

CLINKERS

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

November 12, 2011

Volume 22 Number 5

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November Meet Features "Show and Tell" in Wilmington

The next meet of the New Jersey Division will take us to Wilmington, DE where we will be the guests of the Philadelphia Division. The location, the Community Room of the Brandywine Towne Center, is very easy to find being just off the intersection of Concord Pike, US 202 and Naamans Road.

The festivities will include two traditional style clinics: one by NJ Division former superintendent, Mike McNamara and one by Philadelphia Division member, Joe Bergmaier. Mike will give us an overview of what's going on the world of Free-mo modules and gatherings and Joe will demonstrate proper soldering methods.

The meet will also feature a "show and tell" session. Bring a model and tell the group about it; how you built it, detailed it, weathered it. What was your inspiration? Why is it special to you? How will you use it on your railroad?

The afternoon layout tour will be comprised of the layouts that are open for the regularly scheduled November Layout Tour held in our area every year. At this time, there are a dozen layouts in the area within about a 1/2 hour drive from the meet location that are scheduled to be open. That spans the area from

southeastern Pennsylvania south to Bear, DE.

Unfortunately, there are no preview photos available for the layouts, but if you want to plan your tour, copy and paste, or if you're reading this in hardcopy, type into your browser address:

<http://66.147.244.179/~modelra2/m111211.html>

Go to schedules and select November 12. Click on the address for an open house to see a map of the location.

Note that in Delaware some addresses include a neighborhood designation that Google Maps doesn't know about, so if you don't see the red balloon, remove the neighborhood and click search.

If you have the time and you'd like to see some more really great model railroads, click some of the other dates to see who will be open this month.

On Sunday, November 13, for instance, many of the layouts right here in the New Jersey Division will be open. If there are any that you have missed during our meet layout tours, or if you'd like to return and spend some more time checking them out, this is your chance!



NEXT DIVISION MEET

Saturday, November 12, 2011

9:00 AM to 12:00

Brandywine Towne Centre
US202 and Naamans Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

Contest:

Show and Tell

Clinics:

Mike McNamara
Free-mo update

Joe Bergmaier
Soldering

Show and Tell
Bring your model to display

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

Swap tables:

Contact Bob Clegg at
856 696 0463 or
BobcatCS@comcast.net

NEXT BOARD MEETING

December 20, 2011

Host: Bob Liberman
rdliberman@comcast.net
609 658 1486

VIEW FROM THE CAB

Bob Clegg, Superintendent

Now that you have completed the NJ Division survey that was included with your information update, you may be wondering what we will do with that information. Well, we plan to use it to make your division even more beneficial to you!

I'm more than happy to say that the categories rating the performance of the board, including overall value, number, location, and organization of the meets, and the number, duration and topics of the clinics were very positive. The average rating in all of those areas was over four out of a possible 5.

Frankly, I was a little disappointed, not in the results, for sure, but in the fact that with such high ratings, there isn't much we can do except to keep doing it as we have.

Thank you for your vote of confidence! We'll do our best to maintain it!

Other points of interest include your take on some of the things of which we should do more. These include prototype tours and special meet tours. You can expect to see a few more of these in the not too distant future. The majority of you said that you'd be willing to bear an expense of about \$50 or less for travel and admission fees and travel 50 to 100 miles for a special meet and we will keep this in mind.

Our meets are already planned through May of 2012, but we will be working to bring you something special next September or November. We may even suggest a trip in addition to the five regularly scheduled meet. Stay tuned.

The second part of the survey regarding clinic topics and format received even more feedback

than the general portion of the survey.

The table on page 4 lists the ten most popular clinic topics listed by their ratings, five being the highest possible. Any score above 3 indicates that there is more than a passing interest in the topic. Numbers below three indicate that the topic isn't of as much interest to most of the members.

This is not to say that the top scoring topics are the only clinics that you will see at our meets, but rather these are the topics that will be emphasized. We will still strive to have a balance of topics at each meet and throughout the year.

It is also possible that we schedule a "special" meet with clinic topics and / or a tour for some of the special interests for members who have an interest in topics not highly rated by the majority, Narrow Gauge Railroads for example. Of course all would be welcome!

Not listed in the table is the rating for the "Work in Progress" style clinics such as we plan for the January meet. The WIP format received a favorable rating, and so, you can expect to see these from time to time in the future.

We even received some surveys from folks who volunteered to give a clinic or two. That's great and we thank those members.

If you didn't indicate on the survey that you would volunteer, please give that some more thought as without clinicians, there can be no clinics! You won't have to "go it alone," as there are several members who have made their living doing presentations of one sort or another and who would be able and willing to

help with yours.

If you're interested, the complete results based on the surveys returned can be found on page 14 and 15 in Color Version Extras section of the online version of this edition of *Clinkers*.

On behalf of your board of directors, thank you for taking the time to complete and return the survey. If you haven't yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. **Your opinion counts!**

The Online Color Extras section of this issue of *Clinkers* has a few new things I hope you enjoy. First, on page 11, you will find some of the personal history of three of your board of directors. Others will be included in future issues.

On page 13 you will find a photo spread from a trip taken by two of your board members to the Station Inn in Cresson, PA. This is a great old inn from the middle of the 19th century that faces the old Pennsylvania Railroad mainline from Harrisburg to Pittsburg and through Horseshoe Curve. The tracks are only about 50 yards away from the rocking chairs on the front porch!

Finally, as I mentioned previously, on pages 14 and 15 are the complete tallies of the surveys that we have received thus far.

I hope you find these interesting. Let me know if you'd like to see more prototype photos. If you would, how about sharing some of yours? Send them along to me as an email attachment along with a short description and we'll get them into a future issue.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS

Dick Genthner, MMR

Here they are! The three of them together for the first time! MMR 266, Dave Skinner (right), MMR 330 Dick Genthner (left), and the newest Master Model Railroader, number 467, better



known as PJ Mattson. (I never have learned what "PJ" actually stands for, have you?)

This photo was taken at the September NJ Division meet after it was announced that PJ had earned the designation of MMR #467, so there are again three MMR's in the Division. The next big question is, "Who is going to be number four?" We have several members who are very close with six out of the seven required

certificates so it should not be too long before we can make another announcement like that for PJ.

Speaking of certificates, Roger Thomas has just received his Electrical AP certificate. I know there are two more that are close to being awarded.

Bill Howard is awaiting his Chief Dispatcher certificate and Frank Neufeld is completing the paperwork for his Scenery Certificate.

As you might suspect, when Bill Howard applied for Chief Dispatcher he had a list of almost 2,000 hours of operating time correctly certified. Only 60 hours is needed to qualify!

Congratulations to all of you.

One other interesting activity took place in October. If you recall, Joe Calderone presented a fine clinic at our September meet on how to get started in model railroad operations. As a follow up to Joe's clinic, 15 members signed up for an extra clinic on operations to further explore how to operate with a hands-on operat-

ing session. At the time of this writing, this session is scheduled to be held on October 22nd on my Arpee & Western Railroad. I'm sure it will be a good session and hopefully we will have a lot more operations going on in the Division in the future.

As an aside, this operating time will count toward a future Chief Dispatcher certificate and Joe's participation in these clinics will count toward the Author certificate.

Just keep in mind that as you do things in the Division there many ways to earn points or units toward various certificates.

We hope to see all of you at the November meet, and as always, feel free to contact PJ or me if you have questions concerning the Achievement Program or need some AP help.



PJ Mattson, 
pjmattson@comcast.net
856 467 0421

Dick Genthner, MMR
argent1@optonline.net
732 462 0216

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD

APPLICATION FORM

is available on page 16
in *Color Version Extras*.

CLINIC SPOTLIGHT

John Gallagher, Director, Clinic Coordinator

The September 2011 Clinics

Feedback we received from you confirmed what I thought about our clinics at the September meet in Delanco.

Great thanks go to Joe Calderone for his terrific introduction to operations in model railroading. It motivated me to get moving on designing and establishing a timetable for my trolleys plus a system for integrating freight service on my Mongaup Valley Railway. It will challenge me to make it work so that crews of the freight extras and the scheduled trolley operators complete their tasks without extreme frustration.

Yeah, I know... good luck, Gallagher! Hey, if you don't try it, how will you know what you are missing? I know I will learn from my mistakes, both in the timetable design concept and in my track layout. I am already contemplating a passing siding or crossover so the freight can switch some industries without interfering with the schedule of the passenger trolleys.

Geoff Green took us to the next level with his presentation on DCC and signaling. It surely stretched my mind about the theories and applications of electronics in model railroading. I took notes and found some gems that I want to explore and try on my layout. Even if I don't use some of them, I love tinkering with bread boarding electronic circuits.

Yes, some of Geoff's concepts went over my head but he practiced good instructional theory by causing his listeners to stretch their understanding. That is how one learns and grows. Thanks, Geoff for the challenges and

gems. I would love to visit that layout!

The clinics for the November meet with the Philadelphia Division are previewed elsewhere. Here, I want to discuss a different topic.

Summary Report of the Clinics Survey

Thanks to all NJ Division members who responded to our survey, and for me, the 81 who responded thus far to the clinics survey. Your input provides the Board and me with valuable information we will use in designing our clinics program.

In addition, we extend thanks to the 17 members who volunteered their services as clinic presenters. I will be contacting those volunteers to explore ideas for clinics and to offer my services to assist in clinic preparation as needed.

Our recruiting of clinic presenters, however, will extend to other members who have special skills and accomplishments to help us fulfill the preferences you indicated in your responses to the clinics portion of the survey. You can't hide!

What did you say on the clinics survey? I will discuss the publishing of a more extensive statistical report with the Board but I can report the following. You may recall that you were asked to rate most items on a scale from 1 to 5. 1=not interested, 2=little interested, 3=some interest, 4=very interested, 5=most interested. The average scores or "means" ranged from 4.013, indicating high interest to 2.233, not so much. The table to the right shows the top ten

topics you selected, all rated 3.5 or higher.

I will be working with members and the Board to recruit presenters who will present informative clinics within these topic areas. I know that several of the presenters at the January

	Category	Score
1	Scenery techniques	4.013
2	Structure modeling	4.000
3	Painting and lettering	3.880
4	Operations and dispatching	3.849
5	Engine and rolling stock modeling techniques	3.803
6	Layout design	3.778
7	Prototype information	3.737
8	DCC advanced techniques	3.636
9	Application of other electronics to model railroads	3.564
10	Lighting your model railroad	3.527

Top ten clinic topics from NJ Division survey

meet's "Works in Progress" multiple clinics format will address member preferences in the above list.

See **Spotlight** on page 8

MODULAR MODELING IN THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION

Mike McNamara

Hello NMRA members of the New Jersey and Philadelphia Divisions! At the November 12th joint Division Meet of the Philadelphia and New Jersey Divisions, I will be presenting an updated clinic on Free-mo HO modular railroading.

I originally gave this clinic over 2 years ago at a NJ Division event, and the Philadelphia Division has asked that I give an updated version at our joint Meet in Wilmington, DE. As I continue to receive lots of questions at each NJ Division Meet regarding Free-mo, this will be a good opportunity to review the standards, discuss reasons why a Free-mo module might work for you, and to answer any questions that might help you get started on your own module project. There will also be a couple of modules on hand for anyone who has not yet seen them in person.

One of the great things about building your own Free-mo module is that it will encompass almost all phases of layout building. What a great way to work on your skills in bench work, track laying, wiring, scenery, structures, and locomotive and freight car modeling without committing to a larger, more time and money consuming home layout. In addition, Free-mo will help you get into realistic operations. Yes, operations. Free-mo modules are built to be run in larger set ups and the goal is realistic operation, not just moving a train around for the general public. With some planning, your module can easily be operated on its own as I will show you at the Meet.

Another advantage with Free-mo modules is their simple, standard interface and quick setup. You can be confident that your module will

be able to mate up with any other module, locally, regionally or nationally. I have had the pleasure of taking my modules to the Timonium show in Maryland a number of times to add to a larger layout of the Capitol Free-mo group.

Setup is relatively simple as my modules clamp to another, short connector rails are dropped in place and standard plugs are connected. I can say that it takes less than 30 minutes to get the modules out of my car and have a train running.

Because Free-mo modules are easily transported, two modelers or a small group can have rotating work sessions where the modules are brought to a common location, such as one person's garage, and everyone helps each other with their construction. Feel comfortable with building bench work, but not sure exactly how to put down track or do wiring? A small group can help each other out.

Free-mo is an organization but requires no membership, dues, officials, etc. Some groups across the country do function like clubs for practical purposes, but anyone can build a module and take it on the road and be welcome to participate. This in fact is encouraged and a Yahoo list for Free-mo often has a call for modules in areas across the country, so you can consider attending train events with your module, getting to meet other modelers, and depending on the show, discussing model railroading with the public, showing off our great hobby.

I hope this has piqued your interest in Free-mo

See *Free-mo* on page 8



Mike McNamara and about 75 other Free-mo modelers including the Washington, DC Free-mo modelers group set up shop at the Great Scale Model Train Show in Timonium. The next show is October 29-30.

CLINKERS

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division,
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
P.O. Box 8694
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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 members. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be mailed to the editor at the above address or emailed to BobcatCS@comcast.net. Please include return postage if you would like mailed materials returned.

Deadline for next issue: December 7, 2011

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856 228 2239

Director, Librarian

Bill Howard
609 584 1818

Director, Layouts

Michael Mosher
856 293 9874

Division AP Chair

PJ Mattson
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 guest no charge! Online newsletter always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter \$5.00

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

SCHEDULES

MER Fall Convention

October 27-30

Embassy Suites Hotel
Cary, NC

Go to www.mer2011.org/
for information, registration
forms, and contacts

NJ Division January Meet

Saturday, January 7, 2012

Haddon Township H.S.
Colonial Drive
Haddon Township, NJ

Clinics: Work in Progress
Contest: Detailed & Weathered Gondola Cars

NJ Division March Meet

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Switlik Park
5 Fisher Place
Hamilton Twp., NJ

Clinics: Mitch Dakelman
slide/film presentation

Contest: Detailed Steam
Locomotives

NJ Division May Meet

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Location to be determined

Forked River, NJ

Contest: Cabooses

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

Bobshobbiesncrafts@yahoo.com

**•10% Discount to
NMRA members**



Left: NJ Division board members Michael Mosher and Bob Clegg accompanied several members of the Patcong Valley MRR Club traveling to the Station Inn in Cresson, PA last month for a few days of train watching and touring around Altoona. Here they pose for a photo with the cabin car in Cresson.

CONTEST NEWS

Chris Widmaier, Ass't. Superintendent, Contest Coordinator

Summer is over and it is time to get back to model railroading and what a way to kick-off the new season. We had a great turn out on a beautiful sunny day at the September 10th meet at the Pearson Elementary School in Delanco. If you missed this meet you missed some great clinics, models, photographs, layouts and the best of all, a chance to talk to the best bunch of guys this side of the tracks.

Well, let's get to the business at hand. I would like to thank the following for their model photographs contest entries: Frank Neufeld entries numbers 1 and 2, Joe Calderone had entry number 3, Dave Skinner, MMR had entries 4 – 7. All of the photographs were great and the winner was chosen by your popular vote. And the winner was . . . Dave Skinner, MMR with his entry number 6, a picture of "D" Tower in Grafton, West Virginia.

Congratulations Dave. You will be receiving a certificate and a \$10.00 voucher for the NJ Division annual activity fee for next year.

This month we had a special treat. We had not one, but two model contest. The additional contest was for the Bulletin Car Sides. We had five entries and I want to thank each person that took the time to build their fine models: Bob Judge with his G scale entry, letter B, Steve Lang's O scale, entry, letter C, Frank Neufeld's N scale, letter D, one of our directors Bill Howard's HO scale entry, letter E, and Herb Gishlick with his O scale, entry, letter F. I was really impressed with all of the models. Job well done!

The winner of the Bulletin Car Sides was chosen by your popular vote as it has been our tradition for all of our model contests. The win-



Above: Steve Lang's winning entry in the Bulletin Car Sides contest

Below: Dave Skinner's winning entry in the regular contest, "Color Model Photographs"



TWILIGHT AND RETURN OF RDC FAN TRIP TO GRAFTON W.V. AT "D" TOWER

ner was Steve Lang. Congratulations Steve, you will be receiving a one year NMRA membership that will include the NMRA Magazine, of which the Bulletin was the predecessor.

Our next meet is a joint meet with the Philadelphia Division on November 12 at Wilmington Towne Centre, in Wilmington, DE.

We will not have a model contest at this meet, but the Philadelphia Division encourages everyone to bring a model or two for a Show 'n' Tell. So please bring some models and tell us about it. I hope to see you all there.

The New Jersey Division's next model contest Detailed & Weathered Gondola Cars will be part of the Haddon Township meet on January 7, 2012.

Can you believe it 2012!

As always if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for a model contest, or anything about the NJ Division, please feel free to contact me. Mean while keep those way bills moving, and enjoy this great hobby of ours.

See you in Wilmington.



Note: The meet in Wilmington is sponsored by the Philadelphia Division so there will be no contest.

There will be a "Show and Tell" at the meet, so bring your favorite model and tell us about it!

Spotlight Continued from page 4

Since these topic categories are broad, we will have opportunities for a number of clinics covering various practices within the category. Scenery techniques could cover basic scenery design, tree fabrication, design and fabrication of removable scenery for hidden staging access, rocks and boulders, coloring techniques, realistic drainage design, just to name some possibilities. Just within the ten topics, we can offer clinics for years.

However, if your favorite topic didn't make the top ten, do not despair. Many other topics received an average score of 3.0 or more, that is

Free-mo Continued from page 5

and you are interested in finding out more. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Meet and sharing Free-mo in more depth. For some, perhaps this will be a gateway to starting a new project.

Because Free-mo is essentially a scaled down layout, it is reasonable to expect that you can complete a module during this winter's modeling season and then enjoy it for years to come.

Locally in the New Jersey area, I have started a web site for modelers interested Free-mo. Check out njfreemo.org for the latest news, photos and information on Free-mo modular railroading in the NJ Division area.

If you want to learn more about the standards used to build a Free-mo module, check out freemo.org, and if you have any questions, just drop me an email at mikemcnh@comcast.net.

See you at the Meet!



"some interest" and will receive attention, depending upon the availability of presenters. I will recruit presenters for those topic areas and I am sure Superintendent Bob would gladly accept article proposals or manuscripts for the *Clinkers* on techniques for possible publication.

If you need assistance in your model railroading on any topic, especially those not in the top ten, get the word out. Our NJ Division members do not limit their participation to meets.

Many connect informally through attending operations sessions, assisting others in layout construction, going on field trips to prototype locations, attending train shows, even carpooling to some like the huge Amherst Train Show in Massachusetts in late January, going to

conventions, and in other ways. Computer literate members can communicate via the NJ Division's Yahoo Groups page - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NJDivNMRA/>, asking for assistance or volunteering to assist.

Don't be shy. We don't know you need assistance if you don't ask. So, ask! If you are not computer literate and don't have kids/grandkids to do it for you, contact me and I will post your request, but, first try to do it yourself.

Finally, thanks go to Superintendent Bob Clegg and Director Mike Mosher for their computer generated data analysis tables and graphs of data. Their work provided invaluable information to me in interpreting your input to the Board on clinic topic preferences.



Patcong Valley Model Railroad Club

US Route 40, Richland, NJ

27th Annual Open House

2011-2012 Holiday Schedule

Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 AM to 4:00PM

November 19, 20

December 3, 4, 10, 11

January 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22

No admission charge

Door prize for kids daily, grand prize on the last day

On the web at: www.patcongvalley.com

Email for more information: patcongrr@comcast.net

NOVEMBER MEET MAPS AND DIRECTIONS

From the Commodore Barry Bridge:

Take I 95 South to exit 6 for DE-92/Naamans Rd. Turn right onto DE-92 W/Naamans Rd. Turn right on Shipley Rd. into the Brandywine Town Center. Turn left onto Brandywine Parkway and follow to the Community Center on the right.

From Ocean, Monmouth, and northern Camden Counties:

Find your way to I 295 South. Take Exit 11, and turn left onto US 322 West. Cross the Commodore Barry Bridge, then stay

left and follow I 95 South. Follow the directions above.

From Gloucester and southern Camden Counties:

NJ 55 to Exit 50, US322 West. Follow US 322 across the Commodore Barry Bridge, then stay left onto I 95 South. Follow directions above.

From Cape May, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem Counties:

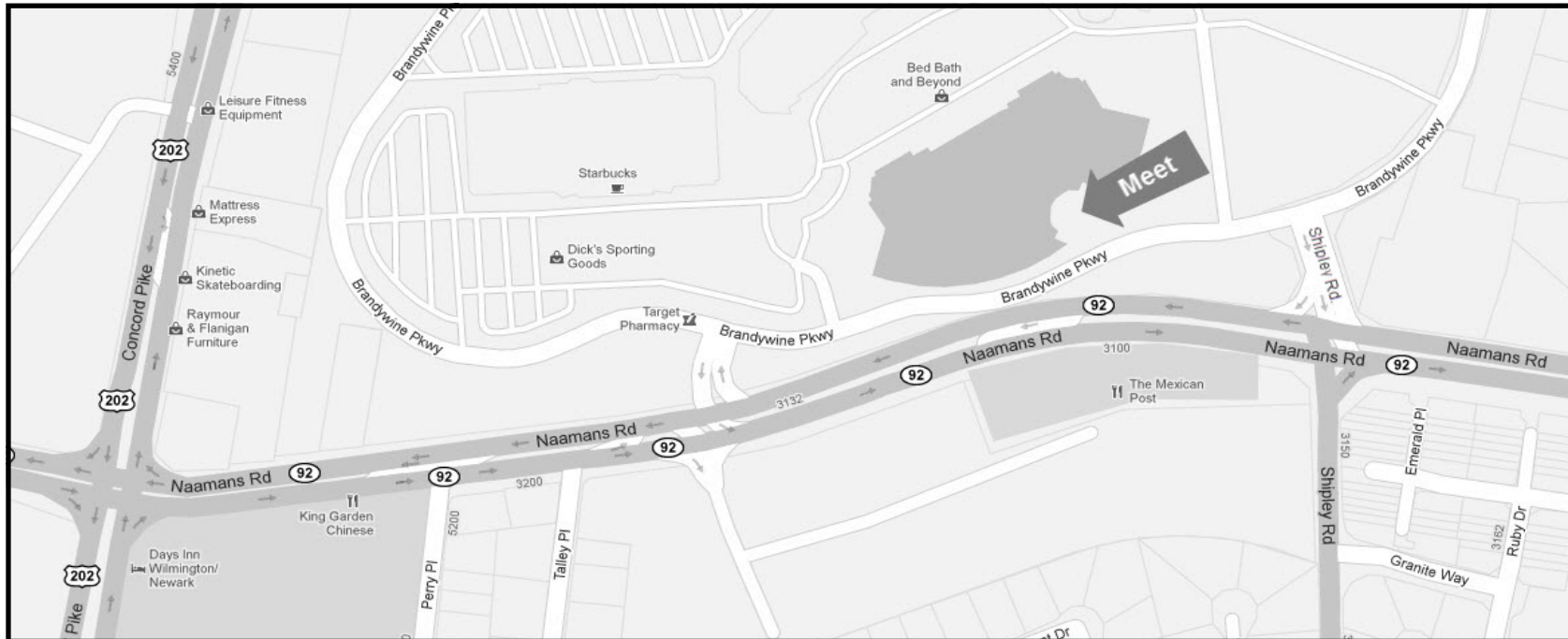
Take US 40 West across the Delaware

Memorial Bridge and exit onto I 95 North.

Take I 95 North through Wilmington, then stay in the right lane to exit 8, Concord Pike / US 202 North. Follow US 202 to Naamans Road. Turn right onto Naamans Rd. Turn left at the entrance to Brandywine Town Center, then turn right onto Brandywine Parkway. The Community Center will be on your left.

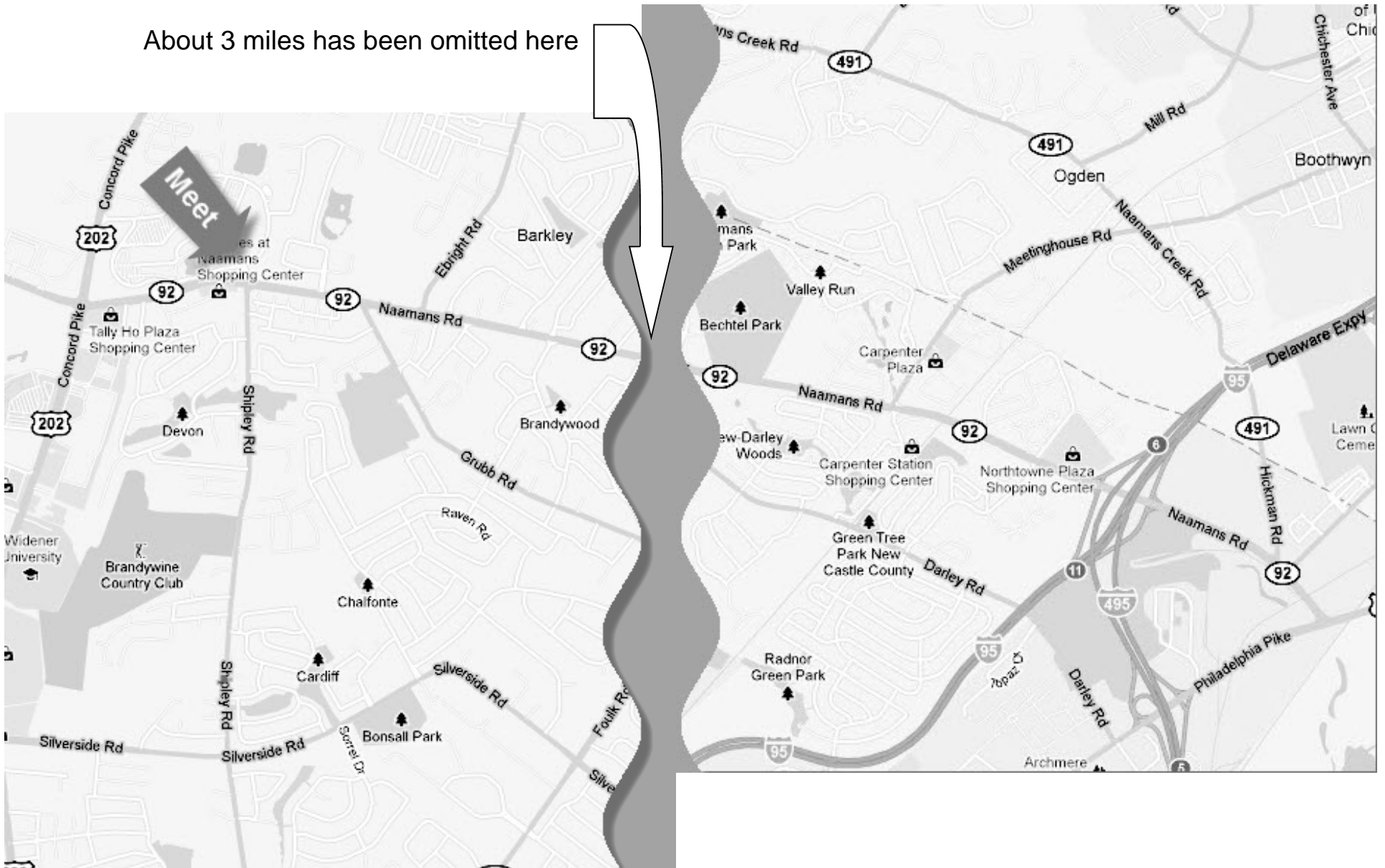
From Southeastern Pennsylvania:

Take I 95 south through Chester and follow the directions for "From the Commodore Barry Bridge."



NOVEMBER MEET MAPS AND DIRECTIONS

About 3 miles has been omitted here



MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Howard, Director, Librarian

I come from Connecticut originally, and have lived in California, Illinois, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.



I settled in New Jersey in 1984 to open a business, Triangle Reprocenter of Princeton, and have been here ever since. As the owner, I have been able to help the division by publishing the hardcopy version of Clinkers, the maps and directions for the meet layout tours, and clinic handouts for several years.

Late in the 1990's I was able to find the time to return to the model railroad hobby.

Thanks to my mentor, Jake Evaul, I joined an operating group known as the South Jersey Friday Night Operators in 2000. This group opened my eyes to a side of the model railroad hobby I never knew.

I have been a member of the Operation Special Interest Group (OPSIG) since 2003 and I now spend a lot of time within the hobby building and operating my railroad and those of other modelers.

My HO model railroad requires 14 people to operate and covers an area of about 800 square feet.

See **Howard** on page 12

John Gallagher, Director, Clinics

To refresh the memories of those who know me and to introduce myself to others, I am the O scale trolley guy.

I was brought up by the tracks of the Long Island Railroad in Woodside, New York City so trains were always a part of my life. I began my trolley modeling when I was about 16 and had a nice Lionel layout that my brother Tom, who is a NMRA Life Member, and I shared.



I followed the usual in and out of the hobby of teen years and college where I prepared to be an industrial arts (shop) teacher and four+ years in the USAF.

I returned to begin my teaching career at the high school level for 5½ years, followed by graduate school, and a college professor's career at Glassboro State College/Rowan University for 31 years, retiring in 2006.

I rejoined the NMRA in 1993 and began attending NJ Division meets shortly thereafter. I also participate in the East Penn Traction Club, a group that has displayed modular trolley layouts at many events, including the 2006 Independence Junction Convention. I built a

See **Gallagher** on page 12

Bob Clegg, Superintendent

Most of you know who I am, the guy in the yellow Chicago Northwestern Historical Society hat who tries to keep the meets running on time, but I'm taking this opportunity to give you a little insight into how I arrived in this position.

I've done all the normal stuff, Vineland High, Glassboro State (I refuse to call it, ugh! Rowan University) and I've had a few different jobs.

Some of those jobs helped prepare me to do some of what I do now as superintendent. I've been in first level management, not my favorite, I've been a teacher of math, physics, chemistry, earth science, and such, but the majority of my career was in data processing.



As both a systems and applications programmer, I've learned a lot about statistics, running meetings, doing presentations, but most important in this position, in my opinion, is my work related to ergonomics and customer service.

I've also been fortunate to be able to travel extensively in my work, including a five month temporary assignment with IBM that took me

See **superintendent** on page 12

Howard from page 11

I joined the NMRA, MER and NJ Division member in 1998, took over as the video librarian and cameraman for the Division in 2002, and became a NJ Division Board member in 2009.

Beginning in 2001, I've attended every MER and most NER conventions and was a committeeman for the Cherry Hill Depot (2004) and Princeton Junction (2010) MER conventions.

I am reasonably well known in the division through contacts made running the Video Library. During my tenure as video librarian, it has expanded to include over 100 tapes, 150 DVDs including a commercial tape inventory and an always current catalog. We have just started a section for members to video record and archive their own home layouts.

I greatly enjoy the friends the hobby has afforded me, and I look forward to continuing to serve the division as one of your board members.



Superintendent from page 11

to the Far East, places like Korea and Indonesia where they were still using steam power on the railroads. I have quite a few slides from that trip and would welcome an excuse to get them out if anyone is interested!

My model railroading began in 1949 at the age of two when I received a set of Marx trains and a 4X8 "layout" under the Christmas tree. This railroad reappeared every Christmas for the

Gallagher from page 11

module in O scale that frequently is part of those module layouts. In addition, my home layout occupies half of my basement.

In 2000, I finally entered the world of prototype operation as a motorman/conductor with the Electric City Trolley Museum trolley operation at Steamtown in Scranton. This year, I will complete more than 10 years taking the public on the 11 mile round trip trolley ride to Montage Mountain.

Operating on a real railroad gives me a perspective on how we should operate our models to better replicate the prototype.

Since 2009, I have served as Director and Layout Coordinator where my responsibilities included recruiting layout owners to host open

next ten years or so.

I began in HO at the age of 12 after spending my weekly allowance on Model Railroader Magazine and being very impressed with the railroads in the articles.

Fast forward, now, to 1972 when I first became aware of the New Jersey Division and the NMRA. I think the annual dues for the national organization were \$12! I was even on the board of directors in 73 or 74.

I also joined the Gateway MRR Club, and when the club had to move in 1976 I designed the layout for the new location on the third floor of Tooties Store at Third and Market in Gloucester.

houses during Division meets in their area. My **sincere thanks** to those layout owners and the area meet coordinators who gave me great assistance. You made my job much easier!

Seeing the layouts has always provided me motivation to continue working on mine, as I'm sure it has all of you.

Taking over as Clinic Coordinator will give me new challenges and opportunities to serve Division members. I will expand on this in my occasional "Clinic Spotlight" column here in *Clinkers*.

I look forward to serving as Director and Clinic Coordinator for the NJ Division, and I seek your suggestions and your offers to participate in our clinic program.

Thanks for your support.



During the late 70s and 80s other responsibilities, including the aforementioned trips, took me away from the modeling part of the hobby, but my prototype photo collection continued to grow and diversify courtesy of my employers.

I rediscovered the New Jersey Division in 1998 and renewed my NMRA membership, with my original 17940 number, and again started coming to the meets.

Four years later I was asked to join the board to fill in for retiring secretary Carl Haslett.

Starting in 2009 I became editor of *Clinkers*, and in 2010 was appointed Superintendent by the board when Mike McNamara retired. And so, here we are today!





The photos here were taken during a trip to Cresson, PA via Amtrak. Superintendent, Bob Clegg was graciously invited to go along on the trip with the members of the Patcong Valley Model Railroad Club in Richland, NJ.

Michael Mosher who is a member of the club as well as one of your board of directors was also on the trip.



These photos were all taken from the front porch of the Station Inn in Cresson where we spent three fun days watching the action on the old Pennsylvania Railroad main line and touring the sights around Altoona including Horseshoe Curve.

There were several general merchandise freights in addition to a lot of what is shown here, but these are some of the more interesting subjects.

Top: Tractors galore heading east, probably for export [my opinion-Ed.]
 Right: Lots of J.B. Hunt and other double stack manifests moving in both directions!

Left: Trash, trash, trash! Loads heading west, empties heading east.

Bottom: Triple Crown RoadRailers. How cool are these!



RESULTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2011 MEMBER SURVEY

For those that think a statistician is something you put in the dryer to keep your pant legs from sticking to you, here's a ballpark explanation of what the standard deviation is: The value of the SD corresponds to how widely the numbers vary. an SD of 0 means that they are all the same. The higher the number, the wider the range of values for the topic.

Take our responses for Overall value. The mean (sum of the response numbers divided by the number of responses) is 4.20, a very good number, by the way. The SD is 0.694 which says that roughly 68% (ballpark, not calculated!) of the responses were + or - 0.694 or in other words between 4.894 and 3.506. Five being the highest and 1 being the lowest possible values. Note that for the questions on meet format, such as the number of meets in a year, the optimum value is "3, about right."

The columns labeled "count of..." are the number of surveys that had a rating of 1, 2, etc. for that question. Taking "Overall Value" again as an example, 25 people rated it as "5", 35 rated it "4" six rated it "3" and one person rated it "2."

Keep in mind that these are interim numbers. If you haven't yet returned your survey, please do so at your earliest convenience. **Your opinion counts!**



	Other	Count of "5"	Count of "4"	Count of "3"	Count of "2"	Count of "1"	Count of "0"	standard deviation	mean	Total votes
Average attendance	0	11	13	16	12	8	5	1.505	2.877	65
Overall value	0	25	35	6	1	0	0	0.682	4.254	67
Meet organization	0	31	29	7	0	0	0	0.667	4.358	67
Meet locations	0	24	29	13	2	0	0	0.813	4.103	68
Clinic topics	0	18	38	12	0	0	0	0.663	4.088	68
Interest in Prototype tours	0	20	15	26	1	6	0	1.185	3.618	68
number of meets	0	1	1	62	3	0	0	0.348	3.000	67
number of clinics	0	1	1	59	5	1	0	0.457	2.940	67
duration of clinics	0	1	3	63	0	0	0	0.317	3.075	67
free time	0	1	6	58	2	0	0	0.417	3.090	67
announcements	0	1	3	59	3	0	0	0.391	3.030	66
free-mo building	0	1	1	15	11	32	0	0.988	1.800	60
free-mo interest	0	2	4	16	13	25	0	1.124	2.083	60
free-mo assistance	0	0	1	16	15	27	0	0.887	1.847	59
free-mo at meets	0	7	14	22	4	14	0	1.302	2.934	61
lunch catered	0	2	16	18	11	23	0	1.248	2.471	70
lunch cost	0	0	2	16	30	5	0	0.690	2.283	53
special tour	0	14	31	17	5	2	0	0.968	3.725	69
special carpool	0	4	16	29	6	10	0	1.104	2.969	65
special public trans	0	11	19	16	6	8	0	1.269	3.317	60
special cost	0	7	25	17	8	4	0	1.067	3.377	61

For lunch cost
 For distance by carpool
 For distance by public transportation
 For cost of special tour/meet

1 = \$5, 2 = \$10, 3 = \$15, 4 = \$20, 5 = \$25
 1 = <25, 2 = 25, 3 = 50 4 = 100, 5 = > 100
 1 = <25, 2 = 25, 3 = 50 4 = 100, 5 = > 100
 1 = <\$10, 2 = \$10, 3 = \$25, 4 = \$50, 5 = > \$50

RESULTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2011 MEMBER SURVEY

These are the results from the second page of the survey which asked that you rate your preferences for clinic topics, format, extra fare, and whether you would like to attend "a clinic on giving a clinic." Again, a "1" indicates little or no interest, a "5" indicates a high amount of interest.

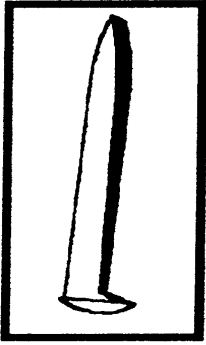
Note that these results include a few more very recently returned surveys, so the numbers may be slightly different and the rankings are changed slightly from those referenced in the articles which were submitted earlier. "Photography in Model railroading" has moved into the top 10 displacing "Lighting your Railroad." Both will receive consideration for future clinics.

Severna Park Model Railroad Club Open House

in the B & A Train Station on the Bike Trail
3 Riggs Road, Severna Park, MD
December 3 & 4, 2011
12 Noon to 5:00 PM each day

Admission Free, Donations welcomed
Contact: Sam Shepherd 410-647-6077
Or: Frank Winner 410-647-3335

	Other	Count of "0"	Count of "5"	Count of "4"	Count of "3"	Count of "2"	Count of "1"	std. Deviation	mean	count
Layout Design	0	0	21	27	20	5	3	1.057	3.763	76
Benchwork and room const.	0	0	7	21	28	11	9	1.129	3.079	76
Lighting the Model Railroad	0	0	14	28	25	8	3	1.028	3.538	78
Track Laying Techniques	0	0	14	27	28	8	3	1.019	3.513	80
Turnout construction	0	0	20	16	22	15	7	1.282	3.338	80
DCC Basics	0	0	20	23	17	11	7	1.266	3.487	78
DCC Advanved techniques	0	0	23	32	12	3	11	1.305	3.654	81
Converting DC Locos to DCC	0	0	22	19	24	7	9	1.285	3.469	81
App of computers to MR	0	0	17	21	19	14	11	1.327	3.232	82
App of other electronics to MR	0	0	20	27	21	8	6	1.176	3.573	82
Model building tech (rolling stock)	0	0	18	38	18	4	2	0.925	3.825	80
Structure modeling	0	0	25	39	14	2	2	0.896	4.012	82
scenery techniques	0	0	19	47	13	1	1	0.750	4.012	81
Painting and lettering	0	0	23	32	20	1	3	0.969	3.899	79
Model maint. Rolling stock	0	0	20	28	23	8	0	0.950	3.759	79
NMRA Achievement Program	0	0	12	13	23	17	12	1.287	2.948	77
Model building for contests	0	0	11	19	14	18	15	1.359	2.909	77
Operations and dispatching	0	0	24	28	17	4	4	1.093	3.831	77
Narrow guage modeling	0	0	0	4	11	8	12	1.239	2.481	79
Traction/trolley modeling	0	0	3	12	18	23	23	1.166	2.354	79
Garden railroads	0	0	6	6	21	20	28	1.227	2.284	81
Prototype information	0	0	24	23	25	5	3	1.073	3.750	80
Photography in Model Railroading	0	0	16	22	27	9	4	1.102	3.474	78
Mini clinics at open houses	0	0	8	21	21	15	9	1.192	3.054	74
"Work in Progress" format	0	0	17	14	28	9	5	1.175	3.397	73
Make and take clinics	0	0	11	17	24	16	7	1.185	3.120	75
Make and take expense limit	0	0	11	24	21	6	1	0.943	3.603	63
Special class on clinics	0	0	6	8	12	12	26	1.367	2.313	34
Make and take expense limit response										
			1 = < \$5, 2 = \$5, 3 = \$10, 4 = \$15, 5 - > \$15							



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 simultaneous (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: _____