



# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA  
Vol 24 No. 5



*36 days of 90 degrees or above, so a scene of a reefer being iced seems appropriate...*

*The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg*

## From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

I trust that everyone had a good summer as we head into fall. My wife and I try to take in a visit to one of the operating excursion railroads. After talking about going to Cass, WV for years we finally did so this year. The only problem was that we forgot to check the good weather box when we ordered our tickets. It was a rainy dreary day, so much so that even a diehard like me did not even bother to get off at Bald Knob. It was pouring down rain and the view can only be described as what you would see inside a light bulb.



However I really did enjoy the shop tour. They are doing a complete rebuild on one of the Pacific Coast Shays.

This fall is again going to be busy. Starting on September 17 and 18 with the Mainline Hobby Supply in Blue Ridge Summit layout tours, then September 30 and October 1 the LSOP operations-till-you-drop. We also have the November three weekends grand tour of layouts across the Division.

I would like to highlight the MER Convention this year, "Tracks to the Triangle", to be held October 20 – 23 in Raleigh, NC. The convention web site is [www.mer2016.org](http://www.mer2016.org) . I would like to encourage all of you to attend, however I extend a special invitation to those on our convention committee to go and for a portion of your time there, "shadow" the person who is doing what you will be doing at our convention, to see what and how they are doing that position.

We had a Board of Directors meeting in August to work on our plans for next year. Barry Schmitt will be addressing the 2017 plans elsewhere in this installment of Sidetracks, however the main focus for next year will be the Convention.

If you are like me you have your list of projects for your layout you are looking forward to working on this fall and winter.

*Tim*

## 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 23, 2016.

### Board of Directors

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### 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)

Cover photo credit: Ron Smith  
Inset credit: Ron Smith

## Second Section - Ron Smith

Hello everyone!

After a hot summer I am ready for Fall - perhaps many of you are too - and getting back to working on my layout. It has been a busy summer for me, and I've shared photos of some trips elsewhere in this issue. We're also featuring photos from other members' excursions, and would love to include your photos in the next issue. Just send me an e-mail to the address at left.

Although not an NMRA-sponsored event, the N-Scale Weekend that was previously held in Bedford, PA moved this year to a larger and more comfortable venue in Altoona. It was nice to see old friends and make new ones, and I enjoyed seeing the modular setups. T-Trak had a strong showing this year with many new modules. Several Division members attended and brought their modules for display. As always, I returned home with less \$\$ than I went in with, but came home with more things I didn't know I needed.

We hope to see you during the upcoming layout tours, detailed elsewhere in this issue. Happy modeling!

*Ron*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Martin Nusbaum  
Larry Shipton

New Oxford, PA  
Mifflinburg, PA



## IS COMING

### **September 17-18 Mainline Hobby Supply Open House**

Once again the Susquehanna Division is co-sponsoring an event that has become a tradition in south-central PA the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September.

Mainline Hobby Supply of Blue Ridge Summit, PA will be holding their 27<sup>th</sup> annual Open House on September 17-18, 2016. 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 plans to 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. ***(Editor's note: If you'd be willing to man the table for a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday, please let me know at [rsmith@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannanmra.org) Both Barry and I will be out of town during this event. We could use your help!)***

One of the highlights of the Open House Weekend is the opportunity to visit area layouts, and this year's tour will feature 28 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.

One interesting tidbit that may make this event unique among home layout tours is that 3 of the participants model the former Western Maryland Railway. Okay, that in itself is not unique. However, these three modelers live within 15 miles of each other, and their layouts encompass the same stretch of the WM – the “Dutch Line” from Baltimore to Hagerstown via Hanover. All three follow the prototype closely in terms of arranging towns in the proper order and have ‘correct’ motive power for the location and timeframe. Here's the kicker: Three different scales and three different era's are represented!

In addition to the three noted above, there are several other layouts heavily influenced by the WM that model other locations of that railroad. Other prototype railroads that are represented on the tour include the PRR, the Milwaukee, the N&W, and the Colorado Midland. Several layouts are influenced by Appalachian coal roads, and many layouts feature a mix of power from the various “home” roads like the Reading and B&O /C&O/Chessie.

The tour book with maps is only available at Mainline Hobby; we are not providing an on-line version for this event. Please be sure to thank the layout owners for hosting. I add a special note of thanks to Barry Schmitt and Scott Seders who volunteered their time to create the tour book.

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

*Ron Smith*

### LSOP-8

LSOP8: What is it? Why is it? When is it? And what should you be doing about it?

LSOP8 – Lehigh/Susquehanna Operations Weekend number 8.

It is an operating weekend in two sections. So what is operation? Or better still, what is an operating session? Basically it is the time spent running trains on a train layout in a realistic fashion. Well, that is an oversimplification of an op session as there is a lot more to getting the trains over the tracks than just turning a knob and watching them go. The LSOP is designed to provide novices a chance to experience op sessions with experienced crews close by. There is no shouting and screaming at the crews (the local crews have their orders), there are no fines or penalties, you can't get 30 days on the ground for a derailment or fired for running a signal (really not recommended, but it happens in the model world).

The Lehigh section features the layouts of Larry Reynolds, Gale Smith and Jim Hertzog.

The Susquehanna section features the layouts of Charles Kadyk, Wayne Betty and Steven Mallery.

All of the layouts have well established operating schemes and feature DCC operation (it really is not that difficult to use a DCC throttle) and are easy to operate (ok so you do have to follow the rules of the layout that you are working on).

Why is it: the LSOP is designed to provide for those that normally do not operate the featured layouts or live too far away, or are looking to get into operation. The LSOP is organized as an event for the Div 11 with a nod from the Operation Special Interest Group. New this year is the requirement that attendees are either an NMRA or Op Sig member to participate. This is in response to the NMRA's 3 time a visitor rule (this has been described in previous editions of the Sidetrack and NMRA Bulletin).

When is it: This year it is Friday September 30 and Saturday October 1.

What should you be doing about it: Well how about signing up for a section? The Lehigh section has increased its max users to 12 so we have 2 positions open! The Susquehanna section has 4 positions available. Can't make it Friday night, sign up for the Saturday session.

Lots more information and the registration forms are found @ <http://www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP8/default.htm>

Thanks and hope to see you at an op session – Wayne Betty

## November is Model Railroad Month!

We are just two months away from presenting our third Division-wide November open house event. We have several layouts already committed to the program and several awaiting the final decision to be open. On behalf of all our members we offer our sincere thanks to not only the layout owners and clubs who plan to participate but also to our project officers out in the trenches contacting layout owners and finalizing their Sub-Division inputs. Our project officers are Lee Rainey in our Mountain Sub, Charles Kadyk working our Eastern Sub, and Jerry Britton managing our Southern Sub.

Like last year all of our open houses will be posted on Jerry Britton’s Susquehanna Valley Model Railroaders (SVMRR) website. In addition layouts in both the Mountain and Eastern Subs will be presented in a consolidated article at the Upcoming Susquehanna Division 11 Events link on our website at [www.susquehannamra.org](http://www.susquehannamra.org). We plan to post that program in early October to help you develop your visit schedule.

Each layout will include the following information: layout owner or club name, layout name, open dates and hours, address, GPS coordinates, special considerations (i.e. parking), layout details (e.g. design concept, scale, percentages of track-work and scenery completed, type of operating system), a brief layout description, and a map to the layout from a prominent area point. The program will also provide a link to Jerry’s SVMRR site. The open house schedule, by Sub Division is: Southern Sub - Nov 5-6; Eastern Sub – Nov 12-13; and Mountain Sub– Nov 19-20.

Our layout owners and clubs are expending 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, carpooling, or just a solo trip are great ways to enjoy these excellent layouts. It also presents an excellent opportunity to introduce our great hobby to a friend unfamiliar with model railroading.

We look forward to seeing you out and about during this last Division event of 2016!

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## Seeking Layouts for Susquehannock Convention

The layout tour and operating session subcommittee for the Susquehannock convention is looking for layout owners who would like to host tours and operating sessions.

Tours and op sessions are a key feature of MER conventions. Convention attendees are given a guide for the layout tours and drive themselves to the open layouts. Layouts are typically open for 3 to 4 hours, once or twice during the convention. It is an opportunity for you to share your modeling with your fellow modelers.

Convention op sessions give convention attendees opportunities to operate on layouts in the division. Attendees pre-register for op sessions so the number of operators can be limited to a number appropriate to your layout. If you already host an established operating session on your layout, please consider hosting a session for the convention. We’re looking for layouts that can accommodate a minimum of 5 guest operators. You should plan on having some of your regular experienced operators on hand to help the guest operators.

The convention takes place October 12 through 15, 2017. Please consider hosting a layout tour and/or operating session on your layout. If you’re interesting in hosting please fill out our online form to express your interest: <http://goo.gl/forms/fynIarcW5RVxAHvF3>

*Harry Haddon, Layout Committee Chair*

## 2017 Events Under Consideration

The following 2017 events were approved for research and development during our August 6 BOD meeting. Project officers have already been assigned for the program. Detailed planning for each event has begun and will be presented to your BOD for approval in early-December and presented to the membership in our January 2017 Sidetracks.

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the event project teams contact the event 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: an annual Division meeting is required by our Division by-laws and will be held during either the Feb or Mar events.

Below are the 2017 events being developed, locations under evaluation, and their designated project officers:

1. Feb – Clinics and layout tours, Mechanicsburg or other location in the greater Harrisburg-Lancaster-York area, project officer Ron Smith.
2. Mar – Clinic and layout tours, Lebanon, project officer John Wissinger (MMR).
3. Apr/May/Jun - joint Susquehanna and Philly Division event, Christiana, project officer Howard Oakes.
4. Sep – Mainline Hobby Supply weekend layout open houses, Blue Ridge Summit, project officer Ron Smith.
5. Oct - LSOP9, Lehigh Valley/Harrisburg/Lancaster, project officer Wayne Betty.
6. Oct 12-15 – MER Convention, Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Convention Committee Chairman Bob Charles (MMR).
7. Nov – Division-wide layout open houses, project officers Lee Rainey, Charles Kadyk, and Jerry Britton.

Obviously our sponsorship of the Oct 2017 MER Convention will be the Division's major focus next year and already the planning is well underway.

## THE SUSQUEHANNOCK

This is the Susquehannock addressing you again. Now you may be wondering - am I the Native American or the PRR passenger train? Well the answer is obviously both. I have again been looking at pictures of places along the route of the Susquehannock. We have moved south of Williamsport to Milton, home of one of the American Car and Foundry plants, ACF.



This plant is very representative of the railroad industry in the US today. ACF closed the plant in 2009 and reopened it in 2013. With the recent down turn in rail traffic and hence the lack of new orders who knows how much longer they will remain open. We are still working on the possibility of offering a plant tour of the Milton facility.



Moving on this just serves as a reminder of the many sites and facilities that supported the rail industry in our Division. Our division covers 32 counties of PA. In that area there were a lot of railroads and a lot of railroad related industries, many of which we will be featuring during our 2017 MER Convention. So we want to encourage you to take advantage of the tours that will be offered. Or better yet, volunteer to help make our convention the best that we can offer!

The focus of the convention is obviously model railroading. The fun of that is we can create a snapshot of any time we want, real or only in our imagination. And we are correct in that presentation.

National Model Railroad Association  
Mid-East Region  
Susquehanna Division #11  
Revenue and Expense Statement- Cash Basis  
For the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

PNC Bank- Checking Account

Unrestricted Funds		\$	<u>1803.41</u>
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Beginning Cash Balance- July 1, 2015			1803.41
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Revenue For the Fiscal Year

Subscription Income	\$	231.00	
NMRA (MER) Rebates		228.00	
MER Camera Reimbursement		428.34	
Advertising Income		180.00	
Scranton Event		201.00	
September Event		160.00	
Mechanicsburg Event		44.00	
Quakertown Event		82.00	
Donations		<u>31.00</u>	
Total Revenue Received			<u>1585.34</u>

Total Cash Available		\$	3388.75
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Expenses for the fiscal year

Postage	\$	206.08	
Newsletter/Printing		254.83	
Projector + Screen		856.67	
Scranton Event Expenses		130.00	
September Event Expenses		39.54	
Quakertown Event Expenses		<u>133.13</u>	
Total Expenses			<u>1620.25</u>

<u>Ending Cash Balance- June 30, 2016</u>		\$	<u>1768.50</u>
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All Unrestricted

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul F. Tice, P.A.  
Clerk/Paymaster- Susquehanna Division #11

July 17, 2016  
York, Pennsylvania

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6-issue year. This fee helps to further offset the cost of mailing hard-copy newsletters, and your support is greatly appreciated. For information about placing an ad, please contact Ron Smith at [rsmith@susquehannamra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannamra.org)



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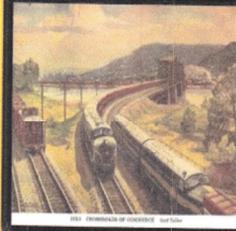
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Op Sessions 2nd Saturday of the Month



**September 10, 2016**

**Perkasie, PA**

Philadelphia Division NMRA Meet  
at the Perkasie Fire Company No. 1

*See page 16 for details*

[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)

**September 17-18, 2016**

**Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

Mainline Hobby Supply's 27<sup>th</sup>

Annual Open House

*See page 4 for details*

**September 23-24, 2016**

**Fredericksburg, VA**

**Mid-Atlantic RPM Meet**

Wingate by Wyndham

20 Sanford Drive

Admission: \$35 before 9/1/16

[www.marpm.org](http://www.marpm.org)

**Sept. thru Oct. 2016**

**Hollidaysburg, PA**

**Everett RR Excursions**

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

**October 8-9, 2016**

**Virginia Beach, VA**

Tidewater Division 27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Train Show & Sale.

Virginia Beach Convention Center

10 AM – 4 PM, \$8

[www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org](http://www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org)

**November 5, 2016**

**Strasburg, PA**

**1940's Swing Dance at the**

**Railroad Museum of PA**

7 PM to 10 PM, music by

The Moonlighters Big Band

See website for price and details.

[www.rrmuseumpa.org](http://www.rrmuseumpa.org)

**November Open House Tours**

1<sup>st</sup> Three Weekends of November

*See page 6 for details*

**Nov. & Dec. 2016**

**Hollidaysburg, PA**

**Everett RR Excursions**

Santa Trains

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

**2016 National Narrow Gauge**

**Convention**

**Augusta, ME**

**September 7-10**

**2016 Northeast Region**

**NMRA Convention**

**Albany NY**

**September 15-18**

**2016 MER Fall Convention**

**Durham, NC**

**October 20-23**

**2017 National N Scale**

**Convention**

**Pittsburgh, PA**

**June 21-25**

**2017 NMRA Convention**

**Orlando, FL**

**July 30 – August 6**

**2017 MER Convention**

**Harrisburg PA**

**October 12-15**



**October 20-23, 2016**

**2016 MER Fall  
Convention**

**Tracks to the Triangle**

[www.mer2016.org](http://www.mer2016.org)



Make your plans now to join us this Fall  
from October 20 – 23, 2016 at Tracks to  
the Triangle in Durham, NC!

### “What I Did on My Summer Vacation”

Following are some photos submitted by Division members and Yours Truly. We hope you were out and about too; and we'd be glad to share your photos in a future issue of *Sidetracks*.



Above, these two central PA clubs, who roster some Division members, participated in the August N Scale Weekend in Altoona. *Two photos: Ron Smith.* Below an Everett RR Geep and an Amtrak engine are both hauling passengers on the Friday before the show. *Two photos: Howard Oakes.*



## Division 11 Out and About



Above left, two six-axle NS units are doing some street running in Painted Post, NY. The sign on the right sums it up nicely. Above right, a short distance away two ALCO's are earning their keep 50+ years after leaving the factory. I hope I look that good when I am their age. (Oh, wait a minute...they are younger than me!) **Two photos: Ron Smith**



Middle left: Rich Wurst hard at work. Middle right: the N&W station in Roanoke VA. Bottom left: The Christiana PA freight house, home of the Lancaster Chapter NRHS. Bottom right: Dan Horting and Rich Wurst at the Muddy Creek Historical Station on the MAQ&PA, Airville PA. **Four photos submitted by Barry Schmitt**

## Division 11 Out and About



Above left, the Barstow CA station, which hosts an historic Harvey House restaurant. Above right, BNSF power through San Bernadino.



Above left, UP power in San Bernadino. Above right, that isn't really a tree – it's a man-made cell tower! *Four photos, submitted by Barry Schmitt.*

## Division 11 Out and About

My wife and I experienced a 10-day Canadian vacation this summer, which included riding VIA Rail's *Canadian* from Vancouver to Jasper. It was a wonderful trip. Scratch one item off the Bucket List!! *Photos below: Ron Smith*



## Join us for our September Division Meet

**When:** Saturday, September 10, 2016, 9:00am (Doors open at 8:30am)

**Where:** Perkasio Fire Company No. 1, 100 N. 5th St., Perkasio, PA 18944

**Why:** We love trains!

### Highlights:

- Glyn Thomas – "Modeling the CNJ's Lehigh & Susquehanna Division"
- Mike Baker - "Scratchbuilding That Unique Piece of Equipment for Your Layout"
- Model Display Table - bring your projects and discuss them if you like
- White Elephant Table – sell your stuff or buy someone else's
- Door Prizes
- Special Raffle: **Eagles Tickets** - more info below
- Philly Division shirts and patches for sale
- Refreshments – coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels
- Layout Tours in the PM - more info below

**Eagles Tickets Raffle:** Soon-to-be Philly member Kevin Feeney has graciously donated a pair of Eagles tickets to be raffled (together as a single item) at the meet. Below are the details:

Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns	Sunday, September 11, 2016, 1:00PM
Lincoln Financial Field      Section M9	Row 18                      Seats 17 & 18
Parking <u>NOT</u> included	These tickets are valued at \$90 each

The price for raffle tickets will be \$5 each or 6 (six) for \$20. Winner will be handed the tickets after the drawing at the meet.

**Ron Patzer's Stoney Creek RR:** One of the model railroads open to members on the afternoon tour will be Ron's HO masterpiece, which was featured in the June 2006 issue of *Model Railroader* and whose slideshow is currently on the home page of the Division website. It measures 26 x 46 feet and depicts the Erie, DL&W, E-L, and PRR in PA, NJ, and DE from 1950 to 1975. There are over 150 engines and 800 freight cars. It is fully scenicked. Ron will soon be moving and the layout dismantled, so come and get a last look!

Look for more meet details and directions to the venue in the upcoming August issue of *The Dispatcher*, or check out the event page for this meet on the Division website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-division-meet-091016>.

Hope to see you there!

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***COME SEE US WHEN YOU'RE IN THE AREA!!!***

## Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official publication of the Susquehanna Division 11  
Of the National Model Railroad Association

138 Old School House Lane  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

### Susquehanna Division #11 Newsletter MAIL Subscription Form

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_