

# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS



An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA  
Vol 26 No. 4

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Division Director, Lee Rainey news.

Susquehanna division director Lee Rainey suffered a bad fall in July that fractured a vertebrae. He has had surgery and now faces a long convalescence at home. Lee says he is especially bummed to miss all the fall layout open houses.

Here is his address for those who would like to send a card to Lee:

Lee Rainey  
784 Tanager Drive  
State College, PA 16803

Get well soon, Lee!



Photo from the CMR Products website

## From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger

It is hard to believe that Labor Day is just a couple of days away and the kids will be going back to school. Actually, I am giving away my age. Nowadays the kids return to school before Labor Day. A couple of days ago I took our two younger grandsons to the Middletown and Hummelstown Railroad for a ride. This is Mark who is typically all energy. However, put him on a train and he is deep in concentration, not to mention quiet.



We had a beautiful day for our ride.



I was even able to do a little modeling research. It was done from the distance. They would not humor me to go over and inspect the car closely.

It sure looks like the tank car that we sold at the convention last year. The last I heard Pat Mulrooney still has a few left to sell. If interested please see the information on page 16.

## From the Superintendent's Desk – Tim Himmelberger



Mark clearly has potential as a future model railroader.

This has been an exciting summer. First, I want to thank Barry Schmitt and Lee Rainey for working with the Mount Union Bricktown Model Railroad Club. The event there was outstanding. Barry has written an excellent recap article on page 06. Also, thanks to Jerry Britton for working with the Middle Division Chapter of the Pennsylvania Technical and Historical Society. The tour of the Lewistown Station and their archive collection was excellent.

With fall fast approaching the Division event schedule is picking up. It starts with the Mainline Hobby Supply open house tour. We have sponsored this for a number of years. This year we are being joined by the South Mountain Division as a co-sponsor. The dates are September 15 – 16.

October is the MER regional convention. This year it is in Rockville, MD. The regional conventions are always very interesting. There is always something for everyone. From clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, operating sessions, white elephant sale, raffles, and who could forget just spending time with other modelers talking about just about anything under the sun. The announcement is on page 14.

Also, in October for those who like to operate till you drop the OPSIG is the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Wayne Betty has already posted that both sessions are full. However, if you want to go on to a standby list I am sure that Wayne will take your name.

The Division wide open house tour is on for the first three weekends in November. The announcement is on page 15.

My last item to call attention to is the Board of Directors meeting held Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. There were two main items on the agenda this year. The first is next year's program. Work has already progressed on the May event. But we still have some holes to fill. Also, there will be a discussion of the Division website. Please see the article on page 22.

It is time to stop writing and do something that is even more important. Namely, go work on my layout.

Tim Himmelberger

# You Can Give a Clinic

Alan Mende, Susquehanna Division Training Chair

As model railroaders, we're all good at something. Maybe you're an ace at soldering or scenery building. Maybe your "thing" is kitbashing structures or super detailing freight cars and locomotives. Maybe you're good at scratch building in wood or styrene. Maybe you just have a bunch of tips, tricks, and shortcuts that you've developed. So tell us. Give a clinic.

*"Oh, I couldn't do that. I wouldn't know where to start. You want me to stand up in front of a crowd? I can't do that".* Actually, you can, and it isn't that hard. Take it from me; if you know your subject, you can give a clinic. But you might need some help putting it all together. That's what my job is in the Susquehanna Division. Giving a clinic isn't rocket science or brain surgery; it just takes some preparation, and I will help you. Just drop me an email so we can get started (alanmende@yahoo.com). Not only will you be sharing your knowledge with other model railroaders, you'll earn points toward your NMRA Author certification – one category on your way to Master Model Railroader.

Have you visited the NMRA website? As a member you have access to a world of information on our hobby! I have included just one item that is available to each of us with our membership.



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## 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 October 11, 2018, formatted in Times New Roman font 12.

### Board of Directors

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2018-2020

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2017-2019

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#### Sidetracks Editor

Tedd Pounds  
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## Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:

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

Mid-Eastern Region website:

[www.mer.nmra.com](http://www.mer.nmra.com)

## National Model Railroad Association

8414 Gulf View Drive, Suite A & B

Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-2200

[www.nmra.org](http://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. Thanks!

*Tedd*



## New Members July/August 2018

Julie Ziegler

Lewisburg PA

# May 5 Bricktown Model Railroaders Association Event

BARRY SCHMITT

Have you ever had a model railroad under construction or finished and then suddenly forced to make a short notice move to a new location and start over? That happened to the Mount Union PA Bricktown club about four years ago when they were given short notice to vacate a former city school building they had occupied for several years. After the initial shock and loss of several members a small but dedicated group of model railroaders began the long and difficult task of finding immediate storage for their existing layout sections and equipment and starting the search for another facility.

Like most clubs they wanted to avoid another rental situation but lacked the funds to purchase a suitable facility outright. For many clubs that would have been the end. However, unwilling to give up they mounted a series of very successful fund-raising campaigns after successfully conquering the difficult task of securing IRS non-profit 501c3 status. Those tax-exempt contributions eventually allowed them to purchase a large, but in need of extensive renovation, 50-foot by 100-foot former warehouse complete with an old but unusable railroad siding. They are now involved in an extensive remodeling process that will include major interior and exterior structural, insulation, electric, roofing, and plumbing repairs.



New home of the Bricktown Model Railroaders Association

Mount Union PA was once the largest shipping point on the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) Middle Division. The primary generator of all that railroad activity was three very large brick plants one of which, the Harbison Walker facility, was the largest of its kind in the world. The current owner provided a very interesting escorted tour of the existing factory remains which are located adjacent to the clubhouse. That extensive brick activity is why Mount Union is still known today as Bricktown by locals.

We had 101 registered guests at the event – our second largest Division program since at least 2012. Attendees were provided a tour of the club building and presentations on future renovations and modeling plans, visited the Mount Union Area Historical Society Industrial Museum and four nearby model railroads, and witnessed lots of Norfolk Southern mainline action easily visible from the clubhouse. Also, well known Mount Union author and historian Bryan Donaldson presented an indepth slide presentation about the city's extensive railroad history. And to cap off the formal program Division member Jerry Lauchle from State College received his 5<sup>th</sup> NMRA Achievement Program Certificate for Motive Power – congrats and way to go Jerry!

To assure everyone realized the club building would eventually house a large model railroad club member George Sarra displayed his O-Scale Narrow Gauge modular layout. Below is a photo of the layout and a closeup photo of his dead-rail (hand held controller signal direct to an onboard battery with no rail power) company service car running on the layout. Note the large building at the back of the layout – a scratch built replica of their clubhouse.



Bricktown club member George Sarra's narrow gauge modular HO-Scale layout



George Sarra's dead-rail narrow gauge service car moving down the rails

For lunch attendees were offered a tasty menu selection (great sloppy Joes and baked goods – yummy!) at the Bricktown Senior Center pictured below. Also provided are two photos of the great lunch volunteers who made it all possible and six happy attendees relaxing after their scrumptious lunch. The Senior Center may look new but not so – it is the extensively remodeled former PRR Freight Station. There is no doubt it ever looked that good back in the heyday of steam. Also note the tracks that run in front of the building. They are currently a spur used to store excess railroad cars but were the original PRR mainline alignment that ran directly through downtown Mount Union. Like many other cities along the PRR mainline tracks ran down the center of town but were later relocated as the cities expanded.



Former PRR freight station – now Bricktown Senior Center



Bricktown Senior Center lunch volunteers displaying some of their yummy desserts



The rest of the great senior center lunch crew



Six happy PA attendees relaxing after lunch: right to left are John and Kathy Wissinger (MMR) from Myerstown, Steve McClellan from Chads Ford Township, Earl France from Reading, Forrest Lucas from Johnstown, and Jerry Corbin from Hollidaysburg

Bricktown was also home to a significant interchange between the PRR and the East Broad Top Railroad (EBT). Event attendees were afforded a rare opportunity to tour the inside of the Mount Union EBT engine house and its sole occupant – EBT 0-6-0 # 3 - a 1923 Baldwin steam locomotive. Both a historical photo of that engine and a few photos taken during the open house of both the engine house and old #3 are provided below. As you can see the lighting inside the engine house was minimal; however, we just learned the EBT Preservation Association plans to install interior lighting and paint the windows and sashes. It was truly sad to see such a historical gem basically rusting away and out of public view. Many of us likened the engine house to an above ground burial crypt. Also, what a contrast in time – a prized 1923 relic inside a historic engine house located directly behind a modern bank branch office and McDonald’s.



1923 EBT #3 Baldwin 0-6-0 locomotive earning its keep in better times



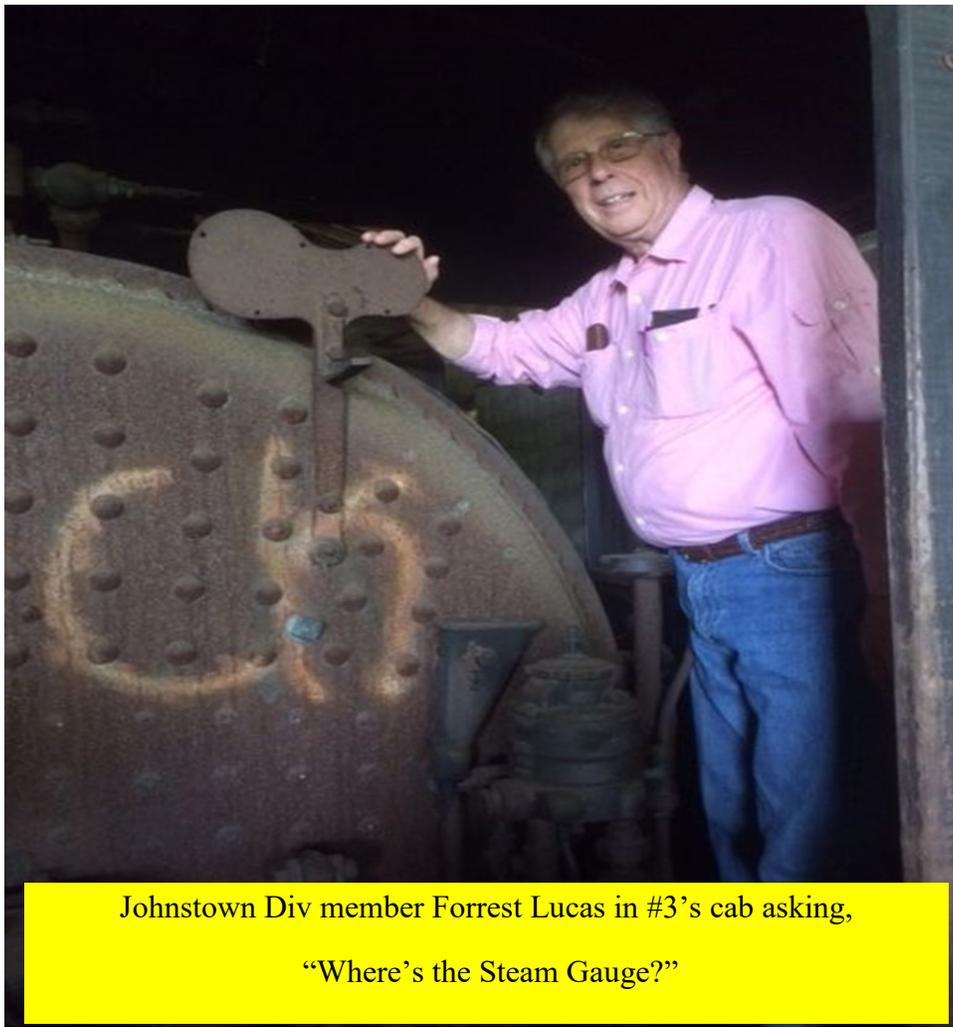
EBT #3 Engine House



EBT #3's rare breath of fresh air and eager railroad enthusiasts



EBT #3 inside its dark and grungy engine house



Johnstown Div member Forrest Lucas in #3's cab asking,  
"Where's the Steam Gauge?"

Clearly May 5 was a great model railroading and prototype extravaganza. The Bricktown Model Railroaders Association has demonstrated that with a collective positive attitude, perseverance, creative thinking, and many hours of hard work finding and then purchasing their own building was possible. Besides three work sessions each week they continue to hold unique fund-raising events to build their limited treasury. For example, the last Saturday in June they held an all-day Music on The Rails program that featured six bands, several food trucks, hundreds of visitors, and the clubhouse open to the public. Then on each Friday and Saturday night in October they will hold their Halloween Farms Haunted Warehouse in the clubhouse basement. It certainly sounds like a major production since they already have half their weekly work crew dedicated to building the many spooky sets in them to-be haunted basement. It sounds so intriguing that my wife Sue and I and hopefully several friends plan to attend one of their horror nights. If you want some truly spooky fun mark your calendar now and attend their basement of disembodied spirits!

Other accomplishments since our May event include installation of a modern heating and air conditioning system, several rotten floor board replacements, 2/3's of the first-floor walls finished, and will host the Friends of the East Broad Top annual reunion Sep 21-23. And for a grand NMRA finale, the Bricktown Model Railroad Association recently became an All NMRA Model Railroad Club. My guess is they are likely the first such club in the MER and one of only a few nationwide.

So, if you want to see a dynamic club in action they welcome your visit anytime during their three weekly work sessions – Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The club address is 300 West Small Street, Mount Union PA – a beautiful 2-hour drive west from Harrisburg. You can also visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BricktownMuseum/>. Rest assured you will not meet a more friendly and dedicated gang of model railroaders!

# NMRA Holds Meeting at Station

Article and photos submitted by Pauletta Ader PRRT&HS

On June 9th, the National Model Railroad Association of America's Susquehanna Division held their meeting at the Lewistown Station. Tim Himmelberger, Superintendent, led the business meeting with Jerry Britton as the first speaker describing the various railroads that function or have functioned around the Lewistown area. He focused on the station, including the past and present. The second speaker, Archivist Charlie Horan, spoke on his job description. The meeting ended with a tour of the station assisted by Richard Ader, Station and Accessions manager. Upon closing their meeting, Tim Himmelberger presented a \$100 archive donation to Rich Ader and Charlie Horan as a thank you to the PRRT&HS for hosting the event. The club completed their visit to the area with a few local layout tours.



Tim Himmelberger



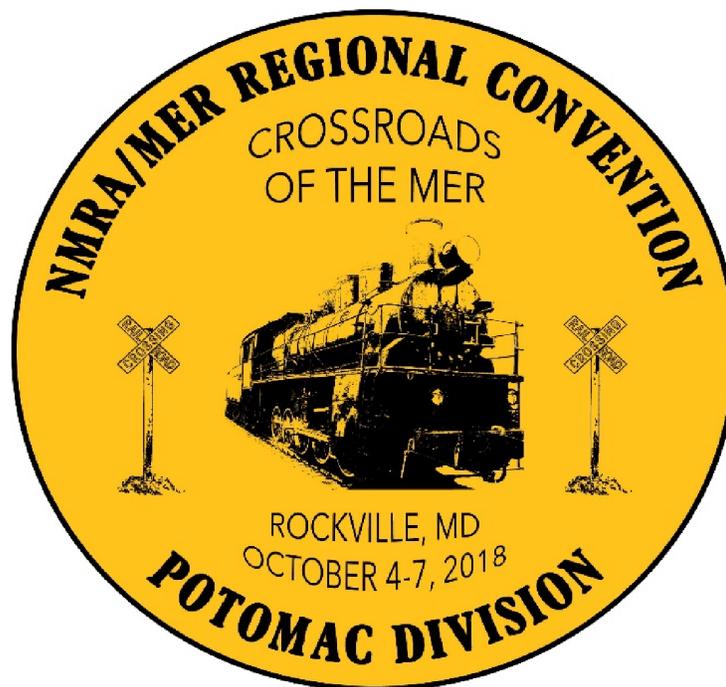
Jerry Britton



Tour of the Archives

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

**Crossroads of the MER**



***Clinics ▪ Banquet Speaker—Lou Sassi  
Contest & Modular Layouts ▪ Operations Call Board  
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***For the most up-to-date information visit:  
<http://www.potomac-nmra.org/MER2018/>***



Mark your calendar now for the National Model Railroad Month layout tours coming up this November. This will be for the first three weekends in November.

There will be more details in the September and November Sidetracks where we'll also have all the schedules, locations, and directions on a variety of websites, including our own division site at;

<http://www.susquehannanmra.org/> and the comprehensive NJ, MD, DE, and Philly area site

<http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com/>

We hope you will be able to visit several layouts this year. If you would like to participate this year and have not hosted a November Open House tour previously, please let us know!

The open house schedule will be posted October 1st.



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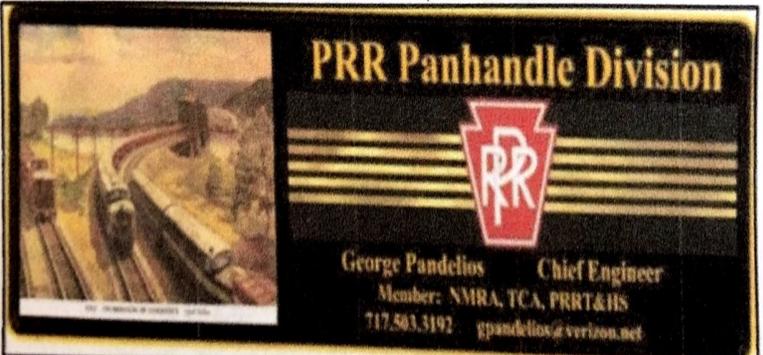
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# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2018, 7 PM

Tim Himmelberger

19 Penny Lane

Lebanon, PA 17046

Attendance: Tedd Pounds (call in), Pat Mulrooney, Lee Rainey (call in), David Collison, Howard Oakes, John Wissinger, Alan Mende, Barry Schmitt, Tim Himmelberger

## Old Business and Reports

Clerk – Checking account balance - \$9,362.89

Membership – 246

AP

Jerry Lauchle: Prototype Model, Motive Power

Barry Schmitt: Volunteer

Bob Bucklew: Golden Spike, Volunteer

Pat Mulrooney: Golden Spike

Sidetracks – Looking for more material

Training & Clinics

Model Show Case – discussed offering a prize for the most popular model

Pat Mulrooney reported that he has 15 Convention Cars remaining

## Review of remaining 2018 Calendar

September 15-16, Mainline Hobby Open House Weekend

Oct 26 – 27, LSOP – All slots filled

October 3 – 7, Rockville, MD, MER Convention, Crossroads of the MER

Nov 3 – 4, 10 – 11, 17 – 18, Section wide Open House Tour

## 2019 Calendar Outline copied from this year

February – Tedd pounds is going to work with Scott Unger for an event in the Allentown / Bethlehem area

March – Tedd Pounds is going to work on a program on rail container shipping

April 6, Blue Ridge Summit, Mini-Con w/ SMD

May 4 – 5, Railroads in Columbia – Barry Schmitt, Tony Sergo

May 16 – 19, PRRT&HS Annual Meeting

June – Barry Schmitt will investigate having an event at the Portage Museum possibly with a family picnic

September 16 – 17, Mainline Hobby Open House Weekend

Oct, LSOP

October 10 – 13, King of Prussia, PA, MER Convention, Philadelphia Division

Nov 4 – 5, 11 – 12, 18 – 19 Section wide Open House Tour

## New Business

Website – There was considerable discussion about the Division website. One of the big issues was the restriction on the number of email addresses available to the division. Also, the desire to give the webpage a refresh. David Collison gave us a budget price of \$150/year. This would also give us individual email address for each of the officers and each of the directors. We have reached out to Wayne Betty and he understands the decision. The Board of Directors on behalf of the Division has expressed our gratitude to Wayne for donating the webpage for many years. David Collison will do the initial setup of the new webpage and then turn over the job of webmaster to someone else. We will also be looking for volunteers to be responsible for the various pages.

Tim Himmelberger

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