

Train Orders

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



January 2023

Volume 34 Number 1

Joint Meet with the Philadelphia Division in Merchantville

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

2022 was a good year for the New Jersey Division. With COVID under control as the months passed, our in-person meets returned with a steady increase in attendance.

Last January, we planned to meet at the Grace Episcopal Church, but COVID cases peaked and the in-person meet was canceled. We went to a Zoom format. Hopefully, COVID and flu cases will be controlled this year.

In January, we return to Grace Episcopal Church where we will host a joint meet with the Philadelphia Division. Each division will provide a clinic program. Attendees will receive a door prize ticket and can purchase raffle tickets. Coffee and donuts for your early morning cravings. There will be shopping opportunities at our bookstore and other sales tables plus time to look over the raffle and door prize selections plus the Free Table. Remember to study the entries for the meet contest and VOTE!

All of the above happens with the efforts of members of the board and division volunteers. "See my View from the Cab" article. Can I count on you to serve the division this new year? Please step forward and contact one of the division board members listed on page 2 of the Train Orders.

Parking is available on the street and a small lot adjacent to the hall. Other parking will be available

in the town parking lot on East Park Avenue. From Maple Avenue, turn north on South Center Street, traffic signal intersection, then go north one block to East Park Avenue. Turn right and go up East Park to a parking lot on the left. Fire Station is across the street on the right.

After the meet and lunch, the Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club O Scale layout will be open for visits. It is in the basement of the church. Books and other model railroad items will be on sale in a room adjacent to the layout. Home layouts will be open during the afternoon for your visits, See photos on page 8. There are excellent choices available. We will distribute layout information at the meet. .



**November Industrial Building Contest
Winner is Joseph Weisbrod.**

Next Division Meet
Saturday January 14, 2023
9 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Grace Episcopal Church
7 East Maple Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109

Contest: The next contest will be a small Diorama.

Clinics:

Jeff Witt of the Philadelphia Div will present a program of published works of the late John Allen

Mike Prokop will present clinic on Easy Coal Loads

**Table reservations information
by Jan 12th 2023**

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Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division. NMRA
P.O. Box 276

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<https://njdivnmra.org>

Train Orders is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletter is always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$15.00 per year. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in Train Orders in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Contributing to Train Orders

Train Orders welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be submitted to the editor, Fritz Plenefisch, at fplen3@verizon.net or to 327 Sharps Lane, Hamilton, NJ 08610-1334. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for material for the March Train Orders is February 3, 2023

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

NJD Information Page

January Division Meet
Saturday January 14, 2023
Grace Episcopal Church
7 East Maple Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109

Next Board Meeting
February 16, 2023, noon
Host – Joe Zebrowski
Please let us know if you plan to attend

March Division Meet
Saturday March 11, 2023
Switlik Park Recreation Building
5 Fisher Place, Hamilton, NJ 08620

**NJ Division Sponsored
2025 Mid-Eastern Region Convention
HELP WANTED!**
Committee Chairpersons; Workers.
Contact John Gallagher
at 856 228-2239 or
njdiv.super@gmail.com

We've compiled a preliminary list of nine hotels in the NJD territory that look like possible candidates for the 2025 convention. To date, Directors Mike Prokop, Thom Radice and Joe Zebrowski have visited one and met with the manager and the owner. The facility requirements were laid out to them and they are supposed to get back to the NJD regarding prices. We will soon visit another hotel as well (no date yet set for that).

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 Online Store**
www.thetrainroomNJ.com
e-mail thetrainroomnj@msn.com

* **Yankee Dabbler - Track 33**
101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ
08031

* 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 1328
Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328**

View From The Cab

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

In the introduction on page 1 of this issue, I mentioned the worker bees and leaders who make things happen in our division. Here are some worker bees and leaders: Mike Prokop, Jack Menaker, Geert Marien, Tom Neukirchen, Joe Zebrowski, Bill Howard, Mike and Chris Underwood, Rick Stoneking, Gerry Michael, John Dunn Sr., Steve Moylan, Joe Weisbrod, Jim Judge, Steve Lang, Fritz Plenefisch, Thom Radice, P J Mattson MMR, Mike McNamara, Glyn Thomas MMR, Pete Suhmann, Herb Gishlick MMR, Dave Albertson, and all those faithful layout owners who welcome us into their homes during division meets plus others who serve the division that I forgot to mention, with my apologies.

When you see one of these dedicated volunteers and leaders, please thank them and offer your services to assist them in their work or let them refer you to others who need assistance in their tasks. You can also let me know of your availability. We need your help.

Two areas that need immediate attention are: 1) Clinic Presenters and 2) 2025 MER Convention leaders and volunteers.

Clinic Presenters:


My clinic presenters' clipboard is empty! Without clinic presenters, we have no program for the meets. Yes, some board members present clinics but we are busy with other tasks. As an educational institution, NMRA provides programs that inform members about railroading, modeling, the history of

railroading, and many related topics. In the past, right up to our last meet, members fulfilled that requirement. The clinics were well presented following preparation of the content and the related creation of power point programs plus related displays. These presenters earn Author or Volunteer credits in the Achievement Program for each clinic presented. They earn the thanks of members who benefit from their clinics. The clinic presenter also learns from the feedback and inquiries from the audience. Perhaps you have a clinic idea, but you hesitate to offer it because all of these members "already know it better than me." Really? In my years teaching high school and 34 years at the university level, some of my best questions came from freshmen students. They caused me to rethink or to seek answers because I didn't know how to respond. Remember, the teacher is also a learner and that is one of the rewards of teaching. I am available to assist you in preparing a clinic and will gladly discuss your ideas. Please reach out and sign up on the clinics clipboard. We need your help.

2025 MER Convention Leaders and Volunteers: Your first reaction may be that it is three years away so you don't need to volunteer now. Not so. Planning and completing tasks in preparation of a convention takes time and some tasks require early completion. Many of you have management skills and experience that we can

use for us to plan, organize, direct and control a convention operation. We need that as we begin the process of running a successful convention. We need you. Please let us know what you can offer and sign up. The board will participate but we cannot do it all. We need YOU. Participating on the convention committee is a great way to earn volunteer credits toward the Volunteer Certificate in the AP program. Thanks and please step forward. Contact any of the board members listed on page 2.

Meet Locations: We scheduled meet venues for January, March, and the summer special meet for 2023. May will be in the Garden State Division with our joint meet. Do you want to have a division meet in your community? Let me know where you think a meet can take place. Suggestions include community facilities of your township, churches or other religious locations, a legion or veteran's hall, fire station, parks and recreation facilities in your township, or facilities owned by other organizations. Call them and inquire about the availability of their venue. If possible, get the application forms so we can review their requirements. Let me know what you find so we can plan ahead for meets in September and November.

Thanks for your participation in the New Jersey Division. Be sure to attend meets in person. We are not doing meets on Zoom. 

Celebration

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

At each meet, we celebrate the accomplishments of members for their progress in the Achievement Program [AP], their service to the New Jersey Division, the winner of the meet's contest, the clinic presenters, and other reasons.

Here are some significant accomplishments recognized at the November 2022 Meet. 🚂



Bob Price completed all of the requirements and became MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #717.



Glyn Thomas, MMR received a certificate of appreciation for his clinic presentation on Model Railroad Photographic Techniques for publication



Glyn Thomas, MMR earned two merit awards for structures



Mike McNamara received a certificate of appreciation for years of service as New Jersey Division Web Master



Geert Marien received a plaque for two years' service 2017-2019 as a New Jersey Division Board Member.



Dave Albertson received a certificate of appreciation for his clinic presentation on A Brief History of Model Railroading

SCALE TRANSITIONING

by Mike Prokop

The time has come for me to put down my HO scale modeling and move on to a dream of mine for a long time, On30! Yes, the mighty New Jersey and Western Railroad (HO) that has resided in my basement train room for nearly three decades will transform into the Hill Valley Railroad modeled in narrow gauge O Scale. On30 has rails that are 2 1/2 feet (30 inches) apart versus standard gauge which we know to be 4 feet 8.5 inches. What's really cool about On30 is it runs on HO gauge track!

Many of you have visited my railroad, the NJ&W, many times, mainly on a Saturday afternoon after our division meets in Hamilton, NJ. I greatly thank all of you that have visited over time and have offered your compliments, accolades, and kudos for the work I've done on my model railroad. This transition and changing of scales have been a goal of mine for a considerable time, in my mind more than ten years.

You may ask, "Mike, why didn't you do this back then, why wait and do it now? Well, the number one reason was OPERATIONS!

Yes, operations were the major factor in postponing building in On30. My records show formal operations started on the NJ&W in 2006. Okay, not as long as

some of you out there that I've operated on your layouts, but I'd say there was a sizable number of hours maneuvering and delivering goods to customers up and down the line on the NJ&W in my train room. Operations is a subject for another time, but I have to say that having an operating model railroad has enlightened and fulfilled my love and passion for trains. That along with the friendships found and strengthened along the way has made this venture (operations) a worthwhile experience.

So, does dismantling the NJ&W and transitioning to another scale and format mean an end to all the niceties above? Absolutely not! The Hill Valley will occupy a smaller footprint, even though it's a bigger scale, and is being conceptualized and designed with operations, great scenery, and most of all friend's involvement in the adventure! I have a great passion for building, assembling, and constructing things and enthusiastically look forward to this venture. I'll continue to invite you all to my train room at the Hamilton division meet to see my foray into On30 and monitor my progress. I'll write and report on updates to the HV as appropriate. Check out some photos of Hill Valley equipment I've worked on so far.



Hill Valley number 9 is an outside frame 2-8-0 consolidation (Bachmann On30). It has a Soundtraxx steam Blunami BLU-2200 Bluetooth sound decoder installed with a 1.25-inch speaker. It enables me to control it through my iPhone or iPad using the Blunami app or it can be controlled using my Easy DCC system. In the foreground are some HV cars.



The only active diesel on the Hill Valley is seen in Wallington yard performing switching duties for the next outbound local. It is a 50-ton Whitcomb centre cab unit employing side rods on its driving wheels (Bachmann On30).

Mike Prokop Both photos

Model Contest News

By Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman

Welcome back to all the members who help make the modeling contest work.

We had another great Meet in November when the contest was to show us an 8.5 x 11 picture of an Industrial Building on your layout.

There were three entries for this contest. I had suggested that all entries be framed to make it easier to view.

I had overlooked the fact that there would be a bit of reflection off the glass. Therefore taking pictures was not the greatest.

The next contest will be a small Diorama. The requirements are,

Size – no smaller than 6” x 9” and no larger than 12” x 12”

Contents – Diorama must contain a train, or a train car, or a train engine

Further contents – The diorama must contain people and scenery.

There we have it. Make up a small piece of your world.

The schedule for the upcoming meets is

January 2023 – Mini Diorama

March 2023 - favorite piece of Railroadiana

May 2023 –Your favorite Diesel

There is a prize for the winners of the contest.

You get a framed certificate and a \$10.00 certificate to pay for the annual participation fee.

Do you have any suggestions for future contests?

If you do, please contact me at jackmenaker@yahoo.com

**Look forward to some special events
that the BOD is working on.**



Winner of the November Industrial Building contest
was Joseph Weisbrod.

Clinics

John V. Gallagher Director of Clinics

For January 2023, we have two interesting clinics. Each division provided a clinic.

The Philadelphia Division's member, Jeff Witt is known for his research on the published works by John Allen and his famous Gorre and Daphetid model railroad. Here is his description.

John Allen In Print: A survey of the published works of the late, great John Allen

From December of 1945 through his death in 1973, John Allen was a major contributor to the model railroad hobby through numerous magazine articles and photographs, with over 50 cover photos, 70 articles, dozens of photos and featurettes, as well as many posthumous articles. This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of John's contributions to the hobby print media and provide an introduction to Jeff's tribute web sites for those who wish to dive deeper.

The New Jersey Division's Assistant Superintendent, Mike Prokop, will present the second clinic on Easy Coal Loads.

Having realistic coal loads in your hopper cars is essential to the visual realism as your coal drag or mixed freight rumbles down the main line of your model railroad. Additionally, these same coal loads that look great in hopper cars while seen in trains on the road, in yards and industries, are also easy and convenient to

quickly add or remove while re-staging your railroad operations.

In this clinic Mike will demonstrate how he makes realistic coal loads that are easy to make and very economical to produce in great numbers, or if you only need a few. His construction methods work well in any scale, (demonstrated in HO during this clinic with some On30 mixed in), with not only coal hopper cars but also gondola cars of any length and cars from the old days to modern times. You'll also see in the clinic, through the application of his techniques, various other ways to model coal loads such as steam engine tender loads, coal piles stored on the ground at power plants or factories, and other possibilities. This can also work with other aggregate materials like stone or ballast in various configurations.

This clinic may seem a little familiar to some of you, Mike presented it in our "Works In Progress" format back at a division meet in 2016. However, the clinic has been updated with new material and digitized for the big screen to be presented as a PowerPoint presentation. But wait! Mike will have many samples and examples of the materials he uses to make these loads available for you to physically see and touch after the formal presentation

HELP WANTED!

Please think about a clinic you could offer to the NJ Division. Then, volunteer by filling in your name and clinic topic on the clinics clip board. I am looking for 8 plus presenters for next meet's Works in Progress format in March as well as full clinics for future meets, one in May 2023, two in September 2023 and two in November 2023. Remember that clinics can be applied to meet the requirement of the Author Achievement Program [AP] or the Volunteer AP.

Please volunteer. Thanks.



Still Here in 2023

New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Gondola

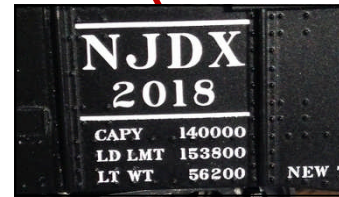
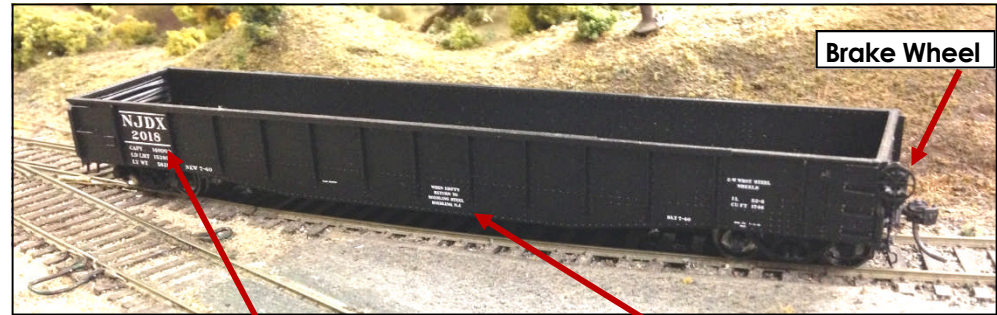
75th Anniversary Gondola

A review of the cars. They are \$35 each, or a set of two for \$65. Car numbers are 1968 and 2018, which was the year that the New Jersey Division was founded and the year we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The model is from Tangent Models and is a superb model of a 52'6" Riveted Drop End Gondola with 70 ton trucks. The placement of the brake wheel on the side is an identifying feature of a drop end Gondola. They're ready to run and come with Kadee couplers.

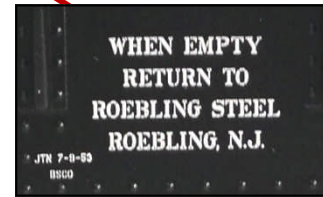
We acquired equal amounts of the two car numbers. Cash or check will consummate the deal and you'll be hauling stuff around your layout in no time!

These are excellent looking and beautifully running cars, but, a car not decorated for a prototypical railroad, they do have the look of a gondola that you might see in any train consist from the 1930's to the 1980's.

To order cars Contact Mike Prokop at njwrr@aol.com or by mail use the Order Sheet. USPS Priority Mail postage is: \$9 for one car and \$10.75 for two cars.



The Reporting Marks "NJD X" for this car Identify the owner as the New Jersey Division and the "X" designates a Private or Non-railroad owner.



This Stencil indicates the Gondola is in Assigned Service to Roebling Steel. It must be returned to Roebling after its load has been delivered.

The car body is black with white lettering and data conforming to the 1950s

The cost is \$35.00 for one car or a set of both numbers for \$65.00

A check made payable to the NJ Division must be included with your order.

Name -----
 Address -----
 City ----- State ----- Zip Code -----
 Telephone -----

See Tangent website for more information
 support@tangentscalemodels.com
 Return this form to NJ Division NMRA;
 PO Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276

Second Section

Layouts open for viewing for the January Meet

For January we have five layouts to visit.

Maps listing them along with directions and the time they will be open are available at the meet.

Please contact a Board member if you would like to host an open house for your railroad when we are close to your area.



The Delaware & Allegheny RR is a Class One carrier between the New York area and Pittsburgh, PA., with westward connections there as well as serving the area steel mills.

ALSO OPEN

The Rancocas Valley lines club is made up of NMRA members located in the basement of the Foot lighters' playhouse.

Cherry Valley Model Railroad O scale layout
In the basement of the Grace Episcopal Church



Modeling the B&O and Penn Central in eastern and central Ohio in the early 70's. The photo shows the Benwood Junction engine terminal.



Newton Creek Railroad is an HO and HOn3 located in Colorado with lumbering. It is also DCC

Special New Jersey Division Meet

By Mike Prokop

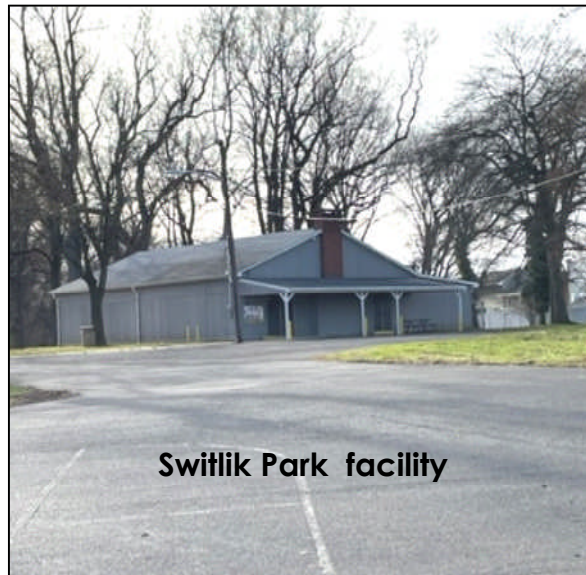
In the November issue of Train Orders it was announced that on **Saturday August 5, 2023** the New Jersey Division will be having a unique and special meet in Yardville, NJ at the Switlik Park facility. As you should know, Switlik is our usual meeting place for all our March meets.

It's a rarity in the NJD that we have a summer meet. The last one was in July 2016 when we gathered in Sicklerville, NJ to learn about using the microprocessor Arduino. Since we were able to secure a permit next August for the Hamilton Township facility, at no cost to the division, the NJD Board of Directors approved having a special division meet during the summer of 2023.

So here comes the meat of the meet! What should we do at the meet? The BOD discussed various subjects, activities, and formats for the gathering. Such as, clinics, modeling with the masters, sales tables, contests, dioramas, modules, picnic lunch, guest speaker, to name a few ideas and suggestions. However, we want to get some of your ideas on what to possibly have as activities for this special meet. You can make suggestions and expand on and offer details to the aforementioned items. Nothing has been as they say "set in stone" at this point and thoughts and ideas are welcome from all of you. Keep in mind that we have the Switlik facility from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. that day. Since we're usually there in March you

may not have noticed but the meeting building is in a nice park that can facilitate some of our activities outdoors. Thus, the suggestion of a picnic lunch or possibly having a food truck show up. But we want your thoughts and suggestions on what to possibly do that nice day next August.

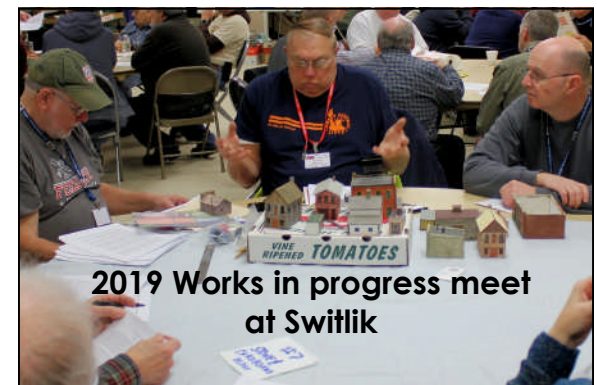
Please take some time to think about it and email your input to my email njwrr@aol.com. Thanks, we're counting on your thoughts and ideas.



Switlik Park facility

STILL THINKING FREE

Our November division meet in Westville must have brought out the giving spirit with the Thanksgiving holiday so close! Just like many of our family Thanksgiving feasts, the Free Table at the meet was runneth-over with tons of donations. Thanks to all of you for finding unused items from underneath your train layouts and bringing them to the meet. Many, many items were seen exchanging hands and hopefully some of you will report on projects or ways you found to repurpose these items. We'll continue with this feature of our division meets with the next one in January in Merchantville, NJ. Thanks again for your participation.



**2019 Works in progress meet
at Switlik**

Contributing to the TRAIN ORDERS

By Fritz Plenefisch

The New Jersey Division is looking for new contributors to submit articles for the Train Orders and bring a fresh perspective to the publication. To help you decide if becoming an author is right for you, we have put together a list of helpful points to consider.

Most importantly, you do not need to be a professional writer to contribute. We will guide you through the editorial process and will edit for readability and space considerations. In fact, submissions need not even be in the form of an article. Feel free to give us an outline, rough draft or even a general topic idea. We are happy to run with your idea and assemble a fitting article, so long as it does not center on commercial sales or politics.

As a group that centers on the aspect of model railroading, articles should focus on that; such as buildings, painting and decaling, assembly of rolling stock, locomotives, trackwork, and scenery. Remember to include tips and tools regarding your modeling if relevant, and we would like to see last run reports for model railroad layouts that will be shut down. However, feel free to branch out and include prototype information related to model railroad operating sessions, writing train orders, dispatching trains etc. If you have a personal connection to the topic and can add first-hand details, or know of someone who does and can, include quotes; can make a wonderful addition to the article.

Photo submissions are encouraged and we can help you craft a concise caption that brings your article to life. The photos that are most successful when printed in our newsletter are clear, focused, and highlight the feature described in the article. They must be able to smoothly be transferred to digital format.

To further help you write your submission, many find the basic news article “formula” of addressing the 5 W’s (plus H) of assistance. Include information on Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. This is a good way to begin writing. As you assemble your rough draft, you may find that you are missing vital information. Do not let that stop you. Include a notation where you feel more details are needed and we can help you fill in the blanks.

The NJD was gifted a complete Lionel HO train set (train, track, power pack and layout plan) from the late 50s. If you have knowledge on this equipment please contact a NJD director, we would like to generate an article about this.

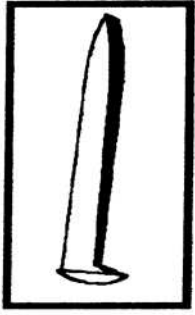
Basically, our Editorial Board is here to help you and would enjoy working with new contributors. If you would like to contribute to the Train Orders, or would like more information, contact any Board Member.



**SPACE
AVAILABLE
FOR
AUTHORS**

APPLY NEW JERSEY DIVISION





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: _____