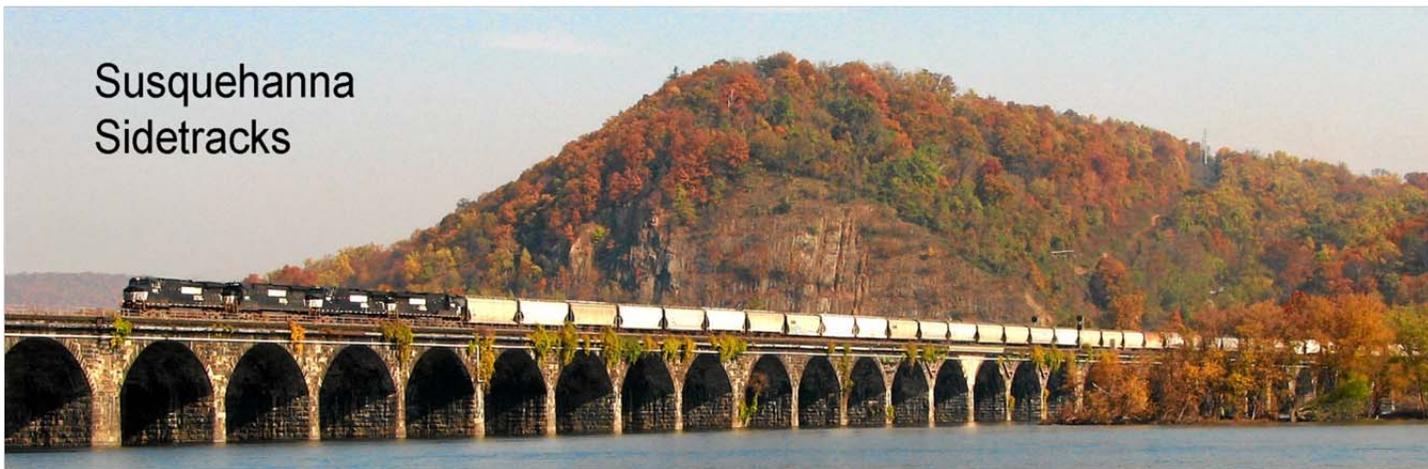


Susquehanna Sidetracks



Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division 11 of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association
<http://www.susquehannamra.org> June 2011 Volume 19 Issue 2

2011 Division Events



Saturday, July 30, 2011.

The division will visit Harris Interlocking Tower in Harrisburg, PA to view the restored tower, run their simulation (they have restored the original Harris 113-lever, 450 indicator lamp model board, interlocking machine to a computer simulation that is very much a “model

railroad”...just with simulated trains), and railfan NS/Amtrak as they pass by the tower. More details of this event will be coming in a future newsletter, but I wanted to get everyone the date. (photo by Linda Warner)

Friday, Sept 30, 2011 and Saturday, October 1, 2011. LSOPS 3 will take place in the Harrisburg and Allentown areas.

Saturday, October 22, 2011. The division will visit the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum and the Reading Society of Model Engineers.

Banner photo courtesy of Christopher Muller, SteamPhotos.com.

Susquehanna Sidetracks

<http://www.susquehannamra.org>

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Division 11 Happenings

This is the "ballot" issue that is mailed to all Susquehanna Division 11 Members. As such, I want to remind everyone that if you are reading this, but are NOT on the email list for notification of division events, please send me an e-mail and I will add you to this FREE list. Only division officers may send to the list, so you will not receive ANY junk mail or SPAM by signing up. Also, several members changed ISP's (providers) and didn't send me the updated email address. So, please send me any changes or updates.

The BOD has unanimously approved electronic (e-mail) ballots for both the director election and the proposed by-law change IN ADDITION to USPS mail ballots. It is NOT necessary to use the forms that I have provided in this issue – just get me the information in whatever format you like.

The fourth event of the 2011 calendar year will be Saturday, July 30th, when we visit Harris Tower in Harrisburg, PA. Harris Tower is run by the Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and includes an INCREDIBLE restoration of Harris's original interlocking machine. It has 113 levers and over 450 indicator lights on the model board. A computer simulation will be running that day to simulate PRR traffic in the 1940's and guests get to OPERATE the machine in response to the computer. In essence, the Harris Tower folks have created a unique "model railroad" which is incredibly prototypically accurate. More details on Harris Tower can be found on their website at <http://harristower.org> and will be featured in a future issue of Susquehanna Sidetracks. For now, I wanted to get you the date (it was only finalized earlier this week) for your calendars.

Per our advertising policy, you will notice that there are two advertisements at the back of this newsletter. PLEASE let these people know you saw the ads here and that their money was well spent. Their support helps off-set the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, with any surplus going into the general fund. Please support them as they are helping to support us.

Jeff Warner

Director Candidates

John Frantz: John is currently in his late-20's, and after working for a few years as a professional model builder he has started his own small business originally selling structure kits, then creating an ever expanding a line of decals. He hopes to inject the passion for modeling within the division, in going beyond the ready-to-run approach. John takes an innovative approach to modeling preferring to teach others by giving them a hands-on approach rather than showing, and wants to apply this to the way the division operates, with more members getting involved. In addition to the NMRA, John is actively involved in two railroad historical societies, two railroad clubs, and local layout operating groups.

Robert F. Lyter: Hi, my name is Robert F. Lyter, Director to the NMRA MER Susquehanna Division 11. I am requesting your vote for re-election to the position of Director. I support the proposed and much needed By-Laws change and voting by e-mail which is designed to get more members involved in the voting process of the organization. I feel that the electronic method of using the internet is a way to get information to all Division members. I am an active model railroad operator on various layouts in the Harrisburg, Lancaster, Kempton, Downingtown and Allentown area which promotes model railroading. I am a member of the Mechanicsburg Model Railroad Club and have been involved in upgrading their layout from DC to DCC operation. I am an active member of the Harrisburg Chapter, NRHS being a Past President and present Treasurer also being a founding member of its Modular Railroad Division which is used to promote Model Railroading to the general public at various shows throughout the year. I am also actively working on some of the areas in the NMRA's Achievement Program.

Howard Oakes: My name is Howard Oakes and I ask for your vote to a Susquehanna Division 11 Director position. I am currently a director and help maintain the division mailing list. I believe I can help the division by improving communications between division members, and by promoting division events. My main area of interest is model railroad operations; I participate in the LSOPS activity held in the division each fall and operate monthly on a local model railroad. I am the secretary of a scale modular club. I enjoy researching and rail-fanning B&O and WM areas and belong to both historical societies.

Ron Parisi: Hello, my name is Ron Parisi and I am running for one of the open Directorships in the Susquehanna Division. As a prototype modeler and scratch builder, my main interests are urban modeling and the rail-marine aspect of operations. I am engaged in the AP program. As for the future of the Division, I would like to see more and varied activities at our meets. I would also like to see a greater effort put on recruitment of new members, especially younger modelers as our hobby is aging out. Further, as I am working on some Free-mo modules, establishing a local group might be a possibility. I would appreciate your vote.

Director Candidates

(continued from page 3)

Barry Schmitt: Greetings to NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 Members. My name is Barry Schmitt, and I ask for your vote to become a Division Director. While I am relatively new to the hobby, I believe my enthusiasm more than makes up for my lack of longevity in model railroading. I am both a member of the Elizabethtown Masonic Village Model Railroad Club and the North Ft Myers Florida Scale Rails of Southwest Florida Model Railroad Club where I model both in H.O. and N-Scale. My primary hobby interests include structure building, scenery construction, and operations. As a Division Director I would devote much of my time assisting the Division in hosting frequent member and club open houses and clinics throughout our wide ranging area. I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to such open houses, and have learned much from fellow modelers. My retirement job causes me to travel extensively throughout the country and that has provided me the opportunity to visit many home and club layouts and other NMRA Division events. I believe those experiences and my love of the hobby will make me a positive force in our Division leadership structure.

NMRA MER Susquehanna Division 11 2011 ballot

The BOD has voted to ALLOW electronic (e-mail) ballots for both the proposed by-law change and the director vote. There are 4 director openings this year. Directors will be elected to a 2 year term, beginning July 1, 2011. You may send your e-mail ballot (it is NOT necessary to use this form – any format will be fine) to jwarner@susquehannanmra.org or jeffrywarner@comcast.net (I will CONFIRM every ballot with an e-mail response – so if you don't hear back from me, PLEASE re-send) or mail to Jeffry Warner, 605 Hill Point Drive, Etters, PA 17319. Deadline is Friday, June 25th at 5 PM.

By-law changes (see page 5):

_____ I vote to accept these changes
_____ I vote to reject these changes

Directors (see pages 3 and 4):

VOTE FOR UP TO 4 CANDIDATES

_____ John Frantz
_____ Robert F. Lyter
_____ Howard Oakes
_____ Ron Parisi
_____ Barry Schmitt

BY LAW changes

We are proposing to amend the division by-laws to cover the situation that recently arose in the division with the previous superintendent wishing to step down from the board before his term expired. Also, at the request of the MER, we are REMOVING the criteria for MER approval/review of by-law changes.

Only modified sections appear below (all other sections remain unchanged). A complete copy of both the old by-laws and the new proposed by-laws can be found on the division website. The Board of Directors has UNANIMOUSLY approved the following by-law changes and we recommend their approval by the membership.

ARTICLE VI, 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 the spring of even-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year.

ARTICLE VI, Section 2. The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members: the three elected Officers, the Past Superintendent (until he is replaced by the next Past Superintendent), and three (3) directors, and will be chaired by the Superintendent. The directors shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of odd-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year. In the event the Past Superintendent is unwilling, ineligible, or unable to be a member of the Board, a fourth director shall take the seventh board position in accordance with Article VI, Section 1, Paragraph C. The Board of Directors shall hold legal title to all Susquehanna Division 11 property and monies in trust for its members. Each member has one vote at a Board meeting or a General meeting. All members must be members of the NMRA and reside in the Division. All members must be at least twenty one (21) years of age and be eligible for bonding as may be required by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI, Section 1.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership responding to the mail ballot. The Board of Directors may elect to allow electronic ballots in addition to mail ballots. Proposed changes must be published in the division newsletter not less than fourteen (14) days prior to any vote.



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