

SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

An Official Publication of the Susquehanna Division,
Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA
Vol 27 No. 2



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Jerry Lauchle Earns Master Model Railroader Status

Jerry has been active in the hobby since he was 7 years old. As he grew up, other interests such as model airplanes, school, furniture making, and starting a family all intervened. Railroading continued to intertwine his other interests, the Galeton & Chestnut Lake R.R. was incorporated as a free lanced logging railroad spanning the early 20th century.

2016 would bring a new membership in the NMRA after having been absent from the organization since the 80's.

The competitive side of Jerry arrived on the scene and began working towards the goal of Master Model Railroader!

As Jerry progressed towards his goal he earned the following certificates:

Master Builder—Scenery, Master Builder—Structures, Master Builder—Cars, Master Builder—Motive Power, Master Builder—Prototype Models, Model Railroad Engineer—Electrical, Model Railroad Author.

Congratulations on your well deserved reward!

Superintendent's Desk

Our first event of 2019 was held in Allentown. Scott Unger put together a great program for the February meeting. It was a great day. I would like to congratulate everyone who received an AP award. And a special congratulations to our newest MMR, Jerry Lauchle. I would also like to thank everyone who brought something for the Model Showcase. Being Superintendent has many draw backs. However, helping to judge some models for AP merit awards is not one of them. But it does limit you on the amount of time you have to visit layouts. In my case I was only able to make it to one. I did visit Scott Ungar's layout. And for those of you who saw his hand laid cross over he has built I did get to see where it will go on his layout. For a recap of the day and some pictures please see the article on page 09.

The next event is in April. It is the always popular Mini-Con at Blue Ridge Summit Fire Company. Please remember that Mainline Hobby Supply, which just happens to be located just across the street sponsors this event. They rent the fire hall. So please visit their store. You may find something that you "need".

May 4th, save the date. It will be a day to remember. Tony Sergo and Barry Schmitt, Howard Oakes, Bill Lesjack, Rich Wurst and Jim Long along with the Columbia Historic Preservation Society, the Lancaster Chapter of the National Railway Historic Society and the Columbia & Reading Railroad are putting together a super program on Railroading in Columbia. What started out as a collaborative effort between Barry Schmitt and Tony Sergo to have a Division event in Columbia has quickly grown into a much larger event. Barry Schmitt has written an article beginning on page 14.

2019 is an odd numbered year. While I know that this is not earth-shattering news, it is important for our Division. In odd numbered years we elect our four Directors to a two-year term. Our existing Directors, in alphabetical order, are David Collison, Pat Mulroney, Howard Oakes and Lee Rainey. They have all contributed to the running and operation of the Division and I for one am personally grateful for their contributions. I do know that they all will not be running for reelection. This is not the presidential election so the field of candidates tends to be small. However, having said that, I would also add that the candidates in the past have been very well qualified. I am asking each of you to carefully consider running for Director. The Call for Nominations is out. This will include your short (200 words or less) as to why you feel you will make a good Director. We will accept nominations beginning now. The May edition issue of Sidetracks will have the list of nominees and the ballot. The election will run for one month and the results will be posted in the July Sidetracks. The new Directors begin their term on July 1st.

One of the many benefits of hosting a convention is that we realize how many talented and gifted people we have in our Division. It seems that what we have been doing is an excellent training ground for some of our members to move up into leadership positions for the Region. However, this does leave a vacuum in our Division. First, obviously we are looking for candidates to run for the four Director positions that are up for election this year. We are also looking for a Webmaster, and some assistants to maintain our webpage. At the February meeting during the business it was approved to again host a regional convention in about 5 years. I am waiting to hear back from Eric Dervinis for the exact year. But that means that we need a convention chair. My suggestion is that we go with to co-chairs like did with the last one. Five years is not a lot of time. The first issue is securing a hotel to host the convention. Eric is an excellent resource to assist in that process. Especially in negotiating the contract. Remember our Division is only as good as we make it. So, please step forward and help make the Susquehanna Division even better.

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, 2019 to June 30, 2021. 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. What we have also found that serving in any of a number of positions has served as an excellent training ground for moving into a position with the MER. This has created some openings in the Directors positions. 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 2019 Director voting program is:

April 20, 2019: Submit nominations to Tim Himmelberger, Superintendent, either by phone at 717-454-8033 or email at timh@susquehannanmra.org.

April 20, 2019: 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 that our Sidetracks editor also has a full-time job. So please be considerate as he has to put 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, 2019: Ballots received by either email or USPS.

July 2019: 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. Also, if you are still working on your Association Volunteer Certificate it is an excellent way to earn points towards that certificate. One point per month of service to be exact. Please give me a call or send me an email if you have questions about the election or our BOD operations at timh@susquehannanmra.org or 717-454-8033.

Tim

HELP WANTED: Archivist
Jack Dziadul, MER Director
jdziadul@mer-nmra.com
919-721-8757
February 14, 2019

The Mid-Eastern Region's position of Archivist will become vacant effective April 1, 2019 due to the retirement of Chris Conaway. We are seeking Chris' replacement for this volunteer position.

The Archivist is responsible for maintaining the historical records belonging to the Mid-Eastern Region. These would include MER meeting agendas and minutes, budgets and financial reports, copies of The Local as well as Division newsletters, etc.

Specific responsibilities:

1. The archivist maintains an electronic copy of the archives and updates it as necessary. At the end of each year, the Archivist makes a copy to a CD for the MER President and the MER Business Manager.
2. Periodically writes a short column for The Local (i.e., In the Region 30 Years Ago).
3. Prepares an annual budget request to cover anticipated Archivist expenses, if any, for the coming year.

For those participating in the Achievement Program and working toward their Association Volunteer Certificate and MMR, the Archivist position is a quick way to accumulate required volunteer time units. Please contact MER Director Jack Dziadul with any questions or expressions of interest.

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.



**Over 160 minutes
of new MRVP videos
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Library!**

Click for a sample.

Model Railroader Video Plus Videos
A Member Benefit

Susquehanna Sidetracks

Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
380 Taylor 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 15, 2019 formatted in Times New Roman font 12.

Board of Directors

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Howard Oakes
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2017-2019

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Chairman

Robert Charles, MMR
director@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Program

Chairman

John Wissinger, MMR
director@susquehannanmra.org

Training Chairman

Alan Mende
director@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks Editor

Tedd Pounds
director@susquehannanmra.org

Membership Information

Susquehanna Division website:

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. Thanks!

Tedd



No new members this issue

Mid-Eastern Region Information

Invitation to Authors and Photographers
Jack Dziadul, Director
Mid-Eastern Region

Do you have a modeling tip, a how-to article, a step-by-step scratch-build, kit-bash, or kit build to share with your 1,800 friends in the Mid-Eastern Region? Perhaps you have photo exhibits of a recent train show, from a layout tour, or of an operating session. With our e-Local, we have an expanded page count available to publish your contribution and sharp color to give some pop to your photographs.

Among our Region's objectives are:

- Expand interest in and publicize the hobby of model railroading
- Promote membership growth (and retention)
- Support the National Achievement Program

Each member can play a role in achieving these objectives.

We have a great deal of talent in the MER as evidenced by so many Master Model Railroaders in the Region, and in the variety of high-quality contest entries at our conventions. Let us all share those talents more broadly.

For those participating in the Achievement Program and working toward their Railroad Author Certificate and MMR, the Region and Division level requirements below are excerpted from the NMRA web site. Refer to www.nmra.org Education tab for the full statement of requirements that encompass clinics, etc.

To qualify for this certificate, you must:

1. Prepare and submit material on any of the following subjects:
Model Railroading.
Prototype Railroading, Applicable to Modeling.
NMRA Administration (e.g. Officers or Committee Reports)

The material being claimed must be the work of the author, photographer, artist, draftsman, etc. applying for the certificate. A total of forty-two (42) points must be earned. This is material that appears in printed media, such as newsletters and may include text, photographs, drawings, etc. Material that has been published or accepted for publication may be claimed. A copy of the published material or of the acceptance receipt from the publication must be submitted as proof.

Item	Region	Division
Article or Column	2	1
Photos or Art Work	2	1
Scale Drawing of Prototype	4	2
Scale Drawing of Track Plan	2	1

A "page" is approximately 1200 words. Credit may be claimed for partial pages down to quarter pages. No more than half of the total required points (21) may be claimed for Division or 100% NMRA Club publications.

You will note that your article does not need to actually even be published before submitting your Region level points for credit. You only need certification from the Editor that your work has been accepted for publication. For guidance or questions pertaining to the Achievement Program, please contact Region AP Coordinator Dave Chance or your Division AP Coordinator.

What is the next step? Submit your article, photographs or inquiries to Editor Clint Hyde (local-editor@mer-nmra.com) with a copy to Jack Dziadul (jdziadul@mer-nmra.com). Other information including the publication schedule and deadlines can be found in The Local.

AP Awards Earned



Scott Unger received the following AP certificates during our February meeting;

Golden Spike

Electrical

Scott models the Chessie System, Pennsylvania Division located in Southwestern Pa. He has done extensive research into the area and has reproduced it in exquisite detail.

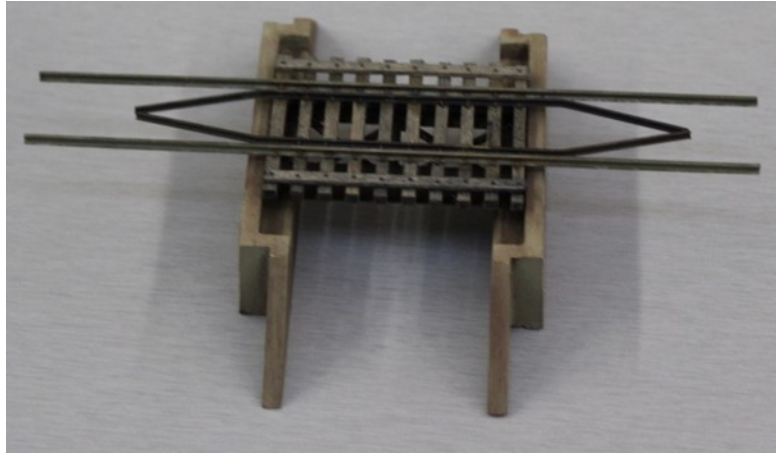
Phil Peters received his Golden Spike certificate at our February meeting



Model Showcase

John Wissinger

At the Model Showcase portion of the February meet in Allentown, there were 9 items shown from track work to structures. There is room for everyone with different skill levels. One member was interested in getting Achievement Award points for his work within the Achievement Program. Others wanted to show their latest project. I am sure that you have a model that you are proud of or is special. There is plenty of room for more models so let's get to work for the next meeting.



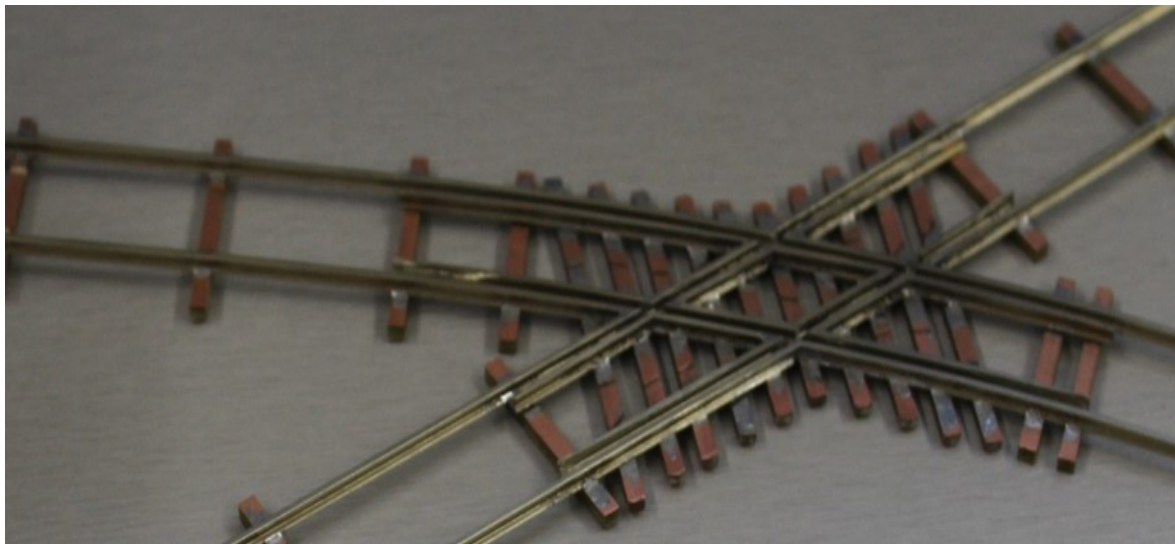
1. Higgins Creek Bridge on the South Branch CNJ RR. Bridge is scratch built by Alan Mende and has every detail of the prototype. Alan brought the model in for Merit Award judging.



2. Flemington NJ CNJ RR water tank built by Alan Mende. He brought the model in for Merit Award judging. Scratch built. Some railroads enclosed the lineside water tanks to keep them from freezing in the winter.



3. Neshonic Station/freight house built by Alan Mende. It was on the South Branch of the CNJ RR. Alan brought the model in for Merit Award judging. Scratch built.



4. Scratch built crossing built by Scott Unger. The crossing is built from Code 83 rail laid on PCB ties. The curve is an easement into a 23" arc crossing a tangent track.



5. The C&O caboose is the beginning of a scene on Tedd Pound's layout. Tedd's family stayed in the full-size caboose in Natural Bridge VA and he thought it would be nice to have a scene on the layout.



6. East Broad top caboose built by Tim Himmelberger. This is an early kit that Tim built some time ago



7. Abandoned depot scratch built by Jerry Lauchle. To be added will be a derelict F7A and a passenger car.



8. Lehigh & Hudson River RR Flanger car built by Dennis Blank. This is a “craftsman kit” from an Ambroid



9. Millersburg Fuel and Supply, built by John Wissinger. The structure was inspired by a 3-part article in the May, June and July 1960 issues of Model Railroader. It is not an exact copy of the building, but it supplied many of the dimensions to build the building. The siding is paper from Paper Creek Model Works which is no longer in business. (This photo was taken on John's layout.)

Last Call for the May 4 Columbia PA Railroad Day Local

ALL ABOARD!

Just 2 months away will be our first Division event dedicated to a local city's extensive railroad heritage – Columbia PA. This event will be well more than the traditional 2 or 3 morning clinics and a few afternoon layout open houses. Instead, model railroaders, prototype enthusiasts, and the general public will be introduced to a full day of learning about Columbia's long and significant railroad history, visiting a current day railroad maintenance facility, observing several basic railroad maintenance practices, and visiting a model railroad club that replicates Columbia's railroad scene back in the 1950's.

The all-day 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM program begins at the Columbia Historic Preservation Society (CHIPS) building at 21 North 2nd Street where an overview of the day's activities will be presented along with morning munchies. After the short introductory program a series of enlightening historical presentations will be presented throughout the day at the CHIPS building by well-known railroad historians such as Pat Morrison, Director of the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum who will give a nostalgic overview of 2 centuries of ridding PA rails, Peter Green will take you back to 1829 when PA began building its first railroad which ran from Philadelphia to Columbia to connect with the canal system to Pittsburgh, National Park Ranger Doug Bosley will talk about the rail-to-canal boat trip from Columbia to the Allegheny Portage Railroad that scaled the Allegheny Mountains, and John Brown will introduce you to the historic Reading and Columbia Railroad. And finally, model railroader Tony Segro will present an interesting clinic on how he builds historic Columbia structures that no longer exist.

Throughout the day several other interesting railroading activities will be featured. For example the HO Columbia and Susquehanna Model Railroad Club, which occupies the entire top floor of the CHIPS building, will be open. This exceptional layout was initially designed to reflect Columbia as it existed in the 1950's with its primary focus being the city area that surrounded the extensive railroad facilities served by both the Pennsy and Reading Railroads. In addition, Division member John Wissinger, MMR, will be soliciting several model railroad items for display throughout the CHIPS building. And finally an operating O-gauge modular layout will be on display.

Prototype railroads aficionados will be afforded the opportunity to visit a major railroad maintenance and repair facility – the Columbia and Reading Railroad (CORY) and their sister company, Rail Mechanical Services (RMS). These two companies build, repair, and restore all types of railroad equipment both at their Columbia facilities and on-the-road at customer locations and even accident sites. CORY and RMS employees will demonstrate several routine rail maintenance tasks such as track laying using hand spiking procedures, hot riveting, and other typical rail maintenance processes. Also, all of their current in-shop projects, yard locomotive, and support equipment will be open for viewing. CORY is also hoping to have one or more rail speeder maintenance of way vehicles on display and possibly operating as well as the Norfolk Southern Operation Life Saver program.

Throughout the day there will be a continuous running hop-on, hop-off trolley to shuttle attendees from the CHIPS building to the CORY facility and also around the city to view both historic and current day railroad hot spots. An onboard historian will provide background information along the route. Also, food trucks will be positioned along the trolley route and a list of local eateries within walking distance of the CHIPS building will be available.

Columbia Railroad Day – May 4, 2019

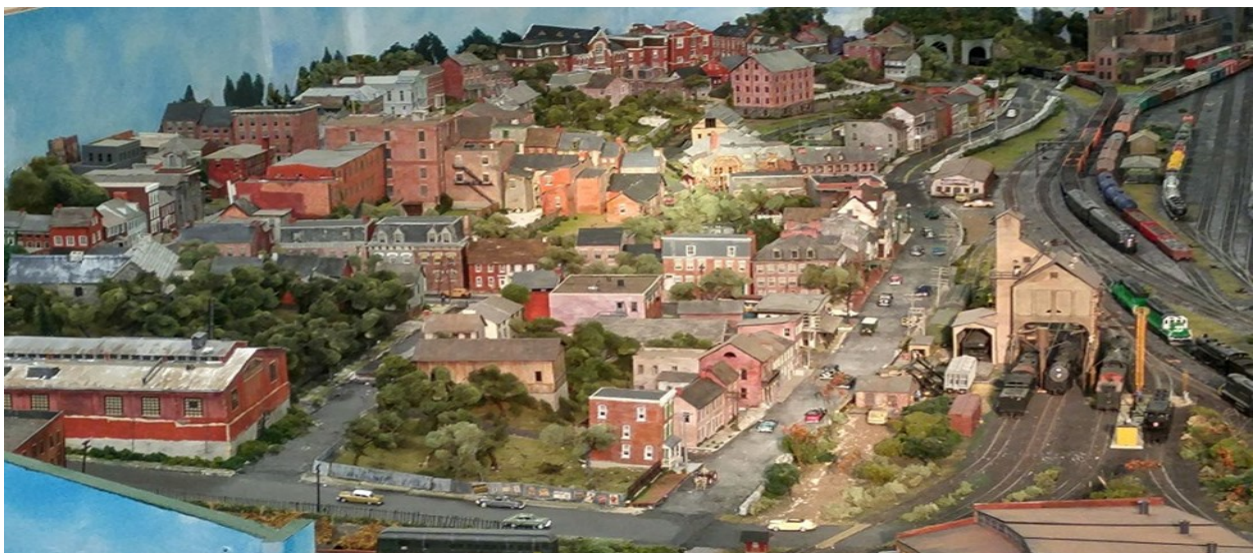
BARRY SCHMITT

No railroad focused Columbia visit would be complete without savoring the well-known and mouth-watering “Shifter” sandwich which was created in the 1930’s to meet the lunch demands of the many train crews manning the extensive fleet of small steam locomotives called “Shifters ”working the rail yards and positioning freight cars at city sidings. These large and hardy sandwiches remain a local favorite and definitely earn the jingle, “It takes 2 hands to handle a Shifter!” And yes, I did enjoy one just to be sure it was worthy of this article – definitely yummy and filling!

So block your May 4 calendar and plan to enjoy a day dedicated to both model and prototype railroading in Columbia PA. We look forward to seeing you there!

ALL ABOARD!

The mighty Shifter sandwich!



Mainline Hobby presents: The Seventh Annual SMD Spring Mini-Convention

When – Saturday, 4/13/19 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where - Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co. 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214 (The same place as past mini-cons)

A call to action!

Join your fellow NMRA members in a day of great fun and fellowship. And, oh by the way, spread the joy of model railroading. Saturday April 13 2019, with the support of Mainline Hobby Supply, we will again host the very popular Mini-convention. New members might not know and old members might have forgotten, our format for the event, so allow a quick review.

Morning – Informal clinics. Hopefully 10 folks (You!) will volunteer to give one from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and repeat it again from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Not a formal presentation, just talk about a model railroading topic that's of interest to you. Bring what you want to have as examples or visual aids. But remember, no projectors, no loudspeakers. It's just you, talking to the attendees as they walk past your table. The guests are free to stay and talk with you for as long as they like, or move on when they choose. So don't think of it as a speech, don't think of it as public speaking. It's just you, talking to another interested model railroader, and maybe another will join in. Note that officially you have an hour break from 10:00 to 11:00. That's to allow you to get a snack, visit the rest room, look around to see what other clinics are doing.

Then hopefully we get 10 other members to give 10 other clinics from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and again from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM.

As of this writing, Ron Polimeni, Harvey Heyser, Bill Wilson, Jane Clarke, Jerry Skeim, Jeff Adams, Andrew Dodge, Don Florwick, Bob Johnson, and Jay Beckham have signed up to give an informal clinic. Jay intends to bring his 3D printer and print items on site! That's 9, I still hope for 20, so there's plenty of room for you.

At 10:00 AM we will also have two "Make and take" clinics. Jeff Grove of Carolina Craftsman Kits will again donate a group of (small, easy) craftsman kits and Mainline will again donate (small, easy) styrene (plastic) kits. Just like last year we'll encourage young people by giving them priority on the make & take sign up lists. Also, another way you can help is by bringing tools to loan for these clinics. X-Acto knives, glue, and, well, look for a list of items once our build leaders (Brian Greenawalt and David Sweeney) have had time to think about it.

We hope to have a modular layout or two set up and running during the morning as well. Please contact me (Pete Clarke) if you are aware of a modular group and have contact information for that group. Email me at ebtmx5@aol.com or call 301- 253-4913

There will be some vendors there with model railroad stuff for sale. Carolina Craftsman Kits, Nyce Collectables (railroadiana), and Grant Berry (Misc stuff) have all signed up and we are waiting to hear back from more. And of course you can, and should, carefully walk across the street to Mainline. Tell them thanks for supporting this event by making a purchase, and while you are talking to them, say "Thanks for sponsoring the Mini" out loud.

Mainline Hobby presents:

The Seventh Annual SMD Spring Mini-Convention

Again, this year we will purchase a \$150 gift certificate from Mainline and sell raffle tickets (\$10 each) through the morning. Also, Hobbytown Frederick (Richard Benjamin) has donated a \$50 gift certificate that we will give as a door prize. Both of these will happen at 1:00 PM.

At 1:00 PM we convert from informal to formal clinics. Jeff Grove of Carolina Craftsman Kits will speak on Laser Technology in Modeling. Ira Silverman will speak about his new book, *The Canadian, the Last of the Great Streamliners*. Alex Polimeni will speak on Model railroading as game design.

We will have food on site. Hopefully, again this will be handled by the local Boy Scout troop.

And that's just what I know about already. There's more in the pipeline, so stay tuned.

Please contact me (Pete Clarke – ebtmx5@aol.com) and offer to help. Mostly we need folks to give informal clinics. Everyone who's done one of these clinics has had a great time. If you have questions I'd be happy to talk with you about it. There are other things you can do, we'll need extension cords, tools for the make & take clinics, morning set up and afternoon clean up. Know of a modular group? I'd love to hear from you. Just can't do any of those? Attend, tell others about it.

Did you catch the part about having a 3D printer working on-site?!! I intend to spend hours just watching that do its thing. Come on down!

Model Showcase

By John Wissinger

This is a reminder that there will be a Model Showcase portion at the February Meet. The showcase is open to anyone to show and talk about a model railroad or railroad item that may be special to you.

We are well into the New Year and perhaps you have been spending your time working on your layout. Did you receive a railroad item, either model or prototype for Christmas. Have you spent the winter building a kit or scratch building an item for your layout. Did you take a rail fan trip and have photos to share with the group. Now is the time to show it and take time (up to 5 minutes) at the February meeting to talk about it.

The model does not have to be finished. Show it as a work in progress. I have been working on a building for my layout which I will bring. It may or may not be finished (as I write this the meet is a month away). The building has an interesting history. It was inspired by an article in a 1960 issue of MR. The building was planned to be modified to fit on my layout which was designed in 1989. It is now that I am finally building it. Do you have something that has an interesting history or is unique in some way, bring it to the meeting.!

The Model Showcase is open to any model and model railroader, not just those of extraordinary talent. So bring that item which you want to show off.

2019 Division Calendar of Events

April 13th, Blue Ridge Summit, Mini-Con w/ SMD

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

May 16 – 19, PRRT&HS Annual Meeting

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

September 16 – 17, Mainline Hobby Open House Weekend

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

Oct 25 - 26, LSOP

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

We feel that we have put together an interesting program plan for this year. There are many of the events that have been part of our program in the past and have been very popular. Also, some interesting new ones. Some items need to have the details completed. So, keep a lookout in future Sidetracks for details as they come available. Please note that the *italicized* items are not Susquehanna Division events but are very popular with many Division members. Also, I would like to call your attention to our web page. Wayne Betty has posted a listing of Mid-Atlantic Train Shows for 2019.

Tim Himmelberger



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Model RR Club

Meets 7:30 PM First Tuesday
Sept—June

One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, Pa 17022

Phone 717-361-5180

Open Houses the first weekend
monthly Sept thru April

Sat-Sun 2 –4 PM

Extra times at Christmas

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PENNSYLVANIA 17028-8824

PHONE: (717)-469-1047
EMAIL: ALANMENDE@YAHOO.COM



B&O WESTON SUBDIVISION

(Under Development)

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*Route
of
the
Whitetail*

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

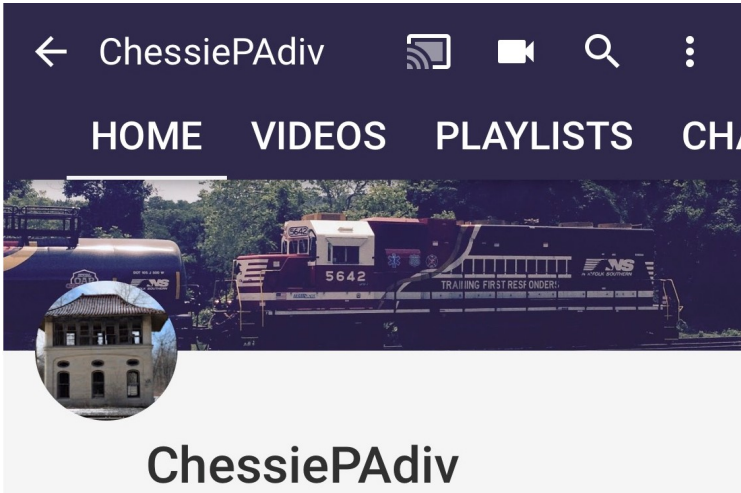
Members Section

Introducing a new section to our newsletter, if you have a Youtube page, Facebook page for your railroad, or a blog please consider including a link to it here.

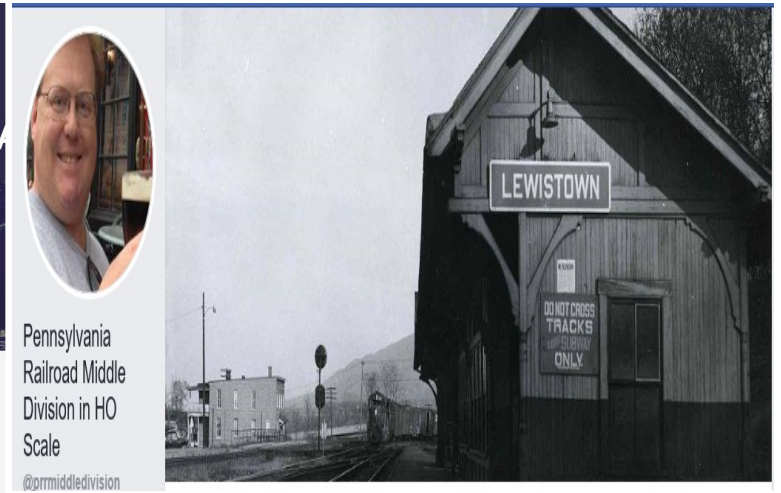
Also, it has been suggested we have a classified section for our members to post items that are searching for new homes.

Please submit your items to the editor in an email with a photo or two for inclusion in our newsletter.

Scott Unger's Chessie System Pa Dvision



Jerry Britton's Pennsylvania RR Middle Division in HO



The Station



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

Please call for directions

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Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

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