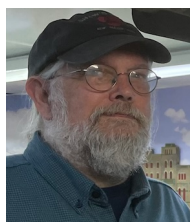


SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



An official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA



**SUPERINTENDENT'S
DESK**



SUSQUEHANNA
DIVISION

**TABLE OF CONTENTS
PAGE 2**



SUSQUEHANNA
DIVISION

**SECOND SECTION
PAGE 5**



**UPCOMING EVENTS
PAGE 14**

From the Superintendent's Desk

The Susquehanna Division's big summer event, our trip to the East Broad Top Railroad, took place just a couple of weeks ago on August 15. We had around twenty folks participate in the different activities. Barry Schmitt, who put this event together, wrote up a report of the event included later in this issue. Also in this issue, we have some photos of MMR Jerry Lauchle's award winning models and his article on building an older craftsman kit.

Dean Johnson contributed our financial report, and we have an update about our meeting coming up on September 19.

My wife, Renee, and I planned a mini-vacation around the EBT event, spending a couple of days exploring the Bellefonte area as well as attending the division's EBT gathering. Renee and I took the Northbound Colgate Grove Excursion and one of the shop tours before riding the trolley at the neighboring Rockhill Trolley Museum.

Looking back at what stuck with me and what I



documented, I was particularly interested in smaller details which could function as modeling prototypes. Similarly, Renee noted that she was fascinated by the native plants and wildflowers we observed in the fields along the tracks during the train ride behind EBT 16. She saw it as a sort of a prototype for the prairie area we are trying to establish while “rewilding” parts of our property. While the railroad that I model is located thousands of miles away, I noted specific details that can be



generalized to add atmosphere and realism.

The tie colors, texture, and variety seen from the train in this photo can be duplicated in my modeling. I also gathered memories and reference photos of colors and textures found in a turntable pit, metal roof colors and textures, details of a junk pile and siding weathering details from a trackside building, ash pit details including a tool rack and the tools hanging from it, and details from a small locomotive servicing area.

David Ellis

super@susquehannanmra.org

206-310-1453

<https://gnbranch.blogspot.com/>



SUSQUEHANNA
DIVISION

Table of Contents:

- Super's Desk - 1 & 2
- EBT Event Recap by Barry Schmitt - 3 & 4
- Second Section - 5
- Cash Flow Statement - 6
- Modeling Pages - 7-13
- Upcoming Events -14



Photo by Alan Mende



August 15 East Broad Top Railroad (EBT) Event – Recap

Article and photos

by Barry Schmitt

Logo from EBT

We could not have picked a better weather day for our August division gathering where all scheduled EBT offerings operated on time. Thanks to a last-minute group cancellation, plenty of seats were available for each scheduled event. And for those of us who had not been there recently the new south ride and full wye reverse turns on all trips were certainly a pleasant surprise.



Orbisonia Station



Completing the Wye Turn at the Picnic Grove

As best we could tell by observing the crowds throughout the day it appears at least twenty division members, including family members and friends, attended. We even had one member who departed with a friend from Harrisburg at 5:00 a.m., attended the 7:00 a.m. EBT Hostler program, participated in the shop tour, rode both the north and south train rides, and squeezed in a visit to the Mount Union Club before returning home late that evening. Oh my — to be young again!

While the travel time to and from the event and shop and train ride schedules consumed the majority of the day for most members, it was good to hear that several were able to take time to visit the all

NMRA member Mount Union Bricktown Model Railroaders Club. All were duly impressed with their modeling skills and fantastic facility rehab. The building was originally an early 1900s food warehouse that was abandoned many decades ago. It was in total shambles when the club acquired it. During a 2014 Division visit to the EBT several of us visited the club and were astonished by its terrible condition but equally impressed by their future plans. They officially opened for business in 2017. Visiting it today demonstrates that their detailed planning and hard work was well rewarded including such major projects as installation of a new roof, ADA ramps, central heating and air conditioning, and the building of a great layout.



First Ride North Arriving From the Yard



Bricktown Model Railroaders (Photo: David Collison)



Right: Scene From the Shop Tour

The long day certainly allowed us to relive great American railroad history thanks to the leadership of the EBT Foundation and hard volunteer work of the Friends of the EBT.

Second Section

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division 11
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA

Officers and Directors

Superintendent: David Ellis super@susquehannanmra.org

Asst. Super: Jim Mattern assist-super@susquehannanmra.org

Chief Clerk: Dean Johnson. treasurer@susquehannanmra.org

Director: Vacant

Director: Alan Mende amende@susquehannanmra.org

Director: Barry Schmitt sbschmitt@susquehannanmra.org

Director: Rich Wurst rwurst@susquehannanmra.org

Committee Chairs

Achievement Program Chair:

Bob Charles, MMR achievement@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Chair:

Bob Charles, MMR showcase@susquehannanmra.org

Membership Chair:

Howard Oakes membership@susquehannanmra.org

Web Designer: David Collison

Technology Chair:

Chris Kier

Webmaster:

David Ellis webmaster@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks Editor:

David Ellis editor@susquehannanmra.org



National Model Railroad Association

<https://www.nmra.org/>

Mid-Eastern Region

<https://mer-nmra.com/>

Susquehanna Division

<https://susquehannanmra.org/>

Note From the Editor

As the editor, I see at least two purposes of our newsletter. First of all, dissemination of information will be a major goal; both about upcoming events and what is going on with the division. A second goal, that I need help with, is helping model railroaders move forward with building or improving their railroads. I will be asking for contributions from you to help with those goals.

Whether you know of an upcoming event that may be of interest to division members or you have an idea for a model railroading related article, the first step is to contact me at editor@susquehannanmra.org. In general, if you would like to contribute an article, attach the text to an email in Word (.doc or .docx) with minimal formatting. Attach any photos or illustrations in jpeg format separately. Please make sure that the photos are yours or used with permission and credited.

Cash Flow Statement

National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Eastern Region

Susquehanna Division #11

For July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (Updated 8/6/2026)

Beginning Cash Balance - July 1, 2024

\$6,974.99

Income for the Year

MER/NMRA - Dues	\$332.00
Coffee Donations	55.00
Donation from -	
50/50 Drawing with Philadelphia Division	39.00

Total Income Received

426.00

Total Cash Available

\$7,400.99

Expenses for the Year

Bank Service Charges	\$36.00
Web - Digital Ocean Service	94.38
Web - Name Cheap Service	64.86
David Collison - Web Services	77.22
Donuts - Various Susquehanna Division Meetings	205.33
Zion Lutheran Church - Room Rental	100.00

Total Expenses

577.79

Ending Cash Balance - June 30, 2026

\$6,823.20

All Undesignated Funds

PNC Bank - Certificate

10,399.01

Total Cash + Investments

\$17,222.21

=====

Started-2/17/2026	Matures-10/17/2026	Description-PNC Bank - 8 Month CD
Current Balance-\$10,399.01	Interest Rate-3.25%	APY-3.30%
	Certificate #000031300459104	Interest Paid to Date-\$204.23

Modeling Pages

In this month's modeling pages we focus on Jerry Lauchle, MMR. First, we share several of his award winning entries from the Scenic City Express, the 2026 NMRA National Convention. We also include his article describing building a long out-of-production craftsman kit. (This is one of the last articles in my back-up files, so please consider writing up a short description of some of *your* work.)

JERRY LAUCHLE, MMR @ 2026 NMRA NATIONAL CONTEST



First Place Model Freight Car (Scratchbuilt)

Central of Georgia ventilated
boxcar - Photo by
Jerry Lauchle, MMR

First Place Model Display (Scratchbuilt)

Oremenia Mine - Photo by
Jerry Lauchle, MMR





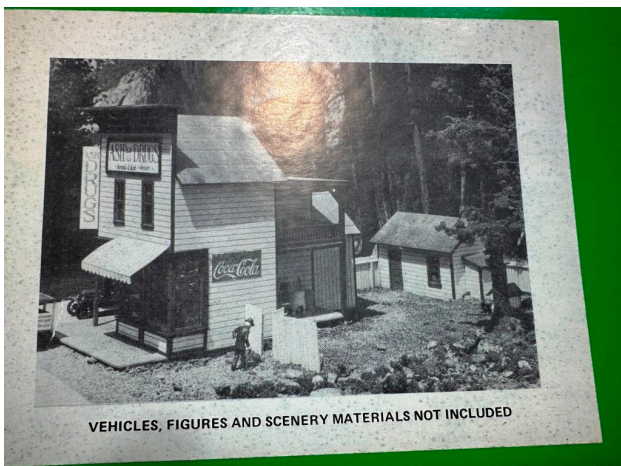
First Place Model Structure (Kit Class)

Photos by Jerry Lauchle, MMR

BUILDING ASH DRUGS FROM AN EVERGREEN HILL DESIGN KIT ACQUIRED IN THE MID-1980S

Article and Photos by: Jerry Lauchle, MMR

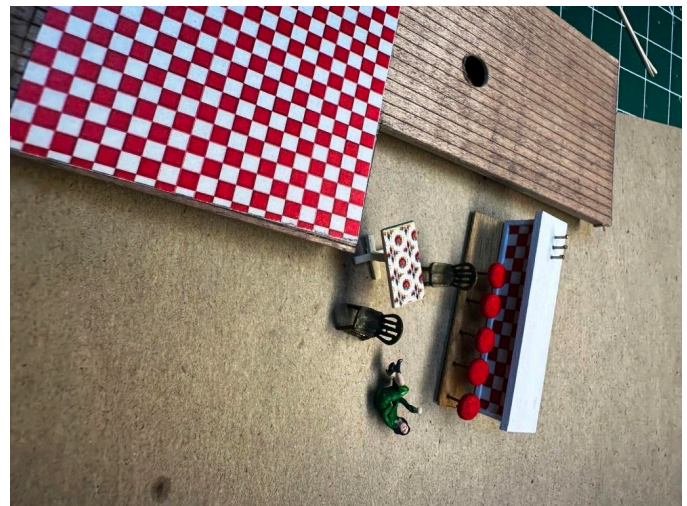
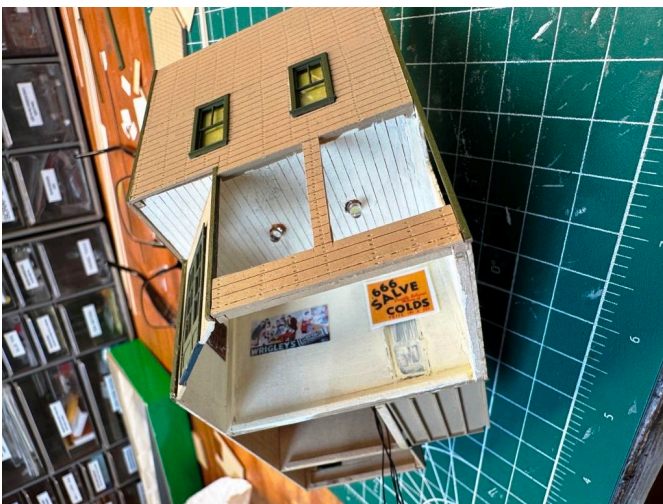
This kit is long out-of-production, but email correspondence with the current owner of Evergreen Hill Designs (evergreenhilldesigns.com) suggests that it may be re-introduced.



This kit provides basic sheet goods and strip wood, along with Grant Line window frames and doors. The plastic store-front window had its gold printing already applied. The structure I built from this kit is basically scratch built. All walls and trim had to be hand cut from the raw materials supplied.



The walls were pre-painted with depot buff, and the windows and doors were painted with camouflage green. I added nail holes with a pounce wheel. LED lights from Evan Designs were put in the first and second floor ceilings.



I printed the red and white tile floor from checkerboard patterns found on the internet. The soda fountain counter, seats, and table were entirely built from scratch. The red seat tops were cut from the end of an 1/8" dowel rounded on a lathe. The hole in the floor is for lead wires to the LEDs.

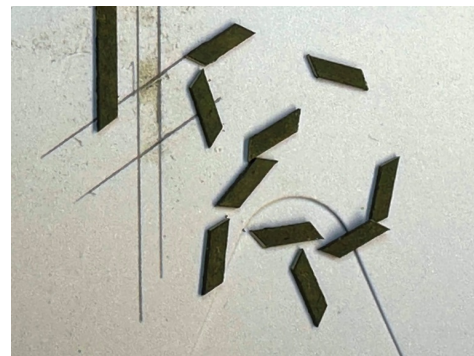
The plans showed a window in an alcove, which made no sense to me, but I built it like the plan anyway. My correspondence with the new owner of the kit concluded with him realizing the error and the new version of Ash Drugs will have a door in this alcove.



This photo shows the construction before the glazing and signs were installed and weathered. A light wash of isopropyl alcohol and India ink will be given to the building after those details are added.



The roofs of Ash Drugs and detached garage were made from the scribed sheathing provided in the kit, and covered with 600-grit wet-dry sand paper to represent rolled tar paper roofing. This photo shows the numerous rafter ends that were added.



I mounted the structures on a piece of ½" gator board and scened the surroundings with real dirt, gravel, and assorted ground foams.



Fence boards were distressed with a razor saw and wire brushed before staining them with a Hunter Line white stain.







This structure took second place in the off-line structure category at the 2025 MER Convention “Philly Express” held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. It received a merit award with a score of 93. Because my HO-scale model railroad, the Galetton & Chestnut Lake RY, is basically completed, there is no space on it for this structure. As an experiment I listed it on eBay for \$360, and it sold almost immediately. I love to build structure kits (as well as scratch building), so I’m presently doing more of this build-and-sell activity. When I ship a model such as this one, I double-box it with brads punched through the inner box into the base of the structure. The procedure is described in my article, “Boxing Prized Structures for Moving or Shipment,” *Mid-Eastern Region Local*, Vol. 74, Sept—Oct 2019, pp. 19–21.

Upcoming Events

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION:

September 19, 2026: In-person membership meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Good Hope Fire Company at 1200 Good Hope Road in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. We will gather around 8:30 for coffee, donuts, and conversation with the call to order at 9:00 a.m. In addition to having a free raffle, short state of the division, and modelers' showcase segments, we have two clinics planned.

- Keith Franz will present an overview of railroad signaling topics including physical fixed signal types, aspect/name/indication, different signal systems, and a few notes on modeling fixed signals.
- Howard Oakes will lead a hands-on clinic with improving your soldering skills as a goal. A resistance soldering iron will be available plus several other types of irons. You should bring any items you want to solder. Plenty of flux, solder, and holding jigs will be available.

Lunch will be on your own, with several model railroads open after the meet.

November, 2026: Virtual layout visit on Zoom. This is in the planning stages, but we are going to try to tour an outstanding railroad from “the far north of the division” live during our online meeting.

NMRA CONVENTIONS:

October 15—18, 2026: NMRA MER Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia:

TRACKS TO TIDEWATER

Registration is open for Tracks To Tidewater, our MER convention.

NON-NMRA CONVENTIONS:

September 18, 19, and 20, 2026: Anthracite Railroad Modelers and RR Meet XIV

ANTHRACITE RAILROAD MEET