

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA

Vol 25 No. 4



Sad Susquehanna Division News

Longtime Division member John Gromley from Jersey Shore PA passed away suddenly Saturday, June 24th. John was one of our “way up north” distant members who attended almost every Division event regardless of weather conditions. He thoroughly enjoyed attending and hosting operating sessions and was an active member of the Clinton Central Model Railroad Club in Castanea PA.

John’s excellent and nearly completed layout was open for operating sessions, member visits during several Division November Grand Tour events, and during the July 2014 Division trip to Bowser and English’s Model Railroad shop in Montoursville and Weaver Models in Northumberland. The layout is based on the prototype Pennsylvania Division of the New York Central and the Reading Railroad set in the diesel era and focused on rail operations in the Williamsport PA area.

His full basement layout was designed from the get-go for realistic operations. Some of the most impressive aspects of his layout are its rock-solid bench work, bullet proof track work, and well-tuned motive power. Everyone who visited his layout were amazed at the drop bridge he built over an access aisle that, true to John’s expert wood working skill, always delivered flawless operation. John’s top quality carpentry skills produced a structure than I’m sure could withstand a tornado, earthquake, and hurricane all on the same day. While the house would be scattered across the countryside I’m confident the layout would be ready for an outside operations session that evening!

John’s great sense of humor, exceptional modeling skills, and love of our great hobby will be missed.

From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

Wow! It is July already. Half way through the year. First, I would like to congratulate our new slate of Directors; David Collison, Howard Oakes, Lee Rainey and David Tillman. We will soon be working on next year's schedule. I am hoping to come up with a date for some time in August. We would like your input and help in the planning process. This meeting is open to everyone and we will let you know the date and time.

The May event at the Christiana Freight Station was a great day. Thanks to Barry Schmidt for arranging the venue and to Howard Oakes and his wife for the excellent program and layout tours. Please see his article on page 6.

This year the summer schedule was kept light to free everyone to work on our upcoming Susquehannock Convention. However, Wayne Betty has stepped up to host a clinic at his house / layout on using JMRI to control a Digitrax layout. This event will be July 15th from 10 AM until noon. Again, please see the announcement on page 15.

Having mentioned the Susquehannock Convention. In case you have missed all of the announcements it will be October 12th to the 15th at the Harrisburg – Hershey Sheraton. There are still plenty of opportunities for you to volunteer. Please contact Convention Chair Bob Charles chair@mer2017.org or Brian Kampschroer inside@mer2017.org

One last item, well actually three. First coming up this September will be the Mainline Hobby Supply Open House Tour on September 17th and 18th. Next is the LSOP9 marathon for those of you who enjoy operations. This will be October 6th and 7th. There are still a few open slots. Then in November the first three weekends is the Division wide open house tour. Jerry Britton is working on organizing this event. Please see his article on page 14.

Tim

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
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National Model Railroad Association

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Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200
www.nmra.org

Contributing to Susquehanna Sidetracks

Sidetracks welcomes contributions from the Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be sent to the Editor at the e-mail address listed below or the street address above. Deadline for submission for the next issue is August 10, 2017.

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Susquehanna Division website: Mid-Eastern Region
website: www.susquehannanmra.org www.mer.nmra.com

Second Section – Tedd Pounds

Hello everyone!

The first attempt at this newsletter was just a bit late to publish. Sorry about that, pesky old work got in the way!

I encourage all members to consider submitting an article to our newsletter. Do you have something that you have discovered that may be of interest to others? Put something on paper, include a few pictures and we will make it work. All submissions should be formatted as Times New Roman font 11.

The Pike Ads are in sad shape, I would like to revamp them. If you have a pike ad please send me a fresh copy of your ad. The next issue will have a revamped and cleaner Pike Ad page.

Thanks!

Tedd



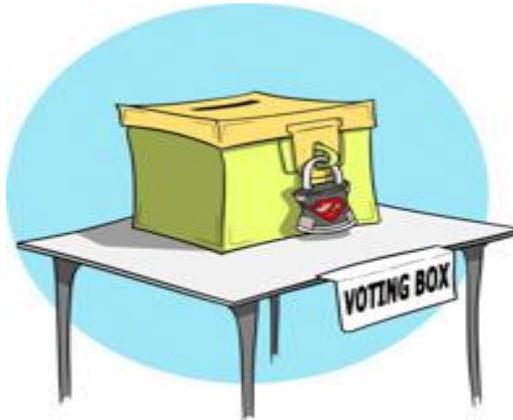
IS COMING

Welcome New Members!

John Beaulieu
William Doninger

Gettysburg, Pa
Gettysburg, Pa

Board of Directors Election Results



In a very close election you, our membership, have elected the following as Directors for the period

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019

(in alphabetical order):

David Collison

Howard Oakes

Lee Rainey

David Tillman

We welcome David T as a new member of the BOD and David C, Howard, and Lee as returning Directors.

Welcome aboard to David C, Howard, Lee, and David T!

MID-EASTERN REGION BYLAWS VOTE

So, this happened. Last Fall President PJ Mattson appointed a committee to review and recommend necessary and desirable changes to the MER Bylaws. The committee is chaired by Director Ken Montero and assisted by Director Martin Brechbiel, Business Manager Bob Price, and Treasurer Brian Kampschroer. The committee proved to have excellent synergy, with Ken's law experience, Martin's editorial expertise, Bob's practical knowledge of how everything works and Brian's previous bylaws experiences and corporate memory. We met three times in person for at least four hours each time, had two conference calls of one hour or longer, exchanged hundreds of emails and used reams of paper printing drafts of revisions.

On April 22, the committee met with the Board of Directors of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc. and explained in detail, line-by-line, the many changes the committee presented for adoption. Some changes are necessary to bring the Bylaws into compliance with the statutes of Maryland, where the MER is incorporated. Quite a few are to simply streamline the running of the organization and to recognize that we are operating in the modern age. By far the greatest number of changes were to correct formatting, syntax and editorial errors that accumulated over the years and to better organize the various Bylaws articles and sections. After more than five hours and just a small number of changes, the Board of Directors recommended the committee's findings for a vote of the membership on the next ballot. Even after all that, a later special vote on April 30 was required to eliminate some redundancies.

If the membership of the MER approves the Bylaws as amended, the committee will then ensure compliance of the MER Executive Handbook with the mandated changes. Much of the work on the Handbook the committee found easier to do as it labored on the Bylaws, so these are nearly ready to be presented to the board for a vote, following the approval of the Bylaws by the membership. It is possible that by the Susquehannock 2017 MER convention in October, the Mid-Eastern Region will finally be ready to work for you in the 21st century as a modern, streamlined and efficient organization.

So, please look for more information in the print and electronic versions of The Local this summer, read, review and vote when you receive your detailed ballot in the next few months

The May 20th, 2017 NMRA Susquehanna Division Event

Coordinated by Howard Oakes

Christiana May 20 Event – Wrap Up

Division 11 held its **Spring on the Mainline** event on Saturday May 20 in the beautifully restored Christiana Freight Station. The station is owned by the Lancaster Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society <http://www.nrhs.com/chapters/lancaster>. The station is located adjacent to the Harrisburg-Philadelphia Amtrak mainline and about a half dozen trains whizzed by at 80 mph. Unexpectedly a NS work train also rambled by. Approximately 30 members and guests attended including a few from nearby NMRA divisions.

In his opening remarks, Superintendent Tim Himmelberger listed the upcoming division activities. Bob Charles MMR, the convention chairman, gave a short presentation on the status of the MER convention **The Susquehannock** which will be hosted by the Susquehanna division this October 12-15, 2017. Watch for details in Sidetracks. There are plenty of volunteers needed to ensure a smooth-running convention.

The morning program began with a presentation by Elizabeth Myers who is the volunteer coordinator at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania just down the road in Strasburg. Elizabeth had an extensive slide show chronicling the history of the museum, how and why it was built, who owns it, why the engines and rolling stock were selected, the first major expansion, current operation and future plans. Find out more about this central Pennsylvania gem at <http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/>.

The second morning program was Jim Hertzog's slide presentation - A look at my model railroad called "The Reading Railroad-Shamokin Division" which was a crowd pleaser with plenty of interaction and questions. Jim models the steam to diesel transition era of 1952-1957 which provides plenty of action and variety on the mostly double tracked mainline. Jim described the inspiration and operation for the different types of coal mines and breakers on his layout. And he has real anthracite coal scattered around the layout. Last year after the May Quakertown division event we had the opportunity to visit Jim's layout. This website has a track plan and photos. <http://www.pamodelrailroads.com/jhertzog/>

Randy Broadwater of the Chessie System Historical Society had 2 merchandise tables of books and models for sale to support their society <http://chessiehistoricalsociety.org/index.html>. Check out their website if you are interested in any Chessie items. The Model Showcase portion of the program featured several presenters. Rounding out the morning was a door prize drawing.

The afternoon featured tours of 1 club and 2 home layouts.

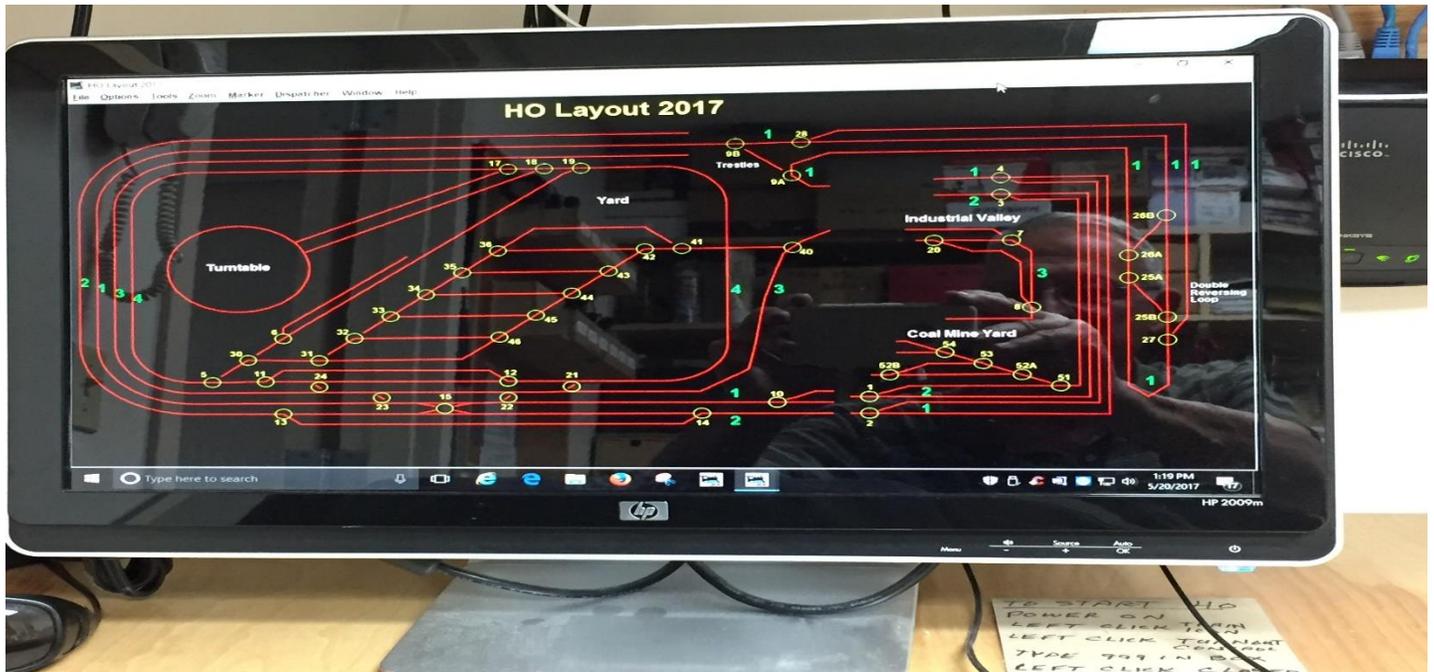
The Garden Spot Village Model Railroad Club located in New Holland has O and HO scale layouts. This club was recently expanded (don't we all wish we could do that?) and scenery is complete.

Pat Mulrooney in New Holland has an HO layout with several city and industrial scenes. Also included is a harbor and car float area. Pat models the transition era and had several detailed freight and passenger cars on display to complement the numerous buildings.

Dennis Blank Jr. in Denver has layouts in HO (Birdsboro & Reading), N and the infamous no-rail module. For those of you not familiar with Dennis' work, he has incredible engine lighting and has brought his models to several of our Modeler's Showcase programs.

Thanks to all who made this enjoyable model railroading day possible.

May 20th Event Photos



Control Panel Diagram on the Garden Spot Village Layout



Checking Out the Garden Spot Village Layout



Jim Long Eyeballs a Bridge on the Garden Spot Village Layout

May 20th Event Photos

CHRISTIANA FREIGHT STATION TRAIN BULLETIN					
ARRIVING TRAINS			DEPARTING TRAINS		
NO.	FROM	REMARKS	NO.	TO	REMARKS
	WEST BOUND			EAST BOUND	
43	TRACK 4	7:40 AM	44	TRACK 2	8:36 AM
607	TRACK 1	11:42	40	TRACK 2	3:46 PM
41	THREE RIVERS	4:01 PM	EXTRA		
42	TRACK 4	5:02	42	TRACK 2	5:02

Arrival and Departure Board at the Christiana Freight Station



Looking Eastbound from the Christiana Freight Station Observation Deck



The Historic Christiana Freight Station and Other Outbuildings



The Christiana Freight Station Has Several Railroad Heritage Displays

May 20th Event Photos



The Roundhouse and Engine Servicing Facilities on the Garden Spot Village Layout

Coal Processing Area on Pat Mulrooney's Layout



Farm Scene on the Garden Spot Village Layout

Garden Spot Village O Scale Layout

May 20th Event Photos



Historic Building on the Garden Spot Village Layout



Car Float on Pat Mulrooney's Layout



Futuristic Diner on Garden Spot Village O Scale Layout

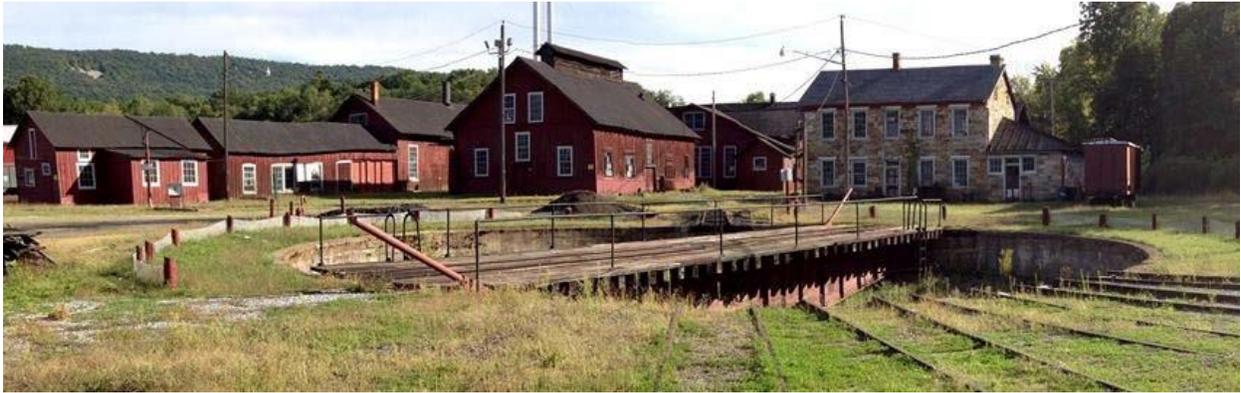


Some Kids Never Grow Up!



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”.

Convention Notes

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. To assure the success of our division's sponsorship for the October 12-15 convention the convention clinic committee needs 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 wherever help is needed to make each clinic run as smoothly as possible. Some specific clinic room monitors 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 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 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 Gaston



Most model railroaders I've met are keenly interested in the 1:1 scale railroad industry. One topic facing our railroad industry is much like that of many other similar high-tech industries – finding top quality workers to fill skilled managers and track engineers who are reaching retirement age. This same manpower shortage also extends to critical maintenance and operations management

I grew up in the railroad city of Altoona with strong family occupational ties to the Pennsylvania Railroad and attended the Altoona Campus of Penn State University. I recently heard about a relatively new career track program offered by PSU Altoona called the Rail Transportation Engineering (RTE) program so I researched that program and contacted their program educators. I soon learned that PSU Altoona offers the nation's first and only B.S. Degree in RTE. I was also delighted to learn they were excited about the opportunity to share their exciting program by presenting a clinic at our upcoming Susquehannock Convention.

If you are a serious engineering-minded student interested in becoming a leader of tomorrow's railroad industry or a parent or grandparent of such a student and are excited about the future of the rail industry you should plan to attend the October 14, 3:00PM Susquehannock Convention clinic titled An Overview of Rail Transportation Engineering (RTE) Education in the United States and presented by Bryan Schlake - a PSU Altoona instructor of RTE. Bryan brings to the classroom a broad background in both advanced engineering education and real world railroad experience. He earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After graduation, he held management positions at Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) in both Roanoke and Altoona and also as a NS Process Engineer at their Juniata Locomotive Shop in Altoona. Clearly Bryan has both the education and practical experience to educate future railroad industry leaders.

Countless companies and organizations in the railroad industry are seeking trained engineering professionals including Class 1 railroads, rail passenger and transit agencies, short line railroads, railway suppliers, federal and state agencies, engineering firms, and various research institutions. As a result, many colleges and universities are beginning to offer courses in rail transportation and railroad engineering. PSU Altoona is at the forefront of this new educational movement with their B.S. Degree in Rail Transportation Engineering being the first in the nation. Bryan's clinic will provide an overview of United States rail transportation education.

So, if you, a member of your family, or a friend are interested in pursuing a career in the high-tech railroad industry of the future attend this excellent clinic and learn about higher education programs being designed today to meet the challenging needs of tomorrow.



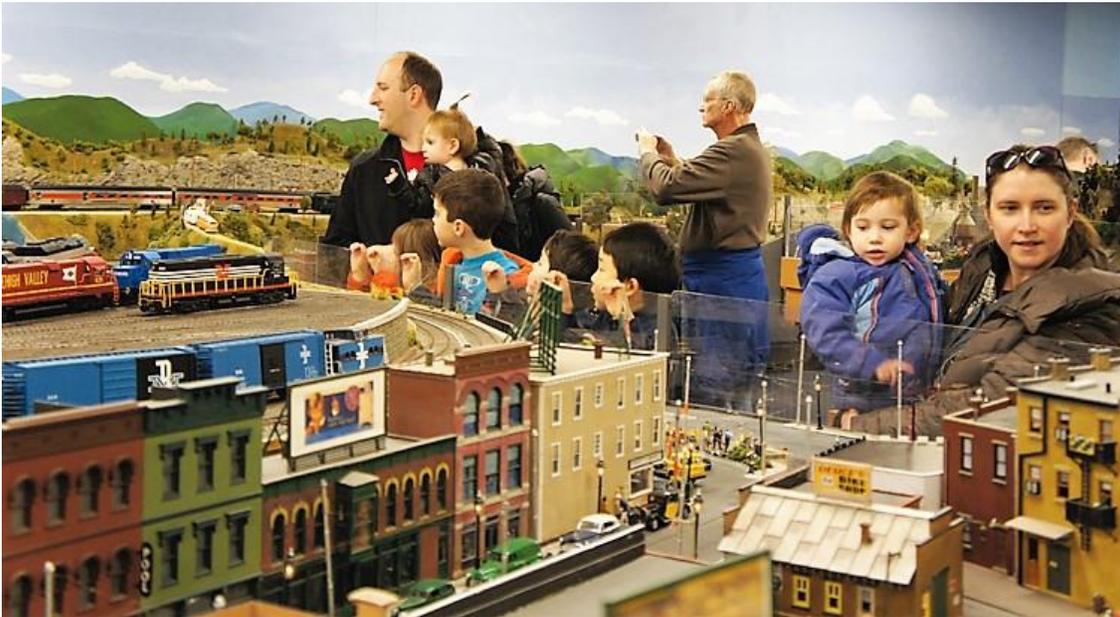
OPEN HOUSE

The Susquehanna Division participates in The Model Railroad Open House, held every November. The open house includes layouts in the Susquehanna, New Jersey, and Philadelphia divisions and, this year, we are welcoming the Garden State and South Mountain divisions. Hundreds of layouts over the four weekends of National Model Railroad Month!

You can learn more about the open house via

<http://themodelrailroadopenhouse.com>.

If you have never participated before and would welcome visitors to your model railroad, please contact Jerry Britton (jerry@pennsyrr.com), coordinator for the Susquehanna division counties, to be added to the database. A call for dates and times will be issued around September 1. (Past participants need not respond now!)



Please provide the following information: Full name, address, city, state, zip, county, e-mail address, telephone number, name of model railroad, one-two paragraph description of the railroad, scale, how it is powered (DC vs. DCC and brand), restrictions (children, ADA accessible, etc.), and any affiliations you have (NMRA, railroad historical societies, OpSIG, LDSIG, etc.).

Miniature Railroad Club of York

381 East Wheatfield St

York, Pa

Chicken BBQ July 8, 2017

11:00 till it's gone!

The club will be set up at 4401 W. Market St, York, Pa 17408 beside the Rutter's near route 116 and route 30 which is also the future home of White Rose Hobbies Shop. This is a rain or shine event, please share with your family and friends.

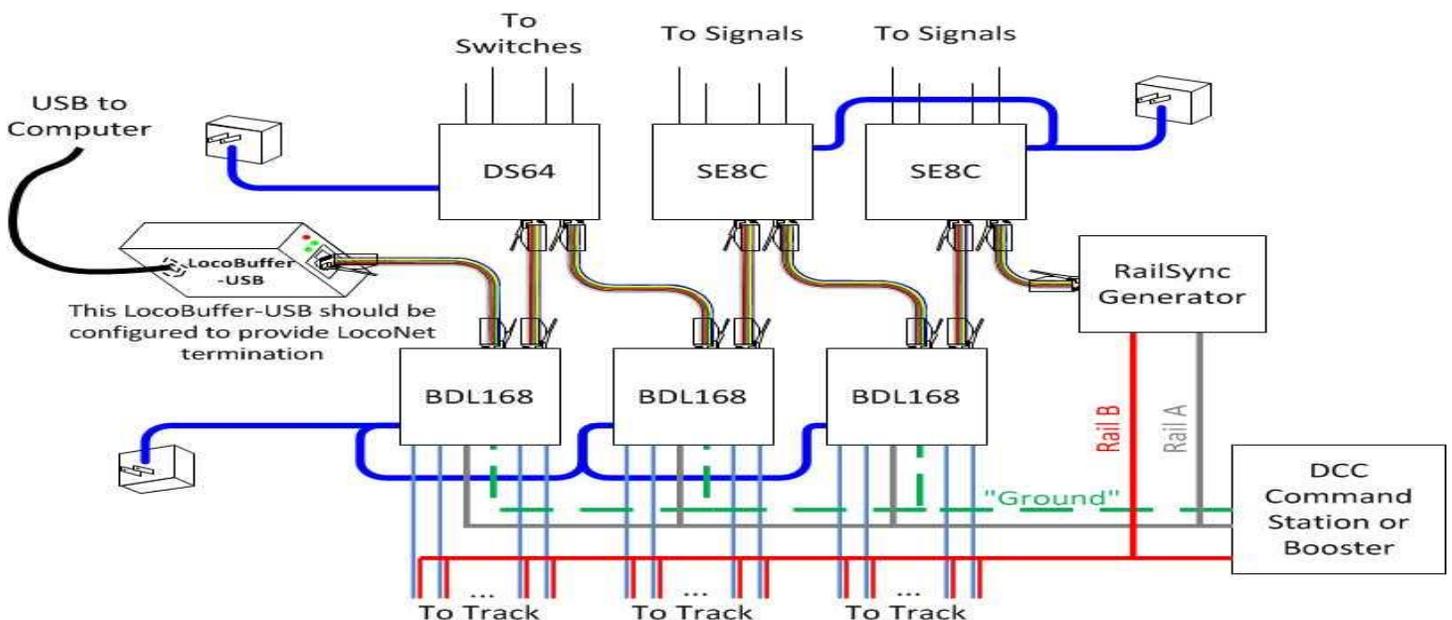
Cost of the meal is \$8.00 for ½ a chicken, bag of chips, applesauce, and candy.

Digitrax Clinic

Wayne Beatty

Digitrax with JMRI – 202

Wayne Beatty has offered to host and lead an advanced level clinic for Digitrax users who are presently using or are planning on using JMRI to control their layout. This clinic will assume that you have a basic understanding. It will focus more on the integration of JMRI with Digitrax's loconet. The lab for this clinic will be Wayne's layout. However, that being the location he has restricted this clinic to 10 people. The date for this clinic will be July 15th from 10 AM to noon. To sign up or ask questions please contact Wayne at wsb@susquehannanmra.org



July 15, 2017

PCC and LRV Day at Rockhill Trolley Museum
430 Meadows Street, Rockhill, Pa
Admission \$8.00
www.rockhilltrolley.org

July 29 – 30, 2017

Steam, diesel and Electric Train Tour of
Scranton at Steamtown NHS
Saturday: Private Alco powered excursion on Delaware
Lackawanna with business car EL 2.
Sunday: Chartered trolley ride at Electric City Trolley
Museum, followed by Steamtown visit. Admission:
\$300.00 per person.
Contact: David Shields (585) 533-1431
www.rochestertrainrides.com

July 30 – August 6

2017 NMRA Convention
Orlando, FL

August 8-12

2017 National S Gauge
Convention
Timonium, MD

August 13 – 16, 2017

Steel Mill Modelers SIG Annual Meet
Bethlehem, Pa
Sands Hotel and Casino
\$140.00 which includes \$30.00 membership
www.smmsig.org

October 12-15

2017 MER Convention
Harrisburg PA

PIKE ADS

Pike Ads are available for \$10 for a 6-issue year. For information about placing an ad, please contact Tedd Pounds at tpounds@susquehannamra.org



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RAIL PASS APPLICATION

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Mid-Eastern Region Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership

Yes, please sign me up for a free six-month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA – which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive **NMRA Magazine**, the national monthly magazine, and **The eLocal**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter if an e-mail address is provided. I will not be eligible to vote or hold office.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.) At the end of the six months, I may join the NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

During the past two years, I have **not** been a member of the NMRA or a prior Rail Pass member.

Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Scale(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____ (Required)

Title of Sponsor: _____ (Required)

(A Division or Regional officer or board member)

When this form is completed, mail to:

Howard Oakes
301 Moulstown Road
Abbottstown, PA 17301-8912

Susquehanna Sidetracks

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

1168 Caspian Drive
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