

CLINKERS

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

MAY 12, 2012

Volume 23 Number 3

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May Meet in Forked River

The Knights of Columbus Hall at 15 East Lacey Road in Forked River will be the venue for the next New Jersey Division meet. It will include all of the activities you have come to expect, and we will take a few minutes to conduct the Division's annual business meeting. If you have any business to bring before the group, please let us know ahead of time so we can put it on the agenda.

Our clinic program will be presented by Dick Genthner and Ron Baile. Do you remember the Bulletin Car Sides contest we held last year? Dick will show us how to take those simple cardboard pieces and create a model worthy of official judging.

He will continue in the second part by giving us an insight into what goes is involved in actually judging a model for the purpose of awarding an Achievement Program (AP) certificate.

Ron will share photos of his trip to

New Orleans in a private RR car.

By the way, for anyone interested, we still have some of those car sides available for the asking.

We won't hold another contest for them, but it might be fun giving them a try just to see what you can do after experiencing Dick's clinic.

Joe Weisbrod, who has made all

the arrangements for our meet, has arranged for six open houses as well. They will include the Central Shore Model RR Club.

The contest will be "Cabooses and Cabin Cars" and of course we'll have the sales tables, refreshments, and the usual general good time!



Your Board of Directors for the Coming Year

There were no additional candidates beyond the current office holders for the three positions that were up for election. Your board of directors, therefore, will remain as it is currently.

Superintendent, Bob Clegg
Assistant Super, Chris Widmaier
Secretary, Tom Lavin
Treasurer, Bob Liberman
Director, Librarian, Bill Howard
Director, Clinics, John Gallagher
Director, Layouts, Mike Mosher

There was one additional petition filed, but was subsequently withdrawn. The petitioner, Bill Grosse,

Jr. indicated that he was satisfied with the job the current board is doing, but wanted to be more involved. He has accepted a non voting position as Member Contact Chairman for the northern part of the division. His duties will include welcoming new members and sending reminders to those who forget to renew their memberships, as well as passing along information of interest.

Your board welcomes Bill and commends his interest. His assistance will allow us to do even more to make your division one of the best in the NMRA!



NEXT DIVISION MEET

Saturday, May 12, 2012

9:00 AM to 12:00

Knights of Columbus Hall
15 East Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ 08731

Contest:

Cabooses/Cabin Cars

Clinics:

Dick Genthner
AP Quality Model Building
How Models Are Evaluated

Ron Baile

Traveling to New Orleans in a
Private RR Car

Layout Tour: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Swap tables:

Contact Bob Clegg
856 696 0463
BobcatCS@comcast.net

NEXT BOARD MEETING

August 19, 2012

Host: Bob Clegg
BobcatCS@comcast.net
856 696 0463

All members are invited. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

VIEW FROM THE CAB

Bob Clegg

In recent months, and in fact it seems perpetually, there has been much discussion of membership recruiting and retention. I have been asked on several occasions how the New Jersey Division creates so much interest and attracts so many folks to our meets.

After giving it a lot of thought, the answer to that question has become clear. It is in no small part you the members! It is you who keep coming out to support our activities. We have averaged over 100 attendees at our meets this year.

Of course that wouldn't be the case if you didn't think your time was well spent. Making your experience a great one is completely the result of the contributions of our many volunteers, again, you the members.

It's not your Board of Directors that does all of this. The only thing we do is organize and schedule. It's you folks who step up and contribute to the organization...the clinicians, the folks who open their homes to us for the afternoon tours, the folks who help coordinate the meets.

It's guys like Mike Underwood who makes sure you have coffee and donuts available at every meet. It's Mike Rossi, the Division photographer, who provides many of the pictures you see in your newsletters. Starting in May, it will also include Bill Grosse, Jr. who will be taking charge of member contact for the north-

ern part of the division, roughly the five northern counties. On pages 9 and 10 in the Online Color Extras you will find more information regarding these three volunteers.

In the box to the right is a collection of the names of our members, and actually an few non-members, who have made contributions to your division during the last year. Be sure to thank them for their efforts the next time you see them. Also keep in mind that this list is only for the last five meets (including this May meet). Many others have volunteered in previous years and I'm sure will be doing so in the future.

We are always in need of folks to help put on our exceptional meets. If you would like to become part of the growing list of volunteers, please contact John Gallagher if you have a clinic you can present, or Michael Mosher if you'd like to be included in one of our Meet Layout Tours, or you can call or email me if you would like to be more involved but are not sure how.

Please keep in mind that everyone is invited to attend our board meetings. The date and location are always on page one. We only ask that you let us know ahead of time so we can plan for sufficient refreshments!

Keep up the great work!



New Jersey Division Volunteers 2011 - 2012

Tour Hosts:

Dave Albertson
Tom Brown
Joe Calderone
Ed Claypoole
Mert Gardner
Dick Genthner
Chuck Higdon
Bob Hubbard
Bob Jans
Dick Kitz
Rich Kochinsky
Jim Musser
Doc Patti

Ray Notaro
Dick Perry
Mike Prokop
Konrad Richter
Bill Rose
Don Seiser
Rick Spano
Ed Sproles
Joe Weisbrod
Central Shore Model RR Inc.
Patcong Valley Model RR Club
Cherry Valley Model RR Club
Gateway Model RR Club

Clinicians:

Ron Baile
Joe Bergmaier
Joe Calderone
Mitch Dakelman
Dick Genthner
German Georgieff
Geoff Greene
John Greene

Arnold Kimmons
Steve Lang
Mike McNamara
Frank Neufeld
John Siebert
Pete Suhmann
John Swift

Meet Coordinators:

Joe Calderone
Carl Haslett

Joe Weisbrod
PJ Mattson

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS

PJ MATTSON, MMR & DICK GENTHNER, MMR

The tear down of the old Arpee and Western Railroad is not only underway, but is almost complete thanks to my many helpers and volunteers. As I write this in early April all of the bench work has been taken down and parts of the A&W are being dispersed around the area. The Katterskill scene with the Otis cable car has been donated to the Ulster & Delaware Railroad Historical Society museum in the old Roxbury, NY train station. Several of the A&W yards have been donated to the InfoAge museum in Wall Township, NJ for the use of Boy Scouts in the area. The scene with Huey's pond and high steel trestle has been acquired by Ray Notaro for an expansion project on his model railroad. And the whole Ontario & Western terminal will be reconstructed in my grandsons' basement in Mendham, NJ. I'll have a lot of work rebuilding it with them and getting it operational again. Unfortunately the remainder that has not been donated or sold will be carted off to the Monmouth County recycling center for final disposal.

In the mean time I need to talk with you about the N J Division Achievement Program. At the March meet I hinted at a "library" I'd like to start to help the members with the paper work aspects of the various achievement certificates such as locos, cars, structures, scenery, electrical, civil, chief dispatcher, etc. Each of these certificates requires some written material to be submitted describing the modeling work that has been done as part of the "Statement of Qualifications" package. There are similar re-

quirement for written explanations that must be submitted when a model or scene is to be judged. Preparing this written material can be quite daunting and many members who wish to get models judged or who need to submit a completed "SOQ" could use some hints and guidance on how to proceed.

My suggestion is to create an on-line library of such items that could be shared with other members working on the various AP certificates. Maybe we could help out each other by sharing copies of paperwork that has already been submitted as a hint as to what has worked before. For instance, have you written up a car or building model to be judged? Or, have you submitted the paperwork for the Electrical or Scenery certificates? Why not make a copy of your paper work and send it to me for an AP Library of submitted applications? Of course members should not, would not, or even think of submitting someone else's paperwork as their own effort, but they could see what has worked before and use it as a guide for their own submittals.

I have copies of my own paper work for the models I have had judged and for the certificates that I hold. I often share these with members who are working on similar certificates. I also have some copies of the paperwork done by other members. Why not send me copies by email of your written material? I'll find a way to store them until someone needs a copy as a resource for their modeling

work. If we do this on line it could be quite efficient and quick. All I need is for all of you to send me your completed examples to share with others.

I'd appreciate your thoughts on this idea. I'm certain other members working in the AP would greatly benefit in seeing how someone else did what they still have to do. You can send me your copies at the email address below. I'll let you know in the fall how many copies we have in this new library.

Thanks.



PJ Mattson, MMR
pjmattson@comcast.net
856 467 0421

Dick Genthner, MMR
agent1@optonline.net
732 462 0216

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD
APPLICATION FORM**
is on page 14 in Color Version Extras.

**An invitation and registration form
for The Model Railroad Club oper-
ating session on Saturday, June 2
can be found on pages 11 and 12 in
Online Color Extras!**

NEW JERSEY DIVISION MODEL CONTEST NEWS

Chris Widmaier

If you didn't attend our March 10th New Jersey Division meet you missed another great one. We met at Switlik Park in Hamilton Township. We had over 100 people in attendance and I had over a dozen people come up to me and said that they really enjoyed the presentation on Reading and the B&O in New Jersey given by my longtime personal very good friend, Mitch Dakelman. Mitch on behalf of the New Jersey Division we thank you very much for an excellent presentation.

As most of you know that attend our meets on a regular basis Mitch has been kind enough to honor us with one of his slide and movie presentation every year for the past several years now. He also was the keynote speaker at the New Jersey Division hosted Mid-East Region convention, Princeton Junction, in October 2010.

Just in case you didn't know Mitch has written several books: Images of America "The Pennsylvania Turnpike" with coauthor Neal Schorr, "Lehigh Valley" volume 4, "Trackside around Pennsylvania 1957 - 1989 with Al Holtz and the latest book "Reading Company Facilities East of Philadelphia" volume 1. All of the railroad books have been published by Morning Sun Books, Inc. Mitch just finished the manuscript for the second Reading book that should be available sometime later this year.

To top off the afternoon we had the privilege to visit several great home layouts. Unfortunately it was a little bitter sweet. We had our last chance to see Dick Genthner's fantastic Arpee

& Western RR layout. Dick is moving to a smaller home, but the good news is that a section of his layout will be given to his grandsons. It is so nice to know that there are a few young people interested in model railroading and Dick's layout will go on. I want to thank all of the layout owners that were open on Saturday for opening their homes and allowing us to see their layouts. I always learn something from each layout that I visit.

We had four very nicely detailed steam locomotives entries in our model contest at the March meet I want to thank the following for their beautifully detailed steam locomotives: Entry (1) Ron Baile, (2) Richard LaRue, (3) Frank Neufeld, and (4) Tom Griffiths. AND THE WINNER WAS! Number 2 Richard LaRue with his Berkshire converted from a Mantua Mikado. Richard also included a complete BOM (bill of materials) of the purchased parts and a list of scratch built parts. The total part count was 149 pieces. Richard entered an outstanding model that was beautifully detailed. Richard please be sure bring this model back when you have it complete. Maybe you would like to do a clinic on your model. I am sure we would all enjoy your presentation. Thank you Richard, you should be very proud you have done a fine job. [See photo on page 6 -Ed.]

Ok guys, come on, I know just about everyone of you have a few cabooses (cabin cars for you fellow PRR folks) sitting at home collecting dust. So why don't you bring it with you and

enter it in the model contest? We couldn't make it any easier to enter our contests. It is simple blow the dust off of one of your models and bring it with you to the meet and set it on the contest table. You just might win. There isn't any judging or points it's by popular vote. You don't even need to write anything about the model if you don't want to.

You know the drill; your assignment for the next meet on May 12, 2012 at Forked River, Knights of Columbus is to bring at least one nicely detailed caboose / cabin car for the contest. After all the next \$10 voucher and model certificate could be yours.

At the March meet I was honored to present a certificate and a \$10 voucher for next year's New Jersey Division activity fee to Frank Neufeld. Frank was the winner of the Detailed and Weathered Gondolas contest. Frank entered an outstanding model that was beautifully detailed and weathered. Frank is a super modeler and has won our Division's contest for the third time. Thank you Frank for your entry you have done a great job once again.

One more note: As always if you have any questions, comments, ideas for a model contest, or anything about the NJ Division, please feel free to contact me.

Once again we had a perfect day and I for one had a lot of fun with all of my friends... What a great bunch... Thank you... And as I always say at the end of my column, enjoy this great hobby of ours.



MODULAR MODELING IN THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION

Mike McNamara

Here's the latest happenings with modular rail-roading in the NJ Division...

If you were at the March Meet you had a chance to see Mike Prokop's first module. Mike has plans for a 3 section module in a T shape. The one module Mike brought was the mainline section. In Free-mo, a centered single track mainline that exits on a 24" end is the required interface to mate with other modules. Mike's other two modules will feature curving track that leaves the mainline to serve industries and also a car ferry at the end. The prototype Mike has chosen is the rail lines in Camden, NJ and the car float that operated at the base of the Ben Franklin bridge, near today's Riversharks baseball stadium. The great thing about Free-mo is that it allows this type of module to be included with no special considerations other than having the space to put it into the overall layout.

Mike showcased his great carpentry skills. The module was strong yet lightweight, and featured integrated fold down legs. I can see why Mike was commissioned by a couple of other folks to help get their modules started. And now that I have taken my modules to more than a dozen events, fold down legs would be a real nice feature. If you are planning on building a module, check out what Mike has done.

The track included flex along with handlaid Fast Track turnouts, which is fully allowed in the Free-mo standard. Mike also used some

interesting turnout controls, servo motors and frog juicers from Tam Valley Depot. All in all Mike's modules are off to a great start and I look forward to seeing his progress. Check out some of the photos at the web site njfree-mo.org.

By the way, in addition to this NJ Free-mo web site, there is also a blog that allows participants in NJ Free-mo to post with the latest happenings on their modules, their plans, prototype photos, build ideas, etc. Check it out at njfreemo.blogspot.com. Division members Mike Prokop and Geert Marien were just added to the contributors so I expect we'll see some more info on their modules soon.

I mentioned that I have now taken my modules to over a dozen events in a little over 2 years. The next year or so is also shaping up to have lots of Free-mo activities to choose from. In addition to the Timonium shows with Capitol Free-mo, there are plans in the works for other Free-mo set ups including a prototype modeler Meet, a regional convention, a possible town railroad celebration day and more. Keep an eye on the NJ free-mo web sites mentioned above for the latest information.

I received some news from Carl Haslett of the NJ Southern N-trak club. They are actively participating again in the National Train Day activities. This is the 5th year for this event and NJ Southern will have modules at both 30th Street Station in Philadelphia and Grand Central Terminal in New York City. Wow, quite a bit of co-

ordination needed for that. Check out the web site nationaltrainday.com for the latest info as it becomes available.

A reminder, if any other modular group has information they want to share with members of the NJ Division NMRA, please feel free to send that to me and I will include that in this column. Publicize your events, let us know if you are seeking members, or just generally give us an update on your group. My e-mail address can be found on the NJ Division web site. – Mike McNamara



A look at Mike Prokop's module at the March Meet, showing how he integrated fold down legs. Mike has 2 more sections like this to complete his module scene.

CLINKERS

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
P.O. Box 8694
Trenton, NJ 08650
www.NJDivNMRA.org

Clinkers is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. 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: August 6, 2012

Board of Directors 2011 - 2012

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856 696 0463
BobcatCS@comcast.net

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609 298 7337

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Director, Clinics

John Gallagher
856 228 2239

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! Online newsletter always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hard-copy newsletter \$5.00

National Model Railroad Association
4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
www.nmra.org

SCHEDULES

NMRA National Convention

July 15-22, 2012
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI
July 29-Aug 4, 2012

NJ Division September Meet

Saturday, September 15, 2012
Municipal Building
NJ 47 and Cooper Street
Deptford Twp., NJ 08731

MER Fall Convention

October 18- October 21
Hilton Garden Inn
Suffolk, VA 23434
www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org/
Convention/convention.html



Rich LaRue's winning entry at the March New Jersey Division meet. It's a Mantua Mikado converted to a Berkshire type. Documentation included complete bill of materials for the job.

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

Trains 'n Things

936 Weymouth Road
Vineland, NJ 08360
(856) 697-8844
www.trainsnthings.com

The Train Room*

715 Arnold Ave.
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
(732) 892-4155
www.thetrainroomNJ.com

Bob's Hobbies and Crafts

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

All Aboard Trains

118 N. Main St.
Forked River, NJ 08731
609-693-2552
www.allaboardtrains1.com
Specializing in Lionel and Lionel repairs

MAY MEET LAYOUT TOUR PREVIEW



General view of Don Seiser's O Gauge high rail layout



A Conrail GP40 spots a boxcar at Scott Printing on Joe Weisbrod's railroad



Action on the Central Shore Model Railroad Club

Find more photos of the six great railroads on the tour at the New Jersey Division May Meet in Online Color Extras



Intermodal facility on Chuck Higdon's Florida East Coast Railroad.



Ron Kopchinski's PRR themed railroad



Twilight at Bradley Beach on Dave Albertson's railroad

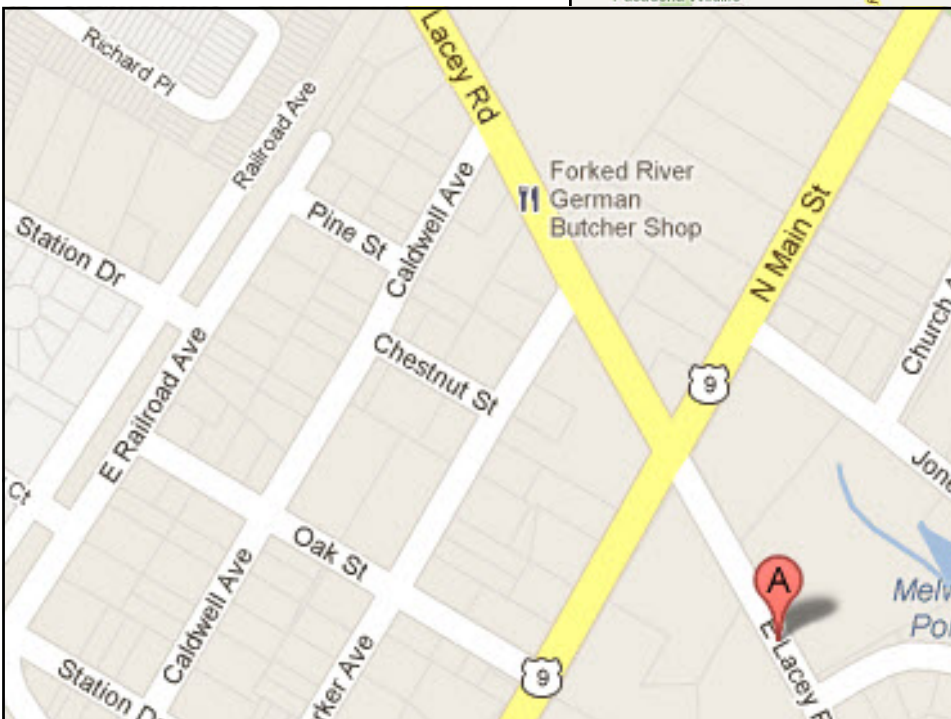
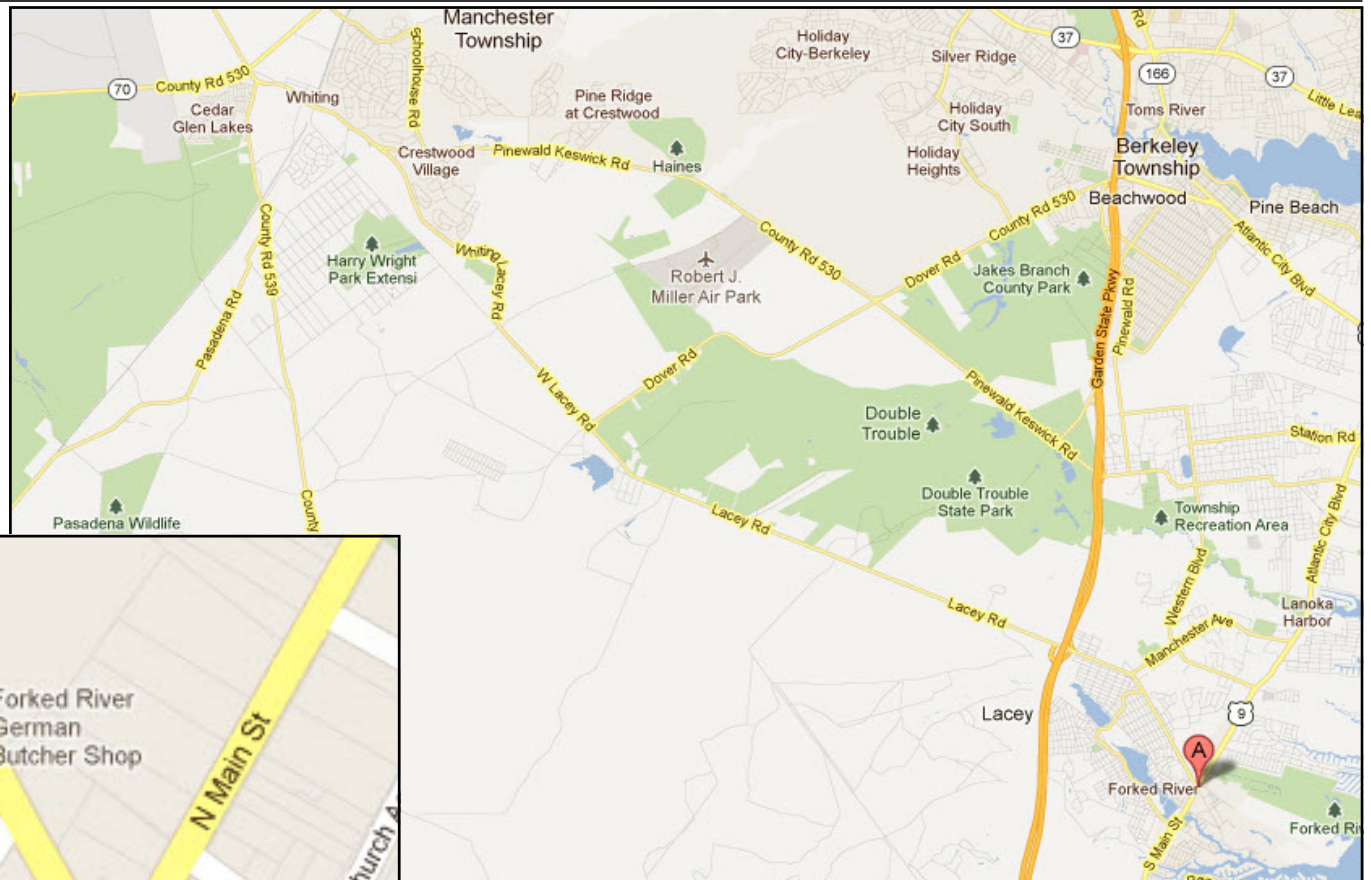
MAPS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE MAY MEET

From Trenton area:

I 195 east to the Garden State Parkway South, Exit at 74 and turn right on Lacey Road. Follow to the meet location on the right after crossing Rt 9.

From Philadelphia, Wilmington, and western South Jersey:

Take I 295 north to I 195 east and follow directions above.



From southern New Jersey:

Garden State Parkway North, Exit at 74 and turn right on Lacey Road. Follow to the meet location on the right after crossing Rt. 9.

Alternate route from southern New Jersey:

Take NJ70 east to County 539 Turn right, then at first traffic light keep left onto County 530. County 530 becomes Lacey Road. At the fourth traffic light, stay right at the fork in the road to stay on Lacey Road! Follow to the meet location on the right after crossing Rt. 9.

VOLUNTEER SPOT LIGHT

Meet Mike Underwood, Refreshment Chairman

"I guess you would say I'm a late bloomer when it comes to finally getting started in model railroading. When I was six years old I received my first Lionel Trains and over time purchased Plastic Village buildings and had a small layout. At age twelve I purchased my first set of "Mantua," HO trains and again bought and assembled some building kits. The seed of model railroading was planted and sprouts of the hobby came to life over the years but my layout never came to full bloom. Due to space, time, money, sports, military service, marriage, kids and yes, procrastination, I never developed the talent and skills that I now envy in the many members of the South Jersey Division.

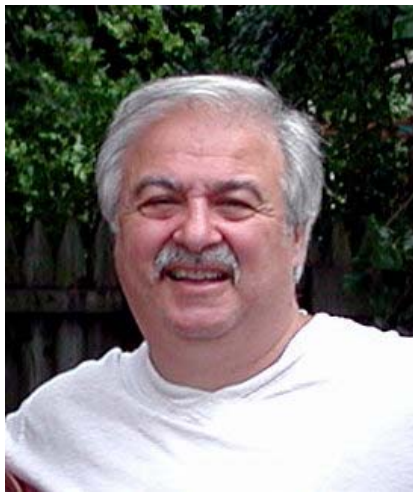
A year after retirement while attending a social event I met Fred Willis. We talked about retirement, my many interests, and mentioned that I wanted to get more involved into model railroading. Fred introduced me to the South Jersey Division and took me to several meets. It was amazing how much I really did not know about railroading and

now had a forum in which to learn. I have built a 4X8 layout and have been practicing and learning some of the basics of model railroading. At this point I am free-lancing using Pennsylvania Railroad's RS 3s, SW1500 and for my six-year-old Grandson, a Thomas engine. The track work is code 83 with DC block control. There have been a lot of trials and errors but the experience has been rewarding with trains that run without derailment. I still have a lot to experience and learn in this hobby.

Since I have gained so much from the organization with friendship and guidance, when the opportunity came to me to offer my services providing coffee and refreshments, I had to volunteer. It is a way for me to give a little help back to an organization whose leadership has given so much of their time and talent, and the membership who have shared their knowledge with clinics, open houses and presentation of railroad movies and how-to slide shows at meets."



Mike Underwood



Mike Rossi

Meet Mike Rossi, Photographer

"I had O and HO scale train sets combined on a 4x8 plywood sheet at Christmas time ages 5-13 and loved setting it up, wiring the lights and creating imaginary scenes and eventually incorporated slot cars onto it. Having 3 or 4 different scales on one sheet didn't make a difference. I enjoyed building model cars, boats, and planes all through ages 8-16 but eventually drifted away from it.

At age 52 my friend got involved with Hi-Railers O scale club in Patterson NJ and was getting me interested in trains again. What pushed me over was when I met Dick Genthner. He invited me down to an Op Session on his Arpee & Western R.R. I never saw trains operated like that. It gave modeling and running trains a purpose. Dick got me enrolled with the NMRA and MER. I subscribed to Scale Rails and Model Railroader. Going to meets, and layout tours I've picked up good advice, good ideas and good friends.

For the last four years I've been acquiring hardware for a layout and fine tuning track plans. I'm just about to start putting the bench work in to build a layout in my basement which eventually I hope will be on one of the layout tours. I like the social atmosphere of model railroading in the MER and feel lucky to be a part of it."



VOLUNTEER SPOT LIGHT

Meet Bill Grosse, Jr., Newly Appointed Member Contact Representative

"I share a home with my wife Barbara and 13 year old daughter Alycia, who both like model railroads and prototype railroads. We like to travel with our travel trailer and include train watching side trips. We have been lucky enough to get to Alaska twice and ride the Alaska Railroad and the White Pass and Yukon.

My main modeling interest is HO scale, but also includes some N and 3 rail O. My favorite railroads are Pennsylvania and Conrail. I am currently track planning and buying lumber to start building a set of Free-Mo modules. I hope to have them started in the next 2-3 months. My Father is going to be my railroad partner and muscle for building. I am a member of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society and the Camden & Amboy Railroad Historical Group.

I remember having a Lionel set when I was about 5, I don't know what happened to that set. I received my first HO set for Christmas

when I was 6 and I have had the bug ever since, I still have a couple of my first HO pieces somewhere. I also have my Grandfathers




Bill Grosse, Jr.

1929 Lionel set of locomotive and 3 passenger cars.

I am retired from a 23 year career as a Fire Captain for Hamilton Township Fire District #9, I had a disabling injury that caused my retirement in 2008. I have

been a member of Mercerville Fire Co. for 31 years, plus 3 years as a Junior Firefighter, I also have 27 years membership at Groveville

Fire Co. and I am a Life Member there. At Mercerville I have served as a Lieutenant 2 years on the firematic side, and on the administrative side I have served 2 years as Financial Secretary, 2 years as Secretary, and 3 years as Trustee. I currently serve as the Secretary of the Mercerville Firemen's Relief Association, a local of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. I have held this position since January 2000. At Groveville I served on the firematic side as Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, and as Fire Chief. I have served as Treasurer from 1993 to the present time.

I like to be involved in the operations of organizations of which I am a part, as you can see with my combined years of service as a Fire Officer and Administrative Officer positions in the Fire Service. I have the time, desire, and willingness to work for this association and its Officers and Members. Model railroading and railroad groups are my new life and I am ready to take on more responsibility in them." 



The End!

The three photos here are the last of Dick Genthner's Arpee and Western. Some pieces will live on in other locations, some equipment has been sold to other railroads. Thanks for the memories!



The *Model Railroad Club, Inc.*TM *Founded 1949*

At the A. Paul Mallery Model Railroad Center

**13th Annual
Invitational Operating Session
Saturday, June 2, 2012
12 Noon to 4 PM
Doors open at 10:30 AM**

Join us for a day filled with model railroad operations and fellowship.

We'll be running one trick with an extended schedule

Barbeque afterward (weather permitting)*

**A \$5 donation will be collected at the event.*

If you have a Digitrax[®] throttle, please bring it with you.

*Please RSVP by filling out the section below and mailing it to The Model Railroad Club, Inc.
PO Box 1146, Union NJ, 07083-1146 ATTN: Pete Ezzard or via e-mail: Pezzard@hotmail.com.*

Limited positions available - Please respond early.

I plan to attend: ____ I **do not** plan to attend: ____

I plan to bring ____ guests. (Please print names on back.) Number of persons for barbeque: ____

NAME (*please print*): _____

Address: _____

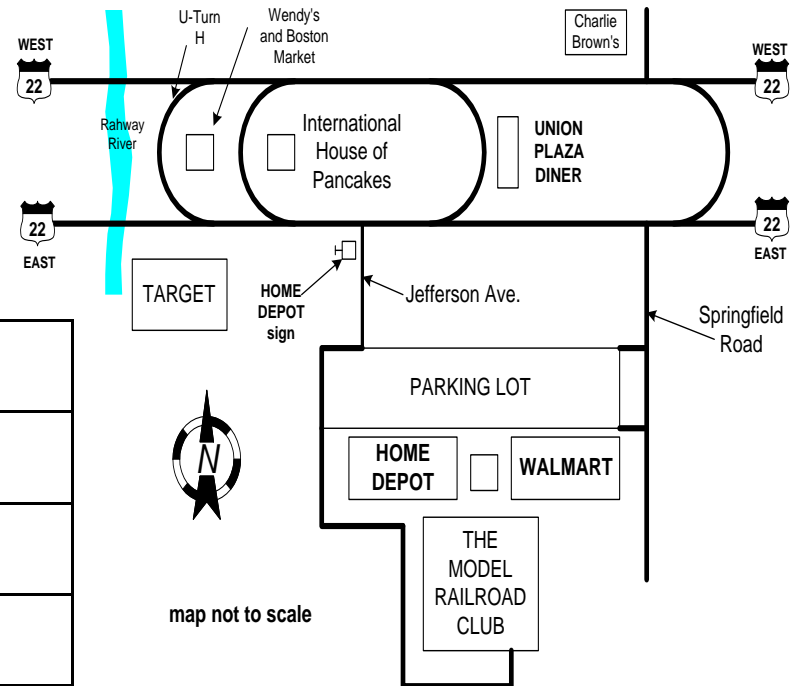
City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ - _____

Optional: e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

DIRECTIONS:

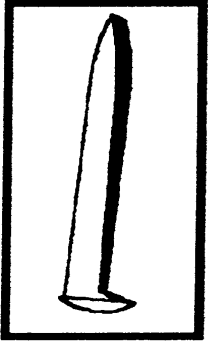
- A. From New York City & Northern New Jersey: Garden State Parkway south to Exit 138. Make left onto Boulevard (in Kenilworth). Go 3 traffic lights. Just after the 3rd traffic light, make right onto N. 14th Street (around Harding School). Go through 1 traffic light and continue approximately 3/4 mile on Springfield Road. The Wal-Mart/Home Depot shopping center entrance will be on your left. Enter the parking lot and go past Wal-Mart and The Home Depot. Turn left and go the end of the road (the police shooting range will be right in front of you). Follow the signs to the Club. The Club building is directly behind The Home Depot.
- B. From South Jersey: Parkway North to Exit 138; left onto Galloping Hill Road. At 1st traffic light the road becomes "Boulevard." Follow directions for A, above.
- C. Rt. 22 Eastbound: Turn right onto Jefferson Avenue, about 1/2 mile past Target. Follow signs directing you to Club building (behind The Home Depot).
- D. Turnpike North: Use Exit 11, take Parkway north.
Follow directions for B, above.
- E. Outerbridge Crossing (Route 440): Follow signs to Parkway north. Follow directions for B, above.
- F. Goethals Bridge (Rt. 278): Take Rt. 439 (Bayway/Elmora/North Ave.) about 3 miles to light at intersection of Morris Ave (NJ 82). Turn left onto Morris Ave. Continue toward Union about 2 miles to Rt. 22. Follow signs to Rt. 22 west. Take Rt. 22 west to U-Turn "H" & get in the far right-hand lane. Follow directions for C, above.

Names of Additional Guests



NMRA APRIL INFONET NEWS

- Fundraising has begun for the "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" gallery at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA. As your members will probably recall, this gallery will introduce the Museum's 600,000 annual visitors to the hobby, as well as give them a sense of its history. One of the highlights of the gallery will be actual portions of the finest model railroads ever built. The Museum has donated the space rent-free to the NMRA for the purpose of promoting the hobby. It's estimated that the cost to build the exhibit will be approximately \$750,000, and no NMRA dues or monies will be used; instead, it will be entirely funded by donations. To date, over \$100,000 has been raised, and an anonymous donor has agreed to match donations, up to \$250,000. Any NMRA member (or non-member, for that matter) who would like to donate to the funding of the gallery should send his or her tax-deductible donation to NMRA Headquarters at 4121 Cromwell Road., Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119, and mark it "Gallery donation."
- In the February edition of the InfoNet News we reported the agreement of cooperation between the NMRA and the Hasea.com Model Railroad Association of China. This July we'll be seeing the first fruits of that "Hands Across The Ocean" agreement as a group of teenage Chinese modelers and railfans visits California with the purpose of seeing layouts, prototype trains, and the California State Railway Museum. Several Pacific Coast Region members are helping to organize this 2-week event.
- Grand Rails 2012, the upcoming NMRA national convention, has announced their commemorative convention car. Grand Rapids, Michigan, was once known as The Furniture Capital of the World, and appropriately the model was inspired by a postcard photograph of a turn-of-the-last-century furniture manufacturer's wood-sided boxcar. This replica, produced by Accurail, comes complete with a Grand Rails 2012 logo "poster" which can be applied by the modeler. Visit www.gr2012.org to see a shot of the prototype.
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- The folks at Grand Rails 2012 have posted a preliminary clinic schedule for the convention in PDF format, downloadable at their website. Among the clinicians are NMRA Worldwide Director Tony Koester, Jim Six, Jim Sacco, and a group of clinics by the Layout Design Sig.
- Grand Rails 2012 is looking for volunteers who'd be willing to donate an hour or two of their time at the convention doing things like contest room security, helping with registration check-in, silent auction set-up and tear-down, and bus loading. If you're interested and have an hour or two you'd like to donate, contact Mark Baldwin, Vice Chair of Volunteers. Just use the "Contact Us" link on the Grand Rails 2012 website at www.gr2012.org.



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.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

Three types of track required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used.
All installed track 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: _____ Print Name: _____

NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____

Region: _____

MAY MEET LAYOUT TOUR PREVIEW



Above: Three photos of Dave Albertson's Railroad.
Left: Another day of work at Park Steel
Center: A busy day of moving freight at Bradley Beach yard
Right: Girt tower operator gets ready for another busy evening

Below: Three views of a railroad that's new to the division. It's the work of Ron Kopchinski. Welcome, Ron!



MAY MEET LAYOUT TOUR PREVIEW



Three photos at the left are of Joe Weisbrod's Jersey Beach Lines.

Top: The 'Jersey Builder' was a name given to passenger cars of the CNJ/NJDOT in the 70's because they purchased cars from different railroads. It was very colorful. This train is en route from Newark to Bayhead.

Center: The newest addition to Joe Weisbrod's HO scale Jersey Beach Lines" is Greenville yard. It will be home to the Cross Harbor Carfloats, Tropicana and The Port Jersey Railroad.

Bottom: It's late 70's and the recently taken over Leigh Valley yard by Conrail in Newark is a busy place these days. Engines being repainted and repaired. There are engines from just about every North Jersey railroad fallen flag.



Right top and center: Two more photos of the Central Shore Model Railroad.

Right bottom: Don Seiser's O Gauge Lionel railroad

