

Volume 55

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Number 6

JUNIATA JUNCTION CONVENTION WINNERS

By Ray Bilodeau, MER General Contest Chairman

We want to thank the Mid-Central and North-eastern Regions for joining us in our contests and awards at Juniata Junction. The quality of workmanship exhibited here was the best I have seen over the past three years. We applaud everyone who entered the contests. We also presented twenty-two AP merit awards.

Model Contest

Nineteen modelers brought thirty-four entries to the model contest in Altoona. We thank our eleven judges for their patience in judging the models under less than ideal circumstances. The judges included: Dave Messer, MMR; Graham Harvey, MMR; David Renard, MMR; W. Terry Nesbit; Charlie Flichman; Chuck Hladik; and Rich Laube. We introduced four apprentices to regional contest judging: Bob Hazard; Art Thomas; Dick Landt; and Jack Campbell. We appreciate and applaud Rita Lynam and Brenda Landt along with several volunteers who attacked and conquered the enormous amount of contest paperwork for this convention.

The winners are:

Steam

- 1st Mark Franke - MER N Minitrix Pacific*
2nd Mark Franke - MER N Kato Mikado*
3rd Leonard Beck - MER HO PRR D-16 sb

Diesel

- 1st Robt. Malberti - NER HO PRR F-7 A-B-A Set*

THE LOCAL/MID-EASTERN REGION/NMRA

- 2nd Bruce Barrett - MER HO UP SD40-2 (Desert Victory)*

- 3rd Robert Malberti - NER HO PRR SD-45



Diesel 2nd
Desert
Victory

Freight Cars

- 1st Clark Kooning - NFR HOn3 Hopper #10*

- 2nd Clark Kooning - NFR HOn3 Hopper #4* (tied)

- 2nd Roger L. Cason - MER HO Wooden Hopper Car*
(tied)



Merit Leonard Beck - MER HO B&O Wagontop Boxcar*

Wooden Hopper Car

B&O
Wagontop
Boxcar



- Merit Marty Vaughn - MCR N B&O Boxcar #17001*

Caboose

- 1st Paul Tice - MER HO BAR Troop Sleeper/Caboose

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MER LOCAL

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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.

President's Column

Norm Garner

As your new President I accept the challenges and responsibilities for which you have elected me. I'm not taking this position lightly so you can expect some beneficial changes to be made during my administration. Some may be unpopular but changes are needed in the Mid-Eastern Region to become compatible with the rest of the NMRA.

Before saying anymore on that subject I want to first take this opportunity to thank the Juniata Junction Convention Committee for the fine job they did in Altoona. I extend my compliments to Chairman and Host Bob Martin, Manager Charlie Potter, Storekeeper Tim Palmer, Layout Coordinator Art Thomas, Raffles Manager Don Yingling, Registrar/Treasurer P.J. Mattson, Clinic Chairman Bill Miller, and all the other behind-the-scenes people who worked so hard to make it a success. These gentlemen — and ladies — along with helpers from the other two participating regions, gave us a super convention under some very difficult circumstances. With nobody on the staff living in Altoona they had to travel long distances for over a year to get everything organized. Additional thanks go to the many judges who volunteered their time with a special note of appreciation to Ray Bilodeau and Rita Lynam. These latter two kept more than a little busy in the contest room. Congratulations to all the contest winners and to those who were awarded the twenty-two merit awards. A special note of appreciation is also extended to all our Clinicians, to the individuals and clubs that opened their layouts for visitations on Sunday afternoon, and to the Altoona Railroader's Museum for making their facilities available for our modular displays. It was a JOB WELL DONE by all.

Now, for my priorities for the coming two years. One is recruitment of new NMRA members. I feel this is essential to the survival of the MER/NMRA and our hobby. If each of us can recruit at least one new member over the next year we can begin to reverse the insidious decline that is occurring in national and regional memberships. It is up to each of us to change this.

My second priority is to make the MER Board of Directors more responsive to all members without exception. I have asked Vice President Jim Kellow to contact each Division Superintendent and verify the dates of the divisional meetings for the coming year so that members of the MER Board of Directors can attend at least one divisional meeting in each division. The reasons for such attendance is to enable us to get to know one another better, to improve the exchanging and understanding of plans and policies, and to allow the board to gain first-hand knowledge of divisional problems, ideas, and solutions. I particularly want to meet MER members who are unable or unwilling to attend regional conventions. The BoD must learn what can be done to make model railroading more fun within our region. We may not come up with all the answers but we can't begin to fix things if we don't know what's wrong with them. That's why communication is a two-way street.

My third priority is the Achievement Program (AP) and contest judging. The AP is one of the cornerstones of the NMRA. We need to do a better job with this program. During my last two years as Region Vice President, I talked with each Division Superintendent about this. Some divisions had a designated AP Chairman in name only without any semblance of an active program. This must change. We need AP Chairpersons who sincerely want to have an active program for the benefit of the members. I have placed the AP as a high priority because I am sure many of you have heard it said, just as I have, "The judging in the MER/NMRA is nothing but a good old boys' club." The perception is that it has not always been carried out on "a level playing field". Rest assured we are going to put this perception to rest. If any perceived improprieties are brought to the attention of the

Divisional or Regional AP Chairmen, the BoD *will* take firm and appropriate action. We are currently reviewing the requirements and eligibility for becoming official judges for contests as well as the AP. Changes will be implemented as necessary and as soon as possible. I intend to ensure judging objectivity and fairness for all MER members at all times, without exception. Hopefully, if a "good old boys' club" is either perceived or does exist anywhere within the region it's soon going to be history.

In closing, let me reiterate that you have elected me to do an important job and I have every intention of carrying out my responsibilities as your President. I maintain an open door policy at all times. I can be contacted on line at Ngrail@aol.com, by phone at 757-484-0772 or by mail at 3408 Wilshire Rd., Portsmouth, VA 23703. I look forward to hearing from you, meeting you, and working for you.

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Editor's Column

Art Thomas

One of the most perplexing disappointments editors encounter occurs when they find errors in their copy — especially after it's been mailed to the subscribers. No matter how often the copy gets checked, some mistakes seem to invariably get overlooked. The mistakes may be in grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation or some other aspect of the English language. But just as sure as shooting some inevitably seem to creep through. We in the MER are fortunate though because we have a couple of strict watchdogs keenly keeping their eyes on things to make sure the LOCAL gets done right. One of the best among them is Ray Fisher, MER Member from Mechanicsburg, PA. Ray doesn't hesitate to let me know when he sees mistakes I've made. Believe it or not I'm glad we have members like him around; members who don't hesitate to critique the LOCAL and keep me on my toes in a constructive sort of way.

To illustrate what I'm getting at I'm reminded of a couple of stories concerning critiques that were done by the best of them in the writing business at the time. One concerns Winston Churchill's secretary who had occasion to admonish him for ending a sentence with a preposition in one of his letters. Churchill, not the type of person to graciously accept a scolding from his secretary, put some of his journalistic background into action. After thoughtfully studying her comment he sent a note back to her and said, "Young lady, these are criticisms up with which I will not put!" That was the last time she found fault with her boss. Then there was the time that Noah Webster's wife opened the door to their boudoir and discovered him in the arms of another woman. Upon contemplating the scene she had stumbled upon and regaining her composure she exclaimed, "Why Noah, I'm surprised!" At that Webster looked her straight in the eye and coyly replied, "No my dear, you are amazed. It is I who am surprised!"

So, what's the point of this story? Let it be this: If you see any serious discrepancies in the editorial work I do, don't hesitate to let me know about them. Unlike either Churchill or Webster, I'll take your helpful criticisms into consideration and try to do better next time. My job is to make your newsletter as interesting, readable, and palatable as possible for your enjoyment and enlightenment. Your feedback can help to make that happen.

continued from page 1

Non-Revenue Cars

- 1st Marty Vaughn - MCR N
Union Civil War Rail Gun*
2nd Roger L. Cason - MER HO
Scale Test Car



Civil War Cannon

Structure on-line

- 1st Dale Latham -
MER HO Henkle
Feed Mill*
2nd Noll Horan -
MER N Southern
Star Meat Packer
3rd Bruce Barrett -
MER HO Ramsey
Station



Ramsey Station

Structure off-line

- 1st Clark Kooning - NER
"S" Field Office
2nd Robert Minnis - MER
HO Petroleum Storage
Tanks
3rd Nick Sklias - MER N
Fort Meade Barracks



Field Office

Diorama

- 1st Dan George - MCR
HO Blue Jay Lumber 1900*
2nd Dan George - MCR
HO Shingletown Engine House*
3rd Noll Horan - MER N Connor Ave./Cattail Creek*



Connor Ave./Cattail Creek

Modules

- 1st Fred Miller - MER HO 2X4' Traction - E. Gotham*
2nd Ray Fisher - MER HO Module with Baseball Field

*Denotes AP Merit Award scoring a minimum of 87.5 points

The following modelers submitted entries for AP Merit Award judging only and received Merit Awards:

- Dick Landt - MER HO Freight House
HO Coal Shed

- Bob Hazard - MER HO Barrel Car
HO Waycar Combine
HO A H & D Ditcher

- Fred Miller - MER HO Leadville House
HO Dorothy's House

MER Awards:

The President's Award

- Robt. Malberti - NER HO PRR F-7 A-B-A Set

The Blue Lantern

- Dale Latham - MER HO Henkle Feed Mill



Henkle
Feed
Mill

Favorite Train

- 1st Robt. Malberti - NER HO PRR GP-30s & freight cars
2nd E.W.Gross - MER HO PRR Passenger Train (tie)
2nd Fred Schneider - MCR HO Cripple Creek Lumber (tie)

Best In Show

- Dan George - MCR HO Blue Jay Lumber 1900

MCR Awards:

The Chester Muszalski Steam Engine Award

- (Captures the romance and allure of steam engines)
Mark Franke - MCR N KATO Mikado

The George Mueller Memorial Award

- (Popular Vote Best In Show)
Dale Latham - MER HO Henkle Feed Mill

NER Awards:

HUB Division Award (Second highest score in the Model Contest)

Dan George - MCR HO Shingletown Engine House



Shingletown Engine House

STD New Modeler Award

(Highest score by a first time entrant)

Mark Franke - MER N Minitrix Pacific

NERC New Modeler Award

(Second highest score by a first time entrant)

Mark Franke - MER N Kato Mikado

Photos and Slides Contest

We would like to thank Jim Atkinson, the MER Photo Contest Chairman and Brian C. Whiton,

MER Upcoming Conventions

Frazer, PA
March 29-Apr 1, 2001

Lancaster, PA
Oct. 5-7, 2001

Wash DC
Fall, 2002

MMR, NER Photo Contest Chairman for judging the Photo Contest. Twenty-two convention attendees submitted 99 photo and slide entries.

The winners are:

Model Steam

1st Place Bill Miller MER Photo-Engine Turntable

2nd Place Bill Miller MER Photo-Engine over Ashpit

3rd Place Bill Miller MER Slide-Logging Train

Model Diesel

1st Place John Roberts MCR Slide-Engine Terminal

2nd Place Dick Flock MCR Slide-Roundhouse

3rd Place Charles Nauman PSR Photo-C&I Centennial SW-9

Model Electric

1st Place Fred Miller MER Photo-Gotham City Main Street

2nd Place Fred Miller MER Gotham City Freight Trolley

3rd Place Michael Tville NER Trolley on Stone Arch Bridge

Model General Interest

1st Place John Burchnall MCR Slide-Log Train - High Bridge

2nd Place John Burchnall MCR Slide-Backwoods Delivery

3rd Place David Holl MCR Downtown E. Eiser, PA

Prototype Steam

1st Place Richard Briggs MCR Photo-EBT Under Steam

2nd Place David Holl MCR Photo-Over Hermosa Creek

3rd Place Roger Cason MER Photo-Two C&T Locomotives

Prototype Diesel

1st Place Dick Flock MCR Photo-CR8397

2nd Place Dick Flock MCR Slide-B&LE Northbound #870

3rd Place Dick Flock MCR Slide-CP at Field

Prototype Electric

1st Place Charles Nauman PSR Photo-SEPTA Trolley at Drexelbrook

2nd Place John Roberts MCR Slide-Amtrak at speed near Princeton, NJ

3rd Place Roger Cason MER Photo-Four Locos-St. Lazare Stn., Paris

Prototype General Interest

1st Place David Holl MCR Photo-Coming down Saluda Hill

2nd Place David Ward MER Photo-UP Conductor inspecting East Bound

3rd Place John Burchnall MCR N&W 611 on Plum Creek Trestle

Prototype Night

1st Place Pat Lecaroz NER Slide-NJ Transit-Sunset-Moodna Viaduct
2nd Place David Ward MER Photo-Reflection at Sunset

MER Award:

Best In Show: Dick Flock MCR CR #6058 Winter Scene



MCR Award

The Dick Fullerton Award for the Best of Show:
Dick Flock MCR CR #6058 Winter Scene

Arts & Crafts Contest

There were four entries in the Arts & Crafts Popular Vote contest. The winners are:

Rail

1st Place Alice Tice MER Steam Engine Paperweight
2nd Place Paul Lessard NER Acrylic Painting-Train Time-Lincoln, NH

Non-Rail

1st Place Elizabeth Brown NER Beaded Amulet Purse
2nd Place Elizabeth Brown NER Hugs & Kisses Tennis Bracelet



NER Award:

The Patty Bettinger Award to the Best In Show Crafts
Alice J. Tice MER Steam Engine Paperweight



Publisher's note:

As was mentioned in the President's column last issue, I am also creating MER web-pages.

<http://home.cox.rr.com/hydesystems/MER/MER.html>

is the address. As publisher of *The Local*, I get access to stories and photographs of interest to the entire MER, and they will end up on the web-site at some point after being published in *The Local*. So the contest winners table is there, *with a different set of photos*.

Right now, however, we have model contest photos on the web-page, more than you see here—and some are unidentified. Some might be wrong, many photos were received with no ID. Please help me out and tell me what the unidentified models are, and by whom (tell me if I got them wrong, I had to guess). You can get to them from the bottom of the first page, look for the link to Conventions, then the link for Juniata Junction.

Comparing this issue against last, you'll see I've solved the poor photo printing problem!

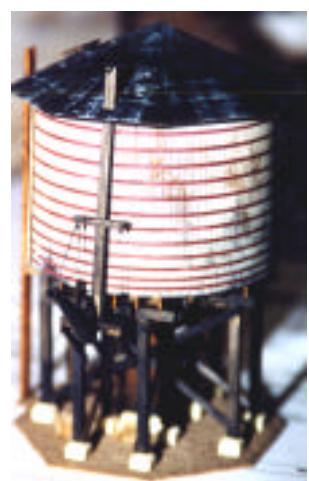
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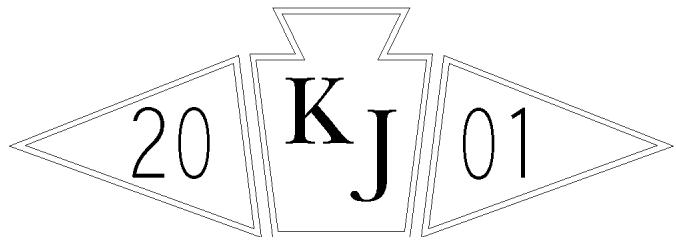


UMOs (Unidentified Modeling Objects) Sighted in Altoona, PA



Bob Minnis
Petroleum
Storage Tanks





Keystone Junction '01

Mid Eastern Region, NMRA
Frazer, PA

March 29 - April 1, 2001
Hosted by the Philadelphia Division

The Philadelphia Division is proud to sponsor the Spring 2001 Mid-Eastern Regional Convention, which will be held on March 29th – April 1st in the beautiful and historic Great Valley of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Just a short drive from Interstate 95 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Keystone Junction '01 will be hosted by the Sheraton Great Valley Hotel. With national caliber clinics, rare prototype tours and fan trips, plus a host of regular and special MER Convention activities, Keystone Junction '01 will have something for everyone!

Visit our web site at: <http://www.kj2001.com>

Clinics

KJ 2001 will feature clinics that will cover a broad spectrum of modeling and prototype interests.

- Andy Sperandeo Operations
- Bill Schaumberg Tunnel Hill
- John Armstrong Planning for operations
- Bob Charles Former NMRA President
- Jim Hertzog Reading Lines Update
- Mike Rabbitt Steel Mills
- George Hughes DCC
- Paul Backenstose Along the Maine Line
- Dave Palmer Zoo Tower
- Tim Palmer Railfanning the area
- Roger Cason Scenery
- Steve Salotti TT&TO on the NYSW

In addition, there will be a hands on extra fare (\$10.00) DCC clinic on Friday morning. This will be an opportunity to work with various systems and see how easy and how much fun DCC can be. Participants will learn the basics of DCC and have a chance to practice their skills.

Prototype Tours

There are many opportunities for you to view the prototype at KJ 2001. These include:

SEPTA's Frazer Shops. This tour is an opportunity to see up close the operations of SEPTA's Frazer shops on the famous Pennsy Main Line. Scheduled for Friday, March 30, it is an extra fare (\$15.00) bus trip and is limited to 40 registrants.

Lukens Steel in Coatesville. Ever wished you could see the inside of a steel mill? This trip represents a rare opportunity to take a guided tour of the famous Luken's Steel Mill in Coatesville, PA. Scheduled for Friday morning, March 30, this extra fare (\$25.00) bus trip, limited to 40 people, is expected to fill up fast.

PECO's coal-fired Eddystone Power Plant. Scheduled for Saturday morning, March 31st, this tour takes you up close to see the rail operations of PECO's coal-fired generating station. Extra fare bus trip (\$15.00) limited to 40 people.

Fan Trips

Scheduled for Friday, March 30th and Saturday the 31st, KJ 2001's fan trips will feature something for fans of both of the roads that ran through the Great Valley area within a stones throw of our convention hotel.

30th Street Station Tour: This extra fare (\$10.00) Friday March 30th tour will include a train ride to 30th Street Station, and a walking tour of this monument to the mighty Pennsylvania Railroad. The tour will include AMTRAK's CETC control center.

New Hope & Ivyland Railroad: This shortline railroad runs on an ex-Reading line through some of the best scenery in Bucks County. This Saturday March 31st extra fare (\$25.00) trip will include a tour of the railroad's shops and equipment collection, a ride on your choice of two steam runs, plus an added bonus. During the bus trip, 4 lucky names will be drawn for a cab ride in the locomotive! Box lunches will be available for this trip at \$5.00 each.

Home Layout tours

KJ '01 will feature over 35 of the areas finest home layouts, both large and small, including several that have been featured recently in the model railroad press. Registrants will provide their own transportation: a comprehensive guidebook will be provided. Among those you can choose to visit are the railroads of: Ken McCorry, Dave Messer, Mike Rabbitt, Paul Backenstose, Jim Dalberg, Bill Blackburn, Charles Chandler, Steve Salotti, and many more.

Convention Car

The convention car for Keystone Junction '01 is an LBF Models gondola based on the prototype cars owned by the Upper Merion & Plymouth railroad. These cars are used by the railroad to haul the steel products produced at the Lukens Steel plant in Conshohocken, PA. The cars will be available in three different numbers and can be purchased as singles at \$15.00 or in a three pack for \$40.00.

Operations Callboard

Continuing the tradition of hands on activities, the Philadelphia Division is pleased to offer its extremely popular Operations Call Board. For the extra fare option (\$18.00), registrants will be assured of an opportunity to operate on one of several local high quality layouts. First time operators are particularly encouraged to participate. We have added additional spaces, but this activity was one of the first to sell out at BJ '97, so don't delay. Three different time slots make it easy to fit this option into your schedule.

Contests

Judged contests in the normal classes, as well as the Blue Lantern Award for branch line equipment, will be held at KJ '01. We encourage all members to bring out their best work and enter it in the various categories. This is an excellent opportunity for you to test your skill.

Auctions

Keystone Junction '01 will have not one, but two opportunities for you to enjoy the fun and excitement of an auction. With both sponsored by the Philly Division, there will be a silent auction beginning on Thursday evening and running until approximately noon on Saturday. Then, in the evening after the Awards Presentation, there will be a live Auction conducted by our own former president of the NMRA, Mr. Bob Charles! The live auction will be limited in the number of items accepted for sale. Items to be entered in the auctions can be brought to the auction room starting at 6:00 PM on Thursday. As the seller, you can bring as many items as you wish for the silent auction: there is no limit. You can also state a minimum price you'd be willing to accept. As the buyer, you must bring your checkbook or cash (lots of it!); we cannot accept credit cards. The Philadelphia Division will receive 10% of the purchase price of the items that are sold through the auction. More detailed auction rules will be distributed in the registration packet.

On-Site Train Show

In the tradition of past Philly Division conventions, we are pleased to once again include an on-site Sunday Train Show with over 70 dealer tables. The show, sponsored by the Philly Division, will be open to convention attendees for one hour before the general public, and will also include our signature Kids Korner, a place to bring the kids for various children's activities while you shop for trains! And, best of all, it's FREE to all convention attendees.

Buffet

Rather than a traditional banquet as we've come to know them, KJ '01 will feature a come when you want, with whom you want, and eat all you can eat "Taste of Philly" buffet – featuring Tastykakes, soft pretzels, and *real* Philly cheese steaks. In other words real Philly health food. Awards activities are planned to begin at the conclusion of the buffet.

On Site Modular Layout

For your viewing pleasure, there will be an on-site modular layout set up throughout the weekend.

SIGs

We anticipate a large turnout of members of the Layout Design, Operations, and Railroad Industries SIGs and a number of activities are currently being planned. There will be a room set aside for SIG use. If you are a member of a SIG and would like to participate or have some display space, please drop a note to the convention manager in care of the address on the registration form.

Off-Line Activities

Exciting off-line activities are planned, so bring your spouse and kids along for a memorable weekend. Your registration fee includes a keepsake bag filled with goodies. Among the activities planned are:

Longwood Gardens: Guided tour and free time in the world's premier horticultural display gar-

den. This Friday, March 30th extra fare (\$20.00 adult, \$10.00 child) will be the highlight of the convention for any gardeners.

QVC Studio Tour: A one of a kind guided walking and shopping tour through the world of electronic marketing, this extra fare (\$15.00) trip in the morning on Friday, March 30th includes admission and transportation.

Brandywine River Museum: Featuring the works of the Wyeth family and Howard Pyle, this unique showcase of American art housed in an historic 19th century grist mill will warm the heart of any art lover. This extra fare tour (\$10.00 adult, \$7.50 child) will take place on Friday, March 30th in the afternoon.

New Hope: Called the antique capital of the east, New Hope is sure to have a shop to cater to your every whim. This extra fare all day trip (\$15.00 adult, \$10.00 child) will take place on Saturday, March 31st, and will be part of the New Hope & Ivyland fantrip. Fare does NOT include train ride. To include the train ride in your day, please select the fantrip option.

King of Prussia Mall: The east coast's largest mall is only a short, free van ride away.

Directions to Keystone Junction '01

From the South: Follow I-95 North into Wilmington DE and exit onto US 202 North. Continue on 202 N into Pennsylvania until the intersection of Routes 202 and 30. Take the exit for 30 east. The Sheraton Hotel will be on your left. Approximate travel time from Wilmington is 20-25 minutes.

From the West: Exit from the Pennsylvania Turnpike at exit 23, Downingtown, and head South on Route 100 to the Route 30 bypass. Turn left onto Route 30, and follow to the first exit. Take 30 east, and the hotel will be on the left.

From the East: Exit from the Pennsylvania Turnpike at exit 24, Valley Forge, and head South on Route 202. Continue on 202 South until the junction with Route 30. Take Route 30 East (not 30 bypass), and the hotel will be on the left immediately after the Route 202 overpass. Turn left into the hotel.

Keystone Junction '01
Mid Eastern Region, NMRA Spring Convention
March 29, 30, 31 & April 1, 2001 Frazer, PA

Names as you wish to have them appear on your badges:

Address Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ NMRA# _____ MER # _____
 E-Mail: _____

	Amount	Total Cost
Full Registration	@ \$35.00	_____
Non-NMRA Member Fee	@ \$10.00	_____
Spouse	@ \$15.00	_____
Children (under 12)	@ \$ 5.00	_____
151 Taste-of Philly Buffet (Adult)	@ \$20.00	_____
152 Taste-of Philly Buffet (Child)	@ \$10.00	_____
153 Optional Box Lunch	@ \$ 5.00	_____
301 Septa's Frazier Shops	@ \$15.00	_____
302 Amtrak 30th Street Station	@ \$10.00	_____
303 NH&I Fan Trip (Adult)	@ \$25.00	_____
304 NH&I Fan Trip (Child)	@ \$15.00	_____
401 Lukens Steel	@ \$25.00	_____
402 PECO's Eddystone Station	@ \$15.00	_____
501 Convention Car (Single)	@ \$15.00	_____
502 Convention Car (3 Pack)	@ \$40.00	_____
503 Additional Convention Pin	@ \$ 5.00	_____
504 Convention Shirt	@ \$10.00	S M L XL XXL
601 Operations Call Board (Fri-PM)	@ \$18.00	_____
603 Operations Call Board (Sat-AM)	@ \$18.00	_____
604 Operations Call Board (Sat-PM)	@ \$18.00	_____
701 Longwood Gardens (Adult)	@ \$20.00	_____
702 Longwood Gardens (Child)	@ \$10.00	_____
703 QVC Studio	@ \$15.00	_____
704 Brandywine River Museum (Adult)	@ \$10.00	_____
705 Brandywine River Museum (Child)	@ \$ 7.50	_____
706 New Hope (Adult)	@ \$15.00	(No Train Ride)
707 New Hope (Child)	@ \$10.00	(No Train Ride)

Total FEES Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to: Keystone Junction '01 • PO Box 447 • Swedesboro, NJ 08085
 For convention information call 856-467-3385 or e-mail keystonejunction@mindspring.com
 P. J. Mattson Registrar

All Activities are a la caret including the Banquet.

Parking is FREE at the Hotel.

Payment must accompany registration form. Bounced checks will not be put through twice - you will be required to pay your entire fee by money order or cashier's check through the mail or in cash at the convention. You will be responsible for all bank fees charged. DO NOT enclose hotel room reservation requests

Vice President's Annual Report

Year 2000

The Divisions' Annual Reports this year were more difficult to obtain than they were last year. New by-law additions to the Division Handbooks were sent out to each Superintendent earlier this year. The MER by-laws require each division to send an annual report to the MER Vice-President by September 15 yet almost every division Superintendent had to be contacted at least three times to get the annual report. Information to be included in the annual report includes the following:

1. Division newsletter or publications (Note: A copy of the Division Newsletter or publication should be sent to the MER Vice-President as well as to the Business Manager).
2. Number of NMRA members who are members of the division.
3. Financial Reports.
4. Special events as they occur.
5. New Division Officers & Board Members with the date they were elected.
6. Participation in the Achievement Program including the number of Merit Awards, Golden Spike Awards, etc. that have been earned.

New Jersey Division (1)

The New Jersey Division kept very busy this year with five Division meets held from September through May, along with one outdoor garden layout tour in June. Attendance averaged about 80 people. Each meet featured clinics, layout tours, and contest and swap tables. The year ended with 121 members. In May the annual elections were held and the existing board remained intact. A vote of approval from the membership indicated that things are being run satisfactory. The year ended with all financial obligations met and the Division in good shape for the coming year with many activities planned.

Potomac Division (2)

The Potomac Division hosted layout tours at different members' homes each month. A quarterly newsletter was published and a web page was maintained. A spring mini-convention was held. It consisted of a swap meet, model contest and clinics. Division members have developed hands-on clinics through which participants can learn new skills. The Potomac Division, with the help of the Northern Virginia NTRAKers, has offered to sponsor an MER convention. Several local model railroad groups are being contacted for future participation in division conventions.

Philadelphia Division (3)

The dues for the Division members have been increased to

\$5.00 per year, the first such increase since the early 1990's. This was necessary due to increased printing cost and postage. The Division had a joint meet with its eastern neighbors in New Jersey and is in the process of coordinating its next meet with them. They also had a joint meet at the Strasburg Railroad with the Susquehanna Division for rides, a shop tour (the highlight of the day), and a visit to the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum. One of the premier services provided to the members is the Division newsletter, *The Philadelphia Dispatcher*, which continues to set high standards. The Achievement Program continues to strive ahead. Several members have completed certificates, placing them within reach of Master Model Railroader status. The Division Modular Team continues to grow in all areas. Tom Cancelmo and his group are outstanding ambassadors whenever they show. Theirs will be one of the layouts for the Callboard in the upcoming Keystone Junction Convention. The Division got new leadership this year: Timothy J. Palmer, Superintendent; John A. Nawn, Assistant Superintendent; Sam Parker, Treasurer; and Steve Salotti, Chief Clerk. Dave Messer, NMR, continued as Achievement Program Coordinator, and Steve Salotti continued as Editor of the Dispatch. The Division treasury remains in the black with a balance of \$850.00 at the current time.

Tidewater Division (4)

The Tidewater Division experienced a full and rewarding year. It began the year with the annual train show held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. The modular groups participated in numerous operating displays throughout the year, with the "O" gauge traveling 200 miles to New Bern, N.C. to participate in a train show. The "HO" group held a display at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Health Center and also at the Bayside Recreation Center in Virginia Beach. The Tidewater Division conducted its annual auction and business meeting and elected four new board members: Charles R. Brown, Superintendent; JJ Johnson, Assistant Superintendent; John Hammond, Paymaster and Dan Taber, Timekeeper. A group of the members headed by Norm Garner have been active in building an operating exhibit for the restored CSX Railroad Station in Suffolk, Virginia. The Division donated \$1,000.00 to the Restoration Foundation for the building of the exhibit. Other members of the division were and still are involved in the construction of training dioramas in HO scale for the Police Department of Virginia Beach. The Tidewater Division hosted a successful Rails Meet Sails, MER Spring 2000 convention held in Portsmouth, Virginia.

James River Division (5)

The James River Division held three. One was in Lynchburg (4/1/00), one in Charlottesville (6/10/00), and one in Lynchburg (9/16/00) which was a mini-meet held in conjunction with the Southern Model Railroader's Forum (SMRF). A fourth is scheduled for November 18th. The April 1st Lynchburg meet included a model contest, a

clinic on the Author AP certificate, a "walking tour" and a slide show. The slide show was conducted by the Lynchburg Museum Executive Director of the Lynchburg's Historic Railroads. There was also the usual swap table. The June 10th Charlottesville meet included a model contest, a clinic on wiring techniques, a discussion of weathering cars and the annual business meeting. The September 16th meet was a brief one hour JRD meeting discussing plans for encouraging growth. The November 18 meeting is scheduled during Model Railroad Month and will be in Richmond, VA with a full agenda including model contests, clinics and layout tours. Each contest held at the JRD meetings has been with a theme. One focused on models representing the area of the meeting (Lynchburg). Another included models built with the new wood laser cut kits. The final contest will be for models built with the new resin kits. The contest theme has been very popular. New officers were elected for two year terms. They are: Tom Sullivan, Superintendent; Mike Garber, Assistant Superintendent; Fred Miller, Clerk; and Howard Heltman, Paymaster. The goals for the new JRD officers are to: (1) increase member participation and interest in JRD; (2) expand the membership's model railroading horizons, and; (3) have fun in the hobby of model railroading.

South Mountain Division (10)

In addition to monthly Round Robin Meetings at home layouts in the division from September through May, the SMD hosted the very successful MER Fall Convention, the Hub City Limited, November 11-14, 1999. Total registration at this event was 310 consisting of 230 NMRA member registrations, 68 non-rail, and 12 non-member registrations. The committee worked so smoothly that it's looking forward to hosting another convention in Hagerstown. The Division would therefore like to put its bid in now to host the Fall Convention on November 11-14, 2004. Officers for the new season: Dick McEvoy, Superintendent; Don Florick, Assistant Superintendent; Ray Price, Clerk/Paymaster.

Susquehanna Division (11)

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, the division held the following events, all well attended and smoothly run: 19 August 1999 - joint meet with Philadelphia Division, held at Strasburg Railroad, Lancaster, PA; 6 November 1999 - Columbia Historical Society, Model Railroad Display, Columbia, PA; 29 January 2000 - Keystone Historical Model Railroad Society, Mechanicsburg, PA; 25 March 2000 - joint meet with the New Jersey Division at Toms River, NJ, and; 10 June 2000 - South Penn Model Railroad Club including the annual business meeting and election of officers, Lancaster, PA. Division officers elected for spring 2000 - spring 2002 are Brian Brandt, Superintendent; Jim Atkinson, Assistant Superintendent; and Paul Tice, Chief Clerk/Paymaster. Through the meets the membership is at 73 members. This is an increase over FY99. The "Subscriber Dues" category was eliminated from the division's rolls dur-

ing FY 98. The division has a web page at:
<http://trainweb.com/mvmra/nmral1.htm>.

Carolina Southern Division (12)

Carolina Southern Division Twelve began the year with its annual meeting on January 10, 2000 at the University City Branch of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The current officers are Paul Rivers, Superintendent; Phil Bostian, Assistant Superintendent; Larry Lau, Clerk and Dick Bronson, Paymaster. During the year, the Metrolina Model Railroaders, who operate a large modular layout at several functions held for the general public, contacted the Division. The Division agreed to build two four-foot modules that would become part of the group modular layout. The plan calls for a modified "time-saver-switching" yard and will also incorporate a passenger station and other structures. This will provide additional "off line" activity during shows and give viewers something to see other than trains continuously circling the layout. The Division provided a test track at the Southeastern Model Railroad Show held in July at the Merchandise Mart. The Division's annual picnic was held on September 30th at division member Jack Parker's home. Jack has a large operating HO scale model railroad, which is contained in two separate buildings. In addition to operating the layout, two clinics were offered along with a hot dog/hamburger feast with all the trimmings.

Carolina Piedmont Division (13)

The division roster includes 50 members. Division meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the old train depot in Apex, N.C. In addition to a business meeting, we have a modeling contest (popular vote contest) and a program. The Division publishes a monthly newsletter, the Red River Valley Herald. John Wallis is the CPD Webmaster and maintains a nice site at

<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/>.

Dick Gentner is in charge of the Division Achievement Program. Golden Spike awards were presented to Frank Mansfield, Ed Dougherty and Mike Humble. The module group has had a very active and successful year. The modules were set up at the following shows and Division 13 won first or second at every show: Great American Train Show, Winston-Salem; Golden Spike, NC State Fairgrounds; Great American Train Show, Norfolk, VA; Great American Train Show, Richmond, VA; Southern Junction Model Train Show, NC State Fairgrounds. The modules are currently being converted to DCC. In September 1999, Hurricane Floyd ravaged Eastern North Carolina with unprecedented flooding. One of the victims was the Antique Barn and Hobby Shop in Wilson, NC. Wayne Sidelinger, the owner, was completely wiped out. Many CPD-13 members helped Wayne and his family salvage what they could in the days that followed. Spurred by a letter writing campaign idea

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COMPILED BY
EDWIN C. KUSER



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

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LEHIGH VALLEY MODELS

As a youth, Frank Titman loved to build model airplanes—the kind with tissue-paper-covered stick skeletons, powered by rubber bands. When they got so banged up they couldn't be repaired, he flew them off the roof of his house—after he set them afire! During those years his dad often took him to watch trains operating in his hometown of Allentown, PA, so he got hooked on railroading. Shortly after his discharge from the SeaBees where he served at Iwo Jima during World War II, he started modeling in HO scale. It was as large as he could go in the apartment he called home.

When a little more space became available, Frank reverted to American Flyer, although he was always trying to make everything look more realistic. The change to scale modeling was triggered by the purchase of a Rex dockside loco he detailed and tried to equip with American Flyer knuckle couplers. "Those big couplers" he mused, "ruined the overall appearance of the engine so I tried some Kaydee HO knuckle couplers a friend had modified with longer glad-hands to use with S scale." That did it! They looked so good and worked so well, even though there were virtually no products for it on the market, Frank became hooked on S scale! And the result? This past year his skills as a modeler were amply attested to in Great Model Railroads 2000.

Together with a couple of buddies, Frank developed a tin and wood scale model hopper car. They sold four kits. Then, as a club, they decided to raise funds selling S scale kits of models Frank designed and built. That was the start of Lehigh Valley Models. It was also almost the end of the business, as members of the club soon tired of spending all their time assembling kits; they wanted to build their layout and run the trains. Consequently, Frank took over the "manufacturing" aspect on his own and the business has been growing for more than 20 years.

The business has truly become a one-man-operation. Frank converts his ideas for a new structure (or whatever) into a completed model. When he's satisfied with it, he creates a

kit for it, complete with very well illustrated instruction sheets which he also designs. He's skilled at drawing, a definite plus for the LVM kit-builder, for the instruction sheets have illustrations or pictures of any construction aspect which may be a bit complex. His garage serves as the manufacturing facility, the place where he cuts the needed wood stock for the kits. His train room/basement doubles as an assembly plant/warehouse for the business. Castings and printing (now photocopying) of instruction sheets are the only aspects of the kit-creating process not done on site. The castings are made by Bowser Manufacturing in Montoursville with patterns Frank himself creates.

"We believe that every model railroad must have scenery, buildings, and all the little details necessary to make it appear realistic. Lehigh Valley Models has produced a number of buildings and other railroad related details to help create that realism. You will find the instruction sheets for LVM products full of step by step drawings, and, wherever possible, all parts are precut to size or length to make for easy assembly with the least amount of work. All items needed to complete the models are included with the exception of paint and glues. Those are the words on the first page of the Lehigh Valley Models catalog that now lists nearly fifty items, each of which is individually pictured or illustrated.

You don't need to order a catalog to get an idea of just how realistic Lehigh Valley models are. Just grab a copy of Great Model Railroads 2000 and check out the photos of Frank's Spiral Hill Railroad. Every item in the catalog, except an early version of a coaling tower, is on the railroad. LVM lineside structures, utility poles, coal breakers, numerous vehicles, a corrugated box company, row houses and, of course, a water tank are among the many available models visible in the magazine photos.

While you're looking at the photos, take time to read the article. It reveals much about Frank Titman and his approach to model railroading. It also explains why there are no "diesel specific" structures offered—he's allergic to diesels! Nonetheless, many of the items will be perfectly at

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DIVISION REPORTS, continued from page 13

headed by Division member Robert Fuller, the CPD-13 acquired roughly \$10,000.00 in merchandise donated by other model shops throughout the country. The Division in partnership with the North Raleigh Model Railroad (an NTRAK organization) put on a very successful Southern Junction Model Train Show the weekend of September 9th and 10th at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. Nearly 3000 individuals visited the show with six layouts of varying scales and many vendors on display. Overall, 2000 has been a transition year for Division 13. Our long time Superintendent, Rick Allen decided to step down and Todd Hathaway agreed to serve for one year. Elections were scheduled for the September meeting.

Norm Garner - Vice President, MER

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MADE IN THE MER, continued from page 14

home on a contemporary layout. Frank's railroad is fully scenicked which, unfortunately means there is no room for additional structures, no room for expansion, and that, coupled with his age (he's 79), is why the LVM line will not continue to grow. Not only has he decided not to add any new items, he is actually considering selling the business. It is unfortunate that he will no longer be creating new kits, but the hobby is certainly richer for what he has given it through his talents and his company. I'm not an S-scaler, but I certainly have grown in the hobby by my visit to his manufacturing site!

Frank has asked that I not list his address as he is not equipped to respond to inquiries about Lehigh Valley Models. However, if you are into S scale, love well-done, beautiful structures on your layout, and you are seriously considering adding LVM structures to your layout, you can contact Lehigh Valley Models through me. My contact data are listed on page 14.

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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 Art Thomas, 228 Lovely Rd, Alum Bank, PA 15521. E-Mail to athomas@bedford.net

Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc.

Open House. December 16, 2000. Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Station, 231 Dominion Road (at Ayr Hill Road), Vienna, VA 22180. 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm each day. Club meets on Tuesday evenings. For more information call (703) 938-5157 or web site:

http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/6120

Southbound Model Railroaders Train Feast 2000 Show

Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, November 18 - 10 AM until 4 PM. Adults \$5.00. Under 12 - free with adult

Contact Blair Murray - Show Chairman, Box 25332, Winston-Salem, NC 27114, Phone: 1-336-760-6924

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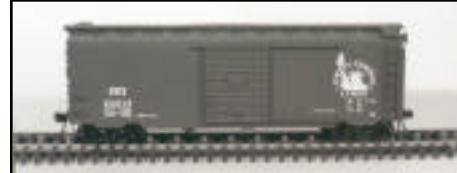
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