

CLINKERS

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 4

The Next Station Will Be Deptford

The New Jersey Division will hold its annual business meeting at the meet to be held September 26 at the Almonesson Methodist Church, 1680 Almonesson Rd, Woodbury, NJ 08096. The meeting portion of the meet will only take a few minutes, then we can get to the “meat of the meet.”

George Duve will present a clinic on the fundamentals of electricity for model railroaders. Many of us learned these fundamentals years ago yet create circuits that don't work, or don't work well. We get short circuits, blow LED's because we don't adequately protect them with appropriate resistors and diodes, and many who have joined other model railroaders in the transition to DCC have sacrificed a number of decoders due to wiring errors, etc.

So, bring a pocket calculator or be sure your cell phone is charged up (please keep it silenced) so you can use its calculator feature to run some basic numbers.

Assistant Superintendent, John Gallagher, will present the second clinic on preparing and presenting a clinic. This is aimed at all, not just the “usual suspects” who loyally agree to

provide us with learning experiences in model railroading techniques.

I pass the clipboard at each meet asking members to sign up to offer a clinic. Please do volunteer and educate us on techniques you use, how you find information on the prototype that you follow in building rolling stock and structures, your special way to create scenery, what tools you use and ones you fabricated to do modeling, etc.

I hope you will leave the clinic with ideas on how to take an idea and develop it into a presentation. John will offer several options on how to present your clinic. There are ways other than a pure lecture or slide presentation. Why not try “show and tell” or video record part of your presentation? Our phones now give us a video feature as good or better than many digital cameras.

John is always available to assist you in developing a clinic. Please consider trying one.

The contest this time is “Any Scratch Built Rolling Stock.” We'll also have the swap tables, coffee, and good fun with friends!



NEXT DIVISION MEET

Saturday, September 26, 2015

9:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Almonesson Methodist Church
1680 Almonesson Road
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Clinics

Fundamentals of electricity for model railroaders by George Duve

Preparing and presenting a clinic by John Gallagher

Contest

Any Scratch Built Rolling Stock.

Layout Tour

Saturday: 1 pm to 5 pm

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CLINKERS

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

Clinkers is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletter always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$7.00 per year. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in Clinkers in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Contributing to Clinkers

Clinkers welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be mailed or emailed to the editor at the above address. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for the next issue: January 1, 2016

Board of Directors 2014 - 2015

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856 467 0421

Membership Information

Any person who is a member of the NMRA and lives within the boundaries of the NJ Division as defined by the NMRA is also a member of the division. Non member guests are welcome to attend two of our meets, after which they will be asked to join the NMRA.

NJ Division annual activity fee: \$10.00 (includes 5 meets) or individual meets \$5 at the door. First time guests, no charge!

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

SCHEDULES

MER 2015 CONVENTION October 22-25, 2015

HOTEL ML
915 Route 73
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
856-234-7300

Clinics
Prototype Tours
Free-Mo Modules

<http://www.delawarevalleyturn.org>

NEXT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 15, 2015
Host: Mike Prokop
njwrr@AOL.COM
(609) 586-9818

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

NJ DIVISION JANUARY MEET

Saturday, January 9, 2016

Haddon Township High School
406 Memorial Ave.
Westmont, NJ 08108

Contest: Detailed / Weathered Gondolas
with Loads.

Clinics: TBD

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

The Train Room*

715 Arnold Ave.
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
(732) 892-5145
www.thetrainroomNJ.com

Bob's Hobbies and Crafts

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

Yankee Dabber - Track 33

101 W. Kings Hwy.
Bellmawr, NJ 08031
yankeedabber@aol.com

*Offers 10% discount to NMRA members

NMRA

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2016 - Indianapolis, IN
2017 - Orlando, FL
2018 - Kansas City, MO
2019 - Salt Lake City, UT

VIEW FROM THE CAB

Bob Clegg

How did you spend your summer vacation?

Remember when that was a standard writing assignment upon returning to grammar school in September? Our model railroading activities usually take a back seat to other things like family vacations and trips to the beach with the family during the summer. You can include me in that category to some degree, but have been able to participate in the hobby in a couple of ways this year.

First, I've had the pleasure of operating on Bill Wallace's Lehigh Northern Railroad once each month. It's a good railroad to learn operations since it has a lot of action, but is scheduled to be low stress. Bill will host an operating session during the convention. I suggest that if you would like to try operating a railroad sign up. Do it soon space is limited.

We do take a week each summer to head out to the San Francisco area to visit my older son, Paul, who lives about 45 minutes south in San Carlos. Interestingly enough, as it turns out he is only a short walk from the home of NMRA president, Charlie Getz! Charlie was kind enough to invite me to go to his place one morning to see the San Juan Central and one huge collection of model railroad kits and bits. For those of you old enough to remember, the San Juan Central was a Model Railroader project railroad done by Malcolm Furlow many years ago. It still looks good and now it actually runs!

On August 1, about a dozen NJ Division members took the trip north to the Garden State Division, NER meet in Bangor, PA. Well, that was the meeting place, anyway. From there we headed back into New Jersey and the GSD territory to visit three fabulous railroads. We toured Tony Koester's Nickel Plate Third Subdivision, Hal Werthwein's New York Division of the Erie, and a Santa Fe based layout owned by Ed Suhy. All I can say is WOW! I need to get to work!

Of course I've been busy getting some of the stuff for the MER convention together, like the home tour booklets and some new software to be used for the Silent Auction. That's what I've been up to this summer. How about you?

Call for volunteers at the Convention

Don't look now, but the Delaware Valley Turn, the MER 2015 Fall Convention is less than two months away! Plans are going well, with Fred Willis and Chuck Higdon doing terrific jobs in lining up the clinics and home tours respectively.

We do have a need for a number of volunteers to help the committee deliver a well organized and smooth running convention. Particularly, we'll need a lot of hands on Saturday afternoon to help collect the Silent Auction items and get them ready for the winners to pick up and pay for them. We'll also need a number of volunteers to actually do the exchanges right after the banquet. If you can spare some time

from 3:00 pm to about 5:00pm on Saturday which is just before the banquet starting with happy hour at 6:00pm, and/or from the end of the banquet to about midnight your help will be much appreciated.

We also need some volunteers to watch over the contest room, sell some "Door Prize Tickets," and to help during the regular hours for the Silent Auction on Friday and Saturday. We are scheduling volunteers in 3 hour shifts starting at 8am, 11am, 2pm, 5pm and 8pm on Friday, and 8am and 11am on Saturday, but even if you can't work a whole shift, your help is appreciated.

Reservations have been coming in for the operating sessions and the prototype tours. If you plan to take advantage of these, please get your reservations in now as the available slots are filling up fast. Some op sessions are already full!

Finally, see the article on page 4 for important information about the home tours and the silent auction!



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

Important Information for Planning Your Trip to The 2015 MER Convention

The MER 2015 convention, Delaware Valley Turn will be here sooner than you think. Remember the dates are October 22 to 25! Here are a couple of items that will help you prepare for your convention experience and help us help you make the most of your weekend:

Home Railroad Tour

First, there will be home railroads to see on your way to the convention on Thursday afternoon and evening. The booklets with maps and directions are available to registered attendees, so get those registrations! Thursday booklets are available via return email. Send your request to BobcatCS@comcast.net with the subject "MER 2015 tour booklet." Be sure to include your name, NMRA membership number, and registration number. The booklet will be sent via return email. For those of you who receive the hardcopy version of this newsletter, send a stamped (70c) self addressed #10 envelope and the same information to:

Bob Clegg
Delaware Valley Turn
956 Venezia Ave.
Vineland, NJ 06361-8600

The tour booklets for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are also available in advance. All of the booklets are .pdf files so you may print complete booklets, or just the pages containing

the destinations that are of interest to you.

There are seven booklets in all, including the Thursday booklet. The others will be:

- The Mount Laurel Area, listing those destinations within about a half hour drive of the convention hotel
- The Mercer County Area to the north up to 45 minutes' drive time
- The South Jersey Area which is 45 minutes to an hour away.
- Two separate booklets for the Pennsylvania area, one each for Pennsylvania Friday and Pennsylvania Saturday.
- Finally, the Sunday Headin' Home booklet, as the title implies, lists all of the railroads that will be open on Sunday regardless of the direction or distance, although they will be listed in that order.

Again, to request your booklets, send your name, NMRA membership number, registration number, and which booklets you wish to receive to BobcatCS@comcast.net. Please specify the subject as "MER 2015 Booklets."

These other booklets will be available via email only. They cannot be mailed due to their size.

A copy of the Convention Guide will be included in your registration package at the convention, but if you would like an advance copy, it is also available via email upon request to registered attendees.

If you choose not to request and print the tour booklets, hard copy booklets will be available at the convention as well, but we strongly recommend that you print yours ahead of time.



In order to reduce waste and your cost, we ask that if you do choose to wait until you arrive at the convention and take hard copy booklets, that you take only the booklets that you will actually use.

In order for you to see what is available before selecting your booklets, all of the pages for each of the booklets will be posted in large format along the hallway between the Ballrooms and the Terrace Rooms.

We appreciate your cooperation!

Silent Auction

As you know, the convention will feature a Silent Auction rather than a white elephant sale and regular auction. Items will be accepted beginning at 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm on

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Thursday, from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on Friday and from 8:30 am to 10:00 am on Saturday.

In order to expedite registration of the auction items, we ask that you send the information via email ahead of the convention on as many of the items you plan to enter into the auction as you can. Send your name and registration number along with a BRIEF description of the item, and any minimum bid to

BobcatCS@comcast.net. Please specify the subject as "MER 2015 Auction." The sooner the information **is received, the easier it will be to make the process smooth and painless for all of us.**

A claim ticket for each of your items will be issued to you when you drop them off in Ballroom A.

Bidding will be in whole dollar increments. Sellers may specify a minimum acceptable bid, otherwise, the minimum bid will be \$1.

There will not be any commission charged on Silent Auction items.

Bidding will close at 3:00 pm on Saturday. A list of winning bids will be posted as soon after that time as it is available.

Buyers can collect and pay for their winning items from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday and right after the banquet. Items not claimed by 1:00 am will be considered unsold and returned to the seller.



<http://www.delawarevalleyturn.org/>

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to work at several positions during the Delaware Valley Turn MER Fall Convention. If you can spare a three hour shift Thursday evening, Friday, or Saturday contact Bob at BobcatCS@comcast.net 856 696 0463. We'll also need a lot of help after the banquet to get the Silent Auction wrapped up! Again, please email or call to volunteer.

Amtrak CETC Ops Center Tour

Tour 202

Saturday. Leave the convention hotel by BUS at 8:00am, return to hotel by 1:00pm. Minimum # attendees required 30, Maximum # 48 This is a tour of the Amtrak - Central Electrification and Train Control Center in Wilmington DE. \$20.00

November Layout Tours

Each November, for Model Railroading Month, many layout owners in MD, DE, PA and NJ open their layouts for the general public. You can look up the list of open layouts online at

<http://www.modelrailroadopenhouse.com/>

NEW JERSEY DIVISION MODEL CONTEST NEWS

Bill Grosse, Jr. Contest Chairman

Since we were guests of the Garden State Division for the May Meet, we did not have a contest.

The winners of the March 14, 2015 Contests at the meet in Hamilton will be receiving their Certificates and Vouchers at the September meet.

Tom Griffiths won the Model Photos Category with his Rexall Drug Store at a B&O Road Crossing Scene.

Bill Grosse won the Prototype Photos Category with his Curving Rails at Mile Post 30 in

Yardville, NJ.

At the September 26th meet in Deptford, the contest will be - Any Scratch built Rolling Stock.

Be sure to attend the Mid-Eastern Region Fall Convention, Delaware Valley Turn 2015, and bring your models to enter in the contest there.

Due to hosting the convention, we will not be having a meet in November so the next meet contest will be in Haddon Twp. in January 2016. That contest will be Detailed /

Weathered Gondolas with Loads.

Other Contests that are scheduled at this time are;

March 2016 — Railroad Structures

May 2016 — Detailed/Weathered Milk Cars

September 2016 — Detailed Baggage and/or Mail Cars

As the summer starts to head into fall, clean off your work space and start creating your future model contest entries.



ABOVE — Tom Griffiths
Winning Model Photo



ABOVE — Bill Grosse's
Winning Prototype Photo

DIRECTIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER MEET

From the South:

Find your way to NJ 55 North. Take **exit 58**. It only goes one way. At the traffic light, turn right. The church is on the right about 3/4 mile.

From the North:

Using I 295 South, after **passing exit 28** for NJ 168, Black Horse Pike, stay **right** and follow the signs for Atlantic City and Delaware Memorial Bridge. Stay **left** on the ramp to merge onto **NJ 42 South**. Stay **right** to merge onto **NJ 55 South**. Take **exit 58**. It only goes one way. At the traffic light, **turn right**. The church is on the **right** at the corner of Cooper Street, about 3/4 mile.

From Southeastern Pennsylvania:

Use the Commodore Barry Bridge then follow US 322 East to NJ 55 North and use the directions for "From the South" or alternate.

Important Traffic Notice

As you are probably aware, Pope Francis is in Philadelphia today. The Ben Franklin Bridge is closed as are several major arteries on the Pennsylvania side of the river. Traffic may also be heavy on the New Jersey side on the roads leading to Philadelphia, Particularly NJ 42 North and I 295 South. Since NJ 55 merges

into NJ 42 North, it, too, may be backed up. Here are some alternate routes.

Alternate from the South

From NJ 55, take exit 56B onto NJ 47 North. Follow NJ 47 to the traffic light at Cooper Street in Deptford. Turn right onto Cooper Street and go about 1 1/2 miles to the church at the corner of Almonesson Road. The church is on the left at the corner.

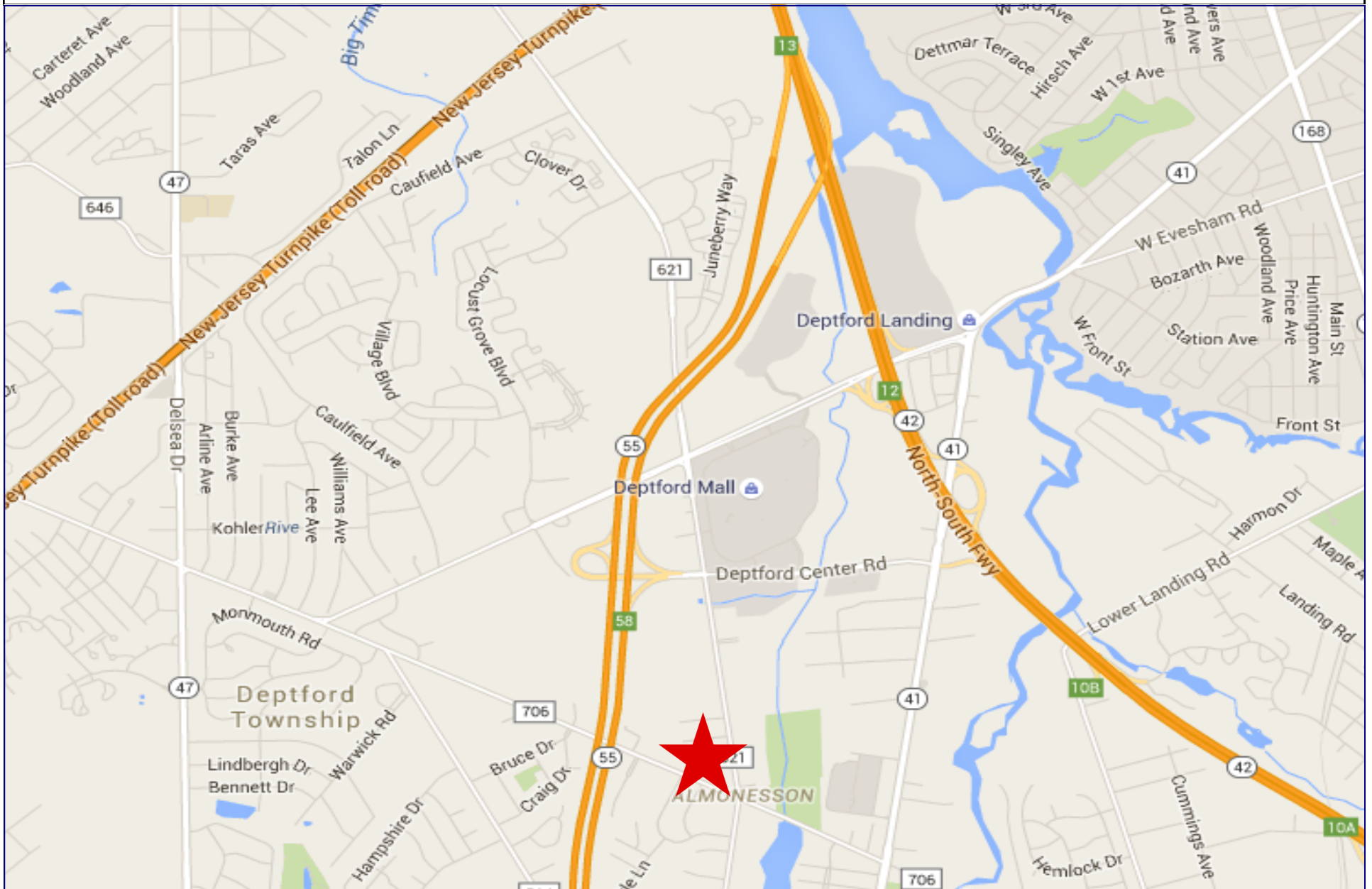
Alternate from the North:

Take EXIT 29 toward US-30/Barrington/Haddon Heights/ Collingswood.	0.2 mi
Turn left onto County Hwy-666/Copley Rd.	0.2 mi
Turn left onto White Horse Pike N/US-30 E.	0.6 mi
Turn sharp right onto Gloucester Pike/County Hwy-659	0.8 mi
Turn left onto Clements Bridge Rd/NJ-41.	4.3 mi
Turn left onto Cooper St/County Hwy-706.	0.2 mi
The church is on the far right corner	

Another alternate, the NJ Turnpike South (toll):

EXIT 3 toward Atlantic City/Woodbury	
Merge onto S Black Horse Pike/NJ-168 South	1.5 mi
Turn right onto W Clements Bridge Rd/NJ-41	2.6 mi
Turn right onto Cooper St/County Hwy-706	0.4 mi

MAP TO THE SEPTEMBER MEET (DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 7)



LAYOUT PHOTO SPOTLIGHT

Frank Neufeld's Hidden Valley Railroad

Text by Frank Neufeld
Photos by Glyn Thomas

Recently Open for the First Time
on the NJD Layout Tour

The Hidden Valley Railroad is a small room size u-shaped layout. It is 13' wide with 5' and 6' extensions. It follows no prototype. It is set in the summer of 1930 and services three towns with both freight and passenger service. The main town is Hidden Valley. Hidden Valley has three industries, a freight station and a small mine for switching operations. The next town on the line is Oakwood with a freight station and team track. The next town on the upper level is Johnstown which has a team track mine, lumber operation and a tree track yard with turntable and engine service facility. There is a two track staging area hidden in the tunnel on the lower level.



Station Stop



The Johnstown Turntable

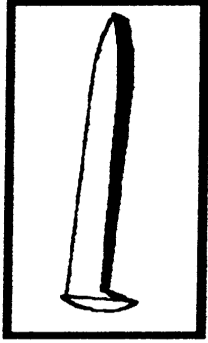


Main Street



Lumber is King





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.