

Train Orders

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



November 2021

Volume 32 Number 5

For November We Return to Switlik Park at Yardville, NJ

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

Welcome back! Since March 2020, we “met” in the virtual world using conference programs such as Zoom. Our learning curve was steep as we acquired knowledge and skills on how we can use technology to achieve our goals of sharing and learning. For those able to sign in and participate in our programs, we hope it met your needs. We see possibilities for continuing to use technology to provide an alternative to personal attendance at meets. However, we intend to emphasize in person attendance as our primary approach to meet participation.

On September 25, 2021, we held our first in person meet at the Lacey United Methodist Church in Forked River. About 37 members attended. How good it was to get together and personally renew friendships!

I thank all who attended. Each followed the mask requirements faithfully so we could be safe. I have not heard of any transmission of the virus due to attendance at the meet. We will continue to be safe at our meets, wearing masks for those inoculated. Other members can maintain contact via Zoom broadcasts.

Our Meet at Switlik Park

The day’s program will include the welcome and introduction to the agenda followed by the first hour of clinics. The Works in Progress [WIP] format enables members to select from 8 scheduled topics

and attend two 30 minute clinics. The break will follow for socializing, coffee and donuts, and shopping. We reconvene to conduct business of the division. The second hour of WIP clinics follow. Upon completion, raffle and door prizes will entertain and awards given to clinicians and any AP certificates presented. Adjournment ends the meet to include cleanup and furniture setup. After lunch on your own, layouts will open in the area for visits by meet attendees. Full masking must be done by all visiting layouts to protect the families in the homes.



Bill Howards September winning entry.

Next Division Meet
Saturday November 13, 2021
9 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Contest:

The Boxcar Challenge

Clinics:

Works In Progress

Four 30 minute sessions

See page six for details

Layout Tours:

Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p. m.

Swap Tables:

John Gallagher 856 228-2239

Johnv.gallagher39@gmail.com

In This Issue

November Meet	1
Schedules	2
View From The Cab	3
Door Prizes & Raffle	4
Model Contest News	5
Clinics	6
Second Section	7
Anniversary Gondola	9
Golden Spike Appl. Form	10

Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division. J. Division,
NMRA

P.O. Box 276

Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276

<https://njdivnmra.org>

Train 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 Orders

Train 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: December 14, 2021

Superintendent and Director of Clinics

John Gallagher
johnv.gallagher39@gmail.com
856 228-2239

Clerk/Secretary

Joe Zebrowski
609 268-9451
trackjack@comcast.net

Member Contact Chairman

Geert Marien
732 757-1061
geert@mindspring.com

Director-Editor

Fritz Plenefisch
609 585-7660
fplen3@verizon.net

Assistant Superintendent, Bookstore and Door Prizes

Mike Prokop
njwrr@aol.com
609 586-9818

Director-Contest Chair

Jack Menaker
732 908-6571
jackmenaker@yahoo.com

Rick Stoneking

856 296-9291
stonekingr@comcast.net

Division AP Chair

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

Paymaster/ Treasurer

Tom Neukirchen
609 584-5184
t.neukirchen@aol.com

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

Schedules

November Division Meet
Saturday November 13, 2021
Switlik Park Recreation Building
5 Fisher Place, Hamilton, NJ 08620
Clinic is "Works in Progress"

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday December 14, 2021

Host – Tom Neukirchen

Please let us know if you plan to attend
njdiv.super@gmail.com

January Division Meet

Saturday January 13, 2022

Grace Episcopal Church

7 East Maple Avenue

Merchantville, NJ 08109

Gateway 2022

Marriott Grand, St. Louis

800 Washington Avenue

Saint Louis, MO USA

**NMRA National Convention & National
Train Show which will be held during the
week of Sunday August 7th, 2022 through
Saturday August 13th, 2022**

Garden State Division meet

October 30th, 2021

**The meet will be at Northlandz,
495 Route 202, Flemington, NJ**

**The meeting venue will open at 9:00 AM,
the event does not start until 9:30 AM.
Coffee and donuts will be available.**

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
yankeedabbler@aol.com

* 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.

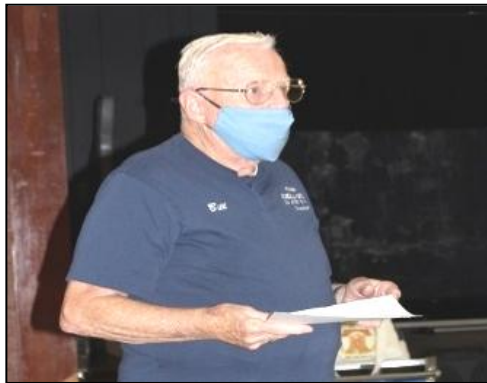
First time guests, no charge!

National Model Railroad Association
P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328
www.nmra.org

View From The Cab

By **John Gallagher**, Superintendent

Election



Bill Howard, Chair of the Election Committee reports the results of the election.



Director Mike Prokop nominates John Gallagher to be Superintendent of the New Jersey Division. John was elected. Mike Prokop was elected Assistant Superintendent, Tom Neukirchen was elected Paymaster/Treasurer and Joe Zebrowski was elected Clerk/Secretary.

Celebrations!

We celebrated the accomplishments of members in person, by awarding the following certificates. **NMRA Achievement Program Certificates:**



Thom Radice earned the Model Railroad Author Certificate.



John Swift earned the Golden Spike Award Certificate.



David Albertson earned the Master Builder – Structures Certificate.



John Gallagher earned the Association Volunteer Certificate. New Jersey Division Certificate of Appreciation:

View continued from page 3

The following members received certificates for delivering Zoom clinics during the pandemic.



**Mike Prokop: Special Track Work;
September 2020**



**Tom Neukirchen accepting for himself and
Jim Shepard: Garden Railroads and
Plants for Garden Railroads.**



**Glyn Thomas, MRR: Modeling the CNJ in
the Lehigh Valley; May 2021**

DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE

By Mike Prokop

Wow, what a relief it is! We finally had an in-person meet. It felt good seeing and interacting with all who attended the meet, As usual, there were plenty of door prizes to win and some nice raffle items represented. It took some effort to dig these items out of storage after being put away, believe it or not, after our January 2019 Division meet in Merchantville. A little dusting and organizing of items was required to re-activate them back into service, but there were plenty for the lucky winners to choose from. There are even more door prizes and raffle items in stock that were not put out on the tables, but a diverse representation of scales and types of items were available for the meet in Forked River. Yes, we have a good

quantity of items in the Division coffers, however, we still appreciate donations from all of you. Going forward these donations, along with new items that we buy from hobby retailers, will provide some great items to win. The board of directors will be appropriating funds in the budget for new hobby items, so, we rely on your participation in the raffle to help fund the purchasing of new door prizes and raffle items.

One new feature tried at the last meet was the "FREE TABLE." Items on this table were available for anyone to take for your own modeling needs. These free items are ones that are possibly not as desirable as a door prize, but have some value for you. If possible, and

it's not a requirement to use the "free table," it would be nice and appreciated by all your fellow modelers if you could contribute items to this table at future meets.

As we go forward with in-person meets, a fun time should be had by everyone participating in the door prize, raffle and "free table". Everyone receives a door prize ticket upon entering, so make sure you stash it in a convenient pocket to be able to quickly trade your winning number in for a neat item. Check out the raffle table for all the items up for grabs, and see the guys at the check-in table to buy raffle tickets. And remember, if your luck didn't arrive with you, check out the "free table" for possibly a consolation prize!



Model Contest News

By Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman

Contest for November 2021 The Boxcar Challenge

Words that we only partially were able to follow.

So how do we end this crazy year?

Hopefully, because of Covid Vaccines, things will be back to normal when we start up again in September.

We held a Meet in September that was shared between actual attendees in Forked River and a Zoom call. The contest was to take a special Division gondola and weather it and add a load. Due to the ongoing Covid issue, attendance was light and there was only one entry. The contest winner, was Bill Howard.



For November 2021, it's long postponed **Boxcar Challenge** originally scheduled for March 2020.

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"

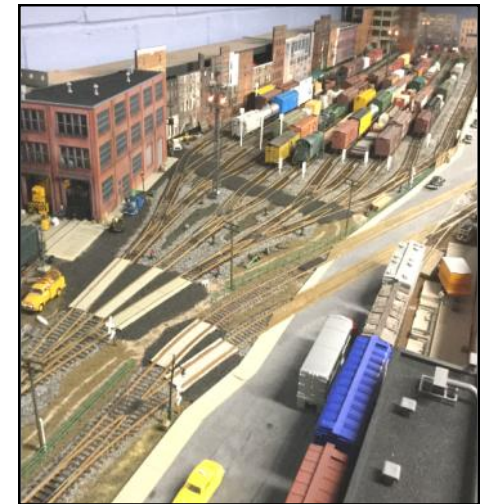
If you model N scale, the diorama must be 5" x 3"

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/or pieces. Use your imagination, and good luck!



Winning Photos from our Virtual Contests



It's Works in Progress for the November Meet

By John V. Gallagher Superintendent & Director of Clinics

Thanks again to George Speidel for his informative September clinic at Forked River during our first in person meet since COVID. I thought that live steam was fueled by coal. George informed us about alternate fuels and the implications for the use of each. Sometime, I hope to see his locomotives in action, pulling trains down the track.



**George Speidel Live Steam Highlights;
September 2021**

Works in Progress Clinics

Switlik Park's facility is ideally configured for a Works in Progress [WIP] format of multiple simultaneous clinics. In four 30 minute sessions, clinic presenters will offer a number of different topics to meet your personal preferences and model railroading needs. We try to offer this model of a clinics program where you have a choice of topics versus the traditional longer clinics with the "one size fits all" model. YOU choose the clinic topics that best meet your interests and needs. Plan ahead and be ready to join fellow

modelers at the round tables to learn and participate in your selected topics. If the clinic you choose fills with members [10] before you arrive, go to your second or third [or fourth!] choice to find seating. You can return to your first choice during one of the three other sessions. You control clinic selections. Enjoy and learn. Bring a note book and your charged phone for photos! Thanks for your cooperation. **Masks, properly worn, are required.** Thank you.


We will attempt to broadcast some of the clinics on Zoom. 

Table	Clinician	WIP Clinic Topic
1	Mike Prokop	Improving Atlas Turnouts – they can use improving
2	John Gallagher	Make Your Own Keep Alive Circuit; Another Dead Rail Locomotive – up close; Using Infrared [IR] Detectors
3	Mike Mosher	Advanced Arduino model railroad applications: Servo turnout control, servo semaphore control, CMRI
4	Dave Albertson	Building the Wilkes-Barre South Street Bridge
5	Pete Suhmann	Servos – without Arduino – simple circuits for turnout and other applications; Replacing Old DC Motor Magnets to upgrade and improve motor performance
6	Bill Kennedy	Using CRICUT & INKSCAPE to make structures
7	Bob Judge	Intro to Styrene and Easy-to-make Scenery
8	Herb Gishlick, MMR	Building Laser Art Structures by Branchline with suggestions for improving the finished product


Second Section

Layouts open for viewing for the November Meet

For the November meet we have six layouts to visit.

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.

But if we are missing your area completely, please let us know so we can visit your layout. 



HO freelance transition era layout based on New Jersey and Northeast railroads. Layout is in the basement accessible only by stairs



Scenicked and Undecided Railway N Scale 45' X 25'
Many animated scenes with city, ports, mountains, waterfalls, mines, industries, steel mill, lighted buildings, fireworks. Stairs to basement.



G scale outdoor layout featuring 3 separate tracks, many stick built and scratch built structures and bridges. Also many unusual miniature plants all trimmed to 1-24 scale.



CNJ Lehigh and Susquehanna Division layout was recently expanded to fill a 42' by 16' room. The layout features models of the towns of Mauch Chunk and White Haven as they would have appeared in the 1940's. Scenery is approximately 50% complete.



A&EP - HO Scale layout with Passenger and Freight service between Allentown PA and Jersey City NJ. It has a 250 foot mainline with seven Switching Districts.



HO scale, Class One secondary mainline of the Delaware & Allegheny Railroad, in north central Pennsylvania, circa 1969. Modeling Philipsburg to Clearfield, PA.

New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Gondola

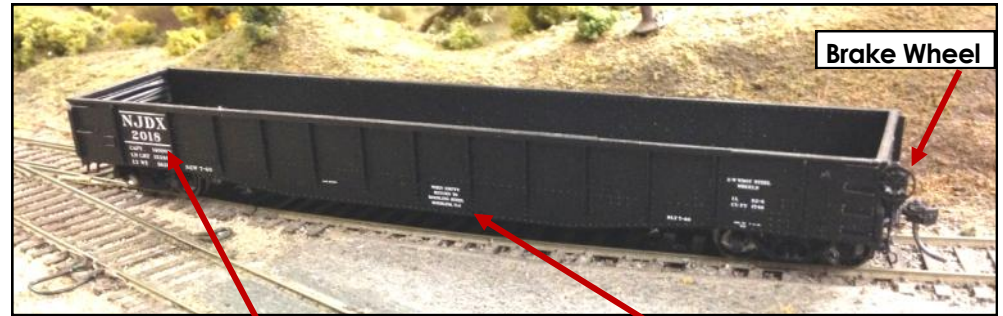
50th Anniversary Gondola

A review of the cars. They are \$35 each, or a set of two for \$65. Car numbers are 1968, which is the year that the New Jersey Division was founded and 2018 is 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 are ready to run and come with Kadee couplers.

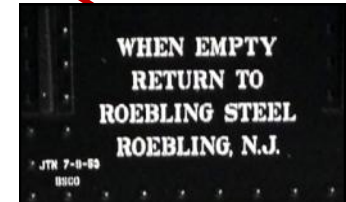
We acquired equal amounts of the two car numbers. Cash or check will consummate the deal and you'll be hauling stuff around your layout in no time!

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

To order Contact Rick Stoneking at stonekingr@comcast.net 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 "NJDX" for this car Identify the owner as the New Jersey Division and the "X" designates a Private or Non-railroad owner.

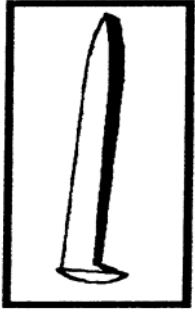


This Stencil indicates the Gondola is in Assigned Service to Roebling Steel. It must be returned to Roebling after its load has been delivered.

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

Name _____
Address _____
City, State and Zip code _____
Telephone _____ Email _____
See Tangent website for more info support@tangentscalemodels.com
Return this form to NJ Division 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: _____