



SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 23 No. 3



Aren't we glad Spring is finally here?

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 June 23, 2015.

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

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Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
www.nmra.org

Cover photo credit: Patrick Jones
Inset credit: Ron Smith

Editor's Notes

Hello everyone!

It's been a busy Spring so far, with wild changes in the weather. Fortunately Mom Nature cooperated for me on a recent trip to Marion, Ohio to attend an Erie Lackawanna Historical Society meeting. It was a mostly sunny day, and I lost count of the number of trains I saw that day. If you aren't a member of the railroad historical society for your favorite prototype railroad(s), I encourage you to check out the organization. Many of them have first class newsletters and hold annual (or even more frequent) meetings where you can immerse yourself in all things XYZ RR (insert your favorite here).

Inside this issue we feature a new article from Jody Gontero, who describes a space-saving workshop tip. Given the current state of the top of my workbench, this is something that would help me out, and perhaps some of you will benefit from it too. See page 12.

We hope you like our new format for Sidetracks. The whole idea is to communicate with our Division, so we want to make the newsletter as informative and as easy to read as possible. As always, don't hesitate to drop me a note with suggestions or comments. And, we'd love to feature your work on the cover – so send me a photo, prototype or model!

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events, or at a show or meet being held nearby our area. As the list on page 16 shows, there are quite a lot of model and prototype opportunities coming up in the next few months. Big Steam fans will particularly enjoy the NKP 765 when it visits our northeastern communities, and I've recently heard about a 100th Anniversary Celebration being planned for the Tunkhannock Viaduct north of Scranton this summer.

It's time for me to get back to the workbench so that perhaps I'll have something of my own to share with you next issue.

Happy modeling!

Ron

Happy Spring to All

I actually saw the sun and temperature above 50-degrees last week – hot doggie! Now begins the tug of war between outside activities vs the call of the layout. Here's to the layout at least receiving even billing!

Please note our last call articles for both the May 9 Live Steam In Perry County event and the June 27 Electric Railroads and Coal event. Live steam is a fascinating facet of our hobby, electric railroads were once a major player in both freight and passenger travel, and of course coal mines have been a key PA employer and significant source of railroad business. The June 27 event provides two coal mine tour options and were selected based on their unique offerings and locations along expected travel corridors.

An unexpected scheduling problem developed after we scheduled our July 25 event. Be sure to review the new July 25 event article, reserve the date on your busy summer calendar, and send your registration forms in for what will be a most informative visit to the Reading Railroad Historical Museum in centrally-located Hamburg PA.

We just started reviewing the Division surveys received during April. Member Rich Wurst and his crew spent many hours developing the survey and testing it among several members before its release. Of 260+ surveys sent we only received 28 replies. While 11% membership response is quite disappointing we will study those received and provide a recap of findings in our July Sidetracks. Many thanks to those of you who took time to answer our questions and provide thoughtful recommendations!

During May we will begin contacting all who graciously opened their layouts to the public during our November Grand Tour Layout Open House program in support of National Model Railroad Month. We had 37 layouts open to the public last year and sincerely hope those layout owners and several more will join our 2015 program. If you did not participate last year but would like to join our 2015 program please contact our Project Officer, Lee Rainey, or me. Contact Lee at lrainey@susquehannanmra.org or me at bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org.

Kindly visit our three Sidetracks advertisers who enthusiastically support our Division activities, thank them for their loyal support both financially and professionally, and let them know their funding of full page ads was well spent. And be sure to stop by Choo Choo Nuts over the May 16/17 weekend and congratulate them on their 2nd anniversary.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and happy modeling!



CALLING ALL MEMBERS – WE NEED DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

As of today, except for three of our four current Directors, not a single one of our 270+ members has offered to run for election as a Division Director for the term July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017- a very disappointing situation. I'm sure many of you have excellent ideas about how to better run the Division and/or many great suggestions for new and more interesting events for the future.

We, like any other volunteer organization, need new blood and fresh ideas. If you are concerned about how much time is involved please call me so we can discuss how your Division operates and how little time it takes to serve your fellow members. Then, after hearing what's really involved, you can then make an educated decision vs one based on that terrible word "assume."

And please don't believe living close to Harrisburg is necessary - BOD Director Lee Rainey lives in State College and has effectively accomplished his position by phone and email. In fact, we would welcome a slate of candidates from throughout our widely dispersed Division.

So please call me at 717-877-1810 or any of our current Directors listed on page 2 to get straight answers about what is involved in being a Division Director. I look forward to hearing from you soon - our election clock is ticking.

////////////////////////////////////
***CHOO CHOO NUTS CELEBRATES THEIR 2ND
ANNIVERSARY!!***

Tent Sale in Parking Lot

Refreshments Provided

Storewide Sale

Hourly Raffles

Hours: 9AM-6PM on Sat, May 16 & 10AM-3PM on Sun, May 17

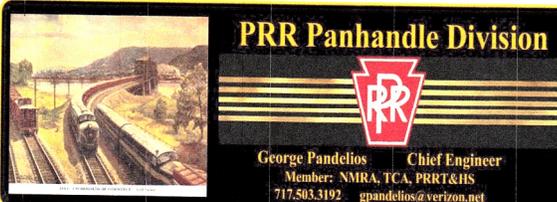
Address: 444 East Roseville Rd, Lancaster PA 17601 (1821 Oregon Pike Behind McDonalds)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

John Curtis	Lancaster, PA
Robert Gildersleeve	Jim Thorpe, PA
Peter Loken	Lancaster, PA
Andrew Ludwig	Williamsport, PA
Mark Rittgers	Gardners, PA

PIKE

ADS



PRR Panhandle Division
 George Pandelios Chief Engineer
 Member: NMRA, TCA, PRRT&HS
 717.503.3192 gpandelios@verizon.net

NATHAN M. KLINE



NATE'S LIGHT IRON HOBBIES
 MODEL TRAINS & ACCESSORIES
 SPECIALIZING IN NARROW GAUGE & SHORTLINE MODEL RAILROADING
 NATESLIGHTIRONHOBBIES.COM 610-406-1761



One Masonic Drive
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022
 Phone: 717-361-5180

Open Houses the first weekend monthly Sept. thru April: Sat-Sun 2 - 4 PM. Extra times at Christmas

Masonic Village & Elizabethtown Model RR Club.
 Meets 7:30 PM the first Tuesday Sept- June



FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



Gary P. Nastase-President & CEO
 Kathleen A. Nastase-Train Wifey
 207 State Street
 Woodbury, PA 16695
 gpnastase@aol.com

Route of the Whitetail



B&O WESTON SUBDIVISION
 Barry W. Schmitt, Superintendent
 1313 Mockingbird Lane
 The Gates of Hell, PA 66666
 (717) 877-1810 sbschmitt@comcast.net

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD



Ron Smith

Modeling the Southern Tier of New York in N Scale
 717-253-1431
 rs25760@hotmail.com



SHORT LINE
 ESTD 1989
 MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

WWW.SLMRC.COM
 11 S. STATE STREET | EPHRATA, PA

This is the final boarding call for the May 9th Event! RLS

The day begins at 9 AM with a visit to Wayne Godshall's 5000 square foot custom machine shop located in Shermans Dale, PA. Godshall's Custom Machining is a full-service machine shop that specializes in both general machine services and the Live Steam hobby. One of Wayne's major projects is the offering of an almost ready to run kit for a 1.6" scale PRR H-10 live steam locomotive. You will see several of the H-10 projects during a tour of his shop as well as a Big Boy under construction.

After lunch we will re-assemble at 1 PM at Don Sweger's Tuscarora Valley Railroad (TVR) in Ickesburg, PA. Don built and operates a 1.5" scale railroad consisting of a yard, engine steam up facilities, and approximately 6200 feet of mainline track. He and a friend built and operate a 1.5" scale PRR K-4 and matching passenger cars. A large portion of visiting equipment is steam operated and there have been as many as 6 different classes of Pennsy steam in operation at the same time. If you want to see and hear PRR steam in operation, this is the place to visit. Following an introduction to the railroad by Don, train rides will be given. We are hoping to have several steam locomotives (PRR or other roads) in operation for the event.

The address for Godshall's Custom Machining is 4614 Valley Road, Shermans Dale, PA. Valley Road is the same as Route 850 that runs between Marysville and Shermans Dale. Don's Tuscarora Railroad is located in Ickesburg, next to the firehouse, on Route 17. The firehouse is located just north of the intersection on Routes 17 and 74. Turning west onto Railroad Lane off of route 17 brings you right to the railroad. Maps to each location will be provided to all registered attendees.

For lunch there is the Bear's Den Pizza Shop on the outskirts of Ickesburg. Also, for those who wish to picnic, there is the Little Buffalo Park just outside of Newport. There is railroad history associated with the park as the Newport and Sherman's Valley Railroad passed through this area in the early 1900's. The railroad ran from New Germantown to Newport where it connected with the PRR. The park is also home to an operational water powered mill. There are picnic tables and a short walking trail on the old Newport and Sherman's Valley rail bed. See their website for more details:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/littlebuffalo/index.htm>

This event is mostly outside so dress accordingly. Attendance at the event will be by pre-registration only. Registration instructions are on the following page; you may photocopy it, fill it out and send it in. Cost is \$2 for NMRA members, \$2 for family, and \$5 for non-NMRA members. This event will be held rain or shine, although some of the outdoor activities may be limited due to weather conditions.

Dan Horting



Don Sweger's Tuscarora Valley Railroad

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION

MID-EASTERN REGION

ALL DAY LIVE STEAM IN PERRY COUNTY

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Shermans Dale, PA 9-11 AM Ickesburg, PA 1-4 PM

REGISTRATION

Name (print)_____

Address_____

Phone contact_____

Email contact_____

Admission per person-	NMRA member:	\$2.00
	non-NMRA:	\$5.00

Submit cash or check/money order (payable to Susquehanna Div. NMRA) no later than **Monday, May 4th** to:

Dan Horting c/o NMRA, 3287 Verdant Grove, Lancaster, PA 17601

For information contact Dan at: k4sbuilder@comcast.net

JUNE 27 ELECTRIC RAILROADS & COAL

This is the final call for all to register for the opportunity to explore the unique electric railroads of the past, visit an extensive electric railroad and trolley museum, enjoy an hour plus ride along the former Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railroad (The Laurel Line), and explore one of two coal mines. More details about the event and details of the three tour options available were presented in the April Sidetracks newsletter article, which is available at www.susquehannanmra.org. Select the Susquehanna Sidetracks Newsletter link, and the Susquehanna Express April 01, 2015 issue.

One of our main goals in building this event was to offer a major 2015 program for our many members living in our northern area. And due to Scranton's location off of I-81, it is reasonably close to many communities in our Division.

So get your registration form and payment to our project officer, John Wissinger, before the cutoff date of June 6. (A copy of the registration form follows this article.) And for non-NMRA members if you submit a completed trial membership Rail Pass (see page 20) along with your registration form you can pay the appropriate NMRA member rate.

Ticket prices will be included in the registration form on the next page. Tour prices are payable with the form and reservations must be made by **June 1, 2015**.

Approximate time/distance to Scranton (car pools recommended):

Harrisburg:	2 hrs.	122 miles
Lancaster:	2-1/2 hrs.	134 miles
Lebanon:	1 hr 50 min.	106 miles
State College:	2-1/2 hrs.	150 miles
Allentown:	1-1/5 hrs.	77 miles

We look forward to seeing you in Scranton on June 27 in Scranton – All Aboard!

John Wissinger

**THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION MID-EASTERN REGION
SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION**

Presents

“ELECTRIC RAILROADS & COAL”

A TRIP TO ELECTRIC CITY & ANTHRACITE COAL MINE & MUSEUM

Scranton, PA, Where Program Begins, Saturday June 27, 2015

REGISTRATION

Name (print) _____

Address _____

Phone Contact _____ Email Contact _____

NMRA member – Yes ___ Member # _____ Non-Member ___ Number Attending _____

PLEASE SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING:

____ Tour # 1 – Electric City, Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour & Museum
Scranton, PA – Tour starts 10:00 am Sharp!
NMRA cost per person \$23.00* - Non-Member \$25.00
*Same rate for each family member

____ Tour #2 – Electric City, Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine and Train Ride
Scranton and Ashland, PA – Tour starts 10:00 am Sharp!
NMRA cost per person \$24.00* - Non-Member \$26.00
*Same rate for each family member

____ Tour # 3 – Electric City only
Scranton, PA – Tour starts 10:00 am Sharp!
NMRA cost per person \$8.00* - Non-Member \$9.00
* Same rate for each family member

TOTAL COST _____

Submit cash, check or money order (payable to Susquehanna Div. NMRA) **no later than June 6th** to:

John Wissinger, c/o NMRA 23 Thorndale Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067

For information contact John Wissinger at: jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org or (717)628-1767

JULY 25 READING RAILROAD HERITAGE MUSEUM TOUR

Our initial plan for this event was to visit the Museum in the morning and then visit and ride on the Wanamaker, Kempton & Southern Railroad (WK&S), also known as the Hawk Mountain Line, in the afternoon. However, after making the WK&S reservations we later learned that July 25 date was also scheduled to be a special kids-day which would preclude us from reserving a dedicated rail car for a special run and would require we join a scheduled excursion with the children. This major scheduling change convinced us our program goals were not compatible with a large gathering of children; therefore, we elected to cancel the afternoon WK&S part of the event. Accordingly, our July 25 program will only include a tour of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum. Member Fred Phillips, who is also an experienced docent at the Museum, developed a special tour program for us which described below.

The Reading Company Technical & Historical Society was founded in 1976 - the same year that the Reading Railroad was incorporated into Conrail. The Reading Railroad Heritage Museum (RRHM) has developed what is believed to be the largest museum collection in the US devoted to a single railroad. The RRHM features more than 80 locomotive and cars. Locomotives include: ALCO RS-3, C424 and C630; Baldwin DS4-4-1000; EMD NW-2, FP-7, GP7, GP30 and GP35; a GE U30C; a Fairbanks Morse Trainmaster converted to a Slug; and a battery powered "Bug" shop loco. Passenger equipment includes 3 wooden cars (circa. 1900), a fleet of MU cars (1932), and a pair of Budd RDC cars (1962).

Our tour will include access to selected equipment not available to the general public including the LEMTU car. When the Reading dieselized, they created the Locomotive Engineer Mobile Training Unit to save money by bringing the classroom to the students as they transitioned from steam to diesel. The car has the complete control systems for first generation EMD units to train engineers. A 2nd generation control system was added later as well. This car will be open for our Division tour, and retired engineers will serve as guides to show how these locomotives were operated. Our special tour will also go inside the RRHM restored 1937 caboose.

Our program will begin with signing in and receiving name tags at 9:30 AM followed by a short welcome and then a 15-minute introductory video in the Museum meeting room. After viewing the movie a lucky attendee will be selected at random to choose one of several Reading Railroad hard bound books offered in the RRHM library. Following that drawing we will be divided into smaller groups, and each group will be led on a tour of the facility by experienced RRHM members. Much of the tour will be outside so dress accordingly. And because this is a large industrial site all children must be under direct parental control at all times.

This is a registration event. Early registration cost is \$9 for NMRA members and \$12 for non-members. Early registration forms must be sent by Monday, July 13. Registration at the event will cost \$11 for NMRA members and \$14 for non-members. A registration form is provided at the end of this article. Any non-member who also submits a free 6-month trial membership Rail Pass form (see page 20) with their event registration form will pay the appropriate NMRA rate.

The RRHM is located in the city of Hamburg PA and is just off of the I-78 and PA 61 interchange. The Museum entrance is located at 500 South 3rd St, and parking is available along 3rd Street. A map to the Museum will be provided a week or so before the event to all early registered attendees who provide an email address.

We look forward to seeing you at this very informative event. And as one of their advertising brochures says, "All aboard for an exciting trip back in time!"

Fred Phillips and Fred Kurtz

JULY 25 READING RAILROAD HERITAGE MUSEUM TOUR

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 9:30AM

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name(s) (print): _____

Address: _____

Phone Contact: _____

EMAIL Contact: _____

NMRA Member - Membership Number: _____

Admission Price Per Person:

Before July 13 Early Registration:

NMRA Member and Family Member: \$9.00

Non-NMRA Member and Family Member: \$12.00*

After July 13 and At Event:

NMRA Member and Family Member: \$11.00

Non-NMRA Member and Family Member: \$14.00*

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

To Receive Early Registration Rate - Send cash, check, or money order payable to Susquehanna Div. NMRA **by Monday, July 13** to:

Susquehanna Div. NMRA, C/O Fred Kurtz, 668 Snyder Hill Rd, Lititz PA 17543-8945

For information contact Fred at fkurtz@fredbkurtz.com

NOTE: Non-NMRA members, who include a completed free Rail Pass trial membership form with their registration form, pay the appropriate NMRA member fee.

Build a Drill Bit Organizer

Today, my never ending quest to have an organized and efficient work space focuses on organizing all of my drill bits. Many of you may have a similar pile of bits lying around which have accumulated over the years.



I wanted to come up with a solution that would meet the following requirements:

- Each bit separated by size, so each size has a “home”.
- Easily readable information on each location including bit number and decimal size.
- A place to hold $\frac{1}{4}$ ” drive drill chucks and $\frac{1}{4}$ ” drive pin vises.
- Something robust enough to not easily tip and spill, but not take up a lot of bench space.
- I wanted to cover bit sizes #40-#80, which takes me from the smallest size (.0135”) up to about .100” diameter.

With these parameters in mind, I set out to design a solution that fit my needs. Some time ago, I stashed some $\frac{3}{4}$ ” aluminum plate strips from the scrap bin where I work. I also have some access to a machine shop. Granted, the vast majority of modelers do not have access to these things, but you could easily improvise and use other materials like birch plywood or bulk plastic material. A drill press is ideal for adding the required holes, but with a careful eye and patience, you could also use a household battery drill.

Using the $\frac{3}{4}$ ” thick aluminum strips, I cut one piece down to $\frac{3}{4}$ ” wide by 16” long, and the second piece was cut down to 1.5” wide and 16” long. I drilled and tapped these together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 socket head cap screw at either end. You could use a simple wood screw if you decide to build yours with softer materials.

Once the main body had been assembled, I laid out my hole locations and drilled them to size and depth. I chose to use a 15/32 drill to make the #61-#80 holes on the top of the holder. I made them this size because the two manufacturers of bulk bits I use will fit in this size pocket. The Excel brand drill bits, which are available in 10-pc quantity tubes at well stocked local hobby shops, measures .450" in diameter. My other source of good quality micro drill bits is CML supply (cmlsupply.com). Their bits come in 3 and 6 piece lots, and the storage tube measures .390" in diameter. I drilled out the series of 20 holes for these tubes .650" apart and 3/4" deep in the upper level of my organizer.

On the lower level, I drilled pairs of holes to hold individual drill bits in the #41-#60 range. Take note that I staggered these holes so they lined up in between the #61-#80 pockets behind. That way, the larger drill bits do not block the ID label on the upper level. You could drill each set of holes out to the size of the bit you are storing there, but I chose to make the #41-50 holes to the size of the bit, and the #51-#60 are all the size of the #50 drill. I made these holes 1/2" deep.

Once all of the drill bit holder holes were in place, I decided to add some holes on the right side for my drill chucks. I rarely use hand held pin vises any more, as I have switched to a low RPM cordless screwdriver with a 1/4" quick change hex chuck. I made a single 19/64 hole on the top row 3/4" deep for the larger 1/4" drive Jacobs-style mini drill chuck. On the bottom, I put a series of 7 holes in place to hold various micro 1/4" drive drill chucks I use for my #61-#80 drill bits. I usually leave the most commonly used bits in these chucks to save time (#80-.0135", #76-.020", #72-.025", #67-.032", etc.) You could adapt this area to fit whatever you like, even hand operated pin vises.



Now that I have all the holes completed, I wanted to make everything easily identifiable. I made a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel (see next page) and made four rows of twenty columns. The top of each column contained the drill number, and the bottom of the column contained the decimal equivalent. I made each number as large as possible and centered them height-wise and width-wise. It took some trial and error, but I eventually arrived at the correct column width and height for my application. In Excel, the column widths are controlled by the font you use, so the width will change accordingly. I printed out several test copies on legal size paper until my labels came out exactly 13" in length and 3/4" in height, which is what I needed for my arrangement of twenty pockets, .650" apart. If you make your holder exactly like mine, here are the specifications I used:

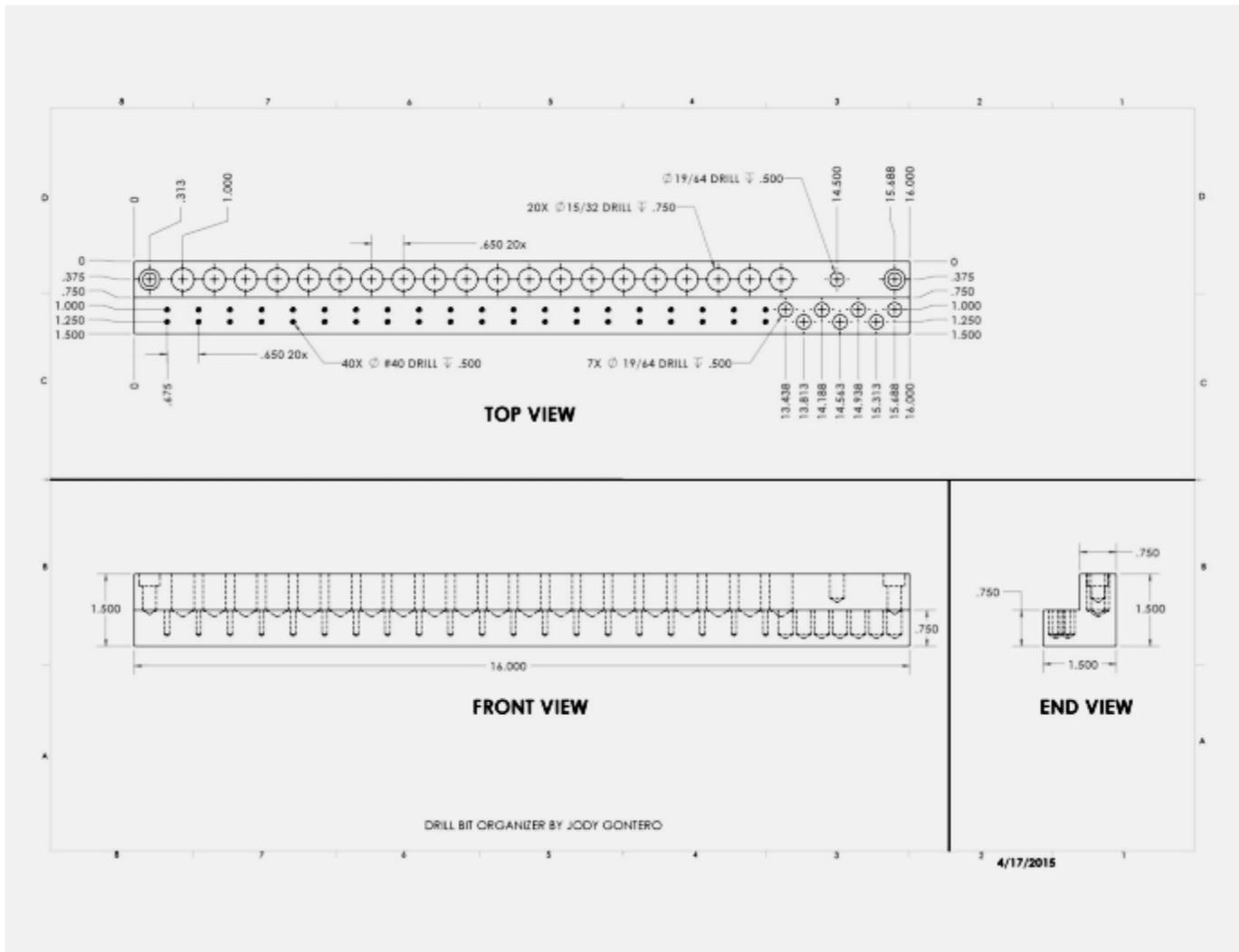
Futura MD BT font in Bold (not a standard font, I downloaded this font since it is close to what Conrail used!)

Row Height= 27 (2 rows per strip)

Column Width=7.57 (20 columns each)

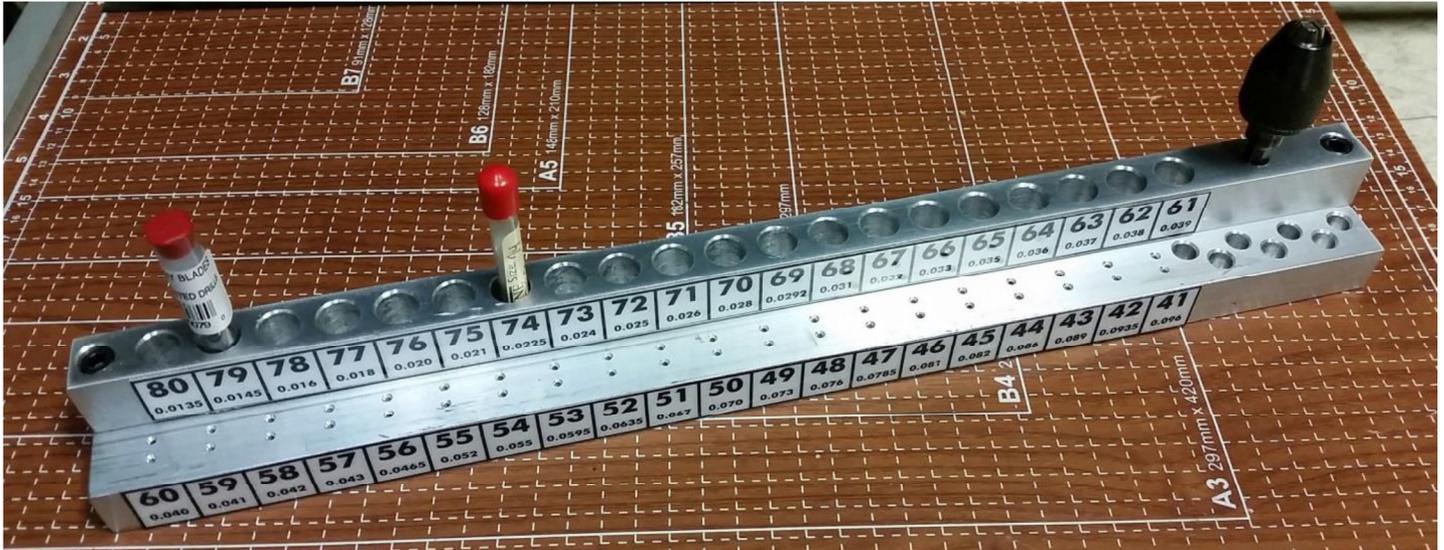
Drill number font size= 26

Decimal number font size= 11



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1																				
2	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61
3	0.014	0.015	0.016	0.018	0.020	0.021	0.023	0.024	0.025	0.026	0.028	0.029	0.031	0.032	0.033	0.035	0.036	0.037	0.038	0.039
4																				
5	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41
6	0.040	0.041	0.042	0.043	0.047	0.052	0.055	0.06	0.064	0.067	0.070	0.073	0.076	0.079	0.081	0.082	0.086	0.089	0.094	0.096
7																				

After I achieved an acceptable finished label sheet, I then laminated it for durability. I attached the labels to my organizer using silicone adhesive. You could use double sided tape as an alternative.



Now that I have my drill bits organized, I am able to work much more efficiently at the workbench. Time spent measuring drill bits and looking for just the right size has been eliminated, and I can easily see if I have a bit missing which I need to track down or replace.

Drill bit information: CML supply sells high quality USA made drill bits for about \$1 each. Excel also sells a good quality drill bit as well, and is available at some local hobby shops. I fell into buying the cheap \$5 #61-#80 drill bit sets on eBay and was disappointed. They are very brittle and not very sharp. Spend the extra money on a quality high speed steel USA made drill bit, and you will have a much easier time.



My secret weapon for not breaking drill bits is this little battery drill, the Snap-On CTS-561. These are 7.2v cordless screwdrivers that have now been superseded by a new 9.6v model. They are somewhat expensive to buy new from Snap-On, but since the older model has been obsoleted, you can find deals on eBay relatively easily. The drill comes with a 1/4" hex drive quick change chuck, and has a multiple setting clutch. I have used this tool all over the house with standard bit drivers as well. The nice thing about 1/4" drive is the ability to switch between a small Jacobs chuck and pin vise style chucks quickly. Once I started using this drill, the longevity of my bits increased many times over. There are times where I still need to use a pin vise, but most of my drilling is done with this tool.

Jody Gontero

**Saturday May 2, 2015
Newport PA**

**Conrail Historical Society
Spring Rail-B-Q**

501 S. 3rd Street, Newport

Open to all; donations to cover food accepted. And bring your softball mitt!

www.thecrhs.org

Saturday May 9, 2015, 10 AM – 4 PM

**Shermans Dale & Ickesburg, PA
Live Steam Day in Perry County**

See feature info on page 6.

Pre-registration is required

May 15-17 2015

Philadelphia PA

22nd National Trolley Meet

Pennsylvania Convention Center,
Exhibit Hall G

Broad & Race Streets, (Center City)

\$23 in advance, \$25 at the door

www.eastpenn.org

or

www.trollymeet.com

May 15-17 2015

Rochester NY

**Niagara Frontier Region
Spring Convention at RIT**

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Clinics, home and club layout tours,
and museum visits.

\$79 includes breakfast

www.lakeshoresdivision.org

Saturday-Sunday May 16-17, 2015

Walkersville MD

Steam Train Excursions at the
Walkersville Southern Railroad

34 W. Pennsylvania Ave

Trains depart 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM

\$15 Adult, \$14 Seniors 55+, \$12 kids
12 and under.

www.wsrr.com

**Sunday June 7th, New Freedom, PA
Steam into History**

Train ride being organized by our neighbors in the South Mountain Division. They are planning a group train ride on the "Steam into History" steam train which runs from New Freedom, Pa. to Hanover Junction. The cost of the trip is \$28 and it runs for 2 1/2 hours (leaving New Freedom at 2:30 pm). If you are not familiar with this train, please visit their website www.steamintohistory.com

The engine is a reproduction of an 1860's 4-4-0. The cars are also replicas. Any questions or suggestions feel free to email Stefanie Boss, sboss49@att.net who is organizing this for SMD. Please copy Ron Smith rsmith@susquehannanmra.org also.

**Saturday June 13th Marion OH
Mid-Central Region Division 6 and 9
Joint Meet**

Marion Union Station

www.div6-MCR-NMRA.org

**Saturday June 27th, Scranton PA
Electric City and Anthracite Coal
Mine and Museum**

See feature info on page 8

Saturday July 25, 2015

Hamburg PA

Reading RR Historical Museum

Visit the Reading Railroad Heritage
Museum in Hamburg PA.

See feature info on page 10.

August 2015 NKP 765

**Various Steam Engine Trips
Allentown / Pittston / Scranton**

See website for details

<http://fortwaynerailroad.org>

August 1, 2015

Garden State Division

Summer Meet

See next page

August 23-29 2015

Portland OR

NMRA National Convention

www.nmra2015portland.org

September 12, 2015, Lancaster PA

Grandview United Methodist
Church, 888 Pleasure Road
Stay tuned for details that will be
in our July issue!

September 19-20, 2015

Blue Ridge Summit PA

**Mainline Hobby Supply Open
House**

Co-sponsored by our Susquehanna
Division, featuring several Division
layouts!

October 2-3, 2015

LSOP-7

See feature info on page 19

October 22-25 2015

Mt Laurel NJ

MER Regional Convention

The convention will be in Mt. Laurel,
NJ at the Hotel ML on Rt. 73 between
I-295 and the NJ Turnpike.

www.DelawareValleyTurn.org

Garden State Division Summer Meet

Saturday, August 1, 2015

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us for an enjoyable day out near the Delaware Water Gap, in sight of the Paulinskill Viaduct, and the old stomping grounds of the DL&W, the NYS&W, and the L&NE railroads, with a side trip to the Slate Belt of Pennsylvania.

Note: Everything is within 15 minutes on either side of Exit 4 on I-80 in New Jersey!

The day will start with us meeting in the quaint town of Bangor, PA in the heart of the Slate Belt. (Less than 15 minutes from Exit 4 on I-80.) Our meeting location will be the Broadway Pub in the historic Colonial Hotel. Meet us at 11 a.m. and have lunch, a snack, or simply stop in to say hello and pick up the layout tour map! **(If you do not plan on eating with us, make sure to stop in to pick up the map between 11 a.m. and noon.)**

Here's a photo of the hotel / pub.



Click here to see the Pub's affordable menu: <http://www.thebroadwaypub.com/#!menu/cm65>

While in Bangor, take the time to walk the two blocks to the Slate Belt Heritage Center and learn about the quarrying and uses of slate. They are open from Noon to 3 and will be expecting us! Learn more about the Center at their website: <http://www.slatebeltheritage.com/index.asp>

Who knows, after learning about the slate quarries and their use of the railroads, you might be inspired to add a slate pit to your layout.

While driving around the Slate Belt, take notice of all the slate roofs that you will see along the way, and don't miss the huge piles of slate debris that you will find along the road. It will be a good time to stop and pick up some slate to use as scenic material on your layout or dioramas!

Layout Tour

At this time we have three great layouts available for you to visit, and we are working on getting one or two more to add to the list.

These three layouts are in New Jersey – again within 15-30 minutes of Exit 4 on I-80!

First is a Santa Fe based HO scale layout owned by GSD member **Ed Suhy**. Much of the scenery is complete, and it features a large helix.

The second layout belongs to **Harold Werthwein** and is based on the Erie Railroad. Harold is a spry 92 years old – or is it 93??? When we visited him in March, we interrupted him hand laying some turnouts! Harold's layout is a huge 85' x 30' in size and is fully scened . It has appeared in many magazine articles over the years, and has been the subject of two of Allen Keller's 'Great Model Railroad' videos. If you haven't seen Harold's layout in person, this is a rare opportunity for sure!



The Starrucca Viaduct on Harold Werthwein's Erie Layout. Did we mention that Harold's layout is both huge and fully scened?

Our third layout will be **Tony Koester's** Nickel Plate HO layout, another great model railroad to visit.

So why not join us for a pleasant Saturday drive in western New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania? Oh, and bring your spouse and/or a friend. They will enjoy the scenery, lunch in a historic inn, a visit to the Slate Belt Heritage Museum, and some great model railroads.

Look for more updates via e-mail, and on our website: <http://www.nergsd.com/>

We hope to see you on Aug. 1st!

LSOP-7

The seventh Lehigh/Susquehanna Operations weekend is fast approaching (Friday October 2 and Saturday October 3). Once again this year our Lehigh area was filled by January.

With only 12 spots it goes pretty fast. However, there are still 3 spots open for the Susquehanna sessions.

Why do the Lehigh sessions fill up so fast? Well mostly it is with repeat attendees - of those signed up for this year 85% are repeaters. Do they come for the food – well, I don't think so. I would submit that it is due to the quality of the layouts and the people that host them. Or it could be that they are operations junkies.

Now you may be thinking to yourself that you have never operated, you have read about it, but have no idea what it takes to operate. Well it just takes YOU, and some of your time. Personally, I would rather operate a model railroad than cut the grass, wash the dog, wash the dishes, and on and on.

What do I get out of operations - signal systems, schedule freights, locomotive maintenance, freight car fleet expansion and maintenance, track structure engineering, and on and on.

And maybe most important is I have meet lots of interesting people that have a passion for model railroading too!

You may not be a Slobbering Pennsy Fan, diesel locomotive aficionado, DCC fanatic, JMRI junkie, have a twisted sense of layout design, but just someone that wants to learn railroading.

If that is you, please consider joining us! If you cannot make the LSOP, but would still like to operate - let me know!

Check out the LSOP at <http://www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP7/default.htm> - we still have 3 spots left!

Wayne Betty, Assistant Superintendent Div 11.

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.

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

Make checks payable to "Susquehanna Division 11"

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