

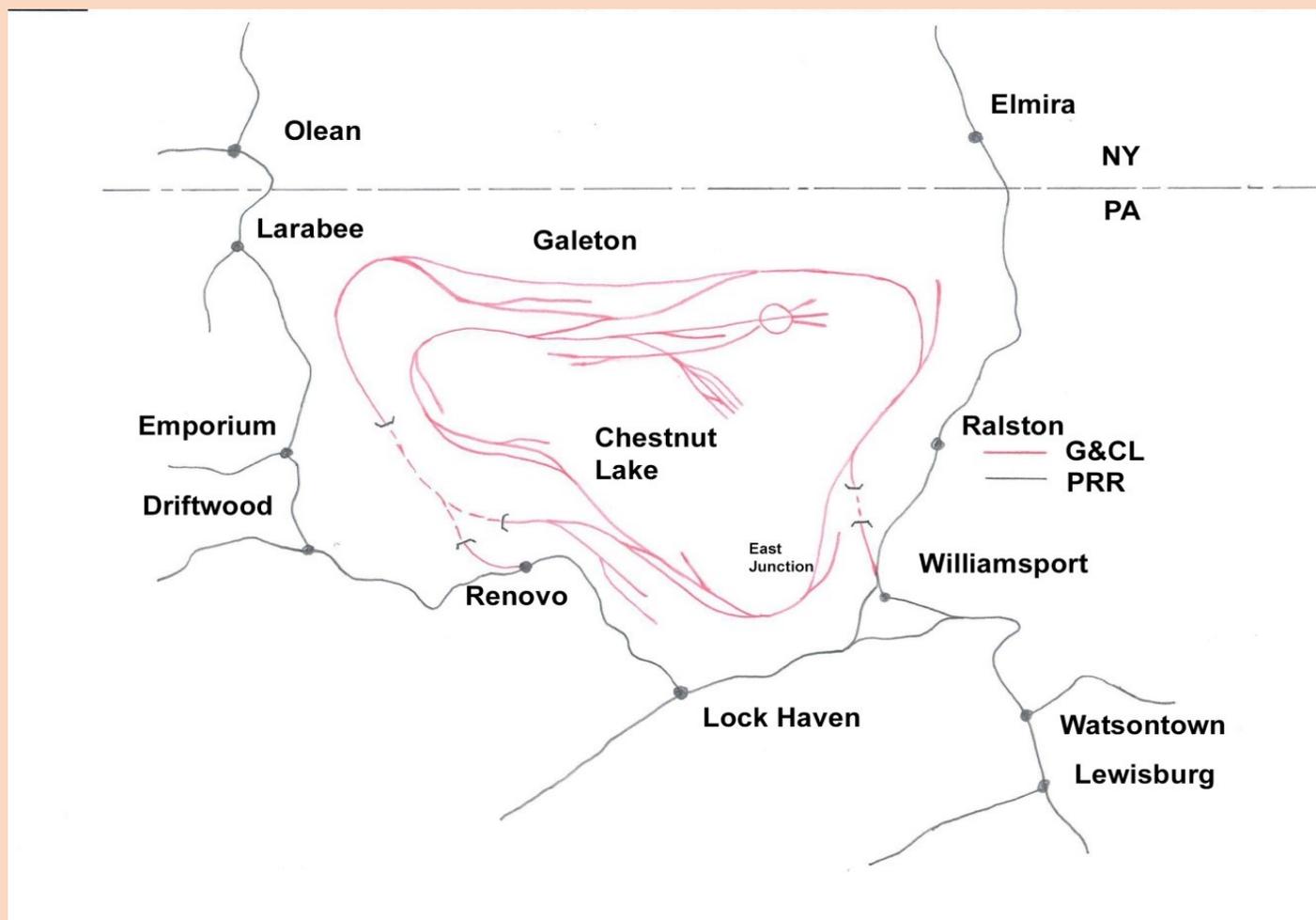


The Galeton & Chestnut Lake Railroad

Jerry Lauchle, MMR

State College, PA

The Galeton & Chestnut Lake Railroad is a free-lanced HO-scale model railroad situated in north-central Pennsylvania. I model the era approximately between 1940 and 1955 which means that both steam and diesel trains are run. The main industries served by the railroad are coal, lumbering, a beer brewery, and a clothes pin factory. It is basically a short line that operates between the real town of Galeton, and a fictional one, Chestnut Lake. My formal name is Gerald Clyde Lauchle, so for some reason back in 1982, I chose to name the railroad with words reflecting the initials of my name. The G&CL does have two interchanges with the Pennsylvania Railroad: one at Williamsport and the other at Renovo. There are staging yards at those two locations. The map drawing shown here is my rendition of how the G&CL interacts with the PRR.



continued on page 17

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From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

This is a very different column this month. First let me say that I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy. We are all struggling with what we need to do to stay safe and healthy. The number of events that have already been cancelled is hard to grasp. I am sure none of us in our wildest dreams ever thought we would see anything like this. For now, we will continue to practice good health and sanitation. Yes, I am carrying rubber gloves, hand sanitizer and a mask in my car. For now, we can pray and hope that this virus passes quickly and we can begin to return to normal. But it is a good time to get some of those modeling projects completed. No supplies, no problem, most of the hobby shops are only too happy to ship you what you need. As good railroaders we practice "Safety First."

Our next meeting has been organized by Phil Peters and Howard Oakes. It will be held on June 20th in New Oxford, PA. Please see Phil's article on page 27. Having said that I must add that we have already been discussing if we should cancel this event. So far, we have not pulled the plug so we will keep you posted.

And on August 22nd Dennis Blank is working on another meeting in Denver. October 2nd and 3rd Wayne Betty is working on putting together the annual LSOP, or operate until you drop event. It is not too early to start making plans for this year's convention. The dates are October 15th to the 18th. It will be at the Crowne Plaza Charlotte, NC. The year concludes with the November Open House Tour. As we move further out all of these events are for now still on the calendar. However, if need be, they may have to be cancelled. If that happens, we will do an email blast to keep everyone informed.

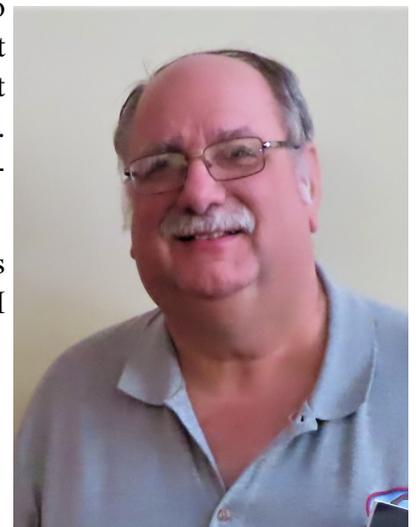
I for one, am looking forward to some kind of meeting. Any meeting. I for one do enjoy when we gather. The time always passes way too quickly and I run out of time before I get to talk with everyone.

We will be electing our slate of officers for the Division. So please consider this carefully. The ballot is on page 8. With everything being shut down the current officers have consented to all run for another term. There is also a bylaws amendment to vote on. Ken Montero is the current MER Vice President. One of his duties is to review the bylaws for each division in the MER. The issues he is looking at is conforming to region and national policy. These are for the most part minor changes. But please review them carefully. Hopefully the color coding of what is to be deleted and added makes it clear. We deleted the text of Ken conferring with NMRA Legal Counsel Bob Amsler. If anyone is interested in the discussions that prompted these recommended changes please let me know and I will forward the full document. The By-Laws amendment article is on page 7.

The Division web page has been moved to the new site. For now, it appears to look the same. However, that will change as we move forward. We all owe a debt of thanks to Wayne Betty for furnishing the Division web page for years at no cost to the Division. David Collison is hard at work on setting up the new web page. Yes, I know little has been done. Again, another causality of the stay in place order. David and I have not had a chance to discuss a plan for moving forward.

Time to go back in the basement and work on trains. Progress has been made as the mainline is into the helix and now is on the top level. I was not sure that I would ever get there.

Tim Himmelberger



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 June 15, 2020

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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!

In this time of sheltering in place it is a good thing to have a hobby ! The old saying of turning lemons into lemonade can certainly be applied having model railroading as a focal point for our members.

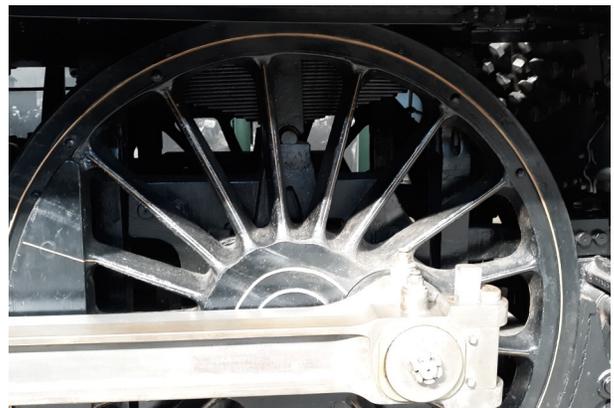
I have finally gotten around to many 'partially' completed projects which have languished due to the lack of available time. Well, now is the perfect time to whittle down those projects.

Since interaction with fellow hobbyists is extremely limited, I have attempted to fill this issue with numerous photos that, hopefully, will give joy to everyone.

Be safe and stay well until this emergency is over! Happy model railroading!

As always any articles, events or photos you wish to have published please contact me via email (rjwurst@comcast.net or editor@susquehannanmra.org).

Rich



2020 Division Calendar of Events

February 29, Allentown, PA - Scott Unger

April 4, New Holland, PA - Pat Mulrooney and Jeff Thompson **(cancelled Covid 19)**

May 2, Columbia Railroad Day - Barry Schmitt, Bill Lesjack **(cancelled Covid 19)**

June 20, New Oxford, PA - Phil Peters and Howard Oakes

August 22, Denver, PA - Dennis Blank

Oct 2 – 3, LSOP - Wayne Betty

October 15 – 18, Charlotte, NC, MER Convention, Carolina Southern Division

Nov 7 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 22, Section wide Open House Tour



Division Officer Election

It's May which means time to elect our officers for the next two years: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022. Our Division By-Laws establish a seven-member BOD - three elected Officers (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Clerk), and four at-large Directors. The officers are elected to a two-year term in even-numbered years and hold office from July 1 of that year to June 30 of the following second year. The four BOD Directors are elected to two-year terms in odd numbered years with our current directors serving the term July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021.

This year has proven to present some unforeseen and unusual challenges. With some regret I will say that presenting the slate of officers is not what I had planned this year. The reason being is all three candidates are running unopposed. The list of candidates is as follows: Their email addresses are provided if you would like to contact them.

Restating the ballot guidance: you can only vote for candidates for each office.

Superintendent: Tim Himmelberger (super@susquehannanmra.org)

Assistant Superintendent: Tedd Pounds (assist-super@susquehannanmra.org)

Clerk: Paul Tice (treasurer@susquehannanmra.org)

Division By-Law Amendments

Susquehanna Division By-Laws Amendments

One of the duties of the Mid-Eastern Region Vice President is to review Division By-Laws for compliance with NMRA By-Laws and other regulatory provisions. This is done every two years. Ken Montero has completed the review of the latest Susquehanna Division's By-Laws that were submitted to him.

Before recommending changes that would be substantial changes, Ken consulted NMRA Legal Counsel Bob Amsler, who recommended the following adjustments.

The following parts should be revised, with **yellow indicating added language** and **blue denoting deleted language**:

Section 2. Guest Membership:

"A. Guest privileges will be granted to model railroaders, without discrimination, in the Susquehanna division to encourage their participation in the Division's, Region's, and NMRA's activities. A **time** limit of **six months three visits** shall exist for guest privileges. **At During** that time, the Division will encourage the Guest to become a full member of the NMRA."

"Section 5. Audits

If the MER or NMRA requires periodic financial audits, the MER or the NMRA must provide the agency and persons to conduct such audits."

"ARTICLE V

Voting and Office Holding Rights

Section 1. All Division officers, members of the Board of Directors, and officials must be members of the Division. To vote or hold office in the Division, members must live within the Division's territory. **Family and Railpass members are not eligible to vote or to hold office.** Each voting member will have one vote at any meeting of the members."

Section 1. Officers

"B. The Chief Clerk shall keep an account of all funds received and dispersed, render a proper accounting for these funds at the annual business meeting, and make books available for an annual **audit financial review** by a properly qualified member of the Susquehanna Division 11, as appointed by the Superintendent. **Audits Financial review** will also be conducted at the departure of the Chief Clerk. The Chief Clerk shall be Bonded by Division 11 in regards to his or her activities as the Division Treasurer. The bond shall cover any and/or properties and monies held by the Treasurer."

Division Officer and By-Law Ballot

Your BOD has approved electronic (email) voting for this election cycle in addition to traditional USPS ballot mailing. You do not have to use the below ballot form – use whatever format works best for you. Send your ballot to Ken Roth, at Ken.Roth@itt.com or Ken Roth, c/o NMRA, 604A East Maple Street, Lebanon, PA 17046. Ken will confirm every received ballot with either an email or post card response based on your delivery mode. Deadline for receipt by either **delivery method is May 31, 2020**. Results will be presented in the July Sidetracks.

VOTE FOR ONE (1) CANDIDATE FOR EACH OFFICE

You may write in any member of our Division. However, please confirm with that person they will be willing to serve in that capacity.

SUPERINTENDENT

Tim Himmelberger

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Tedd Pounds

CLERK

Paul Tice

Bylaws Amendments

Yes

No

Below Only to Notify of Ballot Receipt Your Name (print): _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address (if sent by USPS): _____

(Questions – call Tim Himmelberger at 717-454-8033)

MODEL SHOWCASE

Model Showcase from the February 29th Division Event in Allentown, PA

We had six members display models at the last meeting. These members are skilled modelers who presented examples of high-quality craftsmanship.

The following lists each participant in alphabetical order with a description of their model:

Dennis Blank had several passenger cars that were under construction. They were Tichy gondolas that are being reworked into open air excursion cars and a Branchline Coach to be built for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad and the Blue Mountain & Reading Railroad lines.



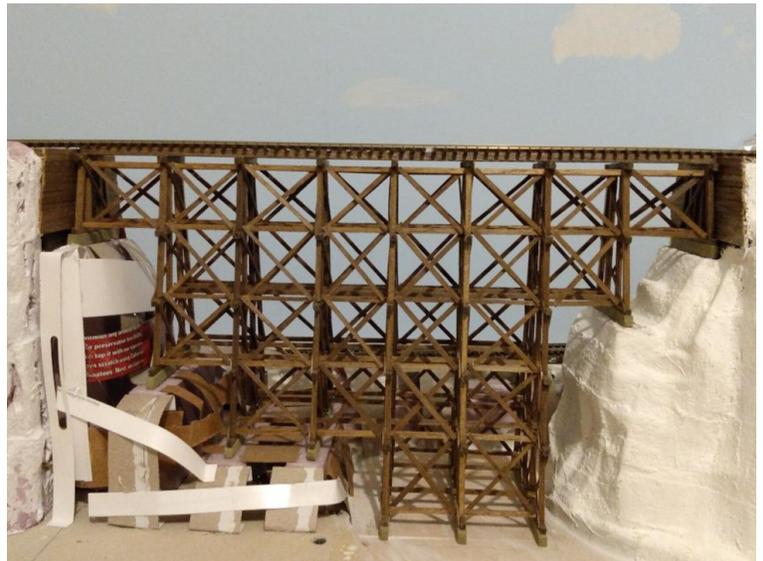
MODEL SHOWCASE (cont.)

Jim Hertzog brought six models: two Lehigh & New England ALCO RS-2 locomotives that had been weathered and detail parts applied. He also presented four freight cars that had been kitbashed, weathered and super detailed.



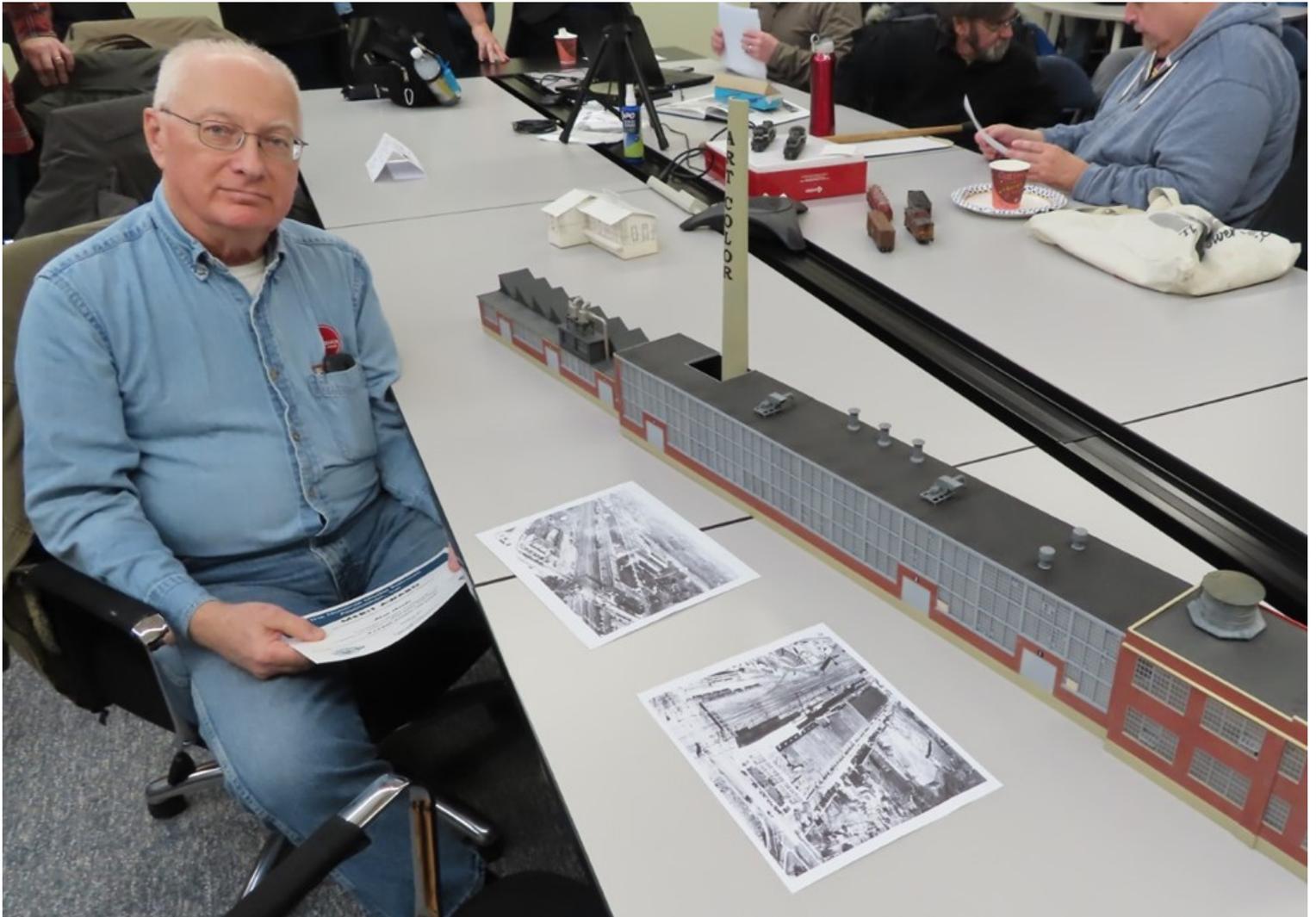
MODEL SHOWCASE (cont.)

Ray Kiefer showed pictures of two bridges he had built for his layout, a trestle and a stone arch bridge. He later sent pictures of the actual bridge as they appeared on his layout.



MODEL SHOWCASE (cont.)

Alan Mende brought his background model of the Art Color Printing plant (prototype Dunellen, NJ). The model is scratch built using Walthers brick sheet, car shop windows and Tichy masonry windows. All parts were modified to fit the building.



MODEL SHOWCASE (cont.)

Scott Unger kitbashed an Athearn caboose to model a Baltimore & Ohio I-17a bay window caboose.



MODEL SHOWCASE (cont.)

John Wissinger had a mock-up of a building for his layout. He used the paper planning template of the DPM modular walls to make the mock-up. In designing the building, it was necessary to modify some of the wall components. Using the planning templates instead of cutting the actual DPM walls it was easy to determine where the cuts would be made. The mockup looks so good it has been on John's layout for over 10 years.



We had a good show of models, but it would be a lot more fun if we had more. I recently received a newsletter from North Central Region Division 6, where I was a member when I lived in Michigan. Several months ago they had a model showcase titled “Flat cars and/or Gondolas with loads. There were about 30 models presented. Admittedly they have a few more members attending but not twice our attendance. It would really be nice to see 15 or 20 models in our Model Showcase. Come on guys, we have been “sheltering in place” for many weeks, surely you have been working on your layout. Let’s have many more models presented at our next event!

article by John Wissinger MMR/photos by Rich Wurst and Ray Kiefer

Division Achievement Awards

Four AP Awards Presented at Allentown Meet

Four members of the Division “leaped” ahead in their modeling careers on February 29 when they were recognized in Allentown for achievements in Model Railroading. MMR Jerry Lauchle continued his fine work in AP earning recognition as Master Model Railroad Engineer, Civil. Pat Mulrooney earned his first AP award for Master Builder Scenery while Scott Unger was recognized for his second and third awards as Master Builder Scenery and Master Model Railroader, Civil.

Alan Mende was recognized for two of his spectacular models, DN Tower and Hummelstown and Campbellstown Trolley, with merit awards in judging done at previous meets. Both are stepping-stones toward future Master Builder awards. Keep it up, Alan.

On a personal note, I was disappointed to have to miss the meet. My wife, Susan and I were on a trip to the Amazon River Basin and the Galapagos Islands and were “off the grid” for most of that time. Having departed in “normal” times on February 20, you can imagine our dismay at the changes in the world when we returned to the states on March 7. Since returning, we have been like the rest of you, sheltering at home and hoping the virus does not advance as forecast here in Central PA.

With that said, I hope many of you are taking advantage of the enforced isolation to get some work done on your home railroad. Or, if you like many do not have same but work in a club environment, take this time to work on your modeling skills on rolling stock, that structure you have never had time to build or project you have been putting off for “lack of time. There is so much that can be done even without a home layout.

Also, take the time to go to the NMRA web site and really look through the Achievement section. If you have never done so, you will be surprised how much you may already have accomplished toward an achievement award. Equally, how much you can do to complete one of the awards. Again, since I too am relatively isolated, feel free to give me a call if you have questions about the program. This is a golden opportunity to become involved. I look forward to awarding many more Gold Spikes, Merit Awards and Master Builder Certificates once this terrible situation has ended. Meantime, STAY HEALTHY and busy!

article by Bob Charles, MMR/photos by Rich Wurst

Division Achievement Awards (cont.)



Jerry Lauchle, MMR, left, receiving the Master Model Railroad Engineer, Civil Award from Tim Himmelberger, right, Division Superintendent



Pat Mulrooney, left, receiving the Master Builder Scenery Award from Tim Himmelberger, right, Division Superintendent

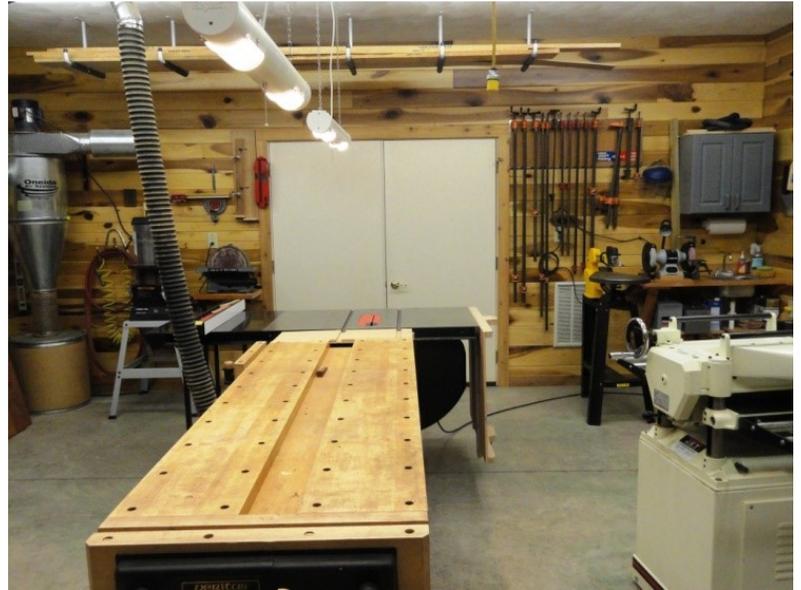


Scott Unger, left, receiving Master Builder Scenery and Master Model Railroad Engineer, Civil Awards from Tim Himmelberger, right, Division Superintendent



Allen Mende, left, receiving two Merit Awards for Judging at previous NMRA events from Tim Himmelberger, right, Division Superintendent

I'm a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to woodworking, and the tools in my woodworking shop located off our two-car garage come in handy for benchwork and model jig making. I might add that I have been building period furniture for about 50 years now. I am one of the charter members of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM.org).



Chippendale Desk in Peruvian Mahogany
by Gerald Lauchle (2015)

Back to the G&CL: the next photo is of the shelf called East Junction. It gets its name from the shop and office in the foreground that I built from craftsman kits by JL Innovative Design that had signage of that name. The coal transfer station is scratch built.



To the right of the East Junction is a liftout which can be ducked under if one desires (note the hand rail). The photo below is taken at the liftout showing Chestnut Lake. The structures are mostly from craftsman kits by Campbell, Bar Mills, Evergreen Hill, Fine Scale Miniatures, and scratchbuilt. The brewery is directly behind the elevated crossing shanty.



Moving to the right (east) inside the layout area we see the eastern section of Chestnut Lake and the western edge of Galeton. Central to the area is the scratchbuilt MacKellar coal tippie. The freight station and car repair shed are from Fine Scale Miniatures kits. Another view of those structures is also given with a Sunset brass import 2-8-0 passing through. The cars are from La Belle kits.



Moving farther east we see Galeton. All of the structures were built from wood craftsman kits, or scratchbuilt. The backdrop was hand painted on 1/8" Masonite.



Moving on to eastern Galeton and the locomotive service area, we see the clothes pin factory in the center of the photo as the gray and brown structure. The locomotive service area appeared on the cover of the 2019 NMRA calendar.



Moving to the east a bit farther we see the parts of the layout that are not yet finished. That includes a two-stall engine house that I am building from a Fine Scale Miniatures kit. The 90' turntable is from a vintage Diamond Scale kit. Also seen is the four-track staging yard situated on an island platform.



In this photo we are looking over the liftout from the inside to see my model workbench area.



I give Bob Charles, MMR full credit for the design of my liftout. He has one similar to this on his PRR - South Penn Division at his home in Camp Hill. Here is the liftout sitting on a bench. The track ends are soldered to PC ties that are epoxied to the roadbed; the same is done on the east and west approach tracks.



The liftout has wedges on each end which nest perfectly into V-blocks secured to the layout benchwork; thus assuring consistent alignment of the liftout tracks with the approach tracks. The wedges and V-blocks were band sawed from rectangular pieces of wood 1.75" thick. One piece is the V-block and the other is the wedge.



To prevent a locomotive from running off the layout when the liftout is not in place I isolated the approach tracks on both sides by gapping the rails some appropriate distance ahead of the drop-off. That distance, in my case, is twice the length of my longest locomotive. That isolated section of track connects to the phosphor bronze electrodes situated in the V-blocks. The photo on the bottom of page 24 shows the west side V-block. The photo below shows the east side. On this east side, the phosphor bronze electrodes are split in half. Power from the DCC bus wires connect to the lower pair and the upper pair connects to the approach tracks on the east side. Because the electrodes on the wedges are not split, the power electrode in the east V-block powers not only the tracks on the liftout, but also the approach tracks on both sides.



Again, I thank Bob Charles, MMR for sharing this liftout design. If I'd change anything it would be to make the isolated approach track a bit longer than the longest train that might run. That way, one could not dump a bunch of cars onto the floor if one were running a train in reverse towards the drop-off. Furthermore, I am presently installing stay-alive circuits in my locomotives, so the isolated approach tracks must be long enough for the capacitors of those circuits to discharge before reaching the drop-off.

Operation on the G&CL RR is just now beginning. I have yet to build waybill boxes along the fascia, but I'm still having interesting solo operation moving cars in and out of the four main industries. There is no cross over at the lumber/saw mill spur, so it's impossible to spot or set out a car there from a westbound train. I therefore keep a 2-truck Heisler parked there to do the switching.



If you are ever in State College and would like to see the G&CL, please send me an email to set up an appointment (jlauchle@mer-nmra.com, or photos@mer-nmra.com).

June 20, 2020 — Susquehanna Division Meeting — New Oxford, PA

The June Division Meeting will be held at the Cross Keys Village Brethren Home Community, 2990 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford, PA on Saturday, June 20, 2020. The community is easily accessible at the intersection of PA Routes 30 and 194.

The doors will open at 8:30 AM. After a time to socialize over coffee and donuts, the day will open at 9:30 AM. with the Division news, updates, introduction of new members and presentation of awards. The emphasis of the day will be on modeling and operating in a very realistic manner. We will have two clinics. The first will be given by Lisa Matzinger, Haz-Mat Specialist with the Federal Railroad Administration. She will give a presentation on “Car Identification: Using the Right Car for the Job.” So often in model railroading the car we choose looks correct. However, there is often a small detail on the car that shows it should only be used in a different service. It would, therefore, never show up at the industry we choose. Lisa will show what details to look for to use the correct model for the correct industry.

Following a short break to replenish the coffee and donuts, Jerry Lauchle will show how he goes about creating the extraordinarily detailed scenes with his clinic “Diorama Techniques in Model Railroading.” We have all benefitted from seeing Jerry’s outstandingly realistic modeling. He will show what details will help create a greater degree of realism for the authentic models presented in the previous clinic.

Model Showcase will follow the clinics. Members are encouraged to bring and share their latest projects or models and discuss how they were constructed.

There will be three layouts open to visit after the meeting. One will be in the Brethren Home where the layouts constructed and run by the residents will be open for viewing. Scott Griffis’s Griffis Junction layout is a short drive from the meeting site. Phil Peters’s Chessie layout in Littlestown will also be open during the afternoon.

NMRA Event (cont.)

The New Oxford Railroad Museum will also be open to visitors until 4:00 PM that afternoon. It is located on Route 30 on the west side of New Oxford just a short distance from the meeting site. The museum has displays in the train station and also model train layouts on the property.



There are a number of restaurants within easy reach of the Community, including the Cafeteria across from the meeting room.

The meeting will be held in a meeting room in Harmony Ridge at 630 Harmony Drive on the campus of Cross Keys Village Brethren Home Community, 2990 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford, PA. Enter by way of Village Drive off of Route 30 (opposite McDonald's). Proceed to Harmony Drive and turn right. The building is on your left. Proceed to the second entrance and park in the lot. Enter under the awning. Once inside the main entrance, go down the hallway to the right and look for the flashing crossing signal.

To get here from Harrisburg, take US 15 south to the York Springs-Hanover exit, mile post 23.9. Then head south towards Hanover on PA 94, about 10 miles, to the intersection to US 30 and US 94. There, turn right and then take the first left into the Brethren home and follow the above directions.

From Hanover, head north on PA 94 for 4.8 miles. Turn left onto Village Drive, cross Peace Circle and then turn left onto Harmony Drive. The meeting is in the Harmony Ridge building on your left. Follow the Harmony Ridge directions above.

Given the unusual circumstances we are in, please check your email for any updates or changes.

article and photos by Phil Peters

NMRA Event (cont.)

Scott Griffis's Griffis Junction



NMRA Event (cont.)

Phil Peter's Chessie Layout





LOOK SOUTH IN 2020

Carolina Southern Division is proud to be hosting the
MER 2020 Convention **October 15-18**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Convention activities will include:

- ◆ A wide selection of model railroading clinics, including some by nationally recognized names in the hobby
- ◆ Tour of the North Carolina Transportation Museum Back Shop and other non-public areas
- ◆ Tour of the Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum
- ◆ Tour of Wade's Train World in Brookford, a layout maintained by the CSD
- ◆ HO, S and N scale operating layouts in the Convention Hotel
- ◆ Home layout tours in the area, to include The Piedmont & Western and NYC Piney Fork Branch, which were both cover stories in *Model Railroader*
- ◆ Operating Sessions

START THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AT THIS LINK:

<http://carolinasouthern.org>

PIKE ADS



B&O WESTON SUBDIVISION
(Under Development)
Barry W. Schmitt, Superintendent
405 Ford Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
(717) 877-1810 sbschmitt@comcast.net

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Route of the Whitetail

THE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY

1:87.1 DIVISION – ALAN MENDE, GEN'L MGR.

306 MANADA GAP ROAD, GRANTVILLE,
PENNSYLVANIA 17028-8824

PHONE: (717)-469-1047

EMAIL: ALANMENDE@YAHOO.COM

PIKE ADS

Masonic Village & Elizabethtown Model RR Club

Meets 7:30 PM First Tuesday Sept—June



One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, Pa 17022

Phone 717-361-5180

Open Houses the first weekend
monthly October thru April

Sat-Sun 2 –4 PM

Extra times at Christmas



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“Mountains, Lumber and Coal”

Jim Long

Chief Engineer

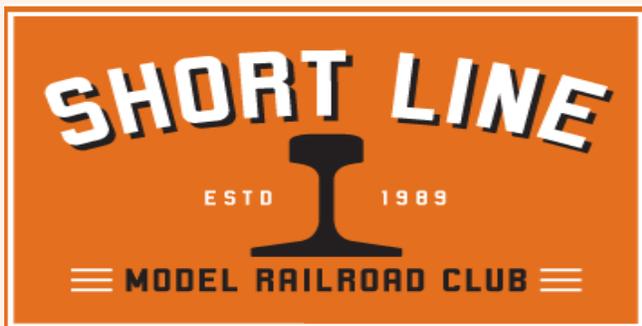
Mechanicsburg, PA

Visitors Welcome - Contact smlgf2000@aol.com

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Meets the Narrow Gauge of the East*

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Visitors welcome by appointment
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Ephrata, PA 17522

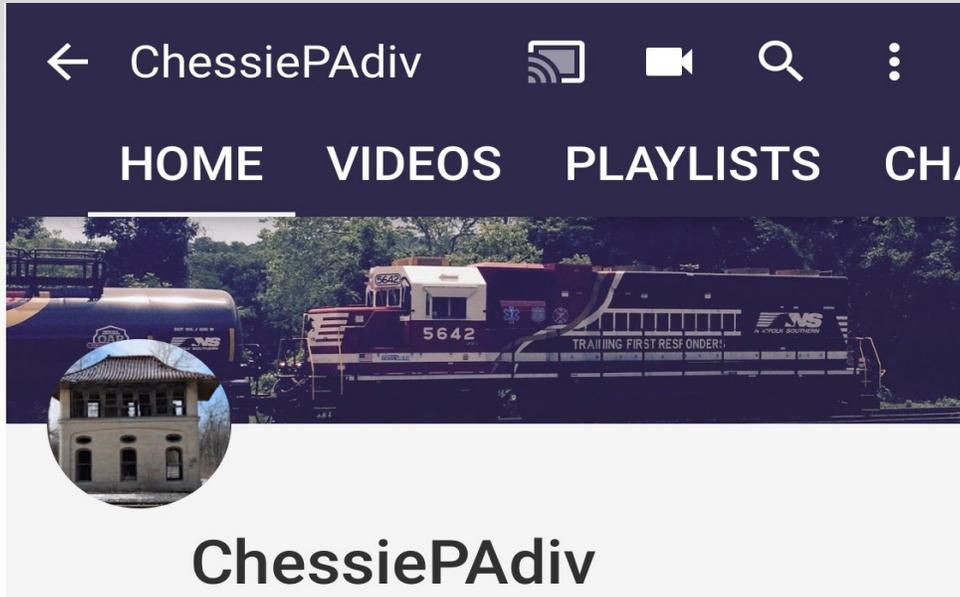
Thursday Evenings 7-9 PM

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6- issue year. For information about placing an ad, please contact
SIDETRACKS editor,

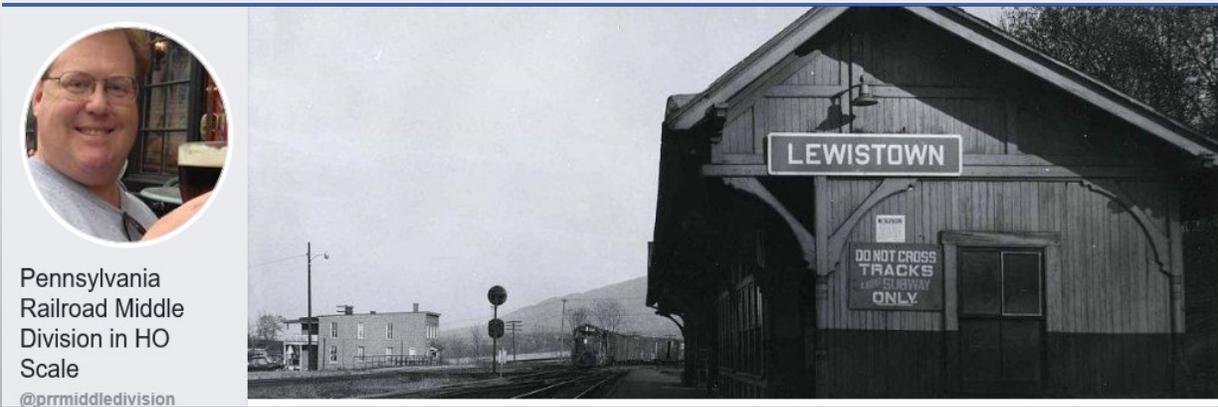
Members' Section

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



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