

Train Orders

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



May 2024

Volume 34 Number 5

Joint Meet with the Garden State Division at Camp Evans


John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

For May 4, 2024, we return to Monmouth County to meet with our friends in the Garden State Division. This year is our turn to host this annual event. Camp Evans is located at the eastern end of I-195 extending onto NJ Route 138 to NJ Route 18 north near Glendola. The address is 2201 Marconi Road, Wall Township NJ 07719. The facility also includes the Infoage Science History Learning Center.

Thanks to member Steve Lang and others for their work in obtaining this facility for our meet. Besides the meeting room facility at Camp Evans, the Garden State Central Model Railroad Club's layout is on the site and will be open.

The program for the meet includes two excellent clinics, one offered by each division. The Garden State will hold its annual business meeting, a short event. The meet will feature the door prize, raffle, bring and brag, sales tables, the free take-it table, contest, plus meeting and sharing with friends. We will distribute a handout identifying the layouts open in the afternoon for visits.

We ask that all New Jersey Division members in attendance please have your current NMRA Membership Card with you and wear your division

name tag. If you don't possess a division name tag, please notify me at njdiv.super@gmail.com with your complete name and NMRA number plus "Name Tag" in the subject line so we can make yours for the meet. The name tag does not expire. Please notify me promptly so we have adequate time to produce your tag. Thanks. 

The March winner of the Model Display



A piece of weathered rolling stock.
Jack Menaker

Next Division Meet

Saturday May 4, 2024

9 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Saturday May 4, 2024, 9 a.m.- noon

Camp Evans/InfoAge Museum

2201 Marconi Rd, Wall, NJ 07719

Model Display News

Non Revenue Rolling Stock

Clinics:

Model Railroading Ops

(Operating Session)

Scratchbuilding a model of
the Colgate Factory in HO

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As of January 2024 The COFFEE and DONUT service has been SUSPENDED

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P.O. Box 276

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Train Orders is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletters are always available at the NJ Division website.

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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.

Train Orders welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership and . 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.

Cutoff Date for submittal to the September issue is TBD
Items received after this date may appear in the next issue

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

NJD Information Page

May, Joint Meet with the Garden State Division

Saturday May 4, 2024, 9 a.m. - noon

Camp Evans/InfoAge Museum

2201 Marconi Rd, Wall, NJ 07719

Contest: Kitbashed Industrial Buildings

Next Board Meeting

Host - Mike Prokop

Saturday June 22, 2024, noon

Please let us know if you plan to attend

njdiv.super@gmail.com

September Meet

Date and location TBD

Piedmont Junction

MER Convention October 17-20, 2024

Raleigh-Durham-Marriott at

Research Triangle Park 4700 Guardian Dr.,

Durham, NC 27703, NC 27703

Information: PiedmontJunction.org

Special N J Division Summer

Meet August 3th, 2024

At Switlik Park, Yardville

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

BYOB (Bring your own Breakfast) is in effect. We are seeking an individual or team to operate the refreshments table. For the present, members needing coffee and/or donuts should bring them to the meet. Those interested, contact me for further information and a description of duties. It is an easy task.

Layout Visits After the Meet

Please follow these instructions: Visit only during posted hours. Only NMRA members and registered Guests can visit the layout [no neighbors] this is an NMRA insurance policy requirement. Wear your NJ Division Name Tag visibly and Sign the guest book.

Only visit layouts listed on the open layouts sheet. NO drop-ins to other nearby layouts! These are practices that meet the NMRA's

insurance requirements. Violations could result in a refusal of coverage by the NMRA insurance carrier should there be an accident or event requiring insurance coverage. This protects the layout owner and the NJ Division, its officers and members. Thanks for your cooperation and compliance.


Piedmont Junction 2024 Mid-Eastern Regional Convention, October 17-20, 2024

Mark your calendar for this year's MER convention at the Research Triangle Park, Durham, North Carolina. The Marriott Hotel is located at 4700 Guardian Drive, Durham NC 27703. Room rate is \$79 per night!!! For information Go to the website: <https://piedmontjunction.cpd13.org/home> for information. Its convention registration page

will open later in April. The link for hotel registration at the \$79 rate is at the bottom of the hotel link. Scroll down or call the hotel. You can also view clinics and convention events. Looks great. I will attend.

Bring a locomotive, car, and/or structure for judging in the contest room. Sign up for an ops session. There are great layouts in the Durham area for operations and visits. You can't win a contest without an entry and your work can earn you a merit award.

Summer Extra NJ Division Meet

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 3, 2024 for our special extra NJDIV meet. The board continues its planning of the event that will occur at Switlik Park in Hamilton. 



Piedmont Junction
NEW Dates ! NEW Rates!
October 17-20, 2024

Raleigh - Durham Marriott at Research Triangle Park
 4700 Guardian Dr., Durham, NC 27703
Hotel Rate is \$79 USD per night, hotel registration is open NOW! Go to convention website for the link on the "Location/Hotel" tab.

23 Layout Tours
44 Clinics
10 Operations Sessions
3 Prototype Tours
Model Contest, Company Store and More!

Website: PiedmontJunction.org
Registration Now Open




Clinics for the May 4, 2024 Meet Will


John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

The Garden State Division and the New Jersey Division divisions will each present a Clinic .

The clinic offered by the New Jersey Division, titled “**Model Railroading Ops (Operating Session) It’s All About Economics**” discusses how we design our layouts, specifically businesses with rail service. Too often, we put in a siding so we will have a spot to switch a freight car. That does not simulate what the real world does. How do you, the layout owner, justify or explain that siding or rail served spot? Or, to put it another way, why is that freight car parked on that siding?

The clinician, John V. Gallagher, will present an approach to thinking about such a facility based upon economics. It can help the model railroader justify rail service to a business and design appropriate facilities for rail services. It should give the observer a story of why that freight car is parked on that siding. There will be member participation using some simple handout forms to assist the model railroader in economic decisions that justify rail service to that location. Bring a pencil with eraser, some note paper, pad or clipboard for interactive participation.

The Garden State Division clinic will be presented by Rich Newmiller.
Scratchbuilding a model of the Colgate Factory in HO

This clinic is a Power Point presentation using historical pictures and construction progress photographs detailing the scratch built styrene structure. The prototype was the first reinforced concrete structure built in Jersey City, it stood for about 140 years. Colgate razed their entire site comprised of some 29 structures between 1986 and 1988. My interpretation of this structure and its iconic 50’ clock and toothpaste sign required over 2,500 pieces of styrene and wire braces for the building and its roof top steel sign structure. There are 185 windows, 179 are commercial Tichy windows that were modified prior to installation, and the 6 unique circle-top windows on the upper floor are resin castings from a scratch built master. 



Do You Remember

By Fritz Plenefisch

Sometime in the early 90s car kits with many detailed parts such as ladders, under car brake parts, doors, etc were introduced.

Assembly required several new tools and adhesives. But, now you could really say “I built this 2 Door Box Car” and be proud to point it out on your layout.



Model Display News

By Jack Menaker, Model Display Chairman

The Model Display table was very empty and disappointing at the March Meet. The topic for the display was to show a piece of weathered rolling stock or engine. The topic is one of the most favored topics that are displayed in the NMRA Division newsletters.

In a discussion with some of the Board of Directors, it was mentioned that perhaps there wasn't much time given to the Membership to produce an entry. Therefore, starting with this issue, I will be putting together an annual list of all the up coming topics.

Scheduled Meet	Display Table Topic	Special Notes
May 2024	Non Revenue	A piece of rolling stock
August 2024	Open Loads	Flat Car – Gondola
September 2024	Passenger Cars	Show your favorite
November 2024	Steam Locomotive	Show your favorite
January 2025	Structure	Built from a kit
March 2026	Locomotive	NOT STEAM anything else

The model that gets the most votes for the topic will get,
 1 – a Framed Certificate
 2 – a Voucher to cover our yearly fee

The May Meet topic on display will be a piece of weathered rolling stock or engine.
 The rules are very simple. It cannot be purchased, already weathered,
 That's the only rule!

Please come and remember to vote for the Best in Show.

*Talk to me about a bunch of Atlas code 100 tracks and an interesting way of displaying your rolling stock.
 Please see me if you need any code 100 Atlas track. I have a load from a layout that had to be removed. \$2.00 each
 I also have on display, a sample of an aluminum shelf that came from the same above layout. The shelf accommodates N scale, HO scale, O
 scale engines and rolling stock. \$ 5.00 each (currently sold at \$30.00 each
 Jack Menaker, Member B.O.D.*

Awards Presented During the Phila/NJD March Meet

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent



Photo 1 PHILA Div Joe Walters, MMR received a NJD Certificate for his clinic on Scratchbuilding a Locomotive Sanding Tower.

Photo 2 The scratch built Locomotive Sanding Tower built by Joe Walters MMR .

Photo 3 PHILA DIV Joe Walters received merit awards for his modeling projects.

Photo 4 NJD member Dave Albertson explains Live Steam locomotive features to attendees

Photo 5 Glyn Thomas, MMR received a clinic certificate from NJD John Gallagher for his

Photo 6 Ralph Deblasi received a clinic certificate from NJD John Gallagher for his structure building clinic at the September meet.

Photo 7 Barry Rosier received a clinic certificate for his Works in Progress clinic last March.

Award Types: AP - Achievement Program
MMR - Master Model Railroader

All photos Rob Hinkle

MARCH MEET WRAP-UP

By Mike Prokop

The March 16th New Jersey Division meet featured the Works in Progress format supplanting the usual two clinic routine we're used to at our other meets. Eight very diverse and interesting clinics were presented spanning enough subjects to provide interest to all attendees. The box below lists all of the clinicians and clinics presented. Hopefully, all that attended the meet found four of the eight clinics of special interest to further their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter presented

Presenter	Topic
Mike Prokop	Adhesives for Model Railroading
Barry Rosier	Cardstock Modeling Detail Tricks
Dave Albertson	Follow-up on South Street Bridge
Glyn Thomas, MMR	Modeling Wilkes-Barre Station – Alternative Approaches
Mike Mosher	Arduino projects and Techniques
Jim Shepard	Diorama Garden Center [Garden RR's]
Tony Liccese	Solder Free Lexan/3D Printed Throwbars
Pete Suhmann	Modifying Cheap Dollar Store Tools for useful MRR purposes

Saturday the 16th of March turned out to be a nice weather day which in turn brought a respectable number of New Jersey Division members and guests to Switlik Park in Hamilton. About 45 members and 10 guests filled the halls of the Switlik facility, resulting in a comfortable atmosphere for all to enjoy the meet. There was plenty of opportunity for participants to spend their model train monies at the various white elephant sales tables which featured a vast variety of goodies to purchase. When people complain about the high cost of buying model railroad items today, they should shop at the sales tables at a division meet to get the old-fashioned prices of yesteryear. In other words, lots of good stuff at cheap prices! If that wasn't enough, the "Free Table" was brimming over with merchandise to just pick up and claim all for the cost of zero dollars! In fact, there was so much stuff that folks brought to the meet that a second table was needed to hold all the items. By the end of the meet, both tables were almost completely empty with only a very small handful of items boxed up to be brought to the May meeting's "Free Table" to seed the next frenzy of acquiring free stuff. Remember to feed the beast at the next meet by bringing your unused model items to continue this popular feature of our division meets.

The model showcase contest which was for any piece of weathered rolling stock was surprisingly shy of participants with only one entry submitted. Thanks to Jack Menaker's

entry of his "Weathered Rolling Stock" which won with a unanimous vote!

Also, of note at the meet were some new items that were purchased for door prizes. These items were budgeted by the BOD recently and all purchased from two of our local hobby shops in the area, Sattler's and Yankee Dabbler. All items were discounted and some donated by these shops. You can get the same discount by shopping at these fine establishments, just let them know you're an NMRA member. In lieu of a raffle, a 50/50 drawing was held where the winner walked away with a nice prize of \$44 cash!

The afternoon featured some very fine model railroads to visit, so thanks to those that generously opened their house for us to pop in to see their great layouts.

All in all it was a good meet with lots of interactions amongst everyone enjoying the camaraderie and friendship typical of a New Jersey Division meet. Oh yeah, and thanks to everyone that pitched in to help clean up and get Switlik back in order. The park is a great venue for our meetings, it's free for our use, and we want to make sure we are always welcome back by leaving it like we found it. We'll be back to Switlik Park for a "special" meet in August (8/3/24), so stay tuned for more information coming soon on that gathering.

Thanks again to all that contributed to and attended the March meet to make it a pleasant experience!



Second Section

Layouts open for viewing at the May Meet

For May we have seven layouts to visit at the time this TO is issued. 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.



William Elwell Photo

Hagerstown, and Southern is a proto-freelanced look at a Pennsylvania Railroad RR bridge line between Pittsburgh, PA, and Hagerstown, MD, set anywhere between 1948 and 1968. The layout is about 75% complete after 28 years.



Garden Sate Central Model Railroad Photo

The Garden State Central features scenes of the Lehigh Valley, Central Railroad of New Jersey (CNJ), Reading and Erie Railroads. Actual places are modeled along our Wilkes-Barre, PA to Jersey City, NJ Line.



Bob Hans Photo

Jack Menaker Photo



The layout is based on the upper portion of the New York Central's Harlem Division in the transition era. It is more than 1,000 sq. ft. with many craftsman structures



Thom Radice Photo

The Atlanta roundhouse at the south end of the Railroad. Inside is an operating turntable. The structure has nearly 1000 pieces and took approximately 90 hours to build.

Frelinghausen Creek In Newark, NJ in the 1950's. includes an operational bridge over the creek, connecting South Newark to North Newark.

HOLIDY SALE EXTENDED

\$20 PER CAR! WHILE QUANTITIES LAST , ALL CARS ARE NOW PRICED AT \$20 PER CAR UNTIL SOLD OUT! MAIL ORDER OF CARS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BELOW POSTED SHIPPING RATES .

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!

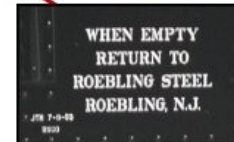
These are excellent looking and beautifully running cars, but, a car not decorated for a prototypical railroad, they do have the look of a gondola that you might see in any train consist from the 1930's to the 1980's.

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" 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 Roebing Steel. It must be returned to Roebing after its load has been delivered.

COME TO THE MARCH MEET TO PURCHASE THESE CARS WHILE QUANTITIES LAST. EVEN IF YOU ALREADY OWN A CAR OR TWO, THEY ARE EXCELLECT CARS TO ADD MORE TO YOUR MODEL RAILROAD. IT'S VERY EASY WITH A BLACK BODY TO PAINT OR BLANK OUT THE CAR NUMBER AND CHANGE IT SO IT WILL FIT IN WITH YOUR OPERATING FLEET OF GONDOLA CARS.

THIS SPECIAL SALE IS BEING OFFERED TO NMRA MEMBERS ONLY, NO DEALERS. WHILE QUANTITIES LAST! QUESTIONS- CONTACT MIKE PROKOP AT NJWRR@AOL.COM

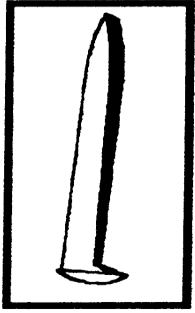
The car body is black with white lettering and data conforming to the 1950s

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



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: _____