



# Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

September 2013

Volume 21 Number 5

## From the Superintendent's Desk

Greetings everyone!

September – where summer becomes fall – where did all that modeling time go?!

With four months remaining in 2013 we have three Susquehanna Division events on tap – the Mainline Hobby Supply September 21 and 22 weekend series of layout open houses (see article on page 5), LSOP5 on October 4 and 5 (see notes on page 8), and our November Division-wide four-weekend open house extravaganza in support of National Model Railroad Month. Jerry Britton, our project manager for the November event, is still coordinating with his area managers to firm up all the layouts that will be open for that event. Accordingly, Jerry will finalize that schedule and forward it to you in a special *Sidetracks Express* issue that should be posted to our website by Friday, October 3, or sooner.

On Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> we held our first Division 2014 Planning Committee meeting. In the past, events were not systematically developed by a group of members from across the Division and lacked a yearly plan.

The focus of this new committee will be to design a series of events and clinics for all of 2014. They also plan to identify project officers for each event / clinic, have the full-year program including dates and locations approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) in early November, and present the program to you in a special *Sidetracks Express* December edition. The 10 members of that committee are all volunteers and they come from 9 of our 33 counties. Those attending were John Wissinger (MMR) from Myerstown (Lebanon Co.), Forrest Lucas from Johnstown (Cambria Co.), Lee Rainey from State College (Centre Co.) Howard Oakes from Adamstown (Adams Co.), Wayne Betty from Mt. Joy (Lancaster Co.), David Collison from Lancaster (Lancaster Co.), Ron Smith from Mechanicsburg (Cumberland Co.) and myself from Hummelstown (Dauphin Co.). Two members could not attend – Jerry Britton from Eppers (York Co.) and Charles Hadyk from Mohnton (Berks Co.).

See **Super's Desk** on page 2

## Schedules

### LSOP-5

October 4<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### MER Convention

Rockville, MD

October 10<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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Banner photo courtesy of Christopher Muller,  
<http://www.steamphotos.com/>

### Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division  
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA  
467 Lovell Court  
Hummelstown, PA 17036

#### Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be mailed or emailed to the Superintendent at the address listed above. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned. Deadline for submission for the next issue is 10-15-13

#### Board of Directors 2012-2013

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**Sidetracks Editor**

Ron Smith  
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#### Membership Information

Online newsletter is always available at Susquehanna Division website.

[www.susquehannanmra.org](http://www.susquehannanmra.org)

National Model Railroad Association  
4121 Cromwell Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

Our Event Planning team is now working on a series of possible events, special clinics and Division projects. Our timeline for completing the project is as follows: e-mail status reports to each other by September 15<sup>th</sup>, draft final recommendations for each event / clinic by November 3<sup>rd</sup>, receive BOD approval by November 17<sup>th</sup>, and distribute a *Sidetracks Express* issue devoted to that plan by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Armed with this plan you will then be able to plan long-term for our programs and hopefully become involved in helping our event / clinic teams present top-quality programs. One area that we need membership help with is advertising each event / clinic. So I'm putting out my second call for help from any member who would like to help us develop a quality advertising program that will assure all modelers in our 33-counties know about our programs.

Our annual BOD meeting where we ask all our Directors and Committee Chairman to attend in person is scheduled for September 29 at 1:00 PM at my house. Any member is welcome to attend; however, I ask that you let me know you plan to attend not later that Sep 8 - my soon-to-be layout room can accommodate about 15 folks so if the numbers exceed that I'll move to plan B - holding the meeting in a larger facility. Several important on-going projects will be discussed at that meeting. If you have suggested topics or issues that you would like discussed during that meeting please forward them to me by email at [bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org) or call me

at 717-877-1810. Kindly provide your input by Sep 15.

Hopefully many of you have or soon will be making plans to attend the Mid-East Region (MER) convention scheduled for October 10-13 in Rockville MD. The weather should be great that time of year and the fall colors at their peak. The number and quality of clinics and local layout tours are the best I've seen for a regional convention. Another great reason for attending is to check out all the models that will be on display for judging. Seeing what others have done and discussing their techniques is one of the great ways to expand our hobby skills. Hotel rooms are already getting full - as of July 31, all rooms with two double beds at the Crowne Plaza, the convention hotel, were sold out. However, the convention committee has obtained a block of rooms at the Sleep Inn Shady Grove next door to the Crowne Plaza. So, if you plan to attend, now is the time to make your hotel reservations, select the clinics and layouts tour packages you want, and get your convention reservation form completed. My wife Sue and I plan to attend all four days - we look forward to seeing you there.

Be sure to read our 2<sup>nd</sup> Hobby Shop of the Month article on page 5 that was prepared by Ron Smith. As I've said many times before, Mainline Hobby Supply is "My Kind of Place" - maybe they lack golden arches out front but on the inside they are a shop where just about everything I need can be found. And as proprietors Bonnie and Brian Wolfe say, "If we don't have it in stock we'll order it for you." In fact I'm heading there tomorrow morning to

See **Super's Desk** on page 3

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pick up two BTS structure kits that were ordered last week. And I'm sure they will have something there in addition to my two kits that I just can't leave without – you know what I mean.

One suggestion that surfaced during our 2014 Event Planning meeting this month was that we should consider including a Susquehanna Division Model Railroad Club of the month article. If you are a club member and would like to tell us about your club, prepare an article and send it to Ron Smith, our Sidetracks Editor, at

[rsmith@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannanmra.org).

Besides telling all about your club, such as its history, location, number of members, layout(s) status, on-going projects, open house schedules, etc, also send pictures that include members in a group shot as well performing their *gandy dancer* duties. And as Ron and I have emphasized in past articles, a graduate degree in Technical Writing is not required – just send us your best shot and Ron will apply his writing magic.

I'll be manning the NMRA table outside Mainline Hobby Supply on both Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22, so introduce yourself and let me know what we can do to improve our support to you. And if you bring along a non-member friend introduce him or her and let me provide them a free 6-month introductory membership. I look forward to meeting you there.

Now, one last tidbit from Howard Oakes, who attended the N scale Weekend in Bedford PA at the end of August. He writes,

"I went to the N-scale Weekend in Bedford. The building is probably 60 x 70 ft and was basically filled. They have club modules in the middle with vendors around the walls. There were 13 layouts set up with about 25 vendors taking up about 50 tables. It's generally the same vendors and layouts each year.

Next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for this event. Mike Phillips, the guys that runs this, lost his wife to lung cancer late last year. The club layouts get a stipend for setting up and this year most of us decided to donate our stipends to the Lung Association so we raised \$727. Mike was overwhelmed at this gesture. There are still good people in this world, you just never hear about them much."

Happy Modeling!



### Free Railpass Trial Membership Sponsored by the MER

Do you know a modeler who needs a nudge to take the next step to become more involved

in this wonderful hobby? The trial membership program may be just what is needed to further a modeler's development, skills and interest.

The NMRA began a 6 month 'Railpass' trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. The Mid-Eastern Region (MER) has built on this program by paying the \$9.95 Railpass fee for applicants residing in the MER. In other words, the MER is furnishing a free 6 month NMRA membership to encourage the recruitment of new members.

Railpass applicants will receive 6 issues of the NMRA Magazine, 3 issues of the Local, eligibility to attend conventions and meets and to participate in contests. Railpass applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national. Anyone living within the MER who has not been an NMRA member during the past 2 years can use this program.

The prospective member fills out the free MER Railpass membership application form shown on page 16 of this issue (not the standard NMRA Railpass form), includes a sponsor signature, and it is forwarded to Bob Price at the address listed on the form. Do not send this to the NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga, TN; the MER will forward the application to the NMRA with the payment.

## From the Editor's Desk

Ron Smith

Hello everyone,

Where did Summer go? It's hard to believe it is already September and fall is just around the corner.

I'm taking a slightly different "track" with this issue. Rather than featuring layout design articles or modeling techniques, this issue is focused on getting our members out and about this fall to visit area layouts. I hope you will participate in some of the events this fall and be inspired by what you see to work on your own projects (and then share them with us!). Our series featuring area hobby shops continues so as always please support your LHS ("Local Hobby Shop") and help us publicize them here. Bill Weiss has agreed to help shepherd the hobby shop column and would be delighted to hear from you about shops in your neighborhood.

For me, one of the best things about September is that one of our nearby hobby shops has their annual Open House. Elsewhere in this issue you will read more about Mainline Hobby Supply, but if they are new to you, then I want to let you know they hold an Open House the third weekend of September every year. My layout will be part of the layout tours during Sunday afternoon (9/22), so I hope you can stop by.

Continuing with our layout-visiting theme, please see the info we have for LSOP-5 in October and for open houses in November. If you are interested in opening your layout to

visitors in November, please contact Jerry Britton as soon as possible at

[jbritton@susquehannamra.org](mailto:jbritton@susquehannamra.org)

And since November is National Model Railroading Month, we encourage you to get out and visit local events, whether they are club shows, fire hall shows, railroad historical society meetings, or events like the one Jerry helps to organize. If you've never opened your home layout for visitors before but have considered it, November provides you an excellent opportunity to do so. I've done it for years and always enjoy meeting new people and seeing old friends.

Re-visiting the May issue, I had discussed railroad depots that had been converted to restaurants. Member Clifford Bastuscheck wrote to tell us of one in Centre County. The PRR station in Centre Hall, a small station on the old Bellefonte line, had been made into a restaurant many years ago. Cliff notes that it is still in operation. It is named, aptly enough, the Station Restaurant. Please let us know of other converted depots in central PA (or within a reasonable driving distance.)

As always, I am looking for feedback on *Sidetracks*. We'd like you to tell us about your layout too, so please send in your photos of op sessions you've attended, modeling projects you've been working on, and your tips and techniques. My contact information is

[rsmith@susquehannamra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannamra.org)

I hope to meet you at one of our upcoming events.

*Ron*

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION MID-EAST REGION SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11 REVENUE AND EXPENSE STATEMENT - CASH BASIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013	
PNC BANK - CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 2,932.72
<u>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JULY 1, 2012</u>	\$ 2,932.72
<u>REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u>	
SUBSCRIPTION INCOME	\$ 66.00
NMRA (MER) REBATES	224.00
ADVERTISING INCOME	45.00
DONATIONS	<u>38.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIVED	<u>373.00</u>
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE	\$ 3,305.72
<u>EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u>	
POSTAGE	\$ 84.16
NEWSLETTER/PRINTING	351.04
NOTEPADS	45.00
ELIZABETHTOWN TRAIN MEET	<u>75.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>555.20</u>
<u>ENDING CASH BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2013</u>	<u>\$ 2,750.52</u>
PNC BANK - CHECKING ACCOUNT - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>\$ 2,750.52</u>

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

AUGUST 3, 2013  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

### Mainline Hobby Supply – A Detailer’s Paradise

Many of you will recognize the name Mainline Hobby Supply as they have been in business in Blue Ridge Summit, PA for 24 years. Brian and Bonnie Wolfe began the store in their garage in 1989, and have undergone several expansions over the years. The current store, built in 1995, is a fully-stocked trains-only Mecca that is known for having detail parts and the latest releases from the manufacturers.

Brian models the Western Maryland in HO scale, and one of the reasons for starting out in the business was because of his love for applying details to his models. A source of pride is the extensive selection of detail parts and scratch-building supplies; it is common for customers to make parts-purchases only.



Another well-known feature of Mainline Hobby Supply is their annual Open House, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September each year. The event features demonstrations and clinics, sale items and two days of

self-guided tours to see local layouts. Some of the layouts on these tours have been featured in the major magazines, and again this year there will be some Susquehanna Division members on the tour.

The store is well organized and neatly kept; the employees greet customers with a hello and a smile. One of the first things you notice upon arrival is the wall of HO, O and Large Scale locomotives on glass shelves. Unlike many hobby shops, these models are on display so you can check out the paint and details, or take one for a 'test drive' on the display layouts. Yes, "layouts" is plural as there is a 3-decker display in the front of the store. There is a 5' x 10' O scale layout on the bottom; above that is a 4' x 8' fully-scenicked HO layout that has two independent loops, and atop that is a 2.5' x 8' fully-scenicked N Scale layout. These layouts provide the customer the opportunity to test-run a new loco, try out DCC systems and ask questions about scenery or kit-building techniques. Brian often adds the newest items from the manufacturers to the display.



## MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY – Blue Ridge Summit PA

Ron Smith

Although it's often considered a minority scale, Z Scale is represented with locomotives and rolling stock from Micro-Trains, as well as track and structures from the same company. These little jewels have incredible detail for their size.

There are several display cases for N Scale locomotives and cars as well as an entire aisle of rolling stock, structures and track products. A pegboard wall holds numerous kits, vehicles and N Scale detail parts. All the major manufacturers are represented. Whether you model the steam era or modern-day prototypes, if it's available in N Scale it is here.



Three entire aisles are dedicated to HO Scale rolling stock, structures and detail parts. Freight and passenger cars from all the major manufacturers are here; the shelves are organized by manufacturer and stock number so if you have a specific item you want it is easy to find. "Slider" partitions provide more space to hang detail parts. Air

horns, plows, cab sunshades, structure windows and doors, trackside signals, rolling stock roof walks, trucks and couplers – just an incredible amount of parts are always in stock. Structures include fully-assembled buildings, shake-the-box kits, and craftsman-style kits. The ends of the aisles are often used to display new items or train sets. The back wall of the last HO aisle is also a pegboard wall used to display vehicles and more detail parts.



O Scale occupies a prominent amount of floor space too, with locos, cars and structures from Atlas, Lionel and MTH. Large Scale is in this part of the store also, with Aristocraft, Piko and LGB products available.

Electronics, scenery materials and books are also to be found here. Scratch building supplies are plentiful too. Spinner racks for plastic shapes and sheets, detail parts, miniature light bulbs and switches, etc. occupy space near the store's office area.

**MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY – Blue Ridge Summit PA**  
**Ron Smith**



Be sure to stop in and visit. Brian, Bonnie and their staff look forward to serving your hobby needs

Ron Smith

**MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY**  
15066 Buchanan Trail E  
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214  
Phone (717) 794-2860  
[www.mainlinehobby.com](http://www.mainlinehobby.com)

Open Monday –Thursday 10 AM to 5PM, Friday 10 AM to 9 PM,  
Saturday 10AM to 5 PM and Sunday 1 PM to 5 PM  
Closed major holidays

30 minutes from Frederick and Hagerstown MD, one hour from  
Harrisburg PA

Please call for directions if needed

If there is an item that you are interested in but is not currently in stock, they will order it for you. They ship worldwide – indeed, they have customers in Australia and Europe – so feel free to call in or e-mail your order.

There are customers who regularly drive up from Northern Virginia, Baltimore and the Eastern Shore, Cumberland, or down from Central PA and upstate New York.

Brian is also well-known for having a fine Western Maryland-themed layout in the basement of his home, which is open each year during the store's annual Open House. Like the store, this layout has also expanded over the years and has taken on a more prototypical flavor too. Operating sessions reflect the WM's "Dutch Line" through southern Pennsylvania.

## Upcoming Events – In or Near Our Division

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities!!

**September 21-22, 2013**

### Mainline Hobby Supply Open House Blue Ridge Summit, PA

This 22-year tradition features several Susquehanna and South Mountain Division layouts on self-guided tours; this year's event will be co-sponsored by our Susquehanna Division.

[www.mainlinehobby.com](http://www.mainlinehobby.com)

**September 29, 2013**

### Dieruff Train Show Allentown PA

Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving Street, Allentown, \$5 admission. Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Chapter NRHS

**October 6, 2013**

### RCT&HS Scale Model and Toy Train Show Leesport PA

Leesport Farmer's Market banquet hall, 312 Gernant's Church Road, Leesport, 9AM – 3 PM

e-mail: [mjtsbrown@comcast.net](mailto:mjtsbrown@comcast.net)

**October 10-13, 2013**

### MER Annual Convention "C&P Junction" Rockville, MD

Three days of clinics, layout tours, operating sessions, model contest and more!

<http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013>

**October 12, 2013**

### Catawissa Fall Train Ride Catawissa to Northumberland

10 AM – 2 PM, train ride on former DL&W  
Bloomsburg Branch \$15

Ticket info:

(570) 799-0417, (570) 799-0531

**October 18-20, 2013**

### Fall Train Rides Bellefonte, PA

Visit [www.bellefontetrain.org](http://www.bellefontetrain.org) for info and tickets

**October 26-27, 2013**

### Great Scale Model Train Show Timonium MD

Over 700 vendor tables!

[www.GSMTS.com](http://www.GSMTS.com)

## LSOP5 is coming Oct 5-6.

What is an LSOP5? It is the 5th year of a joint cooperative venture between the NMRA Op Sig <http://www.opsig.org/index.shtml> and the Susquehanna Division. This is a two day operation marathon. The Lehigh-Susquehanna Operations weekend number 5 offers the chance to operate on 3 layouts in either the Lehigh (Allentown) area or Susquehanna (Harrisburg) area.

Are you interested in Operations? From Novice to Experienced these layouts will keep you busy and challenged. Never operated? No worries; all the layouts can supply a regular operating crew member to go along

for the ride to pilot you. Interested? Please visit the web site

<http://www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP5/default.htm>

for much more information.

You will find information on all of the layouts, links to their web pages and registration information. Did I mention the cost? There is no cost to register or operate! Your sleeping and eating arrangements will be up to you, but we have blocks of rooms available in both locales if you need them.

The Lehigh session is completely filled. However, there are still a few slots left for the Susquehanna sessions. Please do not be shy, this is a great way to get into operation. Time to get out of that arm chair and take the first step into operation.

If you are an experience operator, what a great way to check out what others are doing – Check out the paper work, the car cards and scheduling. All these layouts have established operating schemes. And did I mention that there is always a great bull session at Lunch time on Saturday!

If you have questions or are looking for more information than what is on the website, please contact me.

Wayne Betty, your Division 11 Assistant  
Superintendent at

[wsb@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:wsb@susquehannanmra.org)

## November Open House Tours

Jerry Britton

### In Support of National Model Railroad Month

As described in the June *Express*, I was recently approached by our superintendent to serve as Event Planning Chairman for the division. Many of you know me as a Pennsy modeler and the operator of the Keystone Crossings PRR web site.

For the past several years I have also put together a number of model railroad open house tours in south-central Pennsylvania, including in November in support of National Model Railroad Month. These have been organized as the Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMR). Barry inquired about the prospect of expanding the tour to include all of the counties covered by the Susquehanna Division, so here we are!

This November will be the first such tour sponsored by your NMRA Susquehanna Division 11. Individuals (and their crews) who open their home or club layout for layout tours in conjunction with NMRA sponsored events earn credit towards the Association Volunteer award in the Achievement Program. With just two months remaining before the event I am in the final process of assembling the four weekend open house schedules. Once complete we will present it to you in a special Sidetracks Express issue that will be released in early October. That will then allow you and your modeling friends time to build a visit plan for at least one and hopefully all four November Saturday events.

To make the tour more manageable over 33 counties, we have agreed to subdivide the territory into four “sub-divisions,” each holding open houses over consecutive Saturdays during the month. For 2013, the tour schedule is as follows:

**November 2nd -- Southern Sub:** Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.

**November 9th -- Eastern Sub:** Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, and Schuylkill counties.

**November 16th -- Western Sub:** Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, and Union counties.

**November 23rd -- Northern Sub:** Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.

We realize that many layouts in the southeast portion of Pennsylvania already participate in Bruce Friedman's awesome Model Railroad Open House. This open house tour is not intended to replace or compete with Bruce's tour. We encourage “dual listing” with the preference that you open for the dates indicated above, for the benefit of NMRA sponsorship and promotion. You may certainly open for other dates as well, but the above dates are those that the Susquehanna Division will be promoting.

## November Open House Tours

Jerry Britton

We have passed the cutoff date for adding new layouts to this years' event, but if you are interested in participating next year or have other questions, please contact the sub division coordinator as indicated below:

**Southern Sub:** Jerry Britton, [jerry@pennsyrr.com](mailto:jerry@pennsyrr.com)

**Eastern Sub:** Charles Kadyk, [twinvalleyfiddler@dejazzd.com](mailto:twinvalleyfiddler@dejazzd.com)

**Western Sub:** Forrest Lucas, [flucas@atlanticbb.net](mailto:flucas@atlanticbb.net)

**Northern Sub:** TBD\*\* Volunteer sought; must have e-mail. Contact Jerry!

Your sub division coordinator will need the following information from you:

- First and Last Name
- Address
- City and Zip Code
- County
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Affiliations (OpSIG, railroad historical societies, etc.)
- Name of Railroad
- Description (2-3 sentences)
- Scale
- Control (DC vs DCC [and brand]; and if you use JMRI, CMRI, etc.)
- Railroad's Web Site (if any)

Even if you do not wish to participate in this year's tour, I would like to add all model railroad layouts to our database. Please contact the appropriate sub-division coordinator to register.

Thank you,

Jerry Britton  
Events Planning Chairman

# MER Convention, Rockville MD

October 10-13, 2013



*Monroe Stewart's Hooch Junction N Layout on tour*



*Marty McGuirk's Central Vermont (HO) will be the subject of a clinic*



*Howard Zane's HO Layout on tour*

## Travel Plans: Book the C & P Junction Convention in Rockville

If you haven't booked the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rockville, Maryland, for the C & P Convention on Columbus Day weekend, October 10-13, now's the time! Hotel operators are standing by to give you the special MER room rate, a perk that makes attending any convention easier. If you want, it's time to invite your spouse to join you not only for seeing friends but also for exploring the attractions of regional Washington and Baltimore. C & P Junction delivers clinics, layouts, call boards, contests, white elephant bargains, a Banquet, an Auction and more.

Around Washington from the Metro station close to the hotel you can visit the Smithsonian, the Monuments, Georgetown, the Kennedy Center or Mount Vernon. In Baltimore you can visit the famous Inner Harbor, National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center, Walters Art Museum, or take a water taxi to Fells Point and dine on Chesapeake blue crabs. In-between, you can visit Annapolis or Old Towne Alexandria. Crowne Plaza Hotel ([www.cprockville.com](http://www.cprockville.com)) with a free shuttle to the Metro and other points.

For the latest information and news, please visit our website.

Google:

C & P Junction-Comcast.net

Or

<http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>.

For questions, email  
[CandP2013@comcast.net](mailto:CandP2013@comcast.net).

Marshall Abrams, Co-Chair, C&P Junction

Kurt Thompson, Co-Chair, C&P Junction

## Susquehanna Division Layouts on the Mainline Hobby Supply Layout Tours

Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith

### **MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY** **24th ANNUAL LAYOUT OPEN** **HOUSE PROGRAM**

It's September so that means it's time for the annual layout open house program sponsored by Mainline Hobby Supply of Blue Ridge Summit PA. And this year your Susquehanna Division is co-sponsoring the event. So open your calendar and block the weekend of September 21 & 22 – a great opportunity for you and your modeling friends to mount up for a visit to their great hobby shop and many home and club layouts that will be open for your viewing pleasure.

If you have never taken the ride to Blue Ridge Summit and the hobby shop you have definitely missed a great car trip. Besides the quaint nearby Civil War historical towns of Emmitsburg MD, Waynesboro PA, and of course Gettysburg, Blue Ridge Summit itself is nestled just to the north of the mountains that surround Camp David. And as far as hobby shops go, well that is covered in our Hobby Shop of the Month article located elsewhere in this newsletter. Simply said, it is a model railroader's best friend – a shop that will satisfy just about every modeler's interests.

There are currently seven layouts located within our Division that will be open during the weekend. There will also be several more outside our division area open and are certainly worthy of a visit. After reviewing the

description and location of the seven layouts within the Susquehanna Division below we recommend you build a visit plan that includes a visit to the hobby shop where you will receive an all-inclusive tour book of all the layouts. That booklet will include dates, open hours for each layout, and directions to each from the hobby shop.

Mainline Hobby Supply will have expanded operating hours that weekend – they will be open Sat, Sep 21 from 9-5 and Sun, Sep 22 from 12-5. Our Division will also have a table set up both days so your non-member friends can learn about all the advantages of joining the NMRA and then sign up for our free six-month Rail Pass membership program that includes just about all full membership benefits during that trial period.

Please abide by the posted times and dates for each open house. And most important, make it a great weekend outing with either your family, a group of fellow modelers, or simply by yourself!

A brief review of the seven Susquehanna Division area layouts follows:

#### **NMRA Member Bob Martin's Central Pennsylvania RR (CPRR) – HO Scale**

45 West Locust Lane, York PA 17402      Open  
Saturday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, CLOSED Sunday

This freelance HO railroad incorporates PRR and WM activities back in the 1960s. The CPRR is situated in three basement rooms and occupies

approximately 675 square feet, is 57' long and 16' at its widest and 6" at its narrowest. A 13' by 25' crew lounge, which also serves as a family room, is adjacent to the train room along with an 11 by 18' workshop and library adjoining the crew lounge.

Trains are controlled by a Digitrax Chief radio system. Both tethered and radio throttles are used. Tortoise slow motion switch machines control roughly 50% of the 170+ switches while 35% are hand thrown and 15% are twin-coil electric machines. About 95% of the turnouts are Atlas brass frog of 50s and 60s vintage while many of the remaining switches are scratch or custom built. The railroad has over 1000' of mostly code 100 brass flex track. There are about 70 locomotives and more than 500 freight cars. A special 30-car carnival train sometimes can be seen on the CPRR but it is more often found on Dave Trone's West Penn Railroad – that layout is discussed below. Scenery is just about complete but is always being changed. Fourteen towns, 100+ structures, 450 figures, and 150 vehicles can be found on the layout.

Bob holds operating sessions monthly where the layout is operated as a two division, point to point railroad. Traffic is controlled by a Dispatch who is physically located in the hallway outside of the main train room. Communications between the Dispatcher and train crews is by FRS radios. The operation is structured so it can operate in a continuous run manner during layout tours. Bob has earned NMRA Achievement Certificates in Scenery, Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, Volunteer, and the Golden Spike Award.

Directions:

## Susquehanna Division Layouts on the Mainline Hobby Supply Layout Tours

Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith

From US Route 30 East or West, turn North onto N. George St/PA Route 181. Go north about 1.7 miles to Longview Rd (Appliance Unlimited on left). Turn left onto Longview Rd. At the stop sign turn right onto Locust Lane. Bob's house is the 3<sup>rd</sup> house on left with red cabooses mailbox.

From I-83 northbound, take exit 22 and precede North on N. George St/PA Route 181. Go north about 0.9 miles to Longview Rd (Appliance Unlimited on left). Turn left onto Longview Rd and proceed to the stop sign. Turn right onto Locust Lane. Bob's house is the 3<sup>rd</sup> house on left with red cabooses mailbox.

From I-83 southbound, take exit 24 and turn left off of ramp at the traffic light. Proceed 0.9 miles to "T" intersection at the traffic light. Turn right onto George St, proceed 0.9 miles to Locust Lane (just before top of hill), turn right onto Locust Lane – Bob's house is 3<sup>rd</sup> house on right with red cabooses mailbox.

Follow signs on right side of driveway and enter screen porch at rear of house. The CPRR is handicap accessible but the layout height is 52" to 72." Cameras are welcome but NO SMOKING!

**CAUTION:** If, while proceeding north on George St, you miss the turn onto Longview Rd and go over the top of the hill, DO NOT turn left onto W. Locust Lane – it is both dangerous and illegal. Simply go down the hill and turn around at the fire hall at bottom of the hill. Then proceed back up the hill and turn right onto W. Locust Lane.

### **NMRA Member Ron Smith – N-Scale**

138 Old School house Road, Mechanicsburg PA  
CLOSED Saturday  
Open Sunday Noon – 5:00 PM

Ron's N-Scale Erie-Lackawanna / Bath & Hammondsport Railroad layout occupies a 12' by 16' room. The layout is controlled by a Lenz DCC system and uses industry cards for car-forwarding. Rolling stock is appropriate for the early 1950s and the 1970s; however, Ron says it's been hard resisting the more modern equipment currently offered in N-Scale.

The B&H is built on a 12' shelf at one end of the room. The layout is based on an article in the original *Railroads You Can Model* book from Kalmbach. Atlas code 55 flextrack and turnouts are used and the track arrangement is reasonably close to the prototype.

The B&H line connects to the main layout at Bath NY. The main section of the layout uses Kato Unitrack featuring super-elevated curves. The double track mainline supports numerous passing trains. This section of the layout features scenic vignettes of the former Erie's Southern Tier mainline west of Corning NY and the former DL&W mainline north of Bath NY. Trackwork is complete and, scenery is about 75% complete

### **Directions:**

From either US 15 north or south take the PA Route 114 exit (Mechanicsburg/Bowmansdale). If coming from the south on US 15, turn left onto PA 114 – if coming from the north on US 15, turn right onto PA 114. Then go approximately one mile to the traffic light at Cumberland Parkway – a Sheetz station will be on the corner. Turn right onto Cumberland Parkway and then take the first right onto Old School House Lane. Ron's townhouse is Unit #138 and is the left end unit in the 3<sup>rd</sup> townhouse complex. Enter through the garage.

### **Dave Trone's West Penn Railroad – HO Scale**

3601 Fawn Lane, Glenville PA  
Open Saturday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM and  
Sunday 10:00 AM -6:00 PM.

The West PENN was established in 1996. In 2004 Dave dismantled the original layout and began building a new and very large basement for his railroad and crewroom, and, almost forgot, built a one floor ranch house on top. His downstairs railroad empire certainly meets the definition of "large" - a modest 38' by 70' room with an extra high ceiling. The West PENN mainline spans over 1700'. Dave drove the "golden spike" on Apr 24, 2010. Last year Dave began building the extensive hard shell scenery and he now reports it 99% complete – does he ever sleep or work at a day job?! He also added three more industries to the 13 industrial switching areas, and most of those have stand-alone sidings to support several "peddler" operations.

How about some more over the top gee-wiz facts:

- Layout height – 46" to 102" within a mushroom design that includes a 39" raised platform for the upper level.
- L-girder benchwork and the upper level suspended by 5/16" threaded rods.
- Four, 70' offline storage tracks to store guest trains between operating sessions.
- 16, 70' classification tracks that hold up to 36 cars each
- Total track laid to date – 3450'
- Most turnouts are handlaid.
- Digitrax DCC control with EasyDCC boosters.
- Dispatcher will control movement from separate booth under steps.

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna  
Division, NMRA

## Susquehanna Division Layouts on the Mainline Hobby Supply Layout Tours

Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith

- 
- Have Dave explain how he's going to have a live coal mine with empties in and loads out and a power plant with loads in and empties out and how he built the rotary coal dump.

A stunning layout you have to see to believe!

### Directions:

For GPS, use Smoketown Rd and Skyview Dr as nearest intersection or Lat N39.46.831 and Long W76.52.179.

Find PA Route 216 (Blooming Grove Rd) heading east out of Hanover. Proceed east on PA Route 216 towards Codorus State Park. Just after the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge over Codorus Lake turn left onto Sinsheim Rd towards Jefferson. Take the next right (almost immediate) onto Smoketown Rd and proceed for one mile, and then turn right onto Skyview Dr. Then turn right onto Fawn Lane (red street sign) which is a shared private stone road - please keep your speed **under 15 MPH**. Proceed 0.2 miles to 3601 Fawn Lane (Dave's house) which is the large ranch house on your left. There is a turnaround area past Dave's house on the left after the electric box which is also on the left; however, there are no more turnaround areas past that spot. Park anywhere you can get off the road. Please use the basement entrance at bottom of driveway.

### Ken Kime's Western Maryland Dutch Line – 2-Rail O Scale

300 Hanover Street, Gettysburg PA  
Open Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
CLOSED Sunday

Ken's layout depicts the Western Maryland Dutch Line in October 1973 from the East end of Camp Siding to the East portal of Jack's Mountain tunnel. Approaching his house it may be hard for a visitor

to believe down in the basement is a 1400 square foot, two-level, and 2-rail O Scale layout with a 58" track radius. Although the layout is under construction with little scenery it is fascinating to see Ken's progress since last year and his attention to historic detail.

Most of Camp and the two sidings along old US Route 30 and the Gettysburg "A" Yard will be modeled along with the RDG junction on the west side of town. Due to space limitations the west side "B" Yard will not be modeled. On the upper level the layout will feature Knouse Foods at Ortanna, the Mt Hope siding, and the Fairfield passing track. The horseshoe curve at Iron Springs Rd is contained in its own room and averages 12' by 28' and includes hand-laid track that required over 1500 ties.

Over 70 modelers visited Ken's layout last year and were not deterred at it being a layout under construction - all said they planned to return this year. For many new to the hobby as well as veteran modelers looking for new ideas to either update or add to their existing layout visiting a layout under construction is enlightening. Although the lower level that includes Gettysburg, Camp, and the Reading yard is benchwork under construction trains run through the entire upper level, horseshoe curve, and the multi-level staging area.

Ken thoroughly enjoys showing his layout, describing how he got to where the layout is today, and his future plans - enjoy your visit!

### Directions:

Ken's home is easy to find in Gettysburg at 300 Hanover St - a brick Cape Cod house with a beige addition on the east side and the only house on the street with its own red Simplex porch fire alarm box. **Borough regulations do not permit parking in front of the house**; however, the doctor's office behind the house allows visitor parking for the

open house. Access to the layout is by stairs to the basement.

### Columbia Historic Preservation Society HO Model Railroad (CHiPS) – HO Scale

21 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Columbia PA  
CLOSED Saturday,  
Open Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM

The CHiPS HO model railroad is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Columbia Historic Preservation Society which is housed in an old city church building. The layout occupies 1000 sq feet of floor space. There are two main cities modeled on the layout - Columbia and Metropolis. Columbia encompasses approximately 200 sq feet and is based on what actually existed during the period 1920 – 1940. During that era Columbia had a large roundhouse facility, a major yard, diesel servicing facilities, and two passenger stations – one for the PRR and one for the Reading RR. All of that and many more historically correct buildings from that era are expertly hand crafted scratchbuilt structures. For those structures still awaiting construction they are presented on the layout by historically correct card-stock mockups.

Metropolis is the largest city on the layout, and its Union station is always busy as four rail lines pass through the passenger platforms. The city buildings are a mixture of kit, kitbashed, and scratchbuilt structures. The Reading passes over a steel trestle spanning an industrial area in the city while their subway passes along the back edge of the city before entering a tunnel. While visiting the layout ask one of their members about their long term plan for a detailed subway system and major layout expansion.

Two feet high backdrops are positioned throughout the layout to both isolate various scenes and direct visitors up and down aisles and around the layout. The layout room also has an extensive collection

## Susquehanna Division Layouts on the Mainline Hobby Supply Layout Tours

Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith

of railroad memorabilia from the PRR and Reading RR.

The CHiPS club is constantly undergoing change and development by a very detail oriented group of dedicated modelers. Feel free to ask members questions and enjoy your visit.

### Directions:

Come into Columbia by either US 30 or PA Route 441. Once on PA Route 441/3<sup>rd</sup> St and after going through the stop light by the Burger King and Turkey Hill Museum proceed east to the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light which is Locust St. Turn right onto Locust St and proceed one block to 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Turn right onto 2<sup>nd</sup> St and go ½ block – the Museum is the large church building on your right and the CHiPS layout is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building. Park along the street and enter the Museum through the large double doors, turn right once inside, and proceed up the steps to the layout room.

### Keystone Model Railroad Club – HO Scale

833 West Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg PA  
Open Saturday Noon – 5:00 PM and  
Sunday Noon – 5:00 PM

The Keystone Model Railroad Society began in 1987 as a non-profit organization to build and run the Keystone Midland (KM) Railroad – a free-lanced bridge route running east to west serving towns across PA. The club's charter also includes keeping a resource library on prototype and model railroading, educating the public, and preserving railroad history in the area.

Visitors to the layout see varnish (passenger trains), freight trains, and locals using trackage rights on the KM. The layout occupies just about all of a former PRR power substation that was used to power the Dillsburg electric trolley line. The club's Dispatch Center is elevated above the layout for optimum observation. Their track plan is a series of folded dog bones with two end points. The KM has over 600' of mainline track, two yards,

and a branch line. The towns and scenes represent various locations served by Eastern railroads and the obstacles they faced in moving their traffic across PA. The layout recently underwent a three-year conversion from DC to DCC operations.

Track, scenery, and everything fixed to the layout is property of the club. Trains and roiling stock, for the most part, belong to club members. The railroad is never quite finished and has been "under construction" for the last 20 or so years. Running sessions are usually held on Monday evenings and some of their *gandy dancer* crew members (maintainers) can be found doing a variety of tasks on Thursday mornings. Great news – the club recently installed a new heating/cooling system which offers an enjoyable work and operating environment.

The members look forward to your visit on both Saturday and Sunday!

### Directions:

Follow PA Route 641 into Mechanicsburg from the east. After passing east to west through the main part of town the club will be on your left between Wertz's Coal Yard and Cockrell's Auto Body Shop. Plenty of parking is available around the club building.

### The York Connecting Railroad – HO Scale

381 Wheatfield Street, York PA  
Open Saturday 1:00 – 5:00 PM  
CLOSED Sunday

Probably the oldest and certainly the most well-known model railroad club in the Susquehanna valley, the Miniature Model Railroad Club of York has been in operation since 1943 – an amazing accomplishment in and of itself. The club is most fortunate to have designed and built their own building which was designed solely for model railroad operations. Their current building was

constructed in 1955 and then expanded to its current 30' by 90' size in 1966 which now includes their approximate 30' by 80' HO layout. Motive power includes a mix of both steam and diesel in various road names. Both passenger and freight trains operate on the double track mainline that encircles the building perimeter. The layout also includes a branch line that works its way through mountains and towns. Their track plan includes two large classification yards, a realistic steel mill and coal mine, and an operating turntable and diesel transfer table. The intermodal yard was recently transformed into a seaport.

The club is undergoing a major modernization and labor intensive project – converting their DC electrical system to DCC control. Their Dispatch Center is uniquely located above and in the center of the layout room which affords an unobstructed view of the entire operation. Another new feature that has been enthusiastically received by today's high tech youngsters is installation of a video camera system that allows visitors to see what the engineer sees.

A historic old club that keeps up with modern model railroad technology – the York Connecting Railroad is a must stop on your 2013 Mainline Hobby Supply September layout open house adventure.

### Directions:

Take I-83 South from US 30 to Exit 18. At end of exit ramp turn right (west) onto PA 124-Rose Ave (may say E. Prospect St). Next, turn right onto Mill St. Follow Mill St to East Princes St. Then turn left onto East Princess St and then turn left onto Wheatfield St which is across from 940 East Princess St. The club building will be on your left at 381 Westfield St.

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Mid-Eastern Region  
Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership**

**YES**, please sign me up for a free six month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA—which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region, and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive **NMRA Magazine**, the monthly national magazine, and **The Local**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pak.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.)

At the end of the six months, I may join NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

During the past two years, I have **not** been a member of NMRA.

=====

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Do not mail it directly to MMRA  
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MARCH—APRIL 2013

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