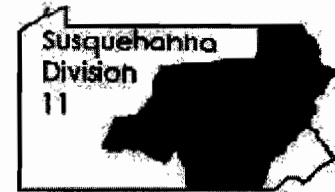

Susquehanna Sidetracks



Serving the Susquehanna Valley, MER, NMRA, Inc.

Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
of the Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

August 2004
Volume 12, Number 4

Please visit the Official Division web site at <http://moosevalley.org/nmra/index.htm>

As the summer is quickly winding down, it could only mean one thing. Time to start working on the layout again and see if we can shrink that ever growing "to-do" list.

For those of you who were not able to attend the meet in July at Muddy Folks, you missed an enjoyable day. Our own Alan Frame was our personal tour guide and provided us with a lot of historical information about the MA & PA. We even took a ride on their train.

Division Officer Elections

Thank you to those of you who took the time to fill out and return the ballots. Scott Turner was elected as Superintendent, Brian Brandt as Assistant Superintendent, and Paul Tice was re-elected as Chief Clerk. Because of Scott Turner being elected as Superintendent, this left a vacancy in one of the Director positions. Howard Oakes will be filling out the remaining year of this term.

NMRA Election Results

John Roberts was elected as President and Mike Brestel was elected as Vice President. All the standards have passed as well as the new regulations. The regulations vote was 2,221 for and 536 against. The regulations, which replace the amended 1935 constitution and by-laws, will be implemented over the next 18 months. They are part of the NMRA's Long-Range Plan, which is intended to make the organization more responsive and relevant in the new century. See the NMRA web site (www.nmra.org) for more information.

Next Division Meet Scheduled

The next Division 11 meet is scheduled for Sunday, September 12th at 1:30 PM. This will be a joint meet with the PRRT&HS Northern Central Chapter. Make plans now to join us for a fun day. Feel free to bring along as many guests as you like. For more information and directions, please see page 3.

Down the Tracks

Great Scale Model Train Show
Timonium, MD
October 9-10, 2004
9 AM – 4 PM Saturday
10 AM – 4 PM Sunday
<http://www.gsmts.com>

Reading Society of Model Engineers
Fall Open House
Reading, PA
October 23-24, 2004
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
<http://www.rsme.org>
610-929-5444
See enclosed flyer

South Mountain Express
MER Fall 2004 Convention
Hagerstown, MD
November 11-14, 2004
<http://members.cox.net/chyde/MER/SMJ2004/SM-Junction.html>

Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMR)
First Annual Open House Tour
November 12-14, 2004
<http://kc.pennsyr.com/svmr/>
See website of layouts and times

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Official publication of the
Susquehanna Division 11,
Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

Superintendent & Newsletter Editor
Scott Turner

101 Hilltop Drive
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065
717-486-4189
scotteturner@comcast.net

Assistant Superintendent
Brian Brandt

337 Bracken Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-560-9542
brianbrandt3@comcast.net

Chief Clerk

Paul F. Tice
6710 Moul Road
Thomasville, PA 17364
717-843-9572

Director

Howard Oakes
301 Moulstown Road
Abbottstown, PA 17301
717-632-5990
hornnut@netzero.net

**Director &
Achievement Program Chairman**

Alan Frame
2430 Opal Road
York, PA 17404
717-767-4998
aframe@gettle.com

Director

Bob Martin
45 W. Locust Lane
York, PA 17402
717-848-3640
cprboss@aol.com

Web Master

Mel Agne
48 Oakwood Drive
Delta, PA 17314
717-862-3937
mel.agne@thomson.net

Submissions: The Susquehanna Sidetracks welcomes any model railroad or railroad related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc.

Superintendent's Corner - Scott Turner

I look forward to being the Superintendent of the Division and the challenges that we will face in the next two years. One of my main focuses will be getting more people in the division involved in our events. I welcome any suggestions that you may have for division meets, what we can do to improve them, and what we can do to hopefully increase the attendance.

As some of you may already know, the new national regulations have passed. These regulations are part of the NMRA Long-Range Plan and will be implemented over the next 18 months. If you are not familiar with the new regulations or the Long-Range Plan, I suggest that you visit the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org> to download a copy. If you do not have internet access and would like a copy, please contact me and I will be sure to send it to you. These new regulations will have a direct impact on our division. As more information becomes available on this, I will pass it along to you in the newsletter.

We have an exciting meet scheduled on September 12th. This will be a joint meet with the PRRT&HS Northern Central Chapter. I know several of our division members are members of this organization as well. This will be a good chance to learn more about the PRRT&HS and to meet others in the area that share our common interest in trains. Hope to see you there!

South Mountain Express - MER Fall Convention

The next MER convention will be held in Hagerstown, MD November 11th thru the 14th at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. There will be clinics, over 30 layouts to visit, an on-site operating modular layout, proto type tours of the St. Lawrence Cement plant and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum, AP contests, auction and white elephant table, company store, banquet, and much more. Howard Zane, co-founder of The Great Scale Model Train Shows in Timonium, MD and creator of his well know HO scale Piermont Division, which has been featured in several videos and model railroad magazines, will be the guest of honor. His Piermont Division HO scale railroad will be open for the layout tours as well. For more information about this convention, please see the July/August 2004 edition of the MER newsletter *The Local* or the convention web site at <http://members.cox.net/chyde/MER/SMJ2004/SM-Junction.html>. Make plans now to attend this exciting convention and spend the weekend with your fellow modelers.

Next Division 11 Meet - Sunday, September 12, 2004

Susquehanna Division 11 is pleased to announce that the next division meet will be held on Sunday, September 12th starting at 1:30 PM at the Otterbein United Methodist Church, York, PA., This will be a joint meet with the PRRT&HS Northern Central Chapter. John Moyer will be our guest speaker and will provide stories and take questions about the PRR, with special emphasis on the Northern Central Branch. John was the fireman on GG-1 #4876, leading train #173, THE FEDERAL, when it ran away and plowed into Washington Union Station on January 14, 1953. The train crashed through the station's wall, smashed through the stationmaster's office, just beyond the end of track 16, demolished the main news stand and slid across the concourse toward the waiting room. The floor gave way and the GG1 and two of the cars fell through the floor into the basement baggage room. Make plans now to attend.

DIRECTIONS:

301 West Philadelphia Street, York, PA

From Harrisburg:

- I-83 South towards York
- Take exit 22 (old exit 10) off I-83
- South on N. George St
- Cross over Route 30 and continue on N. George Street to W. Philadelphia St (about a block after crossing RR tracks)
- Turn right onto W. Philadelphia St
- Go about three blocks. The church is on corner of Philadelphia & Newberry St (about a half block after RR tracks).
- At the far end of the church property is an alley. Turn right into it the alley and follow into parking lot in the back. Enter back door, down steps into basement.

From Lancaster:

- Route 30 West towards York
- Turn left onto George Street, which is at the 6th traffic light on Route 30 in York
- Turn right onto W. Philadelphia St (about a block after crossing the RR tracks)
- Go about three blocks. The church is on corner of Philadelphia & Newberry St (about a half block after RR tracks).
- At the far end of the church property is an alley. Turn right into it the alley and follow into parking lot in the back. Enter back door, down steps into basement.

Track Cleaning by Bob Martin

With monthly operating sessions and almost daily running of trains, my HO scale model railroad gets used a lot and the track stays fairly clean. However, if the railroad or parts of it don't get used for awhile, dust is going to settle on the railhead and sooner or later adversely affect the operation of locomotives. Clean rail is always important but is critical if you use a DCC system. I learned this real quick shortly after converting to DCC a couple years ago.

On my HO scale Central Pennsylvania Railroad (CPRR) two methods are used to clean the track. One is the old fashioned, rub the rail with a bright boy, and the other is by pulling or pushing track-cleaning cars around the layout.

The bright boy method needs no explanation. Simply start rubbing away being very careful of trackside scenery.

I use two, and sometime soon (I hope) three, different types of track cleaning cars. They are:

Centerline: This is a commercially available excellent track-cleaning car. It is, however, fairly expensive. Several CPRR crewmembers use Centerline track cleaners on their own layouts and, as far as I know, all are satisfied. I have one Centerline plus a homemade clone. The cleaning medium used is Goo Gone.

Rail rub: This one is homemade and uses a piece of masonite to rub along the top of the rail. I epoxied a piece of masonite to two 8-32 flat head machine screws. The screws go up through the bottom of a MDC box car and float so as to allow vertical movement. The screws are very long and with quite a few nuts on each to provide weight to help keep the masonite pad on the railhead. I also epoxied a couple of small pieces of lead on top of the masonite pad for added weight. Then, I tapered the edges of the masonite slightly to allow easier passage over points, frogs, etc. Extra weight was added to the inside of the car for a total of 12 ounces. The masonite car is pulled behind the Centerline car to help clean residue off of the rail.

Bright Boy: Also homemade but not yet built. This will be essentially the same as the masonite car only using a bright boy. The bright boy will be cut down to about 3/4" wide then two holes will be drilled through a bright boy block and the machine screws will be countersunk. A nut will fasten the screws to the bright boy.

When cleaning the track, I have used every combination of cleaning cars imaginable. No matter which combination I used, they all work fairly well. Of course, nothing can take the place of good old-fashioned elbow grease and a bright boy followed up with one of the track cleaning car combinations to remove any residue.

I do a very thorough track cleaning once a year. My preferred method for the annual cleaning is by hand using a bright boy followed by the track cleaning cars. Don't forget to clean the top inside edges of the rails. Follow this with a light coating of CRC 2-26 spread by the wheels of a passing train on every track on the layout. Throughout the rest of the year spot cleaning must be done because of the inevitable dust, crud, etc, that is simply unavoidable on a model railroad!

On other important thing while we're discussing clean track. That *is clean wheels on locomotives and rolling stock!* On locomotives, if the wheels are full of "crud", the engine is not going to work up to its full potential, especially if you use a DCC system. The method I use for cleaning locomotive wheels is very simple: saturate a piece of paper towel, lay it across both rails, run the locomotive wheels on the wet part of the paper towel then on to the dry part. Be sure you dry the wheels! Like magic, you'll have clean wheels.

Check your rolling stock wheels periodically or when you hear or feel the bump, bump, bump associated with dirt! With more than 400 pieces of rolling stock, I won't take the time to check every car on a regular basis so I pay attention to sound or feel to find crud laden wheels. I might add that the two major sources of derailments on my railroad are crud on wheel treads or out of gauge wheels. I use a small screwdriver to scrape the crud off the wheels. While I'm at it, I always check the wheel gauge and put a little squirt of dry lubricant into the axle bearing point.

Now you have clean track, clean locomotive wheels, and clean rolling stock wheels. And, you have improved the operation of your model railroad tremendously.

The Reading Society of Model Engineers Fall Open House and Model Railroad Show

Noon 'till 5:00pm
October 23 & 24, 2004



Featuring:

- 15", 7 1/4" and 4 3/4" Gauge Outdoor Live Steam Railroads
- O, On3, Scale and Tinplate Layouts
- Explorer Post 902 HO Modular Railroad
- Displays and Refreshments
- Souvenirs Available
- David Deacon Blanchfield Ring Circus Displays

DIRECTIONS

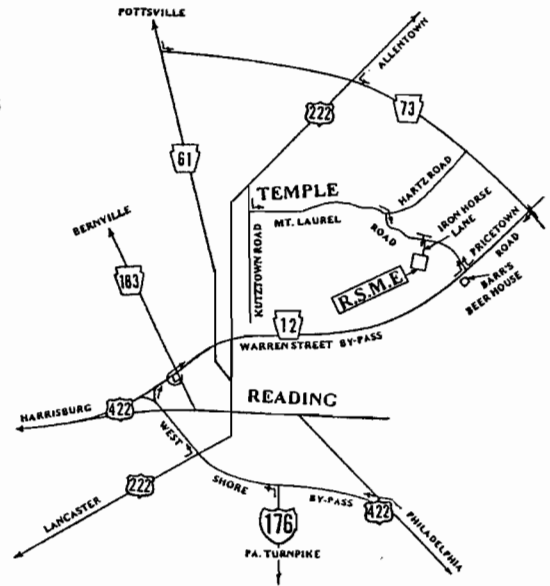
From Reading: Take Rt 422/222 east to Rt. 12. Follow Rt. 12 about 7.2 miles. One block after passing Giannotti's Country Manor (on left) turn left on Mt. Laurel Road. Go 1/2 mile, and turn left into Ironhorse Lane.

From points North: Take Rt. 222 or Rt. 61 south, turn left on Rt. 73 approx. 5 miles to Rt. 12 (Pricetown Road)(Redners on far left corner). Turn right on Rt. 12. Go about 3/4 mile to Mt. Laurel Road and turn right. Go 1/2 mile, and turn left into Ironhorse Lane.

From points South: Take Rt. 222 north to Rt. 12 east. Follow Rt. 12 about 7.2 miles. One block after passing Giannotti's Country Manor (on left) turn left on Mt. Laurel Road. Go 1/2 mile, and turn left into Ironhorse Lane.

From Philly Area: Take Rt 422 west to Rt. 12. Follow Rt. 12 about 7.2 miles. One block after passing Giannotti's Country Manor (on left) turn left on Mt. Laurel Road. Go 1/2 mile, and turn left into Ironhorse Lane.

From Points West: Take 422 east to Warren Street Bypass (becomes Rt. 12). Follow Rt. 12 about 7.2 miles. One block after passing Giannotti's Country Manor (on left) turn left on Mt. Laurel Road. Go 1/2 mile, and turn left into Ironhorse Lane.



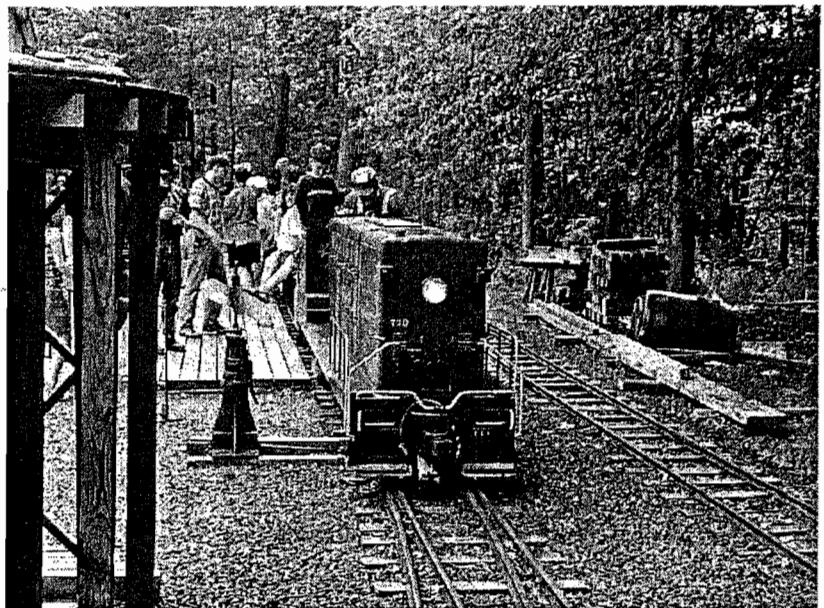
Look for "RSME" signs
Admission by Donation

Clubhouse Phone: 610-929-5444

Web Site www.rsme.org

**OUTDOOR RR WILL NOT
RUN IN BAD WEATHER
CONDITIONS**

**STEAM OPERATIONS
DEPENDENT ON FIRE
SAFETY CONDITIONS**



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
MID-EAST REGION
SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11
REVENUE AND EXPENSE STATEMENT - CASH BASIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30,2004

<u>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JULY 1. 2003</u>		\$ 1,648.42
<u>REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u>		
SUSQUEHANNA DUES	\$ 84.00	
INTEREST INCOME - WAYPOINT BANK	<u>16.42</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIVED		<u>100.42</u>
<u>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</u>		\$1,748.84
<u>EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u>		
POSTAGE	\$ 59.20	
PRINTING SUPPLIES	<u>10.58</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>69.78</u>
<u>ENDING CASH BALANCE - JUNE 30,2004</u>		<u>\$ 1,679.06</u>
WAYPOINT BANK - 90 DAY CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		\$ 1,215.65
WAYPOINT CHECKING - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		378.41
WAYPOINT CHECKING - RESTRICTED FUNDS - MAILING PERMIT		<u>85.00</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS - ALL FUNDS		<u>\$ 1,679.06</u>

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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

JULY 8, 2004
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA