

The Local

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA



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Number 2

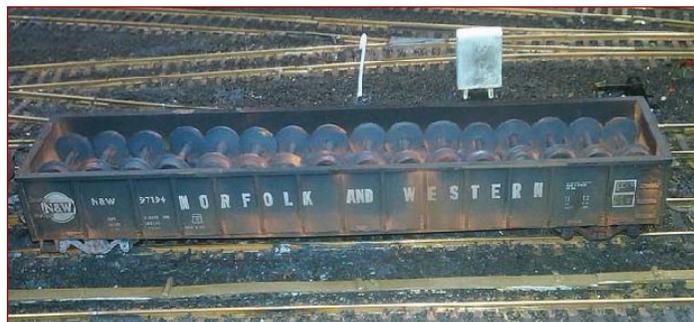
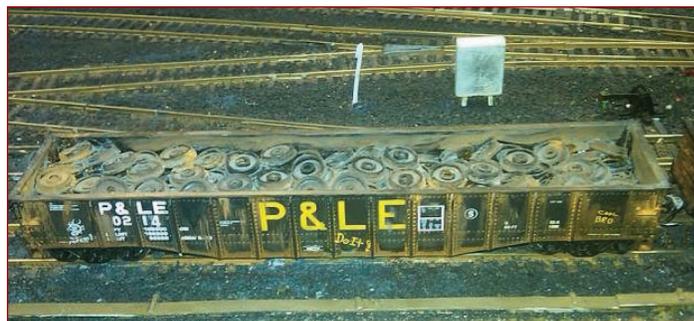
Gondola Loads

By Brian W. Sheron, MMR
Potomac Division/HO Scale

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, my agency temporarily moved my office to a new building about 3 miles from our headquarters. My office was on the 6th floor and the CSX tracks ran right next to our building. While some people might complain because of the noise, I was delighted! I would estimate about a dozen freight trains a day passed by in both directions. While about half of them were coal and auto carriers, the other half were mixed freight. Because I was on the 6th floor, I had the



Figures 1 and 2 show typical railroad tie loads. I cut two inserts from 1/8" thick styrene sheets and glued them into the bottom of the gondola. I then used Elmer's White Glue and glued two layers of HO scale railroad ties on top of the plastic



Figures 3 and 4 show typical freight car wheel loads. For the car with a wheelset load, again I cut an insert from 1/8" styrene plastic that fits exactly inside the gondola. I glued some old wheelsets onto the styrene, and when the glue dried, I sprayed the whole assembly Floquil Grimy Black. I then used rust-colored weathering pastels to weather the wheels. For the car with just wheels, I just glued them in place, building up several layers. I also painted them Floquil Grimy Black and weather them with rust-colored pastels.

unique advantage of being able to see what is in all of the gondolas, and I used this opportunity to model these prototypical loads in gondolas that I run on my HO scale Long Island Rail Road.

continued on page 3

The Local

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

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

EDITORIAL STAFF



Editor: Steve Kindig
800 York Road, Lot #3
Dover, PA 17315
(717) 825-5558
stevesexpressrr@yahoo.com



Webmaster: Martin Oakes
8057 Lucky Creek Lane
Denver, NC 28037-8004
(704) 483-7972
martinoakes@charter.net



Publisher: Julianne H. Smith
7221 Ridgeway Drive
Manassas, VA 20112,
(703) 794-7309
dragonjuls@comcast.net

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



President: John Janosko
264 White Cedar Lane
Youngsville, NC 27596-9196
(919) 562-0260
johnajan@embarqmail.com



Vice President: P. J. Mattson, MMR
129 East Avenue
Swedesboro, NJ 08085-1209
(856) 467-0421
pjmattson@comcast.net



Secretary: Mike White
3800 Chaneyville Road
Owings, MD 20736
(410) 286-2873
mm.white@comcast.net



Treasurer: Thomas R. Buckingham
7216 S. Osborne Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-4206
(301) 952-0427
tombuckingham@juno.com



MER Archivist: Bob Price
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(856) 854-8585
Bob.Price4@comcast.net



MER Contest Chair/Manager:
Martin Brechbiel
3404 Monarch Lane
Annandale, VA 22003
(703) 309-3082
martinwb@verizon.net



Director:
Bob Price
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(856) 854-8585
Bob.Price4@comcast.net



Director:
Donald H. Jennings
217 Lake Tillery Drive
Cary, NC 27519-9518
(919) 468-0910,
donj1044@aol.com



Director:
Marty McGuirk
7958 Priva Ct
Manassas, VA 20111
(703) 331-1285,
mjmcguirk@comcast.net



Achievement Program Manager
Charles Flichman, MMR
6909 Crandall Court
Clemmons, NC 27012-9056
(336) 766-8353,
cwflich@aol.com



Business Manager:
Bob Price
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(856) 854-8585, MER-
BusMgr@comcast.net



Nominations Chairman:
Bob Minnis, MMR
11 Marwood Drive
Palmyra, VA 22963;
(434) 589-3011,
kahlualab@aol.com

MER DIVISION CONTACTS



New Jersey Division 1
Superintendent: Robert Clegg
(856) 696-0463
bobcats@comcast.net
Division web page:
www.njdivnmra.org



Potomac Division 2
Superintendent: Marshall Abrams
(301) 588-1005
Abrams_railroad@comcast.net
Division web page: http://home.comcast.net/~potomac_nmra/



Philadelphia Division 3
Superintendent: John Siebert
(610) 489-7780,
johnhseibert@comcast.net
Division web page:
<http://www.phillynmra.org/>



Tidewater Division 4
Superintendent: Gary Brown; (757) 481-2348; alleghenyrr@yahoo.com
Division web page:
www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org



James River Division 5
Superintendent: Bob Minnis, MMR
(434) 589-3011,
kahlualab@aol.com
Division web page:
<http://www.trainweb.org/jrd/>

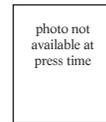


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South Mountain Division 10
Superintendent: Richard C. Lind
202 W College Ter.
Frederick, MD 21701-4844
301-694-9496,
rlind202@verizon.net
Division web page: www.smdnmra.org



Susquehanna Division 11
Superintendent: Barry Schmitt
(717) 877-1810, bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org
Division web page:
www.susquehannanmra.org



Carolina Southern Division 12
Superintendent: Bob Halsey;
(704) 660-9712; xnavman@roadrunner.com
Division web page:
www.carolinasouthern.org

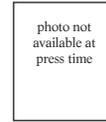


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Carolina Piedmont Division 13
Superintendent: Grif Bond;
(919) 556-7066,
grifbond@embarqmail.com
Division web page:
<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13>



Chesapeake Division 14
Superintendent: Kurt A. Thompson
(410) 544-7247;
super.chesdivmnmra@gmail.com
Division web page:
www.chesapeake-nmra.org

All subscription information, advertising rates and publication deadlines are now located on page 16.

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



From The Business Car

By John Janosko
MER President

ON JANUARY 19TH we had our annual board meeting at Tom Buckingham's place. I am happy to announce that the MER is in sound financial condition and should be for the foreseeable future. We had a presentation from the 2013 convention committee and it looks as if they are running right on schedule. At present there are 7 operating sessions and 45 layouts that will be on tour. There are also some great clinics and speakers lined up for the convention. The Crown Plaza convention hotel serves mostly business people during the week, so we should have the hotel to ourselves for the convention. You should also be able to see on the web registration all of the convention options. There was some delay on getting all of the information to the registrar but it should now be taken care of. Hope you will be able to make it to the convention. You do not want to hear from your friends about everything you missed if you do not attend.

At the October 2013 meeting we voted to raise the price of the hard copy **Local** to \$9.00 a year. This was done because for years we have been subsidizing **The Local** and trying to keep the costs down to members. Just as a note it cost the MER \$1.39 for the Jan/Feb issue. This includes the cost of printing and mailing. So you can see that for the MER this is not a profit part of the business. Most of our operating profit comes from the convention. Remember you can still get **The Local** for free on our web page.

Our next board meeting will be held on Oct 10, 2013 at the MER convention. As a member you are entitled to attend. You may even want to get involved.

Now let's go work on the layout. 📁

Gondola Loads continued from page 1



Finally, in figure 5, I modeled a shredded scrap metal load. The load is actually small pieces of metal lathe cuttings that I got from a local welding shop. I washed the metal cuttings in soapy water because they were covered with oil used to cool the cutting blade. I then spread them out in the gondola, soaked them with a mixture of white glue and water and then left it for several days to dry.

While there are always exceptions, I would estimate that about 90% of the gondola loads fall into the following categories:

- 1.) shredded scrap metal
- 2.) railroad ties
- 3.) freight car wheels

Modeling each of these is simple and provides prototypic loads for your railroad. 📁

From The Editor

Steve Kindig
Editor of **The Local**

Update: A volunteer has stepped forward for both the Editor and Photographer position. But before I can hand over the throttle he is seeking someone to fill his current position as the White Elephant room and Auction Coordinator position. IS IT YOU??? If you are interested in the coordinator position you can find all the details and his contact information in the "Open Positions" box on page 5. Once a coordinator is found, we will make the new Editor official.

Shout out: As your current Editor I am always on the hunt for short, long and in between articles, how-to's, callboard items, news and everything else from around the divisions. If you have an idea you would like to run by me or something that has been sitting around just waiting to be submitted – now is the time! Email me at stevespressrr@yahoo.com or check out all my information on page 2. 📁



Keeping In Touch...

By Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager

SPRING AND SUMMER are rapidly approaching and you will probably have all of those outdoor activities knocking on your door. How about getting some of your modeling projects done before the draw to the great outdoors?

Have you noticed we now have a MER Polo Shirt for you to purchase. It's a nice grey short-sleeved shirt with collar and MER Logo. And how about adding a MER Lapel pin to round out your Mid-Eastern Region attire?

Several folks have asked about the MER subsidized Rail Pass membership. The MER Board has again voted to continue the program. Remember this is a true NMRA Rail Pass membership, normally priced at \$9.95 but the MER pays that fare for anyone interested in "tasting" NMRA membership for a 6-month period. It's available for any interested model railroader living in the MER territory. The membership includes all benefits except for voting

and holding office. If you know an individual who might like to try this "trial" membership, take a look at the application included elsewhere in this issue.

A few issues or so ago I mentioned that I was ready to "retire" from this volunteer MER Business Manager position. After 9+ years servicing lots of the region's administrative duties it has come time for me to hang up the Conductor's hat.

At the last MER Board meeting, the board sanctioned Bob Price to take over the duties of the Business Manager. Bob and I have been working to make as smooth a transition as we possibly can. Bob can be reached at his newly assigned email address of **MER-BusMgr@Comcast.net**. Future questions about your membership or updates to your contact information should be directed to Bob.

I have enjoyed participating in the administration of the MER and dealing with so many of the MER members and the Board over several presidencies. I wish Bob Price all the best. I know the Business Manager tasks will be in good hands.

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

Statement of Financial Condition Mid-Eastern Region

As of December 31, 2012

Respectfully Submitted by
Thomas R. Buckingham, MER Treasurer

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>Assets (excluding inventories)</u>		Breakdown of Net Assets	
High Point Bank Checking Account	\$4,076.77	<u>Restricted Assets</u>	
High Point Bank Money Market Account	\$2,710.86	Life Member Fund	\$42,219.70
High Point Bank General CD 1	\$12,055.94	Life Member Fund Interest	
High Point Bank Life CD	\$42,516.95	(paid to Money Market Account)	\$309.15
High Point Bank General CD 2	\$15,000.00	Pre-paid Subscriptions	\$3,410.00
Convention Advance	\$1,600.00		
		<u>Assets Restricted by Board of Directors</u>	
<u>Liabilities</u>		Donation Fund	\$4,029.19
None		Kit Fund	\$5,845.40
		Unrestricted Assets	\$22,147.08
Net Assets (excluding inventories)	\$77,960.52	Total Net Assets	\$77,960.52

The Life Member Fund covers our liability to provide services to our Life Members. It consists of fees paid by Life Members and interest earned on that money. Pre-Paid Subscriptions are those collected in the current and prior years and held for use in future years.

The Donation Fund collects the donations made by members and other donors. Since we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization, these donations are tax deductible. The Board of Directors may direct the use of these funds for special projects.

The Kit Fund is a revolving fund for the car kits and building kits we sell. Proceeds from the kits sold are used to buy new kits. Surplus proceeds may be used for purposes designated by the Board of Directors.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the MER Treasurer (contact information is listed on Page 2).

Nathan “Jim” Cope 1940 – 2012

*By Eric Dervinis
Philadelphia Division/HO Scale*

Jim Cope passed away on Christmas Eve 2012. He had been an active member of the region, attending many of the conventions over the last 30 years. His last was Milepost 40, where he revisited the sites he saw when posted there by the Navy. The highlight of the weekend was the new light rail where he delighted in riding over the right of way of his beloved Norfolk Southern RR (the original NS).

In 1988 Jim was the driving force behind the effort to secure the NMRA National Convention for the New Jersey Division. Thanks to his work ethic and determination, **Valley Forge Express** was one of the largest and best nationals of all time. He chaired the **Markers 89** and **Lehigh Valley Limited** conventions. In the late 1990's he was the MER Executive Convention Chair.

By Jim's request the services were private. Jim was a good friend and mentor to many members of the region. Join me in honoring one of the 'good guys'. 🏠



Election Time!

*By Bob Minnis, MMR
Election Chairman*

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY for you to contribute to the NMRA at the local level – a chance to “give back” something to this wonderful hobby of model railroading that we all enjoy. Volunteer to run for a Director position in the MER. Since this is an odd numbered year, the three Director positions on the MER Board are up for election. The successful candidate(s) will serve a two (2) year term beginning at the annual MER convention, this year in Rockville, MD.

To be eligible, a candidate must live within the Region boundaries and submit a candidate's “Statement of Qualification” along with a head and shoulder photo prior to the April 15th deadline. If you miss this April date, you must include a nomination petition signed by 25 current members in addition to the statement and photo and submit them prior to June 1st. These documents can be sent either by regular mail or electronic means to any member of the nominating committee prior to the deadline. The members of the committee are:

(Chairman) Bob Minnis – kahlualab@aol.com (434) 589-3011
Mike McNamara – mikemcnh@comcast.net (856) 824-0871
Dave Chance – loconut@carolina.rr.com (704) 933-4200

Election as a Director will satisfy some of the requirements for the AP's “Association Official” award. Ballots will be mailed separately to the membership in late August or early September. 🏠

MER Positions Open:

White Elephant Room and Auction Coordinator – The primary task in the WE room and Auction is to handle sales and keep track of the cash. We typically handle \$2,000 to \$3,000 through the two activities combined. There is a dedicated computer for the job and I have improved the computer program to make data entry easier. There are still some improvements I'd like to make, particularly a second entry error checker, as typos are the biggest problem. Tom Buckingham is a good resource for help with the accounting – I've never been very good at balance sheets. The most important facet of the job is getting some good help from the local group – it is too much for a single person to handle. My preferred approach would be to have 2 or 3 people share the job, then it wouldn't be a big load on any one individual and there would be plenty of opportunity for the workers to attend their activities of interest. One good thing about the job is that you get first crack at anything on sale.

Contact current coordinator to apply, Earl Hackett at hacketet@verizon.net. 🏠

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 **NMRA Magazine**, 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 two years.

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: Bob Price, Business Manager, 666 Princeton Avenue Collingswood, NJ 08108. (3) Bob 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 initially allocated \$2,000 for this program. The Board recently voted to extend the program to the end of 2013, or when the funds are spent – 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 Bob Price, Business Manager (mailing address is below, (856) 854-8585, MER-BusMgr@comcast.net), or John Janosko, MER President (see contact information on page 2). 

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 **NMRA Magazine**, 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 two years, 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 Sponsor: _____ (Required)

(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

Date of form: 2/1/2013

When this form is completed,
mail it to:

Bob Price
MER Business Manager
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108

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

C & P Junction
ROCKVILLE
MER Convention

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 10-13, 2013



Layout Open House at
Howard Zane's
Piermont Division (HO)



Clinic by Marty McGuirk
on his Central Vermont,
Winooski Subdivision (HO)



Layout Open House at
Monroe Stewart's
Hootch Junction (N)

C&P Junction 2013

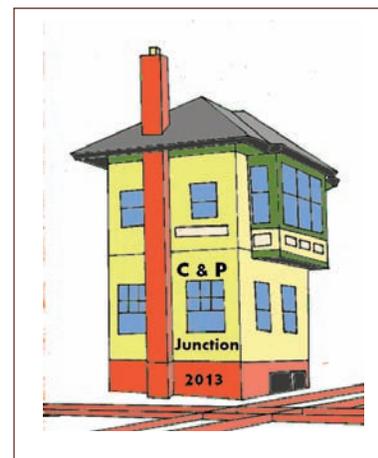
By Brian Sheron, MMR

DDOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, double your fun! That's what's in store for you as the Potomac and Chesapeake Divisions bring you the MER fall convention, **C & P Junction 2013**.

Mark your calendars to join us on Columbus Day weekend, October 10-13, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Rockville, Maryland, for a great weekend of model railroading excitement. We have over 35 layout tours planned, including many layouts that have been featured in national magazines, along with prototype tours in the Baltimore area. Several of the modular clubs in the Nation's Capital will be setting up their layouts and operating them at the convention, which is always a real treat. There will be clinics with well-known clinicians speaking on a variety of topics that are sure to be of interest and operations callboards for the prototypically minded. Of course there will be a contest room where you can show off your latest models and get them merit-judged. And for those of you looking for that model railroading bargain, there will be a White Elephant Room where attendees can both sell and buy model railroading items.

Saturday evening will be the premier evening starting with a Banquet, followed by guest speaker Tony Koester, the well-known author of **Trains of Thought**. To cap the evening, we'll enjoy our traditional live auction with auctioneer Bob Charles.

And be sure to consider inviting your spouse. She or he may not be a model-railroading enthusiast, but there is plenty to see and do in the Nation's Capital and Baltimore. The hotel is conveniently located within a few miles of the Shady Grove and Rockville Metro stations, where a short Metro ride will put you in the heart of downtown Washington. Register now for **C & P Junction**, Crown Plaza Hotel (www.cprockville.com). We'll have more news in later editions of **The Local**. In the meantime, visit our website for the latest information Google **C & P Junction-Comcast.net** or <http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>. Any questions email **CandP2013@comcast.net**. 



C&P Junction 2013: Special Contest Awards

By Martin Brechbiel
MER General Contest Chairman

C&P JUNCTION, the MER 2013 convention, October 10-13, in addition to the range of the standard Contest Room awards and Categories will feature the following Special Awards:

THE BEST OF SHOW AWARD is given to the model that scores the highest point total in the judged model contest. Not only is a plaque awarded but this includes registration to next year's MER convention.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD for 2013 has been chosen by MER President Janosko and will be given for his favorite On-Line Structure.

THE CLYDE GERALD AWARD is sponsored by the MER and named for the late Clyde Gerald, former MER Business Manager and long time modeler. It is awarded to the kit-bashed model which scores highest in the judged model contest. Be sure to check the definition of kit-bashed for this award!

THE BLUE LANTERN AWARD is privately sponsored and chosen by long time MER modeler Terry Nesbit and his Narrow Gauge Car Shop. The Blue Lantern is given to a model best representing branch or private line equipment or facilities, which contain no more than forty (40) percent commercial parts. The prize—a genuine railroad lantern—is presented to the winner by Mr. Nesbit.

THE PHILADELPHIA DIVISION 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!

THE PRIDE OF DIXIE AWARD, sponsored by the James River Division, will be awarded this year for an Outhouse.

THE RAY BILODEAU NARROW GAUGE AWARD is also privately sponsored by a group of narrow gauge modelers, and

encourages building models depicting aspects of narrow gauge railroading. The narrow gauge model that scores highest in the model contest is presented a plaque.

THE HENRY (BUD) KAISER AWARD, sponsored by the Philadelphia Division, will be awarded to the best-detailed and weathered piece of rolling stock model in the opinion of the judges of the model contest.

THE GREAT DECALS! AWARD is an award for an excellent model that includes a Great Decals! product in its construction and/or finishing achieving the highest judged score in lettering & finish for a model that employs a product demonstrated to be

from Great Decals! that also receives a Merit Award.

THE FAVORITE TRAIN AWARD, sponsored by the Tidewater Division, is a popular vote award and will be included on the Popular Vote ballot. Yes, members who can find their way to the contest room and fill out a ballot get to choose the winner!

These special awards, and awards for all of the categories in the Model and Photo contests will be presented at the convention banquet on Saturday evening. Awards and other contest information will soon be available on the convention website! **If you have any questions**, contact me martinwb@verizon.net. 

Contests Rules: Photography

CATEGORIES

Prototype Photos: Steam Related. Images of prototype steam locomotives.

Prototype Photos: Non-Steam. Images of any locomotives, rolling stock, structures, etc., except for steam.

Model Photos: Images of model railroads and related model items.

JUDGING

Judging will be by popular vote. Instead of just one vote, you may vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each of the four categories. When the votes are counted, 1st place counts as 5 points, 2nd place as 3 points and 3rd place as 1 points. This system helps equalize differences created by varying convention localities and the possible tilting of scores away from recognizing the quality images our members produce.

In the event of a tie, the higher number of first place votes will break the tie, otherwise, it will be the judgment of the Contest Chairman or his appointee.

In addition to the 1st place plaque, and the 2nd and 3rd place certificates, a Best of Show (a plaque) will also be chosen from all of the entries by highest overall point total. The Best of Show be removed from its category, a la the Model Contest, thus moving others up a place in ranking.

RULES

All current NMRA members are eligible to enter.

You cannot be a professional photographer and enter this contest, i.e. you cannot derive more than 50 percent of your income as a photographer.

Participants may enter up to 5 prints in each of the 3 categories. (Slides are not accepted.)

The maximum size for each photograph is 96 square inches (i.e. the equivalent of an 8 x 12 photograph). The minimum size is 35 square inches (i.e. the equivalent of a 5 x 7 print). All prints must be mounted on a stiff mounting board. Maximum size for

the mounting board is 154 square inches (equivalent to 11 x 14). Entries may also include an appropriate mask surrounding the image, not to exceed the mounting board dimensions. Entries may not be framed.

Each participant must fill out Contest Entry Form #901 when checking in photos to the contest room. Participants should try to bring their photos in as early as possible within the convention's announced hours to facilitate the popular vote process. No entries can be accepted after the model contest judging begins on Saturday morning after 9 AM.

Do not enter the same image(s) in more than one category. That includes changing a color image to a gray scale or vice-versa.

Any image that won a first place or Best of Show award in a previous MER photography contest may not be entered again. If you change a previous first place-winning image from color to gray scale, or vice versa, it is still the same image and may not be entered again.

If your entry has won first place or Best of Show at the National Convention you may not enter it – but you can display it to show off your winning entry.

The participants of the photography contests will be totally responsible for their images and will not hold the MER, the host Division or people connected with the contests liable for damage or losses.

The Contest Chairperson or appointed representative shall make the final judgment on all questions or questionable entries dealing with the Photography Contests.

Make sure while at the Convention to stop in and vote. Even if you have not entered the contest, it can only help the camaraderie of model railroaders. The ballots will be available in the contest room after all entries have been accepted.

These rules are reviewed on a continuing basis by the Contest Chairperson to see if the activity can be improved even more as time progresses. If you have questions or any suggestions, comments, etc., please contact Martin Brechbiel at martinwb@verizon.net. 



Mid-East Region, NMRA Fall Convention C&P Junction 2013 October 10th to October 13th 2013



Please enter (print legibly) all names **as you wish them to appear on your registration badges**. They will not be changed at the convention:

Primary Registrant's Name: _____

Significant Other Attending (living at same address): _____

Children Attending (Under age 16 – List all): _____

Address: Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NMRA # _____ Region: _____ Division: _____

Favorite Scale _____ Is this your first Convention? _____

Description	Cost	#	Paying
Early Registration (Till Sept. 10 th 2013, then \$50 Till Oct. 3, 2012)	\$45		
Non-NMRA member extra Fee	\$10		
Significant other	\$0		
Children under 16	\$0		
Banquet –Saturday Night	401	\$45	
Light Rail Tour	201	\$5	
Call Board – Abrams – Abrams Empire – Thursday 7-10pm	801	\$5	
Call Board – Boyd – Clear Creek – Sunday 10am-1pm	802	\$5	
Call Board – Sheron – Port Jefferson – Friday 7-10pm	803	\$5	
Call Board – Mutter – EL Scranton Div. – Saturday 10am-3pm	804	\$5	
Call Board – Warner – PRR/RDG/WM – Sunday 10am-2pm	805	\$5	
Call Board – Thompson – Oregon Coast – Sunday 9am-Noon	806	\$5	
Call Board – King – TT/TO Clinic & Op Thursday 7-10pm	807	\$15	
Friday 701, Saturday 702, Sunday 703 - Circle any or all if you would be interested in the Hotel Buffet Breakfast – for count only			
Total Advance Registration Paid			

Additional events will be added when their cost is known.

Payment must accompany registration.

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Send to: MER Fall Convention
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Any questions and/or additional information email – MER-Registrar@comcast.net

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<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/rockville/rkvr/hoteldetail?groupCode=CPJ>

THE GREAT DECALS! AWARD

1) WHAT IS THE AWARD?

An award for an excellent model that includes a Great Decals! product in its construction and/or finishing.

2) SPONSORS:

The Great Decals! Award is sponsored by Great Decals!, P. O. Box 994, Herndon, VA 20172.

3) WHO CAN COMPETE FOR THE AWARD?

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

4) MODELING PARAMETERS – THE GREAT DECALS! AWARD MODEL IS DEFINED:

The Great Decals! Award model is defined as any model entry that includes a Great Decals! product. (Use of our coupler gauges does not qualify, sorry.)

5) HOW THE CONTEST WILL BE JUDGED AND THE WINNER 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 Achievement Program. The Great Decals! Award model achieving the highest judged score in lettering & finish for a model that employs a product demonstrated to be from Great Decals! that also receives a Merit Award in the model contest or Achievement Program judging will be the winner. In case of a tie, the Chief Judge will choose the winning entry.

6) THE GREAT DECALS! AWARD:

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

mony, the Great Decals! Award plaque and a check for \$30 will be presented to the winner. The award will be handed out when the other official awards are distributed. The MER General Contest Chairman will present the award or a designate can announce and hand out the award plaque.

Mid Eastern Region, NMRA, will provide Great Decals! with digital image(s) of the model for advertising use, winner agrees to this use.

7) SPONSORS (ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT PERSONS) AND FUNDING:

The Great Decals! Award is funded by Bill Mosteller, Great Decals!, P. O. Box 994, Herndon, VA 20172.

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 that 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 to presenting this award, the sponsors must seek approval from the MER Board of Directors every two years. 

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03/11

NEWS FROM THE CONTEST ROOM!

*By Martin Brechbiel
MER General Contest Chairman*

ONCE AGAIN, I'll take this space to encourage you all bring your models along to **C&P Junction** – the MER 2013 convention, October 10-13, in Rockville, MD and to enter it into any one of the contest categories! Beyond the standard Contest Room categories, there are a number of Special Awards that some of you might want to consider bringing that “special” model to place into consideration. All of the information pertaining to the Special Awards, criteria, qualifications, judging, etc are available on the MER website, <http://mer.nmra.org/Contests.html> and at <http://dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/MERMailbag/files/>. Just click on the name of the Award to be linked to that award's information!

All of the forms that you need are available on the NMRA web site in both pdf and Word format (www.nmra.org/education/achievement/apforms.html). Downloading and filling these out well in advance is worth your time & effort since you can type right into the form. If you need or cannot locate the forms, contact me directly (martinwb@verizon.net).

In addition to the Judged Contest and Special Awards, we also have the popular vote Special Award “Favorite Train”; we will also have a “Favorite Model” popular vote category! We have a new Special Award starting this year as well – The Great Decals!

continued on page 13

A SERIES ARTICLE: THE CASE FOR THE SINGLE-CYCLE WAYBILL

PART 1 OF 3

*By Mike White
Potomac Division/HO Scale*

FOR ANYONE who is planning to introduce operations to their layout, you are probably aware that there are a multitude of choices open to you when it comes to operating methods. Many, in the end including me, opt for some kind of scheme utilizing car cards and waybills to regulate the movement of freight. Like all methods, a car card/waybill system has pros and cons to be considered when you implement it. One of these is what car card and waybill design will best serve your interests, the industries on the layout, and time available to maintain the system that is eventually implemented. If you plan to be regularly involved in operations on your layout, you are making a time and effort commitment to whatever system you choose. It is important to keep this in mind when making your eventual decision.

Before getting into details, let's consider what a model railroad operating system simulates. For many it is sufficient to have a means to move cars from a designated starting point to an industry location and then a means to return the car to the original or different point for reuse on a subsequent through freight or wayfreight. For this level of operation, a simple switchlist system could be used and the time and effort necessary to development of waybills and car cards may be excessive.

I prefer to think of a model railroad as a system that moves passengers and goods from where they are now to where they are going. Or, in other words, I am concerned with moving the contents of the cars, not the cars themselves. This view of model railroad operations opens up a wide range of possibilities missing from systems which just move cars. It introduces what one of our operating crew refers to as the "revenue dimension". I'm going to concentrate on freight trains here. Not everyone has passenger trains to operate, but they almost universally have freight trains.

The most frequently used car card/waybill system is that using the 4-cycle waybill. On many layouts its use is very popular in that it minimizes the owner's ongoing involvement in populating and dealing with waybills for a large number of movements. With careful planning a system can be devised that extends the period before the #1 waybill appears for the second or subsequent time and reduces or eliminates the perception that the same car is going to the same places time after time. The drawback is that the sense of moving freight can get lost in the mechanics of moving cars. Most of the implementations I have seen have been limited to just moving the cars per the 4 waybill destinations and then starting over at #1. Any sense of serving a customer becomes very abstract. If your primary interest is in an operating scheme that efficiently moves cars, then this is an ideal choice.

Before going too much farther, it might be useful to identify the purpose and use of a waybill in the prototype world. The waybill is, first of all, a railroad document. It is different from the bill of

lading in that it does not represent any title to the goods involved. It is used by the railroad to identify, handle, and bill the customer for freight moved over the railroad. Think operating and accounting departments rather than legal department.

The effort to find a method to simulate the movement of freight has a long history in model railroading going back to Frank Ellison in the 1940s. The limits of available technology when this development occurred resulted in many simplifications in the interest of reducing the time, expense, and work involved. While the results were effective they also created levels of abstraction, which removed many aspects of freight handling from the operation of the model railroad. This thread of development has culminated in the 4-cycle waybill.

The amazing advances in technology since those earlier days has brought tools to the home of the model railroader that would have been the province of several commercial businesses not very long ago. The desktop computer, inexpensive color printers, word processing and spreadsheet software, etc., enable today's hobbyist to create operating aids that would have been impossible or cost prohibitive 40 years ago.

Some of our fellow model railroaders have for some time worked on expanding the use of the 4-cycle waybill to accommodate the handling of empty cars and the servicing of reefers. This is a limited move towards more prototypical operation but development of a flexible car card/waybill system that, by design, makes expansion to accommodate additional concepts easy is only slowly appearing. This is where the single-cycle waybill comes into its own.

A single-cycle waybill, as the term is used here, refers to a waybill that identifies a shipment of goods from a single supplier to a single customer on the railroad and then ceases further use until some future time when it is used again to support a new movement. In other words, the shipment is "delivered" and the waybill's function is ended. Without the "reuse", this is the way a prototype waybill would work.

Waybills and car cards can now be created in quantity at home with the use of today's technology. I'm going to suggest a few articles dealing with creating car cards and single-cycle waybills to get you oriented. These are by no means the only way of doing this, but together they do provide a comprehensive set of instructions for getting to the completed car card and single-cycle waybill.

"Prototypical waybills for car card operation", Anthony Thompson, **Railroad Model Craftsman**, December 2009.

"Plastic pockets improve waybill operation", Bill Neale, **Model Railroader**, February 2009.

"Contents of a Waybill", Anthony Thompson, OPSIG Dis-

patcher's Office, April 2010. available from Google Docs (free sign up required).at https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bz_ctrHrDz4wMDhmMDk1N2MtNzY2MS00Y2RILWI4MGMtMGJjODBiNGRhZWly/edit?hl=en&authkey=COyo7MQN.

"More realistic waybills at less cost", Mike White, **Potomac Flyer**, July-September 2010. http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/Potomac_Flyer->Summer. 



News from the Contest Room continued from page 11

Award. Be sure to check out the specifics and rules regarding that award, as it not only carries a plaque but also a cash award! There's also the Photo Contest. I'll point out here that the rules for the Photo Contest have been revised and that the Artistic Category has been discontinued. Lastly, the Arts & Crafts contests have also been discontinued.

I saw a lot of nice entries in Suffolk in 2012 despite a somewhat low turnout, but I'm hoping that we'll have a healthy bounce back to our normal numbers of models this coming year since the MER has a high number of truly outstanding modelers. We are also going to need the continued great service of our existing cadre of experienced Judges as well as our Apprentice Judges. In that same light, I want to hear from last year's judging crew to confirm (at least tentatively...) who will be coming to Rockville. I also want to hear from any modelers that would like to become Judges.

It is my continuing hope that my traveling around the MER doing clinics on judging as well as at the convention is having some good results on establishing a level playing field for all members of the MER. However, it's becoming clearer that the paperwork/forms

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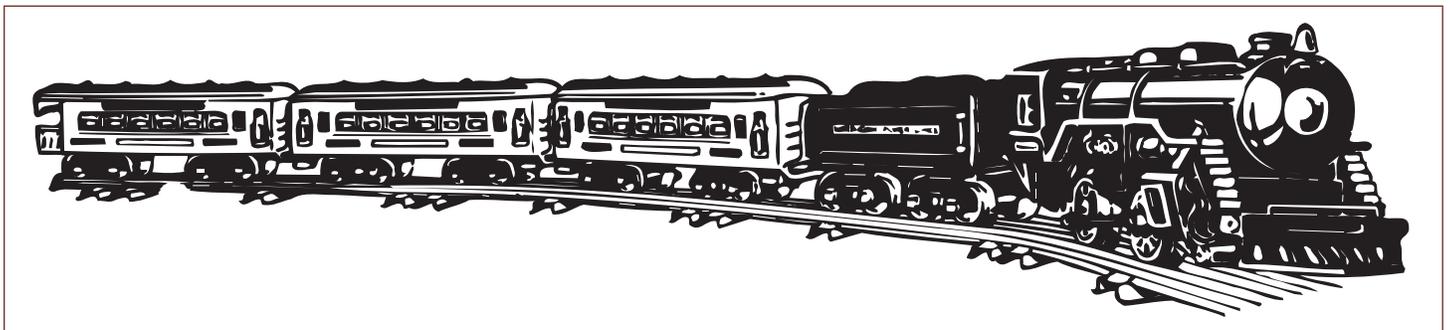
ATTENTION ALL MER MEMBERS:

Do you have a wanted/trade/for sale item(s)? Looking for carpool options to an event or options for sharing a room? **The Local** publishes a FREE 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 seventy-five (75) words.

FOR SALE: Con-Cor HO 4-car Electroliner w/DCC sound \$320. Con-Cor HO 3-Car MP54 PRR (Coach, Combine & Baggage w/DCC Sound) \$330. Both only test run, original boxes, 40 percent off list. You pay desired shipping. More info: Fred Miller at (704) 332-1753 or tractionfan@aol.com.

are perceived as a real or imaginary impediment to entering models into the Contest Room. I hope to start visiting the various Divisions again to address that issue. It's really all about communications and clarity. As noted before, the Judges only have ~7-11 minutes per category per model so having the "right stuff", being brief and succinct on your paperwork can only help you; that 2" binder of information is just not going to get read in any detail! However, we really want you to get those Merit Awards! By the way, remember you only need 87 1/2 points, which out of a possible 125 point calculates out to be a "C" grade.

Lastly, participating in Judging is a great way to learn and improve your modeling skills as well as gaining a "hands-on" practical understanding of how the judging matrices are applied. On top of that, judging is another activity that counts towards your Association Volunteer category in the AP program! And, having now mentioned the AP program, I would like to invite any and all of the Divisional AP coordinators to drop by the contest room, take a look at the entries, and even participate in the judging session! Come to Rockville and bring your models to the Contest Room! 

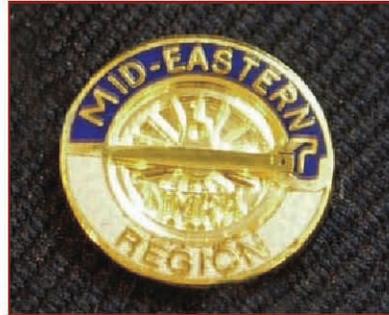


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Coming Events

March 2nd and 3rd. Carolina Coastal Railroaders 18th Annual Train Show. Held at Sudan Temple at 403 East Front Street in New Bern, NC. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Cost: \$6.00 ages 12 and up; under 12 free with adult. For more information contact Joe Hofmann (252) 638-8872 or visit www.carolinacoastalrailroaders.org/2013.asp.

March 9th. Wade's Train Town monthly open house. Operated by Carolina Southern division members at the Brookford Town Center located at 1700 South Center St in Hickory, NC. 10 AM till 4 PM.

March 23rd. Carolina Model Railroaders Show. Held at AMTRAK Depot at 234 E. Washington St in Greensboro, NC. Hours: 10 AM – 3 PM. Cost: \$5.00 adults, under 12 free. Greensboro's only train show. CMR layout open. For more information contact Walt Sabin at (336) 312-4198 or carolinamodelrr@aol.com or write to: CMR, PO Box 13642, Greensboro, NC 27415.

April 13th. Wade's Train Town monthly open house. Operated by Carolina Southern division members at the Brookford Town Center located at 1700 South Center St in Hickory, NC. 10 AM till 4 PM.

Divisions and Clubs tell MER members about your upcoming event!! Send your FREE (limit of 75 words) event listings to the editor (contact information is listed on page 2.) Be sure to include all the specifics for the event: including the date/time, place, cost, a contact person, and a means of getting in touch with him/her (address, phone, email, etc.), and if available a web site for updates or to get more information. Please see the publication deadlines on page 16 to make sure your event is published on time. 📧

Did you miss the Resin Clinic at Milepost 40 or are you looking for more information?

John Canfield is offering anyone interested a copy of his Power Point presentation.

Email him at jcan2x@hotmail.com. He will also be glad to answer any follow-up questions you may have. 📧

Achievement Program Update

By Charlie Flichman, MMR
MER AP Manager

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

Division 1 – New Jersey

Christopher Conaway – *Chief Dispatcher*
Herbert E. Gishlick – *Chief Dispatcher*
Arnold Kimmons – *Master Builder Scenery*
Steve Lang – *Golden Spike*
Robert W. Price – *Golden Spike*
Robert W. Price – *Master Builder Scenery*
Jerome Tomaszewski – *Master Builder Scenery*
Frederick Willis – *Model Railroad Author*

Division 4 – Tidewater

Robert Langer – *Golden Spike*

Division 12 – Carolina Southern

Jack Parker – *Master Builder Cars*
Timothy A. Rumph – *Chief Dispatcher*

Division 13 – Carolina Piedmont

Stephen C. Wood – *Model Railroad Author*

Please congratulate Ron Baile of the New Jersey Division. Ron is MMR # 496 and was awarded his certificate at the regional convention in Suffolk, VA.

I was just was informed that MER has two new MMR's. Please congratulate MMR # 504 – Jack Parker of the Carolina Southern Division and MMR # 505 – Herbert E. Gishlick of the New Jersey Division.

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



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Publication Schedule:	Articles/Callboard items due to Editor by:
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May/June	Apr 1st
Jul/Aug	Jun 1st
Sept/Oct	Aug 1st
Nov/Dec	Oct 1st

If you are interested in advertising with the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association please contact the Editor, as listed on page 2. The current advertising rates for **The Local** are as follows and must include camera ready art (jpeg, pdf, bmp, tiff formats):

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