



Volume 28

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



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

Number 6



This highly detailed and superbly crafted layout was built by Dan Horting. Dan is also building a 1 1/2" scale live steam PRR K4 which was featured in the September/October 2019 issue of Sidetracks. Read about his O scale layout on page 9.



Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna & Northern Railroad is an outstanding example of HO scale cityscapes, rail yards, industrial facilities and bridge work. The phrase 'A layout is never finished!' certainly applies to Pat's continuous efforts as noted on page 14.

In This Issue

Dan Horting's Railroad	1, 10-14	NMRA AP Golden Spike	7-9
Pat Mulrooney's Railroad	1, 15-20	Frugal Model Railroader	21-23
Superintendent's Desk	3	Pike Ads	24-25
Second Section	4	Member's Section	26-27
Division Calendar	5	Sponsor Ads	28-30
Division Fiscal Report	6		



From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

I wish we could have a redo for 2020. But wait, we will take last year's calendar and try to do it next year. Our plan is to try to hold the events that we had to cancel. We have also added a July event at the East Broad Top RR. There are a lot of moving parts to that one, but we are going to try. While the framework is basically in place the details need to be put in place. Our plan "B" next year is if we cannot meet in person to at least have the clinics via Zoom. Sorry but if that is the case you are on your own for coffee and doughnuts. The calendar for 2021 is on page 5. In addition, we are looking for individuals to present a clinic via Zoom to fill in the end of this year. Please contact any officer or director to volunteer.

It is not too early to start planning on attending the 2021 MER Convention. October 21 – 24, 2021. This will be sponsored by the Chesapeake Division. If you have made a journey to MB Klein for some supplies when you exit I-83 you most likely have passed the convention site. Looking forward in 2022 will be the Carolina Special Convention which was cancelled this year. This is to lead up to the Susquehanna Division hosting the 2023 MER Convention. Our Division Assistant Superintendent, Tedd Pounds, has stepped forward and volunteered to chair the convention committee. If you are like me you enjoyed the time spent working on the Susquehannock Convention which our Division sponsored. Tedd will be working on putting together his team for this effort. As he begins work on this please consider how you can again make this a great convention.

I am hopeful that we will soon be able to meet in person. I have missed the interaction that we have during our meetings. Virtual meetings via Zoom are fine but do not replace the social aspect of our group. But until we can hold meetings in person we will have to make do with the virtual events. So again, I will make my plea for some of you to step forward to make a presentation to and for the group. I will soon be sending emails to start recruiting some of you for presentations.

Since we are talking about presentations to the group, Rich Wurst our Sidetracks editor, is always looking for printed material to include in Sidetracks. After all we are a model railroad group and too many of our issues of Sidetracks are lacking on articles about modeling projects or even prototype rail road articles. Or as some may say one to one modeling.

It has been interesting to hear from some of our members. Some have made good use of the time things have been shut down and completed a lot of work on various projects, while others have not done anything with their layouts. I need to do a little more to complete my curved turnout. After that I can resume track laying on the mainline on the top level. So I think it is time to get back to work on my layout.

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 December 15, 2020.

Board of Directors

Superintendent

Tim Himmelberger

super@susquehannanmra.org

Assistant Superintendent

Tedd Pounds

assist-super@susquehannanmra.org

Chief Clerk

Paul Tice

treasurer@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Dennis Blank

dblank@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Pat Mulrooney

pmulrooney@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Phil Peters

ppeters@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Jeff Thompson

ithompson@susquehannanmra.org

Committee Chairmen

Achievement Program

Chairman

Robert Charles, MMR

achievement@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Program

Chairman

John Wissinger, MMR

showcase@susquehannanmra.org

Membership Chairman

Howard Oakes

membership@susquehannanmra.org

Training

Alan Mende

training@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks

Editor

Richard Wurst

editor@susquehannanmra.org

Webmaster

David Collison

webmaster@susquehannanmra.org

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!

With the continuing problems of social isolation I have attempted bringing to our members features spotlighting private model railroad layouts. So far I have been able to coerce a few modelers to visually open their homes to other hobbyists. However, I have only one more issue of Sidetracks with guaranteed layouts.

I am appealing to all members who have a home layout to share their handiwork with others. All it takes is answering a dozen questions concerning aspects of your railroad and at least a dozen photos (I would gladly offer to visit and take pictures if you desire). I especially would be interested in N, O and S scale layouts. Please consider contributing!

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

Stay Active and Well!

Rich



2021 Division Events

2021 Calendar

With the exception of our February Event, this year was a “wash out”. We are going to try again next year. There will be one caveat, if we are not able to meet in person, we will have some clinic presentations via Zoom.



2021 Calendar Outline

February – Allentown – Scott Unger

April – New Holland - Pat Mulrooney and Jeff Thompson

May – Columbia Railroad Day – Bill Lesjak and Barry Schmitt

June – New Oxford – Phil Peters and Howard Oakes

July – East Broad Top RR – Lee Rainey

October – LSOP – Wayne Betty

October 21 – 24, Hunt Valley, MD, MER Convention, Chesapeake Division

November – Division-wide Open House Tour

SPECIAL NOTICE— The nationally known Amherst Railway Society Hobby Show scheduled for January 30-31, 2021 has been cancelled. Check their website www.railroadhobbyshow.com for alternative events.



Division Fiscal Report

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
MID-EAST REGION
SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JULY 1, 2019 \$ 10,143.91

REVENUE FOR THE YEAR

SUBSCRIPTION INCOME	\$ 90.00
TANK CAR SALES- ALL REMAINING CARS SOLD	40.00
SMOKESTOWN TRAIN MEET	20.00
ALLENTOWN TRAIN MEET	177.00
DEPOSIT REFUND- CANCELLED NEW HOLLAND MEET	75.00
NMRA (MER) MEMBERSHIP DUES REIMBURSEMENT	<u>108.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED 510.00

TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE \$ 10,653.91

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

POSTAGE	\$ 34.80
NEWSLETTER	105.22
SMOKESTOWN MEET- FIRE HALL RENTAL	150.00
NEW HOLLAND MEET- CHURCH HALL DEPOSIT	75.00
ALLENTOWN MEET- HALL RENTAL & DONUTS	185.96
ADVERTISING- KALMBACH PUBLICATIONS	31.40
PNC BANK SERVICE CHARGES	24.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 606.38

ENDING CASH BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2020 \$ 10,047.53

ALL UNDESIGNATED FUNDS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PAUL F. TICE, P.A.
CLERK/PAYMASTER - SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11

AUGUST 8, 2020
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

Let's Talk Golden Spike

By Bob Charles, MMR

What is Golden Spike, and why do we have such an award? Actually, it is the entry level for the Achievement Program and a real good way to get your feet wet. Many of us seem to think that AP is reserved for those expert modelers in our midst. Not so!

Actually, AP is designed to create a “path” to a complete model railroad and Golden Spike is the start of it. So, you have a small model railroad, maybe even your first effort after deciding to be more than an “armchair” modeler. You are not interested in stuff like the model contests as you believe that is for the “experts.” Still, it would be nice to have an award to show your friends and family that you are serious about the hobby. Let's look at how Golden Spike can be achieved with the many efforts already made.

First, let's say you have just a small switching layout along a wall, maybe even just 2' by 6' with several sidings, a crossing and a crossover operated by electrically powered switch machines (likely Atlas). If you did ballast it, you met the requirements for the engineering aspect of the Golden Spike Award.

With regard to the setting, we mentioned you have some scenery along the right-of-way, all 2 feet wide of it. One of the things you really enjoy is kit building structures. Like most of us, we don't necessarily want our buildings to look like everyone else's, so we do some detailing and painting to hide the origins of each one and make them “ours.” This process is known as superdetailing and is key to the process. (By the way, if your layout does not have space for the requisite 5 buildings, you may display them separately). Gee, at this point you do have the requirements met in the Model Railroad setting portion of the Award form. By the way, no competition yet!



Our oldtimers will recognize the heritage of this heavily kitbashed switch tower, produced by a number of manufacturers over the years. It is a good example of modifying a kit and detailing it. The upper section has been trimmed to fit a totally different first floor base and attached shed.

NMRA Achievement Program



Here we have a combination of two Walthers kits to create a larger grain elevator designed to hide a layout corner. Behind the two units is a front-silvered mirror to give the illusion of continuation of the line into the distance, with a much larger facility than actually exists.



This Sunshine Models Freight House is an example of a craftsman kit enhanced by some scratchbuilt details and figures providing an "active" feel to the model.

NMRA Achievement Program

The final hurdle is the area of rolling stock. That means all the stuff that rolls on the railroad. Who among us doesn't like to build a railroad car? Darn few, I would think. I know I have more cars than can be accommodated on the railroad in my place. For a Golden Spike you need to construct only six units of rolling stock that are scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. OK, let's consider our options. An old Athearn blue box kit that has been updated to today's standards. Another option would be superdetailing a flat with a load added such as Bob Frankrone did in the September '20 NMRA magazine could be one option. Maybe you built a Funaro and Camarlengo craftsman car at the '19 MER convention. That surely would be another. You get the idea. The opportunities are endless, and most of us likely have the "stuff" on hand that would qualify.

With the above objectives met, YOU qualify for a Golden Spike. I know there are many of us in the division who must qualify based on the railroads I have seen and heard about, yet I don't often see a GS award hanging in the model room. Why not??? I really think it is because most of us just have not gotten off our duff to discover how to do it.

OK, here it is. Once you have completed the qualifications outlined here (and note, nowhere have you seen anything about "judging," "competition," or anything like it) and are ready to "DISPLAY" each of these elements to a fellow NMRA member, just go to the NMRA website. There under the Education tab you will find Achievement Program. Under that go to forms and print out (or download) the Golden Spike Award Application Form. Fill it out, and have your witness sign with his NMRA # and send it to me. That is all there is to it. To make it even easier, send it along in electronic form and it will process even quicker.

Over the years, I have visited many, many layouts all over this country and others. Often I see a Golden Spike Award proudly displayed by the owner. Many times they tell me that is what motivated them to move on and complete both their railroad and some or all of the requirements for MMR. While many do not go that far, time and again I hear the GS award motivated them to take their layout to a better, more satisfying level. You may have the same experience, but first you have to get involved. There is no better time to start than now while we are somewhat limited in our activities during this covid era.

As always, should you have questions, just call or e-mail me and I will be happy to do my best to get you an answer.

Happy Modeling!!!



Bob Charles

Dan Horting's Layout

What is the name of your layout?

I do not have a name for my railroad but it is modeled after the Pennsylvania Railroad.

What scale is your layout?

The scale is O Highrail.

Does your layout have a specific era and/or location?

My railroad depicts the Pennsylvania coal region during the 1920's and 1930's.



What are the overall dimensions of your layout?

My rectangular layout measures 7' by 16'.

By what means and brand of equipment do you control your layout?

The operating system is a digital electronic Lionel Trainmaster.



Dan Horting's Layout

When did you first begin construction of your layout?

The layout was begun in March 2012. It required one year to build. My wife helped with the layout particularly making hundreds of trees and painting the rails on the Atlas track sections.

Do you sponsor Operating Sessions on your layout?

I do not sponsor any Operating Sessions.



Dan Horting's Layout

Do you have a track plan diagram for your layout (i.e. JPEG or PDF format)?

I designed my layout using the Atlas Track Planning Software.

What type of track (sectional, flex track or hand laid) and switches are on your layout and what is its code?

I used Atlas sectional track with darkened center rail. The outside rails were painted rust brown on the inside and outside edges.



Dan Horting's Layout

If you were to brag about your layout what would you describe as its outstanding feature(s)?

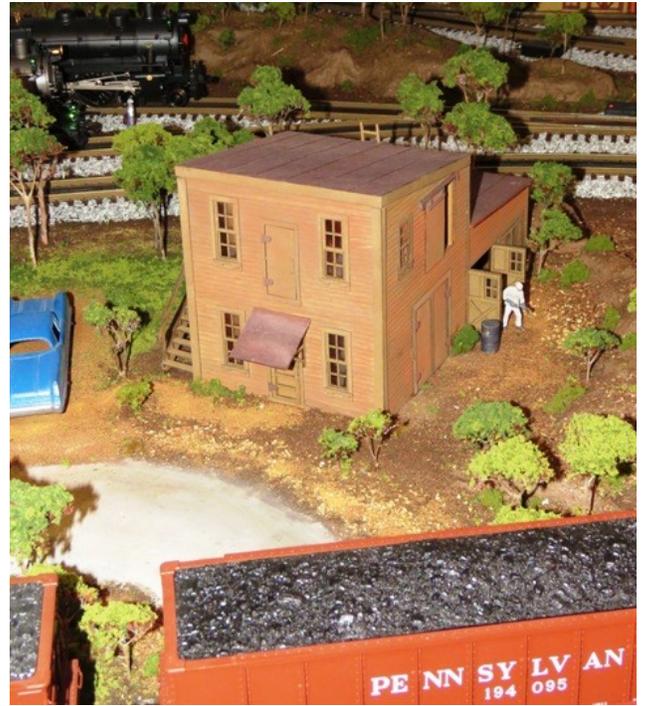
The structures are a special feature of the layout. Some were made from commercial kits while a few were scratch built from my CAD drawings.

Approximately, how many engines and rolling stock is in your collection? Also, what brand of engines do you run on your layout?

My railroad has five Lionel PRR steam locomotives consisting of a J-1, M-1, H-10, K4 and E-6. The rolling stock includes sixteen freight cars made by either Lionel or Atlas.



Dan Horting's Layout



Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna and Northern Railroad

What is the name of your layout?

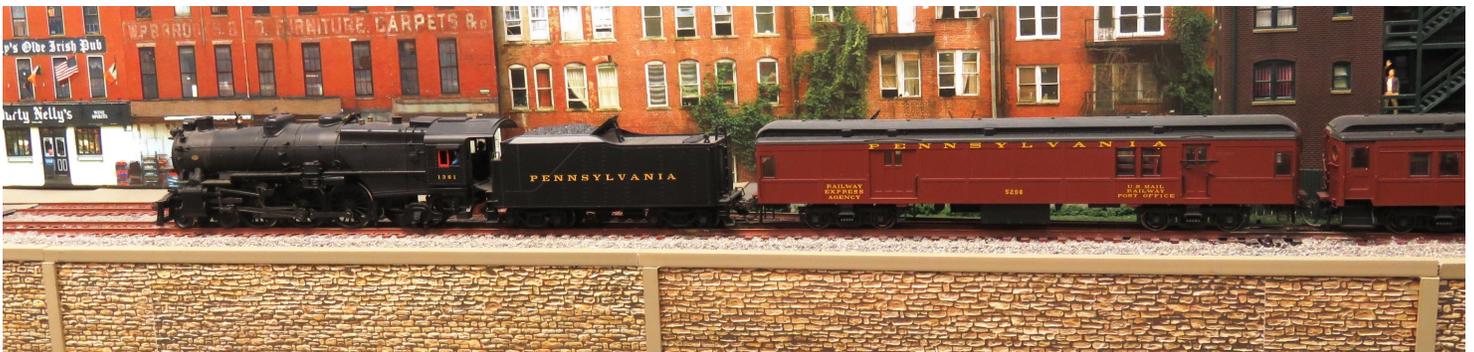
The name of the layout is the Bethel, Susquehanna & Northern (B. S. & N).

What scale is your layout?

It is an HO scale layout.

Does your layout have a specific era and/or location?

The era of the railroad is from the 50's up to the middle 60's and is located from the Delmarva Peninsula north to the coal regions of northeast Pennsylvania. It is a fictional line owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad and serviced by interlines with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Western Maryland Railroad.



Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna and Northern Railroad

What are the overall dimensions of your layout?

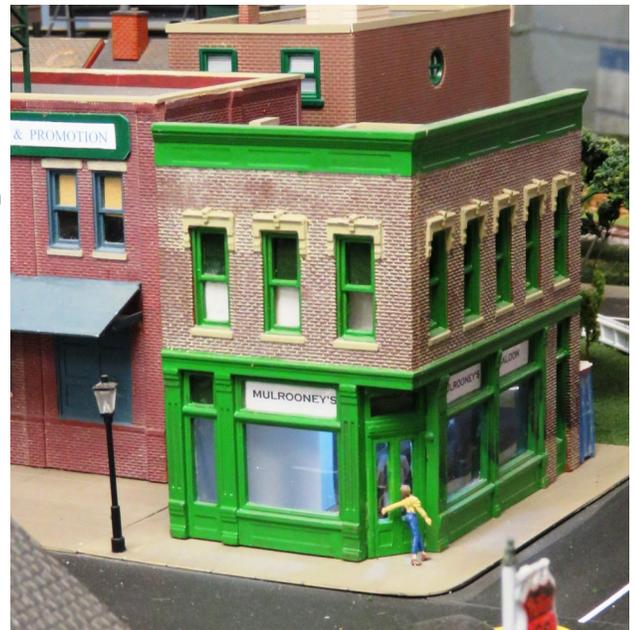
The dimensions are 32' x 30" along the back wall with three major peninsulas 4' to 5' wide by 6' to 9' long. There are also two short bump outs on each end, one with a mine and the other with a port and a car float.

By what means and brand of equipment do you control your layout?

The layout is DCC controlled with NCE equipment.

When did you first begin construction of your layout?

Construction began in June of 2014 after moving to Pennsylvania from Delaware in October of 2013.



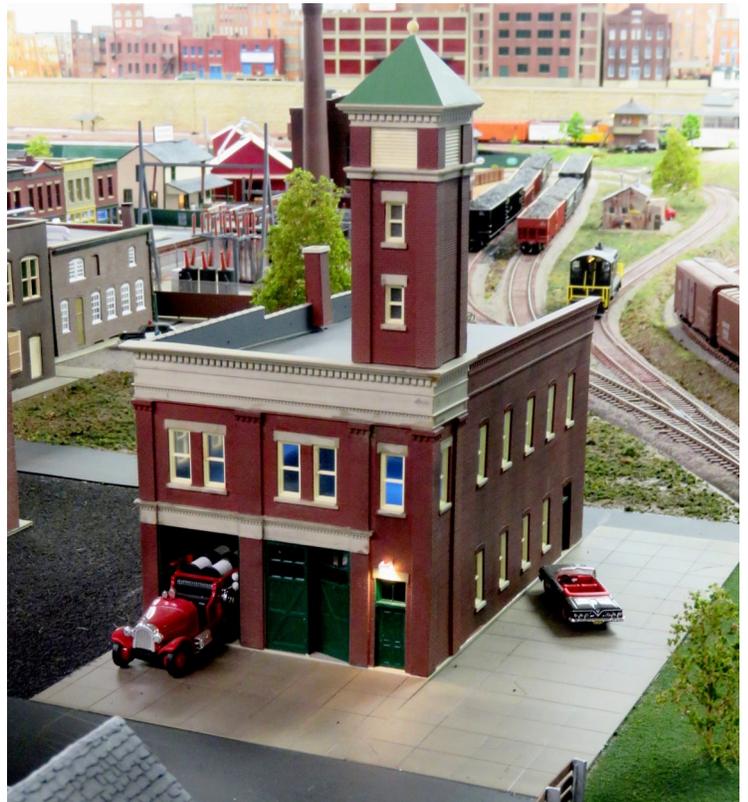
Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna and Northern Railroad

Do you sponsor Operating Sessions on your layout?

As yet we are not sponsoring any operating sessions, though that is the ultimate goal.

Do you have a track plan diagram for your layout (i.e. JPEG or PDF format)?

I do not have a track plan or diagram for the layout. It just sort of happened as we went along



Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna and Northern Railroad

What type of track (sectional, flex track or hand laid) and switches are on your layout and what is its code?

I've used 90% code 83 flex track with some code 100 thrown in at businesses and some yard areas. Turnouts are mainly Peco and Atlas. 90% of all track has been salvaged from other layouts

If you were to brag about your layout what would you describe as its outstanding feature(s)?

If I were to brag about something on the layout it is what you can accomplish with used parts and structures.



Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna and Northern Railroad

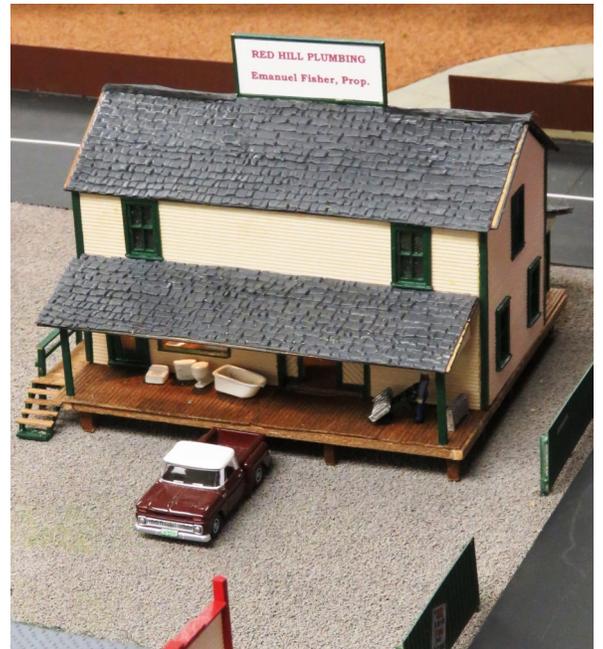


Approximately, how many engines and rolling stock are in your collection? Also, what brand of engines do you run on your layout?

I have 17 locomotives including Athearn, Atlas, Bachmann, Proto, Stewart and Brass from Sunset and Key imports. I'm unsure of the rolling stock count as much of it is in boxes during upgrades on the engine facility peninsulas.



Pat Mulrooney's Bethel, Susquehanna and Northern Railroad



The Frugal (Cheap) Model Railroader

I have always disliked rolling stock with bright, shiny metal wheel faces. To realistically portray steel wheels there needs to be rust on the wheel face while bright steel is always seen on inside flanges and tires of frequently used freight cars.

Since I have hundreds of cars, an efficient method of painting wheels was a priority. I first tried an AMB Laser Kit Wheel Mask Jig (Figure 1). After loading the jig and spraying the wheels I found that paint on the bearing points needed removal, as well as, paint which had seeped onto the wheel tires. Because this jig only held four wheelsets it required frequent use to handle large numbers of freight cars. As a result, the plastic began to crack and break (evident in the photo).



Figure 1– AMB Laser Kit Wheel Painting Mask

I searched for a better alternative and thought the Modeler’s Choice Wheel Painting Mask (Figure 2) would provide the solution. Even though ten wheelsets could be accommodated, loading and unloading the jig required disassembling the end caps (slow and cumbersome). I switched from paint spraying to paint brushing which avoided paint deposits on the tires and bearing points. However, I wasn’t enamored with the Modeler’s Choice jig.



Figure 2– Modeler’s Choice Wheel Painting Mask

Thinking there had to be a better way I fired up my gray matter and conceived my own wheel painting jig (Figure 3). Made from scrap wood and hardware from my shop the design allowed quick loading while accommodating a large number of wheels to be painted in one session. Instead of using a typical paint brush I discovered that a medium (green) micro brush could deposit paint in a circular motion without touching the end points (Figure 4).



Figure 3

Figure 4



I started constructing the design by cutting wood stock no wider than the inside dimension of an HO wheelset (Figure 5). I wanted to paint a large number of wheels in one setting so I spaced out 1/8" saw kerfs allowing for twenty-four (24) wheelsets in the jig. In this manner I could paint wheels for ten (10) cars in one session (Figure 6).

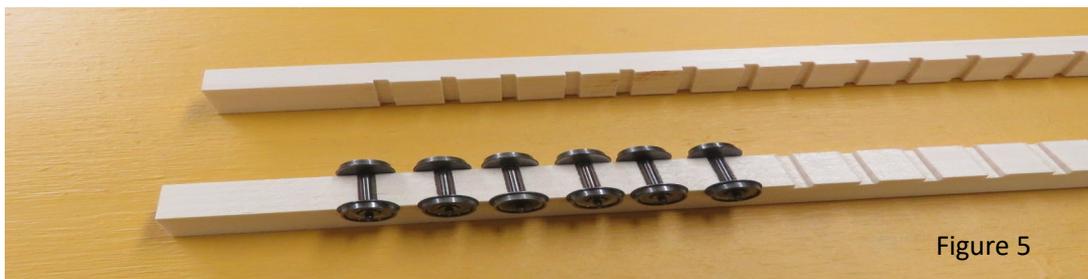


Figure 5

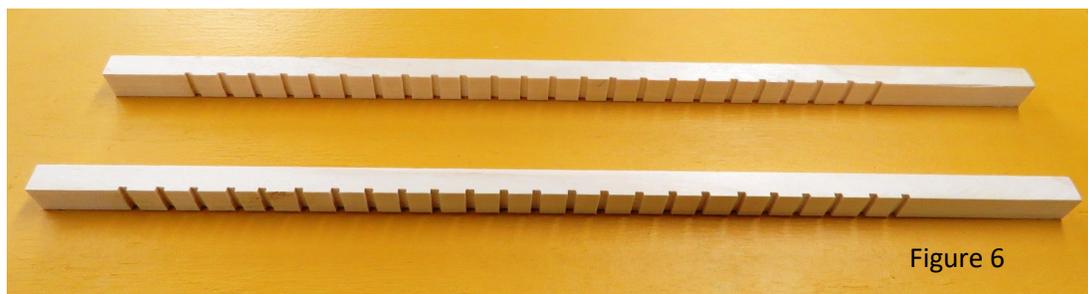


Figure 6

I added double feet to the jig so I could paint each wheel face while avoiding gravity caused paint runs/sags (Figure 7). The hinged end (Figure 8) permitted easy insertion and removal of the wheelsets. A catch was installed opposite the hinge (Figure 9) to ensure a tight hold on the wheel axles while painting took place.

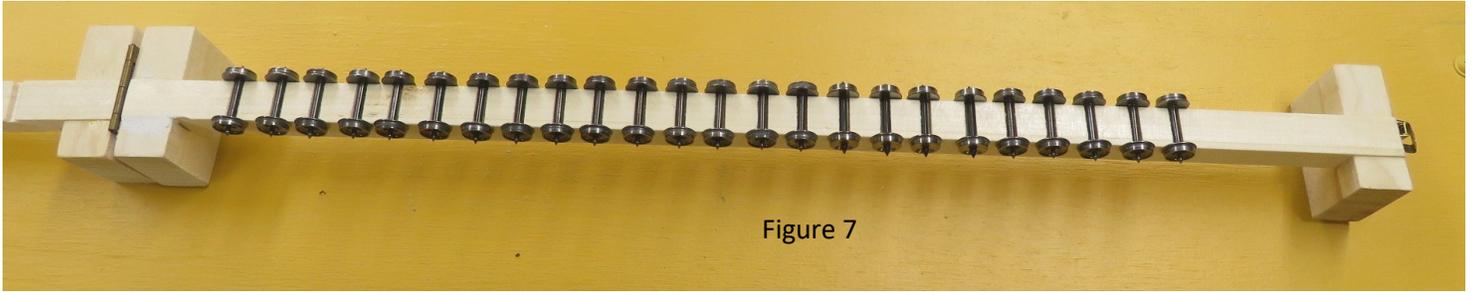


Figure 7

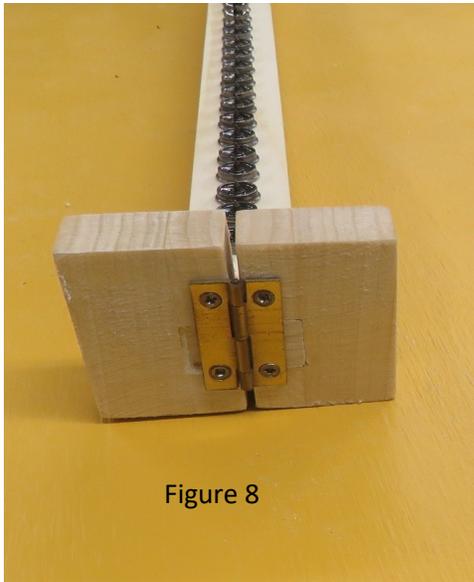


Figure 8

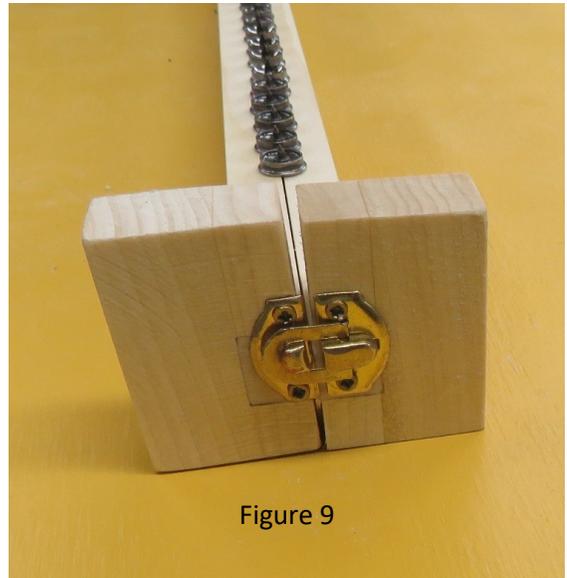


Figure 9

Using this jig will get my entire fleet painted in a short time. There is nothing better than efficiency and frugality!



Hand model Sadya Marcowitz

article and photos by Ben Kubelski

Pike Ads



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

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

South Penn Division

Pennsylvania Railroad



Serving Eastern & Southern Pennsylvania and Maryland to Pittsburgh and beyond!

Superintendent - *Robert Charles, MMR*

E-Mail: rcharles@aol.com



**FORKS RIDGE
RAILWAY**

Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO
Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey
207 State Street
Woodbury, PA 16695
gpnastase02j20@gmail.com

*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



Mountain Division

Freelance-Cumberland, MD to Elkins, WV

“Mountains, Lumber and Coal”

Jim Long

Chief Engineer

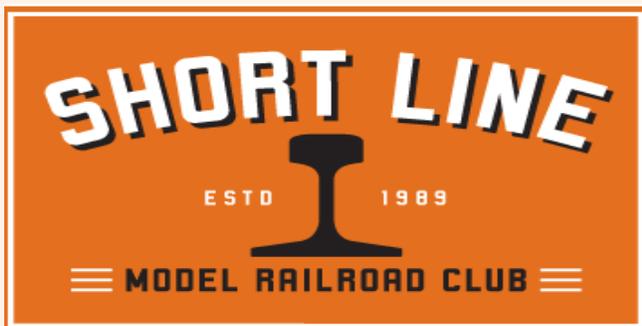
Mechanicsburg, PA

Visitors Welcome - Contact smlgf2000@aol.com

*The Standard Railroad of the World
Meets the Narrow Gauge of the East*

Modeling the Pennsylvania and East Broad Top Railroads in S/Sn3

Visitors welcome by appointment
Lee Rainey • leerainey@aol.com



11 South Street (rear basement entrance)

Ephrata, PA 17522

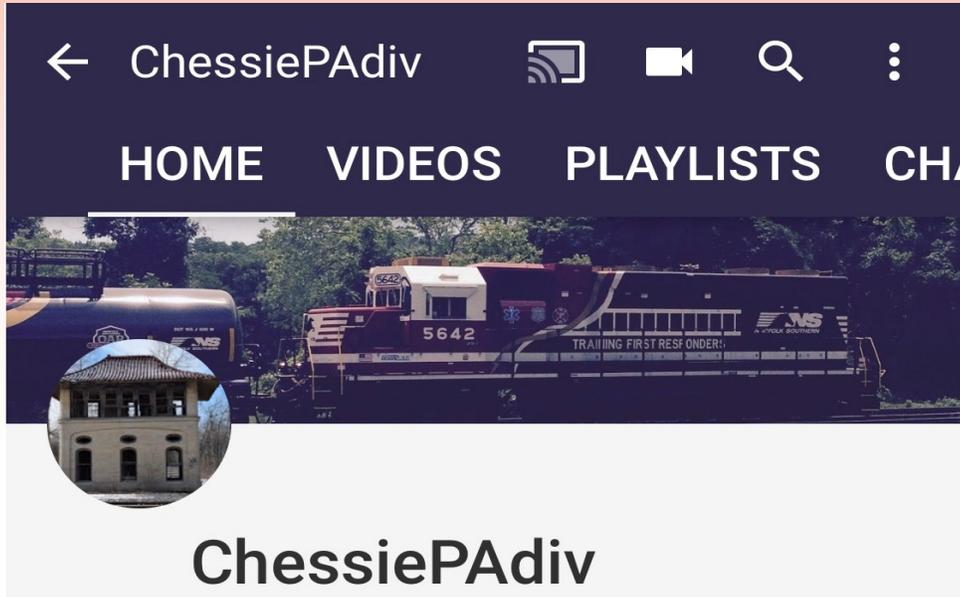
Thursday Evenings 7-9 PM cancelled due to
COVID 19

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

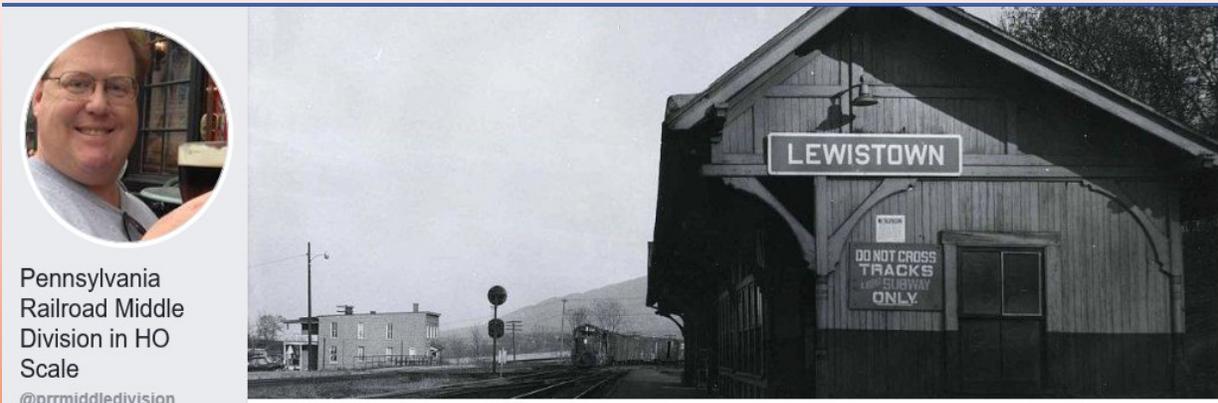
Members' Section

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



Members' Section

Robert Getty has built a web application that indexes every segment of Ken Paterson's "What's Neat" YouTube show for Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine. It's free to use and member's might find it quite useful: <https://wnindex.theconsist.com>

Sample screen shot below:

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'What's Neat Index' website. At the top left is a circular logo featuring a train. The navigation menu includes 'Search' (underlined), 'Presenters', 'Videos', 'Categories', 'FAQ', 'Tip Jar', and 'Contact'. On the top right, a yellow circle contains the number '369' followed by the text 'segments currently indexed'. The main heading is 'What's Neat Index' in large black font, with the subtitle 'When Daniel Coombs isn't around to help find that segment!' below it. A search bar with the placeholder text 'Segment / Presenter Search' and a 'Search' button is centered. To the right of the search bar is a small icon of a die. The background is a faded image of a model train. At the bottom left are two logos: a circular one with a person's face and the letters 'MRH', and a rectangular one with 'MRH' in large red letters and 'MODEL RAILROAD HOBBYIST' below it. To the right of these logos is the text: 'What's Neat with Ken Patterson is produced for Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine'.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!

The Station



**213 Ninth Street
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717-774-7096**

Please call for directions

Open Monday-Friday 10 AM to 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

TRAINS EXCLUSIVELY

ALL GAUGES (G-O-027-HO-N-Z)

Sales & Service

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!

MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY
Celebrating our 30th Anniversary!



15066 Buchanan Trail East
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
(717) 794-2860
Monday-Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-5
Sunday 1-5

www.mainlinehobby.net

Serving the hobby for three decades!!

You're one-stop source for all your model railroading needs.

From Z to O, from DCC to Detail Parts, we have it all!

e-mail: mainlinehobby@comcast.net

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!



**South Central Pennsylvania's
Premier Hobby Destination!
Carrying all major
Model Railroad brands
in O, HO and N Scales!
Your one stop shop for
all your model supply needs.
Also carrying Puzzles, Games,
and R/C cars, boats, and planes too!**

WHITE ROSE HOBBIES

4401 WEST MARKET STREET

YORK, PA 17404

WWW.WHITEROSEHOBBIES.COM

(717) 505-8676

HOURS:

MONDAY - SATURDAY 10 AM - 7 PM

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
Of the National Model Railroad Association

5 Hardy Court, Lancaster, PA 17602



ALCO #45 (4-4-2) at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, MI.