



SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 23 No. 4



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 August 23, 2015.

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2015-2017

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

National Model Railroad Association
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Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
www.nmra.org

Cover photo credit: Rich Wurst, model by Wayne Godshall
Inset credit: Ron Smith

Editor's Notes

Hello everyone!

Summer is upon us, as I am writing this on the summer solstice. One of the highlights of Spring was the Live Steam Day held in Perry County in early May. After a cloudy start, sunshine prevailed for the afternoon and many of our members enjoyed a nice day with "big steam". Special thanks to Rich Wurst for contributing this month's cover photo. More photos appear on p. 13.

There are numerous events for the second half of 2015, some NMRA-sponsored and some not, but lots of excuses for you to get out and about. If you attend the National in Portland, please drop me some pix and a brief write-up of your experience for the next issue. As always, contributions from the readership are greatly appreciated.

On a more personal note, I have become aware that a few of our members have been ill or had surgery recently and I wish you all a speedy recovery. Also, we lost Tom Matthews to cancer last month. You will recall Tom provided several articles on his NYO&W layout, and he was part of our November open house tour for the last two years. Tom was very active in the Garden State Division prior to his moving to PA. Our condolences go out to his wife and family.

Big Steam fans will particularly enjoy the NKP 765 when it visits our northeastern communities. My fiancée and I will be going to the Garden State Division's August 1st layout tour, then heading to Corning NY to see the 765 there the next day. There is also a 100th Anniversary Celebration being planned for the Tunkhannock Viaduct north of Scranton this September.

A final note – the initial distribution of the May Sidetracks did not credit the photographer of the cover photo – thanks to Patrick Jones for allowing us to use his shot.

Happy modeling!

Ron

Greetings All!

Hard to believe 6-months have gone by already this year which means it's time to start building our event program for next year. Yep, it takes almost 6-months to gather ideas about possible programs and locations, select project officers, and build each event. So before we start that process I once again ask each of you to please tell us what you would like us to present next year. And please do not believe because you live in one of our more remote areas that it's not feasible to present an event near you. However, if you do not tell us what you want we have no choice but to ask ourselves what can we offer throughout our Division that will attract member participation. So call me at 717-877-1810 or send me an email at bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org and tell me what you want us to build for next year.

Speaking of building our 2016 program here is a great opportunity for you to join our event development team that will plot our course for next year. But you say I live way north or east or some other outlying area and can't drive to the Lancaster or Harrisburg area to attend planning meetings. Well guess what – we understand and will work a solution that meets your needs. For example, email is our main communication tool during all phases of the project. Also, I am more than willing to visit your location during the development process – my wife Sue complains that “I'm always there – never here!” So first let me know you want to help and then let us solve the distance issue. You still believe living in an outer area just will not work? Consider this - two great and recent Division events were managed by distant members - Forrest Lucas from Johnstown, about as far west as you live in our Division, and Lee Rainey who lives in State College. Forrest's event was the Altoona Model Railroad Club visit, clinics, and nearby museum visit and Lee managed our visit to the East Broad Top Railroad and Rockhill Trolley Museum. So let's hear your event suggestions and/or offer to help build the program.

I welcome our new BOD team of David, Howard, Lee, and Ron, and look forward to introducing them to you at our September 12 all day clinic program in Lancaster. Following that program we will hold our annual BOD meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are very fortunate to have three long term advertisers who are avid supporters of our Division and the NMRA. Their generous support helps us off-set the costs of printing and mailing Sidetracks. So stop by their hobby shops, meet their helpful staff, find that model product you've been looking for, and thank them for their continuing support.

I look forward to seeing you at our July 25th visit to the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in Hamburg PA!

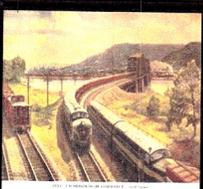


WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dorian Anderson	East Stroudsburg, PA
Dale Bubb	Manchester, PA
Michael Frey	York, PA
Shirley Frey	York, PA
Frederick Miller	Allentown, PA
James Riss	Lebanon, PA
Richard Yoder	Wyomissing, PA

PIKE

ADS



PRR Panhandle Division

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

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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

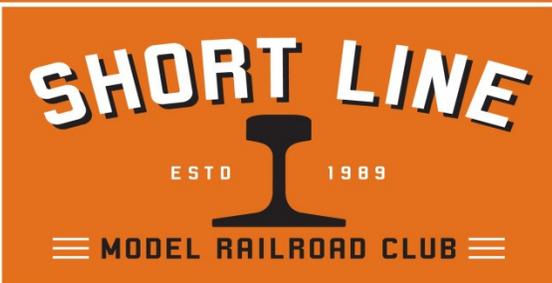
Barry W. Schmitt, Superintendent
 1313 Mockingbird Lane
 The Gates of Hell, PA 66666
 (717) 877-1810 sbschmitt@comcast.net

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

JULY 25 READING RAILROAD HERITAGE MUSEUM TOUR

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 (photo on next page).

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

LAST CALL!

JULY 25 READING RAILROAD HERITAGE MUSEUM REGISTRATION

Name(s) (print): _____

Phone Contact: _____ Email Contact: _____

NMRA Member: ___ Member # _____ Non-Member ___

Number In Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

COST: NMRA Member & Family - \$9 if mailed by July 13 - \$11 at Event

Non-Member: \$12 if mailed by July 13 - \$14 at Event

Send this form and check made payable to NMRA Susquehanna Division to:

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.



SEPTEMBER 12 DIVISION MEETING AND CLINICS

Our September 12 full-day clinic program has been finalized, and it will be held at the Grandview Methodist Church in Lancaster. As previously announced we had planned the event to include a unique two segment clinic format – one segment devoted to traditional model railroading clinics and the other focused on operations. The operations segment was structured to include two morning introductory clinics and an afternoon hands-on operations session at a local model railroad club. Unfortunately just as the program was being finalized the individual who was developing the operations segment suddenly had to withdraw from the project due to a short notice move to the Chicago area. Accordingly, that operations segment has been cancelled. We are now looking for someone who would like to develop such a program for next year.

The day begins with attendee registration, a short meet-and-greet time, and, of course, morning refreshments. At 9:10AM we will conduct our short annual Division meeting (required by our by-laws) that will include introducing your newly elected Board of Directors, a quick review of our finances, and a discussion of key future projects. Next will be our Model Showcase program – our 4th such popular event since it began on a very cold and icy February day last year. So look over your model collection and plan to bring an engine, rolling stock, structure, mini module, or any other item that is special to you. Each modeler will be provided 5-minutes to tell their story; however, giving such a presentation is not required. So plan on bringing your modeling pride and joy and share it with the rest of us.

We have scheduled an hour+ lunch break where attendees are welcome to brown-bag-it. The lunch area is quite large and is also where the models from the morning Model Showcase program will still be on display. For those who desire fast food several such eateries are within a 5-10 minute drive from the church. A list of them and addresses, a map to the church, and final program details will be in our September Sidetracks.

This will be both a preregistration and registration at-the-door event. The preregistration cost is \$5 for NMRA members and family and \$7 for non-NMRA members. The at-the-door costs will be \$7 for NMRA members and family and \$10 for non-members. Any non-NMRA member who submits a completed free 6-month trial membership Rail Pass and mail it and your form (see page 20) will pay the NMRA member rate. To preregister, complete the form at the end of this article and mail it and your check by August 28 to our Project Officer, Rich Wurst, at the address on the form. If you have any questions contact Rich at 717-392-5023 or drop him an email at rjwurst@comcast.net.

As you can see from the following schedule we have several very interesting clinics and expert model railroading clinicians. So mark your calendars now and make plans to attend this informative model railroading day.

CLINICS:

1. Interchangeable Backdrop Flats – Jody Gontero
2. No Mess-No Smell Hot-Wire Foam Cutting – Bill Grosse
3. LED Lighting – Mike Prokop
4. Scratch Building the Dando Coal Breaker – Fred Phillips
- 5&6. JMRI 201 - Panels & JMRI 301 – Tablets and Withrattle: Bob Bucklew

SEPTEMBER 12 SCHEDULE

OPENING – CLINIC ROOM 1

8:45-9:10AM: Registration, Meet & Greet, Refreshments

9:10–9:30AM: Division Annual Meeting

9:30–9:50AM: Model Showcase Program

9:50–10:00AM: Break

CLINIC ROOM 2

CLINIC ROOM 1 (Front)

Clinic 1: 10:00-10:55AM

Break: 10:55-11:05AM

Clinic 2: 11:05-12:00 Noon

Clinic 5: 11:05-12:00 Noon

LUNCH BREAK – CLINIC ROOM 1 (BACK)

1200-1:30PM

Clinic 3: 1:30-2:25PM

Clinic 6: 1:30-2:25PM

Break: 2:25-2:35PM

Clinic 4: 2:35-3:30PM

SEPTEMBER 12 CLINIC PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Name(s) (print): _____

Phone Contact: _____ Email Contact: _____

NMRA Member: ___ Member # _____ Non-Member ___

Number In Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

COST: NMRA Member & Family - \$4 if mailed by Aug 27 - \$7 at Event

Non-Member: \$7 if mailed by Aug 27 - \$10 at Event

Send this form and check made payable To NMRA Susquehanna Division to:

Rich Wurst, c/o NMRA, 5 Hardy Court, Lancaster PA 17602-4176

For more information contact Rich at rjwurst@comcast.net or 717-392-5023

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 met 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.susquehannamra.org/LSOP/LSOP7/default.htm> - we still have 3 spots left!

Wayne Betty, Assistant Superintendent Div 11.



DIVISION DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

In a very close election you, our membership, have elected the following as Directors for the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017 (in alphabetical order): David Collison, Howard Oakes, Lee Rainey, and Ron Smith. We welcome Ron as a new member of the BOD and David, Howard, and Lee as returning Directors. David Tillman from Easton and our 5th candidate has agreed to help us develop more programs in our Eastern Sub Division beginning with our 2016 program – many thanks Dave!

Thankfully Ron has graciously agreed to continue performing his outstanding duties as Editor of our great Sidetracks newsletter. What a fantastic improvement in the quality and depth of Sidetracks since Ron took over the editorial duties in March 2013.

Welcome aboard to David, Howard, Lee, and Ron!

November Layout Tours

Mark your calendar now for the National Model Railroad Month layout tours coming up this November. Layouts in the southern part of the Susquehanna Division will be open the weekend of November 7-8, layouts in the west and north will be open the weekend of November 14-15, and layouts in the eastern region will be open the weekend of November 21-22.

Layout owners have the option of opening Saturday or Sunday or both. Last year most chose Saturday, so, on your calendar, mark those days in red!

There will be more details in our September Sidetracks where we'll also have all the schedules, locations, and directions on a variety of websites, including our own division site at <http://www.susquehannamra.org/> and the comprehensive NJ, MD, DE, and Philly area site www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com.

If you've never attended a tour of open houses before, here are some thoughts on what they offer and things to keep an eye out for:

- Layout tours are a great way to see how model railroads operate. Layouts in our division use operating methods ranging from thumbtacks to computer-generated switch lists, classic card cards, and more. Chatting with a layout owner about his experiences can replace a lot of experimentation.
- Layout visits are a great way to sample different flavors of DCC. This fall, you'll find almost every manufacturer and flavor of DCC as well as classic DC block control. And many layout owners will invite you to take the throttle for a test run.
- Keep an eye out for block control and the like. In our large division, you'll see everything from CTC to manual block towers and train orders. Some layouts have impressive signaling systems, often scratch-built. The chance to learn how others do it can help greatly in planning your own system.
- Open houses can point out many wrinkles relating to track. Again, in our division, you'll see flex track, sectional track, handlaid track, and every flavor of turnouts and special trackwork – from double slip switches to narrow/standard dual-gauge and more. Layout owners tend to be proud of their trackwork and ready to share their dos and don'ts.
- Scenery? Expect everything from urban industrial areas to open countryside, and from the mountains to the seacoast. Again, it's a great chance to learn from the experts.
- Don't neglect layouts that are still in the plywood stage. Insights on lighting, multi-deck designs, layout height, helixes, and designing from prototype scenes can be invaluable in helping to crystallize your own thinking.

So recruit a carload of friends, bring your camera, rendezvous at your favorite breakfast place, and make a day of it. If you can't hit at least six fine layouts in a day, you just aren't trying!

Now, if you are a layout owner, you may be wondering whether you wish to take part by opening your layout. Let me say that I have found it to be one of the high points of model railroading. That conclusion is based on showing four different layouts over the past 35 years in widely separated parts of the country!

Let's start with the ego thing. Who wouldn't like to have a congenial group of peers admiring something you've put so much work into? But a layout open house can be much more than that. Past open houses on my own layouts have resulted in invitations to take part in operating groups. Through open houses, I've also met folks who became part of a round-robin layout work crew and some of those same folks have become my best friends. And the inevitable chatting with modelers of different skills, interests, and perspectives has, on a large number of occasions, given me solutions to construction projects that had me stumped.

And the number one reason to take part in an open house? The deadline! Getting ready for an open house motivates me to lay track, install wiring, sort out those balky switch controls, get going on scenery, and so much more that I otherwise never seem to get around to. It would do the same for you.

So if you are interested in having your layout open, and we have not already been in touch with you, drop me an email at lrainey@susquehannanmra.org!

Lee Rainey
Layout Tour Project Leader

NMRA Members Only Website

The NMRA has upgraded its website www.NMRA.org including the Members Only area. The new website will allow better access to articles featured in the Division Business Car plus other Members Only content. Even if you were previously registered to receive Members Only content on the old website, you must register again. It is quick and easy. Instructions were given in the June 2015 NMRA Magazine on page 39. I'll give a summation of those instructions here.

First click on the words "Member Log-In/Registration" on the right side of the red bar at the top of the page. This will open a new page called "Members Only." Next click on the blue bar that says, "Need a username? Register now." This will take you to a page called "User Account." Enter a username (any combination of letters and/or numbers) and your email address, then click on the blue bar that says "Create New Account." (Note: the email you enter MUST be the same one that you have on file with the NMRA membership system. If you have changed your email and **not** notified the NMRA, you will get an error stating your email is not found.) You'll see a message that says an email confirmation has been sent to your inbox. Follow the instructions in the email to set your new password - the password you receive is only a temporary password, so change it immediately.

If you are told that your email used to create the account cannot be found, what is the problem?

The website uses the email address you have on file with the NMRA membership system. If you are currently receiving emails from the NMRA, such as the eBulletin and Sidetracks, check to see which address they are being sent to you with, and use that address.

If you are NOT receiving emails from the NMRA, you

- 1) Do not have an email address on file with the NMRA,
- 2) The email address on file is old and no longer valid, or
- 3) The email address on file is incorrect (typo)

You will need to check with the NMRA membership staff to verify your address, and make sure it is correct. Contact information is at <http://www.nmra.org/contact>. (I had to do this and received a reply within a few days with the problem solved).

Now, whenever you go to the NMRA webpage, you can access the Members Only content by clicking the "Member Log-In/Registration" heading on the red bar, enter your username and password, click "Log In" and you are there. Finally, click on the NMRA@HOME.

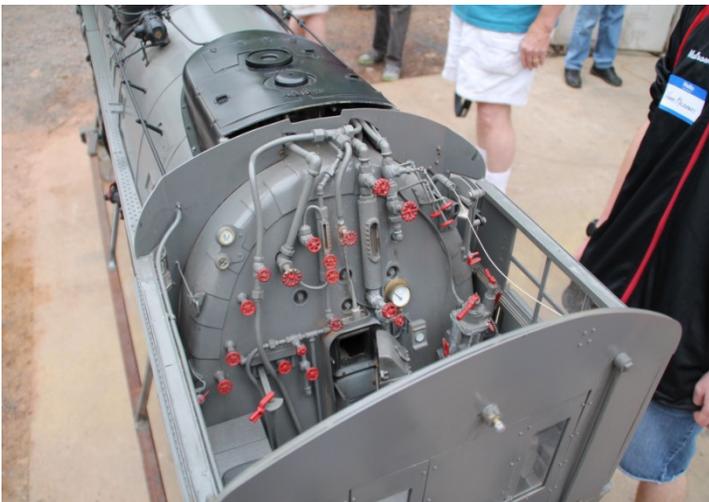
In future Sidetracks, there will be articles on the different sections of the NMRA website and the types of information available. Believe me, there is a wealth of articles, photographs, documents, etc. available to us.

Howard Oakes

May 9 Live Steam Day Recap

Approximately 70 people gathered to visit Wayne Godshall's machine shop and Don Sweger's Tuscarora Valley live steam railroad. Wayne had a UP Challenger outside for display, and several friends of Don's had their live steamers up and running on the TV.

Although this was an NMRA-sponsored event, there were several non-NMRA members in attendance including members of the Susquehanna Valley Vintage Sports Car Club - some of whom arrived in their pride-and-joy vehicles. Great afternoon weather made for an outstanding day!





JUNE 27 ELECTRIC RAILROADS AND COAL – AND RAIN!!

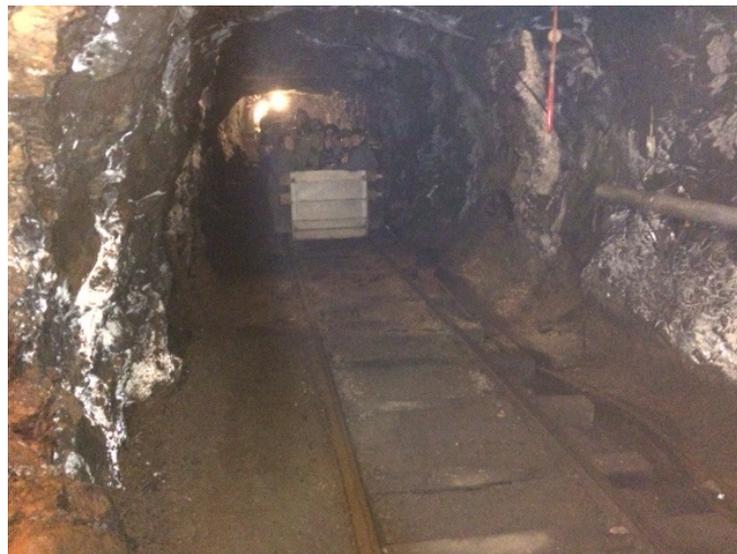


Twenty hearty members armed with raingear and determination made the trek to Scranton for a great Interurban electric unit ride on a 5-mile segment of the old Laurel Line that many years ago connected Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. We then switched onto the old Erie rails and ended the outbound ride at the Electric City Restoration facility. There we saw five electric cars in various stages of renovation. We then watched as our volunteer motorman John Gallagher reset the overhead poles for our picturesque ride back down the mountain to the museum. That part of the event ended with a very interesting tour of the museum.



Six attendees then began the hour-and-half ride down I-81 to the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine in Ashland PA. I guess we were having just too much fun for Mother Nature so she decided to do her best to ruin our day by dumping over an inch of rain along with 25-35 mph winds on the area. But as we all know a few rain drops and a light breeze won't deter a determined group of crazy model railroaders from enjoying a great outing.

Our authentic mine train was pushed then pulled by an authentic battery powered motor engine 1800' into one of several horizontal drift mine shafts. The temperature deep under the mountain was a chilly 52-degrees but strangely it was warmer in the mine than outside in the cold, wind-blown, and heavy rain 50-degree day. In its day the miners who worked here were expected to produce 400 tons of coal per day.



Once out of the mine only one of our group elected to ride the 040 narrow gauge steam engine tour around the mountain. While the old converted mine cars were covered the sides were wide open to Mom Nature's full furry.



In spite of the weather all had a most educational and enjoyable day!

Barry Schmitt

Upcoming Events In or Near Our Division

Compiled by Ron Smith

Saturday July 18, 2015
Elkins and Cass WV
Great West Virginia Train Race
Steam vs. Diesel
www.Mtn-Rail.com
866-820-9487 for more info

Saturday July 25, 2015
Hamburg PA
Reading RR Historical Museum
Visit the Reading Railroad Heritage
Museum in Hamburg PA.
See feature info on page 5!

August 2015 NKP 765
Various Steam Engine Trips
Allentown / Pittston / Scranton
See website for dates and ticket
information.

<http://fortwaynerailroad.org>

August 1, 2015
Garden State Division
Summer Meet – Bangor PA
Learn about the Pennsylvania Slate
Belt and visit three layouts. Details on
page 18.

August 21-23, 2015, Bedford, PA
11th Annual N Scale Weekend
The Event by N Scalers for N Scalers!

August 23-29 2015
Portland OR
NMRA National Convention
www.nmra2015portland.org

September 12, 2015, Lancaster PA
Grandview United Methodist
Church, 888 Pleasure Road
See feature on page 7!

September 11-13, 2015
Nicholson Bridge (Tunkhannock
Creek Viaduct) 100th Anniversary
Celebration
www.nicholsonbridge100th.com

September 19-20, 2015
Blue Ridge Summit PA
Mainline Hobby Supply Open
House
Co-sponsored by our Susquehanna
Division, featuring several Division
layouts!

September 27, 2015, Easton PA
39th Annual Lehigh Valley
Regional Train Show and Expo
Charles Chrin Community Center
4100 Green Pond Road \$5

October 2-3, 2015
LSOP-7
See feature info on page 9

Sunday October 4, 2015, 9 - 1
Leesport PA
Reading Co. Technical & Historical
Society Train Meet
Leesport Market Banquet Hall 312
Gernant's Church Road; \$4 Admission
N to O scales trains and railroadiana

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

November Home Layout Tours
First three weekends in
November! See the feature on
page 10.

Sunday November 1, 2015, 9- 2
Mill Hall, PA
Clinton Central Model RR Club
Annual Fall Train Meet
Mill Hall Vol. Fire Co.
Water St & Peale St. \$3

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 except Tony Koester's Layout!

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>

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. The layouts are in New Jersey – again within 15 minutes of Exit 4 on I-80 except for Tony Koester’s , which is about a half-hour from 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. Although Tony’s layout is about a half hour down the road, it is well worth the ride.

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.nergds.com/>

We hope to see you on Aug. 1st!

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.

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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