



# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA  
Vol 24 No. 6



*Why are these guys all smiles? Why, it's LSOP-8, of course!!*

Back row left to right: Jeff Thompson, Bill Meier, Jim Hertzog, Sudro Brown, Bill Bouchelle, Bob Lyter, Nathan Kline and Gale Smith. Middle row: Ned Kent, Steven Mallery, Ray Fisher, Tom Lowry and Michael Greene. Front row: Larry Reynolds and Wayne Betty.

## From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

As I sit here writing this November is just a few days away. There are two good things to say about that. First is thankfully all the political ads will soon disappear. Personally I think that there should be at least a 25% tax on all of the political ads. (I know that will never happen.) Second is that November is our Open House month. I want to encourage all of you to take some time to visit some layouts. You never know where you will get a good idea to improve your layout and modeling skills. Speaking of the November tour schedule, yours truly had a serious lack of concentration while filling out my paperwork. It was decided to move Lebanon County to the Eastern Sub-division for the tour. So I'm busy filling out the forms and, not thinking, for the date I enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend since that is the date used for them. Since it has already been posted on some web sites as the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, I am just going to let it go at that.

I have just returned from the MER convention in Raleigh. It was a good convention and I am returning with a number of ideas to try and implement on my layout. There were many attendees who took advantage of the Tichy Train Group tour. I was among that group, and yes a bag of goodies ended up in my hand, after I paid for them. It was a very impressive operation.

Thursday before the convention opened I made a side trip to Spencer to the NC Transportation Museum. It is an impressive facility. While I was there the Norfolk & Western # 611 was stored there. A member of the staff informed me that it is now at Spencer more than it is in Roanoke.



*Super's Corner continued on page 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 December 21, 2016.

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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: Wayne Betty  
Inset credit: Ron Smith

## Second Section - Ron Smith

Greetings all!

Fall is here – at least the calendar says so – and it’s time for many of us to get back to work on our layouts. In my case, I’ve installed a new crossover on the mainline and completed two structures for the town of Bath. Nothing like an upcoming Open House to generate some activity in the layout room...

An additional spark was created by attending the annual Erie Lackawanna Historical Society Symposium. This years’ event was held very close to the portion of the EL that I model, so I received even more bang for my buck as it gave me the opportunity to conduct some “industrial archeology” while I was there. If you are not already a member of the historical society associated with your favorite prototype, I encourage you to join – most societies have a wealth of information just waiting to be shared.

One last incentive for me: I am participating in an event that honors Michael McGrattan, an employee of Rapido Trains and an N Scale modeler who passed away earlier this year from cancer. Some good friends of his put together a memorial train that is traveling across the US and Canada visiting about 40 N Scale layouts. My layout is being cleaned up and tuned up in preparation for the pending visit, as I want it to look and run well for this special occasion.

We hope to see you out and about during National Model Railroad Month. Happy modeling!

*Ron*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Connor Chinoy  
Nolan Kacsur  
Joseph Klusman  
Terence Vaughan

Altoona, PA  
Alburtis, PA  
Auburn, PA  
Hummelstown, PA



## IS COMING

From page 2

One last comment on the MER convention this year. Saturday evening was the banquet and part of the program was our presentation of next year's convention plans. This was presented by Bob Charles, who was accompanied by a power point presentation. To his surprise and everyone else's delight there was the following slide that was accidently (on purpose) inserted to the presentation.



*Tim*



## 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 interested in hosting please fill out our online form to express your interest: <http://goo.gl/forms/fynIarcW5RVxAHvF3>

*Harry Haddon, Layout Committee Chair*

### **November 2016 Division Layout Tours**

It's that time of year to once again build your schedule for this month's Susquehanna Division National Model Railroad Month layout tours. Generally, layouts in our Southern Sub-Division will be open the weekend of November 5-6, the Eastern Sub-Division layouts will be open the weekend of November 12-13, and layouts in the Mountain Sub-Division will be open the weekend of November 19-20.

There are two places to learn about the layouts that will be open and their specific open dates and times. For layouts in our Mountain and Eastern Sub-Divisions, visit our Division website (<http://www.susquehannanmra.org>) and select the Sub-Division you are interested in. Information about layouts in our Southern Sub, along with other open house layouts in PA and NJ visit [www.themodelrailroadopenhouse.com](http://www.themodelrailroadopenhouse.com) which is also linked on our website. A short guide to help you navigate the Southern Sub layout link is presented following this article.

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.
- In our large division, you'll observe everything from CTC to manual block towers and train orders. Some layouts have impressive signaling systems, often scratch-built. The opportunity to learn how others do it can help greatly in planning your own system.
- Open houses can point out many variations related 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 no, partial, and full scenery in 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 five excellent layouts in a day, you just aren't trying!

## Guide to Finding Southern Sub Division Layout Information

The Southern Sub-Division link includes Nov open house layouts throughout PA and NJ. The list at the end of this guide includes those in our Southern Sub-Division. Follow the below steps to locate a specific Southern Sub layout:

- At the Model Railroad Open House link select either “MENU” or “Schedule” depending on your computer presentation.
  - Next, select “Event List”.
  - As an example, Pat Mulrooney’s layout is the 4<sup>th</sup> listed and is located in our Southern Sub.
  - Selecting “Pat Mulrooney’s Open House” will then provide all the pertinent info about his layout including a Google map with adjustable scale.
- 

## List of Southern Sub Layouts

The following layouts are in the Susquehanna Southern Sub-Division. The columns are listed in the order that appears in the The Model Railroad Open House website. Note: a layout may be presented multiple times in the Event List. :

- William Quinn, Newville
- Pat Mulrooney, New Holland
- David and T J Weber, Oley
- Adam Henry, Gettysburg
- Bob Martin, York
- Phil Peters, Littlestown
- Green Ridge Village, Newville
- Wayne Betty, Mount Joy
- Ron Smith, Mechanicsburg
- Jerry Britton, Etters
- Art Waite, Newville
- Dennis Blank, Denver
- Alden Smith, Wayne
- Keystone Model Railroad Club, Mechanicsburg
- Chris Saporito, Mohnton
- Charles Kadyk, Mohnton
- Guy Wilson, Stevens
- Bob Jan, Newville
- Columbia Historic Preservation Society (Model Railroad Club), Columbia
- Jim Richards, Newville
- Dave Trone, Glenville
- Short Line Model Railroad Club, Ephrata
- Roman Rusynko, Lititz
- Robert Bucklew, Reading
- Joel Holubec, Bernville
- Jim and Carol Adams, Mohnton
- Bethany Village Model Railroad Club, Mechanicsburg
- Tim Himmelburger, Lebanon

## New Rail Projects in Pennsylvania

Reader Roger Goff provided a link to a story earlier this summer regarding the funding of several rail projects across Pennsylvania. The state approved \$36M to be spent on 31 different projects and it is expected to create an estimated 9200 new jobs, as well as help to retain an additional 39,000 jobs.

Several railroads in our Division’s geographic area will receive funds over the next 5 years. Some of the railroads include the Steelton and Highspire RR, the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern, the East Penn, the Everett, the Lehigh Railway and various SEDA-COG agencies throughout our region. Most of the funding is slated for trackwork and bridge repair.

<http://fox43.com/2016/05/12/new-rail-projects-that-will-create-retain-48000-jobs-through-state-investment/>

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## Pike Ads Update

Those of you who have Pike Ads (see next page), we really appreciate your financial support of this newsletter. I will be sending out a notice for the 2017 editions for \$10 a year (unchanged). Those of you who donated an ad part-way through 2016 will have your notice pro-rated.

If anyone else would like to have an ad for their pike, please get in touch with me by mid-December. My contact info is on page 3.



And you thought YOUR neighborhood was tough?

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



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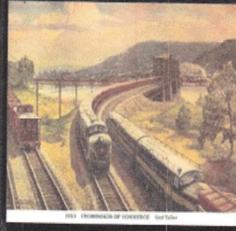
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<http://www.wabcos.com/trainmenu.htm>  
Op Sessions 2nd Saturday of the Month



**November Open House Tours**  
1<sup>st</sup> Three Weekends of November  
*See page 5 for details*

**Saturday 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 5-6, 2016**  
**Strasburg, PA**  
**Trains and Troops at the Railroad Museum of PA**  
Honoring veterans and current men and women in uniform.  
See website for price and details.

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

**November 5-6, 2016**  
**Harrisburg, PA**  
**Greenberg Train & Toy Show**  
Harrisburg Mall, 10 AM – 4 PM  
Vendors, display layouts and demonstrations!  
See website for price and details.

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

**Saturday November 12, 2016**  
**Vienna, VA**  
**Northern VA Model Railroaders Open House**  
231 Dominion Rd NE

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

**November 19-20, 2016**  
**Dover, DE**  
**First State Model Railroad Club Open House**  
9 AM – 4 PM  
1282 McKee Rd, Dover, DE

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

**November 26, 2016 thru Jan 8, 2017, Sat-Sun**  
**New Eagle, PA**  
**Holiday Open House, Noon – 5 PM**  
Not handicap accessible.  
159 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of New Eagle Borough office building.

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

**Nov. & Dec. 2016**  
**Holidaysburg, PA**  
**Everett RR Excursions**  
Santa Trains

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

**December 3, 2016**  
**Horsham, PA 9 AM – 3 PM**  
**Main Street Hatboro Train Show**  
Keith Valley Middle School  
227 Meetinghouse Drive.  
\$5 adults, under 12 free.  
145+ vendors.

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

**Nov 26, Dec 3 and Dec 4, 2016**  
**East Stroudsburg, PA**  
**Trains to Christmas Past**  
Erie Lackawanna Dining Car Preservation Society is offering round trip train rides between East Stroudsburg and Gouldsboro, PA

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

**Friday December 2, 2016**  
**Sunday December 4, 2016**  
**Sunbury, PA**  
**Holiday Express Train Rides**

[www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-express-train-rides-tickets-28510443504](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-express-train-rides-tickets-28510443504)

**December 3-4, 2016**  
**Timonium, MD**  
**Greenberg Train & Toy Show**  
Maryland State Fairgrounds  
10 AM – 4 PM  
See website for price and details.

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

**December 7, 8, 9 2016**  
**Bellefonte, PA**  
**Santa Express Train Rides**

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

**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**



## Mainline Hobby Supply Open House

Following are some photos submitted by Division members taken during the 2016 Open House in September. 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 four photos are of Richard Randal's O Scale Milwaukee Road. **Four photos: Hoard Oakes.** Below, photos of Adam Henry's N Scale CSX layout. **Two photos: Howard Oakes.**

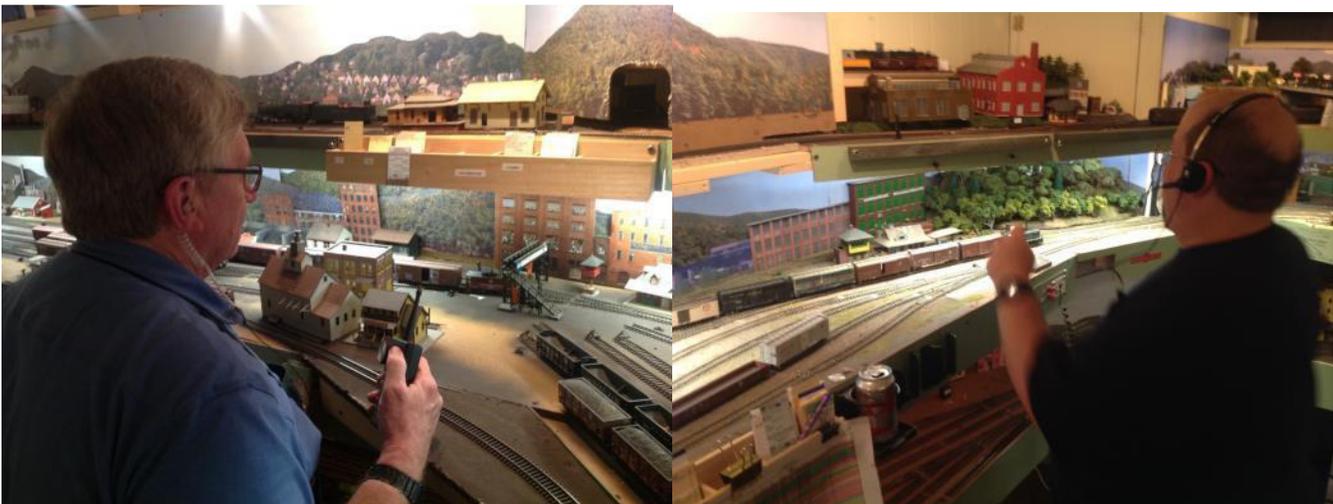


## LSOP 8: September 30 & October 1 2016

It was another great year for the Lehigh Susquehanna Operations weekend with 9 individuals from all over the place running 6 layouts in the two sub divisions. In the Susquehanna section, the Friday night arrivals started with Charles Kadyk's Pennsylvania & New England Railroad. Charles' layout is a multi-tiered freelanced mid-50's based layout. Below is the first night crew (minus Charles)



Standing are Jim Adams, Ron Hieser, John Bennett, TJ Weber, Chris Mincemoyer, Ross Kudlick, kneeling are Gerry Farrell and John Oleyar (Charles Kadyk photo)



Above left, Ross Kudlick at the controls of a local on the P&NE. Above right, Ron Hieser gets ready to drop some cars as he works a yard on the P&NE (both photos, Charles Kadyk)

## Division Event Recaps

Over in the Lehigh sub-division the crews gathered at Larry Reynold's home to start the weekend.



Above left, that's Bill Bouchelle (east end drill) and Mark Nolan (Yard Master) working the middle of Larry Reynold's Altoona yard. Tom Lowry (west end drill) and Jim Hetzog (yard master extraordinaire) working out drill moves for the west end while Ned Kent tries to navigate past with his train. Above right, Ray Fisher is hard at work as the AR/Hunt operator.



Above, Sudro Brown (Tyron YM) and Gale Smith work out the details on getting Bill Meier's cut into Tyrone. We are looking over Slope Interlocking on Larry Reynold's PRR Altoona Area layout.



Above left, Steven Mallery (retired NS Dispatcher) works with Michael Greene to route a train through the Alto plant on Larry's CTC machine. Right, Jim Hetzog gives instructions to Tom Lowry as Nathan Kline and Bill Meier get their crew assignments on Jim's RDG Shamokin Division (Photo by Michael Greene)

## Division Event Recaps



Gary Stevens (Dillerville YM) and Chris Mincemoyer (Dillerville Drill) work out some moves while Bob Lyter (Hostler) checks out the action on Wayne Betty's Lancaster & Atlantic RR.



Gerry Farrell (York YM) and Ray Fisher (York ARF) work at York yard getting the YEN ready to go to Enola

## Division Event Recaps



One of the best parts of any LSOP session is the Bull Session, also known as Lunch Time.



Chris Mincemoyer, Ross Kudlick, Bob Lyter are all working hard as two trains pass at Grove on Steven Mallery's Buffalo Line. That's superintendent Mallery on the right watching the meet.

LSOP9 will be October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2017. The Division website will have details as they become available.

Many, many thanks to the layout owners!! Kudos too to the many local crews that put in long hours to help out.

*Wayne Betty*

## Division Members In The Field

The four photos below are from Barry Schmitt, who recently stepped down as our Superintendent. He may have stepped down, but he clearly hasn't slowed down! These photos are from a recent trip to Cass WV, a trip taken in part to gain some modeling inspiration. He also attended the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Portland Maine – ostensibly for more modeling inspiration. And if that wasn't enough, he joined several other Division members at the recent MER Convention in Durham NC. I get tired just thinking about all that travel!



Above left, the Country Store in Durban, WV, where the train ride started. Above right, it's full steam ahead – at 6 mph!



Above left, the Cass Company Store. A rather plain structure architecturally speaking, but a challenge to model with three stories' worth of windows. Above right, the "modeling inspiration" – a rock outcropping appropriate for many an Appalachian-themed layout. *Four photos, submitted by Barry Schmitt.*



## Join us for our November Division Meet

**When:** Saturday, November 12, 2016, 9:00am (Doors open at 8:30am)

**Where:** Brandywine Town Center - Community Center (circular building in front of shopping center near the fountain), intersection of DE-92 (Naamans Rd.) & US-202 (Concord Pike), Wilmington, DE.

**Why:** We love trains!

### Highlights:

- Don Borden – WOW sound decoders - use of whistle, horn and other sounds, and general decoder overview
- Jeff Witt – John Allen's legendary Gorre and Daphetid Railroad, including never-before-seen photos and material
- 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
- 50/50 Raffle – take a chance and win half the pot
- Philly Division shirts and patches for sale
- Refreshments – coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels
- Layout Tours in the PM courtesy of the November Model Railroad Open House event. Check online for the schedules at both websites, [PA & NJ](#), and [DE & MD](#). Maps and directions of some local layouts will be available at the meet.

Look for more meet details and directions to the venue in the upcoming October 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-111216>.

Hope to see you there!

# The Station



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Happy Holidays from  
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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

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