

CLINKERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION,
MID-EASTERN REGION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MARCH 14, 2015

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2

If This is March, It Must Be Mitch!

The March meet of the New Jersey Division will again be held at the club house building at Switlik Park in Hamilton Township. Come out to enjoy all the features of our meets.

The main event will be the return of Mitch Dakelman. This time, Mitch has two prototype videos that should appeal to a broad range of interests.

Mitch says, "The Jersey Central film is THE BIG LITTLE RAILROAD. We will be showing one of the 5 Kodachrome prints made in 1948. The film details how coal is shipped from Wilkes Barre to Jersey City, including the Ashley Planes. The second half of the 25 minute film deals with passenger trains, and the movie shows both steam and diesel operated trains.

The second film, RIDING THE MAYBROOK, is a 1948 film sponsored by Alco and the New Haven, demonstrating how successful diesels are operating on the hill and dale Maybrook line, including the Poughkeepsie Bridge. Cry steam lovers--the Alco sponsored film was a sales film to promote diesels.

The slide presentation deals with railroading in southern New Jersey, emphasizing the NYLB and PRSL operations, between Perth Amboy to Cape May."

As noted at the right, the topic of the contest this time is "Prototype and Model Photos." It's another

chance to exhibit another phase of your modeling skills.

In the afternoon we'll have about a half dozen excellent railroads for you to tour.

Of course there will be stuff to buy and you can bring yours to sell, the door prizes, the raffle, the coffee, and friends getting together to chat.



New board member

Due to the passing of long time board member Bob Liberman, your Board of Directors found itself with an open position. We are all certainly sad to lose Bob, but happy to inform you that Mike Prokop has agreed to take Bob's seat on the board effective at the board meeting on February 24. Mike will be a director at large with responsibilities including member liaison for the northern part of the division.

Another change required by these circumstances is that Bill Grosse will be taking over as treasurer for the division.

Please welcome these members to their new positions. Their contact information can be found on page 2.



Color Extras Section?

Want to see your railroad published in *Clinkers*? Send a few photos and a paragraph or two of descriptive text to the editor, Geert Marien at geert@MINDSPRING.COM



NEXT DIVISION MEET

Saturday, March 14, 2015
9:00 AM to 12:00
5 Fisher Place
Hamilton Twp. NJ 08620

Clinics:

Mitch Dakelman videos:
Jersey Central
Riding the Maybrook
Slides: South Jersey Railroads

Contest:

Prototype and Model Photos

Layout Tour:

Saturday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Swap tables:

Contact Bob Clegg
856 696 0463
BobcatCS@comcast.net

IN THIS ISSUE

Schedules	2
View From the Cab	3
Model Contest	4
Modular Modeling in the NJD	5
Home Tour Preview	6
Directions to the Meet	7
Maps to the Meet	8
Online Color Extras	9

CLINKERS

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Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
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Clinkers is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletter always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$7.00 per year. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in Clinkers in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Contributing to Clinkers

Clinkers welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be mailed or emailed to the editor at the above address. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for next issue: April 10, 2015

Board of Directors 2014 - 2015

Superintendent

Bob Clegg
856 696 0463
BobcatCS@comcast.net

Asst. Superintendent

and Clinics Chair
John Gallagher
856 228 2239

Treasurer

Bill Grosse, Jr.
856 824 1405

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Tom Lavin
609 585 4616

Director

Mike Prokop
609 586 9818

Director, Librarian

Bill Howard
609 584 1818

Director, Layouts

Michael Mosher
856 293 9874

Division AP Chair

PJ Mattson, MMR
856 467 0421

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 two of our meets, after which they will be asked to join the NMRA.

NJ Division annual activity fee: \$10.00 (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
www.nmra.org

SCHEDULES

NEXT BOARD MEETING

April 21, 2015
Host: Tom Lavin
westvall@aol.com
609 230 4734
All members are invited.
Please let us know if you plan to attend.

NJ DIVISION MAY MEET

Saturday, May 9, 2015
County of Somerset
Municipal Building
379 South Branch Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
This is a joint meet with the
Garden State Division, NER

DELAWARE VALLEY TURN MER FALL CONVENTION

October 22-25, 2015
Hotel ML
Rt 73 and I 295
Mt. Laurel NJ
<http://DelawareValleyTurn.org>

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

Can be found on page 9 of the Col-
or Extras Section, or downloaded
from our website NJDivNMRA.org

NJ DIVISION AREA HOBBY SHOPS

Sattler's Hobby Shop*

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

Jackson Hobby Shop*

2275 West County Line Rd.
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 364-3334
www.jacksonhobby.com

The Train Room*

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

Bob's Hobbies and Crafts

67 S. Broadway
Pitman, NJ 08071
(856) 589 1777
Bobshobbiesandcrafts@yahoo.com

Yankee Dabbler - Track 33

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

*Offers 10% discount to NMRA members

Let us know if there's a
clinic you would like to
see... or see again!

VIEW FROM THE CAB

Bob Clegg

Bob Liberman Remembered

By now I'm sure you've heard that we have lost a good friend and long time member of the New Jersey Division. Bob served on the Board of Directors since dirt was new and as treasurer for about the last twenty years.

Bob had been in failing health for quite a while. He was diabetic, Kidney failure put him on dialysis, he had a heart valve replaced, and most recently, was treated for a partial blockage of his carotid artery. His body just finally gave up.

Bob's point of pride in that job was starting with only about \$200 in our treasury when he started, and, using excellent fiscal practices, increasing that to something in the neighborhood of \$10,000 at present.

Bob's passion was railroading, both model and prototype. I'm sure you've been to see his



railroad which started as a PRR prototype and in the past 5 years or so, converted to a Southern Pacific prototype.

What you may not be aware of is that Bob was also a stock holder in the Roaring Camp Railroads headquartered in Felton, CA.



Bob gave me his stockholder tickets to ride the tourist line last year. It was great fun! Bob was able to make that trip himself just a month before his passing, so he was able, one last time, to enjoy that part of his hobby as well.

As Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the memories."

Good Ole' Boys' Club?

A month or so I received a strange and somewhat disturbing phone call. The caller

refused to identify himself, but from some of what was said, I think I know who it was. That's really not the important thing here.

The caller was very upset for some reason, said he had quit the NMRA and the New Jersey Division because it was "good ol' boys Club," and wanted to know how we decided who got to be open for the layout tours and who got to do the clinics

I told him that in both cases the folks were chosen solely because they had volunteered.

He apparently didn't accept that answer because the conversation went down hill from there.

What I need to know is whether or not others in the division have the same perception. I certainly hope that is not the case, but if it is, we'd like to know what we can do to change that.

The division is purely a volunteer organization and there really is no room for personal agendas, and there are no 'cliques' other than the de facto group that does most of the volunteering.

If there is something that you feel needs to be done differently or if you have a problem with something or someone in the division, please let us know.

If you are uncomfortable identifying yourself, please come to a meet and fill out a division

See **View** on page 4

NEW JERSEY DIVISION MODEL CONTEST NEWS

Bill Grosse, Jr. Contest Chairman

My first note here concerns my January 2015 Model Contest News as it was printed in the Clinkers Newsletter. A computer and operator error, entered by me and missed during proof reading, showed wrong information for 1 entry in the Detailed/Weathered Tank Cars Contest.

The "Delaware & Allegheny #8005 Diesel Fuel Service Car" shown is the work of Joe Zebrowski. My apologies to Joe. It was not the work of Rick Spano.

At our January Meet in Haddon Township, I presented a certificate and dues voucher to John Swift. John was chosen as the winner of the Detailed/Weathered Tank Cars Contest in Forked River.

The contest for this meet was Detailed/Weathered Refrigerated (Reefer) Cars. We had 7 members bring in a total of 11 well done cars in 8 entries.

The winner of this contest was Ron Baile with his scratch built Colorado & Southern N.G. Reefer #1123.

The other entries in this contest were:

Dave Albertson PFE R40 Reefer #48702

Ron Baile REA Express Reefer #6101

John Swift PFE cl. R-40-10 Reefer #45698

Glyn Thomas Soo Reefer #5628

Frank Neufeld Armour Reefer #8079

Rich Olszewski Sea Isle Ice Reefer, "What to do with penguins your daughter buys"

Rick Cline 4 Old Reefers – ATSF, PFE, Reading, & UTR

The contest at the next meet in Hamilton Township on March 14 will be a dual contest. The categories are Prototype Photos and Model Photos. Find your favorite photos to enter in the contest.

A winner will be chosen from each category, so remember to place a vote for each type of photo.

Ron Baile's winning Reefer entry is shown below.

View continued from page 3

suggestion form. You can leave it in the box without any contact information if you so desire. In that case, your concern will be addressed and the result published as being from an anonymous member. You can also let us know who you are and we will contact you personally to address the problem.

This is your division! Keep in touch.



MODULAR MODELING IN THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION

Mike McNamara

Here we are at the March Meet, and that means we are just 7 months away from the MER Convention, Delaware Valley Turn! A lot of great activities are planned and there is lots everyone can do to participate, not only to help out but also enjoy.

The Convention committee has given space at the hotel for a Free-mo layout. This means we can have operating trains and host operating sessions right at the convention site. All convention attendees will have the opportunity to sign up for and run trains on the Free-mo layout. We have a simple operating system that has been used at New England Free-mo setups, and I think everyone will find it simple and enjoyable. It allows for a quick and repeatable operations, so you can easily run a train between clinics.

We are in the process of determining which modules will be at the convention. It is NOT too late for you to build a module and participate. If you have been thinking about a Free-mo module, now is the time to build it. If you think you don't have enough time, you can be inspired by a modeler in the NYC area who participated with us up in Springfield this past January. He built a module that included 2 sidings in just 1 month! It is not hard at all. And we are here to help. Mike Prokop and myself

can help you get started, help you get the benchwork completed and help with any questions you might have.

A simple module is a good start, something that is rectangular is fine, and it is a good learning experience. Many Capitol Free-mo members have been in the process of building new modules after learning things with their first simple module. Also a simple module is easily put in the backseat of a car so you'll have no trouble transporting it.

What do you need? Some plywood and foam will get you started. Again, Mike P. and I can help you with design of the bench work and even help you with construction, just let us know! Once your frame is built and topped with subroadbed and foam, some cork roadbed, track and perhaps a turnout or 2 will get you going. Some simple wiring of track feeders to terminal blocks at each end, and you would have enough to participate. Don't worry about connectors, LocoNet, turnout controls, etc. right away. Although that is the goal, it is easier to start with small steps. These things can be dealt with at the layout setup time. The most important thing is to have a module with the 6" x 24" end-plate, with legs having a little adjustment (simple bolt at T nuts are fine), track that is wired with feeders, with a 1 inch setback at

each end. That's all you need. That can be built in a few sessions. If you do this in the spring, you'd have all summer and fall to go about adding scenery, structures and details. But even if you don't get to that point, it is not a problem. Free-mo is about participation, not about having a competed, contest quality module at the first event.

Please reach out to me at [mikemcnh @ comcast dot net](mailto:mikemcnh@comcast.net), or Mike Prokop at [njwrr @ aol dot com](mailto:njwrr@aol.com) for assistance. I'm sure once you start the process, you will be glad you did. I have logged over 4000 miles on my modules participating in events, I can tell you it has been very rewarding and enjoyable. I've met new folks, learned many things, and enjoyed sharing with other modelers and the public. That is what is great about model railroading!



PREVIEW OF MARCH TOUR



Left: Views from Mike Prokop's great railroad: clockwise from NJ&W 303 has traffic stopped as it blows for the crossing on Mountain Rd. In Coldwater NY.

NYS&W 202 is working the interchange yard at Beaver Creek. No one has noticed the gas station attendant is having some difficulty.



Right: two views of Rick and Linda Spano's N Scale railroad: the harbor and the steel mill.





Above: Herb Gishlick's railroad set among autumn 's colors
 Below: Joe Calderone may be open. A final decision is yet to be made.



DIRECTIONS TO THE MEET

From Ocean County and points East

Follow **I 195 West** to **Exit 2** and follow local directions below.

From Delaware Memorial Bridge or Commodore Barry Bridge Via I 295

Cross the Bridge and take **I 295 North** to **I 195 East**. Continue on **I 195** to **Exit 2** and follow Local Directions below.

From Cape May and Atlantic Counties

Take the Atlantic City Expressway or Black Horse Pike (**US 322**) to **NJ 42 North** and continue onto **I 295 North**. Exit onto **I 195 East**. Take **Exit 2** and follow Local Directions below.

From US 130

From **US 130 South**, bear **right** onto **NJ 156**. Turn **right** onto **Yardville Allentown Road**. Continuing through the intersection, the road becomes **South Broad Street**.

From **US 130 North**, take the **Church Street Exit**. Turn **right** at the bottom of the ramp. Follow **Church Street** and turn left onto **South Broad Street**.

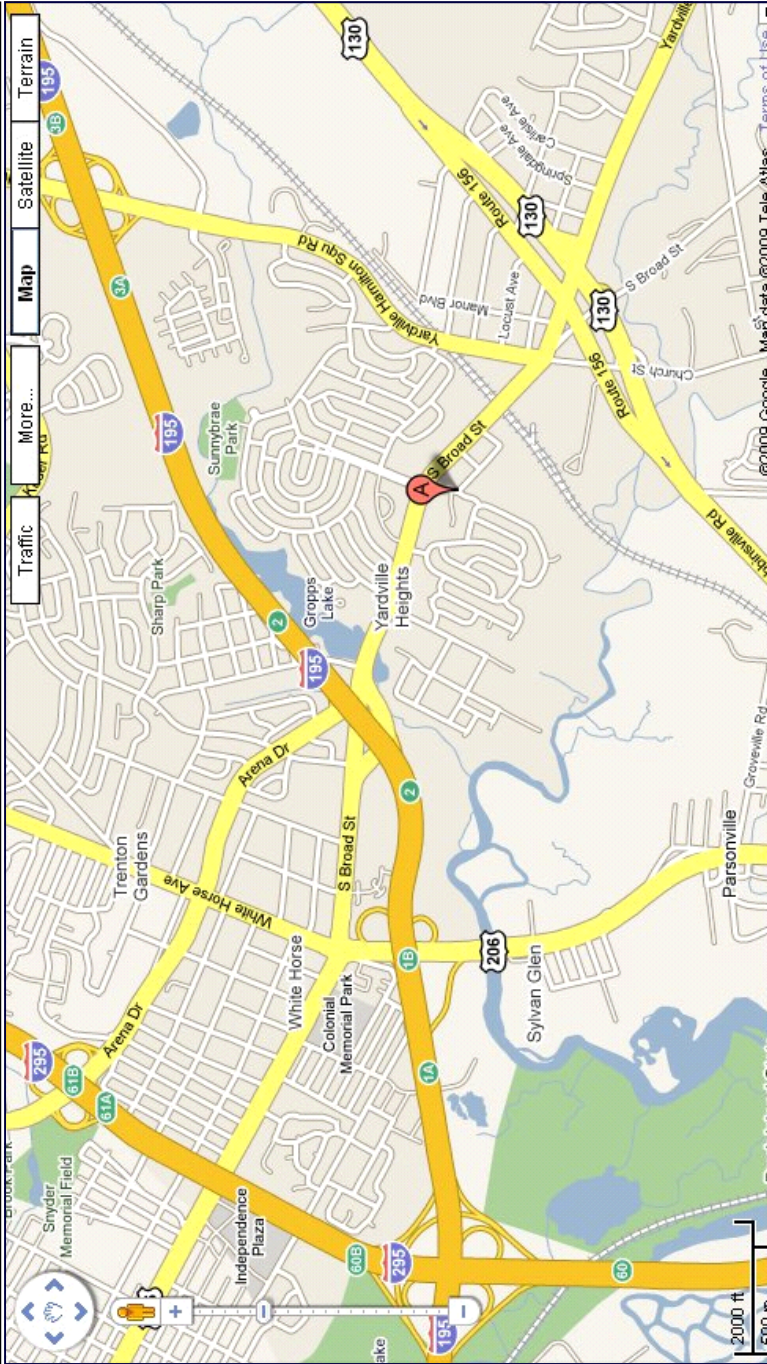
In either case, turn **left** onto **Kim Valley Road**.

Local Directions

From **I 195 East**, exit 2 is almost straight off the right lane. Follow the exit to merge onto **South Broad St**. Turn **Right** at the third intersection onto **Kim Valley Road**. Turn **left** onto **Fisher Place**. The Switlik Park Recreation Center will be on the right.

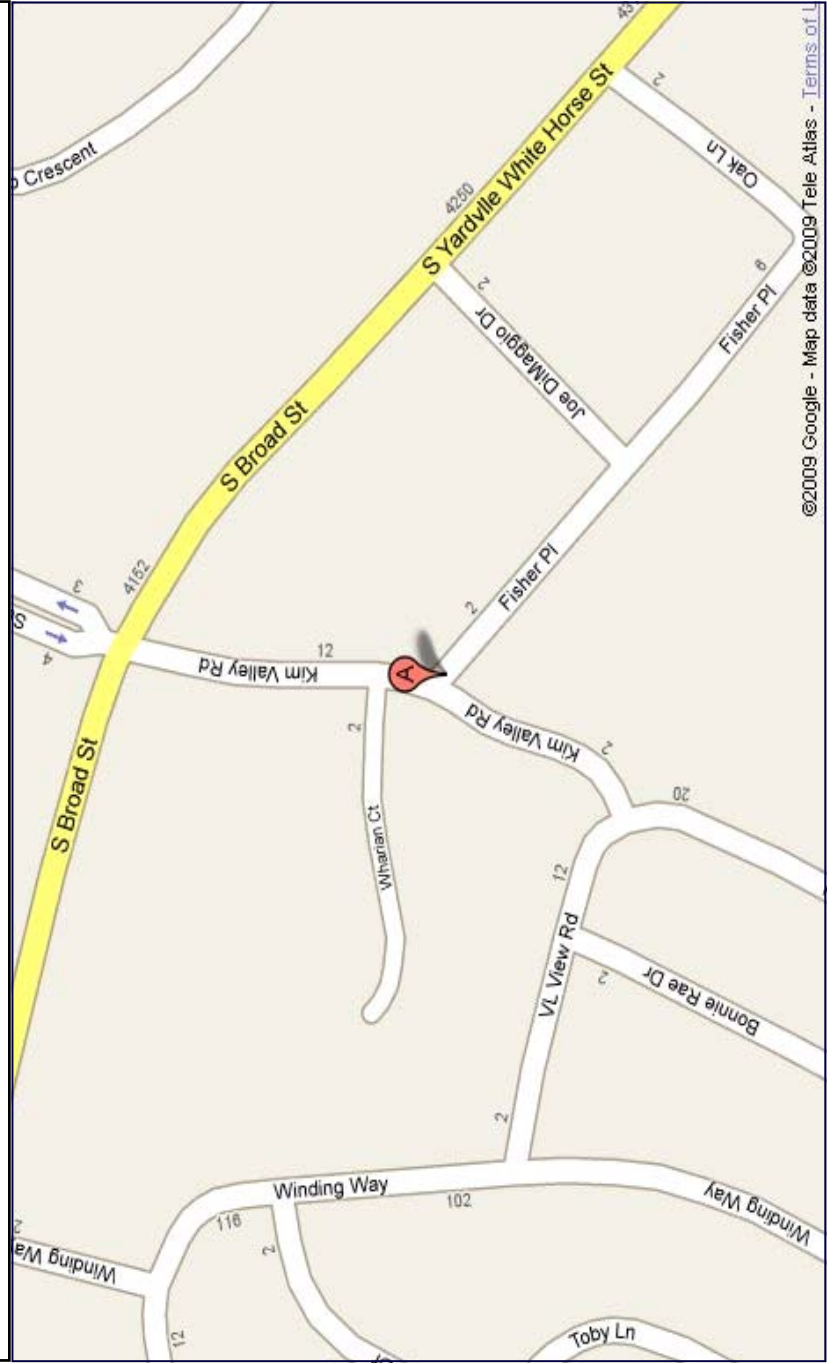
Continued on page 8

MAPS TO THE MARCH MEET



Continued from page 7

There is no direct exit from **I 195 West** to get to Switlik Park. Take Exit 2 onto **South Broad Street**, and make a **left** at the traffic light. This will take you on a “U” turn back onto South Broad Street headed in the correct direction. Continue with the **Local Directions** on page 7.



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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 scratch building and super detailing. 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 scratch built, 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 scratch built, craftsman kits or super detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.



Above: two more views from Rick Spano's railroad. Below: two views from Mike Prokop's railroad

