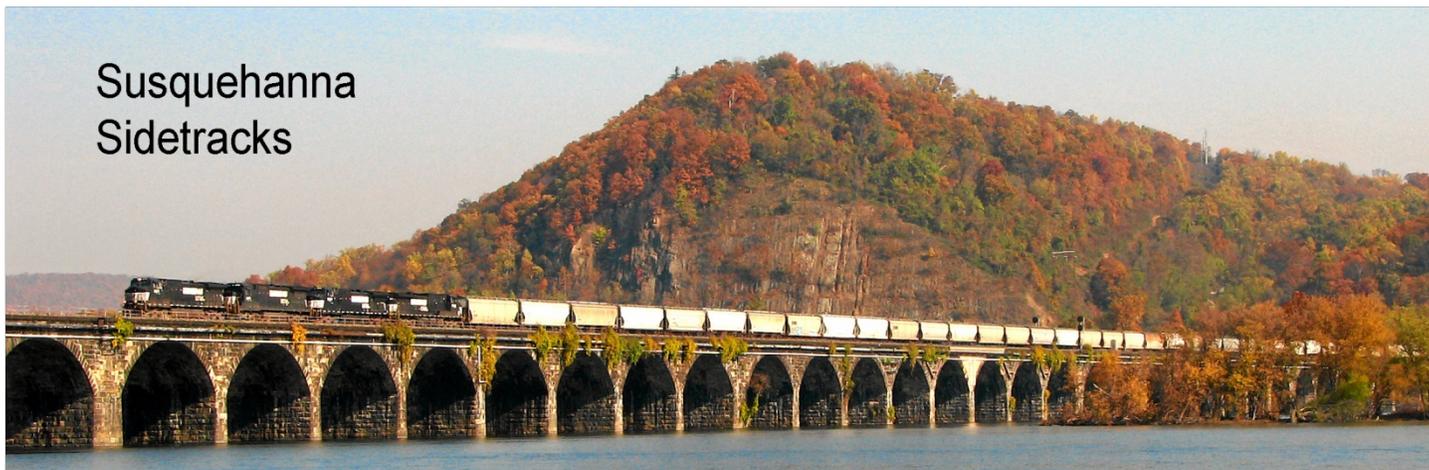


## Susquehanna Sidetracks



Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division 11 of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association  
<http://www.susquehannamra.org> July 2009 Volume 17 Issue 4

### Upcoming Division Events

#### **Saturday, August 22, 2009 – Reading area Model Railroad Visits**

Saturday, August 22, 2009. We will meet at Bob Bucklew's Quaker Valley at 10 AM (doors open at 9 AM) where Bob will present a clinic on using the JMRI suite for dispatching a model railroad and we will visit his model railroad. Next will be a visit to Charles Kadyk's Pennsylvania and New England Railroad. After a lunch break, we will finish up by visiting Joel Holubec's PRR Schuylkill Division.

**Non-NMRA members are invited.** More information can be found on pages 4-6.

#### **Saturday, September 26, 2009 – Joint Meet with Philadelphia Division**

In a joint meet with the Philadelphia division, we will meet at the Lukens Office Building in Coatesville, PA. Doors will open at 8:30 AM. Meeting will start at 9 AM and go to 12 noon. Following the meeting, several model railroads will be open for visitation. **YOU MUST GO TO THE MORNING MEETING TO RECEIVE DIRECTIONS TO THE AFTERNOON OPEN HOUSES.** **Non-NMRA members are invited.** More information can be found on page 7.

#### **Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3, 2009 – LSOPS**

LSOPS is the Lehigh/Susquehanna Operations Weekend. Co-sponsored by the OP SIG, this event will give novice division members an introduction to operations as well as give experienced operators a chance to operate 3 excellent model railroads. **YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS EVENT.** **Non-NMRA members may register.** More information can be found on page 8-9.

#### **Saturday, July 18, August 15, November 7, 2009 – Live Steam Visits**

The division held an event last year at Art Dum's live steam railroad in Shermansdale, PA, which was an overwhelming success. We have been invited back for any of four dates in 2009. We will not be going as a group, but any interested individual may attend by RSVPing to WAYNE GODSHALL at (717)582-4405 Home or (717)215-7776 Cell. **YOU MUST "SIGN UP" BY CALLING WAYNE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT.** There is no fee to attend, but Wayne would like a list of names of everyone attending. Art Dum's railroad is located at 57 Pisgah Road, Shermansdale, PA. Directions can be found using Mapquest or a GPS.

Banner photo courtesy of Christopher Muller, SteamPhotos.com

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

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## Division 11 Happenings

Jeff Warner

I am pleased to announce that the by-law changes unanimously passed and that Wayne Betty, Alan Frame, and Howard Oakes were unanimously elected as Directors for the next 2 years. Please join me in welcoming Wayne on board. Thanks to everyone that voted. I was glad to see that almost twice as many people voted in this election than did last time. As this was the first that allowed electronic ballots, I will take that as a sign that allowing them was well received by the division.

One of the most frequently asked questions I receive is "do you know about that REALLY LARGE model railroad over around Philadelphia?". Yes. It's Ken McCorry's. About 2-3 years ago, due to some problems he had, Ken stopped having open houses around Thanksgiving for the general public and now is only open for smaller groups. Well, Ken will have his model railroad open as part of the September 26 joint meet with the Philadelphia Division. You must go to the clinics to get directions to Ken's. Non NMRA members are welcome, so bring your friends. Please take advantage of this opportunity to see one of the largest and best model railroads IN THE WORLD... Oh yeah, you also get 2 clinics and 3 other EXCELLENT model railroads. If you can only make one division event this year, this is the one not to miss. Ken's is the first model railroad I ever walked into and simply said, "WOW!!!". I don't want to short-change the other model railroads either... I've seen both Jim's and Paul's and took many ideas away from both.

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### WAG II conference 2009

Honoring the Wellsville, Addison & Galetton RR and the Buffalo & Susquehanna and B&O that preceded the WAG, and its acquisition the C&PA RR, the 2<sup>nd</sup> WAG conference will take place in Galetton, PA on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For more information, e-mail Mike Holdridge at [WAG-conf09@email.com](mailto:WAG-conf09@email.com) with questions.

## Steamtown Visit



On Saturday, May 30, 2009, the Division visited Steamtown National Historic Site. Most, if not everyone, went on the “yard” train ride. Member Fred Phillips “won” a cab ride (see picture below) donated by Gerry Dombroski. At least six people also took the trolley ride at neighboring Electric City Trolley Museum. It was outstanding! Nine miles including a one mile long tunnel. Overall, it was a great day with picture perfect weather. Afterwards, four people went to see the Nicholson/Tunkhannock Viaduct and Canadian National was nice enough to send intermodel over it!



Thanks to Bob Martin for providing the above text and to Gerry Dombroski for setting up the day, providing the two pictures on this page, and for sharing the rest of his pictures which may be found on his website at:

<http://kitbash.ourpage.com/may-30-2009/>

This day would not have been possible without Gerry's efforts!

# Saturday, August 22, 2009

## Reading area Clinic and Model Railroad Visits



Bob Bucklew's  
Quaker Valley Railroad  
18 Fawn Drive  
Shillington, PA 19607

We will meet at 10 AM on Saturday, August 22 (doors will open at 9 AM for those arriving early) at Bob Bucklew's Quaker Valley Railroad. We will begin with Bob's clinic on using the JMRI suite to dispatch a model railroad. Bob will describe how he interfaces NCE DCC and the free JMRI Panel Pro software using a PC. He will use a small demo layout to provide a live interface during the clinic. He will also show how a little hardware can be used to model a US&S style CTC machine.

After the clinic, we will visit Bob's HO scale model railroad, set in the fall of 1976, six months after the formation of Conrail (so the equipment from many of the fallen flags is still present). The modeled portion is the Southern Division of the Quaker Valley Railroad, a short-line formed during the Penn Central bankruptcy. Set in western PA, the Quaker Valley runs between Cumberland, MD, and Buffalo, NY with a yard at Lynnsburg, PA. There it meets the double track Conrail mainline with staging west at McKeesport/Johnstown and east at Altoona/Harrisburg/Enola. The Chessie System has trackage rights over a portion of the Quaker Valley.

The model railroad is controlled by wireless NCE PowerPro DCC with a computerized US&S Style CTC panel for dispatcher control. The Quaker Valley uses car cards and waybills for car forwarding. A typical operating session will see 20+ trains run in 3-4 hours. Scenery is about 60% complete and includes an operating rotary dumper as described in the December 1979 Railroad Model Craftsman.

More information can be found on Bob's website at: <http://www.quaker-valley.com/>



Charles Kadyk's  
Pennsylvania and New England  
28 Flickinger Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540

Following Bob's, we will visit Charles Kadyk's Pennsylvania and New England (PNE) Railroad. The PNE is a HO gauge shelf model railroad designed for operations and for ease of access. The design came out of the available space, the desire to still have the area serve as a TV room, and a reasonable completion date with Charles' busy schedule as a music teacher. There is a mix of yard, local, and passenger operations. The railroad gets its identity from the variety of rolling stock already owned from 13 years living in central Maine. Charles has always desired an operating model railroad, and this is his first model railroad to achieve that goal. The setting is mid 1950's in the transition era. Charles wanted to capture the flavor of a combined upstate PA and New England flair without modeling exact locations. The line depicts a proto-freelanced line that actually existed for a short time in the 1870's and (in Charles' world) became a subsidiary of the PRR and the B&M. The line runs from Rockville, PA, to Boston, MA, along the shoulder of Blue Mountain, up and across the Poughkeepsie Bridge and onto New England. The modeled area is a fictional city area and some nearby mainline in the Hamburg, PA area. Staging is represented by Pen Argyl to the northeast and a southwestern staging area called Blue Mountain representing connections to Harrisburg and Reading.

Presently, the model railroad is fully operational, with scenery about 30% complete. NCE Powehouse DCC controls the model railroad with tethered and wireless controllers. Dispatching is done using the J/MRI suite.

Following Charles' visit, we will stop for lunch at a group of restaurants at the Broadcasting Road exit of US 222 North of Reading. These are located in the "Target Mall". There is easy on/off for US 222.



Joel Holubec's  
PRR Schuylkill Division  
109 Sunset Drive  
Bernville, PA 19506

Following lunch, we will visit Joel Holubec's PRR Schuylkill Division. Joel's HO scale model railroad is set in 1951 running between Norristown and Pottsville, PA, with connections to the Trenton Cut-Off and Philadelphia to the east and Darkwater, Morea, and Wilkes-Barre to the west including Laural Run on the Lehigh Valley. The model railroad is roughly 25' x 12' on 2 levels with a 5 turn helix. The track plan is a true point to point. All visible trackage is Micro-Engineering code 55, 70, and 83 with code 100 used in the hidden areas. Much of the track is hand-laid with nearly all turnouts being hand built to fit the track plan. Most turnouts are controlled by ground throws.

Train control is via Digitrax DCC with radio throttles. Track laying is about 80% complete with scenery being about 20% complete. Scenery consists of Woodland Scenics products and some home made materials including real soil. Although formal operating sessions are not yet held, train movements are based on an actual 1946 timetable running short trains with an emphasis on local switching. Both steam and diesel, appropriate to time period and railroad, are being used. All cars have Kadee or P2K couplers and wheels, are weathered, weighted and meet a minimum rolling requirement.

You do NOT need to RSVP for this event. Non-NMRA members ARE WELCOME to attend.

For directions, use GPS or Mapquest to look up addresses which are listed beside the photo for each layout.

# Saturday, September 26, 2009

## Joint Philadelphia Division meet



In a joint meet with the Philadelphia division, we will meet at the Lukens Office Building at 505 First Avenue in Coatesville, PA. This is a museum of Lukens Steel as well as a collection of model railroads. Take US-30 Bypass East to the PA-82 exit. Take Route 82 South into Coatesville. Cross Main Street. The Lukens Office Building is the red brick building on the left. Doors will open at 8:30 AM. Meeting will start at 9 AM and go to 12 noon.

Following the meeting, several model railroads will be open for visitation. The meeting will consist of 2 clinics (Jeff Warner presenting a "prototype signaling for the model" clinic and Dave Messer, MMR, on "creating small scenes") and a "small scenes" contest (any scene small enough to be transported to the event qualifies). The model railroad open houses following the meeting will be: Paul Backenstose, Bob Dietrich, Jim Dalberg, and Ken McCorry.

More information on Paul's Western Maryland model railroad, Jim's New Jersey Northern, and Ken's BARN-SIZED Central Region, Northern Division can be found on the division website by following the links on the event page. (note that these pictures of Ken's are 8+ years old and MANY changes have taken place since then. Ken's model railroad has been called "World's Biggest Home Layout" by Model Railroader. A freight train takes over an hour to go from one end to the other at a moderate speed).

**YOU MUST GO TO THE MORNING MEETING TO RECEIVE DIRECTIONS TO THE AFTERNOON OPEN HOUSES.**

Non-NMRA members are invited. You do NOT need to RSVP for this event.

Friday-Saturday, October 2-3, 2009  
Lehigh/Susquehanna Operations Weekend



In a joint event with the Operations Special Interest Group (OP SIG), we will host an operating weekend at two locations in the Division (the Lehigh Valley area and the Susquehanna Valley area). There will be a limited number of slots (positions) available for guests to operate three model railroads in one of these locations this weekend. Some operating experience is strongly suggested to register for one of these all-weekend slots.

**IN ADDITION TO THESE ALL-WEEKEND SLOTS, there are a limited number of slots IN BOTH AREAS for Division 11 members WITH NO PRIOR OPERATIONS EXPERIENCE to operate a SINGLE SESSION of one of these excellent model railroads (you may request the area and time you wish to operate the ONE model railroad on the registration form). This event is an EXCELLENT way to experience what operations are all about first hand.**

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT.** These events have been very successful around the country, and we hope this turns into a yearly event in this division also. More information, and registration forms can be found at

<http://www.susquehannanmra.org/lisops/>

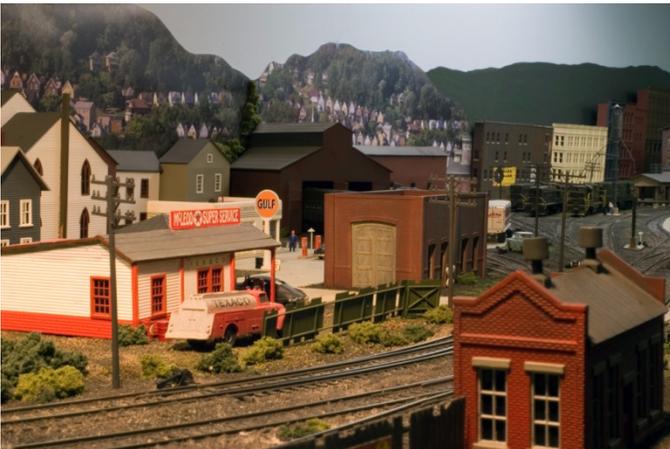
## LSOPS continued



There are 7 model railroads Division members may sign up for as part of this event. Three of these (Larry Reynolds, Gale Smith, Jim Hertzog) are located in the Lehigh Valley (Allentown area). The other four (Bob Martin, Lew Jones, Jeff Warner, Steven Mallery) are in the Susquehanna Valley (York-Harrisburg area). More information on each of these fine model railroads can be found on the LSOPS website (see URL on page 8).

Many of you have commented that you wish there was an opportunity to try to operate a model railroad “without being in the way” at a regularly scheduled operating session... Well, **THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!!!!**

There are a limited number of slots at each model railroad, so please sign up as soon as possible. You **MAY** sign up non-NMRA members as your guests also for these slots. All slots will be filled based on the time you sign up (first-come, first-serve).



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Upcoming Division Events  
Steamtown Roundup  
Reading Area Model Railroads  
Joint Philly Meet  
LSOPS

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