susquehanna Dues	\$ 14.00	
NMRA Rebate	167.50	
MER (NMRA) Rebate	161.50	
Interest Income	<u>15.30</u>	
Total Revenue Received		<u>358.30</u>
<u>Total Cash Available</u>		\$2,054.72
<u>Expenses For The Fiscal Year</u>		
None	\$ 0.00	
Total Expenses		<u>0.00</u>
<u>Ending Cash Balance - June 30, 2007</u>		<u>\$2054.72</u>
Northwest Savings - Savings Account - Unrestricted Funds		\$1,240.09
Sovereign Bank - Checking Account - Unrestricted Funds		729.63
Sovereign Bank - Checking Account - Restricted Funds		<u>85.00</u>
Total Net Assets - All Funds		<u>\$2,054.72</u>

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul F. Tice, P.A.
Clerk/Paymaster - Susquehanna Division #11
July 23, 2007
York, Pennsylvania

“FREE” HINTS & TIPS

by Bob Martin

All of us like free stuff. Here are some hints and tips that you can use to save money building your layout.

Free gravel – any scale – Use roadside gravel, usually available in front of your house in late winter early spring. Get yourself a screen type strainer (I got mine from the kitchen but that could be dangerous) and sift the big stuff and junk out. It's free, it looks good and, it's real! And here's the kicker; it's the anti-skid stuff your town put on the road during the storm(s) this winter. You helped pay for it with your taxes so why not use it.

Free trees – try weeds and flowers. I have no idea what I use but like the saying goes “I don't know what it is but I know it when I see it”. Use camouflage paint to spray and preserve the piece then sprinkle with whatever kind of leaf material you prefer.

Free logs – You may have heard or read this before from me. Go to your yard, especially in the spring before your spring cleanup and pick up the appropriate size twigs.

Free Sculptamold clone (OK not a clone but similar) – This is for small jobs that you don't want to the mess of real plaster. Most of us have some spackling plaster (or whatever what you use is called) sitting around getting ready to dry out or maybe even separating in the container. Mix some sawdust with it until it's almost stiff. Then apply to whatever small job you have. I started using it instead of Sculptamold. It's cheaper and just as easy or easier to use.

Free Small parts container – Here's another old one that you may have forgotten. Save your plastic pill containers to store small parts in when you're working on the layout. I used to take the small screw, spike or whatever and set it on the layout where I could find later when I was ready to put whatever I took apart back together. Of course, most of the time the parts weren't there anymore. Use a pill container! I also use them for different size spikes and other small parts I carry back and forth from the parts cabinet to the layout and as parts containers when I take apart a locomotive or freight car.

Free Wire – Is your employer installing a new or upgraded information system? If so, check with the installer to see if the old cable is being replaced. I got lots of cable from where I used to work this way. It was phone and data cable; perfect for what we need.

Free Foam – New building construction near you. Check to see if they have any pieces of house wire left over. ASK FIRST and if it's OK, check the dumpsters. You might find lengths of house wire suitable for bus wire on DCC systems. Also check Lowe's or Home Depot or similar stores for damaged foam insulation.

Free Scenery Base – Same thing for insulation foam. Check first and ask nicely. You might find enough pieces of thick foam insulation to do a nice size layout.

Free Wood – Our local Lowe's has a “free” bin where you can find all kinds of neat pieces of molding, plywood, and other gems useful in model railroading.

Free Paint (or maybe not free but really cheap) – Again when you're at your local building supply store, check the paint department for paint mix mistakes or returns. You never know what's in the box.

Free Power – Need switch machine power. Don't throw away that old computer. Remove the power supply and use it for switch machine power, building lights, track side signals, etc. If you don't know how to do it, ask somebody or look it up on the internet. I know at least half dozen guys in my operating group that use old computer power supplies.

Free (or low cost) Chain Link Fence – Got this tip from one of the magazines a few years ago. Use bridal veil material for a chain link fence. Looks great and can be had for a few cents or free at the right store. Caution: I do not recommend using the wife's wedding dress as a source!

ANOTHER ONE:

Here's a new technique I tried last week for plaster scenery.

I had hole in the layout I needed to fill. It was roughly 8-9 inches long and the width varied up to about 4 inches. I had some scrap plywood pieces that I used to sort of step up from low to high. Some was 1/2" some was thinner or thicker. The idea I wanted was a slope of sorts with a flat area for a couple small structures. After I put all the pieces in place I stuffed the cracks with newspaper. At that point I went to get my bag of Sculptamold but didn't have any so I thought I'd use spackling plaster.

When I opened it, I discovered the plaster and water were separating. After mixing it I really didn't like what I was seeing so I put some in a separate container and added sawdust. I mixed until it was starting to get stiff and applied it to the "hill" I wanted to make. I put it on kind of thick - it was really sticky. It worked out really well. I painted it the next day. It's hard but not quite as hard as the spackling without saw dust. And although it cracked a little, it did not crack nearly as much as it would have without the sawdust.

I'll continue to use it for small jobs where I would have used Sculptamold in the past. It's a heck of a lot cheaper than Sculptamold and works just as good or better. Yes, it's much more expensive than casting plaster but it's not messy which is what I wanted for small jobs.

I can't tell you what the ratio of spackling to sawdust was, only that I added and mixed until it was starting to get stiff.

For a small job that you want to do in a hurry without a mess, it works well.

Continued from Page 1

Jim Hertzog's Reading Railroad - Shamokin Division - 1 PM

This single level HO scale layout is based on the 40 mile section of railroad between Tamaqua and Shamokin, Pennsylvania during the steam to diesel era. The 30 x 40 foot basement layout depicts railroad operations in the anthracite regions and features a 300 foot mainline run. The layout is controlled using Lenz DCC. The point to point linear design features a double decked staging area, 3 primary yards, 2 coal marshalling yards, 3 helper districts, and 15 coal loading and processing businesses. The scenery is complete and replicates the grimy effects of many years of coal mining. The layout has been featured in MR, RMC, RMJ, and MRP magazines and is the subject of the latest Allen Keller video #57.

Gale Smith's Lehigh Valley - following Jim Hertzog's

HO scale Lehigh Valley Double Track Main Line between Allentown Yard and Rockport Tunnel in a 24' x 24' room. Operations include 8 track staging at east end (Jersey City) and 11 track staging at west end (Wilkes-Barre). Double decked with 4 3/4 turn helix in corner. Three yards with 2 coal mines and local drills out of all yards. Interchange trains with the RDG, CNJ & LNE. Radio Digitrax DCC, both 1960 era and 1972 era for separate sessions. Car cards and waybills with dispatcher and 14 channel radios.

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24 Yankee Drive
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