

Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

<http://www.susquehannanmra.org>

"Serving the Susquehanna Valley"

March 2008

VOL. 16 ISSUE 1

The Susquehanna Division 11 is pleased to announce the next division meet will be a visit to the narrow gauge East Broadtop Railroad and the Rockhill Trolley Museum for Saturday, June 7, 2008. Guests are invited.

Activities will include: one round trip on the EBT; EBT roundhouse and shop tour; unlimited rides on the Rockhill Trolley; and tentatively, a tour of the trolley car barn and restoration shop (depends on staffing).

The train we will ride departs at 11 a.m. and lasts about 1 hour 15 minutes. Our roundhouse and shop tour will follow the train ride at 1 p.m. and the tour of the trolley barn and restoration shop (depends on staffing) following the EBT shop tour with the exact time to be announced.

Rockhill Trolley rides are continuous between 11 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

- EBT train ride - 11.50 adult; \$7.50 child 2-11
- EBT roundhouse & shop tour - \$ 7.00 adult and child
- Rockhill Trolley activities - \$ 5.50 adult; \$2.50 child

You will pay at the EBT on June 7.

We must make advance reservations for this activity. If you are going to go, please contact Bob Martin not later than May 31 at 717-848-3640 or email cprrboss@comcast.net

For additional information on the EBT or Trolley Museum check out <http://www.ebtrr.com> and <http://www.rockhilltrolley.org>



The Gettysburg Railroad (above) and Pioneer Lines Scenic Railway (below) crossing Rt. 34 in Mt. Holly Springs, PA. Photos by Scott Turner.



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Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA

The Susquehanna Sidetracks welcomes any model railroad or railroad related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters, reviews, photos, and other items to the editor.

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Visit us on the internet at:

<http://www.susquehannanmra.org>

For information about upcoming events, modeling in the Susquehanna Division, links to web pages for upcoming conventions, and for an electronic copy of this newsletter.

SUPER'S CORNER

By Scott Turner

I hope you had a good winter. It looks like spring is just around the corner. Hopefully you made some good progress on your model railroads. For me, I was able to start the bench work for my new model railroad.

For those of you receiving this newsletter for the first time, welcome to the Division! We mailed this out to the entire Division this time so everyone is brought up to date on what is going on in the Division. Moving forward if you would like to receive the newsletter via US postal mail, fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check to the address listed on the form. If you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail, send me your email address and I will add you to our mail list. If you have received email updates and the newsletter before, no need to email me again unless you have changed your email address.

As you will see later in the newsletter, it is time once again for Division Officer elections. I will not be running again for Superintendent. It has been my pleasure to serve as Superintendent for the last four years. Brian Brandt will be stepping down as Assistant Superintendent. Thank you Brian for the many years of service you have given the Division. We will need people to step up to help run the Division. Now is your chance to help out! Plus you earn credit for the Achievement Program's Association Volunteer certificate.

The Division Board of Directors has made some proposed changes to the Bylaws. You will find the revised Bylaws in this newsletter and we are asking for you to approve them. A ballot for their approval is attached as well.

I hope that you will be able to attend the Division meet on June 7th. I look forward to seeing you then!

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION 11 WEBSITE

by Jeff Warner

After 10 years of being webmaster, Mel Agne has decided to step aside and I am the new webmaster for the Division. On behalf of the entire board of directors, we'd like to thank Mel for his 10 years of hard work. In addition to a redesigned website, we have a new address (URL) of <http://www.susquehannamra.org> and I would like to invite every Division member to check out the new site and send me any comments via e-mail at the jwarner@susquehannamra.org address.

There are several features of the website I'd like to mention. For those of you who haven't already filled it out, there is an on-line survey asking for your input on what type of future events and/or clinics you'd like to see the Division provide. It will only take a few minutes of your time and we'd like to hear from you.

There are sections for the Susquehanna Sidetracks newsletters (including archival issues), contact information for all Division officers and board members, a listing of Division sponsored events, other railroading events in and around the Division, upcoming Regional and National conventions, a listing of all Division members who have received an Achievement Program (AP) award and Division Master Model Railroaders (MMRs), links to tourist railroads and museums in the Division, a listing of model railroad-related manufacturers and publishers in the Division, and links to modelers resources and prototype railroads in the Division. If you know of an event/museum/etc. that should be included, please let me know via e-mail.

Finally, I want to mention the section called "Modeling in the Susquehanna Division 11".

A growing number of the owners of the fine model railroads found in the Division have allowed us to list their model railroads, show two representative pictures, and a description of their model railroad. Many of these owners will allow Division guests for visits, work sessions, or operating sessions with advanced notice. I encourage all Division members to use this section as a "networking" tool to get to meet fellow model railroaders in your area (the town/city for each model railroad is included on the website). For the owners allowing visitors, PLEASE contact them IN ADVANCE of a visit to set up a time convenient for both yourself and the model railroad owner.

I'd like to see more model railroads added to the "Modeling" section. Any scale/gauge is acceptable. It is NOT necessary for the model railroad to be completed or even all the benchwork to be built. It does need to exist on something more than paper. I would like to provide examples for Division members from novice to expert. I feel that there is absolutely something to be learned from a "plywood central" model railroad that can't be learned from a finished, operating one (such as how to build it). So, if you have a model railroad that is more than a grass mat on a piece of plywood, please contact me via e-mail for more information on getting your model railroad included. It is NOT necessary for listed model railroads to accept guests, but I encourage all owners to consider sharing what they have with other Division members. If your modeling is on a non-NMRA club model railroad, please contact me via e-mail for requirements to have it included on the website. If you cannot take Digital photographs, but would like to have your model railroad included, please contact me via e-mail and we will make arrangements to have photos taken of your model railroad.

I expect the website to be updated regularly, especially the event pages. Also, I hope to add many more model railroads in the near future. So, please bookmark us (add us to your favorites) and check back often. If you have any suggestions for improvements to the website, or problems with using it, please let me know.

DIVISION OFFICER NOMINATIONS

It's once again time to ask for volunteers for the offices of Division Superintendent, Division Assistant Superintendent, and Division Chief Clerk. All offices are to be filled for a two year term starting in July 2008 and ending in June 2010. Any NMRA member who resides in the Susquehanna Division is eligible to be an officer. You may nominate yourself, or another Division member. Please provide the name of the person, the office, and a personal bio (not to exceed 250 words). If you are nominating another person, we will contact them to make sure they are interested in filling the office, and to ask them to provide the bio. If more than one person wishes to fill any office, we will have an election for that office. If only one person wishes to run, they will be "appointed" to that office.

Please mail the following or a copy to be postmarked on or before April 11, 2008 to:

NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 Officers
c/o Jeff Warner
605 Hill Point Drive
Etters, PA 17319-9025

NMRA Member _____
Office _____

Your name _____
Your contact e-mail/phone number _____

Bio _____

PHILADELPHIA NEW MODELER AWARD

by Jeff Warner



The NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 would like to congratulate member John Bell who won the "Philadelphia New Modeler" award at the 2007 MER convention. This award goes to the first time entrant in the model contest with the highest score. John modeled the CB&Q GS 1 & 2 Rebuilt Gondola pictured at left. John's gondola also won an AP Merit Award.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

The following are the proposed new by-laws for the Susquehanna Division 11. Several changes are included we feel are necessary. First, several minor changes were made to the wording so that it both made more sense and better matched the MER by-laws. Second, sections were added to clarify how positions on the Division Board of Directors are filled, should a person resign before their term expires. Third, a standing committee was added for the Achievement Program (AP/MMR) as this is a vital part of the NMRA's goals. Fourth, the nominating and election process was changed to better match the MER's. This includes changing Directors from a three year term to a two year term, with elections the opposite year from the Officers. Finally, we added a provision so that the Board of Directors may choose to allow electronic ballots for elections, and by-law changes in the future to supplement (NOT replace) mail ballots. Our hope is to get more people voting.

The Susquehanna Division Board of Directors has reviewed these changes and recommends you vote to accept them. Please let Jeff Warner know at jwarner@susquehannanmra.org if you have any questions on these proposed changes.

Please mail the following ballot or a copy postmarked on or before May 23, 2008 to:

NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 By-Laws
c/o Jeff Warner
605 Hill Point Drive
Etters, PA 17319-9025

_____ I vote to accept these by-law changes in their entirety.

_____ I vote to reject these by-law changes in their entirety.

**By-Laws of the Susquehanna Division 11 Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association**

**ARTICLE I
Name and Purpose**

Section 1. The name of the organization is the Susquehanna Division 11 (the “Division”). It is established under the provisions of the By-laws of the Mid-Eastern Region (MER), and the Regulations of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). If a conflict should develop between these By-laws and the Regional By-laws and/or the NMRA Regulations, the Regional By-laws or the NMRA Regulations will govern.

Section 2. The Susquehanna Division 11 serves to promote the hobby of model railroading through educational, fellowship, and historical activities in accordance with the policies and actions of the MER, NMRA.

**ARTICLE II
Territory**

Section 1. The Susquehanna Division shall include the area of Pennsylvania bounded to the east by the Philadelphia Division, to the south by the South Mountain Division, to the west by Mid-Central Region, and to the north by the Northeast Region and the Niagara Frontier Region, as specifically determined by the MER and NMRA.

Section 2. Throughout these By-laws, “residence” means the member’s principal residence.

**ARTICLE III
Fiscal Year**

Section 1. The Division fiscal year will be from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

**ARTICLE IV
Membership, Dues and Finances**

Section 1. Regular Membership

A. NMRA members are automatically members of the Division where they reside.

B. Except for voting and holding a Division office, all NMRA members, regardless of residence, are entitled to attend or participate in any activity of the Division.

Section 2. Guest Membership

A. Guest privileges will be granted to model railroaders, without discrimination, in the Susquehanna Division to encourage their participation in the Division’s, Region’s, and NMRA’s activities. A time limit of six months shall exist for guest privileges. At that time, the Division will encourage the Guest to become a full member of the NMRA. Guests will have no voting rights with the Susquehanna Division, nor will they be allowed to hold any offices or any committee chair positions.

Section 3. Dues

A. All dues are paid at the NMRA level. No additional dues will be required for Division membership for NMRA members who reside within the Division's territory.

Section 4. Finances

A. The Division newsletter, SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS, will be distributed via electronic mail. Members who do not have access to electronic mail may receive the newsletter via regular mail for a charge on a yearly basis. This charge will be decided by the Division Board of Directors based on the cost of printing the newsletter and the cost to mail it.

B. The Division may sponsor fund raising activities as approved by the BOD. Such activities will be limited to model railroading/railroading activities such as train shows/meets, mini-conventions, open houses, and similar activities. For such activities, the fees will be the same for all NMRA members, regardless of residence.

Section 5. Audits

If the MER or NMRA requires periodic financial audits, the MER or the NMRA must provide the agency and persons to conduct such audits.

ARTICLE V Voting and Office Holding Rights

Section 1. All Division officers, members of the Board of Directors, and officials must be members of the Division. To vote or hold office in the Division, members must live within the Division's territory. Each voting member will have one vote at any meeting of the members.

ARTICLE VI Board of Directors

Section 1. Officers

A. Officers of the Susquehanna Division shall consist of: the Superintendent (with duties as president), Assistant Superintendent (with duties as vice-president), and Chief Clerk (with duties as secretary and treasurer). They shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of even-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year. There will be three (3) Directors (with duties as assigned by the Superintendent). They shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of odd-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year. All Officers and Board members have full voting rights at all meetings. All Officers and Board members must be members of the NMRA and reside in the Division. All Officers and Board members must be at least twenty one (21) years of age and be eligible for bonding as may be required by the Board of Directors.

B. The Chief Clerk shall keep an account of all funds received and dispersed, render a proper accounting for these funds at the annual business meeting, and make books available for an annual audit by a properly qualified member of the Susquehanna Division 11, as appointed by the Superintendent. Audits will also be conducted at the departure of the Chief Clerk. The Chief Clerk shall be Bonded by Division 11 in regards to his or her activities as the Division Treasurer. The bond shall cover any and/or properties and monies held by the Treasurer.

C. The Superintendent shall appoint a qualified replacement to fill out the unexpired term of any Board of Directors position subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. In the event the Superintendent office is vacated, the Assistant Superintendent shall either fill out the unexpired term or appoint a replacement subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

D. No Officer or Board member may hold more than one office at the same time. If elected or appointed to a new position, said election constitutes a resignation from the former position.

E. Any Officer or Board member may be removed from Office by a two-thirds vote of the members responding to a ballot to be conducted by mail. This ballot is to take place upon written complaint to any Board of Directors member of ten (10) or more Division members expressing misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of the office.

Section 2. The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers and three Directors and the Past Superintendent (until he is replaced by the next Past Superintendent) and will be chaired by the Superintendent. A member of the Board of Directors only has one vote at a Board meeting or a General meeting. The Board of Directors shall hold legal title to all Susquehanna Division 11 property and monies in trust for its members.

Section 3. Committees

Superintendent shall create Committees as needed and shall appoint Committee Chairpersons as required. The Superintendent shall also disband committees and dismiss members as necessary and require reports from committee chairs as necessary. There shall be a standing Achievement Program committee.

Article VII Conflict of Interest

Section 1. No Board member will cast a vote, or take part in the final deliberation, on any matter in which he or she, or members of his or her immediate family, would profit personally.

ARTICLES VIII Conduct and Practices

Section 1. General Business Meeting

There shall be one general business meeting each year in the spring. Business shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, by Susquehanna Division 11 By-laws, by MER By-Laws, and any subsequent changes required. Each year by August, the Superintendent will submit an Annual Report to the MER Board and the NMRA on the State-of-the-Division per MER/NMRA requirements. This report will also be made available to the division membership.

Section 2. Meetings

A. Susquehanna Division 11 will hold a minimum of four meetings a year with a minimum of thirty days notice of each to the members.

B. The officers and any committees shall do their utmost to arrange and present to the members and the general public programs and activities that promote the hobby of model railroading. They shall work cooperatively with other divisions of the MER, with the MER itself, and with division area Model Railroad Clubs in the planning of model railroading activities.

**ARTICLE IX
Nominations**

Section 1. Nominations for an elected office position may be made by (1) a written submission from any member in good standing to the Nominating Committee or (2) by the Nominating Committee of members in good standing. Nominations are to be published in the division newsletter prior to the election to include a bio-sketch, not to exceed 200 words.

**ARTICLE X
Elections**

Section 1. Voting shall be by ballot of the regular members of Susquehanna Division 11, by mail ballot. The Board of Directors may elect to allow electronic ballots in addition to mail ballots. Elected positions will be filled by a simple plurality of votes.

**ARTICLE XI
By-Laws Changes**

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership responding to the mail ballot. The Board of Directors may elect to allow electronic ballots in addition to mail ballots. Proposed changes must be published in the division newsletter not less than fourteen (14) days prior to any vote. The amendment(s) will take affect after approval by the MER Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XII
Publications**

Section 1. The Division shall maintain a newsletter, SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS, to be electronically mailed to all members. Copies will also be electronically mailed to the Editor of the MER LOCAL and other MER division Superintendents or newsletter editors. Paper copies will be mailed to the NMRA Library and the NMRA President and those Division members who paid the additional fee to receive paper copies.

**Article XIII
Indemnification**

Section 1. By resolution of the Board, the Division may indemnify any officer, board member, or agent against any and all expenses and liabilities incurred by him or her in connection with any claim, action, suit, or proceeding to which he or she is made a party by reason of being an officer, board member, or agent.

**Article XIV
Dissolution**

Section 1. Upon dissolution of Susquehanna Division 11, all assets must be distributed per the Constitution of the NMRA (Article I, Section 2). If the purpose of the NMRA should change, then the Board of Directors, Susquehanna Division 11, may designate any other model railroad organization(s) that subscribe to the same purposes as fostered by Susquehanna Division 11 to receive the assets.

Revision 2/04/2008

Susquehanna Division #11 Newsletter Subscription Form
Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
Send form to: Paul Tice, 6710 Moul Road, Thomasville, PA 17364

_____ \$4.00 per Year

_____ Change of Address

_____ Number of Years

_____ Total Amount Enclosed

The Susquehanna Division is located in the central portion of Pennsylvania. The Counties served are: Adams, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York.

Make checks payable to "Susquehanna Division 11"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ NMRA # _____

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New Division Website