

# **Train Orders**

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



Volume 32 Number 3

**May 2021** 

### The Garden State Div Is Hosting Us For The May Meet By Bill Grosse

On Saturday May 1, 2021 the Garden State Division will be hosting us for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual GSD/ NJD Joint Meet.

The GSD will use the Free Conference Call.com service, with sign in starting at 8:30am and the meet beginning at 9 a.m.

At the beginning of the meet the GSD will have their usual brief Annual Business Meeting. Chuck Diljak has reached his term limit as President, and deserves a "Job Well Done" from all. Mark Moritz will be the next President and will host the rest of the meet.

There will be two clinics presented, one by GSD's Tom Wortmann - 'Converting Older DC Diesels to DCC', and the other by NJD's Glyn Thomas, MMR -'Modeling the CNJ in the Lehigh Valley'. See Assistant Superintendent John Gallagher's Clinic Column for more details.

Between the two clinics, there will be a Bring and Brag Session, for attendees to show pics/videos of, and explain what work has been done to achieve the final result being shown. NJ Division members are encouraged to participate in this session, and show some of their work.

#### **Nominations & Elections**

It is time again, time for the "Petition For Nomination Form" to go out. There is a copy in this newsletter and it will be included in the email update.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors, fill out the Petition and send it to the address on the form, before the deadline. Elections will be held at the September meet.

To meet the signatures requirements, send five current NMRA Members in the NJ Division, an emailed copy of your filled in form, ask them to sign it and send their copy to the address shown.

There will be at least one opening this year on the Board, to fill an unexpired term. So put your name in to the nominations list and give it a try.



#### Bill Grosse Winner of the May Virtual Contest



### Next Division Meet

Saturday May 1, 2021 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon This will be a Virtual Meet Contest: This is a Virtual Contest : Freight Yards. From small local yards to large regional yards. Clinics: Glyn Thomas, MMR ."Modeling the CNJ in the Lehigh Valley," Tom Wortmann, on "Converting Older DC Diesels to DCC".

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Train OrdersOfficial Newsletter of the New Jersey DivisionN. J. Division, NMRA P.O. Box 276 Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276 https://njdivnmra.orgTrain 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 OrdersTrain 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 the next Train Orders issue: August 8, 2021		Schedules	NJ Division Area Hobby Shops
		<b>NJ Division May Meet</b> Saturday May 1, 2021, 9 a.m. to Noon This will be a Virtual Meet <i>Check in starts 8:30 a.m.</i>	* AAA Hobbies & Crafts 706 N. Whitehorse Pike, Magnolia, NJ 08049 (856) 435-7645 www.AAAHobbiesandCrafts.com
		<b>Next Board Meeting</b> August 24, 2021 7:00 p.m. Contact njdiv.super@gmail.com For access information if you wish to participate.	* Sattler's Hobby Shop 14 Haddon Ave. Westmont, NJ 08108 (856) 854-7136
		Next Division Meet Saturday September 18, 2021 More information to follow	* The Train Room Online Store www.thetrainroomNJ.com
		2021 NER - NMRA Convention	e-mail thetrainroomnj@msn.com
<b>Superintendent</b> Bill Grosse njdiv.super@gmail.com 609 532-3431	Asst. Superintendent and Director of Clinics ail.com John Gallagher Johnv.gallagher39@gmail.com	Mill City 21, October 8 - 11 Westford MA The Northeast Region is rescheduling	* Yankee Dabbler - Track 33 101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ 08031 yankeedabbler@aol.com
Clerk/Secretary Joe Zebrowski 609 268-9451	856 228-2239 Paymaster/ Treasurer - Bookstore and Door Prizes	Mill City 2020's convention to 2021. Visit - MillCity21.org - for more updates	* Offers discount to NMRA members.
trackjack@comcast.net	Mike Prokop njwrr@aol.com	2021 MER - NMRA Convention	Must show Current Membership Card
Member Contact Chairman	609 586-9818	Mount Clare Junction, Oct. 21-24	Membership Information
Geert Marien 732 757-1061 geert@mindspring.com Director-Editor Fritz Plenefisch	<b>Director-Contest Chair</b> Jack Menaker 732 908-6571 jackmenaker@yahoo.com <b>Division AP Chair</b>	Marriott Delta, Hunt Valley, MD (Baltimore) Search - Mount Clare Junction on You- Tube.com to see a preview and other information as it is added.	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
Fritz Plenensch 609 585-7660 fplen3@verizon.net Director- Tom Neukirchen 609 584-5184	PJ Mattson, MMR 856 467-0421 pjmattson@comcast.net	NMRA 2021 National Convention Rails By The Bay July 4-11 Santa Clara, California	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 quests, no charge!

609 584-5184 t.neukirchen@aol.com

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

Santa Ciara, morma This Convention Has Been Canceled Check nmra.org for 2022 NMRA **Convention** information

First time guests, no charge! National Model Railroad Association P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328 www.nmra.org

## **View From The Cab** By Bill Grosse, Superintendent

As we arrive in May, we reach our fifth meet in our election cycle, time to start thinking about Nominations, then into Elections, for Board of Directors positions. Once you are a NJ Division Director, it is time to think about putting your name in to be elected an administrative officer.

On the outside it seems like a lot of work. time, and headaches, but once you are there you may find that it is just right for you. You can express your ideas, try to set some goal for the Division, some idea you may have that will be enjoyed by the whole of the membership. You won't know until vou trv. and after one term you can step down if it is not for you, but you gave it a try, and there is a good chance the members respected you for what you have done.

This year there is an unexpected opening to fill an unexpired term of one member of the Board. So we will need at least one member to step up to be elected.

This opening will also impact the outcome of the election of Administrative Officers. We will be looking at a new arrangement of leaders.

I am asking all members to please support the Directors that are in the middle of their terms, and any re-elected or newly elected in September. Also continue this support to the Administrative Officers - Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster, and

Clerk as elected by the Board.

I am the cause of the unexpected vacancy, cutting my term of Director short by one year (or more depending on rules), and ending my position as Superintendent in September, if allowed, depending on if rules allow me to finish my term, or do I have to stop immediately in mid-May.

I have planned to keep my name on the list to be re-elected as Super until at least through 2025, the year we host the MER Convention.

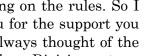
But I have thrown a wrench in the works by accidentally buying a new home, not in the New Jersey Division, not even in the Mid-Eastern Region. I will be a part of the Mid Central Region, Division 9 - Coal Division, once I move into my new home in Beverly. West Virginia.

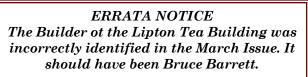
We were only looking, to plan for 5 or more years out, to see if we liked an area and if we would ever consider moving. We found twice the size house, almost 11 times the land, including a very detached train room of 30 x 120 (some will have to be a garage and shop, even though the house has two 2 car garages). All of this and more for 10% of the taxes.

Sorry everyone, we couldn't pass it up. But, if you are passing near the area, stop to sit on the porch and say hi, or walk to the back of the yard to see my million dollar (didn't

actually pay that much) view at 2085 feet above sea level.

I may or may not have one more "View From The Cab" depending on the rules. So I want to thank All of You for the support you have given me. I have always thought of the NJ Division as the Members Division not my division, and I hope you got that feeling from me.







Lipton Tea **Bv Bruce Barrett** 

### Model Contest News By Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman

#### **Contest for March 2021 – Water Feature**

"Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink! Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink!" WOW!

10 entries, 19 beautiful pictures, 104 well-earned votes = 1 happy winner.

The winning three photographs was entry #1 submitted by our Superintendent, Bill Grosse.

All the scenes offered skilled takes on  $H_2O$  related to railroading. All of the pictures prove how talented our members are. This was a very

successful contest. More to come.

So, how to end this crazy year? Hopefully, because of Covid Vaccines, things will be back to normal again in October.

#### Announcing the next two contests.

The contest for May 2021, will be Freight Yards. From small local yards to large regional yards – show us what you got.

For November 2021, lets try "The Boxcar Challenge" that was originally due for March 2020. This leaves eight (8) months to put together a mini diorama using it as the main element.

#### The rules are shown below Size Matters!

If you model O scale, the diorama must be 20" x 12" If you model HO scale, the diorama must be 10" x 6" If you model N scale, the diorama must be 5" x 3"

#### The boxcar must be recognizable!

It can be all beat up but must be identifiable as a former boxcar. You cannot make furniture using the boxcar boards and pieces.

Use your imagination, and good luck!



#### Entry # 1 - Bill Grosse [ 3 Pictures ]

Crosswicks Creek and Doctors Creek, Yardville, NJ joining together here to flow west Into the Delaware River

Model of an actual Location a on 24" X 60" Free-mo Module. All scratch built / hand made scenery except people, boats, and temporary kitbashed bridge girders. Some modelers license taken using multiple simultaneous activities To Increase Interest, and to allow for module transportation.



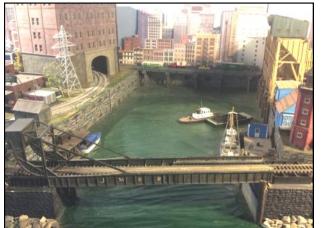
Doctors Creek on the left, Crosswicks Creek on the right. Flowing west, towards the camera. A Sand Hills Industrial Terminal Train is on the bridge.



Looking west over Doctors Creek with the train reflection In the water next to couple comparing fish sizes.



Late day over Crosswicks Creek feeder stream with a camp set up for the night.



Jack Menaker Photo

Entry # 2 - Jack Menaker [ 1 Picture ] Frelinghausen Creek In Newark, NJ in the 1950's. A Freelanced Model

The diorama includes an operational bridge over the creek, connecting South Newark to North Newark. The scene includes scratch built, kit bashed, and Detailed Kit Models from Sheepscot, DPM, and Others.



Mike Prokop Photo

Entry # 3 - Mike Prokop [ 1 Picture ] Reading RR Linden Street Freight Station, Camden, NJ

This is a model of an actual location on The Delaware River, built on Free-mo Modules. All scratch built except for rail cars, and highly detailed Tug Kit from Frenchman River Model Works. Float Bridge and Car Float are Kitbashed Walthers Models.



Mike Prokop Photo

Entry # 4 - Mike Prokop [ 1 Picture ] Wallington River Bridge, near Kingston, NY, circa 1950's The Bridge is a Model of the Canyon Diablo Bridge in Arizona, built by the Santa Fe. Scratch built using Central Valley Parts and enlarged to Span Wallington Creek. Entry # 5 - Mike Prokop [ 1 Picture ] Geneese River, Upstate, NY, circa 1950's A freelanced interpretation of the area modeled includes a Walthers Double Track Bridge and scratch built scenery. The Spud Barge is a Seaport Model Works Kit with added detail parts, figures, and lighting.

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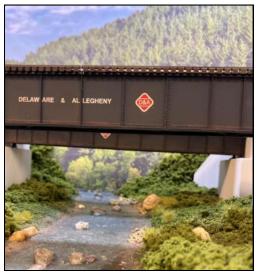
Mike Prokop Photo

Entry # 6 - Joe Zebrowski [ 3 Pictures ] Clearfield Creek, Clearfield, PA

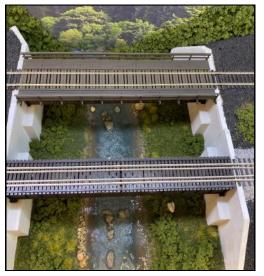
A selectively compressed version of Clearfield Creek in Clearfield County, PA.



Looking North toward the Susquehanna River (it would be behind the hill to the left). Bridges are Exact Rail Kits. Abutments and scenery were scratchbuilt.



Ground level view of Clearfield Creek, looking North Joe Zebrowski Photos



Straight down view of bridges, creek curves to left between hills. Mainline track at front, Coal Mine lead at rear.

#### Entry # 7 - Gus Foster [ 3 Pictures ]Frankford Creek, Philadelphia, PA, circa 1956. Model of prototype scene, using photos from Philadelphia City Records, Google Earth & YouTube



Model of prototype scene. Pennsylvania RR Bridge Scratchbuilt with Styrene.



Joseph Berliner Co, Bridge built from Central Valley Plate Girder Bridge Kit with Detail Assoc., Chooch, & Evergreen Styrene parts. Buildings are Kibri, and fence is Walthers.



The view under the bridges, Pennsylvania RR Bridge and the Joseph Berliner Co. Bridge.

Entry # 8 - Ed Sproles [ 2 Pictures ] New England & Western Railroad, 1970's Freelance Scene Representative of New England, Using Wathers Truss Bridge and Micro Engineering Deck Girder Bridge, Along With Combinations of Scenery.



A Fisherman's Eye View #1

A Fisherman's Eye View #2 Ed Sproles iPhotos

Entry # 9 - Bob Duffield [ 2 Pictures ] Scummy Pond In A Freelanced Pennsylvania RR Location. Modeled Using Kitbashed Retaining Wall, Kit Culverts, and Scratch Scenery.



Scummy Pond # 1, showing the Results of storm drains flowing into a "Pristine" pond.

Entry # 10 - John Swift [ 2 Pictures ] Water scenes along the Pennsylvania RR.



Pennsy Electrics over the Water



Scummy Pond # 2 showing some yellowish, pre-EPA, industrial discharge adding some color to the pond.



A Tuscan Red GG1 with a Couple of Dare Devils jumping from the bridge.

John Swift Photos

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**Bob Duffield Photos** 

## Clinics for the May Meet By John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

This is our last meet of the Spring. We join our fellow New Jersey members of the NMRA with a two clinic program, virtually. Each division provides a clinic presentation, as we do in joint meets.

The New Jersey Division's clinic will be presented by member Glyn Thomas, MMR on the topic "Modeling the CNJ in the Lehigh Valley," describing his home model railroad.

Glyn recently moved back to his home in New Jersey from Philadelphia where he actively participated in the Philadelphia Division. Some may recall he presented this clinic to his former division a few years ago.

Since returning to New Jersey, and with the pandemic, Glynn decided to make significant changes to his CNJ layout with a major expansion to double the layout size.

Glyn attended many of our division meets from Philadelphia and presented clinics in our Works in Progress format meets. He also excels in photographing models and layout scenes. I invite you to examine the January 2021 photograph in the NMRA Calendar for an example of his modeling as well as photographic skills.

The Garden State Division will provide a clinic by **Tom Wortmann**, on **"Converting Older DC Diesels to DCC"**. The purpose of the clinic is to prove that you do not need to shy away from converting older, non DCCready locomotives to DCC without driving yourself crazy. With a little patience and some basic tools it can be done. Tom will explain what you are dealing with and how to overcome the issues with older engines so your old favorite from years back will run on your DCC layout. He even shows you how to give that old favorite a voice, by installing a sound decoder and speaker.

A photo of Tom's installation is shown below.



Tom Wortmamm Photo

My list of potential clinicians grows thinner with each meet. I seek clinicians for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 meets, some will be presented in the virtual Zoom format as we cannot predict when the pandemic restrictions ease and it is safe for group meetings. Please consider volunteering to present a meet clinic. Contact me and tell me about your ideas. The summer provides a span of several months where you can develop a clinic on modeling, the prototype, or other topics. As always, I am available to assist you so you can present a successful clinic. My contact information is on page 2 of the of **Train Orders**.

#### **A New Clinic Approach:**

In addition to the traditional clinics in the NJ Division, we will try out the following:

#### Name: Layout Vignettes

Concept: With the pandemic still underway and with an unsure future for returning to the traditional division meets in the foreseeable future, I am proposing an occasional use of this new kind of presentation program. The details follow:

• Members will be recruited or volunteer to participate,

• A layout vignette means a virtual visit to a modeler's layout for a brief on-screen presentation of a *small* layout scene. That

is the "vignette" part, a brief description. It is not a layout tour.

- A member would select a small scene from the layout, give it proper lighting for photography, and take a number of photos with a digital camera, tablet or cell phone.
- Transfer the digital image files to the computer and save them as individual files.
- Select and organize a series of these photos and copy them into a PowerPoint presentation. I recommend about 5 to 7 photos max.

Make one title slide for the beginning of the presentation.

With the pandemic keeping us apart and layout visits cancelled due to the risks for exposure to the family in member homes, this may provide an alternative to the learning experiences of in-person layout visits. Here are some ways a presenter may give specific layout features an explanation of: theme, models, scenery and details.

•Give an overall description of the scene such as why it exists, the purpose of its relationship to the railroad, and the how long it took to make it.

•Discuss specific modeling accomplishments and modeling challenges overcome.

•Identify the sources of models: kits, kit bashes, and scratch built construction.

•Lessons learned, and if you built the scene again, what would you do differently.

•Other comments.

Keep it simple. You only have 5 minutes to present your vignette!

J. Gallagher Photo



The Station at Mongaup Valley

## **Do You Remember?**

Over a period of time here are several items that you may have seen or purchased at a Hobby Shop or NJD Meet.



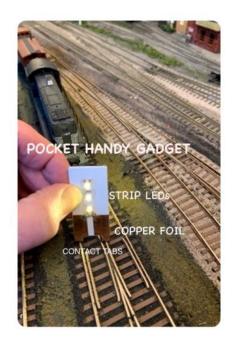
Recently, while troubleshooting where an electrical gap existed between two booster units on my DCC equipped model railroad, a light bulb went off in my head! I grabbed one of these handy gadgets out of my toolbox. Setting it on the track in the area I was unsure which booster was powering that particular section, the LEDs on board lit up. I then powered off one booster at a time until the device went dark, and then I knew which booster controlled that section of track. Admittedly, there are other ways to determine this. However, having a few of



these handy gadgets around can help you not only do this, but many other things in figuring out if there is power to a section of track, or a turnout. It can also help illuminate a dark area in which you are working.

The device is super simple. Really, it's just an LED and resistor combo that you put the leads across the track. If there's power to the track at that point it will light up. With DCC you do not even have to worry about polarity with the LEDs. Due to the nature of the DCC signal on the track, believe me, the LED will light no matter how you hook it up to the track. You can forget about the Cathodes, Anodes, positive and negatives and all that complicated electronic mumbo-jumbo! You do, however, need a resistor on one leg of the LED to limit the current to the device, unless you like to see a quick bright flash of light from the LED and then eternal darkness. That definitely is a cool thing to do but not for this project. But, if you cannot help yourself and must, go ahead and blow up a few LEDs! Yes...it is fun!

The housing for the handy gadget can take many forms. Some shapes and designs can be made as an artistic creation, and some are designed for a specific purpose. Look at the photos to get some ideas. There are too many different versions to cover in this newsletter article (maybe a clinic might help), but I will highlight a few of my favorites. I find the pocket handy gadget design especially useful. You can carry it with you and determine track power anywhere and anytime. No more grabbing that engine with your hand and shoving it back and forth on the track to see if it will run. Reach for the pocket gadget instead to see if track power is present. It is especially useful around turnouts where power may be lost at the closure rails, which is a typical failure mode on commercially made switches. You will notice the pickup points on the pocket handy gadget are at the end of two tabs. This helps



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getting into the tight spaces around the various areas of the turnout. Another of my favorites, other than the most used standard three-legged box type, is my flashlight version. Use enough LED strip light leftovers on the side of the box so that when you place it on the track, it lights up a dark area very brightly on your layout as you re-rail a car or fix some broke stuff there.

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As you can see from the photos, all my "handy gadgets" are made from scraps and cutoffs of leftover styrene. The electrical pickups can be formed using copper foil tape,

phosphor bronze wire or PC board materials. Many types of LED can be used,

(except the ones you made into one-time flash bulbs,) like traditional 3mm or 5mm, and LED strip ones. I generally use a 1k ohm resistor on one of the LED legs to control the current and extend the life of the LED beyond a micro-second!



Mike Prokop Photos

By the way, there is one of these commercially available as a kit if you don't want to make one from scratch. Go to http:www.modelrailroadcontrolsystems. com/dcc-flag-man-track-power-tester. It looks like 4 units cost about \$15. Keep in mind you still have to assemble them. But I say get out your scrap box of stuff and be creative. Save big bucks and construct some of your own design. It's not hard. You will feel really good about making it yourself and discovering how "handy" these "gadgets" can be!

### **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.

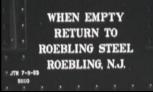
To order by mail see the Order Sheet on page 14. USPS Priority Mail postage is: \$9 for one car and \$10.75 for two cars.







The Reporting Marks "NJDX" for this car Identify the owner as the New Jersey Division and the "X" designates a Private or Nonrailroad 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.

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	ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM	
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APP	PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR	NAL AP CHAIR
Member's Name	NMRA#:EXP:	
Address:	City:	
State/Prov:	Country:Postal Code:	
Date Submitted:	Region:	
The Golden Spike Award will be Qualifications Checklist, obtained the will be administered by the regional apply for scratchbuilding and superde the following checklist, obtain the sig designated by the divisional Chair. regional AP Chair who will issue the (	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 AP Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.	completed the IMR status. It and definitions must complete VMRA member ed form to the
QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:	ECKLIST:	
1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):	wer & Cars):	
Display six units of rolling	Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.	ommercial kits.
2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)	Structures & Scenery)	
Construct a minimum of e Construct five structures e module has less than five structures than five structures fixe structures	a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery. Five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a is less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.	ial kits. If a ⁄ be presented.
3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)	ctrical)	
<ul> <li>Three types of trackage required ballasted and installed on proper</li> <li>All installed trackage must be pro (e.g. double track main, single tra Provide one additional electrical indication, lighted buildings, etc.</li> </ul>	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.	properly (taneously I). urnout
Witness:	Name:	
Regional AP Chair:	Region:	

# New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Gondola

Tangent Scale Models Bethlehem Riveted Drop-End Gondola in HO Scale The cars are In Stock and Ready to Run They have been produced with two numbers to Commemorate our 50th anniversary 1968 & 2018 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		
Telephone	Email	
See Tangent websit	e for more info si	upport@tangentscalemodels.com
Return this form to N	.J. Division NMRA,	PO Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276