

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"

September 2008

VOL. 16 ISSUE 4

NEW DIVISION EVENT

We are pleased to announce the following new event for the Susquehanna Division 11.

Saturday, October 4, 2008 - Bethlehem model railroad visits

We will visit three model railroads in the Bethlehem, PA, area on Saturday, October 4th, beginning at 10:30 AM. First will be Bob Stetser's Penn Central Wilkes Barre Branch set in 1973. Second will be Ken Honer's Penn Central model railroad between Paoli and Coatesville (this model railroad includes home-made catenary over 50% of the track). We will then have several choices for lunch in downtown Bethlehem, including a converted CNJ passenger station. After lunch (approximately at 1:20 PM), we will visit the Lehigh and Keystone Valley Model Railroad Club in Bethlehem. This is an operating club encompassing over 4000 square feet. Descriptions of these three model railroads can be found on pages 3-5 of this newsletter. Directions to Bob's model railroad are on page 6.

Other events

As a reminder, details for all of Division events can be found in the August 2008 newsletter on the website.

Future events

A joint meet with the Philadelphia Division will likely happen in March 2009. A trip to the new Reading Company Technical & Historical Society museum in Hamburg, PA and Steamtown are being planned for 2009. A trip to the Altoona Railroad Museum is being planned for 2010. If you have any suggestions for other Susquehanna Division 11 events, please contact Jeff Warner, or any other board member. We would like to visit all parts of the Division, but need the help of our members to set up these visits.

E-mail notification of division events

We send out e-mails notifying members (or anyone else interested) of division events, newsletter releases, and other Division activity. If you wish to have your e-mail added to this list, please send your e-mail address to Jeff Warner at jwarner@susquehannanmra.org to be added to the list. It is NOT necessary to be a division member, or even an NMRA member, to be added to this list.

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

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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 Jeff Warner

This is a smaller than usual newsletter, specifically to announce the October 4th Division meet in Bethlehem. As such, it will not contain the "regular" columns found in other issues. It was put together very quickly as the details of this meet came together over the past few days and I wanted to release them to you as soon as I could so you can plan to join us to see these three model railroads.

I would like to thank Director Gale Smith for his hard work the past week in putting together this meet. It briefly looked as if it would be cancelled due to John Rogers tearing down his HO layout to replace it with a new narrow gauge one. The division hopes to get back to visit John after the saw dust clears on his new layout. But, Gale found us an excellent alternative in the Lehigh and Keystone Valley club on very short notice. I also want to thank to L & KV club for opening for us.

For those of you interested in earning credit toward the Author AP award, I am always looking for additional articles on prototype or model railroading to include in the newsletter.

I am also looking for more model railroads to visit - EVERYWHERE in (or near) the division. Please contact me if you are interested, know of someone that might be, or have a suggestion of where to visit.

MER FALL CONVENTION POTOMAC JUNCTION 2008

The next MER Fall Convention will be Potomac Junction 2008 and will be held in Reston, VA from October 16th through the 19th. There will be layout tours, prototype tours, clinics, contests, operations callboard, a banquet, and an auction. Please see page 15 for the registration for. More information about the convention can be found on their web site at

http://home.comcast.net/~potomac_nmra/MER2008/

PENN CENTRAL WILKES BARRE BRANCH

Bob Stetser

1471 Franklin Ct, Bethlehem, PA, 18015

(610) 248-5893

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 10:30 AM



Photos by Mike Rinkunas, 2008

The first model railroad we visit will be Bob Stetser's Penn Central Wilkes Barre Branch, set in October, 1975. The HO scale, point to point layout has a 240 foot long mainline using code 100 rail. Control is by Digitrax radio DCC. The model railroad replicates the 63 mile Penn Central secondary from Sunbury, PA, to Wilkes Barre, PA. It features three PC yards (Sunbury, HoneyPot, and Wilkes Barre), and one Reading yard (Sunbury) and actively interchanges with the Reading, Lehigh Valley, and the Delaware and Hudson railroads. The focus of the layout is switching, with sixteen industries to service, including a large steel mill and a large concrete plant.

The model railroad was started in January 1998, and scenery is 100% complete, with work completing in July 2006. The mainline is a single track (as appropriate for the prototype) with passing sidings. Local and mainline freight trains dominate the schedule with only limited passenger operations. There are monthly dispatcher controlled operating sessions for 12 operators using TT/TO operating rules, waybills, clearance forms, and handheld radios. Some 400 cars switched each session using approximately 30 locomotives, about 1/2 with sound. All staging is visible with one duck-under which will not be in place during this visit. Layout is dark with non-operating signals at this time.

Directions to this model railroad are on page 6.

PENN CENTRAL PAOLI - COATESVILLE

Ken Honer

3753 Elm Terrace, Hellertown, PA 18055



The second model railroad we visit will be Ken Honer's Penn Central Paoli-Coatesville mainline, set in 1973. The HO scale, point to point layout with reverse loops at each end, has a 200 foot long mainline using code 83 rail. Control is by Digitrax radio DCC. The model railroad replicates the 10 mile Penn Central mainline from Paoli, PA, to Coatesville, PA. It features three of the four main bridges, and work is being done to include the fourth. The focus of the layout is mainline running.



The model railroad was started in 2002, and scenery is 25% complete. 50% of the layout has homemade catenary which is not electrified. The mainline is a 3 or 4 tracks as appropriate for the prototype. There is one yard representing Thorndale. Freight trains dominate the schedule with some passenger operations. . . It is not set up for operating sessions, but for one man running.

Photos by Mike Rinkunas, 2008

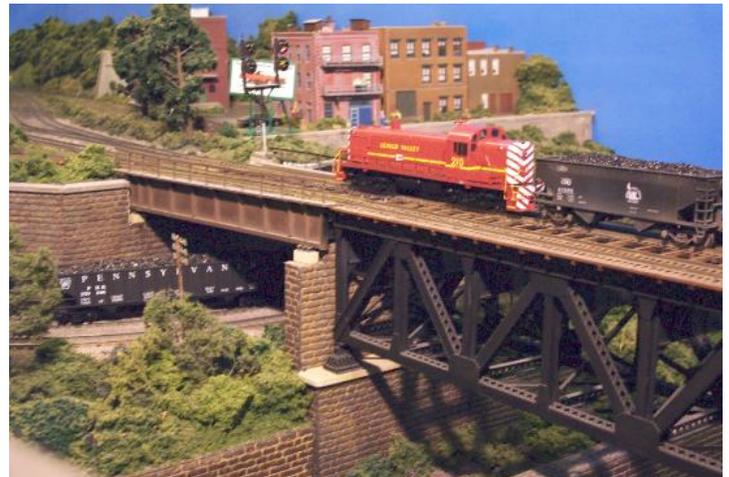
Directions will be provided at Bob Stetser's model railroad.

LEHIGH AND KEYSTONE VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

705 Linden Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018



After a break for lunch, the final model railroad will be the Lehigh and Keystone Valley Model Railroad Club. The club features a 4,000+ square foot operating model railroad. For the past 10 years, the members have been working on duplicating the paths of the Lehigh Valley and Reading Railroads from West Portal, NJ through the Lehigh Valley to Reading, PA. The model railroad features the Lehigh Valley Railroad Stations in Easton and Bethlehem, PA, and the Bethlehem Steel and Allentown Freight Yard with 2 working humps.



The layout operates on NCE DCC and Rail-Lynx with many of the engines running sound systems. The club has two website at:

<http://www.webspawner.com/users/lvlou04/index.html>

<http://members.aol.com/lkv01/lkv01.html>

The above pictures were taken from these websites.

Directions will be provided at Bob Stetser's model railroad.

BOB STETSER DIRECTIONS

We will meet at Bob Stetser's home at 10:30 AM. Further directions will be provided at that point.

Directions are given from I-78 just east of Allentown, PA.

Exit I-78 (exit number 60) at US 309 South towards Quakertown. Immediately exit US 309 to the right onto the cloverleaf to Center Valley Parkway. Turn left on Center Valley Parkway at the light. Travel 2.5 miles until Center Valley Parkway terminates at PA 378. Turn left on PA 378 and travel northbound 1 mile to Black River Road. Hess gas station on the left, empty lot on the right. Turn right on Black River Road, travel under I-78 about 300 yards and turn left on to Alice Dr. Travel on Alice Dr to the first stop sign about 150 yards and turn right on to Willowbrook. Travel on Willowbrook about 100 yards to first left on to Amherst. Travel 150 yards to second left onto Franklin CT. WATCH THE BIG DIP IN ROADWAY JUST BEFORE LEFT TURN ON TO FRANKLIN.

Bob is at 1471 Franklin Street. House is grey Saltbox with red doors. Signs will be posted along with crossbucks on mailbox. Please try to arrive between 10:15 AM and 10:30 AM. In case of emergency, Bob's home phone is (610) 248-5893.

Mapquest and GPS systems are correct to this address.

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Mid-East Region, NMRA Fall Convention

October 16 – 19, 2008
 RESTON, VIRGINIA
 ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please enter all names as you wish them to appear on your registration badges:

Primary Registrant's Name: _____

Significant Other (living at same address): _____

Children (Under age 16 – List all): _____

Address: Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____ NMRA # _____

Full Registration (\$50 after September 1) -	\$45 x _____
One-day registration	\$25 x _____
Non-NMRA Member (applied to Rail Pass Membership) -	\$10 x _____
Significant Other -	\$15 x _____
Children:	\$10 x _____
Banquet:	\$40 x _____
Cheap and Easy Trees Clinic	\$ 5 x _____
Building in Wood Post Office Clinic (HO)	\$15 x _____
(O)	\$15 x _____
Building and Coloring Masonry Buildings Clinic:	\$15 x _____

Total Advance Registration Charges: \$ _____

Payment must accompany registration. Make checks payable to: **Potomac Junction 2008**

Send all registrations to:
Potomac Junction
PO Box 447
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

For questions and / or additional information E-Mail – MER-Registrar@comcast.net

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The convention will be held at the **Sheraton Reston Hotel**, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191. The convention rate is \$99.00 (plus taxes) per night. All hotel registrations must be made directly with the hotel at (703) 620-9000. When registering be sure to specify the Mid- Eastern Region, NMRA to be sure you get this special rate. (<http://www.Sheraton.com/Reston>)

Additional events will be added when their cost is know. Please check the web page http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/MER2008/ for current information.

Susquehanna Division #11 Newsletter MAIL Subscription Form

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If you wish to have the newsletter mailed to you, rather than having it sent via e-mail, you must subscribe.

Make checks payable to "Susquehanna Division 11"

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Inside: New Division Event
MER Fall Convention Information

605 Hill Point Drive
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