

Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

March 2014

Volume 22 Number 2

From the Superintendent's Desk *Barry Schmitt*

Greetings Fellow Modelers,

Welcome to March and the new normal PA tundra weather. When searching for a positive spin to the mounds of snow and layers of ice I see outside my windows I suddenly realized it forced me to spend more quality time working on my modeling projects and to me that is always a good thing. I hope it also worked that way for you.

Our busy Division 2014 event schedule got off to a slow start thanks to Mother Nature and her fascination with snow, ice, and bone chilling temps. The Elizabethtown Masonic Village Model Railroad Club held their tree making clinic as scheduled the evening of January 14 where only eight hearty modelers braved the 0-degree weather and snow forecasts. However, for those who attended I was told they thoroughly enjoyed a great presentation by the dynamic tree making duo of Jay Green and Gary Joline. Thanks guys for the great clinic and a special thanks to those who were not deterred by bad weather.

Our second event was held at Grace United Methodist Church in Mechanicsburg on February 8th where the weather was a bit more cooperative – no snowfall but the temps were still way below average, snow piles were everywhere, and ice slowed us all down. Our *Sidetracks* Editor Ron Smith led that all-day event that included three great morning clinics, a visit to the town's restored passenger station, and visits to three great model railroads. One of those was Ron's nearby N-Scale layout. Ron provided attendees with a unique clinic twist – both a tell and a show clinic. The "tell" was his PowerPoint clinic presentation on how he modified the traditional car-card system to one ideally suited to N-Scale operations. Later that day, he then provided the "show" segment by operating his home layout for visitors with his modified car order system. See Ron's article on page 13 that describes the event and several great accompanying pictures. That outing brought 28 modelers together for a great day of model railroading.

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

Schedules

RPM Valley Forge Meet
Mar. 28-30, 2014, Malvern PA

Division Meet
May 10, 2014 Masonic Village,
Elizabethtown PA

East Broad Top RR
June 28, 2014, Rockhill Furnace PA

Bowser / Weaver Tour
July 10, 2014

NMRA National Convention
July 13 – July 20, 2014, Cleveland OH

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Banner photo courtesy of Keith Latimer

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 4-15-14.

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National Model Railroad Association
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Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
www.nmra.org

Later in this issue there are three articles describing our next three scheduled events. First, our May 10 meeting at the Elizabethtown Masonic Village Welcome Center (same location as our April 20 event last year); second, our all-day tour of the East Broad Top Railroad, Rockhill Trolley Museum, and a visit to the nearby Bricktown Model Railroad Club on June 28; and third, our July 10 (Thursday) Division road trip to the Bowser Manufacturing facility and their English's Model Railroad Supply hobby shop in Montoursville PA and their Weaver Model Company in Northumberland PA where they make Scalecoat paints. Both the June 28 and July 10 events will have more detailed event articles in our May 2014 *Sidetracks*, but be advised for planning purposes that both will require advanced attendance registration. I recommend you read each of those three event articles and set those dates aside for some quality model railroading activities. You will also notice only one of those three events is in the greater Harrisburg / Lancaster / York area. That reflects your BOD's commitment to holding several annual events out where many of our more distant members reside.

Also, be sure to check out the advertisement for Choo Choo Nuts on page 22. They are having a sale in March for NMRA members, so be sure you have your membership card with you if you stop in. As always we ask you to support our advertisers and when visiting The Station or Choo Choo Nuts, be sure to mention you

saw their ads and thank them for supporting our division.

Our annual Lehigh and Susquehanna Operations Weekend (LSOP) scheduled for October 3 and 4 is almost full in the Lehigh Valley area and six openings remain in the Central Susquehanna area. The event was recently advertised in both the NMRA monthly magazine and the Mid-East Region bi-monthly newsletter – The Local. Because our weekend operations-till-you-drop event is so popular we get many operators from out of state. For example, last year we had operators from as far away as OH, MA, and NC. I mention this so hopefully you will not plan on waiting to register until sometime later this year only to find out no operating positions are available. It's a great opportunity for both experienced and inexperienced modelers to enjoy this popular facet of the hobby – operations. So now is the time to act and get your position locked in by going to our LSOP6 website today at:

www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP6.

As an added bonus all six layouts are among the best of the best!

Our February 8 Mechanicsburg meeting introduced our new Model Showcase clinic that was developed and led by member John Wissinger, MMR. Seven members brought a wide variety of models and even a few model mockups for all to examine and listen to the builders explain why their models were so special. The display ranged from one modeler's first styrene structure kit to several

award winning convention models. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed this new clinic and look forward to it being a regular part of all our future meetings that include clinics. So between now and May 10 look over your collection of structures, rolling stock, locomotives, small modules, or any other item that you consider special and bring it to that meeting. Each modeler will be provided 5 minutes to discuss their pride and joy, but speaking is not required.



We are now down to Division Election Day --122, July 1, when we install a new Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Clerk (money bags). Wayne Betty, your current Assistant Super, and Paul Tice, your keeper of the books and loot, intend to run for reelection. However, I plan to pass the gavel to another member as I am not running for reelection. However, after mentioning this for the past several months we only have Wayne and Paul as candidates. Please give serious thought to placing your hat in the ring and help lead this great NMRA Division. Experience, although wonderful to have, is clearly not a prerequisite for the Super position as evidenced by my accepting the job with only two weeks' notice and no prior NMRA leadership background. I know several of you would say such lack of experience showed so here's your opportunity to jump in and keep us on track for at least the next two years. It's been a most personally rewarding experience; I've met and made many new model railroad friends, and visited over 50 private and club layouts during my 20-months in office. Yes, it does require lots of hard work but most all of it has been thoroughly enjoyable. Please contact me either by phone (717-877-1810) or email (as

listed in this document) if you have questions about the position or want to have your name placed on the ballot that will be emailed to members in June. And if you would like to run for the Assistant Super or Chief Clerk, by all means get your name on the ballot – the more on the ballot for each position the better for our collective future following our membership vote. Please give this important issue serious consideration.

Hopefully Mother Nature will soon buy an airline ticket or better yet an Amtrak Auto Train ticket to Florida and realize white sand is much more pleasing than ice and snow and warm temperatures trump cold weather just about always. It was pretty but enough is enough, so let's hope she will return us to more normal conditions. But the good news is her wrath likely caused you to devote more time to working on your layout so keep that positive result going even when the weather returns to better days.

Happy modeling!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Betty", is written below the text "Happy modeling!".

From the Editor's Desk

Ron Smith

Welcome to March!

What a winter! I hope you've taken advantage of the cold weather to put in some quality time on your projects at your workbench or layout. I've done some work on my layout recently, and have some projects lined up for the near future. At this time of year our dining room table becomes my workbench as it's too cold in the garage to get any meaningful modeling work done. I concentrate mostly on structures when I'm upstairs, and my better half often works on beading or puzzles at the other end of the table while I'm working. I can't truthfully say she has my undivided attention while we're working at the table, but we do have some nice chats when we're not concentrating on a tedious task.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find photos and a write-up of our recent Meet on February 8th. I've nicknamed it "Ice Station Zebra", as the heating system in the church basement was not functioning that morning. Although the problem was fixed at no cost to the church later on, it was rather embarrassing for me as the event organizer and church member, and I do apologize to our members and guests for the discomfort at the meeting.

We have several events scheduled for the remainder of 2014 and hope you have the opportunity to join us at one or all of them. Also keep in mind that neighboring Divisions have things going on too; if you become aware of an event nearby please feel free to drop me a note about it. One example is the upcoming "Mini-Con" in Blue Ridge Summit in April, put on by Mainline Hobby Supply and supported by our neighboring South Mountain Division.

We encourage you to bring your models to Division meetings for display in the Model Showcase portion of our clinic-style meets. We had a lot of participation at the inaugural event in February, which was a delight to see.

My contact information is

rsmith@susquehannamra.org

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

Ron



Dando's Breaker Project

Dando's Breaker (Photo 1) was built during WWII and was located in the town of Llewellyn PA which is just a few miles from Minersville in Schuylkill County. Its' wooden construction which was due to wartime metal shortages, makes it an excellent modeling subject. The model is based primarily on two rolls of film I shot in July of 1970. The breaker had been abandoned for a few years at that time, but was still structurally intact. As it began to collapse in the mid 1980's I was able to photograph the interior loading area and other construction details. The remains burned in the late 1980's, and no trace remained when I started turning the photos into plans in June of 2011.

Because of its complex shape, different views often lead to different interpretations. Early on, crude cardboard mockups helped sort things out. Rough plans for all the structures were eventually generated in CAD, printed in N-scale, then cut out and assembled to make the mock-up shown in Photo 2. This mockup was reviewed with experts (owners of a large coal company) to figure out the functions of the various buildings and appurtenances.



Photo 1: PROTOTYPE July, 1970

Dando's Coal Breaker In HO Scale

By Fred Phillips

Construction began in the summer of 2012. By April 2013, I had fabricated the basic walls of the main building. After talking to Bob Charles and Ron Parisi at the Susquehanna Division meet at Elizabethtown (4/20/13), I decided I would enter the project at the October 2013 MER convention in Rockville MD. I am a terribly slow worker and the project was not close to being ready last October, so I entered my Minersville Passenger Station to get some feel for an NMRA contest. That was encouraging, and I am now committed to enter the Dando's Breaker Project in the Diorama/Display category at the NMRA National Convention in Cleveland in July 2014.

Photos 3 and 4 show that it's coming along, although almost all the detail work still remains.

I plan to display the model at our Susquehanna Division event to be held at the Elizabethtown Masonic Village on May 10, 2014 and solicit comments, critiques, and suggestions to improve my chances at the National. That will then give me two months to get it ready for Cleveland.

Fred Phillips



**Photo 2:
PAPER MOCKUP
(N Scale)
August 16, 2012**

Dando's Coal Breaker In HO Scale

By Fred Phillips



**Photo 3:
MODEL December 18. 2013**



**Photo 4:
MODEL January 10. 2014**

Upcoming Events – In or Near Our Division

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities!!

March 15-16, 2014

Greenberg's Train & Toy Show Wilmington DE

10-4 each day. \$8 adults, kids under 12 free

www.greenbergshows.com

March 28-30, 2014

Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge Meet

Desmond Great Valley Hotel
One Liberty Blvd, Malvern PA

www.phillynmra.org

April 5, 2014

South Mountain Div. Mini-Con Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Clinics sponsored by Mainline Hobby Supply
10 AM – 3:30 PM

May 10, 2014

Susquehanna Division Meet Masonic Village Welcome Center, Elizabethtown PA

See page 16 for details

May 17-18, 2014

6th Annual N-Scale Weekend Hilliard, OH

Franklin County Fairgrounds
4100 Columbia Street
Saturday 10-5, Sunday 9-3

www.centralohiontrak.org

(Yes, this is a day's drive away for most of our members but it's a great show for the N Scalpers among us. Ed.)

June 28, 2014

Visit to The East Broad Top RR Rockhill Furnace, PA

See page 17 for details

June 25-29, 2014

N Scale Convention Roanoke, VA

www.NScaleEnthusiast.com

July 10, 2014 (Thursday)

Susquehanna Division Outing Montoursville, PA

We'll be visiting Bowser Mfg & Weaver Mfg for a tour of their facility! See page 18 for details

July 13-20, 2014

NMRA National Convention Cleveland, OH

www.nmra.org

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 on page 21 of this issue (not the standard NMRA Railpass form), and give it to a Division Director who will sign and forward it to the MER for processing. Do not send this to Bob Price or the NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga, TN; the MER will forward the application to the NMRA with the payment.

Planning for the NYO&W

Story by Tom Matthews

How the Benchwork Makes It Happen

(Editor's note: I met Tom during the November Open House tours and was really impressed with his benchwork. The following is the first of what we plan to be a multi-part series on his NYO&W layout. RLS)

My objective is to build a model of the New York Ontario & Western in the final ten years over an eleven mile stretch from Cornwall to Campbell Hall.

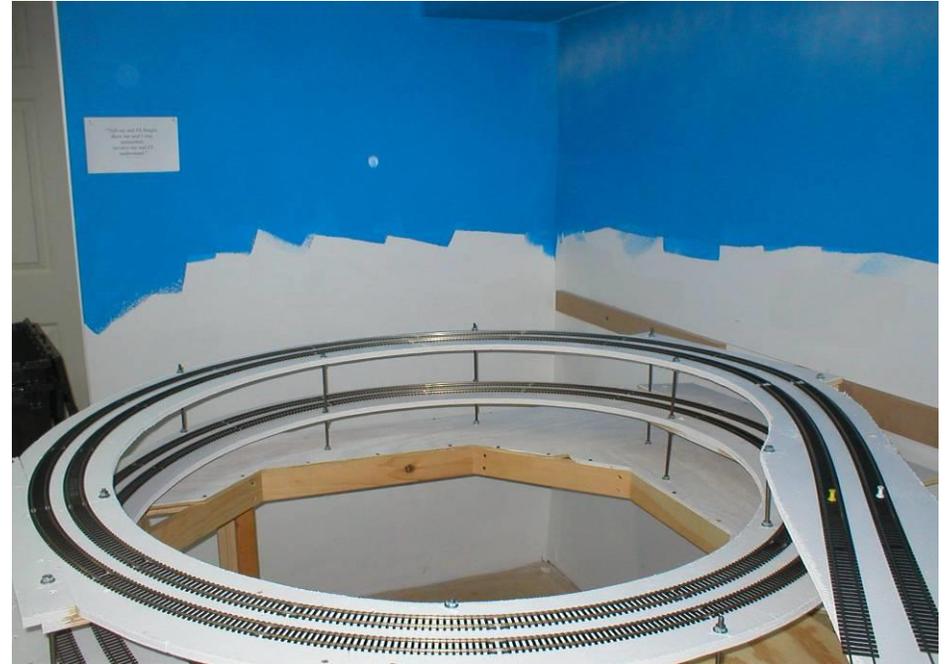
The photos on this page show the room preparation work that was needed before benchwork could begin in 2008.



Planning for the NYO&W

Designing the layout begins with Cornwall with an interchange, a yard and a coal dock. At Cornwall the New York Central "West Shore" interchanges with the NYO&W. That will necessitate staging, so where to put that staging becomes the first hurdle. If the Cornwall area is to be long enough to come close to representing the prototype, it will need to occupy a long wall. Therefore, the staging will go under Cornwall. Part of that staging will represent points to the south (timetable east) past West Point and on to the terminal at Weehawken. Another part represents points north of Newburgh (more on that later).

As the NYC West Shore leaves Cornwall to the south it will hug Storm King Mountain and disappear into trees along the Hudson River as it descends into the helix used to reach staging.



Helix trackage complete; imagine West Point in the background.

The magic of mirrors will allow hiding the helix and also provide a distant perspective of the valley toward a West Point scene in the background.

Since the height between the rails of the staging area and Cornwall will be only 12 inches, an accommodation for reaching the Tortoises and other wiring beneath Cornwall is needed. Enter the piano-hinge, 18 feet of it. The entire Cornwall yard and mainline is on a lift section. Heavy $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood with $\frac{1}{2}$ " Homasote construction makes for a section strong enough to allow the lifting, as long as the lifter is strong enough. The actual measured force needed to lift the section is 31 pounds. Three struts are used to hold the section while working under it.

Planning for the NYO&W



Staging under Cornwall after exiting the helix



Same view with Cornwall in place above.

All wood and Homasote is painted with Zinzer's BIN, a shellac based white primer that painters use to hide things like crayon and ink marks before painting a room. It's a bit costly at around \$42 per gallon but worth it. It can be tinted dark gray or brown for layout and roadbed surfaces. The white that it comes in is great for under the layout, as it reflects light making it easy to see things and can be written on for labeling. The shellac base forms a water-proof barrier to any moisture that may come along. Although my basement is temperature and humidity controlled, it could get wet anytime. You never know when some plumbing trouble might come along or outdoor drainage may get out of control and seep in. It just isn't worth the risk of having to deal with moisture damage AFTER a layout is built.

Back near the beginning I mentioned Newburgh. That's the next town north (timetable west) of Cornwall on the NYC West shore. I know I'm building the NYO&W but couldn't leave out some more NY Central. Next time I'll discuss it along with the gate that gets us there across the Moodna Creek (isle) and into Newburgh.

Planning for the NYO&W



The photo above shows the Cornwall yard raised and being supported by one of the three struts. This hinged section allows maintenance access to the staging yard below as well as the wiring for Cornwall.

Tom Matthews

Photos from the February 8th Division Meet

Article by Ron Smith; Photos by Ron Parisi, Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith

There were 28 Susquehanna Division members and guests who attended “Ice Station Zebra”, otherwise known as our February 8th Division Meet in Mechanicsburg. In addition to the unusually cold winter we’ve been having combined with the afternoon tour of the Mechanicsburg train station (hence the nickname), the heat in the church social hall was not working and most folks ended up keeping their coats on throughout the morning. As the event organizer and a member of the church, I apologize to our guests for the inconvenience.

Superintendent Barry Schmitt conducted the business portion of the meeting; topics included the upcoming elections for BOD and officer positions, upcoming events in 2014, and general points about our membership and the geographic region we serve.

There were three clinic presentations including a car-forwarding method using industry cards and dice; a Modeler’s Showcase where participants brought along their favorite models and described them; and a presentation by Alan Mende about how he scratchbuilt a Shay locomotive.

The afternoon featured a tour of the ex-PRR (Cumberland Valley RR) Mechanicsburg train station and station masters’ quarters led by a docent from the Mechanicsburg Museum Association. In addition to the tour, there were three area layouts open for viewing.

We hope you will be able to attend our next event, May 10, 2014 in Elizabethtown. The summer events at the East Broad Top RR and Bowser Manufacturing / Weaver Models are sure to be winners too. Mark your calendars now!

Ron Smith



Barry Schmitt (above) and Alan Mende (below)

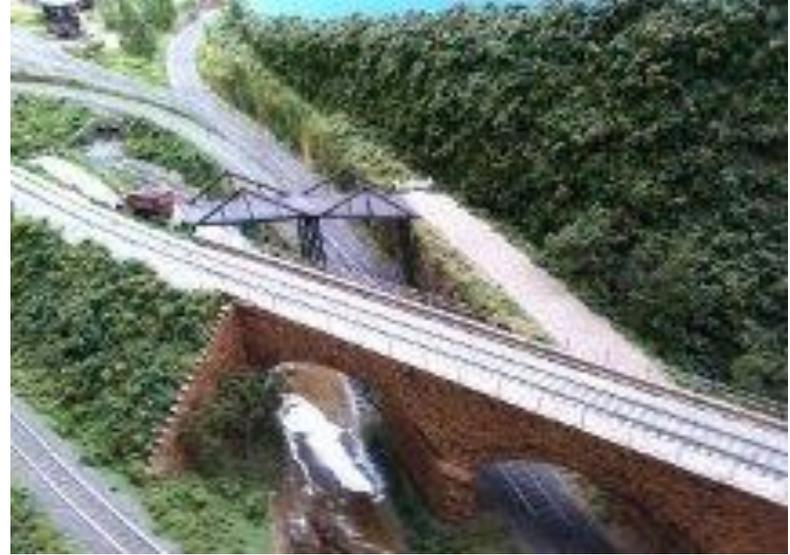


Photos from the February 8th Division Meet

Article by Ron Smith; Photos by Ron Parisi, Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith



A portion of the group (above) and John Wissinger (below)



Above and Below: Scenes from Bob Charles' layout

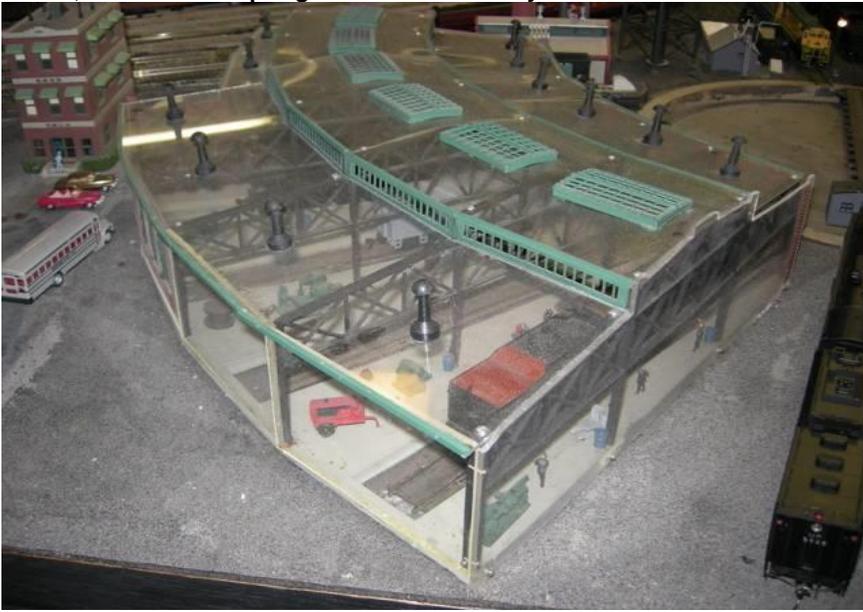


Photos from the February 8th Division Meet

Article by Ron Smith; Photos by Ron Parisi, Barry Schmitt and Ron Smith



Above, Below and Top Right: Scenes from Keystone Model Railroad Club



Mechanicsburg station complex, a.k.a. "Ice Station Zebra"

2014 Division Events

by Barry Schmitt, Lee Rainey and Howard Oakes

May 10, 2014 Division Meet, Elizabethtown, PA

Our next Division event will be held at the Elizabethtown Masonic Village Cultural Center Brossman Ballroom – the same great facility utilized at last year's April event. Our program begins at 9AM. The full day schedule of activities is as follows:

0900-0930 – New Member and Guest Introductions and General Division Highlights.

0930-1045 – Welcome to the East Broad Top Railroad (EBT), Rockville Trolley Museum, and Bricktown Model Railroad Club. Lee Rainey, who is a Division Director and President of The Friends of the East Broad Top Railroad, will provide a short historical sketch of the EBT, bring us up to date on the current happenings at the EBT, and then outline the activities planned for our June 28 Susquehanna Division Day at the EBT and other area attractions. Besides a tour of the EBT yard, back shops, and their restoration facilities Lee will also talk about the other activities planned for that all-day outing that include a scenic ride on one of Rockhill Trolley Museum's historic trolleys, touring their maintenance back shops, gift store shopping, and finally a visit to the Bricktown Model Railroad Club located in near-by Mt Union.

1045-1215 – An Introduction to the New Dead Rail Operating System. Our clinician, Steve Sherrill, will describe the newest technology coming to our great hobby – Dead Rail. This system does not use any electrical interface between the throttle, rails, and a locomotive; instead, engine power is controlled by a direct link to an in-locomotive battery – much like the sophisticated remotely controlled systems used in high tech airplane flying models. Steve will demonstrate this newest technology on his portable modular model railroad layout that will be operational so we can see the system in action. Dead Rail is currently available in some G-gauge engines and is slowly entering O-scale equipment. Our NMRA technical standards gurus are heavily involved in this new technology to be sure common standards are established and agreed to by all manufacturers. The plan is for Dead Rail to become the

common locomotive power system of the future, so come prepared for Steve to take us on a trip back to the future.

1215-1PM – Model Showcase. This new program was introduced at our February 8 event in Mechanicsburg by member John Wissinger, MMR. Over a dozen models and structural mock-ups were displayed, and each modeler provided a short talk about each and why they considered them special. So be sure to look over your small or large model railroad collection and bring an engine, rolling stock, structure, mini module, or any other model item that is special to you and tell us why you deem it special. Each modeler will be allowed five-minutes to tell their story; however, giving such a presentation is not required. Also, be advised, this is not a model contest – it's just a chance to see and enjoy what is special to our members. However, if you would like your model judged under the NMRA Achievement Program, please contact Bob Charles, MMR, who is our AP Committee Chairman - see his contact information on page 2. This clinic was very well received and everyone attending the February 8 event agreed it should become a regular part of all future clinic-based events. So bring your modeling pride and joy and share it with the rest of us.

1-1:30 – Lunch On-The-Run.

1:30-4:30PM – Layout Open House Visits. We currently have two club layouts that have agreed to be open for attendee visits and we are working to arrange one additional club layout. All layouts as well any last minute changes to the schedule will be the subject of a final article in our May Sidetracks along with directions to each layout from the Masonic Village.

So mark your calendars now and plan to attend this most interesting day of model railroading. All segments of this event are open to the public so bring along your family or another model railroad friend. A map and written directions to the E-town Masonic Village Cultural Center are included on the next page.

2014 Division Events

by Barry Schmitt, Lee Rainey and Howard Oakes

And surely the snow will finally be gone and you will be greeted by vibrant green grass, full blooming trees, and brightly colored flowers surrounding the entrance to the Cultural Center. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 10!

Barry Schmitt

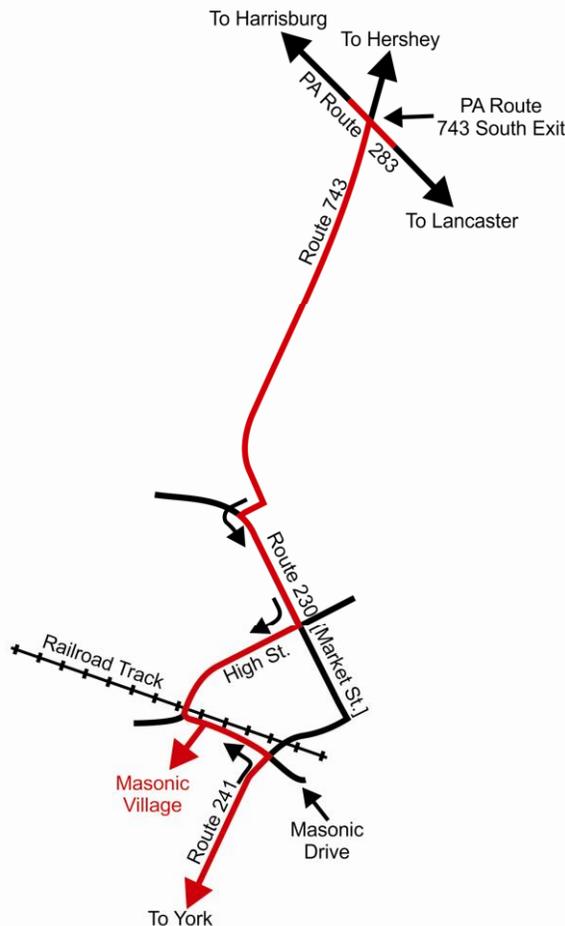
DIRECTIONS TO THE MASONIC FREEMASON CULTURAL CENTER

From Harrisburg drive East on I-283 and from Lancaster drive West on I-283 and exit at Route 743 South. Follow the red route on the map. When you enter the tree-lined Masonic Village road follow the signs to the Freemason Culture Center. It will eventually be on your right and has a drive under entry portico. Park anywhere near the building and enter under the portico. Once inside there will be signs directing you to the Brossman Ballroom, and there will be a helpful guide at the visitor desk.

If traveling from the York area follow Route 30 East and take the Columbia Exit. Follow Route 441 North to Bainbridge. Turn right onto Route 241. After approximately 4 miles, turn left onto Masonic Drive (just before going under the Amtrak railroad bridge). Continue to the Masonic Village entrance on your left. Follow the signs to the Freemason Culture Center. It will eventually be on your right and has a drive under entry portico. Park anywhere near the building and enter under the portico. Once inside there will be signs directing you to the Brossman Ballroom, and there will be a helpful guide at the visitor desk.

June 28, 2014, Rockhill Furnace, PA Susquehanna Division Meet

Grab your calendar and mark in ink our main outdoors Division attraction of 2014! Saturday, June 28, 2014, will be Susquehanna Division Day at the East Broad Top Railroad and the Rockhill Trolley Museum. Your busy day will begin with a visit to the Rockhill Trolley Museum, which operates historic standard gauge trolleys over a scenic right of way. This part of the event includes a trolley ride, informational talks about the equipment and location by the motorman and conductor, a guided car-barn tour, and a visit to the Museum Store.



2014 Division Events

by Barry Schmitt, Lee Rainey and Howard Oakes

Next on the agenda will be a guided tour of the East Broad Top (EBT) Narrow Gauge Railroad, their machine shops, roundhouse, and yard. The EBT was described by the Smithsonian as “the best preserved example of a 1900 industrial site anywhere in the country.” The site includes a complete railroad machine shop, six steam locomotives, and rolling stock dating back to the 1880s. Also on the tour will be a visit to the car restoration facility operated by the Friends of the East Broad Top.

The final event of the day will be a visit to the Bricktown Model Railroad Club, in nearby Mt. Union, PA. This HO/HOn3 layout represents the PRR from Horseshoe Curve to Mount Union, with East Broad Top narrow gauge trackage as well.

The GPS address for this great all-day event is 421 Meadow Street, Rockhill Furnace, which is located in Huntingdon County PA. If traveling from the east or west simply drive 17 miles north of the Fort Littleton exit on the PA Turnpike (exit 180) via US Route 522. Activities run from 10:30am - 4:00pm. Admission to the tours and trolley ride is \$18, and there is free parking.

Seating on the vintage trolley cars is limited and tour guide staffing needs to be developed, so please call Lee Rainey at 814-867-7878 or email leerainey@aol.com to reserve your place! This great railroading day is open to all model railroaders so come as a group, family, with a model railroader friend, or simply by yourself and be prepared to witness railroading of years gone by.

Project Officer: Lee Rainey

July 10, 2014 - Bowser, English, and Weaver Visit

We have scheduled tours to Bowser Manufacturing and Weaver Scale Models on Thursday, July 10, so be sure to add this to your

future model railroading activities. The weekday visit is necessary because tours are not available on weekends when the businesses are closed.

Bowser is located in Montoursville PA, and has been a well-recognized model railroading name for decades. Their factory store and hobby shop, English’s Model Railroad Supply, is just a few blocks away from the primary Bowser facility and will also be visited during our tour. Finally, Weaver, another highly respected model railroading name, will be included on our tour, and they are located in Northumberland, PA where they produce the well-known line of Scalecoat model paints.

Business addresses, directions, carpooling/group caravan opportunities from various Division locations, and maps will be included in a more detailed Sidetracks article that will appear in our May newsletter. At that time you will also be requested to register for this event so we can provide our hosts with an accurate number of attendees.

These same tours were done way back in 2006 and were definitely a hit. Since then we have received many requests for return visits. This is your chance to see how models are made with injection molding machines, pad printing of road names, assembly, and testing. It is also part of our goal to offer Division activities throughout our large territory; accordingly, we look forward to meeting many of our northern members at this event.

So mark your calendar now for this great day dedicated to model railroading - Thursday, July 10, 2014.

Project Officer: Howard Oakes

Background Info About Our New *Sidetracks* Banner

by Keith Latimer and Barry Schmitt

(In place of our usual "Hobby Shop Focus" column, this issue features a local railfan-themed B & B. Ed.)

Our new banner photo on the top of page 1 comes from Keith Latimer, a railroad aficionado who also happens to be the Innkeeper of the Bridgeview Bed & Breakfast, located a few hundred feet south of the Rockville Bridge on the west shore of the Susquehanna. The photo was taken from the deck of the inn.

The building was constructed almost 100 years ago and was significantly remodeled in 2008. The facility is handicap-accessible and features a large porch, deck and picnic area.



Looking west towards Blue Mountain

The Bridgeview B & B provides home-style accommodations for laid-back people, featuring ten guest suites and plenty of places to kick back and relax. A favorite location is the sitting room, with picture windows overlooking the Susquehanna River and the Rockville Bridge. Guests can sit back and observe railroad activity, birds, wildlife, and of course, the river view.

Another feature of the facility is that there are no in-room TV's or phones. This helps to make it a great place to relax and take a break from the busy outside world while you take a well-deserved rest. However, for those who must stay tethered to that outside world, each guest room has Ethernet LAN connections.

Anytime you are in the Harrisburg area the Bridgeview B&B is a great place for all railroad enthusiasts and their family to stay and view the constant Norfolk Southern and twice-a-day Amtrak movements across the world-famous Rockville Bridge. It is also a very popular destination for railfans from all across the country.

For reservations or information contact Innkeeper Keith Latimer at 717-957-2438, or by e-mail at:

bridgeviewbnb@yahoo.com.

Background Info About Our New *Sidetracks* Banner

by Keith Latimer and Barry Schmitt



View from wrap-around deck



View from inside sitting room



Banner Photo

Free Railpass Trial Membership Sponsored by the MER

**National Model Railroad Association (NMRA)
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 national monthly magazine, and **The Local**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pack.

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 once to each person.) At the end of the six months, I may join the NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

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

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

When this form is completed, mail it to:

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Scales(s): _____ Date Of Birth: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____(Required)
(A Divisional or Regional officer or board member)

Do not mail it directly to NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga TN

**Bob Price
MER Business Manager
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108**

Date of Form: 2/1/2013

Business Sponsor



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Susquehanna Sidetracks

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