

The Local



A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA

Volume 70

July - August 2015

Number 4

2014 Annual Reports

New Jersey Division

Meeting dates and locations

September 20 Cumberland Community Church, Millville, NJ
November 15 Knights of Columbus Hall, Forked River
January 18 Haddon Twp. High School
March 14 Switlik Park, Hamilton Twp.
May 17 Joint meet with Garden State Division, NER, location to be determined by GSD
Registration opens at 8:30 am, meet activities from 9:00 am to noon, layout tours 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Officers and AP Chair

Superintendent:	Bob Clegg	BobcatCS@comcast.net
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Director:	John Gallagher	gallagherjv39@verizon.net
Director:	Michael Mosher	mjmx@comcast.net

Some assignments will change on September 20 due to changes in the BoD staff

AP Certificates

Bob Price	Association Official
Dick Perry	Civil Engineering - Electrical
Tom Griffiths	Master Builder - Motive Power
Chris Conaway	Scenery

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 our success is due to planning ahead. We have already planned four of our five meets for this year. This year will include two joint meets. We will be hosting the Philadelphia Division in January, and traveling to a Garden State Division, NER meet in May.
- Members are heavily involved with hosting, with the assistance of the Philadelphia Division and the Garden State Division, NER, the 2015 MER Fall Convention, October 22 – 25 2015 at the Hotel ML in Mount Laurel.

Robert W. Clegg

The Local

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

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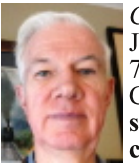
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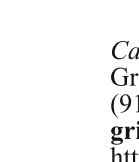
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From The Business Car

*By P. J. Mattson, MMR
MER President*

The elections for the three MER Directors are coming soon. There will be six people vying for the three positions. This is unusual and a great thing to have this many for the election. Please read the Bio's and vote for the three people you feel will do the best job. More than ever you vote counts this year.

I attended a joint division meet between the New Jersey and the Garden State Divisions. The Garden State Division is in the North East Region. So this was a unusual meet. Both divisions gave several AP awards to members. Both Divisions also announced that they had a new MMR. I thought this was something that only happens once. We had clinics from both Divisions. There were two "N" scale layouts and two "HO" scale layouts for visitation in the afternoon. All in all it was a great meet.

Summer is now upon us so most of our attention will be focused on outdoor activity. But I still think we can find some time for our hobby. You and your family, have a great summer. Till next time stay on the right track.

Keeping in Touch...

*By Bob Price
MER Business Manager*

Our Editor has been doing a great job bringing some new ideas to The Local and the electronic version of it. The new banner on the last issue was refreshing and I hope the membership responds to Earl's request for other material to use for future issues. The printed version of The Local is still going out with 16 pages, but recent electronic versions had 21 and 23 pages of content. These versions can still be found at the MER's website: <http://mer-nmra.com/>. While visiting the site, you can also find the MER's By-Laws and Executive Handbook. They are located at the top of the MER Officer's Contact page.

Another page on the MER's web site lists upcoming events. If you are looking for something to do, check there. If you are hosting an event, send the information to the Web Master to get it listed. Note that you should allow reasonable advance time to get an event listed.

In case you have not saved the link to the upcoming MER convention as a Favorite on your computer, the MER web page also has a link to it along with the registration form. The convention site has a lot of information about the convention. Be sure to check it out and plan some time to attend. It should be a great convention.

Election Time will be upon the membership very soon. As has been the past practice we will be mailing out paper ballots to members who are eligible to vote. To ensure you receive your ballot, please make sure that you have notified either National or the MER Business Manager of any recent change of address. I will tell you from past experience that having a Change of Address on record with the USPS will not guarantee that all of your mail is forwarded.

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.

Potomac Division Annual Report

Meetings

March 8, 2014 (Board mtg.)
May 3, 2014 (Board mtg.)
May 31, 2014 (membership mtg.)
September 20, 2014 (Board mtg.)
November 15, 2014 (Board mtg.)

Officers plus AP coordinator

Superintendent:	Brian W. Sheron, MMR	BWSheron@mac.com
Senior Asst. Superintendent:	Marshall Abrams	abrams_railroad@comcast.net
Assistant Superintendent:	Phillip Scruggs	pscruggs(a)ix.netcom.com
Achievement Program:	Brian W. Sheron, MMR	
Paymaster:	Torn Brodrick	t.brodrick@verizon.net
Clerk;	Bill White	chesbaywatch@comcast.net

Achievement program highlights

Bob Reid	Volunteer Master Model Railroader
Bill Roman	Master Builder - cars
Bernie Halloran	Golden Spike Award Scenery Master Builder - Structures
Lee Kass	Golden Spike Award

Planned Activities from the past year

We held our 2014 Mini-convention at St. Matthew's Church in Annandale, VA. on May 31, 2014. We had 8 clinics, two modular layouts, a White elephant sale, and a model/contest room.

Layout Tours/Open Houses

Leisure World 1/18/14, Frank Benenati 2/22/ 14, Chris Smith 3/29/14, Bob Rosenberg 4/26/14
Gary Eames 5/17/14, Bill Lyders 6/28/14, Marshall Abrams 9/6/14, Bernie Halloran 11/25/14
Bob Reid 12/6/14

Successful new ideas

- We started publishing a list of area hobby shops that cater to model railroaders in our "Potomac Flyer" newsletter. This initiative was highlighted in the "Division Business Car" column of the April, 2015 NMRA Magazine.
- We also started an operations initiative. Over the course of the year, a number of members with layouts suited for operations would open their layouts on a weekend and division members could sign up to operate on that layout. This was designed to give members that have not had operations experience a chance to operate in a relaxed setting with other members who were learning operations. The host would decide how many operators he/she could handle, and sign-up was on a first come-first served basis.

Brian W. Sheron, MMR

Tidewater Division Annual Report

Meetings

The third Saturday of the month in Jan, Mar, May, Jun, Aug, Oct, Nov.
Social time 9-10 AM, Meeting start at 10 AM.

Officers and AP Coordinator

Superintendent:	Gary Brown	AlleghenyRR@yahoo.com
Asst. Super:	Conrad Haas	conradh4@verizon.net
Timekeeper:	Pat Mahoney	pat_mahoney@verizon.net
Paymaster:	Len Boucher	lenboucher@aol.com
AP Coordinator:	Norman Garner	nwgrail@cox.net

Achievement Program Highlights

One Golden Spike awarded.

Letter from the Editor

Earl T. Hackett, Jr.

This month The Local is filled with Division annual reports and I had no room for an article. I have entered responses (in italics) to the requests made in some of the reports.

As usual the "Articles to Publish" folder has only one or two articles so if you have an idea, send it in. I'm even out of layout photos for the electronic version so another visit to New Jersey will have to be made.

Below is a photo of my model of the C&O station and express house (partially hidden by the canopy supports) at Ronceverte, WV, during final assembly. All the parts except for the platform and canopy were produced using Shapeways "Frosted Ultra Detailed" plastic. It will be in the contest room during the convention. There were a lot of problems and I'm happy to just get the thing to go together. Examine the picture closely and you'll see a lot of the problems. From normal viewing angles on the layout it will look OK, but don't try this without attending my clinic on the subject.



A letter from a member indicated that the photos in the last print issue were too dark and difficult to see. The print version is converted from the color eLocal. Although the resulting b&w photos look OK on my computer, I don't get to see the printed copy until after it ships. In this issue I have lightened and increased the contrast of the b&w photos. Please send me your comments on their appearance.

The banner photo this issue is an old Alco on the SMS Lines taken during the Philadelphia National Convention. It's about as local as you can get - the entire railroad consists of about 2 miles of track.

Correction

During editing of the May - June issue, the last paragraph on page 1 was misplaced. It should have read

"Robin Frye, who kept everyone's attention during lunch with stories of his life with the Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus, spent the afternoon talking about his" models of the R.B.&B.B. circus train he built in his spare time, in three different scales!

Tidewater Division Annual Report continued

Planned Activities from last Year

- Conducted 7 regular meetings.
 - Held Annual Train Show in the Virginia Beach Convention Center with 7 operating layouts, 50 vendors, attended by over 1659 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 Military Aviation Museum for their "Trains and Planes" show in November.
 - Participated in the Denbeigh Community Center's National Train Day event.
 - Participated with the Chesapeake Library in March for their "Train Days" weekend.
- The TMRC set up operating layout at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in both July and Dec.
Weekly open house events conducted 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

- Conducted our June meeting with members of the James River Division.
- Donated \$1650 in HO Train sets to Toys for Tots.
- Five Boy Scouts qualified for Railroading Merit Badge.
- Maintained the HO layout in the Suffolk Train Museum.
- The TMRC had over 8000 visitors who were introduced to model railroading as a hobby.

Successful Ideas

- Having a clinic and/or presenter for each meeting to increase interest and reason for members to attend meetings..
- Holding meetings in various locations located throughout the Division geographic area to increase attendance at meetings for those members who live at the edges of the Division.

Where could the MER provide support

- The clinic list is improving. Please add the home town of the presenters so Divisions know which clinicians are close to where they are having a meeting. *It is possible, but may conflict with the NMRA privacy policy.*
- Attend the Division meetings more frequently

Gary Brown

James River Division Annual Report

Meeting Times and Dates

For 2015, meetings will start at 9 AM on the second Saturday of odd numbered months.

4/5/2014	Lynchburg, VA	Annual Meeting
7/12/2014	Charlottesville, VA	Held at Rail Tales
9/20/2014	Richmond, VA	Bernie Kempinski
11/1/2014	Waynesboro, VA	Joint meeting of JRD and Augusta Model Railroad Museum

Officers and AP coordinator.

Superintendent:	Philip Taylor
Asst Super:	Rick Lull
Paymaster:	Jerry Ritter
Clerk:	Don Wells
AP Chair:	Chuck Hladik

Special projects

- JRD On30 group is now a private club.
- 6/21/2014 – Guests at meeting of Tidewater Division
- 1/1/2014 – Joint meeting with Augusta Model Railroad Museum

James River Division Annual Report continued

Successful new ideas

- Regular Meetings on specified dates. Meetings on 2nd Saturday of odd numbered months with start times of 9 AM is current standard adopted for 2015. Emphasis on more presentations and programs per meeting. Less emphasis on open houses which do not have significant updates since last visit
- Trying to have more Hands On Workshops where JRD members can actually try out the topic and take home the results. We had a weathering buildings clinic and members were able to weather a building at no cost to the member. This seems to have stimulated some activity on home layouts

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

- Opinion of the Division is generally favorable of MER and we appreciate MER splitting the miserly amount provided by National. Perhaps National should follow its own advice and raise all its own funds for operations by holding meetings and fundraisers and not hoard the dues.

Philip R Taylor 5/7/2105

South Mountain Division Annual Report

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.

Officers and AP coordinator

Superintendent:	Paul Rausch	pdl drausch@embarqmail.com
Paymaster:	Raymond Price	wmrryar1904@gmail.com
Clerk:	James Fisher	aliceandjimf@cermak.com
AP Coordinator:	Jane Clarke	ebtmx5@aol.com

Planned Activities from the past year

- We scheduled an operating session on a layout outside the SMD area, April 22, 2014. Nine members participated,
- Mini-con co-hosted with Main Line Hobby Supply on April 5, 2014 in Blue Ridge Summit PA.

Special projects

- One of our members presented a clinic at the Susquehanna Division "Model Railroad Day" event at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg PA., September 9, 2014
- "Hub City Interchange" MER Convention, October 16-19, 2014

Successful new ideas

- 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 170 attended the event, which was publicized by Main Line Hobbies, using their email list.

Where could the MER provide support to your division.

- Notify division superintendents of your meetings, and please send a copy of the MER Operating Manual to Paul Rausch, , so we will know how to properly handle administrative tasks when dealing with MER.

Paul Rausch

Susquehanna Division Annual Report

Meetings

No set pattern; scheduled as needed.

Officers and AP Coordinator

Superintendent:	Barry Schmitt	bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org
Assistant Superintendent:	Wayne Betty	wsb@susquehannanmra.org
Clerk:	Paul Tice	ptice@susquehannanmra.org
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Director:	Lee Rainey	lrainey@susquehannanmra.org
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Model Showcase Clinic Chair:	John Wissinger, MMR	jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org
Sidetracks Editor:	Ronald Smith	rsmith@susquehannanmra.org
Annual Event Program Chair:	Richard Wurst	rjwurst@comcast.net

Achievement Program Highlights

James Long Golden Spike

Master Builder — Scenery

NMRA Cleveland Convention Award Winners:

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

Lee Rainey: Second Place Individual Modules.

MER Hagerstown Convention Award Winner

Fred Phillips: Best of Show and Merit Award



THE TRAIN SHOW IS COMING

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM both days

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

VIRGINIA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER
1000 19 TH STREET
FREE PARKING

TRAIN DOCTOR VIDEOS
TEST TRACKS TRACK
SCENERY SUPPLIES TOOLS
OPERATION LIFESAVER



\$1.00 FROM EVERY PAID ADMISSION GOES TO "TOYS for TOTS"

Susquehanna Division Annual Report continued

Accomplished 2014 Activities:

- 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.
- Mar 10: Masonic Village Welcome Center, Elizabethtown PA. Three morning clinics and three afternoon club visits.
- Jun 28: Orbisonia PA. All day tour of the East Broad Top (EBT) Railroad facilities and the Rockhill Trolley Museum.
- Jul 10: Montoursville, Northumberland, and Jersey Shore PA. Visited the Bowser and Weaver manufacturing facilities, the English Hobby Shop, and a member's layout.
- Sep 6: Strasburg PA. Presented the first Model Railroad Day at the Railroad Museum of PA that included 100 registered modelers, 850 public visitors, 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!
- Sep 20-21: Co-Sponsored 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 Grand Tour - 32 layout open houses in support of National Model Railroad Month.

Planned Events for 2015

- Sep: Grandview United Methodist Church in Lancaster.
Sat — All-day clinics with several same subject multiple 1-hour periods. That evening attendees will operate on the Short Line Model Railroad Club in nearby Ephrata. Pre-registration required for the Sat clinics. Sun — Layout visits in Lancaster area.
- Sep 19-20: Co-sponsor Mainline Hobbies annual weekend layout open house project.
- Oct 2-3: Annual Division LSOP7 - six layout operations program in Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna Valley.
- Nov 7-21: Divisionwide Grand Tour - multiple layout open houses in support of National Model Railroad Month over three weekends with one each weekend devoted to our three Sub Divisions — Southem, Mountain, and Eastern.

Special Projects

- Developing 2016 Division-wide Event Plan which will be ready for presentation to all members in a special mid-Dec Sidetracks Express newsletter.
- Planning at least one 2016 joint event with another NMRA Division that borders our 32-PA county territory.

Successful New Ideas

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

Barry W. Schmitt

Carolina Southern Division Annual Report

Meetings

January, Annual Business Meeting;
March 15, Division Meeting at Cherryville Historic Depot
April, Board Meeting to reorganize after superintendent resignation;
Sept. 27, Division Meeting and Picnic;
November 6, Division Board Meeting

Officers and AP coordinator

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Asst Superintendent:	Rusty Doss	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
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Director 2016:	Jack Haynes	director2@carolinasouthern.org
Director 2015	Gil Brauch	director3@carolinasouthern.org
AP Chairman	Dave Chance	apchair@carolinasouthern.org

Carolina Southern Division Annual Report continued

Planned Activities from the past year

Railroad Modeling University
"Brass Pounder" Division Newsletter
Division membership recruiting
Displays and operating Trainboard at Train Shows
RMU Extension Class
November, Brookford Wade's Train Town Renovation Completion Celebration
November, Members Swap Meet;
Division sponsored layout visits before and after picnic

Special projects

Sponsor Boy Scout Model Railroad Merit Badge;
Completed Wade's Train Town at Brookford
Members supporting and providing help with other member's layout construction;

Larry Paffrath

Carolina Piedmont Division Annual Report

Meetings

4th Tuesday of every month
St. Michael's Conference Center Gallery, 830 High House Road, Cary, NC
6:30 PM Board of Directors meeting
7:00 PM Division membership meeting

Officers and AP coordinator

Superintendent:	Grif Bond	grifbond@embarqmail.com
Assistant Superintendent:	Jim Murphy	berkshireshort@yahoo.com
Paymaster:	Gene Sing	G249sing@hotmail.com
Clerk, Newsletter Editor:	Bob Bridges	rkbridges@mindspring.com
Director:	Will Seehorn	wseehorn@gmail.com
Director:	Danial Fisher	fisherdm@bellsouth.net
Director, Holiday Trains for Kids program coordinator:	Steve Milley	rsmilley@yahoo.com
Achievement Program:	Vic Bitleris	vbitleris@nc.rr.com
Webmaster:	Rob Rousseau	railroad@nc.rr.com

Achievement program highlights

Gene Sing – Master Builder - Cars
Gene Sing – Master Model Railroader #544

Planned Activities from the past year

- January – Presented 2013 Member of the Year award to Gene Sing
- Produced 11 monthly issues (combined November – December issue) 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 web site www.cpd13.org
- Division booth/display with switching layouts and models at the National Train Day celebration in Cary, NC in May
- Division hosted a AP judging event in May
- Master Model Railroader recognition event at Division meeting for Gene Sing, MMR 544
- Fully scened 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 Train Show in November
- HO scale sectional layout awarded to a grand prize winner and a runner up prize of an O scale train set were presented at the NRV Train Show

Carolina Piedmont Division Annual Report continued

Special projects or working with other organizations

- "Holiday Trains for Kids" program – Eight (8) 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

Successful ideas

- 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 annual "raffle layout".

Where could the MER provide support to your division?

- MER should continue the twice annual NMRA 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. Recommend the MER continue the program. *See updated information on the Rail Pass page.*
- Adjust the current 50/50 split of Annual MER Convention proceeds to a 75/25 split in favor of the Division. Since each Division is no longer permitted to assess annual dues, the funding is crucial to Division operations. An increased split in favor of the Division might prompt more Divisions to host annual MER conventions.

Grif Bond

Chesapeake Division Annual Report

Meetings

- Feb 1: We had a table and set up the Division display layout at the Great Scale Train show (Timonium MD), as a work session to show visitors aspects of the hobby. Work accomplished included ballasting of track. Several Rail Pass membership cards were filled out by visitors.
- March 22: Modeler's Day In, where members brought portable modeling projects to a central venue to work on, and share experience, banter, and pizza. Fourteen members attended, with projects ranging from catching up on reading to rolling stock tune-ups, rolling stock and structure kits, and scratch-built structures. In the afternoon, 3 members judged Kurt's scratch-built freight cars for AP merit. The event was highly successful, and participants pledged to do it again.
- May 1: The division organized a rail trip on the Northern Central Railroad, from New Freedom PA to Glen Rock, PA. The NCCR operates a replica Civil War era 4-4-0 (working steam, with some modern concessions) and sort-of period passenger cars.
- May 24: Layout tour of Dick Weatherby's narrow-gauge garden railroad, including G-gauge live steamers.
- July 18: The division organized an introductory Operations session, hosted by Eric Payne on his Milepost One RR layout (N scale). A good half dozen "Newbies" were introduced to the challenges of operating a layout like a real railroad.
- August 16: The second Modeler's Day In was held, including a make & take trestle project. Members worked on projects ranging from new layout planning, constructing cars and structures, and the scratchbuilt make & take trestle.
- Nov 22: The Division held its Annual Meeting to elect new officers for 2015. Several members presented mini-clinics on recent activities, including construction of a gate, detailing steam locomotives, and new electronic tricks that can be done with an Arduino. After the meeting, there was a tour of layouts in the Severna Park area.

Continued Page 14

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 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.

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 Railpass 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 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. When this funding is depleted Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At this time the program will be reevaluated by the MER Board of Directors. It has proven to be an excellent means to recruit new members. 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 P. J. Mattson MMR, 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 eLocal, the bi-monthly regional newsletter if an email address is provided. I will not be eligible to vote or hold office.

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, nor have I been a RailPass 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)

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 headquarters in Soddy
Daisy, TN.

June 2015



Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Fall Convention
Delaware Valley Turn 2015
 October 22nd to 25th, 2015
 www.DelawareValleyTurn.org



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: _____ Any Title? _____

Significant Other Attending (living at same address): _____

Children Attending (16 & under – list all): _____



Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

NMRA #: _____ Region: _____ Division: _____

Favorite Scale: _____ Is this your first MER Convention?: _____

Description	Act. #	Cost	#	Paying
Early Registration (thru August 31 st)	-----	\$35		
Basic Registration (Sept. 1 until at the door fee of \$45)	-----	\$40		
Non-NMRA Member Extra Fee	-----	\$10		
Significant Other & Children Under 16	-----	\$0		-----
Banquet – Dinner Buffet - Saturday Night Max # Available 220	401	\$42		
Breakfast Buffet Pre-order \$15 per meal tax & tip included. (usually \$18 + tax/tip)	▼▼	▼▼	---	-----
Breakfast Quantity - Friday	402	\$15		
Breakfast Quantity – Saturday	403	\$15		
Breakfast Quantity - Sunday	404	\$15		
Call Boards / Ops – Expanded Call Board Info Available on Website				
A & W Dick Genther Thurs. 1pm – 4pm Max# 4	801	\$5		
PS Geoff Green Thurs. 7pm – 10pm Max# 16	814	\$5		
N K RR Mike McNamara Fri. 8:30am – 12pm Max# 4	804	\$5		
J M Jack Menaker Fri. 8:30am – 12pm Max# 4	805	\$5		
L N Bill Wallace Fri. 10am – 3:30pm Max# 6	806	\$5		
K W & N Rwy. Chuck Higdon Fri. 12:30pm – 4pm Max# 6	808	\$5		
A & W Dick Genther Fri. 1pm – 4pm Max# 4	802	\$5		
H T RR Richard Bickmore Fri. 6:30pm – 10pm SOLD OUT Max# 8	809	\$5	---	-----
S & U Rwy. Rick Spano Fri. 6:30pm – 10pm Max# 5	810	\$5		
C L & W RR John Rahenkamp Sat. 8:30a-12pm Max# 12	811	\$5		
W R Herb Gishlick Sat. 8:30am – 12pm Max# 4	813	\$5		
[SS] Steve Salotti Sat. 9am – 1pm Max# 12	815	\$5		
L N Bill Wallace Sat. 10am – 3:30pm Max# 6	807	\$5		
C L & W RR John Rahenkamp Sat. 1pm – 5pm Max# 12	812	\$5		
A & W Dick Genther Sat. 1pm – 4pm Max# 4	803	\$5		
Prototype Tours – More Info on Website When Confirmed				
Perdue Grain – Bordentown Fri. 8 am – 11:30am Max# 20	201	\$5		
Amtrak CETC Tour Sat. 8am – 1pm Min# 30 – Max# 48	202	\$20		
Total Advance Registration Paid				

Additional events will be added when confirmed and their cost is known.

Payment must accompany registration. **Credit Card Payment Accepted Thru 10/21/15, Not At The Door.**

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

An extra bank fee will be added for Credit Card Transactions. **Visa, Master Card, & Discover Card Accepted Only.**

Make checks payable to: MER Fall Convention 2015

Send to: MER Fall Convention
 P.O. Box 467
 Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0467

Any Questions and/or additional information, e-mail to **MER-Registrar@verizon.net**

Watch the following sites to keep up to date on new information;

www.DelawareValleyTurn.org groups.yahoo.com/groups/MER2015 mer-nmra.com



Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Fall Convention
Delaware Valley Turn 2015
 October 22nd to 25th, 2015
 www.DelawareValleyTurn.org



Convention Hotel: The Hotel ML and CoCo Key Water Resort

915 Route 73

Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 Phone: 856-234-7300 Website: thehotelml.com for hotel and water park information.

Room rate \$94.00 plus tax per night, (\$108.10) Single or Double

When registering, use online booking link <http://tinyurl.com/msqk6jy> or call & specify the **Mid-Eastern Region**

Model Railroad Assoc. to get these special rates.

\$18.00 (1/2 off regular) day passes to CoCo Key Water Park will be available at the hotel, ask for convention price.

BREAKFAST INFORMATION

A Breakfast Buffet Pre-Order Ticket will be available if a minimum number of orders are reached for each day. Cost will be \$15 per meal/ticket, with tax and tip already included. Usual price at the hotel is \$18 plus tax and tip if it is offered.

If you submit a registration form with breakfast choices included and they are cancelled due to low responses, you will be notified ahead of time and be refunded your cost.

BANQUET INFORMATION

A Full Dinner Buffet Banquet will take place on Saturday night for \$42 per person. It will include Top Round of Beef Au Jus, Striped Bass, and Chicken Parmesan along with salad, vegetables, and dessert.

Call Boards / Ops Sessions

Act. #	RR Initials	Railroad Name	Owner	Date	Time	Max # Guests	From Hotel By Google
# 801	A&W	Arpee & Western	Dick Genter	Thursday	1:00pm – 4:00pm	4	46 miles / 49 mins.
# 814	PS	Pacific Southern HO Model Railroad Club	Geoff Green	Thursday	7:00pm – 10:00pm	16	43 miles /44 mins.
***	***	*** **	*** **	***	***	***	***
# 804	NK	Northeast Kingdom RR	Mike McNamara	Friday	8:30am – 12:00pm	4	10 miles /13 mins.
# 805	JM	Jersey Mercentile	Jack Menaker	Friday	8:30am – 12:00pm	4	49 miles /52 mins.
# 806	LN	Lehigh Northern	Bill Wallace	Friday	10:00am – 3:30pm	6	78 miles /86 mins.
# 808	KW&N	Key West & Northern	Chuck Higdon	Friday	12:30pm- 4:00pm	6	47 miles /60 mins.
# 802	A&W	Arpee & Western	Dick Genter	Friday	1:00pm – 4:00pm	4	46 miles /49 mins.
# 809	HTR	Harrisburg Terminal Railroad	Richard Bickmore	Friday	6:30pm – 10:00pm	FULL	3 miles /5 mins.
# 810	S&U	Sceniced & Undecided Rwy.	Rick Spano	Friday	6:30pm – 10:00pm	5	35 miles /36 mins.
***	***	*** **	*** **	***	***	***	***
# 811	CL&W	Claremont, Lewiston & Western Railroad	John Rahenkamp	Saturday	8:30am – 12:00pm	12	13 miles /22 mins.
# 813	WR	Windsor Railroad	Herb Gishlik	Saturday	8:30am- 12:00pm	4	35 miles /43 mins.
# 815	SS	[Steve Salotti]	Steve Salotti	Saturday	9:00am – 1:00pm	12	38 miles /55 mins.
# 807	LN	Lehigh Northern	Bill Wallace	Saturday	10:00am – 3:30pm	6	78 miles /86 mins.
# 812	CL&W	Claremont, Lewiston & Western Railroad	John Rahenkamp	Saturday	1:00pm – 5:00pm	12	13 miles /22 mins.
# 803	A&W	Arpee & Western	Dick Genter	Saturday	1:00pm – 4:00pm	4	46 miles /49 mins.

Prototype Tours

202 – Perdue Grain, Bordentown. Fri. leave hotel at 8:00 am by CARPOOL, Tour starts 9:00am., Appr. 1-1/2 hrs.

Tour includes - Walk through interior of grain elevator and explanation of operations of grain elevator, loading of railroad hoppers and intermodal shipping containers. Exterior will have explanations of railcar movements and tracks at facility, past and present. Loading operations may be available for viewing during visit because of harvest season. Requires Hard Hat, Safety Glasses, and Long Pants. Max. # attendees is 20

203 – Amtrak CETC Tour. Sat. leave hotel by BUS at 8:00am, return to hotel by 1:00pm.

Minimum # attendees required 30, Maximum # 48

This is a tour of the Amtrak - Central Electrification and Train Control Center in Wilmington DE.

Support Your NMRA Region and Purchase These Great Products from MER



MER Lapel Pin/Tie Tack



MER Cloth Patch

Only available to MER members.
Your NMRA or MER member number.

MER Cloth Patch

\$3.00 ea. includes S&H \$ _____

MER Lapel Pin/Tie Tack

\$6.00 ea. includes S&H \$ _____

The Locals, all issues 1947 - 2012 on CD

\$5.00 ea. postpaid \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Mid-Eastern Region

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Ship to:

Mail to:

NAME _____

Roger Ossman

ADDRESS 1 _____

MER Merchandise Sales Agent

ADDRESS 2 _____

3307 Englewood Road

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

Wilmington, DE 19819-3323

Chesapeake Division Annual Report continued

Officers and AP Chair

Superintendent:	Tom Casey	tmcDCasey@aol.com
Assistant Superintendent:	Arthur Boyd	arthur@fcnl.org
Director-at-large:	Greg Kidwell	lar18eng440@aol.com
Paymaster:	David Arday	davidarday@aol.com
Clerk:	Jeroen Gerritsen	jingyee.jeroen@gmail.com
Past Superintendent:	Kurt Thompson	kurtrain@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor:	John Darlington	jjdjr3@verizon.net
AP Coordinator:	Greg Meeks	crcsxfan@aol.com

AP Awards

Kurt Thompson	Civil Engineer
	Master Builder – Cars
Russel Forte	Association Volunteer.

Special Projects

- We have come to enjoy our “Modeler’s Day In” sessions, where a group will get together to work on their own projects. It gives us a chance to see what others are doing; we can all learn from others’ techniques and tricks; and there is good fellowship throughout the day.

MER Support

- Subsidy of the Rail Pass program by the Region has enabled us to recruit new members at train shows, same for other Divisions!
- We are still seeking a list of clinicians willing to travel to our division, and “canned” clinics as slide shows or videos. *Available clinics can be found at <http://mer-nmra.com/clinics.html>.*

Tom Casey

CALLBOARD

Coming Events

Pennsylvania, Scranton--June 27 **Susquehanna Division Electric Railroads and Coal** **Outing.**

Visit the Electric City Museum which is devoted to the history of Interurban Railroads and Trolleys. See 20 electric cars in various stages of renovation. Includes 1-hour, 11-mile Interurban ride over former Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railroad (The Laurel Line) ROW. Museum tour ends with a visit to their restoration shops. Two different coal mine tour options available - one in Scranton and the other in Ashland PA (1-hr/25-min south of Scranton). Both include guided tours and riding historic rail systems into formerly active underground mines. The Lackawanna County Coal Mine tour in Scranton includes a museum tour. The Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine tour in Ashland includes a narrow gauge train ride around the mountain in converted mine cars pulled by an 0-4-0T steam locomotive. This program requires preregistration and advance payment. Prices vary based on selected tours. For pricing, questions, and registration, contact *before June 6*

John Wissinger, MMR at 717-628-1767
jwissinger@susquehannanmra.org

July 25, 2015 **Railroad Heritage Museum** Hamburg, Pennsylvania

NMRA Susquehanna Division tour of the museum begins at 9:30 AM. It is the largest known US museum collection of a single railroad (Reading) that includes more than 10 locomotives and dozens of pieces of rolling stock, including several passenger cars, a fleet of MU cars, a pair of Budd RDC cars, and a museum restored 1937 caboose. The tour includes access to selected equipment not available to general public including the unique Locomotive Engineer Mobile Training Unit (LEMTU). This is a registration event. Early registration before July 13: NMRA members and family \$9; non-members \$12 - after July 13 and at event; NMRA members and family \$11; non-members \$14. A map will be provided to registrants on July 15. To register or questions, contact

Fred Kurtz at 717-200-1551
fkurtz@fredbkurtz.com.

September 19th and 20th, 2015
26th Annual Tidewater Division Train Show
Virginia Beach Convention Center
1000 19th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Model railroad equipment, supplies, tools, videos, books, photos, memorabilia, and train sets on sale. Operating layouts in a variety of scales, N, HO, O, G, and Lego. Food and beverages on sale - hourly door prizes - Learn "How to Model" clinics - White elephant tables - Train doctors on call - all scales test track. Scouts can work towards merit badge in model railroading

Admission: Adults \$8.00 Children under 12 free with paid adult. Free for scouts, scoutmasters, troop leaders, den mothers, brownie leaders in uniform. \$1.00 from every paid admission goes to the U. S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots."

Contact: Leonard Boucher
948 Morgan Trail
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757 620-8333
lenboucher@aol.com

Achievement Program

Charles Flichman, MMR

Division 1 - New Jersey
Thomas C. Griffiths Engineer - Civil
Master Model Railroader #557

Division 2 - Potomac
John Paganoni Master Builder Motive Power
 Master Builder Structures
 Master Builder Prototype Models

Division 12 - Carolina Southern
Seth Gartner Master Builder Prototype
 Master Builder Scenery
 Engineer - Electrical
 Engineer - Civil
John Shefte Golden Spike
Jack Parker Master Builder Cars
Master Model Railroader; Feb 1 2013
Anthony Perkins Golden Spike
 Master Builder Scenery
Curtis Hardee Golden Spike
Doug Algire Golden Spike

The Mid-Eastern Region, Inc., NMRA
An IRS Tax Exempt Organization
Business Manager
801 S. Newton Lake Drive
Collingswood, NJ 08108



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Subscriptions to **The Local**

Send Requests to MER Business Manager at above address

I want to receive the printed black& white version of The Local at \$9.00 per year (6 issues) \$_____

I want to receive the free electronic **color** version of **The Local**

Email: _____

Donation \$_____

Total Enclosed \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip (+4) _____

Email _____

NMRA # _____ Expire Date _____

Scale(s) _____ Telephone # _____

Make Checks payable to the "Mid-Eastern Region"

The Local welcomes articles, photographs and model railroad related material as contributions to members' mutual enjoyment of the hobby. Materials should have a wide appeal. The editor will exercise all due care of submissions, but contributors should not send originals without having back-up copies of both articles and photographs. Editors, by definition, reserve the right - and have the responsibility - to make corrections, deletions, and changes to accommodate space. Upon receiving any submission, the editor will confirm receipt, and, at a later date, indicate the anticipated edition the submission will appear in The Local. If you do not receive a postcard or email within two weeks, please resend your submission or contact the editor by phone.

Publication Schedule	Deadline
Jan/Feb	Dec 1st of previous year
Mar/Apr	Feb 1st
May/June	Apr 1st
Jul/Aug	Jun 1st
Sept/Oct	Aug 1st
Nov/Dec	Oct 1st

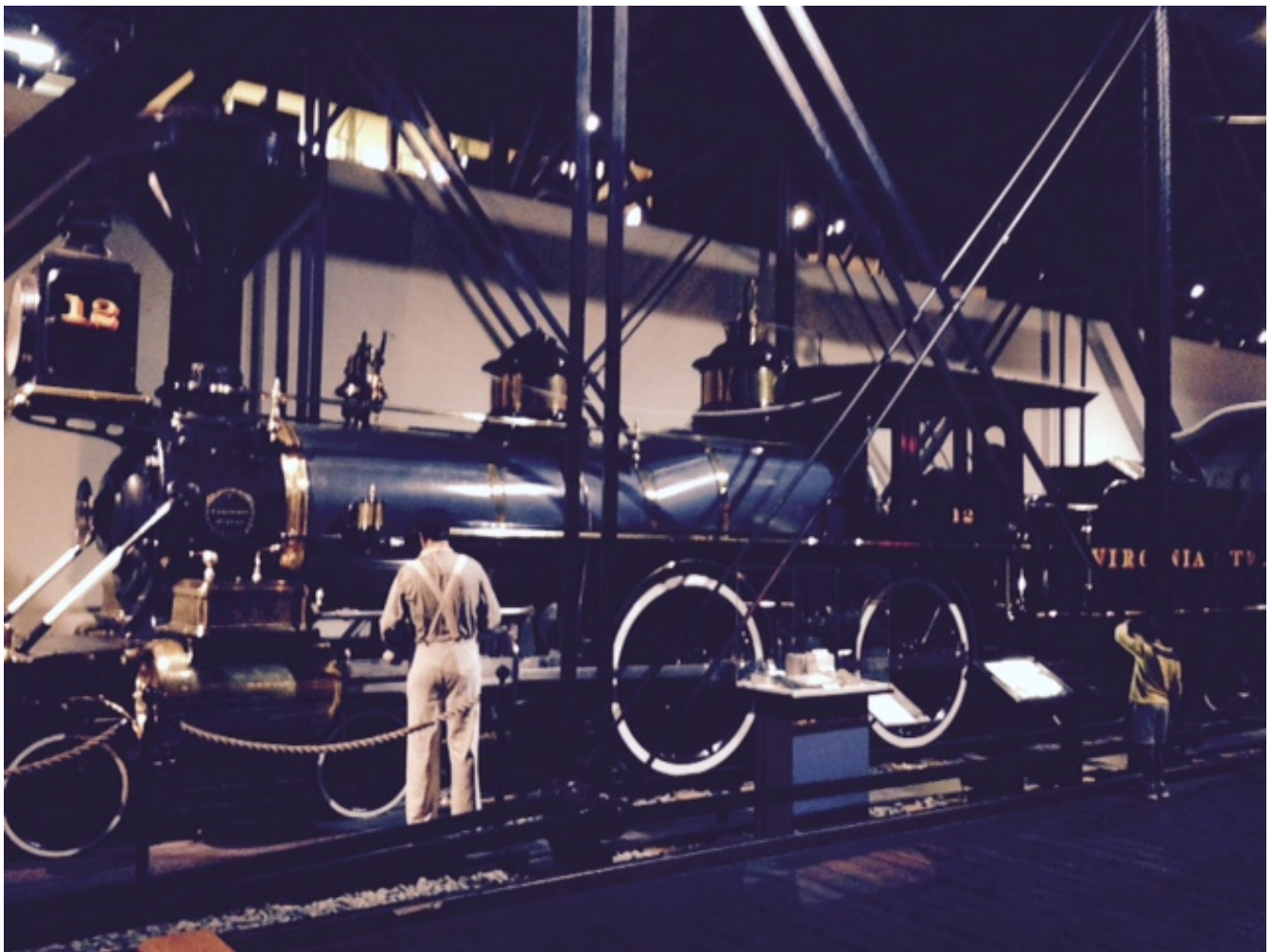
If you are interested in advertising with the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association, please contact the editor. The current advertising rates (6 issues) for The Local are as follows, and must include camera ready art (jpeg, pdf, bmp, tiff formats):

Callboard (30-50 words, Div and Clubs Only)	Free
Business Card size	\$60.00
Quarter Page ad	\$125.00
Half Page ad.....	\$225.00
Half Page ad per issue (Div only).....	\$25.00

California Railroad Museum

Jack Dziadul is on vacation and sent a batch of photos he took at the Californiz Railroad Museum. They are not very good quality as they were taken with an iPhone in really bad lighting. I tried some simple editing in Photoshop, but it just seemed to make matters worse.

The museum's web site does not give much information about their collection. To give you an idea of what's available I've added some of the photos to the eLocal. The museum focuses on early California history with lots of narrow gauge displays, but it also has some standard gauge items from railroads that operated within the state.





There's both narrow gauge



and standard gauge heavyweight.



Many of the exhibits are open to visitors.





The sole surviving SP cab forward Articulated Consolidation (AC)





An ATSF War Bonnet is a must for any western railroad museum.



If you want to model one of these you better start thinking about 3D printing.



There is an extensive collection of model railroad items and dioramas.

