

Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division,
Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



January 2019

Volume 30 Number 1

For January we meet in Merchantville, NJ

Chuck Higdon

This month's Meet is on January 12, 2019, this is a joint meet with the Philadelphia Division at the Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Maple Street, Merchantville, NJ 08109.

Located in the basement of the church is the Cherry Valley O gauge club, they will be open for us to tour after the meeting from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Also there are eight other layouts we can visit and be inspired from.

Back on October 20th we held a beginners operating session on my railroad. Four new to operations men showed up and had a good afternoon getting acquainted with operating a model layout. We explained the schedule and Car Cards/Way Bills (CC/WB) and how they help guide the cars and trains around the layout. They enjoyed the session very much and look forward to other sessions. Jack Menaker's layout will be next for first timers to learn more about operations. His article starts on page 9.

New contest category this month, 12" by 12" diorama. Hope you have been able to make one for the contest.

In late May the Cherokee Division is hosting the 2019 SER-NMRA Convention in Chattanooga, TN, May 30 -June 2, 2019. I mention this because of the clinicians. Planned are Pelle Søbørg (banquet speaker), Cody Grivno, Stephen Priest, Matt Herman, Lance Mindheim, the owners of ScaleTrains.com, and

many others. Pelle Søbørg does those nice Western scenery articles for Model Railroader magazine. Cody Grivno is an editor at Model Railroader, Stephen Priest is the editor of Railroad Model Craftsman, his wife Cinthia is the editor of the NMRA magazine. Lance Mindheim does great articles of southern scenery and shelf layouts. For more information, visit their website: www.choochocityrails.org. Might be something different to attend.



P. J. Mattson presents Bob Hubbard with his Master Builder - Structures, AP Certificate. He now has only one more to earn before he can receive his Master Model Railroader Certificate. Bob is working toward the Master Builder - Cars Certificate now. Take some inspiration from Bob and try it yourself.

Next Division Meet
Saturday January 12, 2019
9 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Grace Episcopal Church
7 East Maple Street
Merchantville, NJ 08109

Contest: 12" x 12" Diorama

Clinics:

Fred Willis

History of the Crystal River RR
In Colorado

Joe Walters

Modeling a Depressed Center
Flat Car

Layout Tours:

Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Swap Tables:

Bill Grosse 609 532-3431

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Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
P.O. Box 8694
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www.NJDivNMRA.org

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Contributing to Train Orders

Train Orders welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be emailed to the editor, Fritz Plenefisch, at fplen3@verizon.net. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for the next issue: October 8, 2018

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Visit us at <https://njdivnmra.org/> and join us on
Groups at <https://groups.io/g/NJDivNMRA>

Schedules

NJ Division January Meet

Saturday January 12, 2019
Grace Episcopal Church
7 East Maple Street
Merchantville, NJ 08109

The Contest is for a 12"x12" Diorama

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday February 19, 2019
Host-John Gallagher

Please let us know if you plan to attend
W.grosse.jr@optimum.net

NJ Division March Meet

Saturday March 9, 2019
Switlik Park Recreation Building
5 Fisher Place
Hamilton, NJ 08620

Contest is Detailed Weathered Tank Cars

Garden State Division Winter Meet

Saturday February 23, 2019
Oakland Public Library
2 Municipal Plaza
Oakland, NJ 07436

2019 MER-NMRA Convention

Hosted by the Philadelphia Division
Liberty Bell Special
October 10-13, 2019

Crown Plaza Philadelphia-King of Prussia,
260 Mall Blvd, King of Prussia, PA 19406

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE
AWARD APPLICATION FORM
is on the last page of the Train Orders

NJ Division Area Hobby Shops

*** AAA Hobbies & Crafts**

706 N. Whitehorse Pike, Magnolia, NJ 08049
(856) 435-7645
www.AAAHobbiesandCrafts.com

*** Sattler's Hobby Shop**

14 Haddon Ave.
Westmont, NJ 08108
(856) 854-7136

*** The Train Room**

715 Arnold Ave. Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
(732) 892-5145
www.thetrainroomNJ.com

*** Trainpops Attic**

400 Mill Street, Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 788-2014
<https://trainpopsattic.com>

*** Yankee Dabber - Track 33**

101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ 08031
yankeedabber@aol.com

*** Offers discount to NMRA members.
Must show Current Membership Card**

Membership Information

Any person who is a member of the NMRA and lives within the boundaries of the NJ Division as defined by the NMRA is also a member of the division. Non member guests are welcome to attend three of our meets, after which they will be asked to join the NMRA.

NJ Division annual activity fee:
\$10.00 (optional and includes 5 meets) or
individual meets \$5 at the door.

First time guests, no charge!

National Model Railroad Association
P.O. Box 1328Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328
www.nmra.org

View From The Cab

Bill Grosse, Superintendent

As you read this issue of Train Orders, I hope you are enjoying your favorite holiday and getting ready for the new year.

I want to give a Big Thank You to everyone that opened their homes and club layouts for the annual Model Railroad Open House Tours, and those that allowed us into their homes during New Jersey Division Meets through the year. I know I enjoyed the layouts I was able to visit, along with many others. You have helped spark some modeling ideas and maybe helped give a little nudge to some to get back to modeling. Thank You.

Treasurer Mike Prokop and I were able to participate in the Annual Holiday Train Display in Bordentown again, from November 23 to January 6. It is a lot of long weekends but we get to see many people interested in our hobby. We even picked up at least 1 new member from it.

While our Free-Mo Modules were set up in Bordentown, Mike Prokop, Mike McNamara and I were able to offer a Free-Mo Extended Time Clinic on Saturday December 8. The clinic ran from 9 to 2 and was a success, plus, a day out with trains is not a bad thing. We had a sample of our NJ Division Gondola at the joint meet with Philly Division in November, it will be available to see at the upcoming meet on January 12th.

At last word, we are hoping to have the Gondolas by the end of January, we hope.

Tangent is trying to get them done and shipped to us as best as they can.

There is a new ID Badge printed for every member, along with a New Jersey Division Lanyard. If you haven't gotten yours yet, make sure to see me at the January or future meets. Each member gets a set as part of our 50th Anniversary Year. Also, If you haven't received your 50th Anniversary Collectible Coaster yet, let me know.

Please don't hesitate to offer suggestions to your Board of Directors. We know some of you have ideas for clinics and activities, and we are ready to hear them. Let us know what we can do for you.

My e-mail address has changed, it is now
njdiv.super@gmail.com

Hope to see you on January 12th, 2019.



Model Contest News

Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman

There was no contest for November 2018 as it was a joint meet with the Philadelphia Division in Delaware.

For January 2019, we are looking to do something new! This contest will be for a 12" x 12" Diorama. You don't need to have a railroad scene. If it could be incorporated onto a model railroad, it's acceptable. See sample diorama . *(Notice, no railroad tracks.)*

The current popular understanding of the term "diorama" denotes a partially three-dimensional, full size replica or *scale model* of a landscape typically showing historical events, nature scenes or cityscapes, for purposes of education or entertainment.

Dioramas are often built by hobbyists as part of related hobbies such as military vehicle modeling, aircraft modeling or model railroad modeling.



The diorama to the left was constructed by a railroad modeler using a kit from Foscale with a lot of details added.

Jack Menaker photo

Planning Ahead

The following a list of Contests planned for the 2019 and early 2020 Meets.

Have any suggestion for a future contest? Feel free to contact me during a Meet or on line at jackmenaker@yahoo.com.

January 2019	12" x 12" Diorama
March 2019	Detailed Weathered Tank Cars
May 2019	Joint Meet at GSD, No Contest
September 2019	Prototype & Model Photos (Two Awards)
November 2019	Joint meet with Philadelphia, Contest TBD
January 2020	Detailed Baggage/Mail Cars
March 2020	Favorite Small Steam Train (Limited to 2 Cars)

IS YOUR MODEL RAILROAD REGISTERED?

On the members area of the NMRA Website, there is a place where you can list your railroad under Model RR Directory. Currently, there are 9 New Jersey Division Railroads listed.

The New Jersey Division has decided to offer a formal certificate to all members who list their railroad on the site.

If you want to participate, just go onto the site and list your railroad. After it is listed, just let one of the Board of Directors know and a certificate will be awarded to you and your model railroad.

Clinics for the January Meet

John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

Happy New Year, 2019! Our January meet includes our friends in the Philadelphia Division. We offer a joint program of clinics, one historical and the other technical.

January Clinics

Fred Willis of our New Jersey Division will offer a story about the **Crystal River Railroad**.

This was an obscure railroad in Colorado, that hauled mainly two commodities, coal and marble. It traversed very difficult terrain, supported standard and narrow gauge operations, served small isolated mountain towns and created many interesting features that modelers could consider in their own modeling activities.

Its combination of standard gauge and narrow gauge operations fits the interests of many model railroaders who already combine these gauges on their own layouts. Many use the 30 inch gauge models that one finds on the market in O scale [On30] and HO [HOn30] with available track HO for On30, and N for HOn30. Besides locomotives and rolling stock for sale, ready to run, modelers can build models using the smaller gauge equipment – trucks, power trucks, and even models to kitbash or scratch build.

The Philadelphia Division member Joe Walters will present a clinic on **"Scratch Building a Depressed Flatcar w/load."** The Flatcar has been around since the earliest days of railroads and many changes occurred over time. They became longer, heavier, and more specialized to handle

loads that normal flatcars were never meant to carry.

The Depressed Flatcar comes in many different axle configurations: 4 axle, 6, 8, 12, and 16 being the largest, carry more than 100 tons, or a load longer than 89 feet. The center depressed area gives the load a low center of gravity and can handle excess height. This type of rolling stock typically moves electrical transformers, large electrical power equipment and industrial production machinery. Joe will discuss how to build this car in styrene and cast resin castings. A transformer, made of styrene with over 100 parts will be discussed. This car was displayed at the recent MER Convention in Rockville MD. It received a merit award of 90 points.

Works in Progress in March

We will return to the multiple concurrent mini-clinics of Works in Progress in March. Members will offer four cycles of each clinic and I plan to have at least ten clinicians so you will choose among a variety of topics. Yes, I get comments of disappointment from some members who want to attend more than four clinics due to the variety of topics.

I received commitments from several members who will present WIP clinics. I have a number of vacancies that need filling for a complete program. What can you offer? What do you do well that you can demonstrate within a 30 minute period? WIP clinicians present their clinic four times

during the meet. My suggestion is that you plan a presentation or demonstration for about 20-25 minutes and use the remaining minutes for discussion and questions/answers. WIP clinics of 30 minutes count toward the Author Achievement Certificate and the repeat sessions earn credit toward the Volunteer Achievement Certificate. So, the WIP sessions meet the requirements of credits towards two AP's. WIP clinics use an informal approach, much as you would describe and demonstrate a modeling process at your workbench to a small group of modeling friends. I recommend that you keep the topic to a single modeling activity, keeping it simple and focused on completing it within the time. I did one on paving a railroad crossing and brought four model crossings to demonstrate the process. I had one additional model completed to show the goal. Can you show us how you apply decals? Do you make unique signs using the computer [bring your laptop to show us how]. Don't worry that others have done your process. Your approach may be unique or better! It is fun. Contact me at johnvgallagher39@gmail.com or by phone. My number is listed in the front of this issue of *Train Orders*, please leave a message if I am away from the phone. Also you can sign up on the clipboard at the January meet.

Thanks for your support.



OPS VERSUS ART

By Mike Prokop

Have you built your model railroad to operate in some kind of a prototypical manner, or have you constructed a finely crafted and detailed work of art? Can both scenarios exist on one model railroad? I've been to and operated on layouts that significantly lack any scenery detail and look somewhat unrealistic. However, they function and operate beautifully and fulfill every operator's expectations for fun and excitement in operating and running trains prototypically. On the other hand, I've been to layouts where the owner is always concerned and looking over your shoulder as to not displace any scenery element, or heavens forbid, break something. You can stand there for hours at the layout and be awed at the beautiful scenes, structures and highly detailed equipment. A great joy and enthusiasm comes over you and you're inspired and motivated to get home to work on your model railroad, but don't get too close, he's watching you closely! Oops, what was that!

Okay, so maybe there could be some common ground between these two layout types. It's not wrong to just want to operate your model railroad or to just build a fantastic realistically looking masterpiece. If that's your "thing", then there's no problem. Do what you like best. But if you want to combine operations and

have a beautiful looking layout, maybe some considerations and compromise is in order. Consider this, if you have the talent and skills to do either ops or art, you may someday reach the point where your ops sessions are running great, but you want your layout to look (much) better. Perhaps the person with the artful masterpiece layout will have the desire to have friends over for a real operating session and see how his creation functions instead of just standing there looking pretty (and you know I mean the layout).

Both scenarios offer the modeler an opportunity to personally move forward in developing and enhancing skills, talents and fun with the hobby. Crossing over adds possibilities to rack up more NMRA achievement certificates, befriend other fellow modelers with different experiences and expertise, and fulfills a personal desire to be well-rounded in our great hobby.

If you want to learn more about operations and develop a plan for your railroad, participate in the New Jersey Division intro to OPS program. See other articles and notices in our newsletter for details. For you seasoned operators, pay more attention at the scenery clinics! Don't be afraid to ask for help or tips while visiting some of the more "art-full" layouts on the Saturday afternoon tours. But be careful...don't get too close, and please don't break it!



THIS IS OPS...

Passenger operations at Wallington Station on my New Jersey & Western RR are in full swing and running very smoothly. So obviously the commissary, post office and REA facility are functioning as planned as you can see by the equipment, but where are the buildings and scenery? Definitely needs some ART!

OPS Continued on page 7

**New Jersey Division
 Bookstore 2019
 And
 Door and Raffle Prizes
 By Mike Prokop
 (See page 7)**

OPS Continued from page 6



THIS IS ART...

Rounding the curve near the Washington Station looks artful and has nice scenery and plenty of detail. Not much operations other than looking nice when your watching from your passing train.



This is OPS and ART...

Raritan Bay is merely a 2x3 foot area stuffed under my helix but offers lot's of ops (3 customers, a freight house, a public delivery siding and a passenger station). With 11 car spots it might take you 45 minutes to switch. It also boasts finished scenery with many details along with scratch built and kit bashed structures.

New Jersey Division Bookstore 2019

The New Jersey Division bookstore will be entering into its fourth year of service to our division once we flip our calendars to the new year. So Happy New Year everyone!

The bookstore started out because of a generous donation of books from a friend of the Division. That donation was followed up from the same person donating some high-quality HO items. Over the past couple years the bookstore served us well in facilitating some of the activities of the New Jersey Division, especially those surrounding our 50th anniversary. We've had special auctions and drawings using some of the donated items just to name a few.

Currently the bookstore is the place you can view and pre-order the Division's custom painted HO gondola car, which celebrates our 50th anniversary. Starting with the January Meet you can also purchase additional NJD lanyards from the bookstore. And, don't forget, we still have some really cool books for sale at 50% off the cover price.



Door and Raffle Prizes

Upon arriving and checking in at our next NJ Division meet, make sure to get your door prize ticket, it's free! But while you're there buy some raffle tickets to have a chance to win some really cool railroad items. We usually pick at least 10 door prizes. There's so much to choose from across multiple scales and tool items also! The door prizes are always laid out and presented on a table near the NJD Bookstore, so check out what's available early on during the meet so you'll be able to pounce on an item when your number is called.

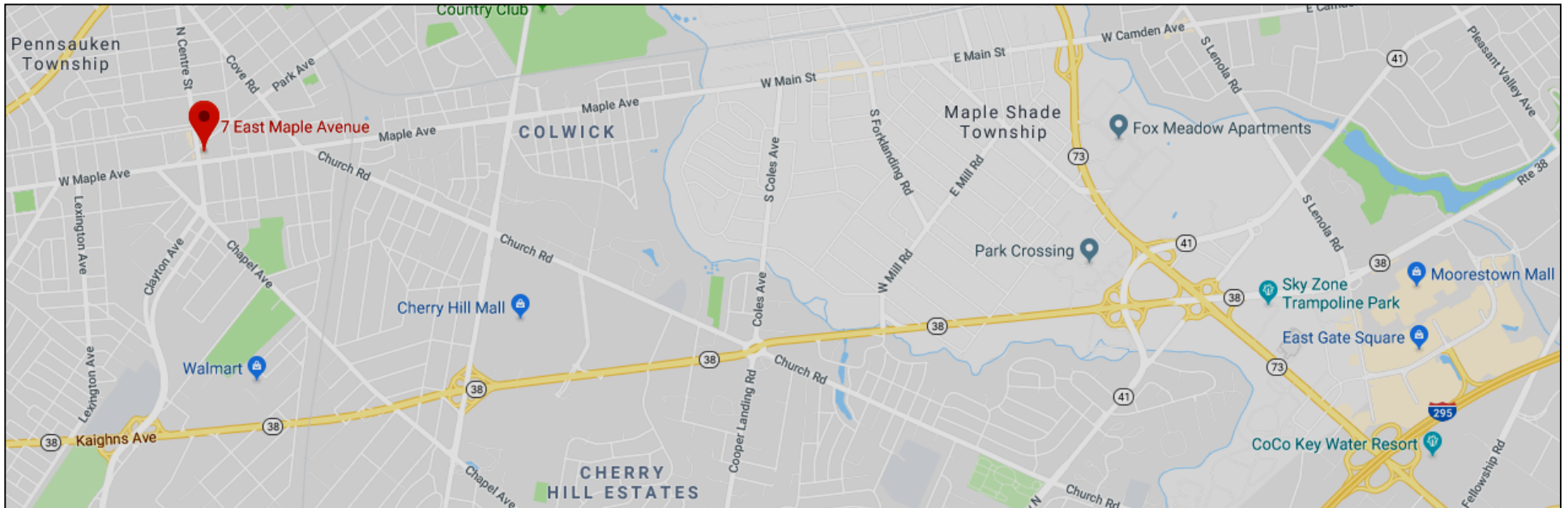
Usually the raffle will have three items up for grabs at each drawing. We always try to provide better quality items for the raffle. Lately, although there are three winning numbers drawn for raffle prizes, more than three prizes are available from which to choose one. Keep in mind many of our raffle and door prizes are from generous donations, so if you have an item or two to donate that would be greatly appreciated. All funds raised from these activities go towards obtaining more prizes for future meets.

If you have reserved a table to sell some of your stuff at the meet, we ask for a donation of an item we can add to the door prize table. And make it an item you wouldn't mind winning yourself. So keep those tickets handy and good luck at the next drawing!



Directions to the January Meet

Meet Location: Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Main St. Merchantville, NJ 08109



From the **North East**, take I-195 W to I-295 S,
 From the **North** take I-295 S.
 Take exit 40 to merge onto NJ-38 W toward Moorestown, 5.5 mi.
 Turn right toward Coles Ave and Church Rd, take the second Right to Church Rd., 1.8 mi. Slight left onto E Maple Ave., 7 E Maple Ave will be on the right. Additional parking right around the block by the fire house at 22 E Park Ave. There is also a lot across the street from the firehouse.

From the **South**, take NJ-55 N, NJ-42 N or NJ-30 N to NJ-130 N.
 Continue on NJ-130 N/Crescent Blvd.

Drive to W Maple Ave in Merchantville. Turn right onto W Maple Ave, destination 7 E Maple Ave will be on the left. Limited parking here. Additional parking left onto E Park Ave., then right by the fire house at 22 E Park Ave. There is also a lot across the street from the firehouse.

From the **East**, take NJ-70 W to NJ-73 N, Use any lane to turn right onto NJ-73 N, 2.1 mi.
 Exit onto NJ-38 W/Kaighns Ave toward NJ-41/B Franklin Bridge/Haddonfield, 1.8 mi.
 Turn right toward Coles Ave and Church Rd, take the second Right to Church Rd., 1.8 mi. and follow from above.

From **South PA/Del**, cross on I-76 E, exit I-676N and NJ-130 N, stay right to NJ-130 N. Follow above to church.
 From **Center City**, cross on I-676 E, exit for Federal St E/537 E. This becomes W Maple Ave, follow above.
 From **North of Philly**, cross and get to I-295 S, then follow upper left directions.

Second Section

The Jersey Mercantile Railroad serving Central New Jersey

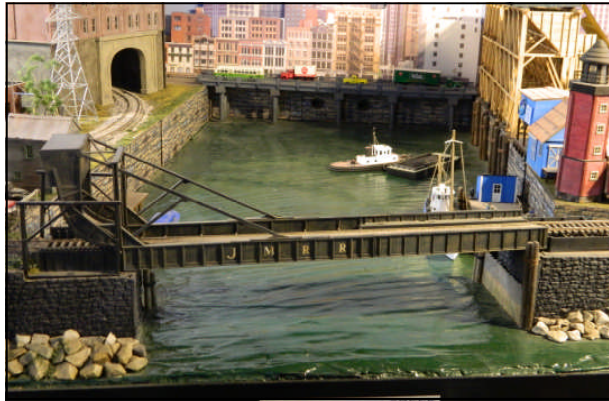
Jack Menaker

We welcome you to visit and operate on the Jersey Mercantile Railroad. A member of the OPSROC group (Operational Scale Railroads of Ocean County)

The railroad started as a simple folded dog bone and through the changing seasons we have added quite a bit of territory.

We have 8 staging tracks in the laundry room/crew lounge. The tracks are labeled for where (in my mind) they are located; so, we have one track in the north (Selkirk NY), one track in the south (Roanoke VA) one track in the west (Enola PA) three tracks from NJ (Oak Island) and two tracks that are un-named.

During operations, based on a written schedule, one of our two engineers leaves staging with a train. The three trains from Oak Island proceed directly to North Newark/ They are hauling empty hoppers for loading at the Anchor Coal Unloader located on Frelinghuysen Creek in North Newark. They are also hauling loads for the seven industries located there. Loads/ empties are exchanged and the train (on schedule) heads back to Oak Island. Also the train has to transverse Frelinghuysen creek on the working bascule bridge spanning the creek. The bridge goes up a few times during operating sessions halting traffic over the creek.



The trains staged from Selkirk, Roanoke and Enola follow a slightly different scheme. They leave staging and head to Lakewood Yard, the official headquarters for the Jersey Mercantile. The Lakewood Yardmaster removes any loads destined for Freehold (Trapanese Fuel) and loads for the Lakewood yard facility. He also turns cars that require unloading from a specific side. The engineer then leaves for the sub yard in South Newark. This yard covers Helmetta, South Newark and Harrison, where the South Newark Yardmaster and a Harrison Yardmaster work together to deliver loads and pick up empties. South Newark, Harrison and Helmetta contain a total of 16 industries. When the return train is ready, the engineer leaves for Lakewood where the yard crew sorts the train for shipment back to staging.

The trains on the two staging tracks that are un-named are destined for Jersey City (that contains 8 industries and the Trans-Hudson car float). Again, the Yardmaster in Jersey City delivers loads and picks up empties and sends them back through South Newark (there is a transfer point in South Newark) and on to staging.



The car float operates on an as needed basis. When six cars destined for Brooklyn arrive in Lakewood, an engineer is picked to run the barge transfer. He travels to Jersey City with the 6 cars, unloads the incoming

barge, loads the six new cars and brings back the cars coming off the barge to the Lakewood yard.

An operating session lasts approximately 3 ½ hours. We use a crew of;

2 engineers

1 Lakewood Yardmaster

1 Lakewood Brakeman

1 South Newark Yardmaster

1 Harrison Yardmaster

1 North Newark Yardmaster

1 Jersey City Yardmaster and

1 Dispatcher

The only passenger service that operates on the Jersey Mercantile is 2 RDC runs and one Doodlebug run,

Sometimes, the President of the Jersey Mercantile will tour the railroad in his private office car. That tends to get the operators upset, so it doesn't happen too often.

Crews are assigned on an experience-based lottery. Every difficult working area is adjacent to an easier area so that the less experienced operator can lean upon the experienced operator for help.

We operate with the MRC DCC system with tethered throttles.

We also have available an MRC Wi-Fi transmitter so that your personal cell phones can work as a throttle.

We look forward to you visiting and experiencing the fun that can be had in operating a scale model railroad.

Jack Menaker, CFPP
 President & CEO
 The Jersey Mercantile RR



This is South Newark, NJ showing one of the largest industries on the New Jersey Mercantile RR, Fuzzy Pop Beverages.



Locomotive 1892 is an ALCO RS2 which has the fuel filler cap on the side of the cab (seen under the 92 numbers. This is a Kato model.



A view of the Harrison, NJ area industries showing left to right; GERN INTERNATIONAL and Wee Beans food cannery.



Major industries in Jersey City, NJ include left to right; American Can Company, Dixon Ticonderoga and Renwick Saltpeter.



Layouts open for viewing for the January meet



Konrad Richter provided these photos above of his layout. From these and the others he sent, looks to be a well scened layout.

Mike Mc Namara provided the two photos below. The fall scenery is really nice.





Chris Conaway provided the two photos above of his layout.

Chuck O Malley provided the photo below, a “panoramic photo” of an area on his Layout.





Two photos of the HO scale Burlington County Model RR Club at the Foot lighters Playhouse above.

Two photos of the O scale Cherry Valley Model RR Club below.

Photos by Chuck Higdon





Glyn Thomas provided the two photos above of his model railroad.

Below are two photos of John Rahenkamp's HO railroad that I took awhile ago.





ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR

Member's Name _____ NMRA#: _____ EXP: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilding and superdetailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.

QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

- Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.
 Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

- Three types of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.
 All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).
 Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____