



SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 24 No. 4



Welcome Tim Himmelberger!!!

Notice how we put him to work right away, presenting a clinic at Quakertown...

From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

When I was asked to consider running for the Superintendent position part of me was hoping that there would be a grass roots ABT (Anybody But Tim) uprising. However that has not happened. So as your new Superintendent let me take some time to introduce myself. I am the Product Manager for Kercher Industries. Our primary product line is High Intensity mixers. They are primarily used in the Ceramics and refractory industries. We also produce low shear mixers, which now are primarily used in laboratory work. The other major product line is a machine which makes molded brick. The idea is to automate the process of making hand-molded brick. In the brick industry it is a small but high end niche market. For those of you who attended the Quakertown meeting you had a chance to hear my clinic on modeling a brick plant. I have been to many brick plants and know enough about the process to know what you can do to make a viable looking model.

I have an associate degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. In the past I have held various positions at Church including: Chair of Administrative Council, Treasurer, and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. I was a Scoutmaster for about 5 years and have earned my Wood Badge.

As a kid we would start setting up our HO trains on Thanksgiving Day every year. They would be up until sometime in January when my Mom would like to have the room back. When Josh, my son, expressed interest in modeling we were working on a HO shelf switching layout hand laying code 70 track. While he was in high school it sat dormant so due to the pressure from my wife for the space it was dismantled and packed away. When our 2nd grandson was born my wife suggested that I set up the trains again (though she now denies it!). That was 9 years ago. My daughter has since had her 3rd son so we now have 3 grandsons. The basis for our layout was done with the boys in mind - allowing them to see trains run. Young boys are not interested in operation. In the interim Josh has moved back home from Connecticut. The layout has been expanded, but we are not happy with it - we would like a layout which will provide better opportunities for operation. However Mark the youngest grandson is 5. If we would attempt to do anything right now, Josh and I would both lose our favored position with Mark. So for now we will use the current layout for trying different modeling techniques so you can say it is our test layout. The current layout uses code 83 track. We are both Pennsy fans and are modeling the transition era. As a kid I lived in Mountville one block from the Columbia branch back when it was still 2 tracks with high wire. From there we moved to President Ave in Lancaster, where we were close to the Dillerville yard and I made many trips over the foot bridge.

Moving forward I was interested in the results of last year's survey. What I discovered was that I am very typical of most of our members who responded: I enjoy the clinics. I'm always interested in improving my modeling skills. I enjoy the layout tours, as you never know where you will get a good idea. After all imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. And, I enjoy fellowship with other modelers. The chance to make new friendships with other modelers and to exchange ideas is very rewarding.

Since joining the NMRA I have had the opportunity to make many friendships and have enjoyed them all. But I have also enjoyed the variety of activities. However, being a mechanical manufacturing guy I especially enjoyed the Live steam manufacturing tour and the hobby suppliers' plant tours. I am looking forward to my time to serve you as your Superintendent and the opportunity of working with you!

Tim

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
138 Old School House Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from the Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be sent to the Editor at the e-mail address listed below or the street address above. Deadline for submission for the next issue is August 22, 2016.

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www.mer.nmra.org

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Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
www.nmra.org

Cover photo credit: Ron Smith
Inset credit: Ron Smith

Second Section - Ron Smith

Hello everyone!

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. As I write this, the summer solstice has just passed as did a very pleasant Sunday spent beside Keuka Lake, within feet of the still-standing Hammondsport NY depot. One of these days I'll get around to building a model of this structure for my N scale Bath & Hammondsport layout.

We had a great turnout for the meet in Quakertown in May, and kudos to Howard Oakes for putting it all together. The clinics were interesting (I'm still in amazement of the 21 separate LED lights that Dennis Blank installed in his locomotive) and the afternoon layout tours were very nice. Interestingly enough, I am also a member of OPSIG, and shortly after visiting Jim Herzog's Reading layout that day the latest issue of *The Dispatcher* arrived – with a cover photo of Jim's layout!!

I also wish to take this space to express my sincere gratitude to Barry Schmitt for his years of service as our Superintendent. He has breathed new life into Division 11 and our group is all the better for his enthusiastic leadership!

We hope to see you during our next events, detailed elsewhere in this issue. Happy modeling!

Ron

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Frank Carbalan
Kenneth Havanko
Raymond Keifer
Jerry Lauchle
Michael Ensminger

Boalsburg, PA
Emmaus, PA
Willow Street, PA
State College, PA
York, PA



IS COMING

Greeting Fellow Members

This is my final Super Corner article as I pass the throttle to your new Superintendent Tim Himmelberger effective July 1. These past four years have been the highlight of my semiretirement that began in 2004. Kindly bear with me as I thank the many members who made these past 4 years so personally rewarding.

But first, a short recap of my extensive (ha ha!) NMRA leadership experience before becoming your Super. Until July 1, 2012, I was essentially a part-time Division member who attended at best just 2 events per year due to spending winters in Florida and working part-time in both TX and FL. However, since accepting the position I've missed only 2 events due to distant job assignments, visited 32 clubs (18 in our Division), and 53 home layouts mostly in our Division. But the greatest reward has been the hundreds of new model railroading friends I've made not only in our Division but throughout the MER and nationally. That should dispel the belief that as a member you must acquire years of experience before volunteering to join your Division leadership team.

One significant BOD accomplishment since 2012 has been the number and variety of top quality events offered. It all began in 2013 with a commitment to develop an annual event program each fall and presenting that event schedule in our Jan Sidetracks. The BOD also set a goal of presenting events throughout our large Division. Below are a few of my favorite events and the dedicated project officers who made them possible:

- May 2013 - joint meet with the Mid Central Region Keystone Division held at the Altoona Association of Model Railroaders club and managed by member Forrest Lucas. How did he arrange that run-by of steam loco 611?!
- June 2014 – an exceptional visit to the East Broad Top (EBT) Railroad and Rockhill Trolley Museum in Orbisonia led by BOD member Lee Rainey.
- July 2014 - BOD member Howard Oakes led a fantastic tour of Bowser Manufacturing and English Model Railroad Supply in Montoursville and Weaver Manufacturing and Scalecoat Paints in Northumberland.
- Sep 2014 - Model Railroad Day at the Strasburg Pennsylvania Railroad Museum led by project officer Rich Wurst, his team of 13 hard-working volunteers, and great museum staff. Over 850 visitors attended.
- May 2015 – project officer Dan Horting arranged visits 2 fascinating live steam facilities - a large machine shop where several locomotives were in various stages of build and the 10-acre live steam Tuscarora Valley Railroad.
- June 2015 - project officer John Wissinger (MMR) arranged a great visit to the Electric City Trolley Museum in Scranton and an afternoon deep underground tour of the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine in Ashland.
- July 2015 - project officers Fred Phillips and Fred Kurtz presented an all-day tour of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in Hamburg.

- May 2016 – project officer Howard Oakes led morning clinics at the restored Quakertown Railroad Station, arranged discounts at the across-the-tracks J&D Whistle Stop hobby shop, and afternoon visits to 5 exceptional layouts.
- June 2016 - member Dan Horting presented a very educational and enjoyable Live Steam Day at the 5-acre PA Live Steamers club in Collegeville.

Four other hugely successful programs have been annual mainstays since 2012 – BOD member Ron Smith's Feb morning clinics and afternoon layout visits; Assistant Super Wayne Betty's management of our popular operations-till-you-drop weekend LSOP program; Ron Smith's leadership of the Sep Mainline Hobby weekend open house program; and our Nov Division-wide layout open house program in support of National Model Railroad Month managed by Lee Rainey, Charles Kadyk, and Jerry Britton.

As you well know our Division successes are due to the hard work of many members. Besides the great event project officers named above several others were key Division leaders these past 4 years: Ron Smith, Editor of our superb bi-monthly Sidetracks; our Chief Clerk (money bags) Paul Tice who has held that position since the Division was founded in the mid-1980s; BOD member David Collison who led our recent purchase of badly needed audio visual equipment; Bob Charles (MMR), NMRA President for many years, our Achievement Program manager, and Chairman of our upcoming Oct 2017 MER Convention - The Susquehannock; Howard Oakes, our Membership Chairman who led our expansion from 238 members in 2012 to 268 last month; and member Bill Lesjak and his wonderful wife Loraine who have managed our registration desk at every event as far back as I can remember. And finally I sincerely thank my wife Sue for the many postponed or shortened vacations caused by pressing Division business and her continuous support these past 4 years!

Lastly, I thank each of you for your years of support and the help I know you will provide to Tim and your BOD as they keep us advancing steadily down our future tracks!

Happy modeling and great health to each of you!

Barry

A note from your Editor: Some of you may not realize all the effort that Barry and his wife Sue put in to help make this newsletter successful. In addition to his bi-monthly columns and his routine contributions to event write-ups, Barry is one of just two people who proofread Susquehanna Sidetracks before we distribute it. Barry and Sue also arrange for the printing of the two dozen or so hard copies for those who subscribe, print the address labels, seal the newsletters to the USPS specs, and then deliver the copies to their local post office for mailing. It's a big task! It is not in the Superintendent's job description, and it goes largely unnoticed. I am very appreciative of Barry's efforts, as we strive to make this newsletter something that adds value to your NMRA membership.

Thank you Barry and Sue!!!

RLS

September 17-18 Mainline Hobby Supply Open House

Once again the Susquehanna Division is co-sponsoring an event that has become a tradition in south-central PA the 3rd weekend of September.

Mainline Hobby Supply of Blue Ridge Summit, PA will be holding their 27th annual Open House on September 17-18, 2016. Along with extended hours and a sale on their already-great prices, the store arranges for area layouts to be open for visitors during the weekend.

The store is open Saturday from 9-5 and Sunday from 12-5. Our Division plans to have a table set up both days so your non-member friends can learn about all the advantages of joining the NMRA and then sign up for our free six-month Rail Pass membership program that includes just about all full membership benefits during that trial period. (*Editor's note: If you'd be willing to man the table for a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday, please let me know at rsmith@susquehannanmra.org. We could use your help!*)

One of the highlights of the Open House Weekend is the opportunity to visit area layouts, and this year's tour will again feature layouts from all over the area around Mainline Hobby Supply, including some of our Division members. Note that while many of the layouts are outside of our division area, they are certainly worthy of a visit if your time allows. More details will be presented in the September *Sidetracks*.

Mark your calendars now for this long-standing South-Central PA tradition!

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November Layout Tours

Mark your calendar now for the National Model Railroad Month layout tours coming up this November. Layouts in the southern part of the Susquehanna Division will be open the weekend of November 5, layouts in eastern region will be open the weekend of November 12 and layouts in the west and north will be open the weekend of November 19.

There will be more details in the our September and November *Sidetracks* where we'll also have all the schedules, locations, and directions on a variety of websites, including our own division site at <http://www.susquehannanmra.org/> and the comprehensive NJ, MD, DE, and Philly area site www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com.

We hope you will be able to visit several layouts this year. If you would like to participate this year and have not hosted a November Open House tour previously, please let us know!

Seeking Layouts for Susquehannock Convention

The layout tour and operating session subcommittee for the Susquehannock convention is looking for layout owners who would like to host tours and operating sessions.

Tours and op sessions are a key feature of MER conventions. Convention attendees are given a guide for the layout tours and drive themselves to the open layouts. Layouts are typically open for 3 to 4 hours, once or twice during the convention. It is an opportunity for you to share your modeling with your fellow modelers.

Convention op sessions give convention attendees opportunities to operate on layouts in the division. Attendees pre-register for op sessions so the number of operators can be limited to a number appropriate to your layout. If you already host an established operating session on your layout, please consider hosting a session for the convention. We're looking for layouts that can accommodate a minimum of 5 guest operators. You should plan on having some of your regular experienced operators on hand to help the guest operators.

The convention takes place October 12 through 15, 2017. Please consider hosting a layout tour and/or operating session on your layout. If you're interesting in hosting please fill out our online form to express your interest: <http://goo.gl/forms/fynIarcW5RVxAHvF3>

Harry Haddon, Layout Committee Chair

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Did you know?

Historic Rockville Bridge

March 26, 2016 www.marysvilleboro.com Marysville, PA

Marysville is the proud home of the historic Rockville Bridge. The bridge is 3,823 feet long – the longest stone masonry arch railroad bridge in the world!! Construction of the Rockville Bridge began simultaneously on the east and west shores of the Susquehanna River in 1900. Italian stone masons and Irish laborers completed construction on the 48-arch bridge on March 30, 1902. The bridge was opened for traffic on Easter Sunday morning, with the first train being the Atlantic Express, No. 20, with D16a 4-4-0 engine No. 30 doing the honors. Constructed to accommodate four tracks, it was reduced to three in the late 1900's. The bridge is constructed of native sandstone from western Pennsylvania, primarily from quarries in Johnstown and Curwensville. Total weight is 440 million pounds (220,000 tons). Each of the 48 arches is 70 feet long. Bridgeview Bed & Breakfast has lodging available with a view the Rockville Bridge.



In looking thru some old pics I found what appeared to be a picture of me, The Susquehannock, parked in front of the Williamsport station. It got me so excited about next year's convention, I thought I'd register to attend the 2016 MER event this year so I know better how to organize our convention in 2017.

This year's convention is in Durham, NC, October 20 – 23. I want to encourage everyone to try and attend this year. But I am especially extending this invitation to all of the committee members, especially if you have never attended a regional convention. While you are there please:

- take some extra time to observe how they have approached organizing the area you are working on.
- Please ask questions, and don't be afraid to take written notes.
- Try to find out the good and the bad. Hopefully nothing falls into the ugly category. Hopefully we do not repeat others mistakes.

We do want to put on a very good convention, and not repeat others' mistakes. After all I have my name and image to maintain!



One of the newest additions to the list of operating steam locomotives in PA belongs to the Everett RR, based in Hollidaysburg (a few miles south of Altoona). In November 2015 the railroad unveiled their recently-restored # 11, the former Bath & Hammondsport # 11.

After a nearly 30-year career in revenue freight service for the Narragansett Pier and the Bath & Hammondsport Railroads, in 1949 the # 11 was retired by the B&H -replaced by a GE 44-tonner. Stored until 1955, #11 was sold to a private owner, marking the beginning of her new career in tourist service. Stored since the 1970's for another 30 year period; restoration began in 2006 and was completed in 2015.

Welcome back # 11!



www.everetrailroad.com

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6-issue year. This fee helps to further offset the cost of mailing hard-copy newsletters, and your support is greatly appreciated. For information about placing an ad, please contact Ron Smith at rsmith@susquehannamra.org



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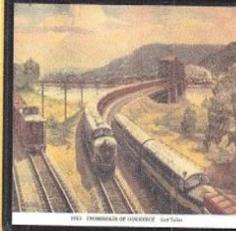
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July 16, 2016

Vienna, VA

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Free Admission

www.nvmr.org

July and August, 2016

Hollidaysburg, PA

Everett RR Excursions

July 5, July 9- 10, August 13-14
2-6-0 # 11 is the planned engine.

www.everettrailroad.org

2016 N Scale Enthusiast National Convention

**Overland Park, KS
June 29 – July 3**

**2016 NMRA Convention
Indianapolis, IN
July 3-10**

July 16, 2016

Pennsdale, PA

Mill Creek & Lycoming Summer Train Meet

At Pennsdale Civic Center
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90 vendor tables and displays
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July 23-24, 2016

Strasburg, PA

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In partnership with the Conrail Historical Society
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www.rrmuseumpa.org

**2016 Nat'l Assoc. of S Gaugers Convention
Novi, MI**

August 10-14

www.nasg.org

July 16-17, 2016

Williams Grove, PA

Model Train Flea Market at Williams Grove Steam Engine Association, Williams Grove Rd
Free Admission

September 17-18, 2016

Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Mainline Hobby Supply's Annual Open House
See page 6 for details

N Scale Weekend

Altoona PA

August 19-21

www.n-scaleweekend.com

www.wghsea.org

July 16-17, 2016

Cass, WV

MSR&LA Membership Weekend
At Cass Scenic Railroad
Limited to 100 tickets, \$150.00

September 23-24, 2016

Fredericksburg, VA

Mid-Atlantic RPM Meet

Wingate by Wyndham
20 Sanford Drive
Admission: \$35 before 9/1/16

www.marpm.org

2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention

Augusta, ME

September 7-10

2016 MER Fall Convention

Durham, NC

October 20-23

www.msrlha.org

October 20-23, 2016

2016 MER Fall Convention

Tracks to the Triangle

www.mer2016.org



Make your plans now to join us this Fall from October 20 – 23, 2016 at Tracks to the Triangle in Durham, NC!

Quakertown May 14 Event – Wrap Up

Division 11 held its spring event on Saturday May 14 in the beautifully restored Quakertown Train Station. 37 members and guests attended including several from the NMRA Philadelphia division. The MER's AP chairman Charlie Flichman MMR was also in attendance.

In his opening remarks Superintendent Barry Schmitt discussed the upcoming Division 11 elections, the June 26 live steam event, the September Mainline Hobby and the November Division 11 open house events, and the status of the MER convention (The Susquehannock) which will be hosted by the Susquehanna Division on October 12-15, 2017. Bob Charles MMR, the convention chairman, spoke briefly about some of the planned convention activities. Watch for details in upcoming issues of Sidetracks.

The morning program began with a short talk by Don Fenstermacher who is the president of the Quakertown Train Station Historical Society. Don discussed the history of the station, who built and owned it, the fire and reconstruction, current operation and future plans. Find out more about this station at <http://www.quakertowntrainstation.org/>.

David Long, president of the Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers C.A.S.M.E., gave a presentation on the origins of the club which began with a merger of two clubs. The East Penn Model R.R. Club from Emmaus, PA lost their location and the Bux-Mont Model Engineers from Quakertown PA needed a space to set up their HO modules. The current location is in the Coopersburg Borough Building and the club has been building the layout for 10 years. Dave talked about how they developed their track plan, location and era modeled, operations that can include up to 2 dozen operators at one time, membership, DCC system, scenery, challenges and upcoming plans. This 2 level layout, with a third level for staging, is a must see. Visit their website www.casme.org for upcoming open house events.



Don Fenstermacher



David Long

Two photos: Ron Smith

After a short break Division 11's Tim Himmelberger presented a clinic on modeling a brick plant. He began by looking at the history of brick plants, the brick making process start to finish, and how plants have changed over the years. He discussed what kits are available to construct a realistic plant, as well as what modifications would be necessary to adjust the model to your era. He offered suggestions on how can you compress a large modern brick plant to fit on your layout. If you are interested in modeling a brick plant, contact Tim as he has extensive knowledge of the entire operation.

The Model Showcase portion of the program featured 4 presenters. Tim Himmelberger brought several models of the brick operation, Bill Lesjak showed a nicely done laser kit, Scott Unger displayed a wooden retaining wall and Dennis Blank has an incredibly lighted diesel engine with several LEDs.

Rounding out the morning was a door prize drawing for 6 items. Before departing the station area several attendees visited the J&D Whistle Stop hobby store just across the tracks at 106 E. Broad St. <http://www.jdwhistle.com/>

The afternoon featured tours of 3 club and 2 home layouts:

- The Keystone N-Trak permanent layout in Dublin is a double tracked modern era layout. There is a large yard, several industries for switching and a staging area. Scenery is mostly complete; control is by Digitrax with some members using their smartphones as a throttle. <http://www.keystonetrak.us/>
- The Coopersburg Area Society of Model Engineers in Coopersburg was discussed in a morning clinic. This relatively new layout has most track installed, working signals and scenery is complete in several areas. They also have a humongous helix and return loop area which makes the whole layout operation viable. Visit their website and take a virtual tour. <http://www.casme.org/>
- The Lehigh & Keystone Valley Model Railroad Museum in Bethlehem is a 4,000 sq. ft. double deck operating layout. The layout models the Lehigh Valley, Reading, and the CNJ Railroads with several prototypical scenes and buildings. The museum is open one Sunday per month from March through October. The other months feature several open weekends for their holiday open house schedule. Visit their website at <http://lvlou04.webspawner.com/> for more information.
- The home layout of Larry Reynolds is a joy for PRR fans as they watch trains travel from Huntingdon PA to Tunnelhill PA. The mostly 4 track mainline includes highlights of the Altoona facilities. The early 1950's era features steam and diesel locomotives. Larry's website at <http://pamodelrailroads.com/lreynolds/> has a track plan plus many photos.
- Jim Hertzog Reading Shamokin Division is always a pleasure to visit. The steam to diesel transition era of 1952-1957 provides for plenty of action and variety on the double tracked mainline. You know you are in coal country when you see all the coal mines and breakers on the layout. And he has real anthracite coal scattered around the layout. Visit the website for a track plan and photos. <http://www.pamodelrailroads.com/jhertzog/>

The photos on the next page show the various pieces of East Penn Ry equipment at the Quakertown station.

A final shout out of thanks goes to David Long, proprietor of the J&D Whistle Stop hobbies and president of the C.A.S.M.E. club. His help and guidance made this event run smoothly.



Four photos above: Rich Wurst.

Two below: Ron Smith





Susquehanna Division and PA Live Steamers (PLS) member Bob Blackson is running his 4.75" gauge, 1" scale steam locomotive at our June 26 Live Steam Day at the PLS facility in Collegetown. Bob's locomotive is a miniature of William Mason's 4-4-0 *Phantom*, which is a sister engine of the one on display at the B&O Museum in Baltimore.

A great time was had by all! See the next two pages for more photos of the event.

Barry Schmitt





Four photos: Josh Himmelberger

Financial Audit of Susquehanna Division 11, MER, NMRA

For the period July 1, 2014 – May 31, 2016

Paul F. Tice, P.A. is the Clerk/Paymaster for Division 11 and is a Public Accountant-Enrolled Agent-I.R.S.

Currently Paul Tice and Alan Frame have signature authority to receive and disburse funds through a PNC Bank checking account.

On June 3, 2016 I reconciled the revenue and expenses of Division 11 for the period July 1, 2014 – May 31, 2016.

All checks/withdrawals/transfers are documented as to the purpose and payee/destination of funds.

All deposits are supported by documentation showing source of revenue.

All other business income such as advertising and donations are accurately reported on the chapter financial statements.

The chapter financial account is identified and financial data are incorporated in the financial report.

I certify that I am not involved with chapter finances for the accounting period July 1, 2014 – May 31, 2016. I have verified the supporting information for the above statements and I certify that my responses are complete and accurate.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| <i>Howard Oakes</i> | 078336 OA | 6013 |
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Howard Oakes

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Susquehanna Sidetracks

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