



# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA  
Vol 25 No. 1



The NMRA, MER, Susquehanna Division 11 is mourning the loss of one of its most accomplished modelers, Bob Martin. Bob's HO Central Pennsylvania Railroad is well-known to many.

From Bob's own words: During its more than 30 year history, the CPRR earned the NMRA Golden Spike Award and my NMRA Civil Engineer, Scenery, Dispatcher, Electrical, and Association Volunteer Certificates of Achievement. The CPRR has also been featured during a NMRA National Convention, four NMRA/MER Regional Conventions, many NMRA Division level meets, a TCA National Convention, several PRRT&HS National Conventions, a local TV program, and several newspaper articles. We estimate that several thousand old and new friends have visited the three editions of the CPRR during its more than 35 year history.

We of the MER Division 11 will mourn the passing of a good friend and celebrate the life of Bob. Our prayers and condolences go out to Bob's family during this very difficult time.



*Tom Fedor photo*

*The Officers and Directors of MER Division 11*

## From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

This month's column has been a tough one to write - not for lack of material but just the opposite. I have been trying to write this for over a week now. Every time I sit down to write I get another email that stops me in my tracks. Our Division has lost a long-time member and also an outstanding modeler with the passing of Bob Martin. He will be most surely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

I encourage you to read Ron Smith's Second Section for his column and announcement. Unfortunately Ron will be leaving us after taking a new job. I mean who wants a job working on real trains. Yes, I say that with a touch of envy for all of us. However I do wish the best for Ron in his new position. But that also means that there is an opportunity for someone to step up and take over as editor of our Sidetracks Newsletter. Please contact me, [tlhimmel@comcast.net](mailto:tlhimmel@comcast.net) or if you have specific questions that Ron may be better able to answer at [rs25760@hotmail.com](mailto:rs25760@hotmail.com)

With Ron's departure there is another opportunity to serve in our Division. This spring we will be having an election for our four director positions. As of this time there will be one opening for sure, that being the one currently held by Ron. So again please consider serving the Division.

On page 5 Bob Charles is sending out a call for additional volunteers to help with our MER Convention in October. I know October sounds like it is a long way off but it will be here very quickly. Speaking of the Convention, there is an article on page 6 asking you to consider entering a model in the Contest Room.

Our first meeting of the year will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown. Barry Schmidt has taken this on as Project Officer and has put together a good day full of activities. Please see the article on page 14.

Our annual business meeting will be part of the February meeting. I know that at the most there is one person who comes for the business meeting. No, I have never been able to identify who the person is. Actually I personally think that it is a rumor that someone is spreading. But the rest of us come for other reasons, so to keep the business meeting as short as possible I will be assembling all the reports and will have Wayne Betty email them out a week to 10 days before the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be some copies there at the meeting. I ask that you review them and make notes of any questions you may have. I do not plan on spending the time to read everything that morning but I will be asking for comments and questions. After discussion we will act on each item. There is one issue I will call your attention to, and that is the proposed amendment to our By-Laws. Please see the article on page 16.

In November we again had our Grand Division-wide Open House Tour. I hosted an open house for the first time and on the other two weeks had the opportunity to visit some layouts. My one regret is that due to time constraints I skipped Bob Martin's layout this year. However I did visit Ron Smith's layout. Ron has posted that he will be hosting one more open house on January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have not seen his layout I would suggest that you consider taking the time to do so.

*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 February 24, 2017.

### Board of Directors

#### 2016-2018

##### **Superintendent**

Tim Himmelberger  
[timh@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:timh@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Asst. Superintendent**

Wayne Betty  
[wsb@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:wsb@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Chief Clerk**

Paul Tice  
[ptice@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:ptice@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Director**

Barry Schmitt  
[bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org)

#### 2015-2017

##### **Director**

Dave Collison  
[dcollison@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:dcollison@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Director**

Lee Rainey  
[lrainey@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:lrainey@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Director**

Ron Smith  
[rsmith@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Director / Membership Chairman**

Howard Oakes  
[hoakes@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:hoakes@susquehannanmra.org)

### Committee Chairman

##### **Achievement Program Chairman**

Robert Charles, MMR  
[rcharles@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:rcharles@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Training Chairman**

Alan Mende  
[amende@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:amende@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Model Showcase Program Chairman**

John Wissinger, MMR  
[jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org)

##### **Sidetracks Editor**

Ron Smith  
[rsmith@susquehannanmra.org](mailto:rsmith@susquehannanmra.org)

### 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: Tom Fedor  
Inset credit: Ron Smith

## Second Section - Ron Smith

Greetings all!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. December is always a busy time, but the week between Christmas Day and New Years' Day can often provide some relaxation time as well as some time to work on the layout – perhaps to try out those new items that arrived as gifts?

With the 2017 New Year comes a change in *Sidetracks* and with your BOD. I have accepted a new position at a company located west of DuBois, which means I will be moving out of Division 11 and MER territory. I will continue to be your Editor for the next issue or so, but I encourage you to consider taking over the newsletter. There are no hard-and-fast rules regarding its format or content; only that we publish 6 times a year (so that our faithful advertisers receive what they paid for). You have a “blank page” to make your own.

Please contact me or Tim via e-mail (addresses at left) with any questions, and we will write or call you back.

By the way – my new job is in the railroad industry. I will be part of a team that is restoring PCC cars for the city of San Francisco!

*Ron*



## IS COMING

Division 11 will have a table at the Timonium Show on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to advertise the Convention. We know many of you make the trip to this show; please consider helping out by staffing the table for an hour or two during the show to hand out fliers.

If you can assist, please contact Bob, [rcharles@aol.com](mailto:rcharles@aol.com) or Brian [rrelf@aol.com](mailto:rrelf@aol.com) or Tim [tlhimmel@comcast.net](mailto:tlhimmel@comcast.net).

Thanks!

# Super's Corner con't

From page 2

Obviously we and I am sure Ron does not know what the next layout will look like but I am sure it will be another good one. However I did take a couple of pictures this year.



*Tim*

# Opportunity Knocks

**Bob Charles, MMR**

In October of this year our Division will be hosting the Mid-Eastern Region convention, The Susquehannock. The convention website, [www.mer2017.org](http://www.mer2017.org) will detail many of the activities, with many more to be posted. What, then, are the opportunities I may be talking about?

First, of course, is the educational opportunity the convention provides, but there is more. There are a myriad of opportunities for you to become involved in the convention and earn Achievement award points while you are at it. For example, those presenting a clinic at the convention will earn points toward their Model Railroad Author award, and if they present twice, the second and any subsequent earns points toward Association Volunteer. Volunteer points are earned for things like hosting an open house, displaying a modular railroad, judging the model contest and more. Members of the host committee are earning points at the rate of one time unit per month.

How does one go about getting involved? The convention committee is already at work creating the many activities that constitute a convention, and there are things in place now to ensure a very enjoyable event. But later, when the convention finally arrives, there will be many areas in need of arms and legs to support the activities. Examples include tour guides, technical support for clinics, hosts for the white elephant sale or run items at the live auction, plus many more. We even need someone to provide background music for the hospitality event on Thursday evening of the convention. If you have the musical skills for this, please volunteer. Maybe you would be willing to volunteer to host in the auction room? Or, does one of the other areas interest you more?

Becoming a volunteer is simple! Contact me or any of the other chairmen involved, and you will be a part of the event. Brian Kampschroer is the inside activities Chair. Dan Horting chairs the Outside activities committee. Want to open your railroad for a visit? Contact Harry Haddon or Jerry Britton. Want to do a clinic? Contact Barry Schmitt, Clinic Chairman. Want to work the Auction or White Elephant sale? Contact Howard Oakes. Do you love to meet new people? Brian will welcome the support at the registration table to greet folks as they arrive and receive their package. Are you a “techie”? Dave Collison, our webmaster, can use you. Are you a good writer? Publicity chair Tim Himmelberger could use some help writing and editing much of the information necessary to describe the events to attendees (Hello, Author points).

The point of all this is, GET INVOLVED! The convention will provide significant financial support to our division and we all need to volunteer to support the efforts of your committee to assure the success of the event. If you have never attended a convention before, you have a treat in store. It is a four day immersion in model railroading. The dates for the convention are October 12 – 15, 2017. This is your invitation to get involved. Opportunity is knocking. Don’t pass up it up. The last MER convention held in this area was in 1990, and who knows when it will return!



## The Susquehannock Is Coming!

2017 MER Convention

Attention All Modelers

October 12 – 15, 2017

[www.mer2017.org](http://www.mer2017.org)

**Attention all modelers!** Yes, that includes YOU, all members of the Susquehanna Division. Now is the time to plan your model project for entry in the contest room at the Susquehannock Convention. I can speak personally for Josh and myself as we have both been planning our projects. Right now there is plenty of time to pick your project whether it be a structure, a piece of rolling stock or even a locomotive. It will provide you with an excellent opportunity to have your model judged by experts, not to compare with other models but rather against the standard.

Why bother to enter a contest you may ask. Well, this is an opportunity to get constructive criticism of your model and learn what you could do to improve your modeling. Who knows, you might even win one of the awards. I have attended the last 3 regional conventions and every year there are one or two people who walk away with the lion's share of the awards. It would be nice to see not only a variety of award winners, but to see our members get the recognition they deserve. We have many excellent modelers in the division, and we want to see all of you participate. Let's show the rest of the divisions just how good we really are!

You may enter as many models as you wish, and in any of the categories. Some of the less popular categories are traction, caboose, passenger cars and MOW. Maybe you build and enter these and walk away with a first place in addition to a merit award. Please remember, if you are working toward a master builder award, several AP categories have a required number of merit awards. This would be an excellent opportunity to try and earn one or more of them to send you on your way.

Part of entry is the required paperwork describing your model in each of the judged areas – namely construction, detail, conformity, finish and lettering, and scratchbuilding. You can find the forms on line on the NMRA web site. If you need help or if you have any questions please contact Bob Charles, our Division AP chairman, [rcharles@aol.com](mailto:rcharles@aol.com) Plans and pictures are invaluable in assisting judges in understanding what you have accomplished.

I would encourage each and every one of you to seriously consider preparing a model for the contest room. Even if you do not earn a merit award you will learn in what areas you need to improve. That is also an important part of becoming a better modeler. I look forward to seeing models from all of you.

*Tim Himmelberger*

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)



**FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY**



Gary P. Nastase-President & CEO  
Kathleen A. Nastase-Traffic Wily  
207 State Street  
Woodbury, PA 16895  
[gnastase@aol.com](mailto:gnastase@aol.com)

Route of the Whiteford

*The Standard Railroad of the World  
Meets the Narrow Gauge of the East*

**Modeling the Pennsylvania and  
East Broad Top Railroads in S/Sn3**

Visitors welcome by appointment  
Lee Rainey • [leerainey@aol.com](mailto:leerainey@aol.com)



**SHORT LINE**

ESTD 1989

**MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**

[WWW.SLMRC.COM](http://WWW.SLMRC.COM)  
11 S. STATE STREET | EPHRATA, PA

NATHAN M. KLINE

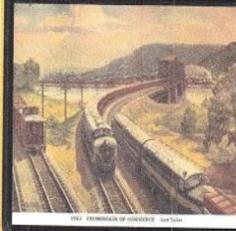


MODEL TRAINS & ACCESSORIES  
SPECIALIZING IN NARROW GAUGE & SHORTLINE MODEL RAILROADING

[NATESLIGHTIRONHOBBIES.COM](http://NATESLIGHTIRONHOBBIES.COM) 610-496-1761

**Lancaster & Atlantic Rail Road**  
operating in Lancaster County since 1980

**Wayne Betty**  
President  
938 Wood Street  
Mount Joy PA 17552  
Phone: 717.951.8083  
[wab@mycylberlink.net](mailto:wab@mycylberlink.net)  
<http://www.larbcos.com/trainmenu.htm>  
Op Sessions 2nd Saturday of the Month

**PRR Panhandle Division**



George Pandelios Chief Engineer  
Member: NMRA, TCA, PRRT&HS  
717.503.3192 [gpandelios@verizon.net](mailto:gpandelios@verizon.net)



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



**B&O WESTON SUBDIVISION**  
(Under Development)  
Barry W. Schmitt, Superintendent  
405 Ford Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
(717) 877-1810 [sbschmitt@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:rs25760@hotmail.com)

**Jan 7, 2017 9 AM  
Haddon Township NJ**

Philadelphia Division Joint Meeting  
with New Jersey Division.  
See feature on page 18

<http://www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-new-jersey-division-joint-meet-010717>

**Jan 7-8 and 21-22 2017  
Elkins Park, PA**

Chelten Hills Model RR Club Open  
House Noon – 4 PM  
[www.cheltenhammrr.org](http://www.cheltenhammrr.org)

**Jan 28-29 2017 W. Springfield MA  
Railroad Hobby Show**

Eastern States Exposition Center  
W. Springfield MA  
Advanced purchase is \$14 each day  
or \$25 for both days. See:

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

*(Admittedly a day's drive from most of  
our members, but one of the largest  
shows on the East Coast. – Ed.)*

**January 29, 2017**

**New Eagle, PA 10AM – 4PM  
Train Show & Sale**

Sponsored by New Eagle VFD and  
Mid-Mon Valley MRR Club  
156 Chess Street, New Eagle VFD  
Social Hall \$3

**February 4-5, 2017  
Timonium, MD**

**Great Scale Model RR Train Show**  
See website for price and details

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

**February 11-12, 2017  
Monroeville, PA**

**Greenberg Train & Toy Show**  
Monroeville Convention Center  
10 AM – 4 PM  
See website for price and details.

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

**February 11, 2017  
Elizabethtown, PA**

MER Division 11 Winter Meet  
See details on p. 14

**February 18, 2017  
Strasburg, PA**

**The "Long John Limited" Express**  
The Strasburg Railroad opens its  
2017 season with the return of the  
"Long John Limited" – you get to  
ride in an open-air car!

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

**February 25-26, 2017  
Allentown, PA**

Spring Thaw Train Meet  
Allentown Fairgrounds Agricultural  
Hall Adults \$8

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

**March 18, 2017  
Lebanon, PA**

MER Division 11 End-Of-Winter  
Meet  
See details on p. 15

**April 8, 2017 9AM – 4 PM**

**Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania**  
NMRA, MER South Mountain Division  
and Mainline Hobby Supply Host its  
5<sup>th</sup> annual Mini Con at the Blue Ridge  
Fire Hall. See page 18 for details.

**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**



## 2017 Division Event Plan

Our annual program this year is somewhat lighter than previous years primarily due to the heavy demands of organizing and presenting the 2017 MER **Susquehannock** Convention October 12-15 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hotel. However, we definitely encourage the development of several more localized events during the year such as that organized by John Wissinger MMR and scheduled for March 18 – see Event 2 below. For example, members in our western area might consider presenting a clinic or two at a centrally located club, museum, or other meeting facility and one or two layout visits after lunch. The same could be developed in our northern and eastern areas as well as another gathering in our southern area. The key is not necessarily large number of attendees from our very large and dispersed territory – rather, a more local setting where members want to get together to share our great hobby. And by sending your plan to our Sidetracks Editor, it will be presented in the Sidetracks “Happenings Page” where other Division members looking for an excuse to get out and visit modeling events anywhere in PA might just surprise you with their unexpected attendance.

Please mark these major events on your calendar now and plan to attend as many as possible. Also, consider reaching out and inviting a model railroading friend to join you. While you might label yourself as a “lone wolf modeler”, gaining ideas from how others have built or are still building their empires may help solve some of your challenges or simply make for an enjoyable time with fellow modelers. If you have questions about a specific event kindly contact the appropriate project officer.

A short recap of the full year event program is presented at the beginning of this article and the expanded plan follows. The recap plan will fit nicely under one of those handy refrigerator magnets for ready reference.

### Compressed 2017 Division Event Plan – When-What-Where

Event 1 - Feb 11, Clinics and Layout Visits, Masonic Village Patton Conference Center, Elizabethtown.

Event 2 - Mar 18, Clinics and Layout Visits, Lebanon.

Event 3 – May 20, Clinics and Layout Visits, Christiana.

Event 4 – Sep 16-17, Mainline Hobby Weekend Layout Open Houses, Blue Ridge Summit.

Event 5 – Oct 6-7, LSOP9, Lancaster-Harrisburg and Allentown-Lehigh Valley.

Event 6 – Oct 12-15, MER **Susquehannock** Convention, Harrisburg.

Event 7 – Nov 4-19, Division Grand Layout Tour, Division-Wide.

**Note:** follow event updates in future Sidetracks newsletters.

Event 1: February 11 – Masonic Village, Elizabethtown PA**242 Days to *Susquehannock***

Title: Annual Winter Meeting.

Project Officer: Barry Schmitt ([sbschmitt@comcast.net](mailto:sbschmitt@comcast.net)).

Location: Masonic Village Patton Campus Conference Center, 1244 Bainbridge Road, Elizabethtown. A map to the facility will be posted on the [www.susquehannamra.org](http://www.susquehannamra.org) Division website at the Upcoming Susquehanna Division 11 Events link in mid-January.

Schedule:

8:30 AM: Conference Center doors open at flag pole entrance.

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Meet, greet, registration, and morning refreshments.

9:00 – 9:15 AM: Welcome new members since our last meeting event and review the program schedule by Superintendent Tim Himmelberger.

9:15 – 10:00 AM: Annual Division Business Meeting followed by ***Susquehannock*** Convention presentation by Convention Chairman Bob Charles MMR.

10:00 – 10:20: Break.

10:20 – 11:00 AM: Clinic currently being finalized.

11:00 – 11:20 AM: Break.

11:20 – Noon: Model Showcase clinic, and handout layout maps and nearby restaurant addresses.

Noon – 1:00 PM: Lunch on your own.

1:00 – 4:00 PM: Layout visits:

Masonic Village Model Railroad Club.

Roman Rusynko home layout, Lititz.

3<sup>rd</sup> layout being finalized.

Comments: All attendees are asked to bring a model for the Model Showcase clinic. It can be your pride and joy, something under construction, a new purchase, and in any scale – in short, anything related to model railroading that can fit through the door. All items will be on display throughout the morning program. Each modeler will have up to 5-minutes to describe your item. This is not a judging event – it is simply an opportunity to share some aspect of this great hobby with your fellow modelers.

The Patton Conference Center is handicap accessible.

Event 2: March 18 – Lebanon PA**207 Days to *Susquehannock***

Title: End of Winter Gathering.

Project Officer: John Wissinger MMR ([jww99nmra@hotmail.com](mailto:jww99nmra@hotmail.com)).

Location: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Lebanon. The church is located 0.6 miles south of Cumberland Street/US-422. Use the parking lots at the side and back of the church. Entrance to the Snyder Hall meeting room is the stairwell off the back (east) parking lot.

The morning meeting facility is handicap accessible; however, prior arrangements must be made to have someone meet you at the front door.

Schedule:

8:45 AM: Meeting room doors open.

9:00 – 9:30 AM: Meeting begins - welcome, introduce guests, review event schedule, ***Susquehannock*** Convention updates, and other announcements by Superintendent Tim Himmelberger.

9:30 – 9:45 AM: Break for coffee, donuts, and clinic setup.

9:45 – 10:45 AM: John Wissinger MMR will present a very interesting clinic titled “How To Build A Turnout To Fit Where A Commercial Turnout Will Not Fit.”

10:45 – 11:00 AM: Break.

11:00 – Noon: Model Showcase clinic and handout layout maps.

Noon – 2:00 PM: Lunch on your own at many restaurants nearby and travel to layouts.

2:00 – 4:00 PM: Layout visits:

Tim Himmelberger, 19 Penny Lane, Lebanon.

John Wissinger, 23 Thorndale Drive, Myerstown.

**Note:** *The above schedule is subject to change and will be flexible to fit circumstances encountered during the meeting.*

Event 3: May 20 – Christiana PA**144 Days to *Susquehannock***

Title: Christiana Freight Station Event.

Project Officer: Howard Oakes ([hoakes@susquehannamra.org](mailto:hoakes@susquehannamra.org)).

Location: Lancaster Chapter NRHS Christiana Freight Station, 10 Railroad Avenue, Christiana. For Google map, search “*address of christiana freight station, christiana pa*”.

Schedule: The final event plan and detailed schedule will be presented in the March Sidetracks. The goal is to present morning clinics and afternoon layout visits. The event begins at the 1882 PRR freight station which was restored by the NRHS Lancaster Chapter in 1999. The station features a train watching deck which is only a few feet from the Amtrak Keystone Corridor mainline at milepost 48.5. The station is handicap accessible.

Event 4: Sep 16-17 - Blue Ridge Summit PA**24 Days to *Susquehannock***

Title: Mainline Hobby Weekend Layout Open Houses.

Project Officer: To be determined – looking for volunteers. If interested in managing or providing assistance with the development of this great event or have questions contact Superintendent Tim Himmelberger at [timh@susquehannamra.org](mailto:timh@susquehannamra.org).

Location: Mainline Hobby Supply, 15066 Buckhannon Trail East, Blue Ridge Summit.

Schedule: 10 AM - 4 PM Saturday (16<sup>th</sup>) and 11 AM - 4 PM Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>).

Comments: Our Division has sponsored this popular layout open house weekend event since 2012. Although Mainline Hobby is not physically located in our assigned territory they are just across the Adams County line which is the southwestern-most county in our Division. More importantly they have always provided excellent support to members throughout our Division and especially those residing in our southern counties. Also Mainline Hobby Supply has been a key advertiser in our Sidetracks newsletter for many years. The open houses will include layouts in all popular modeling scales from N to G, and several layouts located in our Southern Sub-Division will be open for this event. The Mainline Hobby Shop is handicap accessible; however, many layouts in this event are not handicap accessible.

Event 5: October 6 and 7, Central Susquehanna Valley and Allentown/Lehigh Valley**4 Days to *Susquehannock***

Title: LSOP9.

Project Officer: Wayne Betty ([wsb@susquehannamra.org](mailto:wsb@susquehannamra.org)).

Location: 3 layouts in the Harrisburg-Lancaster area and 3 layouts in the Allentown-Lehigh Valley area.

Schedule: In each area, one layout will be operating on Friday evening (Oct 6) and two layouts operating on Saturday (Oct 7).

Comments: This is a jointly sponsored event by the NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 and the OpSIG. As of early December all the positions in the Allentown-Lehigh Valley area are filled and only two positions remain open in the Harrisburg-Lancaster area. However, cancellations occur; therefore, for those interested in joining this very popular annual operations event contact project officer Wayne Betty and join the waiting list. For more detailed information about this well-known event kindly review the LSOP9 website at <http://www.susquehannamra.org/LSOP/LSOP9/default.htm>. Not all layouts in this event are handicap accessible.

Event 6: October 12-15, MER **Susquehannock** Convention**Susquehannock Has Arrived!**

Title: MER 2017 **Susquehannock** Convention.

Project Officer: Robert Charles MMR ([rcharles@susquehannamra.org](mailto:rcharles@susquehannamra.org)).

Location: Sheraton Harrisburg Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg.

Schedule: To register for the convention and get the latest convention information view the Division website at [www.susquehannamra.org](http://www.susquehannamra.org) and click on the **Susquehannock** logo or go to [www.mer2017.org](http://www.mer2017.org).

Comments: An overview convention power point presentation will be presented by the Convention Chairman, Bob Charles (MMR), at Division Event 1 on Feb 11 – see the first write-up in this article. This will be the perfect opportunity to ask questions and/or offer your assistance to the many committees developing the program.

All activities at the convention hotel are handicap accessible.

Event 7: November 4-19, Division-Wide Layout Open Houses.

Title: Susquehanna Division Grand Layout Tour.

Project Officer: To be determined – looking for volunteers. If interested in managing or providing assistance with the development of this great event or have questions contact Superintendent Tim Himmelberger at [timh@susquehannamra.org](mailto:timh@susquehannamra.org).

Location: All 32 Division-wide counties.

Schedule: This three weekend event will be held November 4-5, 11-12, and 18-19. Exact schedules for each weekend will be presented in a future *Sidetracks* once a project officer is selected.

Comments: The November 2017 Grand Layout Tour program will be our fifth Division-Wide 32 PA county open house event in support of National Model Railroad Month. If you haven't opened your layout to this program we hope you will join our 2017 venture. Please do not believe your layout is not showable because you are still in the construction stage. On the contrary, many modelers enjoy viewing layouts in the building stage to see what techniques are being used that can be applied to their own project. For example, during the 2016 Grand Tour I asked a layout owner why he selected the height of his layout. He demonstrated by sitting on his office chair with wheels and slid right under the layout where he had both comfortable and up-close access to all overhead wiring. At his suggestion I tried his method on his under-construction layout and it immediately became the layout height standard for my about to be started layout – a tip that will definitely save my old bones many hours of grief. If you have questions or are considering adding your layout to the Grand Tour please contact your Superintendent, Tim Himmelberger, at [timh@susquehannamra.org](mailto:timh@susquehannamra.org).

## February 11, 2017 Winter Meeting Event

Our first 2017 Susquehanna Division 11 event will be held February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Village Patton Conference Center which is located at 1244 Bainbridge Road on the southeast side of the Elizabethtown Masonic Village campus. The Conference Center doors will open at 8:30 AM. Please enter the facility at the flag pole entrance and sign-in with Lorraine and Bill Lesjak at the registration desk. A broad area map to the Patton Conference Center will be posted to our [www.susquehannanmra.org](http://www.susquehannanmra.org) Division website at the "Upcoming Susquehanna Division 11 Events" link in mid-January. GPS directions can be found by googling Masonic Conference Center – Patton Campus.

After 30-minutes of meeting and greeting old friends and enjoying morning munchies the program will begin at 9:00 AM where our new Superintendent, Tim Himmelberger, will welcome guests and new members since our last meeting in Quakertown and conduct a short annual business meeting. Then from 9:15-10:00 AM, member Bob Charles (MMR) and Chairman of the October 12-15 MER **Susquehannock** Convention will make a presentation and answer any questions you have concerning the convention that will be held at the Harrisburg Sheraton Hotel.

We will then take a 20-minute break and resume at 10:20-11:00 AM for our morning clinic. We are still finalizing the clinic at Sidetracks press time. Following another break we will return to our very popular Model Showcase clinic at 11:20 AM that was first introduced at our February 2013 winter program in Mechanicsburg. This is where we ask members and visitors to bring their favorite engine, rolling stock, structure, mini module, or any other model item that is special to them and tell us why you deem it special. Also, your model does not have to be finished – model railroaders always enjoy seeing projects in their all-important building stage. Each modeler will be provided up to five-minutes to tell their story; however, giving such a presentation is not required. And remember, this is not a model contest – it is simply an opportunity to see and enjoy what is special to our area modelers. So bring your modeling pride and joy and proudly share it with the rest of us.

At the end of the morning program maps to the afternoon layouts will be handed out as well as a listing of nearby Elizabethtown eateries.

In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to visit three great model railroads:

1. The Elizabethtown and Masonic Village Model Railroad Club. This stand- alone model railroad building is located just across the highway from the Patton Conference Center. The club will be open from Noon to 3:00 PM. This 18-year old club has Z, N, HO, S, O, G, and Standard Gauge layouts. Their club is sponsoring our event so kindly pass on a special thank you to their members for their support. Their club building is handicap accessible.
2. Division member Roman Rusynko will have his HO layout open from 1:00-4:00 PM. Roman lives in Lititz and is building a modern Norfolk Southern themed layout. All track-work and electrical wiring is complete and he is now in the scenery building stage. His large empire is located in a dedicated and expertly finished model railroad man cave which in itself is worth the visit. Roman's layout is not handicap accessible.
3. At press time we are still finalizing the final area layout.

Our February 11 event will be a great jumpstart to our 2017 Division event program. We look forward to seeing you  
then!

## March 18 End of Winter Gathering

Our End of Winter event will be held at the St Andrews Presbyterian Church at 600 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Lebanon. The church is located 0.6 miles south of Cumberland Street/US-422. Use the parking lots at the side and back of the church. Entrance to the Snyder Hall meeting room is the stairwell off the back (east) parking lot. The facility is handicap accessible; however, prior arrangements must be arranged with the event project officer (John Wissinger at [jww99nmra@hotmail.com](mailto:jww99nmra@hotmail.com)) to have someone meet you at the front door.

The meeting room doors will open at 8:45 AM, and morning munchies will be served. The introductory program runs from 9:00-9:30 AM and includes a welcome, introduction of guests, review of the event schedule, and updates to the Oct 12-15 **Susquehannock** Convention by Superintendent Tim Himmelberger. At 9:30 we will then take a 15-minute break for coffee, donuts, and clinic setup.

From 9:45-10:45 AM, member John Wissinger MMR will present a clinic titled How To Build A Turnout To Fit Where A Commercial Turnout Will Not Fit. We have often encountered spaces on our model railroads where a commercial turnout will not fit because the space is too small or the intersecting track is at too much of an angle. The only way to fit in a turnout is hand-lay or scratch-build one. You have probably never tried to do that and are reluctant to try "because it is so hard." John will show you an easy way to build a non-standard turnout without jigs. If you can solder, you can do this. John developed this method in the 1960s and has built more than 50 turnouts since that time. Come and watch this PowerPoint clinic to show an easy method on how to do it.

At the end of John's clinic we will take another break until 11:00 AM when we will then present the Model Showcase clinic. All attendees are requested to bring their pride and joy model that will be on display throughout the morning program. During this clinic each modeler will be provided up to 5-minutes to talk about their model; however, such a talk is not required if you feel uncomfortable speaking before the group. There are only 2 restrictions on what you can bring and display – it must be model railroad related and it must fit through the entry door. Otherwise, what you show is up to you – an engine, new purchase, structure, module, or something under construction. So start searching your layout, workbench, or storage area for something that is special to you. At the end of the morning program maps to the afternoon layouts will be handed out.

The morning program will end about Noon where attendees have lunch on your own at one of the many nearby restaurants. The following Lebanon area layouts will then be open for your viewing from 2:00-4:00 PM: Tim Himmelberger and John Wissinger.

The following is a proposed amendment to our Division By-Laws. This was discussed and approved at the last Board of Directors meeting. Please read it carefully. We are a group of non-lawyers making changes to a legal document - a very dangerous situation. There are 3 sections listed below. The first is the By-Laws as they now exist. The second section is marked highlighting the area of concern. The third section shows the proposed new version to the By-Laws. This is followed by the rationale for the revision. The information presented below will also be presented during our annual business meeting in February. The officers and directors will receive any comments and editorial suggestions from members of the Division until February 18<sup>th</sup>. (This is one week after the annual business meeting in Elizabethtown.) It will then be posted in the March – April *Sidetracks* with the voting instructions.

### Existing By-Law

#### **Current**

### **ARTICLE VI Board of Directors**

#### **Section 1. Officers**

- A. Officers of the Susquehanna Division shall consist of: the Superintendent (with duties as president), Assistant Superintendent (with duties as vice-president), and Chief Clerk (with duties as secretary and treasurer). They shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of even-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year.
- B. The Chief Clerk shall keep an account of all funds received and dispersed, render a proper accounting for these funds at the annual business meeting, and make books available for an annual audit by a properly qualified member of the Susquehanna Division 11, as appointed by the Superintendent. Audits will also be conducted at the departure of the Chief Clerk. The Chief Clerk shall be Bonded by Division 11 in regards to his or her activities as the Division Treasurer. The bond shall cover any and/or properties and monies held by the Treasurer.
- C. The Superintendent shall appoint a qualified replacement to fill out the unexpired term of any Board of Directors position subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. In the event the Superintendent office is vacated, the Assistant Superintendent shall either fill out the unexpired term or appoint a replacement subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- D. No Officer or Board member may hold more than one office at the same time. If elected or appointed to a new position, said election constitutes a resignation from the former position.
- E. Any Officer or Board member may be removed from Office by a two-thirds vote of the members responding to a ballot to be conducted by mail. This ballot is to take place upon written complaint to any Board of Directors member of ten (10) or more Division members expressing misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of the office.

#### **Section 2. The Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members: the three elected Officers, the Past Superintendent (until he is replaced by the next Past Superintendent), and three (3) directors, and will be chaired by the Superintendent. The directors shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of odd-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year. In the event the Past Superintendent is unwilling, ineligible, or unable to be a member of the Board, a fourth director shall take the seventh board position in accordance with Article VI,

## Proposed Changes to our By-Laws

Section 1, Paragraph C. The Board of Directors shall hold legal title to all Susquehanna Division 11 property and monies in trust for its members. Each member has one vote at a Board meeting or a General meeting. All members must be members of the NMRA and reside in the Division. All members must be at least twenty one (21) years of age and be eligible for bonding as may be required by the Board of Directors.

### Section 3. Committees

Superintendent shall create Committees as needed and shall appoint Committee Chairpersons as required. The Superintendent shall also disband committees and dismiss members as necessary and require reports from committee chairs as necessary. There shall be a standing Achievement Program committee.

### Key Concerns with Current Policy:

#### Section 2. The Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members: the three elected Officers, **the Past Superintendent (until he is replaced by the next Past Superintendent)**, and three (3) directors, and will be chaired by the Superintendent. The directors shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of odd-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year. **In the event the Past Superintendent is unwilling, ineligible, or unable to be a member of the Board, a fourth director shall take the seventh board position in accordance with Article VI, Section 1, Paragraph C.** The Board of Directors shall hold legal title to all Susquehanna Division 11 property and monies in trust for its members. Each member has one vote at a Board meeting or a General meeting. All members must be members of the NMRA and reside in the Division. All members must be at least twenty one (21) years of age and be eligible for bonding as may be required by the Board of Directors.

### Proposed ARTICLE VI, Section 2 Rewrite:

The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) *elected* members: the three elected Officers and four (4) directors, and will be chaired by the Superintendent. ***The Past Superintendent will serve as an honorary, non-voting member of the Board of Directors until replaced by the next Past Superintendent.*** The directors shall be elected for a two year term in the spring of odd-numbered years, holding office from July 1 of that same year to June 30 of the second year. The Board of Directors shall hold legal title to all Susquehanna Division 11 property and monies in trust for its members. Each member has one vote at a Board meeting or a General meeting. All members must be members of the NMRA and reside in the Division. All members must be at least twenty one (21) years of age and be eligible for bonding as may be required by the Board of Directors.

- A. **Rationale:** Our fundamental belief is that only elected Division members should be voting members of the Board of Directors. If the past Super was replaced by the vote of the membership in a contested election where others were on the ballot the members have spoken and desire a change in Division leadership. Having the defeated Super serve as a voting member of the BOD does not logically follow the desires of the membership. The second reason serving as Division Superintendent is not and / or should not be a “lifetime” position.



## Join us for our January Joint Meet with the New Jersey Division in Haddon Township, NJ

**When:** Saturday, January 7, 2017, 9:00AM

**Where:** Haddon Township High School, 406 Memorial Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108

**Why:** We love trains!

### Highlights:

- Barry Rosier – “Four Methods of Turnout Control”
- Don Borden – “Prototype Steam Detailing on BLI Models”
- Contest – **Weathered and/or detailed covered hoppers**
- Swap Tables – Sell your stuff or buy someone else's
- Philly Division shirts and patches for sale Refreshments – coffee, tea, and donuts
- Layout Tours – Friday: 7:00pm to 10:00pm, and Saturday: 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Contact Howard Kaplan at [hkaplan@rcn.com](mailto:hkaplan@rcn.com) for more info on the Friday evening layouts. Maps and directions for the Saturday afternoon layouts will be available at the meet.

Check out the event page for this meet on the Division website at

<http://www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-new-jersey-division-joint-meet-010717>.

You can also check out the latest issue of the New Jersey Division's Train Orders at [njdivnmra.org](http://njdivnmra.org).

+++++

**Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania, April 8, 2017**  
**NMRA, MER South Mountain Division and Mainline Hobby Supply**  
**5<sup>th</sup> annual Mini Con at the Blue Ridge Fire Hall**

13063 Monterey Ln., Blue Ridge Summit, PA, 9 AM to 4 PM

Come enjoy this one day free event one block north of Main Line Hobby Supply, consisting of prototype and modeling presentations, formal and informal clinics, modular displays, and interaction with your fellow hobbyists and beginners. This year’s formal clinics will focus on Steel Mills and associated Steel Industries. This no admission charge, educational event is open to the public for the promotion of the hobby of Model Railroading.

# The Station



**Happy New Year!!  
Please stop in for a visit!**

**213 Ninth Street  
New Cumberland, PA  
Phone: 717-774-7096**

Please call for directions

Open Monday-Friday 10 AM to 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

TRAINS EXCLUSIVELY

ALL GAUGES (G-O-027-HO-N-Z)

Sales & Service

## **MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY**



15066 Buchanan Trail East  
Blue Ridge Summit PA 17214  
(717) 794-2860  
Monday-Friday 10-6  
Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 1-5

[www.mainlinehobby.net](http://www.mainlinehobby.net)

**Happy New Year from your  
friends at Mainline Hobby  
Supply!!**

***Serving the hobby for over 25 years!!***

***You're one-stop source for all your model railroading needs.***

***From Z to O, from DCC to Detail Parts, we have it all!***

e-mail: [mainlinehobby@comcast.net](mailto:mainlinehobby@comcast.net)

# Choo Choo Nuts

Model Train Hobby Center

**WANTED!!!**

**We Buy Trains!  
Collections / Estates**

- \* Model Trains Sold Here
- \* Central PA's Best Kept Secret

Up To  
**70%**  
Off Everyday



Store Hours T-F 10-6 Sat 10-4  
Call for Holiday Hours

**717-208-3398**

444 E. Roseville Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601  
(1821 Oregon Ppik Behind McDonalds)

Happy New Year  
from Choo Choo  
Nuts!



**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**  
*Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.*  
Send form to: Paul Tice, 6710 Moul Road, Thomasville, PA 17364

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$15.00** per Year

\_\_\_\_\_ Change of Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed

The Susquehanna Division is located in the central portion of Pennsylvania. The Counties served are: Adams, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York.

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"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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