



Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

November 2014

Volume 22 Number 6

From the Superintendent's Desk

Barry Schmitt

Schedules

Fall Greetings to All,

A busy Susquehanna Division year is nearing its end. For the many members who developed and led these programs we extend our sincere thanks to you and to those of you who attended one or more of them. Looking back we completed eight events to date and have one grand finale scheduled over the next three November weekends.

Our 2014 event program began in January when eight hardy modelers endured a harsh winter night learning how to make trees at the Masonic Village Railroad Club. In Feb, 28 of us attended three excellent clinics, toured the historic Mechanicsburg depot, and visited three nearby model railroads. In May, 42 modelers attended three morning clinics at the E-Town Masonic Village followed by three club visits that afternoon. In late June, 39 rail enthusiasts spent a beautiful early summer day exploring the East Broad Top

Railroad facilities and the Rockhill Trolley Museum. Then, just 12 days later, 39 of us spent a full day touring Bowser Manufacturing and English's Model Railroad supply in Montoursville and Weaver Scale Models in Northumberland, and a few members visited John Gromley's HO layout in Jersey Shore on their way home. Then on Sep 6, 100 registered modelers and 750 members of the public attended our largest single day event in recent memory - Model Railroad Day at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg. Finally on Oct 3 and 4, 22 dedicated operators attended our 6th annual two-day Lehigh-Susquehanna Operations Weekend (LSOP6) where 12 operated on three layouts in the Lehigh Valley area (Larry Reynolds, Gale Smith, and Jim Hertzog) and 10 operated on three layouts in the Susquehanna Valley area (Mike Hartlett, Wayne Betty and Steven Mallery).

National Model Railroad Month

November Open House Tours
First 3 Weekends in November

Feb. 7, 2015, Mechanicsburg PA

Division Meet with clinics and more!

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Banner photo courtesy of Keith Latimer

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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 December 19, 2014.

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Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:
www.susquehannanmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region website:
www.mer.nmra.org

National Model Railroad Association
8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
www.nmra.org

Our 2014 grand finale encompasses the next three weekends. November is National Model Railroad Month and we are celebrating it by presenting 34 home and club layouts for your viewing pleasure. Realizing that some may want to visit layouts all across our 32-county area we grouped them into our three sub-divisions: our Southern Sub will be open this weekend (Nov 1 and 2), our Mountain Sub-division Nov 8, and our Eastern Sub Nov 15. All layouts, locations, maps, and layout descriptions are presented on our website at www.susquehannanmra.org. We sincerely thank all our layout owners and club members for the many hours of preparation associated with such an involved program particularly during Nov which is the beginning of the holiday season.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Oct 16-19 MER Convention in Hagerstown MD and had the pleasure of talking with eight of our Division members. I hope many more of you were able to attend some of the programs and am sorry I didn't get to say howdy. Clearly the highlight of the convention for me was the Awards ceremony where Susquehanna Division member Fred Phillips won the Best in Show Award for the judged model contest and Favorite Model in the popular vote contest for his spectacular Dando Coal Breaker scratchbuilt model – see photo of Fred, his model, and awards taken after the Awards ceremony on page 3. Those who attended our May 10 meeting at the Masonic Village earlier this year will recall Fred's N-scale model mockup. Being an N-Scaler I thought his mockup alone was worthy of a top structure award. And before leaving the MER Convention topic it is time to mark your calendar and make plans to attend next year's convention – The Delaware Valley Turn scheduled for Oct 22-25, 2015 in Mt Laurel NJ – just a few miles east of Philly.

We are nearing the end of the planning phase for our 2015 Event Program. Our project team has narrowed the events down to nine. We plan to present the final plan to include locations, dates, and a brief event discussion in a mid-Dec Sidetracks Express issue. Thanks for attending our varied 2014 program and hopefully we'll see many more of you at our 2015 outings.

I hope you take at least one day during the next three weekends to visit several of the excellent layouts open in our Division during National Model Railroad Month. Visiting layouts both in your area or other locations in our Division makes for a fun day either as a great family outing, as a group of modeling friends, or simply going solo. The key is seeing what others have done and learning new ideas. Another great way to enjoy

such visits is to take a friend who isn't a model railroader and introduce them to our great hobby.

Some ask why layout owners or club members go to so much trouble opening their layouts to the public. For me, primarily a club model railroader due to space limitations, nothing invigorates or inspires me more than seeing that sparkle in the bright eyes and smiles on the faces of youngsters who visit our layouts. Through them I see the same fascination and awe I experienced when my father took my younger brother and me to see two Baltimore city fire station layouts – we called them Christmas Gardens – so many years ago. The reasons for all the work are many but I believe we all enjoy sharing our love of this great hobby with others. So go to our website and build your layout visit schedule – I assure you it will be a fun adventure and I'll wager you learn a few new modeling tricks.

My wife Sue and I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving and great modeling in the years ahead!



Fred Phillips with his award-winning HO model

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!!

Please welcome our newest NMRA members:

George Adams	Lancaster, PA
Samuel Bischel	Lancaster, PA
Robert Borowski	West Chester, PA
Zane Bulkholz	Columbia, PA
Paul Crouse	Shrewsbury, PA
Alan Garner	Harrisburg, PA
Deborah Geltz	Lititz, PA
Wayne Geltz	Lititz, PA
Daniel Horting	Lancaster, PA
Carol Johnson	Adamstown, PA
Theodore Richter	Dingsmans Ferry, PA
James Tshudy	Stevens, PA
Thomas Vaughn	Howard, PA

Second Section

By Ron Smith

Hello Everyone!

November is here, and it is National Model Railroading Month! I hope you have the opportunity to visit some of the many home and club layouts that will be open during the first three weekends of November.

I was able to spend a day at the recent MER Convention in Hagerstown. It was a nice day and I had the chance to see friends old and new. The breadth of clinic topics that were offered was impressive, ranging from prototype info to operations on model railroads to modeling techniques. I attended three clinics and enjoyed all of them; the presenters were well prepared and discussed interesting (to me) topics. The model contest room had some fine models on display – though few in number the quality was very high. A few photos of the event are presented elsewhere in this issue.

For some time the BOD and I have been kicking around the idea of offering advertising space in Sidetracks for our members to feature their layouts. This is done successfully in other Divisions – they are called “Pike Ads” - as a way to offset the newsletter printing costs and we’d like to begin this feature in 2015. For a \$10 donation, we’ will run a small ad in 6 issues of Sidetracks. Please see the examples at right (one is copied from another division’s newsletter) in order to give you some ideas. Please contact me with your ads or questions about the program; this is open to private layouts and clubs. I would need your submittals by 12/17/14 to get this in place for the initial issue of 2015. Make checks payable to “Susquehanna Division NMRA” and mail them to me at the address on the last page.

As always, *Sidetracks* needs input from you to make it an interesting read. We want to publish photos of your models and layouts, and articles you prepare count towards the AP author certificate. You can send them to me directly at:

rsmith@susquehannanmra.org

Hope to see you on the layout tours!

Ron

 <p>Scotia Harbor & Moose Point Railway The Downeast Route</p>	<p>Susan Werner, CEO 292 Salem Church Rd. Belle Vernon, PA 15012 swerner48@yahoo.com</p>
	<p>Ron Smith</p>
<p>Modeling the Southern Tier of New York in N Scale 717-253-1431 rs25760@hotmail.com</p>	

Model Railroading Day at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

By Rich Wurst

MODEL RAILROADING DAY at the RAILROAD MUSEUM of PENNSYLVANIA

September 6, 2014 saw the first Model Railroad Day at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. This special event was sponsored by our Susquehanna Division in cooperation with Railroad Museum staff. What began as a possible offering to members grew into a very special day for NMRA members and the general public.



Utilizing the NMRA marketing venues, local hobby shops and the wide reach of the Friends of the Railroad Museum we maxed out our pre-registration at 100 participants. Overflow requests for registration was handled by event day admissions. According to the Museum staff over 850 visitors enjoyed the opportunity of participating in 9 model railroading clinics, a special Restoration Shop tour, observing 8 club layouts (including N, HO, S, & O scales), seeing up-close a 1 1/2" scale hand-built PRR K4 steam locomotive, and viewing all the exhibits, locomotives, rolling stock and artifacts displayed inside and outside the Railroad Museum. A vintage Good Humor truck (selling ice cream) and a calliope highlighted the day!

Having heard the positive reactions to Model Railroad Day from registered participants and the general public, we look forward to this event becoming a yearly offering. The Museum staff was so enthused with our organization and management that they offered their venue for next year with the thought of expanding from one to several days. Questionnaires regarding the event have been received from participants and their suggestions will be assessed as we plan for another Model Railroad experience. Details for next year's Model Railroading Days will be forthcoming as we plan new activities and expand opportunities.

What better place to learn about model railroading than a real-life railroad museum?

Rich Wurst

Model Railroading Day at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

By Rich Wurst



Upcoming Events In or Near Our Division

Compiled by Ron Smith

November Model Railroad Month Open House Tours

1st Weekend: Southern Region
2nd weekend: Mountain Region
3rd Weekend: Eastern Region

See page 11 for details!

Sunday November 2, 2014, 9 AM – 3 PM Lock Haven PA

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

Nov. 1-2, 29-30; Dec 6-7, 13-14,
Dec. 20-21, 27-28; Jan 3-4
1 PM – 4 PM each day
Columbia PA

Columbia Model RR Club Open House
19-21 North Second Street
Columbia PA 17512

<http://www.tonysegro.com/cola.html>

Nov. 8, 10 AM - 4 PM; Dec 4-5, 5-9 PM
Dec. 6, 10 AM – 3 PM;
Dec 7, 13, 14, 27 and 29 1 PM - 4 PM
Open House - Lewistown PA

Mifflin County Model Railroad Club
3 West Monument Square, Lewistown PA
Lower Level

Saturday November 15, 2014
Binghamton NY, 10 AM – 3 PM, \$5
2nd Annual Regional Train Show
American Legion, 177 Robinson St
www.villagetrain.com

Nov. 29; Dec 6-7, 13-14,
Jan 3-4; 1 PM – 4 PM each day
Coopersburg PA
Coopersburg Area Society of Model
Engineers Open House
Basement of Borough Building
5 N. Main Street, Coopersburg PA
www.casme.org

Admission: Free, Donations welcome

Saturday February 7, 2015, 9 AM
Mechanicsburg PA
Susquehanna Division Meet
Grace United Methodist Church
216 S. Market Street
Mechanicsburg PA

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 12 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. Howard's mailing address is on the Railpass form.

MER Convention – Hub City 2014

Article and photos by Ron Smith

MER Convention – Hagerstown MD

More than 150 NMRA members registered for the Hub City 2014 MER convention in Hagerstown, MD. The convention ran four days, October 15th – 19th.

The event started off with layout tours and operating sessions on Thursday evening, followed by a full slate of clinics on Friday, Saturday morning and a couple more on Sunday morning. More operating sessions occurred on Friday evening, and there were “going home” layout tours available on Sunday afternoon. New this year was a different twist on the Saturday evening awards ceremony – instead of a banquet, an ice cream social was held.

Our own Fred Phillips won Best in Show award with his HO model of Dando’s Coal Breaker. We featured Fred’s work back in the March issue of Sidetracks. This is a very beautiful model which was chosen from among several truly nice entries.

Clinic topics ranged from modeling techniques (such as detailing and lighting models, adding extra details to kits, etc.) to prototype research (I attended Lee Rainey’s clinic on the industries in Mt Union PA), to operating layouts using Timetable and Train Orders (TTTO; which included going to a TTTO layout after the clinics), to using J/MRI computer software to enhance your layout. There were also industrial tours and a visit to the EBT too. All in all, a tremendous amount of learning opportunities was presented.

Next years’ MER convention will be held in New Jersey, and stay tuned for info on another Mini-Con that will be put on by South Mountain Division in April. There may also be another Mini-Con in the Spring, co-hosted by our neighboring Chesapeake and Potomac Divisions.



Model Railroaders gather at the convention hotel on Friday morning.



Bob Weinheimer discusses his layouts’ operations.

MER Convention – Hub City 2014

Article and photos by Ron Smith



Lee Rainey describes the many varied industries of Mt. Union, PA in the early 1950's.



Above and below: Contest Room.



Fred Willis presented his techniques for building models from photos when no plans are available.



Mainline Hobby Supply Open House Sept 20-21

Article by Ron Smith

Mother Nature cooperated with beautiful weather for Mainline Hobby Supply's 25th Annual Open House. This is the second year that your Susquehanna Division has co-sponsored this event and provided publicity, and this year our Superintendent Barry Schmitt and Scott Seders of Salisbury MD created the Layout Tour Book that was provided to attendees. That was a Herculean effort, and will be the foundation for the tour book in future years. Also, yours truly and Howard Oakes manned the Registration table as an opportunity to sign up new NMRA members.

There were a total of 25 layouts available for viewing, including those of several division members and clubs. Given the geographic area that was covered, I don't think it was physically possible to see all 25.

A new feature this year that caught many by surprise (including me) was that Mainline made arrangements with the fire hall across the street to use their lawn for parking. This helped to alleviate congestion along RT 16 in front of the store. This should become the standard for future years, weather permitting.

Attendance was very good, and folks who stopped by my layout on Sunday afternoon indicated they'd enjoyed the event and saw some nice layouts.

If you or your club is located in our southwestern counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin and York and would like to join the list of participating layouts in 2015, please let me know.

Ron



Folks of all ages enjoyed the Open House!



Upcoming 2014 Division Events

By Barry Schmitt

November is Model Railroad Month!

3 Weekends of Layout Open Houses!!

We are in the midst of our second Division-wide November open house layout tour project. As of this writing we have **34** layouts that will be open for visitors. The distribution is 12 in our Southern area (Nov. 1st and/or 2nd), 12 in our very large Mountain territory that runs from Ebensburg near our western border to Scranton near our northern border (Nov. 8th), and 10 in the East (Nov. 15th). 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 is working well and the tour guide information is available on our website:

www.susquehannamra.org

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; his website is also linked from our division page.

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

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: _____

Street Address: _____ When this form is completed, mail it to:

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

**Howard Oakes
301 Moulstown Road
Abbottstown, PA 17301-8912**

Scales(s): _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____(Required)

Title of Sponsor: _____(Required)
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Do **not** mail it directly to NMRA headquarters in Soddy Daisy TN

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Official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11
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