

NMRA
MER
DIVISION 11

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

SUSQUEHANNA
DIVISION
NEWSLETTER
APR.-JUN. 1996
VOL. 4, NO. 2

Div. 11 Welcomes 3 New Counties

At the MCR/MER Joint Regional convention in Monroeville, PA the MER Board of Directors has approved the acquisition of three counties by Susquehanna Division 11. The division had previously signed up two members in Centre county. At that time it was realized that Centre did not belong to any division in the MER. So the MER Board of Directors were petitioned to place Centre, Blair and Huntingdon counties in to Division 11. On April 26, 1996, Susquehanna Division grew from

17 to 20 counties.

There are a number of counties in Pennsylvania that still are not represented by a division and our Division BOD is working on correcting that whether the counties become Division 11 or one of the other 3 bordering divisions.

The new counties include such attractions as Horseshoe Curve, Altoona Railroader's Museum, and many more. We can look forward to having events at these locations. *Don*

New Officers Elected

The Election of Officers for the 1996/1998 term of office was conducted at the Spring '96 Mini-convention held at the Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society. These elections were for a two year term and will occur on all even number years. Your new officers are:

Wm. Terry Nesbit, Superintendent; Brian Brandt, Assistant Superintendent; and Paul F. Tice, Clerk/Paymaster. Their addresses and phone numbers appear in the Division Staff roster. The next election of officers will be held at the Spring '98 mini-convention. *Don*

Summer Picnic and Open House

The summer picnic/gathering has been scheduled for August 10, 1996 from 10 am to 2 pm. It will be held at the Strasburg Railroad on America's oldest short line, in Lancaster County. Final details are being worked out for a local Strasburg home layout to be open for visitation after the picnic. The layout occupies an entire two car garage and all trains are HO scale. Details on the picnic and open house will follow in the July newsletter. No model contest will be held at this picnic or at the open house

layouts.

Area attractions include the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania which has displays of railroad items and restored equipment from the earliest steam locomotives to the mid 20th century. The museum traces the history and technology of the railroad industry.

Another attraction in the area is the Toy Train Museum operated by the Train Collectors Association. It has displays of antique and 20th century toy trains and

Coming Events

July 15-21, 1996: NMRA National Convention, Long Beach, CA. Registrar Long Beach Limited, 454 Ferrara Way, Vista, CA 92083-4802. Ph. (310) 371-1955.

Aug 10, 1996: Division 11 Picnic/Open House at the Strasburg Railroad in Lancaster County.

Sept 21, 1996: Division 11 Open House/Home Layout Tour, Harrisburg Area.

Oct. 3-6, 1996: Jersey Limited '96, Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Fall Convention, The Clarion Hotel at Mount Laurel, 915 Route 73 at I-295, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054. Registrar, P. J. Mattson, Box 517, Swedesboro, NJ 08085. Ph: 609-467-3385.

Oct. 19-20, 1996: Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD. 9-4 Sat. and 10-4 Sun. Adm \$5

Nov. 27, 1996: Conewago Valley Model Railroad Club Annual Train Auction, 7pm, New Oxford Fire Hall, New Oxford, PA.

many operating layouts.

A third attraction is the Choo Choo Barn which is a miniature display of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country with many operating toy trains and animated figures.

Also, if you are looking for authentic railroad related items and books, stop and check out the Depot Attic, located next to the Choo Choo Barn.



SUPER'S CORNER

As the Susquehanna Division 11's new Superintendent, I have laid out a course of action for my watch. First and foremost, this division must grow in order to survive. This growth is on several fronts, the most important are: a membership consisting of 200 plus members; active participation in the NMRA Achievement Program and the Scouting Merit Badge program; combined meets with other railroad related groups. In future issues of the Super's Corner, I will keep the membership posted on our overall progress. In order to meet these goals, I will need the help and input from all Divisional members.

Susquehanna Division 11 is in need of a volunteer for a new position, to be known as Membership Chairman. All parties wishing to volunteer, must be current members of Susquehanna Division 11 and reside within the geographic boundaries of the division. They should send their names to Brian Brandt, no later than the 31st of July, 1996.

The Membership Chair duties are:

- a. Recruit new members.
- b. Keep the members we have and try to get those past members to become active again through membership promotions.

c. Recruit volunteers for various Division programs, projects, and mini-meets.

d. Help the Clerk/Paymaster at mini-meets. Act as a greeter, ensure everyone has name tags, have the necessary packets being handed out at these meets, assist the AP Chair with Model Contest entries.

e. Be the Assistant Superintendent's agent/helper.

f. Have a committee (when needed), made up of current division member(s) residing within the geographic boundaries of the division, to carry out various assigned duties as required.

The other announcement I have is: Susquehanna Division 11 needs to have an official logo. This logo is needed on all official division materials, suitable for reproduction in both black and white and/or up to 5 colors on a cloth patch, with the background being one of the 5 colors. All entries must be sent to **Susquehanna Division 11 Logo**, P.O. Box 3081, Shiremanstown, PA 17011-3081 and be post marked no later 31 August 1996. Acceptable entries will be published in the 4th newsletter of 1996 for comments from the membership.

Watch out for those trains,

Wm. Terry Nesbit

Division Staff

Superintendent: Terry Nesbit, 5760 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4708. Ph. 717-657-9476

Asst. Superintendent: Brian C. Brandt, 337 Bracken Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601. Ph. 717-560-9542

Clerk/Paymaster: Paul F. Tice, 1709 West Market Street, York, PA 17404. Ph. 717-843-9572

Newsletter Editor: Don Yingling, 2420 Heather Road, York, PA 17404-4383. Ph. 717-764-2676

AP Chairman: Terry Nesbit, 5760 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4708. Ph. 717-657-9476

Scouting Merit Badge, York & Adams Counties: Alan Frame, 2430 Opal Road, York, PA 17404. Ph. 717-767-4998

Module Coordinator: Mike Caum, 20 Virginia Avenue, Shrewsbury, PA 17361. Ph. 717-235-2886

Susquehanna Sidetracks is the official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11 of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Dues are \$2.00 per year payable to "Susquehanna Division 11". Remit dues to the Clerk/Paymaster. Dues include subscription to the quarterly Division newsletter.

Membership Thermometer

Current Membership 5/31/96: 78

New Members:

Patrick R. Mulrooney, Narvon, PA

Robert R. Reitzel, Harrisburg, PA

Wm. E. Lee, Carlisle, PA

William Dougherty, New Freedom, PA

Jim Clay, Mechanicsburg, PA

Howard Oakes, Abbottstown, PA

Fred Vealey, New Oxford, PA

Robert L. Barron, Holtwood, PA

Duane B. Britton, Ephrata, PA

Hans W. Verleur, Fleetwood, PA

Renewals:

Don Yingling, York, PA

Mike Caum, Shrewsbury, PA

Ryan Runkle, Camp Hill, PA

Bob Sheriff, Enola, PA

William Nesbit, Shiremanstown, PA

Greg Reinecker, Mechanicsburg, PA

Bryce E. Hoverter Jr., Akron, PA

George Wagner, Lebanon, PA

Alan Mende, Hummelstown, PA

Do you need to renew your dues? Check the first two numbers of your membership number on your mailing label. They represent the inclusive year your dues are paid to: 95xxx need to be renewed. 96xxx are good until Dec. 31, 1996.

Editor's Notes

Let me start off by thanking everyone for their support while I was in office. Please extend your continued support to Terry, Brian, and Paul, our new officers, as they take our division into the future. Congratulations guys.

Now I can spend more of my thinking time on the newsletter. I need to set up some deadlines so that everything is here for each newsletter and so I have guide lines to get my b__t in gear and get it together and in the mail.

1st quarter...Jan 1

2nd quarter...Apr 1

3rd quarter...Jul 1

4th quarter...Oct 1

My goal is to have the newsletter in the mail by the 3rd week of these months. I will be including these deadlines in the division staff column so they can be referenced easily. After this issue I hope I will have it on schedule.

I am looking for articles for the newsletter whether they are "short and sweet" or "long and continued". True, this is the vehicle for the division to get out necessary information but it is also YOUR newsletter to share your modelling ideas, how-to's, and experiences.

Included in this issue you will find a Survey Questionnaire. Its purpose is to help us know where you stand and what direction you want your division to take. The input will be very valuable in making plans for future meets and other events and for understanding who makes up the membership of Division 11. So please take the time to file it out and return it. Happy railroading, Don



Mini-Convention Report

The Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society was the gracious host for our Spring 1996 Division 11 Mini-Convention. The day was beautiful and the meet was great. There were 25 members present at the mini-convention.

There were 4 entries in the Favorite Model contest and only one entry in the Favorite Train contest. We need more competition in these categories. Every body bring something along the next time and fill up the area. The Favorite Model contest was won by Mike Tice with his HO scale Rock Island GP-38 done in the blue scheme and the Favorite Train contest was won by Bill Fraley with his S scale Wreck and Work Train.

Terry Nesbit presented his clinic on handlaying track on polyfoam roadbed. This type of construction presents its own unique problems. Excellent job Terry and thank you.

We all got a chance to see the progress on the railroad and they are well on their way to completion. Lots of scenery already in and judging by the notations on the layout about what goes where, lots more to do. Anybody want to scratchbuild some big bridges? They need some and are probably open to volunteers.

The Division 11 meeting was held in the afternoon. The balloting for election of

officers was open in the morning. The results were announced: Terry Nesbit, Superintendent; Brian Brandt, Assistant Superintendent; and Paul Tice, Clerk/Paymaster. Mike Caum was appointed to Division Module Coordinator. Terry Nesbit went over some of the ideas he has for the Division and what direction he would like to see it take. He was commended for all his work on new ideas and directions for the division.

There was a choice of five cars in the car raffle and at the end of the meeting the tickets were drawn for the car raffle. The winners were: Robert Reitzer, Tony Segro, and Bob Sheriff.

We welcome the new members that signed up at the mini-convention:

Robert Reitzer, Harrisburg; William E. Lee, Carlisle; William Dougherty, New Freedom; Jim Clay, Mechanicsburg; Howard Oakes, Abbottstown; and Fred Vealey, New Oxford. And a thank you to those who renewed their dues there. Don



Susquehanna Division 11 Achievement Program

Mr. Mel Ange of Delta has earned 3 Merit Awards in Master Builder, Motive Power and a Golden Spike Award. **Mr. John Long of Camp Hill** has completed his Statement of Qualifications for Master Builder, Author Certification. The **Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society, Inc. of**

Mechanicsburg has earned a Golden Spike Award for their club layout. **Mr. Alan Mende of Hummelstown** has earned 3 Merit Awards in Master Builder Cars. The **Railroaders Memorial Museum of Altoona, PA** has earned a Golden Spike Award for their layout. *Wm. Nesbit.*

Membership Roster as of 5/31/96

DON YINGLING, YORK, PA	TONY SEGRO, COLUMBIA, PA	THOMAS R. LONG, SPRING GROVE, PA
ALAN FRAME, YORK, PA	GEORGE WAGNER, LEBANON, PA	WALTER E. MORSEY, BALTIMORE, MD
PAUL F. TICE, THOMASVILLE, PA	ALAN MENDE, HUMMELSTOWN, PA	JEFF PYOTT, MARIETTA, PA
JOSEPH KREPPS, YORK, PA	BOB MARTIN, YORK, PA	NICHOLAS K. SILK, ENOLA, PA
CHARLES POTTER, YORK, PA	WILLIAM J. FRALEY JR., HERSHEY, PA	C. EDWARD ROGERS, JR., MECHANICSBURG
CLARENCE NISSLEY, PALMYRA, PA	BILL AND MARY MILLER, MIDDLETOWN, MD	JIM LONG, CAMP HILL, PA
R. DAVE CRAY, YORK, PA	RICHARD E. RAUBENSTINE, DOVER, PA	WILLIAM J. TROTMAN, CAMP HILL, PA
JAMES GELTRUDE, BALTIMORE, MD	THOMAS A. RYAN, JR., STATE COLLEGE, PA	THOMAS W. MCNUTT, WILLIAMSPORT, PA
HENRY HESS, BALTIMORE, MD	DAVID ROHRBAUGH, YORK, PA	CHRISTIAN J. BRADLEY, SHILLINGTON, PA
MIKE CAUM, SHREWSBURY, PA	JEREMY S. GRIFFITH, TERRE HILL, PA	PAUL L. SCHELL, LEESPORT, PA
JOHN A. CASSEL, HARRISBURG, PA	MIKE NEASE, YORK, PA	PHILIP E. MELLOTT, LITITZ, PA
RYAN KUNKLE, CAMP HILL, PA	GARY SMITH, BALTIMORE, MD	DICK DIEHM, KUTZTOWN, PA
JIM ROBINSON, HARRISBURG, PA	JOHN B. HENSEL, JR., WINDSOR, PA	JIM ATKINSON, ELIZABETHTOWN, PA
PAUL KIMMEY JR., HARRISBURG, PA	RICHARD RAUBENSTINE, JR., YORK, PA	KENNETH D. MCCANN, NEWVILLE, PA
JOHN LONG, CAMP HILL, PA	JOHN D. MELLINGER III, LANCASTER, PA	PAUL TROUTMAN, READING, PA
BOB SHERIFF, ENOLA, PA	MEL AGNE, DELTA, PA	HAROLLD J. STAHLE, JR., CAMP HILL, PA
WILLIAM NESBIT, HARRISBURG, PA	BRUCE GUINN, NEW HOLLAND, PA	PATRICK R. MULROONEY, NARVON, PA
JACK KENNEDY, MECHANICSBURG, PA	BRADLEY L. CLAUSER, EAST BERLIN, PA	ROBERT R. REITZEL, HARRISBURG, PA
BRIAN KAMPSCHROER, MECHANICSBURG	CHRIS COHAN, LANCASTER, PA	WILLIAM E. LEE, CARLISLE, PA
GREG REINECKER, MECHANICSBURG, PA	WARNER R. FRANKLIN, HARRISBURG, PA	WILLIAM DOUGHERTY, NEW FREEDOM, PA
ROBERT GLATFELTER, YORK, PA	MICHAEL TICE, THOMASVILLE, PA	JIM CLAY, MECHANICSBURG, PA
WILLIAM STRICKLER, EAST BERLIN, PA	JOHN BALOGH, STATE COLLEGE, PA	HOWARD OAKES, ABBOTTSTOWN, PA
BILL BUSCH, MOUNT JOY, PA	ROBERT H. SECRIST, YORK, PA	FRED VEALEY, NEW OXFORD, PA
BERNIE HAUCK, YORK, PA	MICHAEL YINGLING, HARRISBURG, PA	ROBERT L. BARRON, HOLTWOOD, PA
BRIAN C. BRANDT, LANCASTER, PA	DONALD I. GROSS, YORK, PA	DUANE B. BRITTON, EPHRATA, PA
BRYCE E. HOVERTER JR., AKRON, PA	KERMIT W. KISSINGER, DUNCANNON, PA	HANS W. VERLEUR, FLEETWOOD, PA

September Open House/Home Layout Tours

Several of our members, who have returned the Survey Questionnaire at the Mechanicsburg Meet, had indicated they were interested in opening up their homes and layouts for a division

meeting, etc. A few were contacted and they will be hosting the Division Open House Gathering on Saturday, September 21, 1996, from 10 am to 3:30 pm. It will be at three Harrisburg area homes. These

Division 11 members are participating in the NMRA Achievement Program leading to Master Model Railroader. Further details will be in the July newsletter.

The Golden Spike

The Golden Spike is the easiest, and for many people, the first AP award that they earn. It is designed to demonstrate familiarity with different areas of the hobby, rather than expertise in a particular area. So take a look at the requirements - you may find that you have met most or all of them already.

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars)

Display six (6) units of rolling stock (Scratchbuilt, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits).

Notice that the requirement is to 'display' them. Nowhere does it say that they must earn a minimum number of points in judging - just that they must be displayed (in the monthly contests at your division meetings, for example. Even having them set out on your layout or a table in your basement counts as 'display'). These models need to show a little more effort than a 'shake the box' kit. For example, by itself a freight car kit out of the box is not enough to qualify. However, by painting and decaling it, adding a little detailing, perhaps some weathering, etc., you'll have a qualifying model in no time!

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

Construct a minimum of eight (8) square feet of layout.

Again, there is no requirement about how good or how elaborate your layout must be - just that you must 'construct' it. On the other hand, you may have trouble convincing someone that a loop of track nailed to a piece of green painted wood constitutes a "layout" . . . How much is 8 square feet of layout? Well, a typical module is 4 feet by 2 feet, and would easily satisfy this requirement.

Construct five (5) structures (scratchbuilt, craftsman, or detailed and commercial kits). These structures may be separate, or one or more of them may be part of a single scene.

The same comments apply here about the type of kits. The idea is to show that you can do more than glue a simple plastic kit together. Painting or weathering are good things to consider. Remember that 'structures' aren't just buildings. Things like bridges and trestles fall into this category.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

Three (3) types of trackage are required (turnout, crossing, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.

This requirement sounds a lot harder than it is. First, notice that last sentence about commercial trackage; you don't have to hand-lay anything - you can just install a store bought turnout. 'Types of trackage' can be just about anything: turnouts, crossings, and grade elevation (a change in elevation of the track) are all examples of 'types of trackage'. Also, note that the three types DO NOT have to be different. For example, just having three simple turnouts will qualify. The 'proper roadbed' requirement can be met by laying the track on a raised roadbed, such as cork, and ballasting it; it's to show that you know about roadbed profile, drainage, etc.

All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (Double-track main, single-track main with sidings, block or command control, etc.).

This requirement can also be easier than it sounds. Notice the option for a single track main with sidings. This means that as long as you can cut power to the sidings individually, you can run one train, park it on a siding while you run another, then park it and run the first again. This meets the requirement.

Provide one additional electrical feature such as powered turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Don't read more into this than is there. A powered turnout can be something as simple as an Atlas turnout with a switch machine. Think in terms of anything that runs off the 'Accessories' terminals of a power pack and you're half way there.

One other thing to remember: Not all of these requirements need to be met on the same layout (or piece of layout). They don't even need to be met in the same scale! If you want to build G scale rolling stock, an N scale Model Railroad setting, and an HO scale layout for trackage and wiring, go ahead.

Also, the Golden Spike (as well as the other parts of the AP) has a certain amount of flexibility. For example, suppose you and your (friend / spouse / child) work together on all your projects, but do twice the required amount (12+ units of rolling stock, 16+ square feet of layout, 10+ structures, etc.). You can both be considered, as long as you can show that you have each demonstrated the required skills.

Member _____ NMRA# _____
Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
Scale _____ Type of Pike _____
Verification _____ NMRA# _____
AP Chairman _____

As your Achievement Program Chairman, I would like to have all of the Division member's who qualify for the Golden Spike Award to contact me. To set up a scheduled visit to verify the Golden Spike requirements. My telephone number (717) 657-9476 is also for Evergreen Outdoor Center and is connected to a 24 hour recorder with a 30 second message timeframe. Please call me or drop a short note in the mail to: Golden Spike, 5760 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4708.

**Wm. Terry Nesbit
A.P. Chairman
Susquehanna Division 11**

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE
SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11
MID-EASTERN REGION

MAIL THIS COMPLETED SURVEY TO:
WM. TERRY NESBIT, 5760 UNION DEPOSIT ROAD,
HARRISBURG, PA 17111-4708
OR
BRING TO NEXT DIVISION MEET AND RECEIVE ONE FREE
DOOR PRIZE TICKET

HOW MANY DIVISION #11 EVENTS HAVE YOU ATTENDED? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION? YES / NO
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION? ... YES / NO
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANOTHER RAILROAD RELATED ORGANIZATION? YES / NO
WHAT ORGANIZATION(S)?.....

.....

BASED ON THE DIVISION EVENTS, WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST?

.....

.....

BASED ON THE DIVISION EVENTS, WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE LEAST?.....

.....

.....

DO YOU WANT DIVISION #11 EVENTS OR MEETINGS TO BE SCHEDULED:
.....AT REGULAR DATES? YES / NO
.....TWICE A YEAR? YES / NO
..... MORE THAN TWICE A YEAR? YES / NO
..... AT A MODEL RAILROAD CLUB? YES / NO
..... AT A SHORT LINE RAILROAD (12" TO THE FOOT)? YES / NO
..... AT A MEMBERS HOME? YES / NO
WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR HOME FOR A DIVISION EVENT? YES / NO
YOUR NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, IF ANSWERING YES

WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MADE FOR FUTURE DIVISION #11 EVENTS?

.....

.....

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND THE NEXT DIVISION #11 EVENT? YES / NO

Susquehanna Division

Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Membership Application

The Susquehanna Division is located in the central portion of Pennsylvania. Counties covered are: Adams, Berks, Blair, Center, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union, and York. Anyone interested in the hobby may become a member of the Division regardless of their place of residence. You do not have to be a member of the Mid-Eastern Region or the National Model Railroad Association to be a Division member. Annual dues for the Susquehanna Division are **\$2.00** which includes the quarterly newsletter. Amongst the activities of the Division are the semi-annual mini-conventions held in the spring and fall. A quarterly newsletter, the *Susquehanna Sidetracks*, is published with the Division schedule of events and other model railroad news.

Type of application: New Renewal Change of Address

Primary Scale: Layout? Interests: Modules Narrow Gauge Traction SIG

Name: _____ NMRA# _____ MER# _____

Address: _____

Phone: H () _____ W () _____ E-Mail Addr: _____

Return completed application, with a check payable to: *Susquehanna Division*, 1709 West Market Street, York, PA 17404

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