

The Local

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Cub Scouts Are Introduced To Model Building

Article and photographs by David Arday

BEING BOTH A CERTIFIED “train nut” in the eyes of my family and a Cub Scout den leader, I am always looking for ways to interest my Cub Scouts in my favorite hobby, especially during November’s Model Railroading Month. During each of their prior years, as Tiger Cubs (first graders) and Wolf Cubs (second graders) we visited local railroad museums when their achievement requirements called for a visit to a museum or historical site. Last year, as third grade Bear Cubs, one of their achievement options was to build a model and a base to display it on. My immediate interpretation: “HO freight car diorama.”

Of course, getting ten eight-year-old boys to sit down and build something like that during a one-hour den meeting takes a fair amount of prior planning and resources. With an annual materials budget of \$15 per Scout, buying kits for everyone would have busted my budget before the year was half over. I needed a donation. And the kits had to be simple enough for my boys—with a little help from their non-model railroader moms or dads—to handle.

The only obvious solution was a “shake-the-box” kit from either Athearn or Roundhouse, both of which are now owned by Horizon Hobby. With the help of Don Jennings, who is the MER’s coordinator for Scouting activities, I contacted Horizon well in advance of the scheduled den meeting. After several months of back-and-forth e-mail messages clarifying what I wanted and what they thought they could provide, Horizon came through and sent me a dozen 50-ft. SD Railbox kits in NS and CSX colors. They also threw in a dozen engineer’s caps for my Scouts.

I spent the weekend before the den meeting preparing materi-

als for everyone. For the scenic bases, I bought a 4 x 8 sheet of half-inch extruded Styrofoam, and cut 9x9 inch squares. I also cut from the same 4 x 8 sheet some small terrain form pieces to use as terrain features. These I further shaped with a rasping tool. Then I painted the tops of all the foam bases and terrain pieces with earth-colored latex paint.

The next step was to cut 9-inch lengths of cork roadbed and flex-track. I also prepared small containers of ground foam, colored sawdust, twigs, and lichen for the Scouts to use, along with bottles of both tacky glue and dilute glue with wetting agent already added. Screwdrivers, tweezers, eyedroppers, toothpicks, track nails, and glue brushes also went into my den supplies bag that weekend.

Once the meeting began, the first order of business was getting everyone settled and equipped. I had the Scouts start with gluing down the cork so that the glue could set while the boxcars were being assembled. I had figured getting the boxcar doors onto their tracks would be the greatest challenge, but that part of the assembly went rather

smoothly. On the other hand, the new Athearn kits came equipped with to-scale couplers with knuckle springs. Many of the tiny springs were lost during the evening’s work, as snapping the covers onto the gearboxes, while keeping the couplers in place, proved to be the most difficult part. Once the kits were done, we put them back in their boxes for transport and turned to adding the track and the terrain contours. As we had run out of time by that point, the Scouts returned to our next den meeting with their



Bear Cub Scouts from Pack #606, National Pike District, Baltimore Area Council, work on the assembly of HO boxcar kits and scenic display bases.

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Keeping In Touch...

By Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager

I TRUST all of you join me in wishing Roger Cason, our MER President, well wishes for a quick recovery. As you may have heard, Roger and his wife were taking a vacation in the Yellowstone area in June when he wound up in a hospital in Idaho Falls, experiencing a triple bypass operation. Not exactly the vacation he had planned but he is now home in Delaware and from what we hear, he is recovering nicely. John Janosko, our MER Vice President, has been filling in for Roger in the interim.

From time to time I have been asked questions about National, Regional and Division membership and any associated dues. Here's the story for those who may be confused:

Back four years ago the NMRA put in place a new "single membership dues structure." The single membership dues paid to National automatically covers membership in the Region and Division where you live. As a result, the MER and your division cannot charge dues, although some do have a charge for special activities or offerings like a newsletter. (The MER charges \$6 per year for this printed and mailed **The Local** but the **eLocal** is free.) NMRA National does forward a modest amount for each member to the Regions. Some regions, as does MER, shares a portion of that amount with the Divisions on a per capita basis.

In case you haven't been watching, the current NMRA membership dues are \$39 per year, or \$58 per year with the Scale Rails subscription. Lesser dues are available for students and family members. Check out the NMRA website (www.nmra.org) for details. Our MER subsidized Rail Pass membership is still active. A 6-months "trial" NMRA membership is available free when "recruited" by a Region or Division officer.

As always *Keep in Touch* with any questions or changes in your subscriptions or addresses. A current address on file saves the MER some money. 

The Local

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www.trainweb.org/chesapekmemnmra/index.html

The 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.

The MER website is <http://mer.nmra.org/>

Some Notes from the President

By Roger L. Cason, MMR
President

SEE YOU AT THE CONVENTION!

Hosted by the South Mountain Division, the next MER Convention will be held at the Plaza Hotel in Hagerstown. There will be a full slate of activities, including prototype tours, layout tours, model contests, photo contests and a banquet. Mark your calendar, and plan to attend.

MER WEBSITE

Check out the new and improved MER website. Lots of good information on many topics! For example, suppose you are thinking of entering the model contest or the photo contest at the upcoming MER convention, but you aren't sure about the rules. You can find what you need at <http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERContests.html>.

DO YOU KNOW ANY MEMBER WHO IS NOT RECEIVING The Local?

At one point in the past, over half of the NMRA members living in the MER were not receiving **The Local**. Spearheaded by Business Manager Fred Miller, we are making an effort to correct this situation. If you encounter any member who still is not receiving **The Local**, please pass his/her name on to Fred.

RAIL PASS – ONE OF OUR BEST RECRUITING TOOLS

The Local includes the necessary form to sign up for a Rail Pass membership to NMRA. What a deal!! New members get a FREE six month membership to NMRA with most of the “rights and privileges”. The MER pays the \$9.95 cost, which goes to National.

Our hope, of course, is that many Rail Pass members will sign up for full regular NMRA membership when their initial six-month period is over. This is proving to be the case.

Several of our MER Divisions have done a particularly good job of employing Rail Pass as a membership recruiting tool. Congratulations to the James River, Carolina Piedmont, and Chesapeake Divisions for their success in this important area!

A MEETING OF DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

In an effort to improve communication between the MER and its Divisions, we are planning to host a meeting of the Division Superintendents at the Convention in Hagerstown. Tentatively, the meeting will be on Saturday morning, 9 AM to 10:30 AM. We hope that every Division will be able to send an appropriate representative to this meeting – if not the Superintendent, then another officer or board member. Also, if you have subjects you would like to discuss in this meeting, please let me know. 

MER Nominating Committee

By Roger L. Cason, MMR
MER President

IN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, the Nominating Committee is usually an important element in the governance process. The MER is no exception. Here's what our Bylaws say on this subject (Section IV-3-A):

“A Nominating Committee consisting of a chairman and two (2) members shall be appointed by the President to examine and nominate candidates for Officers and Directors of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc., and in conformance with policy, the nominations must have the approval of the nominee and be accompanied with a photograph and a statement of not more than 200 words. These statements must be received by the committee by close of nominations for communication to all members.”

In practice, the Committee receives nominations from others, and also recruits candidates.

John Johnson MMR (Tidewater Division) is our Nominations Chairman. Mike McNamara (New Jersey Division) and Bob Minnis (Potomac Division) have agreed to serve as committee members. This year, we elected Directors. Next year (2010), we will elect the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). If you have any interest in serving as an elected officer

or board member for the MER in the future, please contact any of the three people on the committee. Contact information follows:

John Johnson MMR,
22398 Scojo Drive, Franklin, VA 23851-2819
Phone: (757) 562-5917

Mike McNamara,
58 Stoneham Drive, Delran, NJ 08075-1346
Phone: (856) 824-0871
Email: mikemcnh@comcast.net

Bob Minnis,
3016 Dower House Drive, Oak Hill, VA 20171-2236
Phone: (703) 391-0675
Email: KahluaLab@aol.com

The MER is an all-volunteer organization, and our functioning depends on having a succession of members who are willing to “give back” by serving somewhere – including as an officer or board member. 

scenic bases and added the model vegetation. We finished up with each Scout making a tree.

Although, it took the Scouts about 75 minutes get through the project, and we didn't attempt to ballast the track, the dioramas turned out pretty well. The boys met the requirements to earn their model building achievement, and perhaps some of them (or their dads) will become future model railroaders.

DAVID ARDAY is an NMRA Life Member of the Potomac Division and HO-scale modeler who has served as a Cub Scout leader for eight years. He is also a Railroading Merit Badge counselor for the National Pike District, south of Baltimore. His youngest son is a Bear Cub Scout, and his oldest son is a Life Scout who is working on earning his Eagle rank. 📧



One of the completed dioramas.

Message From the Contest Room!

By Martin Brechbiel
MER General Contest Chairman

ONCE AGAIN, I want to encourage you all to seriously consider bringing one of your models to the Western Maryland Express 2009, the MER 2008 Convention, October 15-18, and to enter it into any one of the contest categories! Beyond the standard Contest Room categories and awards, there are a number of Special Awards that you should really consider bringing that special model to place into judging.

Participating in the Contest Room is more than just competing in a contest. You really are competing against yourself more than against other modelers. Entering your models is a great way to get some feedback on your skills, and to improve your techniques and all-around model building. I plan to continue to enter a few models periodically since I'm a firm believer that there's always room for improvement, and I like to challenge myself to see what I can build as well. I hope that some of you will rise to the challenge as well and bring your models along with you to Hagerstown!

On a related note, a number of the standard Contest Room categories are always underrepresented – despite having over 45 entries last year, there were no entries in the Steam or Diesel categories!!! Just what are you folks using to pull your trains?? And, once again some of the Special Awards went home, but not with any winners! Bring in your models fill out that paperwork, and you just might stand a decent chance of taking home a nice plaque and certificate for your wall! All of the forms are still on the NMRA web site in both pdf and Word format (www.nmra.org/education/achievement/apforms.html) so you can just type up your entries directly.

I sincerely hope to see a good number of entries. And, as always I'd still also like to hear from some potential judges and those that would like to become judges (martinwb@verizon.net). I have found judging to be a great way to learn and improve your modeling skills. On top of that, judging is another activity that counts towards your Association volunteer category in the AP pro-

gram! This is a key mechanism to insure that the MER across all of its divisions maintains a good solid even cadre of Judges to promote both consistency and fairness. I'd like to see a few more of our MMR's and AP coordinators leading this effort through their participation in Hagerstown. 📧

Mix-it Puzzles

By Dr. Charles Wood

These are puzzles of scrambled words. The letters on each line can be rearranged to form a word that relates to models or to prototype railroads. Answers below.

Puzzle #11:

- a. ODNRGU
- b. GAEESSPRN
- c. LOTMPFAR
- d. WCIHST
- e. EETTSLR

Puzzle #12:

- a. PELCOI
- b. SVPEOSAR
- c. NUEROXICS
- d. OORSSVEC
- e. RAGED

DR. CHARLES WOOD lives in the Carolina Piedmont Division where he models HO scale. 📧

Answer to puzzle #11:

- a. Ground
- b. Passenger
- c. Platform
- d. Switch
- e. Trestle

Answer to puzzle #12:

- a. Police
- b. Overpass
- c. Excursion
- d. Crossover
- e. Grade

New Membership Recruitment Program

As an aid to membership recruitment, NMRA recently instituted a six month "Railpass" trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. Building on this idea, the MER is instituting a program whereby it will pay the \$9.95 Railpass fee for interested applicants in the MER. In other words, we are making available FREE six month Railpass trial memberships to encourage recruitment of regular members.

What's covered?

Same as Railpass—receive six issues of **Scale Rails**, three issues of **The Local**, eligibility to attend conventions and meets, eligibility to participate in contests.

What's not covered?

Same as Railpass—applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national (it's rather expensive).

Who can be recruited?

Anyone living within the MER who has not been a member of NMRA during the past thirty months.

How will the recruitment process work?

(1) The prospective member fills out the MER trial membership application form which was sent to all division superintendents (not the standard NMRA Railpass form) (2) The "recruiter" should

also sign the form, and then forward it to: Fred Miller, MER Business Manager, 8960 Challis Hill Lane, Charlotte, NC 28226-2686. (3) Fred will record the information he needs in his data base, and will forward the application to the MER Treasurer. (4) The Treasurer will add the necessary check and forward the application and check to the national headquarters in Chattanooga.

What happens after the member's six month trial period?

The Railpass trial member will receive a standard dues notice from national headquarters. We hope a substantial number of Railpass trial members will sign up to become regular members.

Are there limits on the program?

The MER has allocated \$2,000 for this program. The program has been extended to the end of 2009, or when we have spent \$2,000 – whichever comes first. When and if we approach either limit, Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At that time, the program will be evaluated by the MER Board of Directors. If successful, we will try to continue it.

For questions?

Contact Fred Miller, MER Business Manager (mailing address is above, 704-752-5138, tractionfan@aol.com), or Roger L. Cason, MER President (1125 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE, 19803-5125, 302-478-2550, rogercason@juno.com). 

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Mid-Eastern Region Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership

YES, please sign me up for a free six month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA—which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region, and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive **Scale Rails**, the monthly national magazine, and **The Local**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pak.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.)

At the end of the six months, I may join NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

During the past thirty months, I have **not** been a member of NMRA.

=====

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Scale(s): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of "Recruiter": _____

(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

Date of form: 1/31/07

When this form is completed,
mail it to:

Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686

Do **not** mail it directly to MMRA
headquarters in Chattanooga, TN.

The President's Award

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here and located throughout this issue are award descriptions that are specific to the MER convention.

1) WHAT IS THE AWARD?

The President's Award is an award given at each MER convention that addresses a topic, idea, modeling challenge for consideration by model builders and contest room entrants to provide a response. The President's Award challenge is announced at the previous convention and in **The Local**. Lacking any models responding to the challenge, the President may select any other model as the winner.

2) SPONSORS:

The President's Award is sponsored by the MER.

3) WHO CAN COMPETE FOR THE AWARD?

Any NMRA/MER member in good standing who chooses to enter an appropriate model in the official NMRA/MER sponsored judged model contest at a MER convention may compete for this award. A member can also compete for this award by bringing an appropriate model to be judged for the Achievement Program only.

4) MODELING PARAMETERS – definition and limits of the what qualifies a model for the award:

This is defined by the MER President for each MER convention, one year in advance. For the 2009 convention, the award will be given for the most interesting scratch built open load, in an open hopper car, gondola, or on a flat car, with all the appropriate and realistic blocking and tie downs that the load would require.

5) HOW THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST WILL BE CHOSEN:

The MER President will select the winner as he or she sees fit within the confines and terms of the announced challenge. If the MER President is unable to attend the convention, the MER Vice President may select a winner in his stead, etc down the chain of command.

If the model requires judging as a component of the challenge, the model will be judged as part of the regular judging of the model contest at an MER convention. The Judging guidelines will be those established by the NMRA for the model contest and the AP Program. Any appropriate model can also qualify for this award if it is being judged only for the Achievement Program at this convention, and is not an entry in the model contest. The appropriate model achieving the highest score above eighty-seven and one-half points in the model contest or AP only judging will be the winner.

Lacking any models responding to the challenge, the President may select any other model as the winner.

6) THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD (operation and award):

Once the winning entry has been decided, the sponsors of the award will contact the winner. At the official MER awards cere-

mony, the President's Award will be presented to the winner. The award will be handed out when the other special awards are distributed. This award will be presented by the MER President. If this is not possible, the MER General Contest Chairman, or someone he or she designates, can announce and hand out the award.

7) SPONSORS (Organization and Contact persons) AND FUNDING:

The President's Award is sponsored by the MER.

8) TIME LIMIT FOR THIS AWARD:

The sponsors of this award understand that in order for it to be placed into the special awards given at a MER sponsored convention this award must be approved by the MER Board of Directors. If approved, the award can be given at every MER sponsored convention over a two-year period. In order to continue presenting this award, the sponsors must seek renewal approval from the MER BOD every two years. 🏠

NOTICE TO ALL MER MEMBERS:

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 annual meeting of MER members will be held on Sunday morning, October 18, at 9AM, in conjunction with the MER Fall Convention in Hagerstown, MD. Room location within the convention hotel will be posted at the convention.

William Roman
MER Secretary

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The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here and located throughout this issue are award descriptions that are specific to the MER convention.

1) WHAT IS THE AWARD?

The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award is an award for excellence in modeling topics relating to Narrow Gauge railroads. For our purposes here, a narrow gauge railroad is defined as one built using rail width less than 4' 8 1/2" thus differentiating it from standard gauge lines as we know them in America and Great Britain.

2) SPONSORS:

The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award is sponsored by a group of MER fine scale narrow gauge modelers. These craftsmen represent several scales, and model both prototype and freelance railroads: Charles Flichman, Noll Horan, Norm Garner and Martin Brechbiel.

3) WHO CAN COMPETE FOR THE AWARD?

Any NMRA/MER member in good standing who chooses to enter a narrow gauge model in the official NMRA/MER sponsored judged model contest at a MER convention may compete for this award. A member can also compete for this award by bringing a narrow gauge model to be judged for the Achievement Program only.

4) MODELING PARAMETERS – definition and limits of the what qualifies a model for the award:

A narrow gauge model is defined as any recreation of something that could be found on a narrow gauge railroad line...whether local, in the United States, or throughout the world. The model can be a locomotive, a piece of rolling stock or a structure. It can also depict a narrow gauge scene in a diorama, or on a module. The model can either follow a specific prototype such as the Denver and Rio Grande Western, the Rio Grande Southern, East Broad Top, and others; or it can represent a freelanced narrow gauge railroad.

5) HOW THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST WILL BE CHOSEN:

The model will be judged as part of the regular judging of the model contest at an MER convention. The Judging guidelines will be those established by the NMRA for the model contest and the AP Program. Any narrow gauge model can also qualify for this award if it is being judged only for the Achievement Program at this convention, and is not an entry in the model contest. The narrow gauge model achieving the highest score above eighty-seven and one-half points in the model contest or AP only judging will be the winner. In case of a tied score, those judges who

are narrow gauge modelers, in consultation with the Chief judge and if necessary other narrow gauge modelers, will choose the winning entry.

6) THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD (operation and award):

Once the winning entry has been decided, the sponsors of the award will contact the winner. At the official MER awards ceremony, the MER Narrow Gauge Modeling Award trophy (plaque) will be presented to the winner. The award will be handed out when the other special awards are distributed. This award can be presented by one of the sponsors. If this is not possible, the MER General Contest Chairman, or someone he or she designates, can announce and hand out the award. The trophy will be taken by the sponsors of the award, engraved with the winner's name and date of the convention. The engraved award will then be sent on to the winner.

7) SPONSORS (Organization and Contact persons) AND FUNDING:

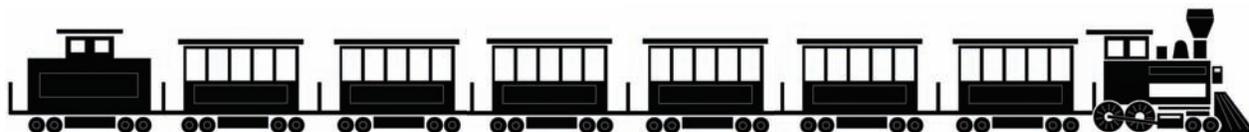
The sponsors of the award will fund The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award.

8) TIME LIMIT FOR THIS AWARD:

The sponsors of this award understand that in order for it to be placed into the special awards given at a MER sponsored convention this award must be approved by the MER Board of Directors. If approved, the award can be given at every MER sponsored convention over a two-year period. In order to continue presenting this award, the sponsors must seek renewal approval from the MER BOD every two years. 🏠

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

The South Mountain Division
will be hosting the 2009
MER Fall Convention on
October 15-18, in
Hagerstown, Maryland!



The Western Maryland Transfer!

October 15th-18th, 2009

Western Maryland
TRANSFER

By Jane Clarke
Photograph by Lee Rainey

THE CONVENTION IS ALMOST HERE! The convention committee has been working diligently to put together an action-packed long weekend. The convention venue, the Plaza Hotel, is on the west side of Hagerstown, just off I-81 and easy to get to from all directions. You can call and make reservations now; ask for the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, rate. For more

standing of how to apply timetable and train order rules and principles. The class registration fee covers the RailGroup Condensed Code of Operating Rules book.

On Friday, Bob Johnson, Bill & Mary Miller, and Steve will host TT&TO operating sessions at their railroads to give attendees the opportunity to apply the TT&TO rules and principles



The East Broad Top steams down the line.

information, please check the website <http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>. Please note that if you are an AARP member, you can get an even lower rate. If you have any problems call or e-mail Clint Hyde (chyde@cox.net) or Jane Clarke (301-610-2219, jane.clarke@bioreliance.com).

Please see the July-August issue of **The Local** and the website for information on the two all-day tours (East Broad Top and Union Bridge) and the operations call boards. Please register for these events in advance because we need to make plans ahead of time to accommodate all attendees.

We add to the list of clinics on a daily basis; ultimately, we hope to have at least 2 dozen. The schedule isn't completely set at the time of this writing, so please check the website for updates. To whet your appetite for clinics, please see below:

STEVE KING: TIME TABLE/ TRAIN ORDER OPERATIONS

This is a 2-part clinic. Please register for both the clinic (Thursday 7 PM to 10:30 PM, item #611, \$15 extra fare) and the lab (Friday 9 AM to 4 PM item #901, \$5 extra fare) at one of three layouts.

On Thursday, Steve will discuss the basic principles of the rights of trains operating under timetable and train order rules. Attendees will have the opportunity to copy a train order and will simulate the operation of trains over a railroad to gain an under-

standing of how to apply timetable and train order rules and principles. You must attend the TT&TO class on Thursday if you wish to participate in the Friday operating session. You may register attend only the TT&TO class on Thursday evening if desired, however. Also, anyone who attended the TT&TO class at the Fall 2008 MER convention may register for the Friday operating session. (Please note this on your registration form.)

Please register in advance so we will have rulebooks available and can plan Friday's operating assignments! Also, please let us know if you wish to carpool together with another person.

CLINT HYDE AND MARTIN BRECHBIEL: BUILDING IN WOOD

This hands-on clinic is item # 601 for HO scale or #602 for O scale, both are \$15 extra fare. Participants will construct a kit that is laser-cut, and features window and door castings, and a cast foundation. Kits will be available on both HO and O scale. Participants must bring their own tools (some will be provided, but having more is better), but the model and glue will be provided at the clinic. It should be possible to complete this structure in the 3-hour clinic. List of recommended tools to bring: scalpel or X-Acto with #11 blade(s), straight-edge, 90 degree inside corner angle, your favorite wood stain, sandpaper, and small spring clamps (clothespins).

The following clinics are NOT extra fare:

PETE CLARKE: MODELING THE EAST BROAD TOP

Pete will look at EBT operations and how they helped him design his EBT layout. He will examine how that design made it easy to design an operating scheme, and how we operate the layout. He will also look at how the addition of the Rockhill iron furnace changed the operating scheme. The layout will be open on Sunday. Combine this with Lee Rainey's clinic and the EBT tour for the full EBT experience!

JACK DZIADUL: MMR PROGRESS TRACKING SPREADSHEET

Jack will demonstrate an Excel spreadsheet developed to simplify the organization and tracking of progress toward achieving the Master Model Railroader designation. Attendees will have an opportunity to customize the spreadsheet for their specific certificate objectives. It is recommended that you bring your laptop to the clinic, but it is not required.

JIM FISHER: MICHIGAN COPPER RAILROADS

This clinic features 160 slides taken by Jim circa 1953-55 focusing on the Quincy & Torch Lake RR, the Copper Range RR, the Hecla & Torch Lake RR (Calumet & Hecla Mining Co.) and others. It includes some historical images and content on modeling these railroads. He will hand out some reference maps, too.

CHARLIE FLICHMAN: CONTEST (AP) JUDGING

This is the popular intro to judging clinic offered for the past 2 years. Charlie will offer tips on filling out the judging forms. This is useful for new judges and for people with entries to be judged. Learn what is important for earning Achievement Program points!

MICHAEL HOHN: HISTORIC PROTOTYPE MODELING

The many new models of rolling stock available in wood and resin make accurate modeling for the period before 1900 easier than ever without having to scratch build everything. This clinic reviews advantages, products available, sources for decals, and resources for historic modeling of the period when the average car was 30-34 feet long and locomotives were small. The clinic includes a slide tour of Michael's layout which is set in upstate NY in 1888.

STAN KNOTTS: PHELPS DODGE COPPER MINING

This is an historic presentation on Phelps Dodge Corporation and the copper mining industry.

RICHARD LIND: THE HAGERSTOWN AND FREDERICK RAILROAD

This is a PowerPoint presentation of the history of one of Maryland's last freight-hauling interurban railroads, the Hagerstown & Frederick RR, from 1896-1961. A discussion of the development of electric street railroad technology will be included. Emphasis is on Frederick City and Frederick County, with a discussion about the reason the line was first constructed, its redevelopment as a freight-hauling RR, and its part in building a large power distribution company.

RICHARD LIND: MODELING REALISTIC STONE STRUCTURES FROM STYROFOAM

This is a PowerPoint presentation, including a video, showing an easy and effective way to model stone railroad structures from Styrofoam extruded polystyrene insulation board. A photo presentation showing examples of stone masonry on local railroads will be included.

RICHARD LIND: "SUPER TREES" MADE EASY

Helpful hints on making Scenic Express Super Trees. This alternative method uses cheap hairspray, flocking, paint, and planting to model an Appalachian forest.

RICHARD LIND: THE WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN RAILROAD

This is a PowerPoint presentation of a railroad that was narrow gauge from 1887 to 1896 and which hauled timber, coal, and tourists until its abandonment in 2002. The presentation includes the line's history, rolling stock, structures, train length and frequency, tipple names and locations, disposition of equipment, and many photos.

BOB MARKLE: RAILFANNING IN THE HAGERSTOWN AREA

This is a traditional slide show featuring current and recent past operations of CSX, NS, Winchester & Western, and Maryland Midland railroads. See this slide show before you go out railfanning during the convention!

LEE RAINEY: HISTORY OF THE EAST BROAD TOP

Handsome and powerful Mikados, heavy coal traffic, and a private car once used by President Grover Cleveland – all on three-foot-gauge track. In fact, Pennsylvania's East Broad Top Railroad was not only the last narrow gauge line this side of the Rockies but also a big-time operation in everything but width. This clinic will profile the line's history, rolling stock and operations, and is great background for those car-pooling to the EBT the following day. Lee Rainey is co-author of the definitive scholarly history of the railroad and now coordinator of volunteer restoration activities at the EBT's Rockhill Furnace headquarters.

BOB REID: LAYOUT DESIGNS FOR SMALLER SPACES

This clinic will feature designs for bedrooms, what will fit, how era and radius interact, thoughts on aisles, design objectives, and gaining elevation without resorting to hidden track. These are some lessons learned from Bob's Allegheny and Shenandoah RR.

ROGER SEKERA: PROTOTYPICAL SPICE FOR COAL OPERATIONS

This will feature how to apply real-life, prototypical coal operations to bring some spice into your model railroad by avoiding up-and-back movements. Some thoughts on coal operations paperwork and billing are also included.

continued on page 10

BOB WEINHEIMER: OPERATIONS ON THE PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

The Pennsylvania Southern is an HO-scale freelance line connecting Pittsburgh with the Deep South. The era is 1980 and the modeled portion of the line is that part in Pennsylvania. Topics include: a brief pictorial tour of the layout, a description of the rolling stock, scheduled trains, car-forwarding system, dispatching system, and the use of switch-lists in yard and local train operation.

ALSO AT THE PLAZA HOTEL

A new narrow gauge modular layout, James River Division On30 Modular Group, will be shown to MER for the first time ever. The Saturday evening banquet (item #401) at the Plaza Hotel will culminate in a keynote presentation by Linn Moedinger of the Strasburg RR and the contest awards.

LAYOUT TOURS

As of this writing we have more than 20 layout open houses confirmed. If there are no unforeseen circumstances we should have in the range of 30 layouts, clubs, etc. when we are done. There will be a good mix with most major scales represented including N, HO, S and O. This is my favorite part of any convention and our layout tour coordinator has done a great job with this. There will be no buses to layouts, but we will have a carpool sign-up sheet at the registration table. Layouts will be open Friday and

Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday afternoon.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Of course there will be a raffle, white elephant table, auction, and model contest. Be sure to volunteer to help out while you're there, there's always room for additional help in one place or another. Many volunteers will be needed to help set-up and break-down between clinics.

NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES

Please make use of the non-rail questionnaire on the website. We won't know what activities are desired unless we hear from you! There are lots of shopping opportunities from antiques to electronics nearby. We have a volunteer (OK, maybe she was conscripted) who will conduct an art framing clinic if demand warrants. There are many historical sites (such as Antietam battlefield) and recreational activities (such as biking on the C&O canal towpath) nearby.

RESTAURANTS

You wouldn't believe how many restaurants are close to the Plaza Hotel! We will post the list on the website and hand out the list and map at registration.

I can't make any guarantees, but I think you will have a great time at the Western Maryland Transfer this year! 🚗

Pat McTeigue Awarded Association Volunteer Certificate – A Tribute to a True Hero

*By Dave Messer, MMR
Photograph by Earl Paine*

NMRA MEMBERS frequently receive recognition for their service to the association, but this one is extraordinary, and the Philadelphia Division, MER, would like to pay special tribute. Pat McTeigue signed on to volunteer as a Layout Tour Coordinator in the years leading up to Independence Junction 2006, held in Philadelphia. With dedication and strong organizational skills he took on the task of contacting dozens of layout owners and convincing them of the value of hosting a tour. Along the way, the Publicity Chair for the convention had to step down, and because Pat was already in contact with layout owners regarding articles for **Scale Rails** and the commercial press, he willingly took on the additional task of coordinating publicity for the event. The result was an excellent series of articles and thematic advertisements for the convention, which achieved an outstanding level of attendance.

This might be enough for recogni-

tion, but the story doesn't end there. Shortly after the convention was over, Pat was the victim of a horrific automobile accident, which left him with multiple fractures and other injuries, and ultimately the loss of his eyesight. After enduring repeated surgeries to repair his arms and legs followed by extended rehabilitation periods involving not only the use of his limbs but also to learn to live in a world of perpetual darkness, Pat has been able to return

to a reasonably normal life, including working on and operating his layout. Remarkably, through it all he has maintained a sense of humor and a positive outlook on life, and continues to set up open houses for Division meets. He even prepared the AP documents, with the assistance of friends and special computer software.

A true hero, and an inspiration to us all!

DAVE MESSER, MMR lives in the Philadelphia Division. 🚗



Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Fall Convention

October 15 – 18, 2009
 Hagerstown, Maryland
REGISTRATION FORM



Please enter (print legibly) all names as you wish them to appear on your registration badges:

Primary Registrant's Name: _____

Significant Other (living at same address): _____

Children (under age 16 – List all): _____

Address: Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ NMRA # _____

DESCRIPTION	COST	#	PAYING
Early Registration (before September 1, 2009)	\$35		
Registration after September 1, 2009	\$40		
Registration after October 10, 2009 and on-site	\$45		
One-day Registration	\$20		
Non-NMRA member (applied to Rail Pass Membership)	\$10		
Significant other	\$15		
Children	\$10		
Banquet (Sat. Eve.), Keynote address by Linn Moedinger	401 \$30		
Extra Fare Clinics:			
Building in Wood Clinic (HO) (Hyde and Brechbiel) (Fri. Eve.)	601 \$15		
Building in Wood Clinic (O) (Fri. Eve.)	602 \$15		
Timetable and Train Order (TT/TO) Clinic & Operations (King) (Thurs. Eve.), combine with "lab" below	611 \$15		
TT/TO "lab" operations (Friday All Day)	901 \$ 5		
Tours:			
A Day at Union Bridge: Railroad and Industrial Tour (Fri. all day). Requires hard hat, safety glasses and safety shoes	301 \$27		
East Broad Top Excursion and Shops Tour (Sat. all day) Adult, includes box lunch, train, trolley, shop tour tickets.	201 \$45		
East Broad Top Excursion and Shops Tour (Sat. all day) Child 11 or under, must be accompanied by an adult, includes box lunch, train, trolley, shop tour tickets.	202 \$30		
Call Boards:			
Call Board Shockey – Great Northern Emp. (Thurs. Eve.)	801 \$ 5		
Call Board Grove – Pine Valley Timber Co. (Sat. Eve.)	802 \$ 5		
Call Board Rausch – Ohio Northern (Fri. Eve.)	803 \$ 5		
Call Board Wolfe – West. Maryland Railway Blue Ridge Division (Fri. Eve.)	804 \$ 5		
Call Board McEvoy – Barneytown and Scupperville (Fri. Eve.)	805 \$ 5		
Call Board Shockey – Great Northern Empire (Sat. AM)	807 \$ 5		
TOTAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION PAID			

Payment must accompany registration.

Make checks payable to:
MER Fall Convention

Send all registrations to:
MER Fall Convention
P.O. Box 447
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

For questions and / or additional information e-mail
MER-Registrar@comcast.net

CONVENTION HOTEL:

Plaza Hotel
 1718 Underpass Way,
 Halfway Blvd. (exit 5A off I-81)
 Hagerstown, MD 21740
 301-797-2500
www.plazahotelhagerstown.com

The convention rate is \$85 per room single, \$95 double, \$105 triple, and \$115 quad (plus taxes) per night. All hotel registrations must be made directly with the hotel at 301-797-2500. These rates are in effect until 24 September 2009. When registering, specify the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA to get these special rates.

The Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here and located throughout this issue are award descriptions that are specific to the MER convention.

1) WHAT IS THE AWARD?

The Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award rewards excellence in model building by first time entrants in an NMRA sponsored judged model contest. The highest score achieved by a new modeler in the contest is worth not only a plaque, but a cash prize of twenty five dollars.

2) SPONSORS:

This award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Division of the MER. The associated contact point for this award is Dick Landt of the Philadelphia Division of the MER.

3) WHO CAN COMPETE FOR THE AWARD?

Any NMRA/MER member in good standing who chooses to enter a model for the FIRST TIME in the official NMRA/MER sponsored judged model contest at a MER convention may compete for this award.

4) MODELING PARAMETERS – definition and limits of the what qualifies a model for the award:

The model can be a locomotive, a piece of rolling stock or a structure or an entry in any of the other NMRA Contest categories.

5) HOW THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST WILL BE CHOSEN:

The model will be judged as part of the regular judging of the model contest at an MER convention. The Judging guidelines will be those established by the NMRA for the model contest and the AP Program. The first time entry achieving the highest score will be the winner. In case of a tied score, a member of the Board of Directors the Philadelphia Division, or their designee, will choose the winning entry.

6) THE NEW MODELER AWARD (operation and award):

Once the winning entry has been decided, the sponsor(s) of the award will contact the winner. At the official MER awards ceremony, the Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award will be presented to the winner. The award will be handed out when the other special awards are distributed. This award can be presented by one of the sponsors. If this is not possible, the MER General Contest Chairman, or someone he or she designates, can announce and hand out the award. The sponsor(s) of the award will contact the winner directly for awarding the \$25 award portion of the award.

7) SPONSORS (Organization and Contact persons) AND FUNDING:

The sponsors of the award will fund the Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award.

8) TIME LIMIT FOR THIS AWARD:

The sponsors of this award understand that in order for it to be placed into the special awards given at a MER sponsored conven-

tion this award must be approved by the MER Board of Directors. If approved, the award can be given at every MER sponsored convention over a two-year period. In order to continue presenting this award, the sponsors must seek renewal approval from the MER BOD every two years. 🏠

CLASSIFIED

Do you have a wanted/trade/for sale item(s)? Looking for car-pool options or options for sharing a room? **The Local** is starting classified section for all MER members. Send your classified ad to the Editor at stevespressrr@yahoo.com, or see all the Editor's contact information on page 2.

The ad must include full name and contact information and will be limited to one issue. Word count is also limited to fifty (50) words. Please include your NMRA number for verification purposes (number will not be published).

LOOKING FOR...

Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad date nails, boxcar kit MDC #3290, 36' car #729, CM Shops Rail Runner #168, 50' car #?, Kar-Line #6613, 50' car #9003 any other odd Ma & Pa items. Seabees boxcar Bev-Bel (Athearn) kit #2317-1, 2317-2, 40' car #? Email loco82@comcast.net or call (717) 767-4998.

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The Favorite Train Award

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here and located throughout this issue are award descriptions that are specific to the MER convention.

1) WHAT IS THE AWARD?

The Favorite Train Award is a popular vote award and will be included on the Popular Vote ballot. The award recognizes an entry in the contest room in the form of an entire train.

2) SPONSORS:

The Favorite Train Award is sponsored by the Tidewater Division, MER.

3) WHO CAN COMPETE FOR THE AWARD?

Any NMRA/MER member in good standing who chooses to enter an appropriate model in the official NMRA/MER sponsored judged model contest at a MER convention may compete for this award. A member can also compete for this award by bringing an appropriate model to be judged for the Achievement Program only. For this specific contest however, the entry does not have to be a judged entry as this is a popular vote contest award.

4) MODELING PARAMETERS – definition and limits of the what qualifies a model for the award:

The entry in the contest room shall be in the form of an entire train.

5) HOW THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST WILL BE CHOSEN:

The winning model, a complete train, will be voted on via a popular vote ballot within the contest room. Ballots will be made available and voting will be available throughout the time period that the models are available for viewing. The ballots will be tallied at the conclusion of the judging activities of the contest room.

6) THE FAVORITE TRAIN AWARD (operation and award):

Once the winning entry has been decided, the sponsors of the award will contact the winner. At the official MER awards ceremony, the Favorite Train Award will be presented to the winner. The award will be handed out when the other special awards are distributed. This award will be presented by a representative of the sponsors. If this is not possible, the MER General Contest Chairman, or someone he or she designates, can announce and hand out the award.

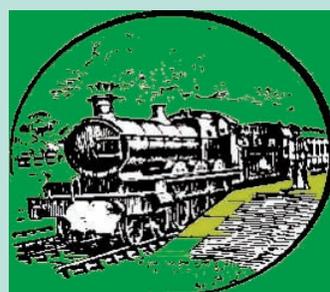
7) SPONSORS (Organization and Contact persons) AND FUNDING:

The Favorite Train Award is sponsored by the Tidewater Division, MER and funded by the MER.

8) TIME LIMIT FOR THIS AWARD:

The sponsors of this award understand that in order for it to be placed into the special awards given at a MER sponsored convention this award must be approved by the MER Board of Directors. If approved, the award can be given at every MER sponsored con-

vention over a two-year period. In order to continue presenting this award, the sponsors must seek renewal approval from the MER BOD every two years. 🚂



20th Annual Tidewater Division Train Show

**Virginia Beach
Convention Center**
1000 19th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

September 19–20, 2009
10AM – 4PM both days

- Operating layouts in various gauges (N, HO, O, G, LEGO)
 - Train Doctors
 - Test Tracks
 - Train Sets
- Scenery Supplies
- Books and Videos
- Track Memorabilia
 - Tools for sale
- White Elephant Tables

ADMISSION: \$7.00 For Adults

- \$1.00 from every paid admission goes to **Toys for Tots**
- CHILDREN UNDER 12 – FREE
(With an adult)
- FREE FOR SCOUTS IN UNIFORM
(With their Scoutmasters, Troop Leaders,
Den Mothers or Brownie Leaders)

For more information contact show coordinator

Steve Prescott

Email: nawneycreek@msn.com

Phone: 757-426-2811

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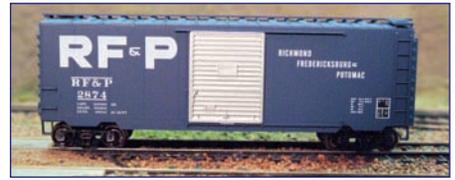
COURTESY OF THE FREIGHT YARD



These 40' Western Maryland N-Scale box cars are Micro-Train bodies custom painted by The Freight Yard. They are box car red with prominent white "speed lettering".



These 40' RF&P PS-1 HO-Scale box cars are Accurail bodies, custom painted by Accurail. They are blue with aluminum-colored doors, and feature prominent white lettering.



F.L. MATSON (2)

Milk station.
Simplified
structure.



CLINT HYDE

Small Freight Station,
Tidy windows and
detail parts, laser-cut
walls, roof, tar paper,
and stripwood for the
platform.



CLINT HYDE

WESTERN MD. N-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#29290	_____	NEW! \$10.00	NEW! \$14.00	\$_____
#29299	_____	NEW! \$10.00	NEW! \$14.00	\$_____
Shipping: \$2.50 for first car, + \$1.50 for each additional car				\$_____

RF&P HO-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#2836	_____	NEW! \$6.00	NEW! \$9.00	\$_____
#2874	_____	NEW! \$6.00	NEW! \$9.00	\$_____
Shipping: \$2.00 for each car (not for each order)				\$_____

* Please list your MER or NMRA Membership # _____

MER CLOTH PATCH**	QUANTITY _____	\$3.00 including S&H	\$_____
MER LAPEL PIN/TIE TACK**	QUANTITY _____	\$6.00 including S&H	\$_____

MER HO-SCALE STRUCTURE KIT**			
Milk Station	QUANTITY _____	\$25.00 postpaid	\$_____
Small Freight Station	QUANTITY _____	\$25.00 postpaid	\$_____

THE LOCALS** — (all issues 1997–2007) on CD	QUANTITY _____	\$5.00 postpaid	\$_____
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CALLBOARD

Coming Events

September 5th and 6th. Masonic Village and Elizabethtown Model Railroad Club open house. 2 PM until 4 PM both days. Held at 1 Masonic Dr in Elizabethtown, PA. Call (717) 361-5180 for more information.

September 6th & 7th. Fairfax Station Labor Day Show with the Potomac Module Crew and NVNTrak. 11200 Fairfax Station Rd in Fairfax Station, VA. HOURS: 12 PM until 5 PM on Sunday 1 PM until 4 PM on Monday. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more information.

September 12th & 13th. The Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Show to be held at Merchants Square Mall, 1901 South 12th St in Allentown, PA. Adults: \$5, Children 12 under free. HOURS: 10 AM until 4 PM on Saturday/10 AM until 3 PM on Sunday. For more information visit www.lehighvalleytrainmeet.com/train.html. **Special \$1 off coupon at www.lehighvalleytrainmeet.com/pdfs/coupon.pdf**

September 12th and 13th. Great Train Expo. Held at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd in Raleigh, NC. 10 AM until 4 PM both days. Adults: \$7, children under 12 free. For more information visit www.greattrainexpo.com.

September 12th. Harford Community College's Model Railroad Open House with the Chesapeake Division. Held at Harford Community College (Edgewood Hall Room 132) 401 Thomas Run Rd in Bel Air, MD. 10 AM until 3 PM. Contact Kurt Thompson at (410) 544-7247 or kurtrain@verizon.net.

September 13th. Potomac Division layout tour in Laytonsville, MD. 1 PM until 4 PM. Contact layout coordinator Tom Brodrick at (301) 253-0558 or t.brodbrod@comcast.net.

September 12th. Wade's Train Town Open house, operated by Carolina Southern Division members, at the Brookford Town Center. 1700 South Center St. in Hickory, NC. 10 AM until 4 PM.

September 19th. New Jersey Division meet (along with NER Garden State Division). Meet to be held at Christ Church, 90 Kings Hwy. in Middletown, NJ. Clinics from 9 AM until Noon. Layout tours from 1 until 4 PM. Contact Mike McNamara at (856) 824-0871 or mikemcnh@comcast.net.

September 19th & 20th. Tidewater Division's 20th Annual Train Show and Sale. 10 AM until 4 PM both days. See inside and visit <http://nmra-mer-tidewater.org/> under 'Annual Show' tab for more information.

September 19th & 20th. Great Train Expo. Held at Metrolina Tradeshow Expo, 7100 Statesville Rd in Charlotte, NC. 10 AM until 4 PM both days. Adults: \$7, children under 12 free. For more information visit www.greattrainexpo.com.

September 26th. Joint meet between the Susquehanna and Philadelphia Divisions. Meeting held at the Lukens Office Building at 505 First Ave in Coatesville, PA. Doors open at 8:30 AM. Clinics from 9 until Noon. Layout tours from 1 until 4 PM. Contact Jeff Warner at (717) 932-9929, E-mail jwarner@susquehannanmra.org or Greg Shindledecker at (610) 383-7767, E-mail greg@shindledecker.com.

September 26th. Open house presented by the Chesapeake Bay Railroaders. 110F Dare Rd in Yorktown, VA. 10 AM until 6 PM. For more information about the club visit www.trainweb.org/cbw.

October 2nd & 3rd. First Lehigh/Susquehanna Operations Weekend. Jointly sponsored by the Susquehanna Division and OPSIG. Advance signup was required; this only serves as a reminder. For future events like this in the Susquehanna Division, contact Jeff Warner at (717) 932-9929 or jwarner@susquehannanmra.org.

Callboard continued on back cover

Achievement Program Update

By Charlie Flichman, MER AP Manager

Since the last report in **The Local**, the following Achievement Program certificates were earned and awarded:

Division 1 – New Jersey

David Albertson – *Gold Spike*
Joseph Calderone – *Gold Spike*
Joseph Calderone – *Scenery*
Michael McNamara – *Model Railroad Author*
Roger Thomas – *Gold Spike*

Division 2 – Potomac

Brian Sheron – *Model Railroad Author*
Brian Sheron – *Engineering, Civil*

Division 3 – Philadelphia

Patrick McTeigue – *Association Volunteer*

Division 4 – Tidewater

Chuck Davis – *Structures*
Chuck Davis – *Association Volunteer*
James McLemore, III – *Scenery*

Division 11 – Susquehanna

Robert Bucklew – *Chief Dispatcher*

In a perfect world, this information will appear soon in **Scale Rails**. This should not deter you from giving recognition locally. Normally you will be able to recognize AP accomplishments long before the names appear in **Scale Rails**. 

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Make checks payable to the Mid-Eastern Region

Callboard continued from page 15

October 9th – 11th. First Annual Rail Operations weekend hosted by the Carolina Southern Division. Advance signup was required; this only serves as a reminder. For future events like this in the Carolina Division, contact Steve August at (704) 971-3377 or steven@august.org.

October 11th. Wade's Train Town Open house, operated by Carolina Southern Division members, at the Brookford Town Center. 1700 South Center St in Hickory, NC. 10 AM until 4 PM.

October 11th. Potomac Division layout tour in Gainesville, MD. 1 PM until 4 PM. Contact layout coordinator Tom Brodrick at (301) 253-0558 or t.brodbrod@comcast.net.

October 10th & 11th. Great Scale Model Train Show. Held at the Maryland State Fair Grounds located at 2200 York Rd in Timonium, MD. HOURS: 9 AM until 4 PM on Saturday/10 AM until 4 PM on Sunday. Adults: \$9; kids 12 and under are free (admission is good for both days). For more information visit www.gsmts.com.

October 15th – 18th. WESTERN MARYLAND TRANSFER in Hagerstown, MD. See inside or visit <http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html> for more information.