

N.M.R.A.

M.E.R.

DIVISION 11

# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

SUSQUEHANNA

DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

1994 No. 3

## Report on June 11th Mechanicsburg meet

By Joe Krepps

The Spring/Summer Division meet was held at the Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society on June 11. There were 27 Division members present including 4 new members - a fine turnout given the relatively short notice.

The layout was running and partially scened giving a little glimpse of what will soon be a major railroad in our Division.

The "Favorite Train/Favorite model" contest was well attended this meet. We had about 20 entries total. Russel Wilcox won "Favorite Train" with "Western Maryland #10", a typical WM passenger train. Tom Lowry won "Favorite Model" with a "Stone Bank Barn", a typical Lancaster county barn. Don't forget, these are regular contests and rolling stock can count as models too.

Elections of Officers will be covered in a later story as will a financial report and a "map" of the Division's territory.

## New Division Officers

By Joe Krepps

We have new Division officers following elections held on June 11. Superintendent: Joe Krepps, Asst. Superintendent: Terry Nesbit and Clerk/Paymaster: Paul F. Tice. Our thanks to out-going Super' Don Yingling for his service. Welcome Terry!

Thanks to Jim Miller for his clinic on "Basic Soldering". There was a lot of good 'nuts & bolts' information presented. Thanks to Bob Sheriff & Crew for their clinic on Woodland Scenics "E-Z Water". It couldn't be simpler to put water on your layout and it's a LONG way from the older, messy, smelly methods.

Thanks to the Going-home layouts. I was not able to attend those layouts due to a White Rose '95 convention meeting in York, but I understand Jack Kennedy's layout is coming along nicely and the layout in Hershey is a fine 'S' scale railroad. I don't have the name of the layout in Hershey.

My apologies to everyone for showing up late. It threw the schedule off and caused some confusion about registration. I'll try to do better next time!

On a positive note, you should have seen the Merit Awards for the N.M.R.A. Achievement Program pile up for Division member Allan Mende!

An interesting note: at the noon time deadline for nominations, the only contest was for Super'. I'm told some people put their names down for other positions and then took them off. Let's let the members decide who to vote for, let's have a lot of names next time. Big things are in store for us!

He easily got Model Railroad Author (several articles in MR) and 4 out of 5 cars earned Merit Awards - the fifth car was damaged in transit or it would probably have earned one too. WOW! (Now if we can get him more active in the Division, he could pick up his Volunteer AP. Hmm...)

Charlie Potter, Manager of White Rose '95 gave an update on the convention. It's shaping up to be a really great convention. We'll have a complete update in a later story.

We also had a White Elephant table at the meet. This was the first time and we hope to see it continue. We had three cars for the car raffle.

## Upcoming Events:

**November 12: Division Meet,** Miniature RR Club, York, PA. 381 Wheatfield St., 10a.m.-4p.m.

**November 4 - 6, '94: Fun! Vention '94, M.E.R. Convention,** Hagerstown, MD. Ramada Inn Convention Center.

**November 23, '94: Conewago Valley Model RR Club Auction,** 7 pm, New Oxford Firehall, New Oxford, Pa.

**May 18-21, '95: White Rose '95, M.E.R. Convention,** Holiday Inn Holidome, York, Pa.

## Revised Election Format

The elections for Division Officers were held June 11, 1994 during the Division meet at the KMHS. The format for nominating officers was different from past elections. The simple reason was we didn't make members aware they were coming up. It hasn't been easy getting people to send in

nominations, so we will probably continue with the new format: 1) A notice for elections will appear in the first issue of the year of the Susquehanna Sidetracks. 2) Those willing to run for office will have their name posted on a board at the registration table.

3) Actual voting will take place before the meet stops for lunch. This will allow latecomers the chance to put their name on the board. 4) After lunch and before the business meeting, votes will be counted by someone not running for office.

## "White Rose '95" Update

*A report from Manager Charlie Potter, given during the Division Meet*

Things are shaping up very well for next years' convention.

We have all the clinic slots filled. Some of the clinicians scheduled to come include: Allen McClelland, Tony Koester, the Division's own Tom Lowry, some Master Model Railroaders or people working towards M.M.R. and representatives from major magazines. We've called in some favors to get such a talented group. A first for M.E.R. conventions will be a special forum where several of the big names will be together in a panel format to discuss model railroad issues. You will

have the opportunity to ask the panel any questions you may have! Another first for M.E.R. conventions will be a Motor car/Speeder fan trip! The trip will cover historical sites along the old Northern Central line - formerly Penn Central/PRR before Hurricane Agnes wiped out key spots. The trip will include 1 or 2 photo runbys and a lunch. People with sensitive hearing may want to bring ear protection, the 2-stroke cars are rather loud. This is limited to 45 people on a first come, first served basis. There will also be a bonus trip to Williams Grove

Amusement Park on Saturday. 14 people will bid on passes to learn to run the steam engine at the park. This will last 30 minutes for each "Engineer" and they will actually run the engine during the training period. They will also receive a certificate on completion from the park.

Other trips include; an excursion on the Middletown & Hummelstown R.R., a tour of the Brunner's Island power plant where they use a rotary coal dumper, and a historical tour of York, first capitol of the U.S.

## *Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!*

### Super's Corner

*By Joe Krepps*

Our "White Rose '95" is less than a year away...

This could very well be one of the greatest conventions held by the M.E.R. For those of you who don't know what the M.E.R. is: the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association. It includes the Northern part of North Carolina to just below the New York border to East of Pittsburgh. We're hoping for 250-300 attendees. Quite a Division meet! ...WE NEED YOUR HELP...It takes a lot of volunteers to run a convention. But, this isn't a one way street—if the Convention makes money, we will rebate some of your registration money after the Convention and you get a front row seat at some of the best clinics in the country plus some of the finest railroad models in the country plus a one-of-a-kind fantrip! The next issue of the 'Sidetracks will have some forms, or give me a call or drop a line, I'll gladly mail them to you. Heck, I'll even enclose a stamped return envelope when you contact me.

**LAYOUT DESIGN AND CONCEPT****PART 1***by Charlie Potter, MMR171*

When I was first asked to write an article on track planning, I thought it would be no problem. The more I thought about it, the more I realized how difficult it was going to be. Where do I start, how detailed do I want to be? I have been designing and discussing layout design for over 25 years. Many of them have been constructed and have operated fine. The number one goal of any trackplan is to design a railroad that s within your time and means to complete. Maintenance after completion is another major consideration.

Before you get out your paper and scale rule, we have to talk about concept. The biggest mistake I've seen over the years by designers is drawing a trackplan without having any idea what type of railroad they wanted to build. Get out a notepad and make some basic decisions now.

There are different degrees of prototype modelling you might want to consider. The most diehard modeler may want to take a section of his favorite railroad and reproduce it as close as possible. Most of us are going to be happier taking our prototype and

modelling our favorite scenes and free-lancing the rest. You may find you only want to model the equipment, maybe a few structures, to get the feel of the railroad. It is also possible to combine more than one prototype to your basic concept. I suggest you be very careful with your choice here, the closer you get to the prototype the more advanced your modelling skills have to be to get results you will be happy with. It is very important not to set your goals too high. I have seen many railroads never completed because the builder could not model up to the standards he setup before starting construction. The fictional railroad has the advantage of modelling with more freedom without justifying why the prototype did not do the same.

Now is the time to decide which area of the country and what type of terrain you wish to model. Next to consider is what era is your favorite. I would suggest you narrow the period down to about ten years. This does not mean your locomotives or rolling stock have to fall into this period, but structures and details (cars, trucks, people, etc.) should.

By now you should have a good idea what you want from your railroad.

Now we will try to fit your dream railroad into that railroad room that just appeared to get too small. Measure your railroad room and prepare a floorplan overlaid with a one inch grid. The best scale for me is 1"=1'. If the drawing becomes too big drop the scale down to 1/2"=1'. Make plenty of photocopies because these are also your doodle sheets.

In the next issue we are ready to look at the railroad room and decide how we can best make use of our available space. We will discuss minimum radius and turnout size. Aisle space and maximum grade will also be covered. Hopefully we can even start working with paper and pencil. My goal in writing this article is to present my method of layout design. While it certainly is not the only method, it is the best method I have found so far. I welcome all comments, pro or con, on the subject. Please mail them to me care of the SIDETRACKS editor and he will pass them on to me. I will try to include them in future articles as best I can.

**White Rose '95 Update***By Don Yingling*

We are now one year away from our MER Convention. By June 1st we should have all our costs, budgets, and activities firmed up and in writing.

Some quick notes on dealers, they will be allowed to operate from their hotel rooms. This hasn't been done for a number of years. I remember going to conventions when this was the norm.

When all the other activities shut down for the night you could go to these rooms and they were still bustling with activity and conversation. We hope to put some of that fun back in conventions here at York. For the dealers not so inclined, they can rent tables in 1/2 the ballroom area set up for the swap meet. This will go on until

4 pm Saturday. So there will be plenty of opportunity to buy, sell, and trade here.

**CLINICS, CLINICS, CLINICS.** We have allotted 32 time slots for clinics over the 4 days. We now have all time slots filled and confirmed. There should be no problem finding some

*(Continued on next page.)*

that fits what you are looking for. I am not at liberty to drop names in this update, but think of some of the big names in the model railroad press and they will be here giving clinics!

Rooms at the hotel are under \$60/night and you can start reserving them now. The hotel will be full at convention time. Just let them

know it will be for "White Rose '95" on May 18, 19, 20, & 21, 1995. The address and phone number are: Holiday Inn, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA 17404, 717-846-9500.

Volunteer registration forms are available by mail, write me or Charlie Potter for forms. Lets show the MER that Susquehanna Division 11

is alive and well with a big showing and the best convention ever done in the MER.

Don Yingling, PR Chairman,  
White Rose '95, 2420 Heather Road,  
York, PA 17404-4383

## Next Division Meet - November 12, York

By Joe Krepps

Our next Division Meet will be held at the Miniature Railroad Club of York on November 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Yes, we held the first Division Meet, since the revival of the Division, here. With the upcoming M.E.R. Convention, it may be best to solidify our current membership. We can reach out to other parts of the Division after the Convention. We may even meet modelers from outlying areas of our Division at the Convention and lay groundwork for future Division Meets.

As in previous Meets, we will have the usual popular-vote contests; Favorite Train and Favorite Model. Those who wish to have their model judged for the Achievement Program, drop me a line, we'll try to accommodate you.

There will be 2 clinics, Videos, Operating layout w/lots of updated scenery, Division Business Meeting with the latest on next May's convention, light refreshments sold by the Club and a White Elephant table.

Though we have had some requests for dealer tables, it will be much simpler, this time, to do without. A flyer for your local Hobby Shops is included in this issue.

Where do we go from here? It has been suggested we hold a Meet in April for those who aren't able to attend/interested in the May Convention as well as finalise volunteers and other Convention matters. What is your thought on this? Please, let us know.

**Superintendent:**

Joe Krepps  
1278 W. Princess St., #3  
York, Pa. 17404-3447  
(717) 845-7771  
e-mail: KreppApple@aol.com

**Asst.. Superintendent:**

Terry Nesbit  
P.O. Box 3081  
Shiremanstown, PA.17011  
(717) 657-9476 ←24 Hr. Recorder

**Clerk /Paymaster:**

Paul F. Tice  
1709 W. Market St.  
York, Pa., 17404  
(717) 843-9572

## Susquehanna Division 11 Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable: M.E.R. # : \_\_\_\_\_ N.M.R.A.#: \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$2.<sup>00</sup> cash or check made out to Susquehanna Division 11, to Paul F. Tice, Clerk/Paymaster  
Susquehanna Div., 1709 W. Market St., York, Pa. 17404

**NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
MID-EASTERN REGION  
SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11  
FISCAL YEAR 07/01/93 TO 06/30/94  
REVENUE & EXPENSE STATEMENT**

<b><u>BEGINNING BALANCE (CASH) - JULY 1, 1993</u></b>	<b>\$166.00</b>
<b><u>REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u></b>	
Dues - Received in Mail .....	\$30.00
Dues - New @ Lancaster Meet - South Penn RR Club .....	\$16.00
Admissions - Lancaster - South Penn RR Club .....	\$11.00
Car Raffle - Lancaster - 1 car only .....	\$10.50
Dues - Received in Mail .....	\$40.00
Dues - Mechanicsburg Meet - Keystone MRHS .....	\$30.00
Admissions - Mechanicsburg Meet .....	\$21.00
Car Raffle - Mechanicsburg - 3 cars .....	\$34.50
Donations - Mechanicsburg .....	\$2.00
<b>Total Revenue Received</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>
<b><u>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b>\$361.00</b>

**EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR**

Postage .....	\$75.40
Office Supplies .....	\$34.52
6 Cars for Raffle .....	\$31.70
Raffle Tickets .....	\$11.36

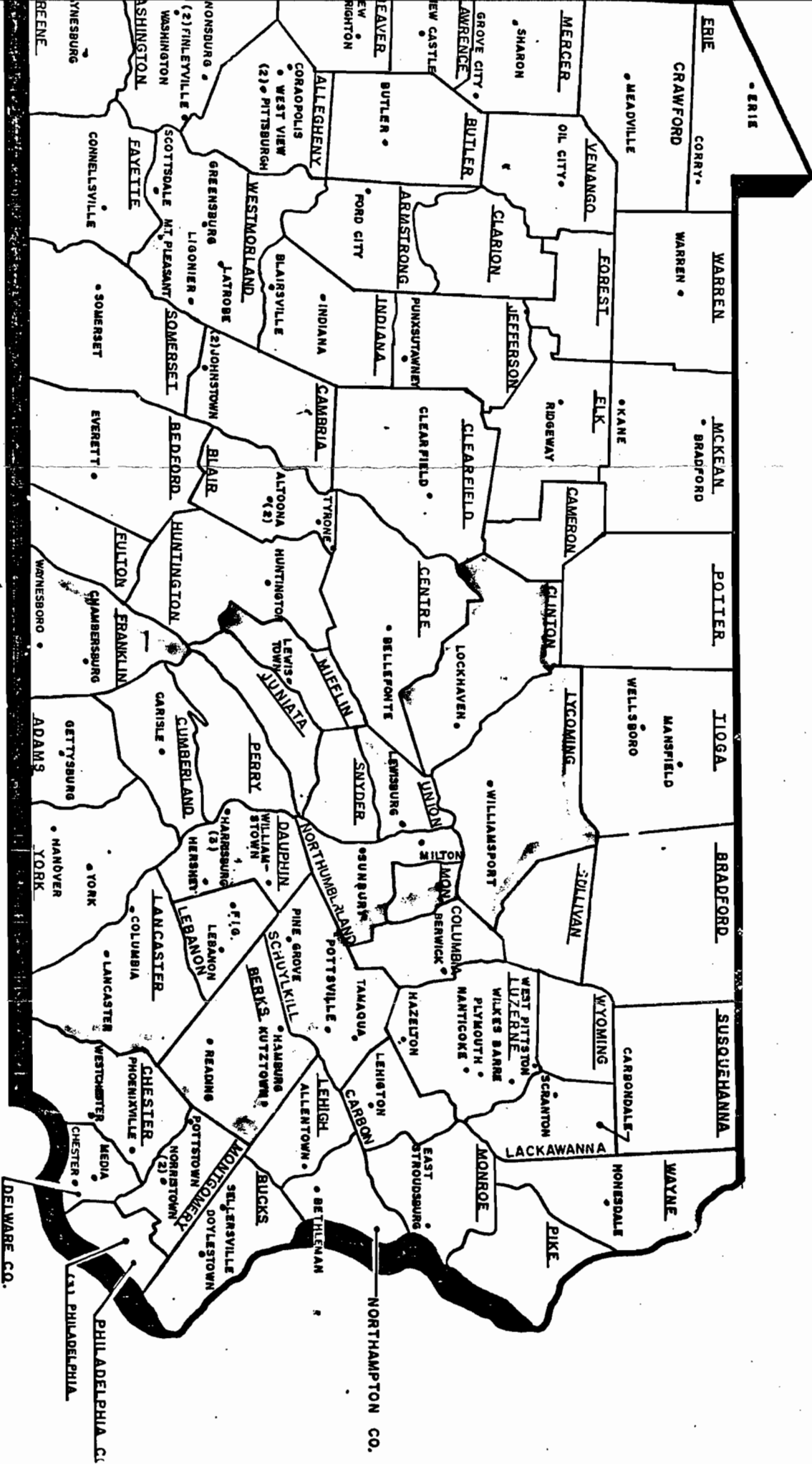
**ENDING BALANCE (CASH) - JUNE 30, 1994** **\$208.02**

2 cars remain in raffle inventory at a total cost of \$10.56.

Effective July 1, 1994 - The Susquehanna Division has received a federal tax number and now has a checking account - finally! All checks for dues, etc. should be made payable to Susquehanna Division 11.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul F. Tice, P.A.  
Paymaster/Clerk  
Susquehanna Division #11

GEOGRAPHICAL SUBDIVISION



*Susquehanna Division 11*

# DIVISION MEET

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION 11 OF THE M.E.R./N.M.R.A.

**Semiannual Meet: November 12, 1994**

**10 am to 4 pm**

**Where:** Miniature Railroad Club of York  
381 Wheatfield St.  
York, Pa. 17402

**Registration:** Members \$1 / Nonmembers \$3, includes  
\$2 annual Division dues

**CLINICS, VIDEOS ALL DAY LONG, OPERATING LAYOUT,  
"FAVORITE TRAIN" CONTEST, "FAVORITE MODEL" CONTEST\*,  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE, "WHITE ELEPHANT" TABLE**

\*Models may be judged for participation in the  
N.M.R.A. Achievement Program by request only.

