

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA

Vol 27 No. 4

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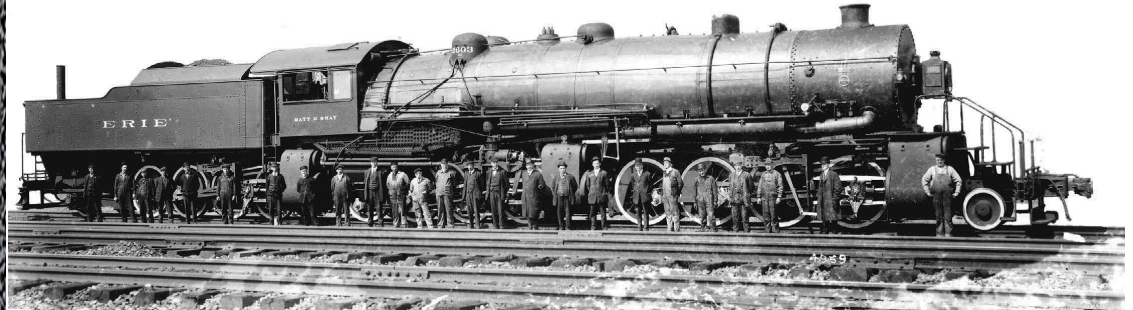
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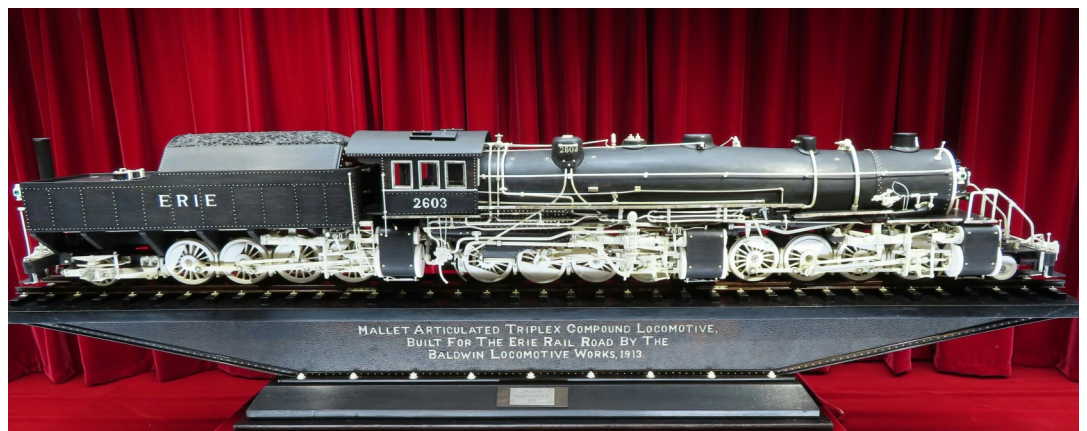
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ERIE RAILROAD #2603 "Matt H. Shay" was a P-1 class articulated triplex 2-8-8-8-2 steam locomotive built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works during 1914-15.



Carved from ebony and ivory, this replica of ERIE RAILROAD #2603 "Matt H. Shay" can be seen at the Warther's Carving Museum in Dover, Ohio. The carver was Ernest Warther, a little known carver, whose extensive collection of highly accurate and detailed steam locomotives and full trains are beyond museum quality.

From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

It is July already. And with the coming of July there are changes in the leadership of the Susquehanna Division. That is even more true this year than in most years. Let me start by saying thank you to those leaving leadership positions. We are losing three of our Directors, Howard Oakes, is leaving to become the Business Manager for the Region. Howard has agreed to stay on as the membership chairman. David Collison is working on making time for his many commitments, one of which is serving as webmaster for the region. The third director we are losing is Lee Rainey. As many of you are aware Lee suffered a bad fall and is still recuperating. He felt that it would be unfair to serve in the capacity of Director due to his limited ability to participate in events. We have also lost our Sidetracks editor, Tedd Pounds. Tedd recently was promoted and the job thing seems to limit his time for filling that position. Tedd will be staying on as the Assistant Superintendent. All of these individuals have served the Division very well and we wish them well as they move forward.

We have had an election to fill four Director's positions. By the time you read this they will have started their two-year term. They are Dennis Blank, Pat Mulrooney, Phil Peters and Jeff Thompson. Congratulations are in order and also to James Mattern who just missed getting elected. I am working to find a place for James. We also have a new Sidetracks editor, Rich Wurst. I am looking forward to working with all of you. Please see the election results on page 3. The annual Board of Directors meeting will be scheduled towards the end of summer. If you have any suggestions please contact any officer or director,

August is just around the corner. We will have an event at the Smokestown Fire Company. I know that this is short notice but this promises to be a good day. Please see the article on page 7 for all the details.

It is not too early to make your plans for this year's MER convention. This year it is hosted by the Philadelphia Division. It will be held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia on October 10th to the 13th. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. The web page is <http://libertybellspecial.org/>.

Board of Directors Election

Susquehanna Division, MER, NMRA 2019 Election Report

Total Voters:	12
Dennis Blank:	9
James Mattern:	7
Pat Mulroney	10
Phil Peters	11
Jeff Thompson	11

The election was without any known issues, concluding at midnight June 16. All voters registered their votes electronically, with no letters or postcards received. I feel compelled to note personal disappointment in the incredibly low number of division members who chose to express their opinion in our election. Not only does this seem to indicate a level of unconcern, I am sure it is disconcerting to those members standing for election and expressing their willingness to work for the improvement of the Susquehanna Division. Each candidate has my deep thanks for offering their candidacy and their enthusiasm for the Division.

Congratulations to each elected Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Charles, MMR

Ballot Chairman

Ma & Pa Railroad



A crowded Ma & Pa Railroad speeder train prepares to head north from the station platform.

Never heard of the Ma & Pa Railroad? It's one of the best kept secrets of York County. The mini-railway, museum, and grounds, located in Airville, sustained heavy damage during last summer's rainstorms, but has risen like a phoenix from the ashes in time for the 2019 summer season, with over 900 feet of restored track and bridges.

The venue opened June 2, at 258 Muddy Creek Forks Road, Airville. The village is open every Sunday through Sept. 1 and also on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2. Train rides depart every 15 minutes. All of the museum's traditional special events will return, including:

- Civil War Encampment - July 14;
- Old Fashioned Picnic/Games Day - July 28;
- World War I Encampment - Aug. 3 and 4;
- World War II Encampment - Aug. 24 and 25;
- Roaring 20s Dance Party and Harvest Moon Train Ride - Sept. 14
- Railroad Heritage Day - Sept. 28;
- Fall Foliage Excursions - Oct. 19, 20, 26 and 27; and the
- Christmas City Express program - Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15.

The Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of the famous "Ma & Pa" Railroad. Learn more and plan a visit at MaAndPaRailroad.com.

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

Model Railroading Days

Saturday, August 17 & Sunday, August 18, 2019

The young and the young at heart, the novice and the veteran railroader together will enjoy operating model train layouts as well as demonstrations and other activities.



Railroad Heritage Days

Saturday, September 7 & Sunday, September 8, 2019

Discover the amazing and diverse heritage of the industry that built our nation and continues strong today. They will showcase Pennsylvania's many remarkable historical and contemporary railroads with presentations, operating model train layouts, art and photography, interpretive tours and more.





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Reading Railroad Museum – Locomotive & Rolling Stock Displays

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www.ReadingRRMM.com

Registration form on the back of this flyer!

Interested in presenting a clinic or being a vendor?

Barry Hensel barry76Lt@wowway.com 734-649-3056



Hosted by: ***The Reading Railroad Heritage Museum and
Reading Company Technical & Historical Society***



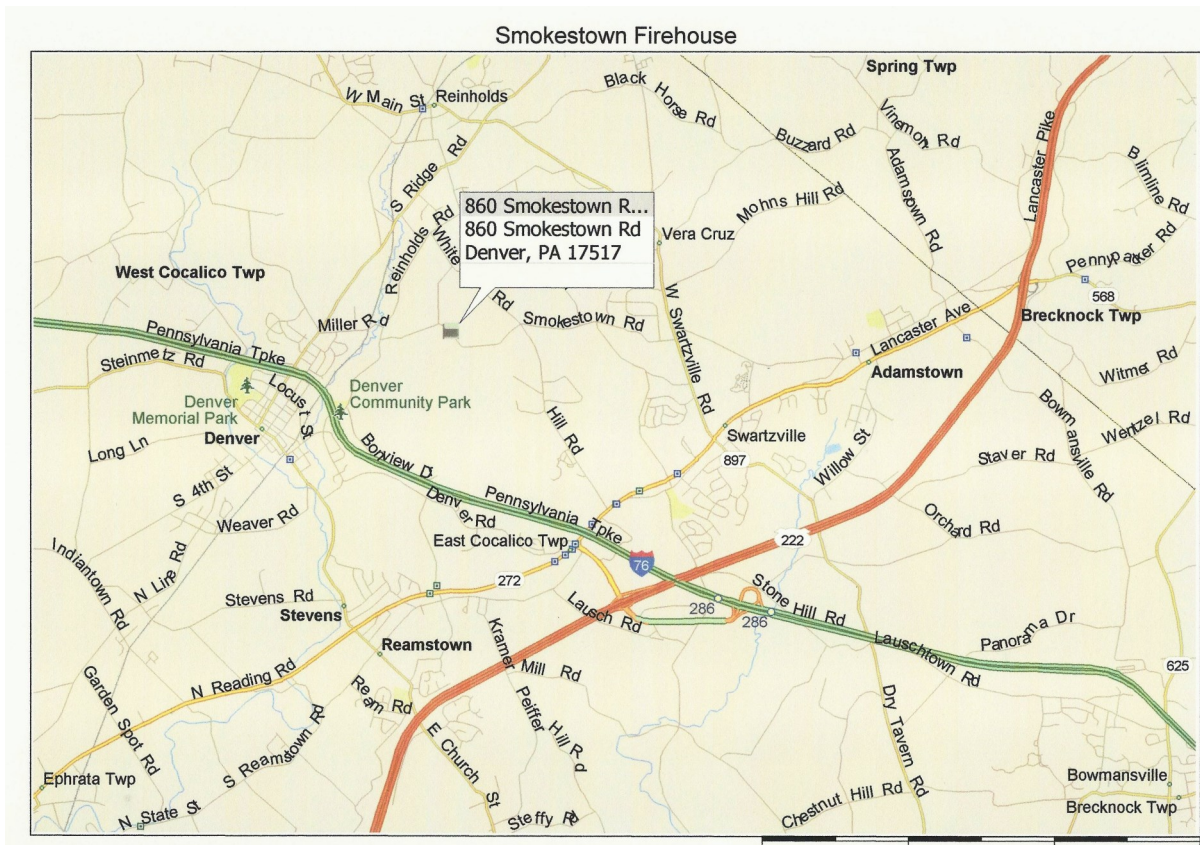
Summer Meeting Event

August 17, 2019

Smokestown Fire Company

A special thank you to Dennis Blank for putting together an event which will be held on August 17th at the Smokestown Fire Company which is just outside of Denver, PA. For those needing an address for your GPS it is 860 Smokestown Road, Denver, PA 17517. The program for the day will start at 8:30 in the morning with a meet and greet time, not to mention coffee and doughnuts. There will be two clinics in the morning and our model showcase. Just a side note, we have been considering that you need to bring something for the model showcase if you want coffee and doughnuts. It is just a thought, but it just may come to that.

For the first clinic Dennis Blank will be presenting his construction of the coal shed he is modeling. The second clinic Bob Bucklew will present using your smart phone as a throttle. The morning activities will conclude with the Model Showcase. Maps will be distributed for lunch spots and the three layouts that will be open for the afternoon. The three layouts that will be open are Dennis Blank, Bob Bucklew and Chris Saporito. This looks to be a good day for model railroaders so come out and join in the activities.



September 21-22 Mainline Hobby Layout Open Houses

This September marks the seventh year our Susquehanna Division is sponsoring the annual Mainline Hobby layout open houses program - their 29th year presenting this very popular annual event. The exceptionally well stocked Mainline Hobby Supply Shop is located in Blue Ridge Summit, PA, and will be open extended hours both days.

The highlight of this well attended annual event is the opportunity to visit a variety of model railroads, covering just about every scale, under various stages of construction to fully scened and operational, both in homes and club buildings, DC versus DCC control, prototypical vs freelance - in short: the rare opportunity to explore the vast diversity of our great hobby. Having personally visited over 30 layouts since 2013 I've picked up countless modeling tips, learned a variety of new techniques, and made many new friends.

So how do you find out what layouts are open, when, where, and basic information about them? Simple – visit Mainline Hobby either day at 15066 Buchanan Trail East, Blue Ridge Summit, PA where you will receive a booklet containing detailed information about each layout, their address, which days and times their open, and a map from Mainline Hobby to each layout location. The booklet will also include two broad area maps depicting the relative location of all the layouts in relation to Blue Ridge Summit to help you efficiently plan your route of travel. And of course you also have the opportunity to shop Mainline's extensive model railroad inventory, meet their friendly and very knowledgeable staff including owner Brian Wolfe, and then begin your layout tour.

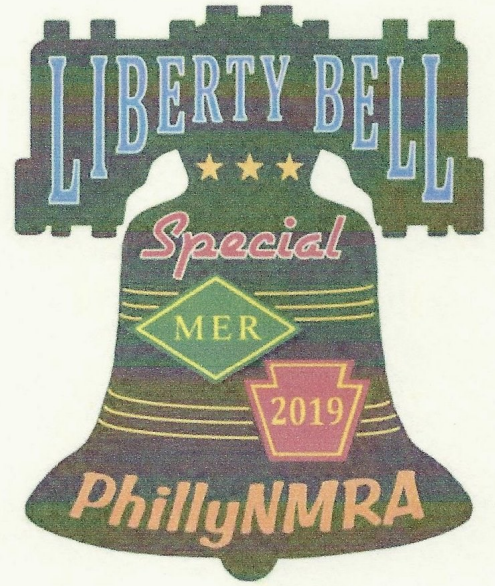
So block your calendar now so you, your family, or a group of fellow modelers will be sure to attend this September's long-standing "gotta-be-there" South Central PA model railroading tradition.

Barry Schmitt

The Liberty Bell Special 2019 Mid-Eastern Region Convention

**Sponsored by
The Philadelphia
Division – NMRA**

October 10-13, 2019



Vacation? We don't need no stinking vacation!

by Chip Stevens

Said none of the convention committee for Liberty Bell Special 2019 ever. The committee and the Division are hard at work finalizing what promises to be a great experience for our attendees in October. The host hotel is so excited about our upcoming get-together, they've re-decorated the entire lobby and common areas. Ask the Region Board members who navigated through the plastic curtains and plaster dust to hold their periodic meeting at the hotel last month if the renovations are actually taking place.



Your author is getting older by the day. I remember my high school sweetheart was pleased that she got an IBM Selectric typewriter as a graduation present. Typewriter? I mention this only to show how far we've come since 1961 and to demonstrate the importance of this new-fangled thing called "website". And I mention website because our webmaster is laboring diligently to keep the Special site updated with the latest news regarding the convention. In fact, he's foresworn a vacation this summer to keep the www.libertybellspecial.org site current with the committee's progress. If you haven't all ready done so, bookmark the site to stay abreast of all that is going on in preparation for October. Currently, the clinic schedule is on the site and I have it from good authority that the detailed clinic descriptions are about to be posted. Don't let The Hot Rod Chicken leave you wondering. Check for an explanation.

Also on the site is a list of the Open Houses and OpSig sessions, again updated as we add layouts. There are a great number of super layouts covering all scales and interests. The committee has been in touch with the "Weather

www.LibertyBellSpecial2019.org

NMRA Event

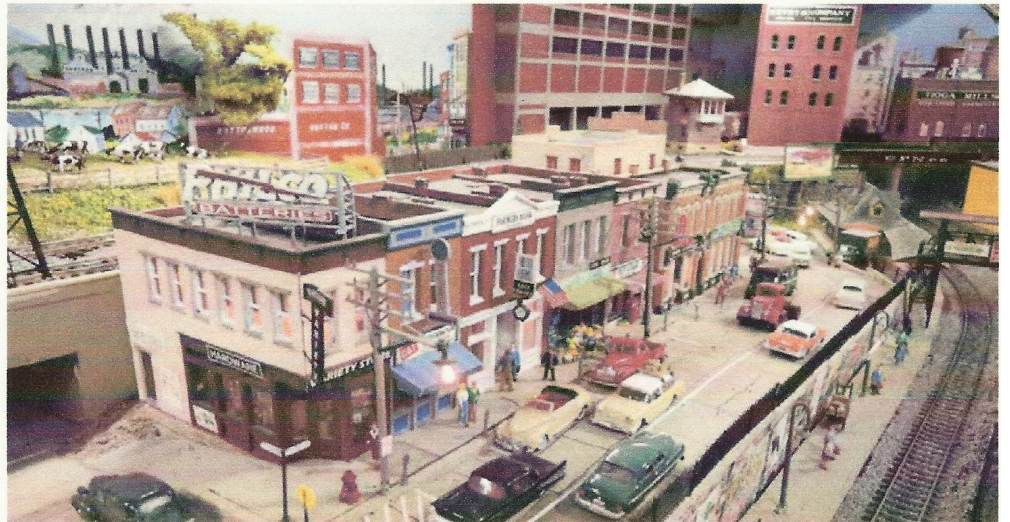
Gods” to make sure there will be no rain for the outdoor layouts. Trust me! We would still like to have some of you “outliers” speak up for hosting visits at your empires for travelers to and from the convention.

For those who don't want to leave our spacious new convention digs, there will be two modular layouts which will offer operating times within the hotel. Our thanks go out in advance to the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society Modular Group and the New Jersey FreeMo Group for donating their time and equipment to make this possible. Your writer spent a Saturday setting up the Reading Company



Technical & Historical Society modules at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. This my introduction to the modules and I am impressed by the concepts and the portrayal of actual Reading Railroad landmarks throughout eastern Pennsylvania. The whole 156 foot long, 12 foot wide display is not to be missed. Due to space limitations at Liberty Bell Special 2019, the entire collection of modules will not all be present, but trust their designer to bring the best for display. Fair disclosure: your writer is a new member of the RCT&HS Modular Group. I have intentionally downplayed my enthusiasm to provide fair coverage for The Local. While "down shore" next week, I will attempt to get facts for equal time from our other modular guests, The Jersey FreeMo Modelers.

And what would a convention be without a banquet? Our very talented liaison with the hotel has challenged the hotel Chef to prepare something different for us Saturday night. This won't be the usual rubber chicken drowned in gravy meal. Our liaison and the chef have agreed to prepare a buffet featuring actual dining car recipes for your enjoyment. We are hoping the banquet hall won't sway and rock like a dining car, but the fare will equal or exceed what you may recall from the golden age of meals on rails.



So while you're "down shore", up in the Poconos, out at OBX, or wherever your vacation plans may take you, make time to register for Liberty Bell Special 2019. There are some deadlines posted on the website. Stay abreast of deadlines, additions, changes, and enhancements throughout the summer.

Photos from Al Zoller's
Central PA
layout/setting.

You'll be glad you did!

Second Section

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
5 Hardy Court, Lancaster, PA 17602

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 21, 2019 formatted in Times New Roman font 12.

Board of Directors

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Tim Himmelberger
timh@susquehannanmra.org

Asst. Superintendent

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director@susquehannanmra.org

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director@susquehannanmra.org

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director@susquehannanmra.org

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2018-2020

2019-2021

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director@susquehannanmra.org

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director@susquehannanmra.org

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Alan Mende
director@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks Editor

Richard Wurst
rjwurst@comcast.net

Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:

www.susquehannanmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region website:

www.mer.nmra.com

National Model Railroad Association

8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B

Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200

www.nmra.org

Editor's Message

Greetings!

As I undertake the position of Editor, please bear with me as I learn the publishing aspects of the Division's Newsletter. I welcome feedback and constructive criticism which will result in a more accurate and interesting document.

You will notice a new classified section where members may offer merchandise for sale. If you wish to advertise feel free to email a WORD file for inclusion in future newsletters. All contacts and sales must be handled by the individual member.

If you have articles, events or photos you wish to share please contact me via email (tjwurst@comcast.net).

Rich



2019 Division Calendar of Events

August 17-	Smokestown Fire Company Event Venue, Denver, PA
September 21 – 22	Mainline Hobby Open House Weekend
<i>October 10 – 13</i>	<i>King of Prussia, PA, MER Convention, Philadelphia Division</i>
Oct 25 - 26	LSOP
Nov 2-3, 9-10, 16 -17	Division wide Open House Tour

We feel that we have put together an interesting program plan for this year. There are many of the events that have been part of our program in the past and have been very popular. Also, some interesting new ones. Some items need to have the details completed. So, keep a lookout in future Sidetracks for details as they come available. Please note that the *italicized* items are not Susquehanna Division events but are very popular with many Division members. Also, I would like to call your attention to our web page. Wayne Betty has posted a listing of Mid-Atlantic Train Shows for 2019.

Tim Himmelberger

Model Spotlight



Dennis Blank's Birdsboro & Reading Railroad



Dennis Blank's Birdsboro & Reading SD-40-2's with all their LEDs lit.



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Route
of
the
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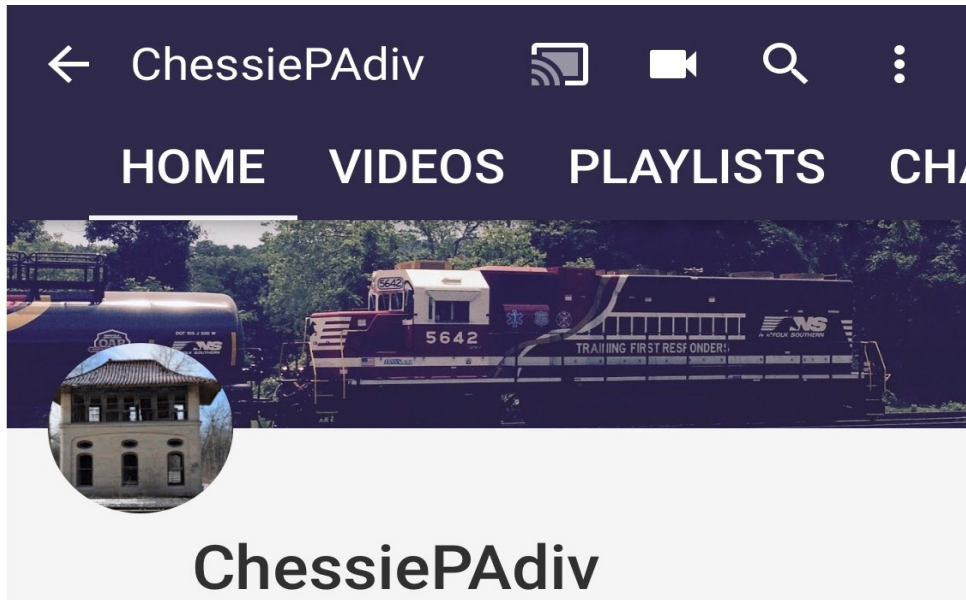
Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6- issue year. For information about placing an ad, please contact
Tedd Pounds at director@susquehannamra.org

Members' Section

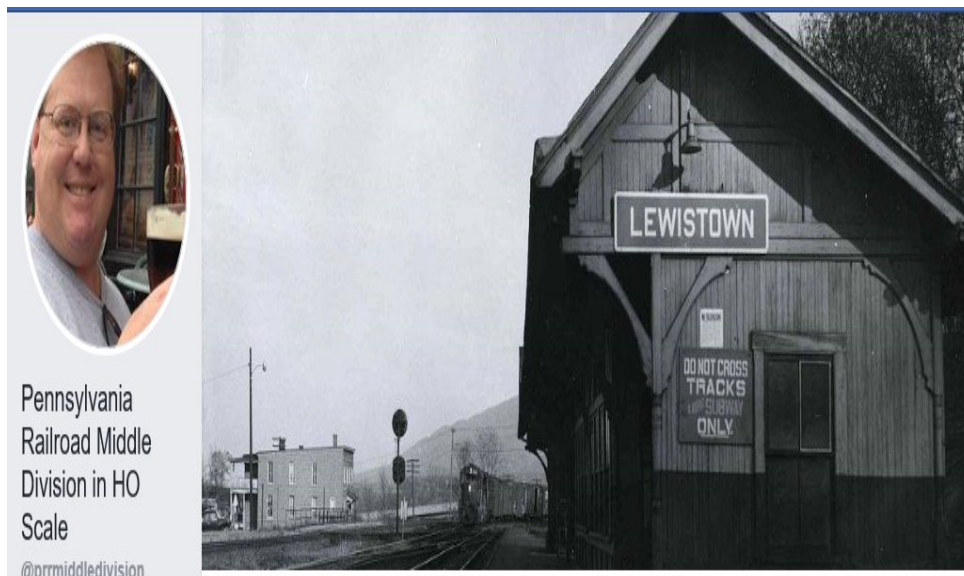
Introducing a new section to our newsletter, if you have a YouTube page, Facebook page for your railroad, or a blog please consider including a link to it here.

Please submit your items to the editor in an email with a photo or two for inclusion in our newsletter.

Scott Unger's Chessie System Pa Division



Jerry Britton's Pennsylvania RR Middle Division in HO



Member's Classified Section

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Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
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Can you identify what is shown above?