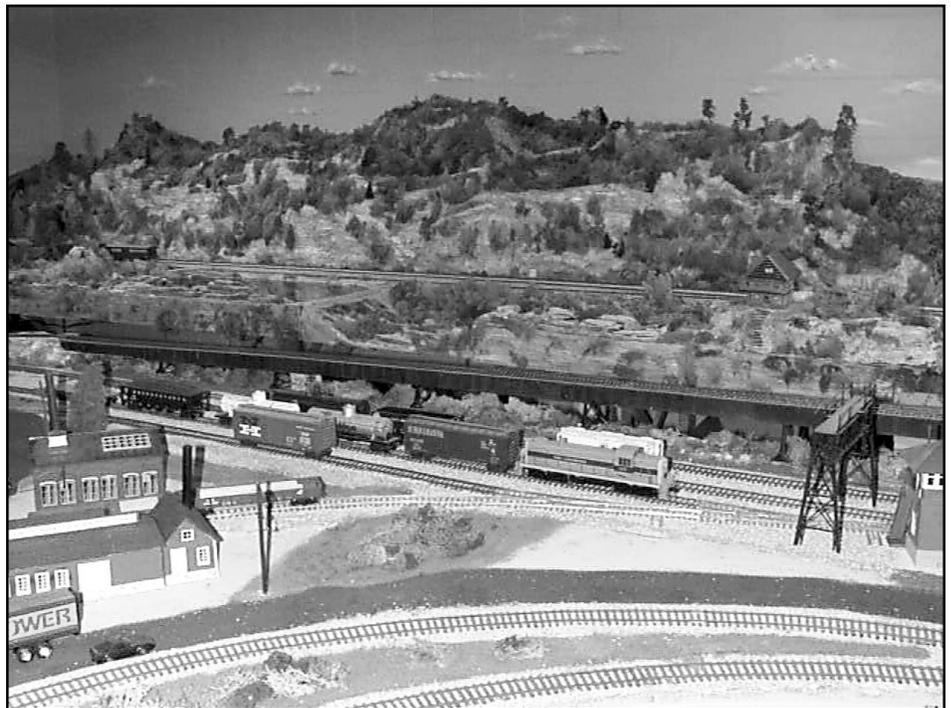


Layout Article

An Introduction to the Penn Western

by Roy Hoffman

The Penn Western (PW) is a 29' x 45' basement layout located near Shippensburg, PA. After many years in New Jersey, it was moved to its present location in 1996. The PW has 15 locomotives, 150 cars, 44 switches and mostly hand-laid trackwork. One reason to mention all this is that many may be surprised to hear that the Penn Western is in S-scale. The PW is a finescale layout as opposed to American Flyer and uses code 100 rail throughout. Quite a bit of the old New Jersey layout was preserved and provided for a quick startup at the new location. The PW is 100% scened and is in the process of having a Digitrax-based Digital Command Control (DCC) system installed. The former layout was part of the NMRA Valley Forge Convention Layout Tour in 1993. Many pleasurable years were spent as part of the New Jersey Division but membership has since shifted to the South Mountain Division



Blue Mountain / Reading Division

which is hosting the Hub City Limited MER convention this fall. **The Penn Western will be one of the layouts open for the Layout Tours at HUB City.**

The original Penn Western was housed in a 1 1/2 car garage. The new layout was to occupy an area about 3 to 4 times larger. Being

able to design a new layout led to some interesting problems. Most large layouts are designed to be operated by several people. Operating sessions at these layouts provide a lot of fun and fellowship. But what if you have a fairly large layout and you are usually the only one around to

Continued on page 3

\$200 UP FOR GRABS

The deadline for the MER Logo Contest has been extended until October 20, 1999. Review the details in the July-August LOCAL. If you have lost your last issue, send an SSAE to the secretary or email me at ericdlw@aol.com.

— Eric Dervinis, Secretary

MER LOCAL

Official Publication of the
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
A Tax-Exempt Organization

The MER LOCAL is published six times a year. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of MER elected officials. Commercial suppliers, supplies and materials addressed in the LOCAL in no way constitute an endorsement by the MER. Copyright material that appears in the LOCAL is used for educational and historical benefit only, and does not constitute infringement of the copyright holder.

Stan Knotts, Editor
19808 Falling Spring Court
Laytonsville, MD 20882-1226

C. William Gruber, President
79 Quaker Road
Mickleton, NJ 08056-1306

Norman Garner, Vice President
3408 Wilshire Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Eric Dervinis, Secretary
632 Bob White Road
Wayne, PA 19087

Ron Schmidt, Treasurer
7110 Riverdale Road
Lanham, MD 20706-1130

Contributing Editors

Roger L. Cason
1125 Grinnell Road
Wilmington, DE 19803-5125
(302) 478-2550

John Teichmoeller
12107 Mt. Albert Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Ron Baile
24 Hampton Road
Westmont, NJ 08108-2202
(609) 858-6644

LOCAL Advertising Manager

Dick Foley
2021 Wallace Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130-3221
(215) 232-4926

The MER LOCAL welcomes articles, photographs and model railroad related material as contributions to members' mutual enjoyment of the hobby. Materials should have a wide appeal. Editors will exercise all due care of submissions, but contributors should not send originals without having back-up copies of both articles and photographs. Editors, by definition, reserve the right—and have the responsibility—to make corrections, deletions and changes to accommodate space.

DUES: \$8 per year; \$16 - 2 years

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership in the MER is ONLY available to NMRA Life Members. For quotation, apply to the Business Manager with your date of birth.

Send all dues and membership inquiries to:
Nelson D. Garber, Business Manager
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
13212 Bellevue Street
Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703

Editor's Column

A visit to Northlands

by Stan Knotts

The fall MER Hub City convention in Hagerstown will be coming up soon as you read this issue. I hope to see many of you there. I will be looking for layout articles from some of the less known MER members' layouts so please let me know if your layout, or your friend's, is a candidate for a future article.

When not occupied working on the **Local** or working to earn a living I try to get a little work in on my layout, which seems to progress at a snail's pace. While on vacation last week I visited the Northlandz exhibit in Flemington, NJ. After seeing that, a snail seems far too fast for comparison to the speed of my layout progress.

While some model railroad purists may turn up their nose at Northlandz as not being a "real" model railroad, it is without a doubt BIG! And the trains run without derailment, at least I didn't see any. Bruce Williams, the creator of Northlandz built his huge, multi - multi level layout in

4 1/2 years. It has more and bigger bridges than any layout I ever saw.

Williams has used a lot of humor throughout the layout and some of the most fanciful structures you can imagine, as well as some very well done structures that would be appreciated on any layout.

As if the layout were not big enough, it uses lots of mirrors to expand the views, including a number of two-way mirrors used to prevent the viewers from seeing their own reflections. The layout is capable of running 100 trains at a time. The "control room" has an impressive array of controllers and was unmanned when I passed by.

The center of the building has a theater with a massive 2,000 pipe theater pipe organ. It was pleasant to pause in the tour to listen to the organ music and watch the organist manipulate the many keyboards and foot pedals. It is definitely a walk and chew gum requirement to play that.

It took me about two hours to go through the exhibit and I was passing some of the other viewers, so plan to spend some time if you visit.

HUB CITY adds a new Extra Fare Clinic: Hands-on Styrene Construction

It's one thing to built kits, but why not experience scratch building in Styrene? If that sounds interesting, then this NEW EXTRA FARE CLINIC is for you. Build a simple wayside building in styrene from supplied raw materials and plans. See how easy it is to work with this material by getting your hands on the raw material and actually doing it. That's what this clinic is all about.

See page 9 for Hub City Registration Form



Harrisburg, PA - Whit Towers Station

The Penn Western *Continued from page 1*

operate it? That aspect of design presented the biggest problem. This is what came out of it. The Penn Western models what used to be the Philadelphia Region of the old Pennsylvania Railroad. This includes Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia and its suburbs, Reading, N. E. Pennsylvania anthracite region, and Harrisburg. It covers from the 1960's to the present era and interchanges with Conrail at Harrisburg, PA and Collingswood, NJ. I wanted to operate it traffic-wise in a somewhat prototypical manner. I have drawn inspiration through the years from my second favorite

model railroad, the Virginian and Ohio. W. Allen McClelland pioneered the concept of a complete transportation system that theoretically went beyond the walls of the basement. Now all I had to do was carry this concept out for one-person operation. To begin with, I effectively divided the railroad into seven operating divisions a la Conrail. The six in Pennsylvania are: Philadelphia, Ambler, Lansdale, Reading/Blue Mt., Anthracite, and Harrisburg, and last but not least, New Jersey. Each division has different customers with different shipping/receiving needs. For instance a sawmill in the Lansdale

division has finished lumber for the Peter Lumber Co. in Collingswood, NJ. How do we handle this as a railroad performing a service? My goal is to run the railroad using scheduling, waybills, traffic lists, etc. I worked in Conrail's Information Systems and got a decent feel for the business end of running a railroad. Eventually my goal is to computerize everything including the DCC.

Getting back to the one-person approach, the PW is designed to run in a modular manner. There is a main line loop connecting

Continued on next page

The PennWestern

Continued from page 3

Philadelphia with points west and north eventually reaching Harrisburg, where there is an interchange with Conrail. There is also a main line loop connecting Philadelphia with its northern suburbs. A separate commuter line runs from Philadelphia's 30th Street Station to Lansdale, PA much like SEPTA does in the real world. New Jersey fills up a wall and actually exists by itself as a 2' X 16' switching layout. I have car float docks on both sides to ship the cars back and forth over the Delaware River. Camden and Collingswood are represented there. Finally there is a point-to-

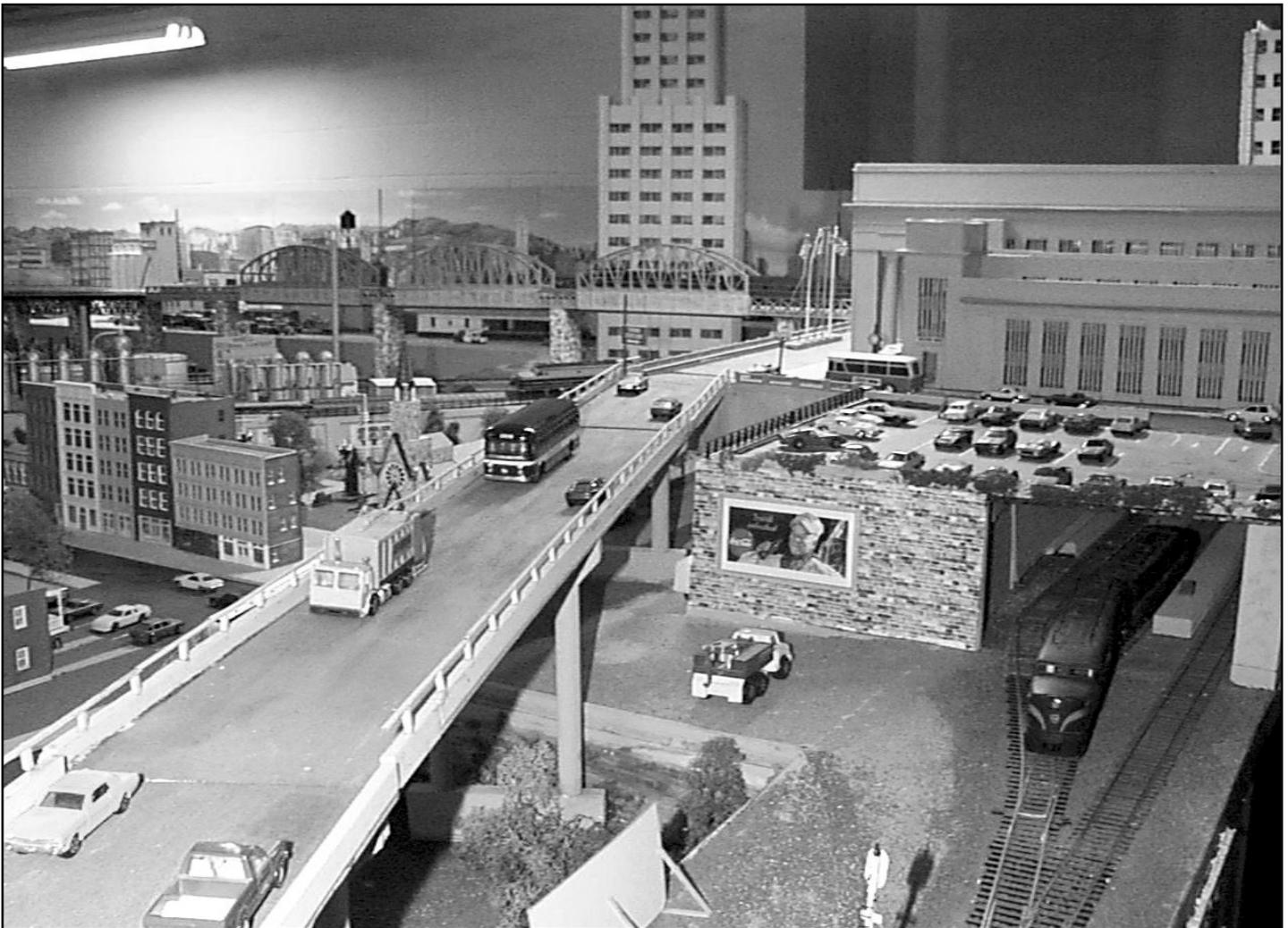
point portion in SN3 to depict East Broad Top. EBT equipment is just beginning to be made available in SN3. Colorado Narrow Gauge has enjoyed a large following in SN3 and is actually considered a major scale along with HON3 and ON3. EBT has some catching up to do, but it will be fun adding stuff when it becomes available. I did manage to scratch build the Orbisonia Station, though. This brings up a misconception about S-scale that has existed from the 60's and 70's when S almost died out. Most modelers in the other scales think that in order to have an S-scale layout, you have to scratch build everything. I scratch build as a choice, not a necessity. There is a

large and constantly growing selection of ready-to-run and kits coming out and one can easily maintain an S-scale layout without having to build anything from scratch any more. There are 75 structures on the PW. Of that number, 31 are scratch built, 23 are S-gauge kits and 21 are kitbashes of HO kits. Some HO kits like DPM's are nicely suited for use in S which is 136% the size of HO. Sometimes, doorways have to be raised a little but a lot of HO is useful in S.

Philadelphia is the hub for the railroad. There is a large dock area along the Delaware River which includes an intermodal loading operation. The intermodal

Continued on page 6

Philadelphia - 30th Street Station Area



**MADE IN
THE MER**

A feature profiling model railroad manufacturers located in the Mid-Eastern Region. To be included in a future issue, contact:

Roger L. Cason
1125 Grinnell Road
Wilmington, DE 19803
(302) 478-2550

COMPILED BY ROGER L. CASON

WILSON HARRELL HOBBY LOADS

Scene 1: It's the 1930's, and one of young Wilson Harrell's favorite activities is crawling through the fence and watching Norfolk & Western coal operations at Lamberts Point, Norfolk, VA. When the railroad detective isn't looking, that is! Now let's "fast forward" through many years of hard work in sales and marketing of all kinds.

Scene 2 - Today finds Wilson making and selling coal loads to fellow model railroaders. No surprise!

Wilson's early model railroad experience began at age seven with a Christmas Lionel set, but with a twist. His three much-older brothers took great delight in

rearranging his train set into one big long straight run. They would run the locomotive at full speed, and pelt it with small balls of putty as it went by. Sort of a like shooting gallery, with side rods. The Lionel locomotive survived, more or less, but not without an occasional trip to the repair shop to clean out the putty.

For some years, Wilson's Lionel activities continued, eventually with his growing son. The culmination was an 8' X 16' layout in the garage. Then several things happened. Wilson's son discovered girls, and for a time Wilson's job situation required numerous moves to different cities. Model railroading went on "hold."

Wilson's work experience has been unusually varied and

interesting, and has included: Serving for four years in the U.S. Navy.

Working as a marketing representative for DuPont Lawn and Garden Chemicals, and then for DuPont paint.

Managing up to thirty rock-and-roll bands (including his son's), placing them for engagements in colleges and military clubs.

Selling for a feed company's lawn and garden operation.

Selling shipping and packing supplies.

Serving as marketing representative for a nonprofit workshop for handicapped.

A 1987 trip to a train show at Timonium awakened the dormant interest in model railroading. This led to both hobby and business activities. He joined and became active in a local model railroad club that same year. In 1992, he started construction of his HO Virginia & Western Railroad in the 22' X 25' second story of his garage in Newport News, VA. The layout features a long double-tracked mainline, two levels, and four walkaround throttles. Staging tracks hold up to twelve trains. Although freelanced, the layout is heavily influenced by the Norfolk & Western and by the Virginian. With the aid of a group of friends, construction on the V&W is ongoing today. On most Tuesday evenings, the group gathers for an evening of construction and informal operation. Members also bring their own equipment to see it run. Wilson's advice to new modelers: don't be in a big hurry to build your first layout. Learn from

Continued on page 6

N&W HL SS Ton Scratch Built Scale "1" with Wilson Harrell Coal Load by Ralph Brown. Grand Junction, CO



30th Street Station Interior

The PennWestern

Continued from page 5

consist is taken to Harrisburg where it is “given” to Conrail for western destinations. Philadelphia is noted for having large oil refineries and the PW has one. Some Philadelphia-based industries are also represented such as the Tasty Baking Co. and Breyers Ice Cream. There is a large scratch-built model of the PRR/Amtrak 30th Street Station with full interior details. Trains traverse a “Chinese Wall” to gain access to the station. There is provision for plenty of roads on the PW because of a large collection of 1:64 vehicles (175 cars

and 75 trucks). This includes a section of the infamous Schuylkill Expressway, better known as the “Surekill Crawlway.” It’s not authentic, though, until I can create an S-scale traffic jam on it. Some smaller PA locations include Gettysburg, where a Civil War reenactment is taking place, a typical Lancaster County covered bridge with some Amish wagons crossing it, and a typical PA Dutch farm. Harrisburg has a train station that I based on Whit Towers famous station. In his memory, I decided to call it “Whit

Continued on next page

MADE IN THE MER

Continued from page 5

friends and/or from active club membership.

The 1987 trip to Timonium also led directly to the current coal load business. Wilson knows what real coal looks like, and he couldn’t find what he wanted on the market. In 1988, he made 60 loads and took them to his club one evening, intending them for use by the club. A hobby shop owner bought them on the spot, and the business was off and running.

After some experience with hobby shops, he decided to limit his marketing to direct sales plus sales at shows. Wilson regularly exhibits each year at the scale shows at Timonium, and the GATS’s in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. From time to time, he also exhibits at local shows, and at the National Train Show. He has taken custom orders as large as 100 loads. Since 1992, coal loads have been his only business activity. Wilson takes great pride in describing his products as Hand Made, Real Coal, No Two Alike. The process of making a coal load begins by creating a wooden base with the correct footprint for the hopper car. Where necessary, the base is notched to suit the hopper car’s internal ribs. Wilson creates the shape on the top surface with a special power sander. Then wife Betty Sue uses yellow carpenter’s glue to apply on a thin layer of coal. In other words, the shape is in the wood, and not in a casting of some kind. Coal loads are made for HO (17 types), S (4 types), O and O-27 (11 types) and G (3 types). Wilson purchases actual

Continued on next page



Philadelphia Division

Towers Station” after him.

I have created a web site for the Penn Western. It’s at www.innernet.net/rhoffman and provides me with a lot of fun.

Drop on in for a visit.

MADE IN THE MER

Continued from page 6

coal which has been ground and then screened for size-nut (in real life, the size of a pecan), egg, or lump. For any type of load, size is selected based in part on the vintage of the car being modeled, and the size of coal most likely to

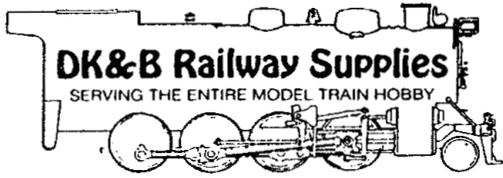
have been hauled in it. The coal looks a little shiny, as it does actually coming from the mine. Interested modelers can contact Wilson Harrell at 936 Moyer Road, Newport News, VA 23608, 757-877-7152. SASE, please.

Fall Convention Notes

The model contest at the Hagerstown Hub City Convention will be judged by popular vote. This was done with success in 1994. Judging for merit awards and AP points will be by request. There will also be a Favorite Train Contest so dust off those unique and highly detailed trains and bring them in along with a stretch of track.

David Graeff will be presenting a clinic entitled: “Loads for Open Cars from Junk.” He will be providing the “junk,” but would like those attending to bring along their cars, glue, cutting tools, pliers and rubber bands, and a scale rule.

The CSX Cumberland Shop Tour is sold out. We are keeping a standby list and are willing to take standby registration with refund at the registration desk after the tour runs.



DK&B Railway Supplies
SERVING THE ENTIRE MODEL TRAIN HOBBY

KEITH BERGMANN, ENGINEER
Hours: Tue.-Wed.-Fri. 10-7 Thu. 10-9 Sat. 10-5 Sun. 11-4 (Oct.-April)
114 Main Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-448-5070



SATTLER'S

Specializing in HO and N gauge Trains

14 HADDON AVENUE
WESTMONT, NJ 08108

856-854-7136

HUB CITY LIMITED

1999 NER Fall Convention November 11-14, 1999

{Thursday evening through Sunday}

Hosted by the South Mountain Division NMR&

Clinics for all Interests:

• The Special Treatment
• Customer Relations
• Safety 101
• O&C Installation
• Wheel to Retail
• Pulling Figures
• Sealing Valves
• How to Use the Hub City
• What's New in the Field

Non-Rail Events:

• Fun for the Family
• Technical Support for
• Getting to the Carriage

Layout Tours:

• 30 Car Mini Hubs and 2 Car Layouts
• Radio Control HO, HO-2, N, G, G-2, G-3
• Various Scale Model Performance with Live Displays
• All Layouts Open and "Live" on-site

Check Out Wednesday to HPM

Buffet Dinner from 6 to 7:30

• Two Kinds of Meat
• Soup, Mixed Salad
• Casserole, Turkey, Chicken
• Fruit, Vegetables, Desserts
• Beverages



Operations Call Board

Participate in Hands-On
• Visual Control by Students
• on Friday November 12

• Two 2 Hour Sessions
• Limited to 40 People

Prototype Tours

• 1999 Prototype Model
• NMR& Learning Session
• On-Line Rail Newsroom

• Model's Design Dept.
• Report on Prototype Design Progress
• Many Models Will be Represented

Wednesday Night Forum HPM

• "Prototype Progress" with
• John Williams, Tony Koster,
• Mary McArthur and Bill Kammery
• Moderated by Mark Starnes
• (7:00pm - 8:30pm)

Contests and Drawings

• Model Contest
• Quiz Contest
• Non-Rail Craft Contest
• Paper Pin Art Drawing
• "Chromatic Challenge" Drawing

At the Ramada Convention Center
Rt 40 East of Hagerstown, Maryland
Easy access from Interstates 70 or 81

For information contact Paul Rausch at 304 764 8716

or e-mail to: pdrausch@aol.com

Visit our website at <http://www.fred.net/richardb@smd.html>

Registration - Hub City Limited Convention - November 11-14, 1999

Name of Primary Registrant: _____

Address: _____ NMRA Number: _____

City/State/Zip+4: _____ M.E.R. Number: _____

Full Registration	\$35.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
Full (non-NMRA member)	\$50.00 x _____ =	\$ _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Spouse	\$10.00	= \$ _____
--------	---------	------------

Children's Names: _____

Each child 12 to 18 years old (children under 12 are free)	\$10.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
---	-------------------	----------

Buffet dinners (pre-registrations only) (top round of beef, baked scrod, and teriyaki chicken)	\$15.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
---	-------------------	----------

Operations Call Board	\$15.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (limited to 60 people)
-----------------------	-------------------	---------------------------------

Extra fare rail clinic ("Painting Figures")	\$15.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (limited to 15 people)
---	-------------------	---------------------------------

Extra fare rail clinic ("Styrene Construction")	\$15.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
---	-------------------	----------

Extra fare non-rail clinics:

Friday night Tole Painting	\$15.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (limited to 20 people)
----------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------------

Saturday morning Historical Tour	\$5.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (limited to 15 people)
----------------------------------	------------------	---------------------------------

NOTE: October 21, 1999 is the LAST date to pre-register for the Extra Fare Clinics!

CSX Cumberland Shop Tour (Sat.morning)	\$20.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (SOLD OUT - standbys only)
--	-------------------	-------------------------------------

MARC Brunswick, Md facility tour (Sat.)	\$20.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
---	-------------------	----------

NOTE: Steel-toed shoes, safety glasses and hard hats are required for the CSX & MARC tours!

Cement Plant tour (Friday morning)	\$10.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (limited to 30 people)
------------------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------------

Feed mill/warehouse tour (Friday afternoon)	\$10.00 x _____ =	\$ _____ (limited to 30 people)
---	-------------------	---------------------------------

NOTE: No wheelchair access available for the Cement Plant or Feed Mill tours!

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Enclose your check payable to Hub City Limited and mail this portion of the form to:

Paul Rausch, 3101 Jefferson Drive, Martinsburg, WV 25401 (304-754-3716)

_____ *cut here* _____

For room reservations at the convention hotel, call them or return this portion of the form to the Ramada Inn Convention Center - 901 Dual Highway - Hagerstown, MD 21740 - 301-733-5100

Group Name: Mid-Eastern Region NMRA, November 11-14,1999 Room Cost: \$69.00 plus tax

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Reservations Must Be Received By: October 21, 1999

Single Room Double Smoking Non-Smoking

Number of Rooms _____ Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

MC ___ VS ___ AMX ___ DS ___ DI ___ Number _____ Exp: _____

Check In After 3 PM - Check Out 11 AM. Arrivals after 4 PM must be guaranteed by credit card or pre-payment.

Mid-Eastern Region Achievement Program

by Jim Kellow MMR Chairman

I want to thank Monroe Stewart MMR for appointing me the Chairman of the MER Achievement Program to replace Al Phillips MMR. In my opinion Al has done an outstanding job as Chairman and I hope to continue the program on the same high standards and commitments Al maintained.

Currently there are 161 MER members involved in the Achievement Program out of a total of 1043 MER members. One of my goals is to increase the number of members who take advantage of the program. In order to accomplish this as cost effectively as possible I plan to

develop an on-line Web page for the MER Achievement Program. The page would be linked to the National NMRA page to avoid duplication of forms, regulations, etc. and would have as its focus listing MER Achievement Program staff including their e-mail addresses, and the MER members who are presently active in the AP including the certificates and Gold Spike Awards they have earned. In addition the site will have a news section and information believed useful for MER members. In addition to the site I plan to develop a quarterly e-mail newsletter about the MER AP. Anyone can subscribe for free to the newsletter by simply sending me their e-mail address to jkellow@widomaker.com. The newsletter will focus on information about the MER AP including members awards, news items about the program, articles written by the members, and member questions and answers. I

hope these two efforts will increase the knowledge about the program to all MER members and encourage members to participate.

In order to get these two efforts going I am looking for MER members who are interested in helping develop the web site and in editing the e-mail newsletter. Both of these efforts will qualify for the Volunteer Achievement Certificate. Please contact me if you are interested.

I have searched the records of the MER Achievement Program, the NMRA National and the MER Regional membership records to try to develop a master list of all MER AP members. The one area I am not sure I have covered is a list of persons who have moved into the MER from another region who were involved in the AP in the

Continued on next page

Title	Name	Address	City	St	ZIP	Tele	e-mail
MER AP Chairman	Jim Kellow MMR	104 Elizabeth Page	Williamsburg	VA	23185	757 258 4973	jkellow@widomaker.com
Div 1 New Jersey AP Chairman	Ronald Balle	24 Hampton Rd	Westmont	NJ	08108	-2202 609 858 6644	rballe@aol.com
Div 2 Potomac AP Chairman	Ken H Berthound Jr	4505 Hillbrook Dr	Annandale	VA	22003	-5290 703 354 1438	bucane@erols.com
Div 3 Philadelphia AP Chairman	David Messer MMR	263 Mingo Road	Royersford	PA	19468	-3112 215 948 2191	DMesser1@compuserve.com
Div 4 Tidewater AP Chairman	John Johnson	22398 Scojo Dr	Franklin	VA	23851	757 562 5917	None
Div 5 James River AP Chairman	Charles Hadik	PO Box 2822	Lynchburg	VA	24501	-2822 804 821 4941	rutlandcah@aol.com
Div 6 Blue Ridge AP Chairman	Vacant						
Div 7 Piedmont Crescent AP Chairman	Al Phillips MMR	103 Cloverbrook Ct	Jamestown	NC	27282	-9615 336 454 1058	None
Div 8 North Carolina AP Chairman	Vacant						
Div 9 Mount Clare AP Chairman	Frank Winner	283 Oak Court	Severna Park	MD	21146	410 647 3335	n3seo@aol.com
Div 10 South Mountain AP Chairman	Frank Folight III	PO Box 340	Harpers Ferry	WV	25425	-9802 304 725 4786	None
Div 11 Susquehanna AP Chairman	William Nesbit	5760 Union Deposit Rd	Harrisburg	PA	17111	-4708 717 657 9476	William_Nesbit@smpt.doc.dia.mil
Div 12 Carolina Southern AP Chairman	Jim Teese MMR	5611 Farmbrook Drive	Charlotte	NC	28210	-3713 704 553 0576	DWCD51A@prodigy.com
Div 13 North Carolina AP Chairman	Dick Genthner	311 Highlands Bluffs Dr	Cary	NC	27511	919 362 5132	argent1@att.net

CALLBOARD

Coming Events

Notices must be typed and have complete addresses. Use the style shown below and be brief as possible. Be sure to include a contact telephone number. Send items for CALLBOARD to Stan Knotts, 19808 Falling Spring Court, Laytonsville, MD 20882-1226. E-Mail to Srknotts@erols.com

Virginia Beach VA: Tenth Annual Tidewater Model Train Show and Sale, sponsored by the Tidewater Division of the N.M.R.A., October 23-24, 1999, at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA. Hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Featuring dealer tables, hourly door prizes, HO, N-Scale, O-Gauge (Lionel), and G Scale operating modular layouts, and free on-site parking. Located adjacent to Norfolk-Virginia Beach Expressway (I-264). Admission \$4.00 for adults; children under 12 free (with an adult). For information, contact: Steve Prescott, 1748 Nanneys Creek Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23457. Phone (757) 426-2811.

Southern Junction Model Train Show, September 11-12, 1999, Raleigh, NC Sponsored by Carolina Piedmont Division 13 Inc., MER, NMRA and North Raleigh Model Railroad Club, NTRAK. Eastern North Carolina's largest display of model train layouts. Features at least 7 model railroad layouts, including a large NTRAK layout. Approximately 120 dealer tables are available. NTRAK modules are most welcome in the NTRAK layout. To participate with a NTRAK module, contact Chuck Dopler at (919) 838-9772 or e-mail: doplerc@bellsouth.net Location: NC State Fairgrounds, Dorton Arena, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC Times: Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$4 for adults, children under 12 free with paid adult Contact: For more information, contact Rick Allen, P.O. Box 5183, Cary, NC 27512. Telephone: (919) 467-8105, email: trainnut@mindspring.com or visit our web site at <http://>

www.trainweb.org/nrmrc/southern.html

The Chesapeake Bay Railroaders are having an Open House on November 20 & 21 and a Railroad Flea Market on the 20th. The 20th events are from 10am to 4pm, the Open House on the 21st is from 1pm to 4pm. Entry to the Open House is free, the Flea Market cost \$2.00. The club is located in Grafton Virginia about 5 miles south of Yorktown just off Route 17. There will be signs on Rt. 17 directing you to the club and the flea market. Visit our web site for a map: <http://trainweb.com/cbw/>.

We are an HO club with a large two level layout - helixes and all! The layout was started in the early 1980's and we are in the middle of constructing a major addition to the layout. It's a good opportunity to see the full range of layout construction from bench work to scenery.

Mid-Eastern Region Achievement Program *continued from page 9*

former region. If you fit into this category please contact me so I can include you in the regional file.

The Achievement Program is the best educational program in the world concerning model railroading. I can guarantee that if you become involved in the program you will become a better modeler, increase your knowledge of prototype railroading, and enjoy your model railroading more. My role and the role of all of the Division Achievement Program staff listed

below is to provide you with any information you may need about the program and assist you as much as possible in successfully completing any of the Achievement Certificates or the Gold Spike Award.

If you have not looked into the program I hope you will contact your Divisional AP representative or me for more information.

Please note that currently Division 6 and 8 do not have a Division AP Chairman. If you would like to be considered for one of these

positions please let me know.

Lastly if you have any comments or suggestions about the Achievement Program please contact me. I look forward to talking to you about the program.

**ADVERTISE IN THE LOCAL
CALL 215-232-4926**

**Or send your ad for a
quote to:
2017 Fairmount Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

MID-EASTERN REGION, NMRA, INC.

13212 Bellevue Street
Silver Spring MD 20904-1703

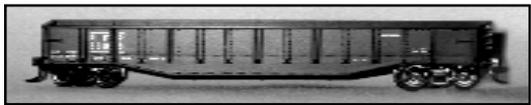
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S.Postage
PAID
York, PA
Permit No.200

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Column *page 2*
 Made in the MER *page 5*
 Fall Convention Notes *page 7*
 Hub City Convention *page 8*
 Hub City Registration Form *page 9*
 MER Achievement Program *page 10*
 CALLBOARD *page 11*

MER RF&P MILL GON ORDER FORM



GON	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE *	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#3306	_____	\$8.95	\$9.95	\$ _____
#3310	_____	\$8.95	\$9.95	\$ _____
			TOTAL	\$ _____
MARYLAND RESIDENTS ADD 5% SALES TAX				\$ _____
SHIPPING: _____ CARS @ \$2.50 PER CAR				\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$ _____

* My MER # IS _____

SHIP TO:

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
MID EASTERN REGION.

MAIL TO:
 THE MID-EASTERN REGION INC.
 Business Manager
 13212 Bellevue Street
 Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703

The Mid-Eastern Region Inc., NMRA
 Business Manager
 13212 Bellevue Street

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 NMRA # _____ Expire Date _____
 MER # _____ Expire Date _____
 Scale _____ Birth date _____ Tel # _____

Remittance Enclosed for:

National Dues: q New q Renewal _____
 q 1 year: \$32.00 q 2 years: \$64.00 \$ _____
 Life membership cost is based on your age.
 Send your Birth Date to the NMRA for a quotation.

Region Dues: q New q Renewal _____
 q 1 year: \$8.00 q 2 years: \$16.00 \$ _____
 Life membership cost is based on your age.
 Send your Birth Date to the MER for a quotation.

Lapel Pin/Tie Tack @ \$6 each \$ _____
 Region Cloth Patch @ \$3 each \$ _____
 Donation \$ _____