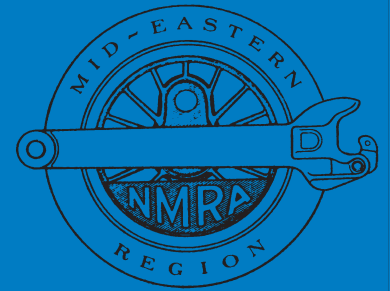


The Local

A Publication of the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA



Volume 69

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2014

Number 6

Two Modelers Earn MMR

GENE W. SING, MMR # 544

MY FIRST MEMORY of owning and operating a model train was during my early teens. Although there must have been an earlier use, because I have a Lionel 027 train set that I brought with me from my parents' house. The train layout was a simple oval built on an eight foot by 8-foot plywood table with a four foot by 12-foot addition for a two-track yard. I use to get help from my friend Frank Maher to go down to the local hardware store to help carry the 4 x 8 sheets of plywood to my parents' house. The original purpose of this table was to support playing WWII war games using AHM Minitanks and AIRFIX Minimen.

The motive power I used was an Athearn 40 ton switcher which used rubber bands to transfer the power from the motor to the trucks. Those were the good old days! The layout stayed up through high school and college, but like many others, the trains took a back seat to the progression of life. I got married, had kids, served in the Army in several active duty tours at various stateside and overseas assignments in Germany, South Korea and the Sinai. Even throughout this busy time there was an occasional train purchase (sure signs of an addiction).

1999 saw the greatest change in my hobby activity when we moved from Bangor, Maine to Cary, North Carolina. Getting a new job as construction project manager and joining the local train club sparked the model railroad construction bug. I constructed a five foot diameter helix for the club. The house we bought in Cary had a great crawl space. Over a three year period I hand dug out over 2,400 five gallon buckets of clay and put in a multi-level 4 inch reinforced concrete floor, also all hand mixed and poured (I know, I have to be crazy to do all this)!

Encouragement from MMR David Lynam, and MMR Richard A. Genthner got me into the NMRA Achievement Program (AP). I have earned AP certificates in the Volunteer, Civil, Electrical, Scenery, Dispatcher, and Structures and Cars categories.

The journey started by supporting my son's Boy Scout Troop 216. Helping the troop as the equipment quartermaster, I also was the merit badge

counselor for collections, coin collecting and railroading. As such, I organized through the train club, classes so the scouts could achieve the merit badge in a single day. Along with presenting classes, I coordinated the paperwork so the scouts could take their completed blue cards back to their troop. Over four years I helped over 200 scouts obtain their railroad merit badge.

Construction is my focus area. I enjoy the construction part of the hobby, especially creating the benchwork and hand laying the track. I don't think I would have completed the MMR if I didn't do what I consider the "easier" AP areas first.

I model the Maine Central and Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. Presently I have about 500 feet of hand laid code 83 track and about 130 hand laid switches. The layout I am building is only 20 percent complete at this time. I became interested in hand laying track when I first saw hand laid track at the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club in Orland, Maine. When I first saw it I thought it would be very difficult to do, but also a challenge to myself to try to master. I find hand laying track is both fun and therapeutic. It is very relaxing as long as you don't set a quota to lay x feet of track during a certain time period.

It was a struggle completing the structures because of how each person's interpretation of what was suppose to be in the structure. The cars AP didn't prove to be as difficult as I feared, once you learned how to construct the car

base. I find it an interesting area to model and I am now working on a Fleischmann Transportation Company vinegar car (**RR Model Craftsman**, March 2005). The car is a combination of a brass frame with a wooden tank. I think it will prove interesting when I finish it!

A good friend, Stephen Wood, who recently received his MMR knew how close I was and challenged me to complete the MMR requirements sometime this decade! Sometimes you need some good-natured needling and encouragement to focus on completing the job.

I am a firm believer in the philosophy of "Pay it Forward" in our hobby. Lately I have been offering Saturday clinics once a month to the



Gene Sing

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The Local

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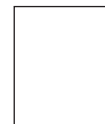
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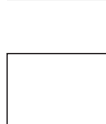
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The MER website www.mer-nmra.com

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



President's Message

By P.J. Matson
MER President

I ORIGINALLY RAN for Director of the MER to get the OFFICIAL AP certificate on my way to getting my MMR. In the next three years I got involved with Fred Miller in writing the Privacy Police. It is based on the NMRA's policy and we were asked by the NMRA to write our own. Then in my second term as Director I ran for Vice President. During the 4 years as VP I did many things, but rewriting the Convention handbook with Martin Brechbiel and Bob Price was the most consuming. Martin and Bob are now working on the MER Handbook and I am a consultant on the project. I am now President and look forward to working with Chuck Hladik (VP), Tom Buckingham (Treasurer), Ken Nesper (Secretary), Directors, Jack Dziadul, Martin Brechbiel and Gary Tyler and Business Manager Bob Price. For years I have also been the Registrar for all MER conventions. I am now appointing Bill Grosse to that position.

You will see his address starting on next year's convention application form. Thank you for your support for all of us.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *These are the actual results.*

Total votes	379
President: PJ Mattson	363
Vice President: Chuck Hladik	355
Treasurer: Tom Buckingham	205
Brian Kampschoroe	172
Secretary: Ken Nesper	189
John Siegle	186



Two Modelers Earn MMR continued from page 1

Carolina Piedmont Division-13 membership and soon will offer it to patrons of several local train shops. Classes had been on constructing a basic wood Bar Mills craftsman structure and how to make a styrene building not to look like plastic. Future classes include how to scratch-build a wood boxcar (AP related), proper use and cleaning of an airbrush, weathering techniques, and how to construct a 2' x 4' modular. The sky's the limit!

Completing the MMR has been a rewarding accomplishment which has made model railroading even more enjoyable, but I look forward to continuing to grow and develop my interests in this fascinating hobby. Today I am on the verge of retiring from full time work and starting to concentrate on developing a train themed park for the greater Raleigh, NC area. When ultimately completed, we hope to have an 87,500 SF building housing N, HO, O scale layouts with LGB, 7-1/2" live steam and 2 foot narrow gauge on 40 to 100 acres of land. Come see us at www.PiedmontRailroadMuseum.org.

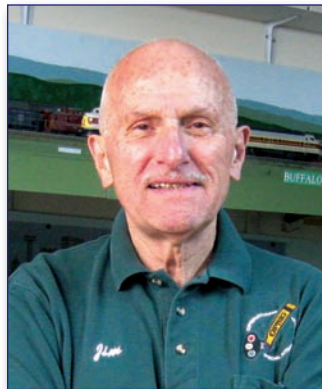
I am also interested in Maine's 2 foot narrow gauge railroads. In particular, the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Narrow Gauge Railway located in Alna, Maine which has two original WW&F steam locomotives and is being rebuilt in its' original right of way. They are doing such a fabulous job restoring and rebuilding the original railroad that I now have a life membership with the organization and intend to assist them as much as possible. If you are in Maine for a vacation, try dropping in. They are really friendly and willing to show you around.

Jim Dalberg, MMR #545

I'VE BEEN A RAILFAN for nearly all my life—since about age five! Naturally I had the usual Lionel trains from very early; starting at Christmas 1939 and used these and various additions up to the early '50s. I had some HO in the late 40's but this was basically some Megow kits and a few pieces of track. I recall being suitably impressed with "needle point" bearings and the rolling quality of the trucks!

Where I grew up in Northwestern New Jersey (up in the hills) the Lackawanna Railroad was the big player—in those days there were lots of trains, a major yard across the lake, and some industry; actually quite a bit for a small town.

In that area there were several other railroads—CNJ, L&HR, L&NE, NYS&W. I have always been primarily a DL&W fan but also by extension an Anthracite road fan. Didn't hurt that the Dalbergs all worked for the DL&W, starting around 1868! Plus it was an easy bike ride up to Port Morris yard.



Jim Dalberg

I got my real start in HO when I was at USNA in the mid-50's. I had enough money to afford a monthly copy of RMC, and in the fall of '54 ordered a 4-car set of MDC car kits for I think, \$7.50. There was also a model railroad club there, with a reasonable sized railroad. I came back to school after the first Xmas with a set of Hobbyline A-A's which I would take down there and run! Once many years later—like 45—I asked my classmate Bob Warren if he knew what had happened to the railroad—he said he had been assigned back to USNA about '63 and the first thing he did was go check—the club and railroad was gone.

I went into the Marine Corps upon graduation, and built my first railroad in my BOQ room, but soon was deployed so had to take it down. The next one was at our quarters at Camp Lejeune, which lasted for a year or so. I have pretty much built railroads everywhere I've lived since then, some small, some decent sized for their day and some just test tracks.

About that time I read the Doug Smith article on operations---that was what I really wanted to do!

We then lived in Nashville for several years—I built a railroad that was part DL&W around Netcong, NJ and part NYO&W around Middletown NY. It could have been operated a la the Doug Smith system (I did), but couldn't find any other takers! A couple of years later we lived in Monterey CA, where I made the grand mistake of not visiting John Allen, who lived about a mile and a half from us!

continued on page 4

Keeping In Touch...

By Bob Price
MER Business Manager



BY THE TIME YOU ARE READING this newsletter, I hope you experienced the fun at Hub City Interchange, MER's annual convention in Hagerstown, MD. **The Local** editor's timetable each year at this time calls for articles to be written before the convention but read by members after the convention. So while I am writing this column, I am just anticipating that the convention will again be an outstanding event, complete with clinics, layout and prototype tours and auctions.


I trust most of you received your MER Ballot in September. We sent out 1,849 ballots to eligible MER members. Eligible, of course, means those fully paid up NMRA members living within the MER territory at the time of the mailing. As usual, about twenty ballots were returned to the Business Manager by the Post Office for such reasons as bad addresses, temporarily away, etc.

But, a total of 379 ballots were forwarded to Bob Minnis, the Ballot Chairman. That's just under 21 percent participation. The results of the election are reported in this issue of **The Local** and were also posted on the MER website and the MER Yahoo discussion group. Congratulations

to the new and re-elected Officers and thanks to everyone that assisted in the election process.

Just a few reminders to everyone that I have a new mailing address (see page 2). The USPS will forward mail with my last name on it for one year. If something is sent to the old address and does not include my name, it is not forwarded. The USPS will not forward items that are addressed only as Business Manager or MER.

Another reminder. If you had elected to only receive the electronic version of **The Local** and then you pay the \$9 MER subscription fee when renewing with National, you will then receive both the electronic and paper versions. When we get money from National for a member that paid for the paper version of **The Local**, that is what we assume they want. So next time you renew, if you are receiving the electronic version and do not want the paper copy – then do not pay the \$9 subscription fee.

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. 

Two Modelers Earn MMR continued from page 3

We then move to the DC area, where I started another DL&W in our single car garage. Then one Sunday in the spring of '68 I took one of my boys to an open house at the Severna Park, MD club. There, I was talking to a couple of fellow visitors; and I said that I was really interested in operations, but thus far hadn't found anyone else. They said, "...well, we are having an operating operation tomorrow evening and you are welcome...". I went, and as they say, the rest is history! This group was the Chesapeake Trainmasters Club, and I participated in op sessions for the next several years (interrupted by a one year trip overseas (where I managed to scratchbuild a couple of cars, and plan a new railroad)).

Fortunately I came back to the DC area (some folks say "what?"—actually the DC area is pretty good, model railroad operations-wise, and wasn't bad then). I rebuilt the railroad and the CTC operated it two Mondays out of every six—it was crowded with 6-8 operators—until I was transferred to Quantico. But I participated on Mondays—bit of a drive, but you do what you have to. The CTC is still very active, including a couple of the folks (Ron Schmidt and Charlie Kilbourne) who were active when I was, back 40+ years ago.

We then moved to Camp Lejeune, NC, where I built a railroad on the porch of our quarters. This was a screened porch so I asked the local base civil services folks if I could enclose it. Haw! So I took our big station wagon (it was one of those 1970 types that when you see one today, looks like you could fit the 4x8 sheets in crosswise), and bought plywood, insulation and closed the thing in. Bet it still is!

Built another small DL&W type railroad—I found a number of people interested in operations—couple of active duty types, several retirees and some local folks.

We operated several times a year for four years. After that I went to work for Conrail—my second career. My first job was as an Assistant Trainmaster where I quickly learned that running a big rail yard is a lot different than being a railfan. All that railfan knowledge is not of much value, but it was a great learning experience!

Then I was transferred to the Philadelphia HQ and moved to the Berwyn-Paoli area where I have lived for the last 35 years or so. I ran into Larry DeYoung at CR—had known him earlier from the ELHS. We started up a Monday Night operating group in early '79; I built a Lehigh Valley/CNJ railroad that we operated from '79 to '99. Early on we were all Conrail folks, but that changed quickly. One of the first to join up was Ken McCorry, who has been coming to these sessions for 35 years now. You readers should know him for his large, great running PRR which is located in what some think is a barn, but is really a purpose built railroad room! Others have been coming here for anywhere from 5 to 25-30 years now. We've had several layouts on the cycle over the last 35 years. George Pahamov, Win Gross, Bob Davis, Jack Chester, some still with layouts in other locations.

About 15 years ago, I moved a couple of miles and built a new railroad. This one is multi-deck and represents the DL&W between Hoboken, NJ and Scranton, PA. Actually in this townhouse with its 22x36 footprint, it would be difficult to do so, therefore it is a series of towns and industrial switching locations connected by short segments of main line. As my friend Ted Pamperin says of his C&O, set in the heart of West Virginia, with towns many miles apart in the boonies "...the railroad is almost all in yard limits...". Same here. However, like his, if you are familiar with some of the towns in North Jersey, like Dover, or Netcong, you would know exactly where you are. Truth be told, most of my regular operators don't know where these places are in real life, but no matter, as long as they know where they are in the basement, we are ok. I suspect this is true of most model railroads, if you model the ATSF here in Pa, most folks don't know where Raton is. Similarly westerners wouldn't know where Cawabunga Falls is on Ken's railroad (it is up in the mountains of western NY).

This railroad was built as DCC was really coming on line, so it was built with that in mind. Aside from occasional glitches, DCC has been great, and I think it has really encouraged and enhanced operations and led to much growth in the last 10-12 years. The few problems I've had

have been quickly fixed, usually with the help of regular operator and dcc expert Val Pistilli—actually he is the fixer and I am the helper, plus he is great with the soldering iron. Until DCC I rarely soldered anything. I spiked the feeder wires to the rails—this was partly because we expected to move every couple of years. With DC it wasn't a big problem, but DCC is less forgiving. Plus I had to install many decoders, so I had to learn. Then I had to take them out and install sound decoders!

As of this writing I've had 180+ op sessions—monthly plus a few others.

I have been an NMRA member several times—in the early '60's, and for some reason failed to renew, but continually since 1967.

I am pleased to finally be awarded the MMR. I got my first AP back in '72 when a group of us in the CTC worked on the requirements for Dispatcher. Then I really did nothing except to think about it occasionally over the years, until about four years ago when Dave Messer started prodding me. I completed a couple of the AP's and then procrastinated some more. I really had all the requirements done with a couple of exceptions, but just wouldn't get moving on the paperwork. Finally this spring (2014) I bit the bullet and completed the last three AP requirements. I am working on another, and will eventually get to that.

I've been active in the Philadelphia Division, as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for several years. In 2004 several of us, Division

members, started the RPM-Valley Forge—we held our sixth very successful meet in March 2014. I am active in the OPSIG, currently serving as President. But mostly, I do op sessions. I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to operate on many railroads around the country, either individually or at weekend events like Bayrails, Soundrails, Great Basin and Great Lakes Getaways, and the NMRA conventions, in addition to the 8-10 railroads that I operate on in this area each month. We also host op sessions as a part of our RPM-VF. They are all fun, they are also social events—just make sure not to be too social and run your train.

Lest you think that for me it is all operations, you might be close to the mark! Actually I like the other aspects of the hobby, like building equipment. I have done many scratch-built cars over the years—recently a couple of Lackawanna buffet lounges, which I needed so the DL&W passenger service is properly equipped. I also like to build resin kits. There are about 100 of these cars on the railroad (not in boxes under the layout—only a few of these). There are seven or eight completed cars on the shelf waiting for other cars to come off the railroads. You know it is hard to keep from adding cars to the layout.

This is a great hobby, and this is probably the best time to be in it. For me it has been a great run. I've met a lot of nice people and had a lot of fun. I plan to continue the march! 🚂



The Philadelphia Chapter Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society

Preserving the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad

Modelers Forum & Presentations at all scheduled chapter meetings

Member publications: "High Line" and "Keystone Chronicles" magazines.

Membership actively modeling, collecting and preserving PRR equipment & images.

BE OUR GUEST AT A FUTURE CHAPTER MEETING OR EVENT

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Membership information/application available on-line



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New Membership Recruitment Program

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

What's covered?

Same as Rail Pass—receive six issues of **NMRA** magazine, three issues of **The eLocal**, eligibility to attend conventions and meets, eligibility to participate in contests.

What's not covered?

Same as Rail Pass—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 or a prior Rail Pass member.

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 Rail Pass form). (2) The "recruiter" should sign the form, and then forward it to: Bob Price, Business Manager, 801 S. Newton Lake Drive 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 Soddy Daisy.

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

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

Are there limits on the program?

The MER initially allocated \$2,000 for this program. When this funding is depleted Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At that time, the program will be reevaluated 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, Business@MER-NMRA.com), or P.J. Mattson, MER President (see contact information on page 2).

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

Yes, please sign me up for a free six month Rail Pass 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 mailed national magazine, and **The eLocal**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter if an email address is provided. 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 Rail Pass 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 or a prior Rail Pass member.

=====

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Scale(s): _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____ (Required)

Title of Sponsor: _____ (Required)

(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

Date of form: 6/2014

When this form is completed,
mail it to:

Bob Price
MER Business Manager
801 S. Newton Lake Drive
Collingswood, NJ 08108

Do **not** mail it directly to NMRA

Letter from the Editor

By E. T. Hackett
Editor, **The Local**



THE CABINET IS A BIT SPARSE this month so I'm publishing an article based on a clinic I gave several years ago. You can find the original presentation on the MER website. This is a call for stuff to publish. When I get desperate I'll publish just about anything associated with railroads or railroading. When I run out of stuff from other authors, you'll get my stuff that has been sitting on the computer waiting for me to send it to some other publication. I'm a scratchbuilder so if you don't want to hear all about cutting metal with a 10 thousand mill, send in your stuff... Send me anything you have and I'll whip it into shape for publication. Lots of photos are great because they take up lots of space that would otherwise have to be filled with edited text. Photos make my job easier. If you want the electronic version of **The Local**, just send a note to Bob Price, business@mer-nmra.com, requesting it. However if when you renewed your membership, you paid for **The Local**, you will also get the paper version. So once you begin receiving the electronic version, don't pay for the paper version when you renew your membership. 📧

From The Business Car

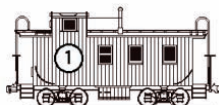
By John Janosko
Former MER President



It is hard to believe that the year is almost over. It seems as I get older the days seem to fly by. When you read this the MER convention will just be memories, hopefully happy ones. I will have more on the convention in my next newsletter in January. This is also the time of year that a lot of you have open houses to show off your modeling expertise and a chance to get together with friends that you have not seen probably since this time last year. This is the time of year we reflect on family and friends and to be thankful for all the wonderful friends we have met because of our love of trains. Putting a smile on a small child while he watches one of your trains go by on your layout is worth all the time and effort you have put into this hobby. Just maybe they will catch the bug that we all have gotten over the years and model railroading will continue on to the next generation.

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. 📧

ANNUAL REPORTS BY DIVISION



NEW JERSEY DIVISION 1 Annual Report – 2013

Currently planned meeting dates and locations for 2014 – 2015:

- September 14 – Woolwich Fire Hall, Swedesboro
- November 16 – M. Joan Pearson Elementary School, Delanco
- January 11 – Haddon Twp. High School
- March 8 – Switlik Park, Hamilton Twp.
- May 17 – Christ Church, Middletown

Registration opens at 8:30 AM, meet activities from 9:00 AM to noon, layout tours 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

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- Assistant Superintendent: Chris Widmaier 609-510-2701; Chris.Widmaier@gmail.com (new)
- Secretary: Tom Lavin; 609-230-4734; westvall@aol.com
- Treasurer: Bob Liberman; 609-298-7337; rdliberman@comcast.net
- Directors: Bill Howard; 609-658-1486; triangler@aol.com
- John Gallagher; 856-228-2239; gallagherjv39@verizon.net
- Michael Mosher; 856-293-9874; mjmx@comcast.net

Achievement program certificates awarded (May 2012 – August 2013)*

- Ron Baile achieved MMR, September 2012
- Herb Gishlick achieved MMR, February 2013
- Fred Willis, Author, January 2013
- Ron Baile, Cars, September 2012
- Chris Conaway, Dispatcher, January 2013
- Herb Gishlick, Dispatcher, February 2013

- Michael Scotto, Golden Spike, June 2013
- Steve Lang, Golden Spike, January 2013
- Bob Price, Golden Spike, January 2013
- Arnold Kimmons, Scenery, February 2013
- Bob Price, Scenery, February 2013
- Jerry Tomaszewski, Scenery, February 2013

*We recently changed our bylaws so our fiscal is now September to September rather than May to May.

Secrets to our success:

We keep doing what works, but still try new approaches. The every other month meet schedule seems to be just right for our division. I've spoken with others who hold meets every month, but that would be over kill for us, and frankly it doesn't work for a lot of them either.

A big part of the success of the division is due to planning ahead. As you can see from the first paragraph, we have all five of our meets for this year planned already. That doesn't mean nothing can change. If we have to move a date by a week or move the location, no problem. We can do that if we have must because we have all the elements such as the clinics and layout tours in the bag.



POTOMAC DIVISION 2 Annual Report – 2013

Meeting Times and Dates: February 9, 2013, April 7, 2013, June 20, 2013 (telecon), June 29, 2013, August 17, 2013, September 21, 2013, October 12, 2013, November 9, 2013

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Coal is Coal? Switching Metallurgical Coal

John A. Board

CURRENTLY BITUMINOUS COAL is primarily used for heating at power plants (thermal coal) or to make coke for steel production (metallurgical coal). Unit trains are frequently used to haul long strings of hoppers for either of these uses.

Purchasers of metallurgical coal will specify the characteristics of the product they buy, and many times this requires coal from different mines to create the mixture that they want. This can be observed when export coal is loaded into the holds of ships.

On the HO Winchester Charlottesville and Richmond Railroad, metallurgical coal is hauled from Winchester Mine in unit trains to B&O Interchange for ultimate delivery to Baltimore Pier. Micro-Mark car cards are used for each loaded hopper and custom waybills indicate the characteristics of the coal contained therein. The unit train's Train

The order form indicates how many hoppers of each characteristic are needed for Baltimore Pier. At B&O Interchange, cars are switched out to meet the purchaser's requirements and the remaining loaded cars are taken to storage for future delivery.


This results in a different Operations task, where Train Orders as well as waybills indicate how many hoppers of coal having each characteristic are needed, and this determines the disposition of the car.

Note from the editor:

If a unit train was being assembled for shipment to a steel mill the above method might be used. When loading ships, the blending and mixing is done at the ship terminal. The terminal would want coal from various mines to be segregated so they can quickly

identify what are loading. Blending can be done by unloading cars in specific sequence so that each section of the load has roughly the same composition. For more uniformity the loads can be mixed and stored in a silo prior to loading on the ship.

For a good video on the subject go to this URL <http://www.nscorp.com/content/nscorp/en/ship-with-norfolk-southern/shipping-options/coal/transload-facilities/lamberts-point-coal-terminal-norfolk-va.html> or if you can't get it to work, Google "norfolk southern pier 6" and it will be at the top of the list.

While you're there, check out some of the links on the right side and top of the page. 

FORM 19	WINCHESTER CHARLOTTESVILLE AND RICHMOND RAILROAD	FORM 19
Train Order No. _____		
To Conductor & Engineer _____		
AS EXTRA _____, RUN LIGHT WITH CABOOSE TO WINCHESTER MINE		
PICK UP ALL HOPPERS LOADED WITH METALLURGICAL COAL		
CONTINUE TO B&O INTERCHANGE		
PICK UP INTERCHANGE CARS FOR DELIVERY TO RICHMOND FULTON YARD FOR CLASSIFICATION		
IN ANY ORDER SET OUT:		
_____ CARS OF	32 % VOLITITY, 0.8 % SULFUR, 6 % ASH	
_____ CARS OF	34 % VOLITITY, 0.9 % SULFUR, 7 % ASH	
_____ CARS OF	36 % VOLITITY, 1.0 % SULFUR, 8 % ASH	
TAKE REMAINDER OF METALLURGICAL COAL HOPPERS TO SIDING AT RICHMOND FULTON YARD FOR LATER DELIVERY TO B&O, ALONG WITH INTERCHANGE CARS FOR CLASSIFICATION		
STOP AT RICHMOND FULTON YARD WATER TOWER, AND CONTACT YARDMASTER		

KIND HOPPER AAR H R.R./No. VGN 12133 DESC. LOADED	FREIGHT WAYBILL H consignee BALTIMORE PIER via B&O interchange shipper WINCHESTER MINE lading METALLURGICAL COAL volitivity 32 % sulfur 0.8 % ash 6 %	FREIGHT WAYBILL H consignee BALTIMORE PIER via B&O interchange shipper WINCHESTER MINE lading METALLURGICAL COAL volitivity 34 % sulfur 0.9 % ash 7 %
	FREIGHT WAYBILL H consignee BALTIMORE PIER via B&O interchange shipper WINCHESTER MINE lading METALLURGICAL COAL volitivity 36 % sulfur 1.0 % ash 8 %	

C&P Junction 2014 Report

C&P Junction 2014, the annual MidEast Region (MER) convention was held over Columbus Day weekend in Rockville, Maryland from Thursday evening October 10 through Sunday morning October 13, 2013. **C&P Junction** was co-hosted by the Chesapeake Division and the Potomac Division.


Statistics:

- Attendees: 342
- Surplus: \$5,914.78
 - MER – 50 percent share: \$2,957.39
 - Chesapeake Division – 25 percent share: \$1,539.20
 - Potomac Division – 25 percent share: \$1,539.20
- Home layouts to visit: 48
- Operations sessions: 11
- Clinics: 38
- Banquet attendees: 119
- Operating modular layouts: 3
 - O-Scale Civil War layout built by Bernie Kempinski and Gerard Fitzgerald
 - HO scale – Meade Area Model Railroad Society (MARRS)
 - N scale – BANTRAK
- Tours: 3
 - Baltimore Light Rail maintenance facility
 - A special model-railroader-led tour of the B&O Museum Premier manufacturer (Custom Model Railroads) in Baltimore
- Articles
 - MER **The Local**, November-December 2013
http://mer.nmra.org/MEReLocal_Files/2013/localnovdec13.pdf
 - Potomac Flyer**, Winter 2014
http://potomac-nmra.org/Flyer/Potomac_Flyer_-Web_-Winter2014.pdf

Local Convention Committee (LCC)

General Chair: Marshall Abrams
Deputy General Chair: Kurt Thompson
Financial Officer: Andrew Dodge
Clinics Chair: Marty McGuirk
Layout Tours Chair: Brian Sheron
Layout Tours – Co-chairs: Tom Casey and Gerhard Klose
Operations Callboard Chair: Bill Demas
Operations Callboard Co-chair: Arthur Boyd
Prototype Tours: Kurt Thompson
Modular Layouts: Andrew Dodge
Volunteers Chair: Bill Day
Publicity Chair: Bill Day
Webmaster: Bill Mosteller
Publisher: Bob Clegg
Local Arrangements, Floor Manager, & Hotel Liaison: Tom Brodrick
Dinner Guest Speaker: NMRA President Charlie Getz
Dinner speaker: Tony Koester
Dinner MC: Kurt Thompson
Photographer & Historian: Bob Reid
Technologists: Dave Emery, Clint Hyde
White Elephant: Clint Hyde

MER Convention Action Team (CAT Team)

MER Executive Convention Chair (ECC): Eric Dervinis
Registrar: P.J. Mattson
Treasurer: P.J. Mattson
AP/Contest Judging Team: Martin Brechbiel
Auction Team: Bob Charles 



List of Officers plus AP coordinator as of October 12, 2013:

Superintendent and AP Coordinator: Brian Sheron, 17120 Campbell Farm Road, Poolesville, MD 20837; BWSheron@mac.com
Senior Assistant Superintendent and Newsletter Editor: Marshall Abrams
2906 Covington Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Abrams_Railroad@comcast.net
Assistant Superintendent: Tom Brodrick 24028 Preakness Drive,
Damascus, MD; t.brodrick@verizon.net
Paymaster: Murray Michael White 2800 Chaneyville Road,
Owings, MD 20736; mmwhite@comcast.net
Layout Disposal Coordinator: Clinton Hyde 13443 Brookfield Drive,
Chantilly, VA 20151; chyd@cox.net
Clerk: Robert Reid 13057 Mills Creek Drive,
Lusby, MD 20657; rbobreid@gmail.com

Achievement program highlights:

Bill Day received MMR #510
Bob Reid received Master Builder-Cars AP Certificate
Bill Lyders received Scenery AP Certificate

Planned Activities from the past year:

In October we sponsored the 2013 MER Convention in Rockville, MD.
The Division sponsored 9 open houses in 2013.
January 5th, Howard Zane
February 23rd, John Teichmoeller
March 2nd, Alan Anderson & Dave Reynard
April 13th, Brian Sheron
May 18th, John King
June 8th, Jim Stapleton
September 14th, Tom Brodrick
November 16th, Jim Brewer
December 14th, Nick Kalis

Special projects or working with other organizations.

The 2013 MER convention was co-sponsored with the Chesapeake Division.



**PHILADELPHIA DIVISION 3
Annual Report – 2013**

Meeting Times and Dates:

January, March, May, September, November of each year.
Our January meet is always a joint meet with our friends in the NJ Division.
On even numbered years our March meeting is actually the VF RPM.
On odd numbered years our May meeting is a joint meeting with East Coast SF Modelers.

List of Officers plus AP coordinator:

Superintendent: Joe Bergmaier, 610-269-8558; bergmaier113@comcast.net
Assistant Superintendent: Charles Butsch, 610-446-2375;
cabutsch@gmail.com
Clerk: Mark Wallace, 610-454-9510; mwallace65@verizon.net
Treasurer: Howard Kaplan, 610-626-4506; hakaplan@rcn.com
Clinics Chair: John Seibert, 610-489-7780; johnhseibert@comcast.net
Operations Chair: Rob Hinkle, 610-279-2394; robhink@comcast.net
Layout Chair: Pat McTeigue, 215-441-8407; tonightowl1@comcast.net
AP Chair: Brian Good, 215-582-6983; b3good1@verizon.net

Achievement Program Highlights:

In September 2013, we revamped our AP program to instill new life into the program. Our AP Coordinator, Dave Messer, was appointed by Charlie Flichman, and does not want to communicate with me due to personal reasons. Besides that the program was not producing any results and nobody was interested. In order to work around this problem and to energize the program, I appointed Brian Good as the AP Chair to act as our liaison with Dave and also to learn the position so that he can eventually take over for Dave. This allows me and the BOD to have input on how to introduce new ideas into the system.

For example, we have a member, Bill Fagan, who loves to video tape layouts using an on-board camera. He will visit layouts and run the camera to get trackside video. He does it for free and puts it on YouTube and our members love this. So we made Bill a part of our AP team. Whenever he tapes a layout, Brian goes with him to see if the layout owner qualifies for a Golden Spike. Most of the time they do and they are surprised and happy when they receive one. We put it in a nice frame and present it to them at our next meeting. Brian will also do a quick survey to see how close they are to fulfilling other certificates like Civil, Electrical, Scenery, Structures, etc. He will inform the layout owner of the next steps to take and how to get the paperwork started. When Brian will contact Dave and tell him there are some new Clients ready to be judged for AP Certificates.

For fiscal 2014, we have seven (7) Golden Spikes, a few AP certificates awarded, 5 or 6 pending AP certificates, and a new MMR (Jim Dalberg). I'm excited, the BOD is excited, the members are excited, even Dave must be a little excited and the Division is energized. Our goal when we grow up is to be just like the NJ Division, which is our role model.

Planned Activities from the past year:

We are trying to incorporate AP type clinics into our meetings at least a few times each year. This past year we had Martin Brechbiel visit us in November to explain the Judging system, and he will visit us again this November. We had Bob Charles MMR, from the Susquehanna Division give us a great clinic last September on "Demystifying the AP system". In June our meeting was an OPS oriented meeting, which included OPS "Boot Camp", and hand-on operations at the StARR Club.

Special projects or working with other organizations:

We are planning another joint meet with the ECSFM group (East Coast SF Modelers) in May 2015.

Ideas that Our Division Has Tried That Might Be Helpful to Others:

I would highly suggest the use of the mini-cam to video tape layouts as part of your "AP program." This is a quick and unobtrusive way to introduce people to the AP and take away their fear of it. When they finally realize they have already met the qualifications for a few certificates, they get really excited about the program. Also seeing their layout on You Tube is pretty cool. The other thing that camera does is show you why you need "tunnel liners"!!

If any Division is looking to kick-start their AP program, all they need to do is start with those members who have operating layouts. Starting in November and thru New Year, there are many open houses to visit. Start there and encourage those owners to look into the AP program. Have you AP Coordinator visit them and discuss it. Just get off your butt and do something.

The OPS Boot Camp worked out well. I would recommend it. We're lucky that we not only have lots of places that run OPS sessions, but we have 3 members who are also on the OPS-SIG BOD.

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division.

Keep the "Rail-Pass" system alive.
Is there a library of "clinics" that we can borrow?
Is there a list of Clinicians who travel and the type of clinics?



**TIDEWATER DIVISION 4
Annual Report – 2013**

Meeting Information: Meets on the third Saturday of the month in January, March, May, June, October, November. Social time 9-10 AM, Meeting start at 10 AM.

Officers and AP Coordinator:

Superintendent: Gary Brown, 757-641-7671; AlleghenyRR@yahoo.com
Asst. Superintendent: Conrad Haas, 757-256-5989; conradh4@verizon.net
Timekeeper: Pat Mahoney, 757-498-4296; pat_mahoney@verizon.net
Paymaster: Len Boucher, 757-420-7879; lenboucher@aol.com
AP Coordinator: John Johnson MMR 339, 757-562-5917

Achievement Program Highlights: One Golden Spike awarded

Planned Activities from last Year:

- Conducted 6 regular meetings.
- Held Annual Train Show in the Virginia Beach Convention Center with 7 operating layouts, 50 vendors, and attended by over 1,200 people.
- Paired with the Virginia Beach Library for National Railroad Month in November with displays in the library, an operating layout, and our November meeting.
- Participated with the Aviation Museum for their "Trains and Planes" show in November.
- Participated with the Chesapeake Library in March for their "Train Days" weekend.
- TMRC set up operating layout at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in July and December.
- Weekly open house events by the TMRC operating layout including every day for two weeks through the Christmas season.
- Held our June meeting at the Army's Transportation Museum and toured the Army's operating railroad facility.

Special Projects or working with other organizations:

- Conducted our June meeting with members of the James River Division
- Donated \$1,500 to Toys for Tot
- Five Boy Scouts qualified for Railroading Merit Badge
- Maintained the HO layout in the Suffolk Train Museum
- Expanded the Division with the addition of 5 counties in North Carolina
- The TMRC had over 6400 visitors who were introduced to model railroading as a hobby

Ideas that Our Division Has Tried That Might Be Helpful to Others:

- Having a clinic and presenter for each meeting
- Holding meetings in various locations

Where could the MER provide support:

- Provide feedback from the other Divisions
- Update the clinics list, especially the email addresses
- Fix the links on MER website, email links often do not work
- Attend Division meetings more frequently



**JAMES RIVER DIVISION 5
Annual Report – 2013**

Meeting Times and Dates: Not Regularly Scheduled

List of Officers plus AP Coordinator:

Division Superintendent: Philip Taylor

Assistant Division Superintendent: Rick Lull
Paymaster: Jerry Ritter
Clerk: Don Wells
AP Coordinator: Chuck Hladick

Planned Activities from the past year:

- December 2013 – Clinics in Midlothian, VA
- April 2014 – Annual Meeting in Lynchburg, VA

Ideas that Our Division Has Tried That Might Be Helpful to Others:

Regular Blogging



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION 10
Annual Report – 2013**

Meeting Times and Dates: Typically 2 to 5 PM on the second Sunday of the month, except in June, July and August there are no meetings.

List of Officers plus AP coordinator: Contact information.

Superintendent: Richard Lind, rlind202@verizon.net
Paymaster: Raymond Price, wmmryar1904@gmail.com
Clerk: James Fisher, aliceandjimf@cermak.com
AP Coordinator: Jane Clarke, ebtmx5@aol.com

Achievement program highlights: No AP activity.

Planned Activities from the past year:

1. Group trip on the Cass Scenic Railroad, June 1, 2013.
2. We scheduled operating sessions on two layouts outside the SMD area.
3. Mini-con co-hosted with Main Line Hobby Supply on April 13, 2013 in Blue Ridge Summit PA.

Special projects or working with other organizations: None.

Any successful or new ideas that your division has tried that might be helpful to other divisions:

The mini-con was very successful. Typically, we have members sitting at tables working on model railroad projects who are available to our guests all day. Guests can circulate around and sit down at the tables and ask questions. It's a one-on-one learning and teaching opportunity, and it's been enjoyable for all. In addition, we have formal clinics and two "make and take" clinics. The event was held in a fire hall, with a high ceiling and no breakout rooms. Acoustically it was not a problem. About 125 attended the event, which was publicized by Main Line Hobbies, using their email list.

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division:

Notify division superintendents of your meetings.



**SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION 11
Annual Report – 2013**

Meeting Times and Dates: No set pattern – uniquely established for each event.

List of Officers, AP Coordinator:

Superintendent: Barry Schmitt, 405 Ford Drive, Elizabethtown PA 17022

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717-877-1810; bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org

Assistant Superintendent: Wayne Betty, 936 Wood Street, Mt. Joy PA 17552

717-653-9537; wsb@susquehannanmra.org

Chief Clerk: Paul Tice, 6710 Moul Road, Thomasville PA 17364

717-225-1688; ptice@susquehannanmra.org

Director and Membership Chair: Howard Oakes, 301 Moulstown Road, Abbottstown PA 17301, 717-632-5990; hoakes@susquehannanmra.org

Directors: Ron Parisi, 4314 Valley View Road, Harrisburg PA 17112

646-594-9649; rparisi@susquehannanmra.org

Lee Rainey, 784 Tanager Drive, State College PA 16803

814-867-7878; lrainey@susquehannanmra.org

David Collison, 100 Nursery Lane, Lancaster PA 17603

717-203-8138; dcollison@susquehannanmra.org

Achievement Program Chair: Robert Charles, MMR, 115 Winfield Drive

Camp Hill PA 17011, 717-763-1848; rcharles@susquehannanmra.org

Training Chair: Alan Mende, 526 Pine Hill Road, Hummelstown PA 17036

717-566-9956; amende@susquehannanmra.org

Model Showcase Clinic Chair: John Wissinger, MMR, 23 Thorndale Drive

Myerstown PA 17067, 734-433-1658; jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org

Sidetracks Editor: Ronald Smith, 138 Old School House Lane

Mechanicsburg PA 17055 717-253-143; rsmith@susquehannanmra.org

Achievement Program Highlights:

AP Awards

Jerry Britton: Master Builder – Scenery.(2013)

James Long: Golden Spike and Master Builder – Scenery (2014)

Special MER C&P Junction Convention Awards:

Alan Mende: Best of Show Award, First Place Steam Award, Merit Award for his scratchbuilt HO Chimney Rock Quarry Shay Locomotive, Third Place in On-Line Structures, Merit Award for his CRR of NJ East Bound Passenger Station.

Fred Phillips: Second Place On-Line Structures Award, Merit Award

Best of Show Award for his scratchbuilt Minersville Passenger Station

Ron Parisi: Second Place Freight Car Award, Merit Award

Bud Kaiser: Award for Best Detailed and Weathered Rolling Stock for his scratchbuilt 1921 NYC Stock Car.

NMRA Cleveland Convention Award Winners:

Ron Parisi: First Place, Judged Kit Class Model Contest Structures.

Lee Rainey: Second Place Individual Modules.

Planned and Accomplished Activities:

Completed 2013 Events

April 20 – Four morning clinics at the Masonic Village Cultural Center and four area layout tours.

May 19 – Joint Keystone Division (MCR) and Susquehanna Division (MER) event at the Altoona Association of Model Railroaders (AAMR) Club in Altoona PA. Included two morning clinics, a tour of their club, an unexpected run-by of Nickel Plate steam locomotive 765 just behind their club building, an afternoon visit to Altoona Railroaders Museum and Horseshoe Curve, and Paul Gagermeier's expansive home layout in Ebensburg PA. A great day for model railroading!

Sep. 21-22 – First year we officially co-sponsored Mainline Hobby Shop of Blue Ridge Summit PA annual weekend layout open house project.

Oct. 5-6 – Presented our 5th LSOP weekend Operations-Til-You-Drop program of 6 layouts in the Lehigh and Susquehanna areas.

Nov. 2, 9, and 16 – First Division-wide layout open houses in support of National Model Railroad month.

Special Project – Aug 18 held first Event Planning Committee Meeting where we began the process of defining all our 2014 programs. Project Officers were

assigned to each of 10 events and a consolidated program was presented to our members in a special Dec 2013 Sidetracks Express newsletter.

Completed 2014 Events:

Jan. 14 – Small, hands-on tree making clinic at Elizabethtown and Masonic Village Model Railroad Club.

Feb. 8 – Grace United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg PA. Three morning clinics, a tour of the historic Mechanicsburg Train Station, and three afternoon layout visits.

March 10 – Masonic Village Welcome Center, Elizabethtown PA. Three morning clinics and three afternoon area club visits.

June 28 – Orbisonia PA. All day tour of the East Broad Top (EBT) Railroad facilities and the Rockhill Trolley Museum.

July 10 – Montoursville, Northumberland, and Jersey Shore PA. Visited the Bowser and Weaver manufacturing facilities, the English Hobby Shop, and a member layout.

Sep. 6 – Strasburg PA. Presented the first Model Railroad Day at the Railroad Museum of PA that included 100 registered modelers, 10 model railroad display layouts, a live steam display, a Branchline laser kit make-and-take clinic, 9 other clinics, all day museum back shop tours, and all museum displays open to members and the public. An absolutely superb program!

Remaining 2014 Events:

Sep. 20-21 – Co-Sponsor Mainline Hobbies annual weekend layout open house project.

Oct. 3-4 – Annual Division LSOP6 six layout operations program in Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna Valley.

Nov. 1, 8, and 15 – Division-wide 32 layout open houses in support of National Model Railroad Month.

Special Projects and Working With Other Organizations:

Special Project: Developing 2015 Division-wide Event Plan which will be ready for presentation to all members in a special mid-Dec Sidetracks Express newsletter.

Working With Other Organizations: Planning at least one 2015 joint event with another NMRA Division that borders our 32-PA county territory.

Ideas that Our Division Has Tried That Might Be Helpful to Others

Develop an event jointly with a nearby railroad museum to include clinics, modular model railroad displays, and back shop tours.



CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION 12
Annual Report – 2013

Meeting Times and Dates: January, April, June, September

List of Officers plus AP coordinator:

Superintendent: Larry Paffrath

Assistant Superintendent: Rusty Doss; iamfasha@gmail.com

Paymaster: John Stevens, (704-663-5565)

Clerk: Morgan Feldon, 832-477-2331

Directors: Jack Haynes, Roy Becker, Gil Brauch

AP Coordinator: Dave Chance

Achievement program highlights

Jack Parker achieved MMR

Stephen Wood achieved MMR

Planned Activities from the past year:

Railroad Modelling University

Visit to Cherryville Historic Depot and Museum

Division displays at local train shows

Special projects or working with other organizations:

Brookford Railroad (Refurbishing of historic model railroad)

Support Metrolina Model Railroad Club with their display at the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte

Members supporting Carolina Transportation Museum special programs

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division:

Hopefully, much improved communication over what occurred last year and early this year. We lost a very experienced superintendent through resignation due to poor or lack of communication, and our board is trying to recover by "moving on".



CAROLINA PIEDMONT DIVISION 13 Annual Report – 2013

Meeting Times and Dates:

 4th Tuesday of every month

Meetings in November and December held on 2nd Tuesday

St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery, Cary, NC

6:30 PM Board of Directors meeting

7:00 PM Division membership meeting

All monthly meetings (except December) included an educational program on prototype railroads and/or railroad modeling. A monthly modeling contest was held and the popular vote winner received a \$10 cash prize provided by the Division. Each monthly contest had a theme.

Average monthly meeting attendance was 24 members.

Refreshments provided at each meeting.

List of Officers (for 2013) plus AP coordinator

Superintendent: Grif Bond; grifbond@embarqmail.com

Assistant Superintendent: Jim Murphy; berkshireshort@yahoo.com

Paymaster: Jerry Mersch; jbmswow@nc.rr.com

Clerk and newsletter editor: Jack Dziadul; dziadul@windstream.net

Directors: Will Seehorn; wseehorn@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rob Rousseau; railroad@nc.rr.com

Holiday Trains for Kids program coordinator: Steve Milley;

rsmilley@yahoo.com

Achievement Program Coordinator: Vic Bitleris; vbiteris@nc.rr.com

Achievement program highlights:

Stephen Wood – Master Model Railroader #507

Jim Babcock – Golden Spike

Steve Benezra – Chief Dispatcher

Steve Benezra – Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

Steve Benezra – Model Railroad Author

Steve Benezra – Association Volunteer

Donald Jennings – Association Official

Gene Sing – Master Builder - Structures

Stephen Wood – Master Builder - Cars

Stephen Wood – Model Railroad Author

Planned Activities from the past year:

Monthly meetings held, each with a educational program and a popular vote model contest

Monthly popular vote model contest expanded to a calendar year program with awards for cumulative entries for top 5 participants

January – Elected one new Director, Will Seehorn, for a 3 year term ending January 2016

January - Presented 2012 Member of the Year award to Jack Dziadul

"Special modeling contest" held in March 2013 using the Life-Like HO scale coaling tower kits to kit-bash a model with a diorama. Six (6) entries were received and prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place popular vote and 3 honorable mention awards presented by the Board of Directors.

Produced 12 monthly issues of Division newsletter, The Carolina Piedmont Herald. Primary distribution was via the Division's Yahoo Group list with a few paper copies sent US Mail. Newsletter is also posted on the Division's website www.cpd13.org.

Division booth/display with switching layouts at the National Train Day celebration in Cary, NC

Fully scenic HO scale sectional layout constructed by Division members to use as a grand prize for fundraising for the "Holiday Trains for Kids" program

Division booth/display with switching layout at the annual Neuse River Valley (NRV) Train Show in November

HO scale sectional layout awarded to a grand prize winner and a runner up prize of a HO train set presented at the NRV Train Show

Special projects or working with other organizations

Holiday Trains for Kids program – Ten (10) HO scale electric train sets were provided to less fortunate children at Christmas time. Division members identified children through local contacts such as churches, civil clubs and schools.

Worked with the Town of Cary, NC to participate in National Train Day

Ideas that your division has tried that might be helpful to others:

Holiday Trains for Kids program that provides HO scale electric train sets to less fortunate children at Christmas time. Train sets are purchased using Division funds, contributions and funds raised from the sale of "raffle layouts".

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division?

MER could provide increased membership dues rebates/funding for Division activities.

Subsidy of the Rail Pass program (\$9.95 fee) by the MER has been positive for the Division.



CHESAPEAKE DIVISION 14 Annual Report – 2013

Division Meetings:

10/22/13 Visited the Chesapeake and Allegheny Live Steamers for a members only run day

11/11/13 Annual Group Meeting

2/14 We had a work session on the Division display layout at the Timonium train show while manning a table.

3/22/14 We held our first Modeler's Day In (more below)

5/31/14 The Division hosted an excursion on the Northern Central Railroad

7/18/14 The Division hosted an Operations night at Eric Payne's layout.

8/16/14 The Division hosted a second Modeler's Day In

List of Officers plus AP coordinator:

Superintendent: Tom Casey, 2714 Southern Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21214; tmcdcasey@aol.com

Assistant Superintendent: Arthur Boyd, 2604 Queen Anne Road

Baltimore, MD 21216; arthur@fcln.org

Newsletter Editor: John Darlington, Jr., 2205 Stryker Court

Timonium, MD 21093; jjdjr3@verizon.net

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MER Lapel Pin / Tie Tack



MER Cloth Patch

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Annual Reports by Division continued from page 13

Clerk: Jeroen Gemtsen, 3607 Glen Ave.
 Baltimore, MD 21215; jingyee.jeroen@gmail.com
Board Member-at-large: Greg Kiddwell, 205 Clarendon Ave.
 Pikesville, MD 21208; lar18eneg440@aol.com
AP Coordinator: Greg Meeks, 6427 Ryan Ave.
 Hanover, MD 21076; crcsxfan@aol.com
Past Superintendent: Kurt Thompson, 350 Ternwing Dr
 Arnold, MD 21012; kurtrain@verizon.net

Achievement program highlights:

Several Achievement certificates were achieved by several members. Everyone participating in the operating night were started on recording time for the Dispatcher's certificate.

Special projects or working with other organizations.

In October 2013 the Division Co-hosted the Fall 2013 MER Convention with the Potomac Division in Rockville. By all accounts this was a very successful event. The Modeler's Day In was the idea of Kurt Thompson and is based on an activity that his wife did with a quilting group. Participants show up with a project to work on and the tools to do it. We sit at tables and talk while working on our individual projects. It's low key but a great opportunity to see what others are working on and trade tips and tricks.

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division:

Fostering communication between divisions would be helpful.
 A directory of members who might be willing to travel to a nearby division to present a clinic would be useful as well. 📌

CALLBOARD Coming Events

Patcong Valley Model RR Club will hold its 30th annual open house. November 15-16, 29-30, 10 AM – 6 PM on the 15th and 10AM – 4PM on the other days; December 6-7, 13, 14-27, 10AM – 4PM daily; January 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 2015, 10AM – 4 PM daily. We are located on the South side of U.S. Route 40 (1308 Harding Hwy) near mile post 38.5 (Fir Ave.). Lots of parking. We are a 25 by 70 foot bridge route from western PA to eastern NY. We run 6 to 8 trains at a time with DCC technology. Special display for kids with daily door prize. BRING A STEP STOOL FOR LITTLE ONES. No admission fee. www.patcongvalley.com, patcongr@comcast.net. Call Herb 609-425-5226. We are also on FaceBook, YouTube and Twitter. Advertising contact for all Patcong Valley open houses Edward S. Milner, Jr. 55 Franklin Drive, Bridgeton, NJ 08302, Phone 856-455-8574, Fax 856-451-7074, email esmilnerjrm@aol.com.

Carolina Piedmont Division meet/clinic 7 PM Cary, NC, January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22.

The Carolina Coastal Railroaders in New Bern, NC, are having their 20th Annual Train Show. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 21 & 22, 2015 from 10AM to 5PM on Saturday and 10AM to 4PM on Sunday. Admission is \$6.00 ages 12 and up. Under 12 are free with an adult. Your ticket is good for both days. There are 10 visiting model railroads, including Thomas the Train and Friends in HO and G Scale. Over 25 vendors, with food concessions and hourly door prize drawings. We are in a NEW LOCATION... The New Bern Riverfront and Convention Center located at 203 South Front Street in New Bern, NC. The Train Show web address is <http://www.carolinacoastalrailroaders.org/2015.asp>. For information, contact Joe Hofmann (252) 474-4153 or email at southernrtrains@yahoo.com.

CLASSIFIED

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 Hacketet@verizon.net, 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.

WANTED: 1997 Emons Transportation Group Annual Report. Will purchase or trade for other Emons or Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad annual reports. Have various Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad forms along with HO gauge rolling stock. Looking for unusual items from the railroad. Other: 1982, 1985 Lionel Price Guides, NMRA Silver Anniversary Journal, British Steam Locomotive calendars, PRR items and much more. Send Email address for list. Alan Frame engine42@msn.com, 717-767-4998

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

Thomas C. Griffiths - Master Builder Scenery

Division 2 – Potomac

Lee Kass – *Golden Spike*

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. 

Congratulations

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11/14

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To convert from the hard copy of **The Local** to the electronic version send a request to Bob Price, the MER Business Manager at business@mer-nmra.com. The electronic version is in full color and will eventually have added content beyond the 16 page limit of the paper version.

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<u>Publication Schedule:</u>	<u>Articles/Callboard items due to Editor by:</u>
Jan/Feb	December 1st of previous year
Mar/Apr	Feb 1st
May/Jun	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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