

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 26 No. 1



Convention tour photo of American Car and Foundry

Superintendent's Desk

By now this is a little late but, I trust that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. This issue is late and I am the culprit. As many of you know my wife is battling cancer (again, third time). So, of late my time has been devoted to her care. This past week she has had major surgery on her spine. She is slowly improving and is no longer in the surgery ICU. I thank all of you for your prayers and expressions of concern.

On behalf of the Division would like thank David Tillman for his service. David has tendered his resignation as a Division Director. He is planning to move to the Phoenix, AZ area. We wish David well in his new surroundings. In talking to him he is sorry that he will have to give up his layout. The retirement community will not afford him room and alas they do not have a model railroad club. With the approval of the officers and directors I have asked Pat Mulrooney to fill the balance of David's term. And Pat has accepted the position.

The Division Calendar for 2018 starts on page 03. We are trying to add one or two more events for the coming year. We will keep you posted. Also, this year the division will be electing three officers for a two-year term. That will be the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Clerk. If you are interested in running, please contact any officer or Director. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The election will be later this spring and the new terms of officer will start on July 1st.

Our first meeting of the year will be February 3rd in Lebanon. Please see the article for details of this meeting on page 06. I am looking forward to a good year for the division. And also, a good year of modeling.

From all reports the convention was a resounding success. There was a tremendous amount of work that went into planning and executing the event. Each and every one who contributed deserves a big thank you. So, with that in mind on behalf of the Susquehanna Division and the Susquehannock Convention Committee to everyone who contributed to the convention let me say THANK YOU!

In case you did not get yours, or you want more kits to build for your fleet there are some tank cars left for sale. Also, the last report I saw there was one convention shirt left for sale. But overall the convention did improve the financial bottom line for the division. We will have a financial report for you during the February 3rd meeting in Lebanon, PA. At that event we will have our annual business meeting. There will also be a clinic and the Model Showcase to complete the morning schedule. There will also be three layout tours in the afternoon.

Tim Himmelberger

2018 Division Event Plan

Our annual program this year is somewhat slow in coming together. Due to something called the Susquehanna Convention. We have had a late start in putting together this year's program. We are looking to add some more events. We are working on one in the eastern area of the division for some time in the Spring. And we are working on one in the western area for some time in the summer. As those plans are finalized we will most certainly keep you informed. Please keep in mind that our division encompasses 32 of the 66 counties of Pennsylvania. So, no matter where we hold an event we are requesting many of our members to drive a significant distance to an event. 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 2018 Division Event Plan – When-What-Where

Event 1 - Feb 3, Clinics and Layout Visits, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lebanon

Event 2 - Apr 7, Mini-Con, Blue Ridge Summit, Co-sponsored with South Mountain Division

Event 3 – June 9, Lewistown Station – PRRT&HS Archives and Observation Tower

Event 4 – Sep 15-16, Mainline Hobby Weekend Layout Open Houses, Blue Ridge Summit.

Event 5 - Oct 3-7, Crossroads of the MER Convention, Rockville, MD

Event 6 – Oct 26-27, LSOP10, Lancaster-Harrisburg and Allentown-Lehigh Valley.

Event 7 – Nov 3-18, Division Grand Layout Tour, Division-Wide.

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
 Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
 1168 Caspian Drive, York, PA 17404

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 10, 2018.

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www.susquehannanmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region website:

www.mer.nmra.com

National Model Railroad Association

8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B

Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200

www.nmra.org

Second Section – Tedd Pounds

Hello everyone!

I encourage all members to consider submitting an article or some photos of your layout or modeling projects 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 12.

Thanks!

Tedd

Division Email Address Listing

If you have been on the division officer contact listing on our webpage you recently will notice a change. The majority are listed as director@susquehannanmra.org. They are correct. What it means is that your comments and / or questions will go to everyone listed as director. You may wonder why did we do this. The answer is simple, Wayne Betty our provider of our web page requested that we reduce the number of email address we use. Wayne has provided the web page to the division for a number of years at no charge to the division. And for that we are very thankful. However the plan that he is using for his business is almost maxed out with the email address he can provide. For him to upgrade to the next plan is very expensive. So in order to accommodate Wayne the directors have decided to use a common email address.

Again, if you send an email to director@susquehannanmra.org it will go to everyone with that address. So if you would like to communicate with a particular individual please say so in the email. When that person responds you will then have their personal email. And you can then continue your conversation with that individual. So you may ask why not their personal email. In the interest of security we are only listing the division email address.



Event 1: February 03 – St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, PA

Title: Annual Winter Meeting.

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

Location: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 South 12th 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, other announcements, and our annual business meeting by Superintendent Tim Himmelberger.

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

9:45 – 10:45 AM: Jeff Thompson will discuss the make and take kit of a bridge he built at last summer's Fine Scale Modeler's Show. He then proceeded to take it across the hall and entered it in the contest room. Where he was awarded an honorable mention for his work. We have asked some of our AP judges to judge his work and comment about how it is scored. You never know Jeff may come away with an AP certificate.

10:45 – 11:00 AM: Break.

11:00 – 11:45: Dennis Blank will present his clinic "Odds & Ends". He will be reviewing some of his past project and the fixtures he constructed for these projects.

11:45 – Noon: Break

Noon – 1:00 PM: Model Showcase clinic and handout layout maps.

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.

1:00 – 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.

Dennis Blank, 25 Buckwheat Drive, Denver, PA

Pat Mulrooney, 206 Stover Drive, New Holland, PA

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

Event 2: April 7 – Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Title: Mini-Con

Co-Sponsored with the South Mountain Division

Location: Blue Ridge Summit Fire Hall, across the street from Mainline Hobby Supply

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Morning consists of roundtable informal clinics. Our Wayne Betty has stepped forward with his timesaver layout. We are looking for one or two more individuals who would like to present in the morning. If you are interested in presenting or would like more information please contact Tim Himmelberger. (tlhimmel@comcast.net). Anything that is hands on works very well in this setting. The afternoon is formal clinics. Lee Rainey is presenting a clinic.

Event 3: June 9 – Lewistown, PA

Title: Lewistown Station – PRRT&HS Archives and Observation Tower

Project Officer: Jerry Britton (jerry@pennsyr.com)

Location: Lewistown Station, 150 Helen Street, Lewistown, PA

Schedule: The final event plan and detailed schedule will be presented later. We will start at 9:00 AM. We will be the guests of the PRRT&HS for the morning. They will present a program detailing what kind of documents are in their collection. It will be a good opportunity to learn how to do research even if you are not a Pennsy fan. The goal is to understand what methods to use in doing research. What kind of questions to ask to get the information you desire. Jerry has indicated that the observation tower will be open. An excellent vantage point for train watching on the Norfolk Southern mainline. The PRRT&HS has made improvements to the station to protect and preserve the collection. Jerry is working on layout tours for the afternoon. Again, we are the guests of the PRRT&HS. They have requested that we limit the group size to 20 to 30 people. Due to their request we will be requesting that you sign up for this event.

Event 4: Sep 15-16 - Blue Ridge Summit PA

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.

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

Schedule: 10 AM - 4 PM Saturday (15th) and 11 AM - 4 PM Sunday (16th).

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 3-7, Crossroads of the MER Convention

Location: Rockville Hilton, Rockville, MD

Sponsored by the Potomac Division

Convention web site: <http://potomac-nmra.org/MER2018/>

Event 6: October 26 and 27, Central Susquehanna Valley and Allentown/Lehigh Valley

Title: LSOP10

Project Officer: Wayne Betty (wsb@susquehannanmra.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 (October 26) and two layouts operating on Saturday (October 27).

Comments: This is a jointly sponsored event by the NMRA Susquehanna Division 11 and the OpSIG. This event fills very quickly. 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 LSOP10 website at <http://www.susquehannanmra.org/LSOP/LSOP10/default.htm>. Not all layouts in this event are handicap accessible.

Event 7: November 3-18, 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@susquehannanmra.org.

Location: All 32 Division-wide counties.

Schedule: This three-weekend event will be held November 3-4, 10-11, and 17-18. Exact schedules for each weekend will be presented in a future *Sidetracks* once a project officer is selected.

Comments: The November 2018 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 2018 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. If you have questions or are considering adding your layout to the Grand Tour please contact your Superintendent, Tim Himmelberger, at timh@susquehannanmra.org.

It was totally unexpected. I attended the Fine Scale Expo in Altoona the beginning of November. I signed up for the special hands on clinics at the beginning of the Expo to learn as much as I could about structure building including structure lighting and scenery. I was one of twenty participants in the Hunterline clinic where they walked us through the assembly of their King Post Bridge. I have not (until now) ever built and completed a structure kit before this. So for me it was a real challenge.

This was a 'detailed' kit complete with NBW's (nut, bolt, washer castings) and my god were they tiny. Due to a mix up in scheduling we were closed down a half hour before the clinic was to end. As a consideration for the mix-up we were allowed two extra hours the next morning to finish it up; which I needed.

I completed the kit, Rick and Maureen Hunter of Hunterline said I did a good job, I took a second look and decided 'what the heck' and walked across the hall and entered it into the model contest. I did not expect to win anything but I was proud of the 5 hours of torment and pain and put it on display. I figured it would be good for a laugh.

When they called me up for the Honorable Mention I was, needless to say, floored. They told me that it was a unanimous decision among the five judges and that there has never been an Honorable Mention award like this before. They plan to include a new category in their future contests that will be based on the hands on clinics at the next Expo.

The model will never end up at the Smithsonian or anywhere else except my house. And my wife is now convinced that I was really out building models and not chasing one. Needless to say, I had a lot of fun at this Expo and highly recommend going to one. The encouragement and display of support that I received from the organizers, vendors and attendees was amazing.

And there you have 'the rest of the story' (apologies to Paul Harvey) and thanks to Jim Mooney from Bar Mills.



**National Model Railroad Association
Mid-Eastern Region
2018 Convention**

Crossroads of the MER



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***For the most up-to-date information visit:
<http://www.potomac-nmra.org/MER2018/>***

January 27 and 28

Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show
875 Memorial Avenue
West Springfield MA
Admission: Adults \$15.00 per day
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www.railroadhobbyshow.com

January 28

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Contact: Pete Jurofcik (724) 989-5905
WWW.MMVMRRC.ORG

February 3-4

Abington Lines Model Railroad Club Open House
2066 Second Street Pike
Richboro, Pennsylvania
26 x 60 model railroad
Free admission/donations accepted
Contact: (215) 598-7720
WWW.ABINGTONLINES.ORG

February 10

Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum Model Train Sale
Washington County Agricultural Educational Center
7313 Sharpsburg Pike
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Admission \$5.00
Contact: (301) 800-9829
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