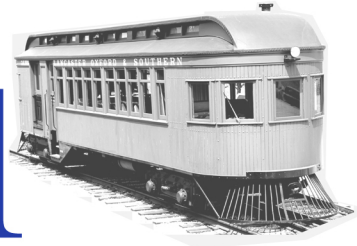


The Local



A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA

Volume 70

September - October 2015

Number 5

Important Information for Planning Your Trip to the 2015 MER Convention

Bob Clegg

The MER 2015 convention, Delaware Valley Turn will be here sooner than you think. Remember the dates are October 22 to 25! Here are a couple of items that will help you prepare for your convention experience and help us help you make the most of your weekend:

Home Railroad Tour

First, there will be home railroads to see on your way to the convention on Thursday afternoon and evening. The booklets with maps and directions are available to registered attendees, so get those registrations! Thursday booklets are available via return email. Send your request to BobcatCS@comcast.net with the subject "MER 2015 tour booklet." Be sure to include your name, NMRA membership number, and registration number. The booklet will be sent via return email. For those of you who receive the hardcopy version of this newsletter, send a stamped (70c) self addressed #10 envelope and the same information to:

Bob Clegg
Delaware Valley Turn
956 Venezia Ave.
Vineland, NJ 06361-8600

The tour booklets for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are also available in advance. All of the booklets are .pdf files so you may print complete booklets, or just the pages containing the destinations that are of interest to you.

There are seven booklets in all, including the Thursday booklet. The others will be:

- The Mount Laurel Area, listing those destinations within about a half hour drive of the convention hotel
- The Mercer County Area to the north up to 45 minutes' drive time



- The South Jersey Area which is 45 minutes to an hour away.
- Two separate booklets for the Pennsylvania area, one each for Pennsylvania Friday and Pennsylvania Saturday.
- Finally, the Sunday Headin' Home booklet, as the title implies, lists all of the railroads that will be open on Sunday regardless of the direction or distance, although they will be listed in that order.

Again, to request your booklets, send your name, NMRA membership number, registration number, and which booklets you wish to receive to BobcatCS@comcast.net. Please specify the subject as "MER 2015 Booklets."

These other booklets will be available via email only. They cannot be mailed due to their size.

A copy of the Convention Guide will be included in your registration package at the convention, but if you would like an advance copy, it is also available via email upon request to registered attendees.

If you choose not to request and print the tour booklets, hard copy booklets will be available at the convention as well, but we strongly recommend that you print yours ahead of time.

Continued on page 4

The Local

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

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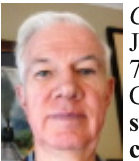
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From The Business Car

By P. J. Mattson, MMR, MER President

As I write this we are in the middle of another heat wave. So far the summer here has been brutal and I guess it's been that way though out our Region. I hope everyone has taking precautions to keep safe from the heat and also checking on the elderly in your area.

The DELAWARE VALLEY TURN 2015 MER convention will be coming on October 22nd to 25th. The New Jersey Division committee is working hard to give us a great one. I hope you are planning to attend.

There is a committee working on the 2016 convention already. It will be in Durham, NC. There is a name for it also, "Tracks to the Triangle." We will be hearing more

about this in the future. Also there is a group in the Potomac Division starting to work on the 2018 convention. We do not have a commitment for the 2017 convention as of this writing.

Recently the MER board has approved the expansion of the Tidewater Division as proposed in the May-June Local.

By now you should have received you ballots for this year's elections. Consider all the candidates and vote for those you think will do a good job. Remember your ballot has to be postmarked no later than September 8th. Good luck to the candidates.

Keeping in Touch...

By Bob Price, MER Business Manager

It's Election time again. This year we have six candidates running for the three MER Director's positions. It is great to see these members stepping up and running for office. I hope we, the membership will respond by taking the time to mail in our ballots. Ballots were mailed out to 1,864 eligible members this year. The results will be posted on the MER web site, the MER Yahoo group, the next issue of the Local and at the Annual Business meeting as per the MER By-Laws. For those curious about the pursuit of Electronic Voting, basically the expense of using a reliable vendor was not cost effective. It is something we will revisit as new options occur.

In the May-June issue of the Local (page 14), there was notice given about a request to add four non-

division aligned counties to the Tidewater Division. There was no opposition received and the MER BOD approved the request. The counties of Accomack and Northampton in Virginia and Wicomico and Worcester in Maryland are now part of the Tidewater Division. The expansion added 5 members to the Division.

At this time, another division is also looking to add some counties from a former division. I believe some of the membership in that non-aligned area already participate in the division's activities as visitors so we may see another formal request soon. As a reminder to any member who does not reside in an active division area, you can request to be assigned to an active division by sending a request to the MER President.

MER Needs More MMRs

Charlie Flichman, MMR

No, MER doesn't need more MMR's, but we would like to have some more. A check online at the NMRA web site shows that of the 18 regions of the NMRA, MER has the second highest number of MMR's. Those numbers includes both deceased and living members. Just so there aren't any rebuttals, there isn't any contest between regions to see who can get the most MMR's.

A recent inquiry caused me to re-look at the number of MER members who are close to attaining MMR status. Of the current MER members as of July, 1st, we have 22 members who have earned 5 or more AP certificates. One person has 7 AP certificates, but is missing one from one of the four categories.

Not everyone wants to be a MMR. But once you get involved in the program, you may get the urge to go all the way. The program can be what you want it to be.

Contest winners after four Merit Awards, are half way to the Cars Certificate. Your contest entry paperwork plus similar paperwork for four other unjudged models and you are done. If you have a home layout, you are on your way to both Civil and Electrical Engineering certificates. New rules have made the scratch building of track work for the Civil certificate easier. Also with that home layout, 32 square feet of scenery (in HO) could get you the Scenery Certificate.

So, I urge the 22 MER members (you know who you are) to get that extra incentive and complete your remaining one or two certificates. I will be waiting to hear from you in the near future. And those of you just starting out on your AP journey, the same applies to you. I and your divisional AP Chairs are here to help you with any information as needed.

Continued from Page 1

In order to reduce waste and your cost, we ask that if you do choose to wait until you arrive at the convention and take hard copy booklets, that you take only the booklets that you will actually use.

In order for you to see what is available before selecting your booklets, all of the pages for each of the booklets will be posted in large format along the hallway between the Ballrooms and the Terrace Rooms.

We appreciate your cooperation!

Silent Auction

As you know, the convention will feature a Silent Auction rather than a white elephant sale and regular auction. Items will be accepted beginning at 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm on Thursday, from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on Friday and from 8:30 am to 10:00 am on Saturday.

In order to expedite registration of the auction items, we ask that you send the information via email ahead of the convention on as many of the items you plan to enter into the auction as you can. Send your name and registration number along with a BRIEF description of the item, and

any minimum bid to BobcatCS@comcast.net. Please specify the subject as "MER 2015 Auction." The sooner the information is received, the easier it will be to make the process smooth and painless for all of us.

A claim ticket for each of your items will be issued to you when you drop them off in Ballroom A.

Bidding will be in whole dollar increments. Sellers may specify a minimum acceptable bid, otherwise, the minimum bid will be \$1.

There will not be any commission charged on Silent Auction items.

Bidding will close at 3:00 pm on Saturday. A list of winning bids will be posted as soon after that time as it is available.

Buyers can collect and pay for their winning items from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday and right after the banquet. Items not claimed by 1:00 am will be considered unsold and returned to the seller.

Sellers can collect their payments as soon as the buyers have finished, or from 9:00 am to 10:00 am on Sunday Morning.

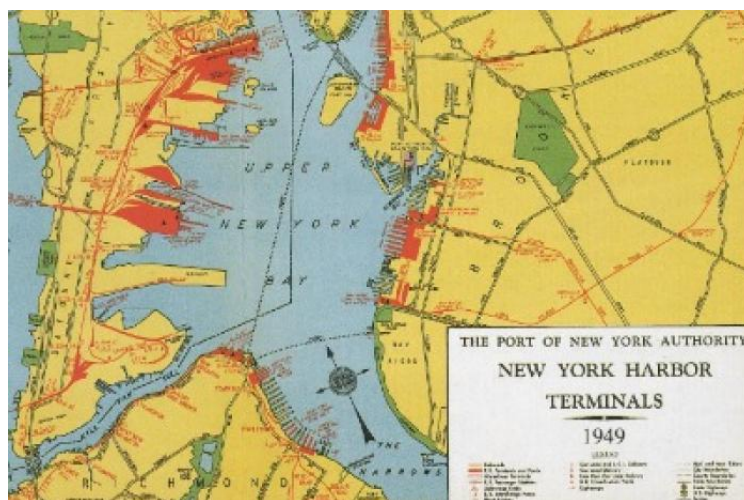
Guest Speaker

Pat McKnight

Steamtown Historian and Archivist

Will present at the banquet on Saturday night

New York Harbor: A pictorial progression



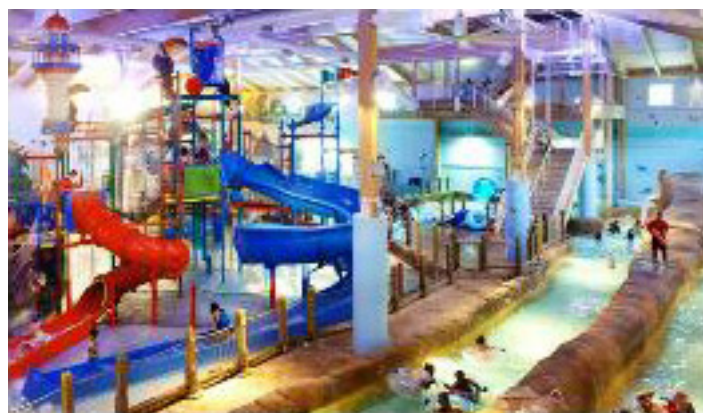
Letter from the Editor

Earl T. Hackett, Jr.

I was short on space back in the May-June issue and didn't mention this added attraction at the convention hotel. I don't know about all day, but it should keep the kids occupied for at least a few hours.

From the original article: "An added attraction for convention attendees the Coco Key Indoor Water Park, located on the hotel grounds! Bring the family! The hotel has arranged half price daily passes for all those registered at the hotel for the convention. That's only \$18!

"Check out all the hotel and water park details at www.thehotelm1.com."



Notes from January Board Meeting

Ken Nesper

On a wintry Saturday in January, the MER-NMRA Board of Directors met at the home of Treasurer Tom Buckingham in Upper Marlboro MD.

As part of Vice President Hladik's report (present by telephone), the board discussed a number of issues related to the degree of conformance that must exist between the by-laws of divisions and the regional and national by-laws. The MER's By-laws state that "Divisions shall provide themselves with a set of By-laws consistent with that of the NMRA and Mid-Eastern region." The board determined that issues raised with the residency of division officers and the election cycles had been resolved. No action was taken concerning the need for term limits for division officers. .

Treasurer Tom Buckingham reported that for fiscal year 2014, the region had a surplus of \$2,073 against a budgeted deficit of \$1,003. Some of this is attributable to the proceeds from the highly successful 2013 Rockville convention and the increase in the subscription rate to The Local. Funds are available for a car or kit project, the division matching funds offer, and the Rail Pass Program.

President P.J. Mattson, MMR, suggested that NMRA membership was not required for attending regional and divisional activities. Some divisions have been offering Rail Pass memberships to attendees because of concerns regarding insurance coverage. Because of the low renewal rates, P.J. would like event sponsors to be more judicious in registering modelers for Rail Passes, thereby saving the region some matching dollars.

Director Martin Brechbiel introduced his report analyzing the 2014 balloting process and proposing recommendations for simplifying and streamlining the election of regional officers and directors. Martin recommended that the MER Business Manager act as overseer of the entire election process, but acknowledged that Business Manager Bob Price is reluctant to accept additional responsibilities. Martin stated that there is a need for strong leadership on the Nominations and Ballot committees. After some discussion, President Mattson asked Martin to work with the Nominations and Ballot Committees to get the region through the 2015 elections. The board did approve changes to the announcement of election results. Starting this fall, election results will be posted on the MER-NMRA website on or before October 10.

Director Jack Dziadul recounted the research he had conducted regarding regional and divisional publications. He asserted that the MER is the only region publishing a printed bi-monthly newsletter. Three regions only distribute electronic newsletters. Citing problems with the quantity and quality of articles submitted for publication in The Local as well as the increasing cost of printing and mailing, the board adopted Jack's

recommendation that publication of The Local be changed from bi-monthly (6 issues per year) to quarterly (4 issues per year) while maintaining the current subscription rate of \$9. The vote was not unanimous. [Subsequent to the board meeting, Business Manager Price recounted how he could not possibly rewrite two subscription accounting and tracking programs before April 1. In a vote using electronic mail, the board agreed, without objection, to postpone implementation of this change until the business manager can provide an assessment of the work required to modify the subscription tracking systems.]

Budget Committee Chair Robert Reid, MMR, introduced the proposed 2015 budget. Bob noted that stronger revenue projections permitted the committee to fund almost all expenditure requests. The budget, as presented, projects a \$447 deficit and was adopted without objection.

The board unanimously adopted the following policy proposed by Director Dziadul: "Effective February 1, 2015, the policy of the Mid-Eastern Region shall be to hold all official meetings at a venue which has wheelchair accessibility." President Mattson will ask Executive Convention Chair Eric Dervinis to begin working a Spring board of directors meeting at the convention site into hotel negotiations for future fall conventions. Budget Committee Chair Reid was asked to be ready to present a proposed 2016 budget to the board in October.

President Mattson recounted some concern from members regarding the region's decision to discontinue sponsoring auctions and white elephant sales at conventions. He noted that the division sponsoring the convention will now have the choice of conducting either or both of these events with the attendant risk and rewards. The equipment to support these events is being transferred to the New Jersey Division for use at the fall convention in Mt. Laurel, NJ (October 22-25).

Director Brechbiel would like all divisions to forward dates and descriptions of planned events to him or the web master for posting on the MER-NMRA web site. He contends that getting this information out as early as possible will facilitate more awareness and greater participation by region members. Martin urged directors to remind the division officers to keep the region informed of planned events. Mattson will include a reminder in a message to the division superintendents.

For those who are interested, the next meeting of the MER-NMRA board is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Thursday, October 22, 2015, during the Delaware Valley Turn 2015 convention in Mt. Laurel NJ. Board meetings are open to all members. The annual members meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25, at 10:00 am at the convention. All members are encouraged to attend.

Carolina Southern Division Annual Picnic 2014

photos and text by Rusty Doss, Asst. Sup.

WOW what a great day! If you missed this year's Annual CSD Picnic, you missed a real treat! As mentioned in the latest edition of the Brass Pounder and CSD's Superintendent Larry Paffrath's email on September 17th, 2014, when Lou Sassi, MMR, presented in January 2014, he toured four local layouts and photographed them for possible submission in Model Railroad magazine. Larry announced that all four of the layouts had been accepted for publication!! The Carolina Southern Division has been trying to arrange visits to all four railroads exclusively for our members. Seth Gartner and Jack Parker, MMR hosted the first of those visits before and after the picnic. Members were invited to Seth Gartner's New York Central RR, Piney Fork Branch at 11am with the picnic starting at 1:00pm and operations on the P&W Built by Jack Parker to follow afterwards.

When I heard that Seth's railroad would be open, I could not wait. I had heard that the two things I needed to see were the steel mill and his trees. Seth has a great reputation within the CSD community for his trees and scenery. Members were prompt at Seth's door. I can only imagine that like me, they had heard what a visually appealing railroad awaited them and were anxious to see it.



The scenery is not complete, but Fred Miller (left) could not wait to start running trains while Tim Rumph looks on.



Looking North toward Lauren Steel Mill in St. Clarisville, OHIO



Lauren Steel Mill's. Gray building (on left) is open hearth furnace and brown building (on right) is blast furnace.

The Material transfer vehicle (center left) was scratch built by Seth.



Looking South toward
Lauren Steel Mill.

Looking South of
Dillonvale, OH, we
see an example of
Seth's wonderful
work.



Looking North out
of Minerva yard into
Seth's hometown of
Minerva, OH. Seth's
fathers company
(large brick
building) is seen in
the background,

Pig farm leaving town to the north of Minerva, going into Bergholz, OH, which was on a moderate climbing grade. Engineer friend of Seth's on the line, said if you weren't in notch 8 by the time you passed the pigs you wouldn't pull the hill with a loaded coal train. So naturally, Seth placed a small farm scene there.



It was a lot of fun and operating on the New York Central RR, Piney Fork Branch, but timetables must be adhered to and before we knew it, our timetable said we needed to be at Mr. Parker's house for the Annual Picnic. Now let me just say this, the picnic is always great, but I don't think anyone wanted to leave Seth's house. Everything about his Railroad, lighting, secrecy, how it is laid out, is awesome and I can see why it had been accepted for publication in Model Railroad Magazine.

As always the Picnic is a great time! Who doesn't like to eat and talk about trains?! This year was no different and the weather was AWESOME! Sunny with mild temperatures and what a turnout we had! Anytime someone makes a plan, that ask people to attend, there is always anxiety. You plan, and send invites and hope that the weather will be nice and people will show up. The CSD Picnic is no different, but we never have to worry if

people will show up. Mr. Jack Parker, MMR is the host of the event and has been for a number of years.

Morgan and Troy were the cooks again this year and prepared BBQ Chicken and Pulled Pork. The rest of us were asked to bring at least one side dish and from the looks of the food tables, it looked like some brought two! The picnic is a wonderful event that allows members to come together from all areas the CSD covers.

In closing, as the Assistant Superintendent of the Carolina Southern Division, I want to personally thank all those members that came to the Picnic, without you, the CSD would not be as active as it is, so Thank You!! I would also like to thank Seth Gartner for opening his home and railroad for us to visit and get inspiration from, Great Job Seth!! Morgan and Troy, AWESOME JOB on the food gentlemen!!

NMRA Layout Directory (New Program)

Bob Chaparro

Work is underway on a member Layout Directory. This will replace the visitation feature of the old NMRA Pike Registry Program.

The Layout Directory will be an on-line system that allows NMRA members (only) to:

- Identify the layouts of participating NMRA members by location, scale, gauge, era, prototype and area modeled, etc.
- Review the particular features of the layouts
- Contact layout owners to arrange visits or exchange common-interest information

Layout owner participation will be voluntary and built-in security features will protect privacy.

A working group has been formed to develop the Directory and input is needed from NMRA members. One of the first tasks of the group is to survey layout owners from the old Pike Registry and visitors to their

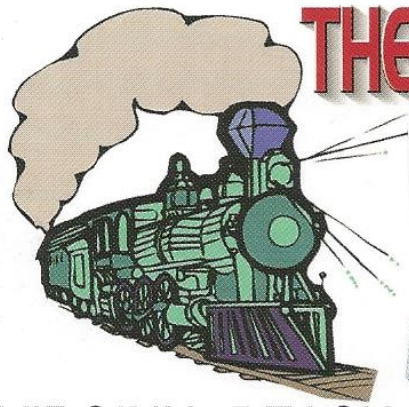
layouts to determine:

- What visitation aspects worked
- What didn't work
- What features they liked
- What features they didn't like
- Suggestions for the new Layout Directory

The working group also will survey other NMRA members who either own layouts or are interested in visiting layouts to determine what they expect from a directory, what concerns they may have and suggestions in general.

NMRA members are invited to comment by contacting the working group chairman, Bob Chaparro, at chiefbobb@verizon.net or 951-925-2069.

Members interested in having their layouts included in the Layout Directory also should contact Bob.



THE TRAIN SHOW IS COMING

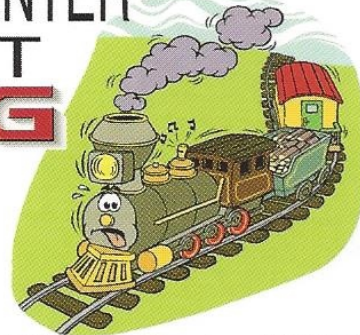
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10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM both days

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

Free-mo Modules at Delaware Valley Turn

Mike McNamara

We are now just a couple months away from the MER Fall Convention in Mt. Laurel, NJ, and plans are progressing well. Be sure to check out all of the activities, clinics, layouts and Op Sessions available at the convention web site, DelawareValleyTurn.org. Here is an update on one portion of the convention, the Free-mo layout at the convention hotel.

We have received commitments from a number of modelers inside and outside the MER to bring modules to the convention. We'll have 2 members from New England Free-mo bringing a rather impressive multi-track return loop module set, as well as a nice bridge module and a switching complex consisting of 6 module sections that also features a double ended yard.

Capitol Free-mo, located in the Baltimore/Washington DC area is sending 3 members, bringing a number of modules. One is a nicely scened 8' section with a grain elevator siding. Another is a two section module, half of which was just featured in Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine. And finally there will be an impressive three section 21' long module featuring a yard, street trackage and car float service.

Locally from the New Jersey Division, I will have my Woodstown Jct. three section module, which features an interchange yard and local sidings. Also on hand is

another member's Camden Terminal module, which is T shaped and features a coal dock and car float. We'll have an example of a double track module that features some beautifully done bridge and river modeling. And we have a member busily working on new modules that will give you the chance to see some of how these are put together before scenery and structures.

All in all we plan to have a large U shaped layout taking up a good portion of the 15' x 50' ballroom area. It will be interesting to see and to operate. And by operate I mean that convention attendees will be given the opportunity to take a train out and work some local industries using a simple switch list. These will be small jobs that fit easily around your other activities. Who doesn't want to run a train at an MER convention?

The layout will be constructed Thursday afternoon and will be up throughout the convention, up until our Saturday banquet. We'll be right in the center of all the activities, so we look forward to seeing everyone in October.

Right now we are starting to finalize things for the layout, but it is not too late to participate. If you have a module, please contact me as soon as possible so you can join in the fun,
Mike McNamara – info@njfreemo.org.

I've Seen that Car Before

Ron Baile, track diagrams by Earl T. Hackett

On the railroad that I work for we do a lot of freight car storage. We also have a customer that originates sand shipments. Our storage business has many different customers. Some own very large fleets of cars while a few own just a handful of cars. We store cars that carry many different commodities. Tank cars are one example. Some carry sulphur, some carry compressed gasses and some carry crude oil. Often the only way the casual bystander can tell is by looking at the placard that indicates what type of hazardous material, if any, that particular car carries. Covered hoppers are also interesting because you can't usually see what they are carrying.

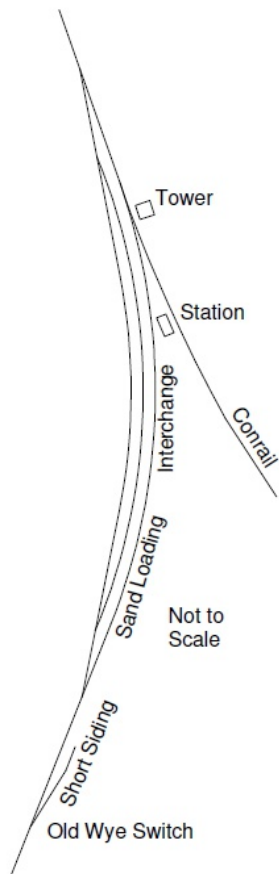
How many times have you operated someone's model railroad and thought there goes that ABCX car again. Most modelers have a limited amount of rolling stock. I know that on some larger model railroads that I have operated you might not see the same car twice in six months but if you operate there long enough more than likely you will keep seeing the same cars again and again. On smaller roads that's almost a guarantee.

This is not a bad thing. About twice a year we get a tank car of some chemical to hold. It might be for two weeks or it might be for two months. However, when the owner needs it, it must be ready to go out ASAP. To this

car we give a place of prominence. It usually sits right next to where we keep the locomotives. That way it doesn't get buried behind 100 other tank cars. When we get the call for it it's the first thing to get spotted on the interchange track. Oh, it's always the same car number.

As far as covered hoppers go, many that we store are loaded with a raw material called alumina. This is aluminum oxide, the stuff that, when combined with other chemicals, produces aluminum, among other things. They also make a type of sandpaper with it. The world market for this material fluctuates. Sometimes it is bought at a low price and put into storage in covered hoppers until it is needed. Sometimes plants shut down and the raw materials in transit need to be put somewhere beside the six car track at the plant. The stuff is really heavy too. If you have small motive power then you can't haul a very long train of it.

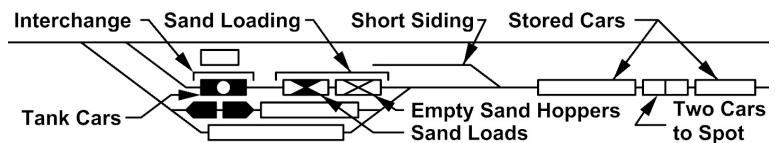
The other day I got called for a train because a customer needed two cars out of storage. It may seem straightforward to some but there is an established pattern that we need to follow. We got our two locomotives started and did a radio test and a brake test. Since we lack a lot of track we often have to use Conrail's track for temporary storage.



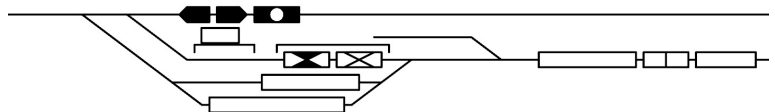
This is a drawing of Tuckahoe Junction described in the article.

A clear view of the track layout can be seen on Google Maps.

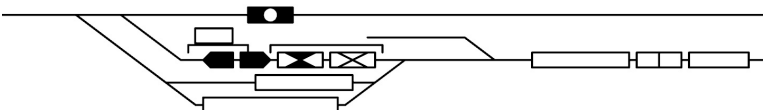
The switching moves are shown on the schematic drawings to the right. On the schematics, north is to the left.



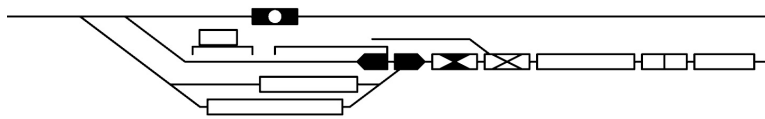
They had set out eight tanks for us on the interchange track.



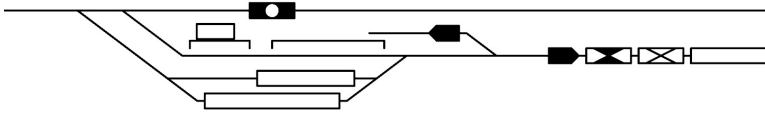
We had to couple up to those tanks and set them over on the Conrail main track, which we can use after the rush hour traffic.



The next move was to couple up to the loaded sand cars. They will stay with us until the end. After all our work is finished they have to be spotted on the interchange track while the empties must be spotted on the loading track.

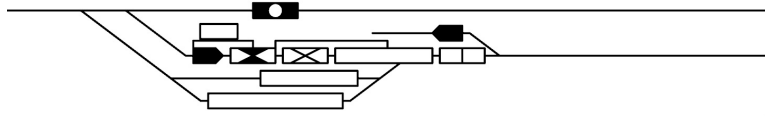


After an air test on this cut of cars, the whole lot of sand cars were shoved back until they encountered a string of stored cars. Hoses were again hooked up and the air was cut through. Someone went south 104 cars and turned the angle cock where the cut was to be made.

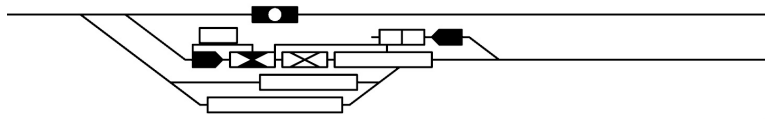


Once the air test was completed successfully he pulled the pin on the last car. We now had 104 cars. One locomotive was cut off in preparation for the next move. *(Something almost impossible to do with conventional DC control. Ed)*

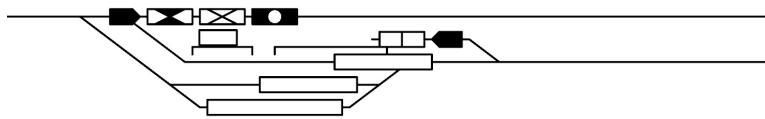
This whole mess was pulled north



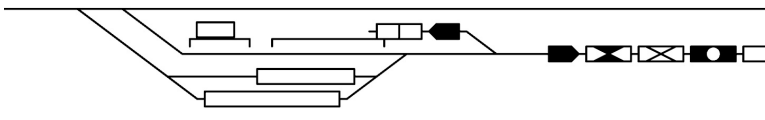
and the last two cars, the ones the customer wanted, were set on a short siding.



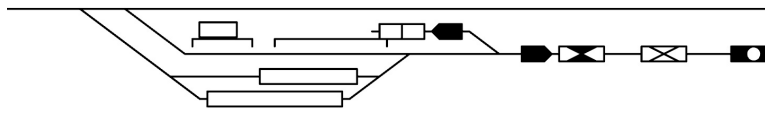
Next, the original eight tanks were retrieved and coupled just behind the empty sand cars.



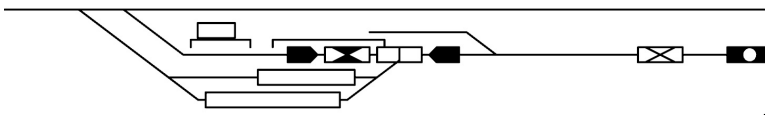
The train was then sent south where the tank cars were cut off.



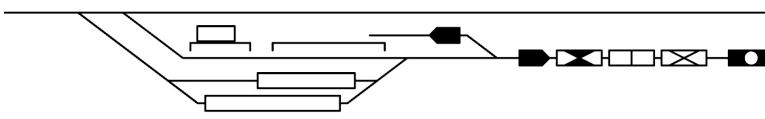
The sand loads were pulled north to spot more empties. The first four sand cars were cut off since they were loaded.



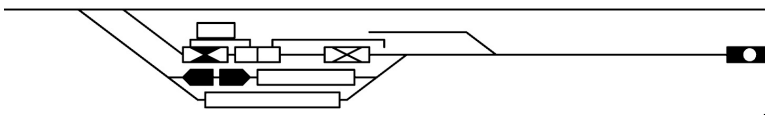
The train pulled north again to pick up the two cars from the siding.



The train moves further south to pick up the loose locomotive.



The empty hoppers were spotted at the sand loading location, the two customer cars and loaded hoppers were spotted on the interchange track, the locomotives were put away, and we were done for another day.



I have seen times when we received a car for storage on one day and it went out the next day, before it was even placed on the storage track. Our sand business has something like 40 short covered hoppers leased for that

service. Chances are really good that you will see the same cars coming back again and again. So, modelers don't fret when you keep seeing the same cars coming back over and over. It's what the prototype does.

Letter to the Editor

In reading page 9 of the May-June 2015 LOCAL, Adam Eyring's article on estate planning, while well intentioned, contains some potentially bad information about wills and trusts. I speak as a retired attorney who not only had to deal with problem wills and trusts arising from do-it-yourself efforts without an attorney, but also am familiar with horror stories from other attorneys and reported court cases about major problems arising from such both do-it-yourself drafting of wills and trusts and using wills and trusts kits. For example, such kits may not comply with local legal requirements, thereby jeopardizing the ability to get done what you wish to accomplish. Legally and practically imprecise language can lead to anguish and expensive litigation down the road, with no guarantees that your wishes will be honored.

Regarding wills, his information about making sure several trusted people have copies so at least one can be found is just plain wrong. The original will has to be produced for probate. Only in the rarest circumstances (and then only after having the case heard by a judge) is it remotely possible that a copy of a will may be admitted to probate to carry out the decedent's intentions; more often, such copies are denied probate, thus defeating the

decedent's wishes.

Bottom line - use the services of an attorney who deals in estate planning for preparing a will and/or a trust, and who can advise you as to where is the best safe place to store these documents. The costs of legal services generally are comparatively small for a simple will, the documents will be tailored to your needs and wishes, and problems with probate and carrying out your wishes (such as expensive litigation and stress on your survivors) will be avoided.

Adam's point about doing something now is absolutely correct. This is, however, one of those times when the use of professional services can make a big, positive difference.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Montero

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Wilmington, DE 19819-3323

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, 801S. 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, 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

NOTE: Check the convention website for current op session availability. Many are currently sold out.

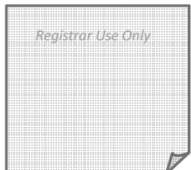
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Fall Convention Delaware Valley Turn 2015 October 22nd to 25th, 2015 www.DelawareValleyTurn.org

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 Genter 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 Genter 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 Genter 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

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**

Additional events and clinics are added frequently. By the time this goes to press this information will be out of date. For the latest information go to **www.DelawareValleyTurn.org**.

CALLBOARD

Coming Events

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

NMRA Susquehanna Division and OP SIG

jointly sponsored October 2 and 3, LSOP7 (Lehigh & Susquehanna Operations Weekend 7). Register now for this very popular annual Friday evening and all day Saturday operations dedicated event. No prior layout operational experience required. Only 3 positions remain open, and they are all in the greater Harrisburg/Lancaster area. Those layouts are: Wayne Betty's Lancaster and Atlantic, Steven Mallery's PRR Buffalo Line, and Mike Hartlett's multi-level Central Pennsylvania Railroad.

For other helpful information about this great hands-on operating event, operating schedules, registration procedures, and the registration form kindly visit the event website at: www.susquehannanmra.org/ and select the LSOP7 link, or

Contact

Wayne Betty
717-951-5055
wsb@susquehannanmra.org.

Carolina Southern Division of the NMRA

Tour of Lionel's Corporate offices

Charlotte, NC

Saturday, October 17, 201 at 10 AM

Tour will include visits to their archive room, engineering department, new product development, graphics department, and company store. Lionel personnel will be conducting the tours, and will be able to answer visitors questions.

The tour is open to NMRA members only. There is no fee for this event. Registration can be done at www.carolinasouthern.org/Eventregister.htm

September - October 2015

Clinton Central Model Railroad Club

Annual Fall Train Meet

Sunday, November 1, 9Am - 2PM

Mill Hall Volunteer Fire Co

Water St & Peale St

Adi;ts \$3. Family \$4

Contact

Jim Hill, M-F, 9AM - 9PM

570-726-6826

Board of Directors Fall Meeting

The Board of Directors of the MER-NMRA will meet on Thursday, October 22, at 7:00 pm, during the Delaware Valley Turn 2015 convention. Board meetings are open to all MER-NMRA members. The room will be posted at the convention information desk.

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of the membership of the MER-NMRA will convene at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 25, during the Delaware Valley Turn 2015 convention. All members are strongly requested to attend.

Classified

O Scale 2 rail N&W 4-6-2

Test run only Weaver Gold Model \$500.00

Chuck Hladik

434-941-7456

rutlandrs@aol.com

Achievement Program

Charles Flichman, MMR

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

Division 4 - Tidewater

Dale Ridgeway - 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.

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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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