



SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 25 No. 2



From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

Another two months have passed and I have no shortage of items to write about. First is the March 18th event in Lebanon; please see John Wissinger's article on page 4 for more information. Also coming up is the April 8th Mini-Con at Blue Ridge Summit. While this is a South Mountain Division Event we will be there promoting the Susquehannock Convention. Speaking of the convention, if anyone is going to a show or another regional or division event please let Bob Charles rcharles@aol.com Brian Kampschoer RRelf@aol.com or Tim Himmelberger tlhimmel@comcast.net know and we will arrange for you to have a stack of fliers to take there for distribution. We set up our tabletop display at the last Timonium show. Saturday was a good day - we talked with a lot of people and handed out about 40 fliers and about 15 rail pass forms. Sunday was terrible, but that was Super Bowl Sunday so I guess we can't ask too much. Ken Roth and I went to the First Frost show in Allentown in February. We had pre-purchased tickets so we could get in an hour earlier at 8. I placed about 35 fliers on the table. When we left at 10:30 there were only 2 or 3 left. I guess I should have printed more. I know that there are those who just grab one of everything and look later, but the point is you never know who is going to grab one. While we are discussing the convention please consider Sean Gaston's request for Clinic Room Monitors on page 9.

The next item is very important. The ballot for the amendment to our By-Laws is on page 15. This item was discussed at our annual business meeting in February. At that time it was approved to bring to the entire division membership for a vote for approval or not. Please note to pass it will require a 2/3 majority of votes cast.

No, I am not done yet. I have one more very important announcement. This is an odd-numbered year so that means that we need to elect four directors. The call for nominations appears on page 16. Our current list of directors is Lee Rainey, Howard Oakes, Ron Smith and Dave Collison. I need to make one side note on the timeline. I have had one person that has caught it so far. That is, the dates for the candidates' bios are due before the cut off for nominations. There is a very good reason for that. Starting with the next issue of Sidetracks, we will have a new editor. Tedd Pounds has stepped forward to take over the position of editor. On behalf of the entire division Tedd, I would like to say thank you. We will all look forward to working with you. Now having said that since the May issue will be his first issue as editor I would like to give him an extra week to work on putting the next issue of Sidetracks together for us.

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 April 24, 2017.

Board of Directors

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timh@susquehannanmra.org

Asst. Superintendent

Wayne Betty
wsb@susquehannanmra.org

Chief Clerk

Paul Tice
ptice@susquehannanmra.org

Director

Barry Schmitt
bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org

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Director

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rsmith@susquehannanmra.org

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hoakes@susquehannanmra.org

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Alan Mende
amende@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Program Chairman

John Wissinger, MMR
jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks Editor

Ron Smith
rsmith@susquehannanmra.org

Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:
www.susquehannanmra.org

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

National Model Railroad Association
8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
www.nmra.org

Cover photo credit: Ron Smith. How 'bout dem airhorns!
Inset credit: Ron Smith

Second Section - Ron Smith

Hello everyone!

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final Second Section this month. I am very happy to introduce Tedd Pounds of York as your new *Sidetracks* editor beginning with the May issue, and after speaking with him at length the other night I know this newsletter will be in good hands. However, I will miss working with those of you who have contributed so much to Division 11 these last several years.

Another significant milestone – the N Scale Erie Lackawanna Southern Tier Division passed into history on the 18th. I was able to salvage most of the track and structures, and a fair amount of lumber. Our home has been sold and Ruth and I are actively searching for the next train room with a thick roof.

Astute readers have noticed that for almost two years I have been featuring photos of NS Heritage Units as our inset photos on the cover. This month is a “Heritage Unit” of a different sort – a 1940’s PCC car wearing a Philadelphia Transit Company scheme compares profiles with a modern LRV at my new employer, Brookville Equipment Corporation.

Thanks again for your support and may your mainlines always be clear!

Ron



IS COMING

Welcome New Members!

Emory Eyster	Halifax PA
Sean Gaston	Ephrata PA
Michael Hampton	Williamsport PA
Francis Slavinski	Larksville PA

Schedule for the March 18, 2017 NMRA Susquehanna Division meeting

Location: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA., just west of downtown Lebanon. The church is located 0.6 mile south of Cumberland Street, US-422. Use the parking lot at the side and rear of the church. Entrance to the meeting room (Snyder Hall) is the stairwell off the back (east) parking lot. Please note, the ground level doors will not be open. Handicap accessible from the church front entrance and inside elevator, but prior arrangements must be made to have someone meet you and open the front door.

Time Table:

8:45 AM Meeting room doors open

9:00 Meeting starts

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome from Superintendent Tim Himmelburger (welcome and introduce guests)

9:15 - 9:30 Division business (convention, other announcements)

9:30 - 9:45 Break for restrooms, coffee, donuts etc. clinic set up

9:45 - 10:45 **Clinic: How To Build A Turnout To Fit Where A Commercial Turnout Will Not Fit** By John Wissinger MMR

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 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. You can also use this method to build a standard turnout (#4, #5, #6 etc.). If you can solder, you can do this. the tools you will need you probably already have: a vice, files, soldering iron and solder, rail nippers, an NMRA track gauge, a 3 point track gauge, a pencil and paper. Also you will need rail, switch ties and paper template, throw bar material (printed circuit board material) .005" sheet brass and spikes. You do not need any expensive jigs or fixtures or power tools. 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 how to do it.

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 – Noon **Model Showcase conducted by John Wissinger**

We had a very successful display of models last month with over 30 models on display brought in by 16 modelers. This was a good turnout. Let's see if we can beat that number this month. Bring a model to display and describe. You will have a maximum of 5 minutes to present your model to the group. The model(s) do not have to be contest quality, this is not a contest. [You may bring more than one model and you may choose to have it judged at the end of the meeting for a Merit Award. \(87-1/2 points please arrange beforehand\).](#) So bring that model that you have spent 6 months working on or one you grab off the layout as you walk out the door. We have had a lot of variety and some interesting models ranging from scratch-built locos to some high rail O gauge locomotives. The show is wide open, all we need is your model.

Meeting ends for lunch on your own. There are many restaurants in the area. List will be provided.

2:00 - 4:00 Layout tours (maps will be provided)

Tim Himmelberger, 19 Penny Lane, Lebanon

John Wissinger, 23 Thorndale Dr., Myerstown

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

2017 RPM East Prototype Modeler Meet

WHAT: 2017 RPM-East Prototype Modeler Meet, Pittsburgh, PA

WHEN: March 24 & 25, 2017

WHERE: Ramada Greensburg Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Ramada Inn Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601

HOW MUCH: Early Bird registration is only \$35 until March 1. The Saturday banquet cost is \$28. A single-day registration of \$20 is available. A special hotel room rate of \$89 per night.

START TIME: Clinics begin at 1 pm on Friday March 24 and run to 10 pm. Saturday March 25; clinics begin at 9 am and run to 10 pm.

WEBSITE: http://hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

It is time to make your RPM-East plans and fire up your modeling efforts after a long winter! There will be plenty of action March 24 & 25 at the prototype modeler gathering in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

- two days of prototype and model presentations
- a large display room to share your modeling efforts and learn new techniques
- a variety of vendors selling prototype modeling supplies
- Thursday evening operating sessions on local model railroads
- an informal Saturday buffet
- Sunday model railroad layouts to visit

Registration is only \$35, with an additional banquet cost of \$28. A single-day registration of \$20 will be available at the door.

RPM-East will be held at the Ramada Greensburg Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Ramada Inn Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. A special hotel room rate of \$89 per night that is available beginning January 1, 2017.

Registration forms, PayPal registration, hotel information and more can be found at the website: http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

RPM-East is sponsored by Division 2, MCR-NMRA. The event website features a current list of modelers and historians who are presenting at our event:

Presentation titles will be posted to the RPM-East website in January. A tentative presentation schedule will be posted to the website in late February. Set your schedule and register now for RPM-East!

Eric Hansmann, RPM-East Publicity and Web Guy

eric@hansmanns.org

Eric Hansmann

Saturday April 8, 2017

**NMRA, MER South Mountain Division and Mainline Hobby Supply
5th 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. Free admission.

MER SMD

Saturday May 20, 2017

Title: Spring on the Mainline

Project Officer: Howard Oakes (hoakes@susquehannanmra.org).

Location and Schedule: Christiana Freight Station, Christiana, PA (approximately 5 miles south of Gap, PA).

The Lancaster Chapter of the NRHS is the owner of the restored 1882 PRR freight station. The station features a train watching deck on the Amtrak Keystone corridor at milepost 48.5. Onsite is a Conrail N7E caboose undergoing restoration. The station is handicapped accessible.



After a meet, greet and registration with coffee and donuts, the morning program at the station will have 2 clinics:

- We are pleased to have a presentation by our own Division 11 Jim Hertzog - A look at my model railroad called "The Reading Railroad-Shamokin Division". Jim is well known in prototypical operation and modeling circles and has had several articles published in the railroad press.
- A discussion of the Railroad Museum of PA – Past, Current and Future.

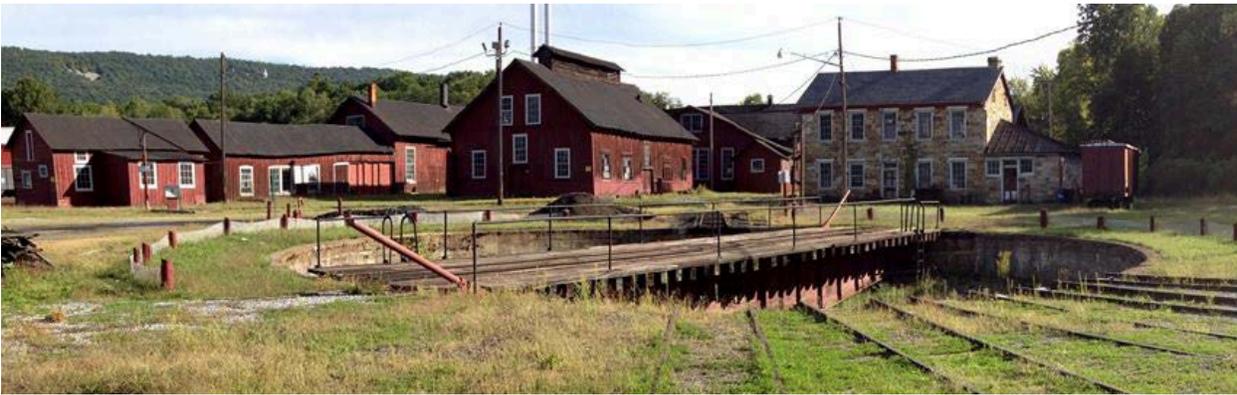
All attendees are encouraged to bring a model for display during our Model Showcase segment. For our afternoon activities, home layouts will be open for our viewing pleasure. The final event plan will be presented in the May Sidetracks.

Howard Oakes



East Broad Top Railroad And Rock Hill Trolley Museum Tour

On Friday, October 13 we have a day long bus trip planned to Rockhill Furnace, Pennsylvania, to tour the East Broad Top narrow gauge railroad facilities as well as the adjacent Rockhill Trolley Museum. The bus will be leaving the hotel at 8 AM. During this tour you will visit the historic East Broad Top Railroad shops and roundhouse and the Rockhill Trolley Museum car barns, as well as riding the trolley over historic right of way.



The East Broad Top ((EBT) is a National Historic Landmark. The East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company preserves the country's oldest surviving narrow gauge trackage, built and opened for service in 1873. Shut down in 1956, and then operated for another 50 years as a tourist train, the line remains virtually intact – including track, steam locomotives, cars and facilities.



The EBT is a virtual time machine documenting the industrial progress of the U.S. during the golden era of steam power, and has been described by the Smithsonian as “the best preserved example of a 1900- era industrial site anywhere in the country”.

You will be guided through the various shops, roundhouse, and facilities by guides well versed in the history of the railroad. One of your guides will be our division's Lee Rainey, considered by many to be the leading authority on the EBT. His book on the railroad is a "must have" for the EBT enthusiast.



Currently the railroad is not operating any equipment or offering rides, but active restoration and preservation work continues on site under the auspices of the Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. Your visit will include a behind-the-scenes tour of the restoration shop.

At the Rockhill Trolley Museum you will ride on one of the many historical trolleys from the museum's collection. The collection includes several operational trolleys, including an open car, high-speed interurban cars, fascinating maintenance-of-way cars, and two PCC Cars. Plus you'll see more cars being restored in the shops by talented volunteers. Your guides will include

experienced trolley operators and restoration crew.



Lunch will be provided during the tour by the members of the trolley museum. Space for this tour is limited to one bus load. Once the bus is full it will be leaving for Orbisonia without you.

Dan Horting



SUSQUEHANNOCK CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many of you will agree that a large part of the success of any convention are the clinics and our upcoming Mid-Eastern Region Susquehannock Convention is no exception. In order to assure the success of our division's sponsorship for the October 12-15 convention the convention clinic committee is in need of clinic room monitors.

We have 4 days of clinics prepared starting Thursday evening October 12th and running through Sunday morning, October 15th. That's over 50 clinics and we will need volunteers to make the clinics a success and thus the convention a success as well.

Two big incentives for volunteering are you'll be guaranteed a great seat for some excellent clinics and you will earn volunteer points towards your NMRA Achievement Program-Volunteer certificate.

So what does a convention clinic room monitor do? All monitors will act as a second set of hands, eyes and ears and basically help out wherever help is needed to make each clinic run as smoothly as possible. Some specific clinic room monitor duties may include, but not be limited to: helping the clinician set up the room (moving tables, chairs, displays, etc.), introducing the clinician to the attendees before the start of the clinic by reading a biographical card prepared by the clinic committee, setting up the PowerPoint and projector for the presentation, acting as a timekeeper during the presentation, helping with minor audio/video issues, contacting the convention audio/video specialist if the need arises, and helping the clinician teardown and pack up.

Our Clinic Committee is in the process of developing training for all clinic room monitors. Training will be given prior to the convention. Details on the training are still being ironed out by the clinic committee.

With over 50 clinics scheduled throughout the duration of the convention the clinic committee needs a maximum of 28 clinic room monitor volunteers to cover all of the scheduled clinic shifts. Obviously 28 volunteers is a lot. We hope you and some of your model railroad friends will volunteer to cover two shifts during the convention to reduce the total number of required volunteers. We realize that's a lot of time sitting in a clinic room but know such an effort will be sincerely appreciated and is essential to a smooth running clinic program and a successful convention overall.

If you are interested in learning more or you would like to volunteer - send an email to our training manager, Sean D. Gaston, at sdgaston@ptd.net with your name, phone number, and which clinic segments you wish to volunteer for. Those who volunteer for multiple shifts will receive shift request priority. If you do not have email capability contact Sean by phone at 717-330-9704. We look forward to you volunteering to make our Mid-Eastern Region Susquehannock Convention a huge success!

Sean D. Gaston

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6-issue year. Your support is greatly appreciated. For information about placing an ad, please contact Ron Smith at rsmith@susquehannamra.org



FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY

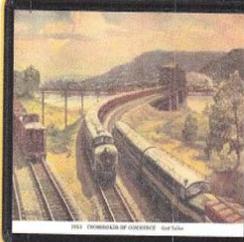
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Wayne Betty
 (Pictured, left) Lancaster Chapter, NMRA, MRR, Scale 11

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wab@mycyberlink.net
<http://www.wabrcos.com/trainmenu.htm>
 Op Sessions 2nd Saturday of the Month



Saturday March 4, 2017

Annandale VA

MER Potomac Division Mini-Con
St. Matthew’s United Methodist
Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike
Open 8 AM, \$10.

www.potomac-nmra.org

March 11-12, 2017

Wilmington DE

Greenberg Show
Chase Center on the Riverfront

www.trainshow.com

March 18, 2017

Lebanon, PA

MER Division 11 End-Of-Winter
Meet
See details on p. 4

March 24-25, 2017

Greenburg, PA

RPM-East Meet
See details on p. 5

April 1, 2017

Strasburg, PA

Wine and Cheese Train Ride on the
Strasburg RR. \$36.

www.strasburgrailroad.com

April 8, 2017 9AM – 4 PM

Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania

NMRA, MER South Mountain Division
and Mainline Hobby Supply Host its
5th annual Mini Con at the Blue Ridge
Fire Hall. Free admission. See p. 6

Sunday April 9, 2017

Mill Hall PA

Clinton Central Model RR Club
Annual Spring Meet
Mill Hall Volunteer Fire Co., Water
St & Peal Ave. Adult \$3, Family \$4

www.ccmrr.org

April 13-15, 2017

Strasburg, PA

Easter Bunny Train Rides on the
Strasburg RR. See website for
schedules and ticket prices.

www.strasburgrailroad.com

Saturday May 6, 2017

Newport PA

Conrail Historical Society Annual
Rail-B-Que, Oliver Township Park
10 AM – 6 PM, All welcome.
Donations accepted.

www.thecrhs.org

May 18-20, 2017

Camp Hill, PA

PRRT&HS Annual Meeting
(Must be a PRRT&HS member to
attend)

www.prrths.com

May 19-20, 2017

Allentown, PA

23rd National Model Trolley Meet
Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-plex
Charles Hall \$23 in advance,
\$25 after May 1st.

www.eastpenn.org

Saturday May 20, 2017

Christiana, PA

MER Division 11 Meet
See details on p. 6

2017 National N Scale

Convention

Pittsburgh, PA

June 21-25

2017 NMRA Convention

Orlando, FL

July 30 – August 6

2017 National S Gauge

Convention

Timonium, MD

August 8-12

2017 MER Convention

Harrisburg PA

October 12-15



Achievement Program Gathers Steam

With a new year comes much new participation in the NMRA's achievement program by Susquehanna Division members. At the February division meet four members were recognized for their achievements. Brian Kampschroer, Bill Lesjak and Jerry Lauschle all received their Golden Spike Awards. The top achievement award of the session went to Jerry Britton for earning his Association Volunteer certificate. Unfortunately, Jerry wasn't available to receive his award, but will get it at the next meeting of the Susquehannock convention committee.

In other AP activity of note, new member Jerry Lauschle was visited by the division AP judges in State College. At the completion of the day he had earned 8 merit awards for his outstanding structures on his railroad. More on this at a later meet. At the E-town meet Jerry brought 9 cars for AP judging, winning 8 merit awards for them with a high score of 106 points out of a possible 125. I'm confident we will be seeing much more of this outstanding modeler at future meets.

With the Susquehannock convention on the horizon later this year, I will look forward to our members prepping their best models for entry in the model contest. Let's fill the tables with models from the division and show the rest of the region the high quality of modeling here. Remember, the contest is really an opportunity to learn where we are in our skills, learn new techniques, and learn how we can improve our overall modeling. It is NOT really a competition with other modelers, but rather an educational experience.

As noted last time, the convention also offers the opportunity for you to earn points as a volunteer working on the convention or hosting an open house, an author by presenting a clinic or writing an article for the event, and also modeling qualifications by earning a merit award for your models. Your division judging team stands ready to provide help you may need. All you need do is ask.

Bob Charles, MMR

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 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 follow by the rational for the revision. It was presented during our annual business meeting in February. The ballot will remain open until the end of March.

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, 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.

NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 (MER) By-laws Amendment Ballot

Division by-laws allow electronic (email) voting. It is not necessary for you to email this form for your vote. You only need to indicate who you are voting for in any convenient format, such as “I vote to approve or not approve.” Please send your email vote to Bill Lesjack, Voting Committee Chairman, at the following address:

wclesjak2@comcast.net

Be sure to include “NMRA By-law Ballot” in the subject line to assure your e-mail is processed. Bill will confirm receipt of your vote by return email within 3 days of receipt. If you vote by email and do not receive an email confirmation within 5 days from when you sent it please resend another email vote.

You may also mail your vote by sending an appropriately marked ballot back to:

Bill Lesjak, Attn: Division Ballot, 4448 Webster Drive North, York PA 17402-3337.

The reason for including your name, signature, and return address (email or mailing address) is to provide confirmation of your vote.

Results will be presented in the May Sidetracks.

I vote to approve the amendment_____

I vote not to approve the amendment_____

MEMBER NAME SIGNATURE

EMAIL OR HOME ADDRESS

Division Director Nominations

It's once again time to ask for nominations for our four Division Director positions. Each will be elected for a two year term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. To be a Director, you must be a member of the NMRA, reside in the Susquehanna Division 11 area, and be at least 21 years of age. You may nominate yourself or another member you feel is qualified; however, in fairness to that individual please verify they would be willing to serve. If we receive more than four nominees each will be asked to provide a short (200 words or less) bio-sketch that will then be provided to all members in the May edition of Sidetracks.

Some of our four Directors have expressed interest in running for reelection. However, like any other election, all four positions are open for election. So please be positive, get your name placed on the ballot, and make your case for election.

The timeline for the 2017 Director voting program is:

* April 30, 2017: Submit nominations to Tim Himmelberger, Superintendent, either by phone at 717-228-9396 or email at timh@susquehannanmra.org.

* April 20, 2017: Candidate bio-sketches due either to Tim by email (see above address) or USPS (19 Penny Lane, Lebanon, PA 17046). Short bio-sketches (200 words or less) required only if there are more than four candidates. Please note that this is so we can get it out in the May Sidetracks.) Please note we have a new Sidetracks editor. So please be considerate as he gets acclimated to putting together the newsletter and having it distributed in a timely manner. The suggestion is if you are nominating yourself submit your bio-sketch with your nomination.

* May 1: Ballots and nominee bio-sketches (only if we receive more than four candidates) sent to members in the May edition of Sidetracks for vote.

* May 31, 2017: Ballots received by either email or USPS.

* July 2017: Vote announced in July Sidetracks.

Please seriously consider running for a Division Director position. Our annual programs are developed under the leadership of your Board of Directors (BOD) and all Division policies are approved by your BOD. Therefore, this is your opportunity to get involved in deciding the future direction of your NMRA Division. I know most members are very busy with job, family, hobby projects, and other community programs and therefore believe serving on our BOD would simply require too much time. On the contrary, our BOD only meets in person once per year – all other matters are handled by either email or phone. So once again, please give this important request your most thoughtful consideration. This is an excellent opportunity for you to have a direct say in how your Division is managed, and it does not require a great deal of your valuable free time. Please give me a call or send me an email if you have questions about the elections or our BOD operations at timh@susquehannanmra.org or 717-228-9396.

Tim Himmelberger

Out and About

Below, John Snyder recently captured these images of the Masonic Village Model RR Club.



Below, Yours Truly spotted this locomotive recently in Enola Yard.



Parting Thoughts

As I wind down my stint as your Editor, I wanted to take a moment to thank several members who have become good friends during the four years I shepherded the newsletter. Division 11 has taken on new life in recent years, in no small part due to the efforts of past Superintendent Barry Schmitt. He worked with long-time active members and found new recruits (like me) to fill roles needed to keep the Division viable and provide value to its members. Through Barry and this role as Editor, I have gotten to know many of you and have thoroughly enjoyed our shared experiences of model railroading. Thanks Barry!

Being the Editor also gave me the opportunity to work with other BOD members and volunteers. Some of the people who make this job easy are Tim Himmelberger, Jerry Britton, John Wissinger, Rich Wurst, Dan Horting, Howard Oakes, Lee Rainey and Bob Charles who I've always been able to count on as proof-readers or contributors on a regular basis. Wayne Betty and Paul Tice quietly work behind the scenes to provide technical and financial services to the Division. Dave Collison and more recently Tedd Pounds and Sean Gaston have also taken on roles to keep Division 11 worth your time. Please be sure to thank them when you see them at meetings and outings. *(I'm sure there are others that I've overlooked at this late hour, and any errors or omission is mine alone.)*

Sidetracks is in Tedd's capable hands, but he is going to need your contributions. Please help him be successful by submitting articles and photos. Lately *Sidetracks* has had a shortage of modeling tips, techniques and photos, so let's get Tedd off to a good start with article submittals!

Lastly, my wife Ruth deserves a round of applause for being the unsung ~~hero~~ heroine. She had no idea what she was in for eight years ago when we met and I 'fessed up that I was a model railroader...

Oh, and the AMT locomotive on this issue's cover? Here's the back story: I now work for Brookville Equipment Corporation, and one of the current projects there is to rebuild commuter engines for Montreal's transit agency. That double set of air horns on the roof is due to an AMT requirement to test the air horns every morning before going into service. Since residential neighbors of the engine facility didn't appreciate dozens of air horns being tested at 4 AM, a compromise was worked out – if two sets were installed to provide redundancy, then the early morning test could be suspended. I happened to be able to catch the engine recently on a sunny day on Brookville's shop alignment.

So long, and I'll see you at the MER Convention in October!

Ron



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CHOO CHOO NUTS IS CLOSING 3/4/17.

***MER DIVISION 11 SINCERELY THANKS THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT
OF OUR ORGANIZATION AND THE HOBBY.***

BEST WISHES ALWAYS!!

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