



# Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

September 2014

Volume 22 Number 5

## From the Superintendent's Desk *Barry Schmitt*

Greetings Members,

What a great summer we enjoyed this year, with mostly not-so-hot days along with relatively low humidity that made for very comfortable nights. But in just a few weeks summer will end, fall begins, and winter is only three calendar pages away. For most people the 90 days to winter is dreaded for what it portends but for us model railroaders it's our signal to return downstairs or wherever your layout, modeling workbench, or club is located. And for well over 30 of you it means getting your home or club layout ready for November, which is National Model Railroad Month when your Division will present more than 30 layouts for your viewing pleasure (see the article beginning on page 18).

While most of you were able to relax over the Labor Day holiday, several Division members worked through the holiday weekend and untold days since January making final preparations for the September 6 Model Railroad Day at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg. As I write this article we are down to two days before Show

Time. New member Rich Wurst has been the project manager since the project was launched in January and put together what will certainly be our most ambitious Division event in many years. We reached our limit of 100 registrants by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Surely the nine specialized clinics, eight model railroad display layouts, a live steam Pennsy K-4 display model, back shop tours, and all the 1:1 scale museum displays will satisfy even the most critical modeler. On behalf of all our Division members I extend our sincere appreciation to Rich, his three-man project Tiger Team of John Wissinger (MMR), Alan Frame, and Bill Lesjak, and the exceedingly helpful museum staff for all their many hours of hard work!

Wayne Betty, our Division Assistant Superintendent and LSOP6 Project Officer, reports that all the positions are filled for the six layouts that will be operating on October 3-4. As in the past many of those operators will travel to our two primary areas from as far away as Ohio and Massachusetts. This very

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

## Schedules

### Model Railroad Day RR Museum of PA

Sept. 6, 2014 Strasburg PA

### Mainline Hobby Supply Open House

September 20-21, 2014

### LSOP6

October 3-4, 2014

### MER Convention

October 16-19, 2014, Hagerstown MD

### National Model Railroad Month

November Open House Tours

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Banner photo courtesy of Keith Latimer

### Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division  
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA  
138 Old School House Lane  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

#### Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from the Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be sent to the Editor at the e-mail address listed below or the street address above. Deadline for submission for the next issue is October 19, 2014.

#### Board of Directors 2014-2015

##### Superintendent

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##### Sidetracks Editor

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

#### Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:  
[www.susquehannanmra.org](http://www.susquehannanmra.org)

Mid-Eastern Region website:  
[www.mer.nmra.org](http://www.mer.nmra.org)

National Model Railroad Association  
8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

popular annual "op-'til-you-drop" event is made possible by the tireless efforts of six dedicated layout owners: in the Lehigh Valley they are Jim Hertzog, Larry Reynolds, and Gale Smith and in the Lancaster/Harrisburg area are Michael Hartlett, Wayne Betty, and Steven Mallery. Thanks gents for your great program.

On August 10 we held our annual Division Board of Directors (BOD) meeting. A copy of the meeting discussion topics is presented on page 19. A copy of the annual audit of our financial records, which was accomplished by BOD member Howard Oakes, appears on page 3. Our next BOD meeting will be March 28, 2015 from 1-3 PM, and the location will be announced in the January 2015 Sidetracks. All members are invited to attend.

At the August BOD meeting we discussed events under consideration for next year. Like last year a project officer has been assigned for each event being considered. By October 3 a broad schedule of selected events will be defined. From then until late November event project teams will flesh out their event to include building a report that will include all critical task completion dates. All of the proposed events will then be summarized into a proposed 2015 plan that will be presented to the BOD by December 5. Once approved, the plan will be sent to all members in a special December Sidetracks Express issue by December 19. Armed with that schedule you will be able to post all the events on your 2015 calendar and begin making plans to attend. The tentative events under consideration, their location, and assigned project officers (P/O) are presented in an article on page 11. If you would like to work on one of those project teams please contact the project officer.

For those of you who were able to attend the NMRA Convention in Cleveland you already know that two of our members earned key awards at the Awards Banquet. Ron Parisi won first place in the Judged Model Contest (Kit Class) for structures and Lee Rainey walked away with 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Individual Module Contest. Clearly winning top awards at the national convention singles these two members out as being among the best of the best in our hobby. Congratulations Ron and Lee!

I hope you have already made your reservations for the upcoming Hub City Interchange MER Convention scheduled for October 16-19 just down I-81 in Hagerstown MD. Our neighboring South Mountain Division is hosting the convention and has rolled the welcome mat out for all of us. Just looking at their extensive clinic

schedule one could spend the entire convention going from one to another. But they also offer three excellent prototype tours, five great TTTO layout ops sessions, and contests for both models and photographs. So make plans now to get away from your busy schedule and enjoy a long weekend next month that promises nonstop model railroading and the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones all while focused on our great hobby.

I hope those of you who attended our September Model Railroad Day at the Railroad Museum of PA enjoyed yourself and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Hub City Interchange Convention next month in Hagerstown!



**NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
MID-EAST REGION  
SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION # 11  
REVENUE AND EXPENSE STATEMENT - CASH BASIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2014**

	PNC BANK - CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 2,750.52
<u>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JULY 1, 2013</u>		\$ 2,750.52
<u>REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u>		
SUBSCRIPTION INCOME	\$ 94.00	
NMRA (MER) REBATES	228.00	
ADVERTISING INCOME	170.00	
DONATIONS	39.00	
SEPT. 2014 MEET	125.00	
JULY 2014 EBT MEET	288.00	
	<u>TOTAL REVENUE RECEIVED</u>	<u>944.00</u>
	TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE	<u>\$ 3,694.52</u>
<u>EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</u>		
POSTAGE	\$ 142.38	
NEWSLETTER/PRINTING	610.60	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	58.00	
MECHANICSBURG MEET	16.50	
ELIZABETHTOWN MEET	369.34	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,196.82</u>
<u>ENDING CASH BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2014</u>		<u>\$ 2,497.70</u>
	PNC BANK - CHECKING ACCOUNT - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$ 2,084.70
	- TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS (EBT MEET)	125.00
	- TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS (SEPT MEET)	<u>288.00</u>
		<u>\$ 2,497.70</u>

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
PAUL F. TICE, P.A.  
CLERK/PAYMASTER - SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION #11  
JULY 2, 2014  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

## Second Section

By Ron Smith

Hello Everyone!

Hard to believe that as I write this, kids have already returned to school. Can autumn be that far away now?

I'm taking a different approach with this month's column. Instead of describing past activities, I'm using this space to ask for some assistance for the future:

First, I am asking for a few members to volunteer to take photos at Division events. I am not usually able to attend each event, so I need to rely on Division members to take photos for *Sidetracks*. You don't have to have expensive gear – a basic digital camera is fine, and photos can be sent to me as .JPEG files and they'll work just fine for our purposes. The only requirements are that you provide a brief caption or otherwise identify the subject and any people in them (to the best of your ability) so I can place them in the appropriate article. Don't worry about duplicating someone else's efforts – if you take some photos at a Division gathering, please share them with me for publication!

Next, I am asking for a couple of people to volunteer to be proofreaders. Right now Barry and I do most of the proofing, and we could use some more (better) talent in this regard. This task should only take about a half-hour or so on one or two evenings every other month.

Lastly, *Sidetracks* has no backlog of articles. I encourage you to submit articles and /or photos of your layouts, projects you have on the work bench, or prepare a feature article about clubs, layouts, hobby shops or railfan locations you have visited. If you have been following Jerry Britton's or Tom Matthews' recent

series about their layouts, you can use their articles to guide you as to what type of content we're looking for. We use Word documents, basic photos, and occasionally Excel spreadsheets to create articles so it really is quite easy. And, any articles published in *Sidetracks* count towards the "Association Volunteer" AP Award!

My contact information is:

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

End of sales pitch. The next three months abound with opportunities for you to attend clinics, visit other home layouts and enjoy the hobby with friends and fellow modelers. My home layout will be open on September 21<sup>st</sup> during the Mainline Hobby Supply Open House, October 19<sup>th</sup> during the MER Convention "Going Home" tours and on November 1<sup>st</sup> as part of the National Model Railroad Month festivities, so I hope you have the chance to stop in and say hello!

*Ron*

### **WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!!**

Please welcome our newest NMRA members:

Robert Davies  
Dennis Lenz  
Tim Mallon  
Philip Micklitsch  
James Stuchko  
Steven Zuby

Emmaus, PA  
Lancaster, PA  
Altoona, PA  
Jersey Shore, PA  
Jefferson Township, PA  
Coal Township, PA

### MODEL RAILROADING DAY at the RAILROAD MUSEUM of PENNSYLVANIA

The NMRA Susquehanna Division is proud to hold a special event co-sponsored with the RR Museum of PA on Saturday, September 6, 2014 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. Model Railroading Day is the first collaboration between the NMRA and the RR Museum utilizing museum facilities for special educational clinics and unique tour opportunities.

Scheduled workshops / activities will include:

- Intro to Airbrushing
- Small Space Modeling Concepts
- Tree making
- Make-and-Take laser kit building (limited to the first 25 registrants)
- Several layouts will be on display

This event occurred prior to distribution of this issue, but your BOD wanted to thank the 100 people who registered – a complete sellout! A lot of effort went into putting this event together and many thanks are extended to those individuals who planned it and to the clinicians who are sharing their time and talents with us to make this day a success. Watch for a more-detailed write-up in the November *Sidetracks*.

*Ron*





## Cleveland 2014

Some members from our Susquehanna Division were able to attend the recent National Convention in Cleveland, and from what I've read and heard it was quite a gathering. Lots of kudos for the planning and execution, and I understand there were lots of nice layouts on display at the National Train Show.

Congratulations to Ron Parisi and Lee Rainey for bringing home awards. Here are a couple of photos submitted by division members and / or used with permission from the MCR Division 7 newsletter.



## Upcoming Events In or Near Our Division

Compiled by Ron Smith

**Saturday September 6, 2014**  
**Susquehanna Division Day**  
**Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania**  
**Strasburg, PA**

**Sunday September 14, 2014**  
**Northern Central Division PRRT&HS**  
**Quarterly Meeting – York PA**

Free, open to the public. Otterbein United Methodist Church, 301 W. Philadelphia Ave, York. Special Guest: Brenda Yarrison, author and re-enactor on *Steam Into History* excursions. Web Site:

<http://ncchapter.pennsyr.com>

**September 20-21, 2014**  
**Mainline Hobby Supply Open House**  
**Blue Ridge Summit PA**

Two-day event featuring layout tours within 60 miles of Mainline Hobby Supply.

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

**September 26-28, 2014**  
**Reading Railroad Modelers Meet**  
**Hamburg, PA**

See website for full details

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

**October 3-4, 2014**  
**L-SOP6**

Lehigh-Susquehanna Operations Weekend  
(As of 8/16/14, all slots are full)

**Sunday October 5, 2014**  
**Reading CO. T&HS Train Meet**  
**Leesport, PA 9 Am – 1 PM**  
Leesport Market Banquet Hall  
312 Gernant's Church Road  
Admission: \$4

**October 16-19, 2014**  
**MER Fall Convention**  
**Hagerstown, MD**

<http://www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html>

**November Model Railroad Month**  
**Open House Tours**

**1<sup>st</sup> Weekend: Southern Region**

**2<sup>nd</sup> weekend: Mountain Region**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend: Eastern Region**

See page 18 for details

**Sunday November 2, 2014**  
**Lock Haven PA**

Clinton Central Model RR Club Fall Train Meet, Mill Hall Vol. Fire Dept, Water Street & Peale Ave, Miner Hall PA 9-3, \$4

### **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.

The prospective member fills out the free MER Railpass membership application form on page 22 of this issue (not the standard NMRA Railpass form), and give it to a Division Director who will sign and forward it to the Division Membership Chairman for processing. Our Membership Chairman, Howard Oakes, will forward the application to the MER. Stan's mailing address is on the Railpass form.

## Planning for the NYO&W, Part 4

By Tom Matthews

### Newburgh, NY

Welcome to Part 4 of the story of planning for the NYO&W layout. 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. In the last issue, our story discussed wiring and basic landforms for scenery. Join us as we continue our journey through southern New York State, venturing along the westbound New York Central West Shore line to Newburgh.

Newburgh, on the west bank of the Hudson River about 60 miles north of New York City, was an eastern terminal for the Erie Railroad long before the West Shore line came to town. When the West Shore was continued north (timetable west) from Cornwall it sliced across the Erie at the throat of their harbor-front yard and car float operation. The Erie arrived in Newburgh on a long grade which took advantage of a rock out-cropping. This rock gave the West Shore a place to tunnel under the Erie so it could proceed north without a crossing at grade.

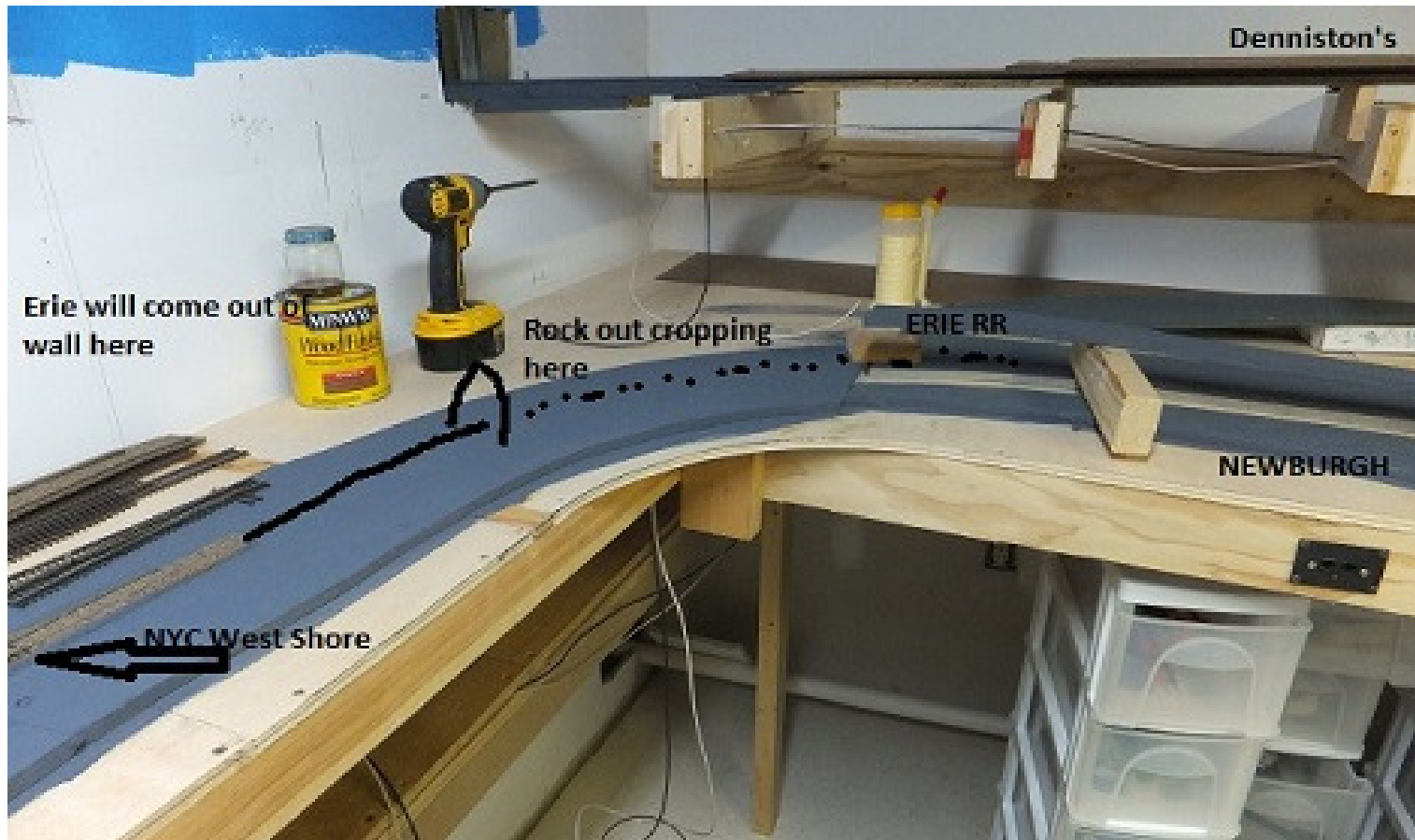




## Planning for the NYO&W, Part 4

By Tom Matthews

An interchange was established for freight transfer and a double-decked station was built for passengers. The tunnel has since been “daylighted” and replaced by a steel trestle supporting the industrial trackage that was once the Erie RR.



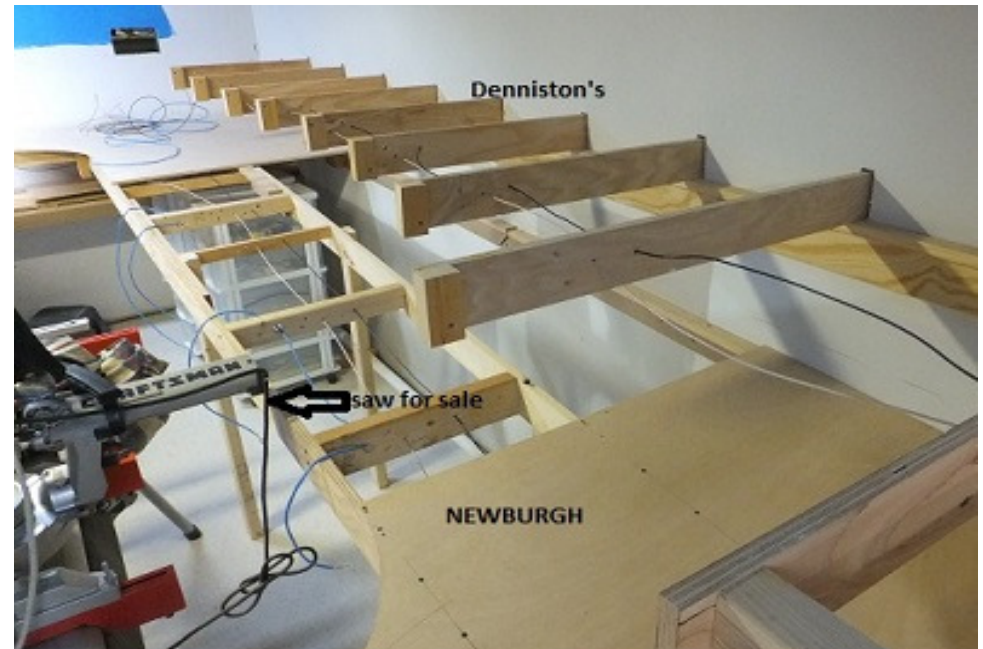
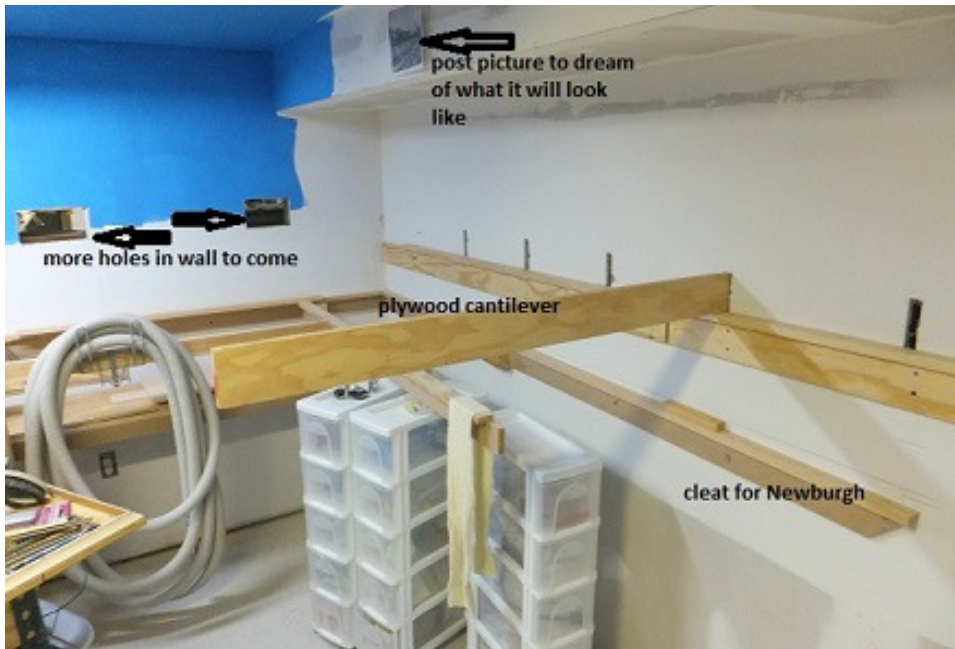
My model of Newburgh will be, as many models are, truncated quite a bit. I will not have the car float operation, and only a small yard will have to represent what was once a bustling area. Nonetheless, I will try to capture the flavor of Newburgh and have plenty of activity to keep a switching crew busy.

## Planning for the NYO&W, Part 4

By Tom Matthews

Directly above Newburgh will be Denniston on the NYO&W. The benchwork for the upper level is cantilevered, with 1x4 (3/4" plywood cut to 3.5" boards) beams which go through a wall allowing approximately the same length on each side. The other side of the wall will be Burnside, which I will cover later.

Denniston, which will be on the upper level above Newburgh, had a team track which in 1948 was converted to a cement dump. During the expansion of Stewart Army Air Field into Stewart Air Force Base, many loads of cement arrived there.



The area behind the wall labeled “more holes to come” is the Dispatcher’s office. It will contain the Dispatcher along with several staging track areas at several elevations.

Until next time,

*Tom Matthews*

## 2015 Division Planning

By Barry Schmitt

### 2015 Events Under Consideration

The following events are being researched for possible inclusion in our 2015 program. A few of them will be evaluated as possible joint events with other Divisions that border our 32-county territory. The approved plan will be presented to all members in a special December Sidetracks Express issue devoted solely to our 2015 event schedule.

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of these project teams please contact the project officer directly – they would welcome your help. Joining one of the teams offers a great opportunity to get involved in your Division activities. Note: the annual meeting identified as part of the Apr event is required by our Division by-laws.

1. Feb - Clinics and Layout Tours – Mechanicsburg - Ron Smith P/O, [rsmith@susquehannamra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannamra.org).
2. Apr - Annual Division Meeting, Clinics, and Layout Tours – Barry Schmitt P/O, [bschmitt@susquehannamra.org](mailto:bschmitt@susquehannamra.org).
3. May - Live Steam Educational Clinic and Large Outdoor Layout Operation – Dan Horting P/O, [k4builder@comcast.net](mailto:k4builder@comcast.net).
4. Jun, Jul, or Aug - Steamtown and Electric City Tour – Scranton - John Wissinger P/O, [jwissinger@susquehannamra.org](mailto:jwissinger@susquehannamra.org).
5. Jun, Jul, or Aug – Reading Railroad Heritage Museum and Near-by Sites – Hamburg – Fred Kurtz P/O, [fkurtz@fredbkurtz.com](mailto:fkurtz@fredbkurtz.com).

6. Jun, Jul, or Aug – Cumberland MD All Day or Weekend Rail Venture – Cumberland MD – Howard Oakes P/O, [hoakes@susquehannamra.org](mailto:hoakes@susquehannamra.org).
7. Jun, Jul, or Aug – All-day or multi-day visit to several home and club layouts in our Mountain Sub Division – awaiting designation of P/O.
8. Sep 19-20 – Sat PA Railroad Museum Clinics and Layout Displays and Sun Layout Tours – Strasburg and surrounding area – Rich Wurst P/O, [rjwurst@comcast.net](mailto:rjwurst@comcast.net).
9. Sep 19-20 – Co-sponsor Mainline Hobby Open Houses – Blue Ridge Summit – Ron Smith P/O, [rsmith@susquehannamra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannamra.org).
10. Oct 2-3 – LSOP7 – Lehigh Valley, Harrisburg/Lancaster, and possibly State College – Wayne Betty P/O, [wsb@susquehannamra.org](mailto:wsb@susquehannamra.org).
11. Oct 22-25 – MER Convention – Mt Laurel NJ – sponsored by NJ Div of MER.
12. Nov 7, 14, and 21 – Division-wide Layout Open Houses – P/O's are Lee Rainey ([lrainey@susquehannamra.org](mailto:lrainey@susquehannamra.org)), Forrest Lucas ([flucas@atlanticbb.net](mailto:flucas@atlanticbb.net)), Jerry Britton ([jerry@pennsyrr.com](mailto:jerry@pennsyrr.com)), and Allan Laird ([biker.al3@aol.com](mailto:biker.al3@aol.com)).

2015 is looking like another great year for Susquehanna Division events!

## July 10<sup>th</sup> Division Event: Bowser / Weaver Tour

Article by Howard Oakes

### Bowser & Weaver Tours – July 10

On July 10<sup>th</sup> members and guests of the Susquehanna Division were treated to a model railroader's delight by visiting two well-known manufacturers and a home layout. The first stop was Bowser Manufacturing and the adjoining English's Model Railroad Supply located in Montoursville. The 38 attendees were split into two groups with one group touring while the other shopped in the large, well-stocked store. After an hour the groups swapped venues so that the first touring group would have their opportunity to shop 'til they dropped.



Lee English discusses the pad printing process.

Owner Lee English hosted the Bowser tour. The tour included a discussion on the state of hobby shops and their role in the model railroading industry. Lee showed how a prototype is selected to become a model for production. He showed us the research, production drawings and technical specifications needed to produce an accurate model. The timeline and effort to bring a model from concept to design, manufacturing, packaging, advertising and final sale was discussed.



Shown here is a boxcar being pad printed with a road name, car number, or other fine detail.

Lee showed us the large machines which turn liquid plastic into rail cars and other detail parts. These desk sized machines contain several precise fitting steel molds to produce each specific casting. The steel molds are so heavy that a winch is needed to move and position them into the machine. Although large, these machines can produce items as small as N scale roof walks. Some of the molds have been in use for many years and several were purchased during the acquisition of other manufacturers such as Cal Scale, Selley and Cary. There is also a machine that spins flat cylindrical wooden molds to produce O scale pewter figures.



## July 10<sup>th</sup> Division Event: Bowser / Weaver Tour

Article by Howard Oakes

The pad printing machine is probably the most fascinating piece of equipment we viewed. The pad printing machine involves a multi-step operation which prints the road name, car number, dimensional data and even the railroad herald onto the car. Many cars use white lettering and the information is double printed which means the printing pad must remain precisely aligned so the lettering will not shadow. Multiple colors are applied separately, so multi-colored cars require a lot of handling.



Playing with trains while waiting for the tour to start. Thomas steals the show!

After lunch, owner Joe Hayter welcomed us to Weaver Scale Models in Northumberland. Joe discussed the state of the model railroading hobby from the O-scale point of view. Weaver produces 2 and 3 rail engines and DCC is available in most. A full line of O-scale railroad equipment is manufactured from the engine to the caboose and every type of freight car in between.

Weaver manufactures the Scalecoat line of model paints, and a few members took the opportunity to purchase paints after the tour. We were shown the paint masks used to produce a multiple colored engine, car or caboose. These masks are so tight fitting that basically the painter holds the car, places the mask against it and applies the spray paint. No taping is needed and the paint line is sharp and crisp.



Joe Hayter of Weaver Models discusses what is necessary to print the multi-colored designs. This is not a decal, each color is applied separately.

Weaver also uses pad printing machines for road names, etc. While we were there the operator was calibrating the machine to print the outline of the railroad herald in a second color. The printing pad had to be aligned just right since it would be putting the outline color on boxcars already painted and partially lettered. No mistakes or the paint job would be ruined after so much work had already been put forth.

## July 10<sup>th</sup> Division Event: Bowser / Weaver Tour

Article by Howard Oakes

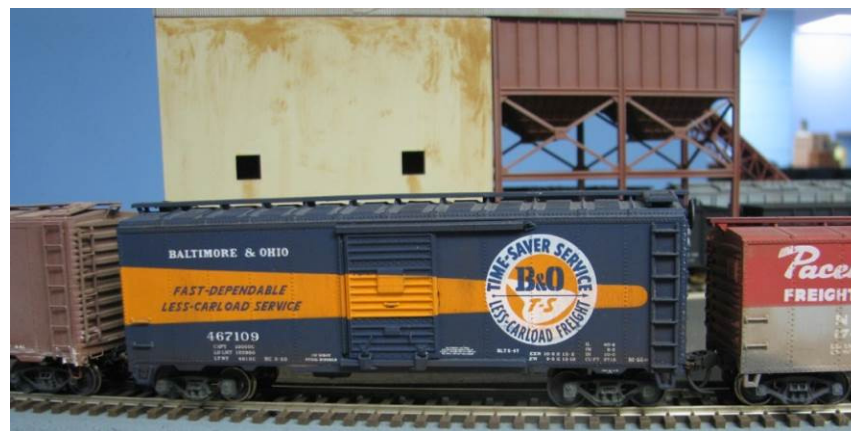


Examples of Weaver's colorful covered hoppers.

We viewed an assembler attaching the trucks to the bottom of flatcars. This led to the discussion of how one model can be painted and lettered for several road names thereby saving on tooling and production costs. This particular flatcar was a trailer train car (TOFC or piggy back car) and gives further variety to the modeler since each flatcar road name could have one of several different highway trailer colors and names. Joe spoke of the risk manufacturers take when they produce a model which is specific to one railroad only. That model cannot be painted and lettered for other railroads and still be prototypically correct. The engine, car or caboose chosen for production must appeal to a significant number of modelers to be financially viable.

Our touring group enjoyed the day and had ample time to ask questions with not only the owners but with several employees. Please support these manufacturers in our hobby. They are passionate about the products and services they offer. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact either of them.

As an added bonus to the day, John Gromley hosted an open house of his layout. John has a sizeable HO scale layout which will be open for viewing on November 8<sup>th</sup> during the National Model Railroad Month layout tours hosted by the Susquehanna Division. Specific information about this and other fine layouts can be found in Sidetracks.



A photo of John Gromley's layout. See the entire layout on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Howard Oakes*



## Division Members Out and About

Photos by Ron Smith

August 22-24 was the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual N Scale Weekend in Bedford, PA. Although not a Division-sponsored event, several Division members attended this show as vendors, shoppers, or module-builders displaying their work (in some cases, all three!) While N-Trak modules have been a staple of this show since the beginning, recently T-Trak modules have made an appearance and the number of those modules increases each year. Attendees come from as far away as New Jersey, upstate New York and central Ohio to run trains, catch up with old friends, and purchase or swap models.



The photo doesn't do justice to this multi-module steel mill, part of the PenNScalers display. It is truly a wonderful scene to behold.



View from the balcony, which also contained a nice layout.



To paraphrase NBC's Brian Williams, "Our own Dean and Anita Brenner take a break from running trains at Bedford..."

## Upcoming 2014 Division Events

By various Project Officers

### September 20-21, 2014

#### Mainline Hobby Supply Open House

Mainline Hobby Supply of Blue Ridge Summit, PA will be holding their 25<sup>th</sup> annual Open House on the third weekend of September. Along with extended hours and a sale on their already-great prices, the store arranges for area layouts to be open for visitors during the weekend.

The store is open Saturday from 9-5 and Sunday 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.

One of the highlights of the Open House Weekend is the opportunity to visit area layouts, and this year's tour again features layouts from all over the area around Mainline Hobby Supply, including some of our Division members. Note that while many of the layouts are outside of our division area, they are certainly worthy of a visit if your time allows.

As a convenience for our Division members, we are listing those 11 layouts in Adams, York and Cumberland counties that will be open that weekend. To be a part of this event, visit the store, sign in to get the tour book that describes all the layouts and provides driving directions, shop, and enjoy a day (or two!) driving around this scenic area of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Mark your calendars now for this long-standing South-Central PA tradition!

*Project Officer: Ron Smith*

#### Art Selby's Blue Ridge Midland RR – O Scale

21 Main Trail, Fairfield PA  
Saturday: 10 AM – 12 PM  
1 PM – 5 PM  
Sunday: 1 PM – 5 PM

#### Richard Randall's Milwaukee Road – O Scale

301 Forrest Drive, Gettysburg, PA  
Saturday: 1 PM – 4 PM  
Sunday: 1 PM – 4 PM

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

300 Hanover Street, Gettysburg PA  
Saturday: 10 AM – 5 PM  
Sunday: 11 AM – 4 PM

#### Scott Griffis' Pennsylvania RR - HO Scale

2086 Storms Store Road, New Oxford PA  
Saturday: 10 AM – 7 PM  
Sunday: Closed

#### PenNscalers Model RR Club – N Scale

Brethren Home, New Oxford, PA  
Saturday: 10 AM – 4 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM – 4 PM

#### Barry Zeigler's Pennsylvania RR - G Scale

16 Howard Drive, East Berlin PA  
Saturday: 1 PM – 5 PM  
Sunday: 1 PM – 5 PM

### Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna  
Division, NMRA



## Upcoming 2014 Division Events

By various Project Officers

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

3601 Fawn Lane, Glenville PA  
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### The York Connecting Railroad – HO Scale

381 Wheatfield Street, York PA  
Saturday: 12 PM – 5 PM  
Sunday: Closed

### Keystone Model RR Club – HO Scale

833 West Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, PA  
Saturday: 12 PM – 5 PM  
Sunday: 12 PM – 5 PM

### Jerry Ryan's South Mountain Lines – N, HO and O 3-Rail

1179 Boiling Springs Rd, Mechanicsburg PA  
Saturday: Closed  
Sunday: 12 PM – 5 PM

### Ron Smith's E-L / Bath & Hammondsport RR - N Scale

138 Old School House Lane, Mechanicsburg PA  
Saturday: Closed  
Sunday: 12 PM – 5 PM

### October 3-4, 2014 - LSOP-6

This is another annual tradition in the Fall for South-Central PA. As of this writing all slots are full. Remember to sign up early for next year's LSOP-7 to be held on October 2-3, 2015!

*Project Officer: Wayne Betty*

### October 16-19, 2014 - MER Hagerstown MD Convention & Layout Open Houses Program

The South Mountain Division is hosting the 2014 Mid- Eastern Region NMRA Convention in October of this year. The convention will be held in Hagerstown MD on October 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. One of the highlights of any convention is the layout tours. This year's convention will feature early bird tours on Thursday night (Hagerstown area only) and afternoon tours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Twenty-one individuals have already volunteered to host layout tours and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their support for the convention program. There is plenty of room for additional layouts to be open during the convention. If you have not volunteered yet, and would like to host a layout open house during the convention or have questions about the project, please contact me (Bob Johnson – [rcyrilj@aol.com](mailto:rcyrilj@aol.com) or 301-606-5797) as soon as possible and indicate the days you could be open.

Please understand that tours are scheduled to create area routes which allow convention participants to visit multiple layouts in the same general area on any given day. This helps to ensure that the layouts that are open have enough visitors to justify the effort the host invests in preparing for their open house. This means that if a single individual volunteers to host a layout tour, and there are no other layouts in their area, we may choose to leave them off of the schedule, unless they indicate that they understand that they may not have many visitors but want to be open regardless.

We hope to see all of you at the convention!

<http://www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html>

*Bob Johnson – MER South Mountain Division*

## Upcoming 2014 Division Events

By various Project Officers

### **November is Model Railroad Month!**

### **3 Weekends of Layout Open Houses!!**

We are less than two months away from embarking on our second Division-wide November open house project. As of today we have 30 layouts committed to the program and at least two more awaiting layout owner decisions. The distribution is 9 in our Southern area, 7 in the East, and 14 in our very large Mountain territory that runs from Ebensburg near our western border to Scranton near our northern border. On behalf of all our members we offer many thanks to not only the layout owners and clubs who will be participating in the program but also to our project officers out in the trenches contacting layout owners and collecting the all-important layout information. Those key project officers are Lee Rainey and Forrest Lucas in our mountain territory, Charles Kadyk on the eastern front, and Jerry Britton managing our southern counties.

As you may recall last year all our open houses were posted on Jerry Britton's Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMRR) website. This year we are experimenting with a new approach and our Mountain and Eastern Subs are our test locations. So far the test has worked very well and we are now down to the challenging process of building the final product. For both of the test Subs we developed a standard information page that presents the following information for each layout: layout owner name, layout name, open date and hours, address, GPS coordinates, special considerations (i.e. parking), layout details (e.g. design concept, scale, percentage of track-work completed, percentage of scenery completed, and type of operating system), and a brief layout description. All of that information will appear

on the front of each layout page and a map to the layout address from a prominent area point on the back of the page. Jerry will continue to use his SVMRR website to present the layouts in our Southern Sub.

Our Division website will have a dedicated area that will provide all the layout pages for both the Mountain and Eastern Subs Division. Also, a broad area map will be included at the beginning of each Sub Layout Brochure showing all the layouts in the Sub so you can get a logical area reference for the Sub's territory. We will also provide a link to Jerry's SVMRR site that will present all the Southern Sub layouts.

The open house schedule, by Sub, is: Southern - Nov 1-2; Mountain - Nov 8; and Eastern - Nov 15. We expect the Southern Sub layouts will be ready to review on the SVMRR site by early October, the Mountain brochure on the Division website by mid-October, and the Eastern Sub brochure about a week later. The layout owners and clubs are putting a lot of modeling effort into preparing their empires for your visit so please make plans to see as many of them as possible. Family outings, car-pooling, or just a solo trip are great ways to enjoy the great PA landscape while visiting 30+ great model railroads. My wife Sue and I plan to visit as many as possible each weekend and we hope to meet you along the way!

*Barry Schmitt*

## BOD Meeting Minutes – 8/10/14

By Barry Schmitt

### AUGUST 10, 2014 BOD MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Barry Schmitt, Paul Tice, Dave Collison, Wayne Betty, Howard Oakes, Lee Rainey, Rich Wurst, John Wissinger, Ron Smith

1. Importance of BOD Member Assistants and Committee Chairman Assistants:
  1. Example of need evidenced by those not attending or late arrivals/early departures for this meeting where decisions must be made.
  2. Need more member help in spreading heavy Div workload.
  3. Please find a member or multiple members to help you.
  4. Great way to recruit future Div leaders!
2. Website enhancements:
  1. Due to Wayne's early departure will have to work in future.
  2. Goal – enhanced website by Jan 1, 2015 to include:
    - i. New monthly calendar of events with members photos at top like NMRA annual calendar.
    - ii. Create Division photo gallery section.
    - iii. Create pre-event special notice section.
  3. Consider website project team with section responsibility under the Webmaster.
3. Event Project Officer and Support Team responsibilities:
  1. Discussed need for complete project management.
2. Importance of detailed project timeline that defines all critical tasks:
  - i. Project officers use to prevent bottlenecks, identify problem areas, and determine how to get back on schedule if problems develop.
  - ii. Sample timeline for Nov 2014 open house project will be reviewed.
3. Role of Division Super – project team member/observer and final project approval authority.
4. Each 2015 Event Project Officer required to develop a project timeline.
4. 2015 Event Planning project:
  1. Decision – the 2015 event planning project will be managed by email.
    - i. Email to all Project Officers with specific project guidance and reporting requirements will be sent by 9-5-2014.
  2. For a discussion of potential events and project officers (P/O's), please see page 11.
5. Letters to all new members, 1 month from expiring, and expired:
  1. Howard doing excellent job of staying on top of our membership program.
  2. Example – Aug 2014 first month our membership database had no member losses – way to go Howard!

## BOD Meeting Minutes – 8/10/14

By Barry Schmitt

### 6. NMRA Insurance Program:

1. NMRA policy is clear – if layout owner is not an NMRA member their layout is not covered under NMRA liability insurance program.
2. Below guidance will become Division policy effective Jan 1, 2015:
  - i. Will offer Rail Pass membership to all non-member layout owners:
    1. Insurance coverage starts when name appears on MER membership database.
    2. If new member does not join NMRA at end of 6-month trial period, no future coverage unless they subsequently join NMRA.
  - ii. Standard Division letter will be available Jan 1, 2015 requiring layout owner signature that states they understand no NMRA liability insurance coverage is provided if they refuse Rail Pass trial membership or remain non-NMRA members.

### 7. Division reorganization with 3 or 4 Sub Divisions:

1. Decided not to pursue formal reorganization; instead, create informal 3 or 4 area structure.
2. Evaluate one year later.

### 8. Build *Sidetracks* project team:

1. Build and advertise 2015 publication dates in Nov 2014 Sidetracks.
2. Develop regular features with assigned reporters and scheduled publish dates for hobby shops, clubs, home layouts/projects, AP program, and special hobby features.
3. Need to recruit photography, advertiser updates, proof reading, and home delivery processing team members.

### 9. Member vs non-member attendance at Division sponsored events:

1. Have always invited any modeler to attend all events whether a member or not.
2. Why join NMRA if event participation is free.
3. Other Divisions allow 3 free visits and then charge \$3-10 for all future visits.
4. Will consider a similar Division policy for 2015.

### 10. Develop/distribute member survey:

1. Poll member likes, dislikes, suggestions for improvements, suggested events and clinics, etc.
2. Rich Wurst and Lee Rainey agreed to develop and distribute by early Nov 2014.

### 11. 2015 Mini-Convention – Rich Wurst P/O:

1. PA Railroad Museum reserved for Sep 19-20, 2014 event.



## BOD Meeting Minutes – 8/10/14

By Barry Schmitt

2. Weekend concept – Sat clinics and layout displays at museum, possible banquet, a Div Strasburg RR ride (lunch or dinner), Strasburg RR back shop tour, and Sun area layout open houses.
  3. Solicit Div-wide hobby shops to offer special discounts to register attendees using name tags like Choo Choo Nuts doing for 9-6-14 event.
  4. Concerns – Sep month before MER Convention, banquet expense vs attendance, and possible other location or month better for such an event – project team will make recommendations.
12. 2016/2017 MER Convention:
1. Our Division is long overdue for such a project.
  2. Bob Charles was to make recommendation based on future MER schedule:
    - i. Bob did not attend or provide recommendations.
    - ii. Will reconsider next year at this time.
    - iii. Urge all to attend Hagerstown Convention in Oct
13. Establish Advertising/Marketing Committee: no volunteers so far.
14. Build joint event with Keystone Division - Forrest Lucas and Lee Rainey P/O's:
15. Next BOD/Committee Chairman meeting Sat, Mar 28, 1-3PM – location TBD.
  16. Audit completed by Howard Oakes on Aug 5.
  17. Emphasized need for all Division BOD members and Committee Chairman to attend all Division events:
    1. Hard to convince members to attend if key Division leaders absent.
    2. We build and provide annual event schedule in Dec for following year – plenty of time to plan and schedule.
    3. Event attendance is an essential leadership responsibility.



**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 eLocal**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter if an e-mail address is provided. 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 only 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 or a prior Rail Pass member.

---

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Susquehanna Sidetracks**

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