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WEBSITE

www.nergsd.com

Contact email addresses
can be found on Page 7 and
on the website.

The **HISTLE POST**

The Official Publication of the Garden State Division of the NMRA Northeastern Region

Summer Event to be held in Morristown on August 6

The GSD arrives at the Morristown Town Hall on Saturday, August 6, for the summer event. This is a new location and should prove to be convenient from members, being a very short distance from Route I-287. Refreshments will be available, and there are numerous locations available for lunch within a very short distance.

We have one main event scheduled for the morning. Rudy Garbely will give a presentation on the history of the Morristown and Erie Railway. Many may know of Rudy as he has been an active rail photographer, historian, and is owner of the Garbely Publishing Company.

All of the other event activities you normally expect will take place such as the Bring 'N Brag, white elephant tables, and model judging. If you have been working on any new projects, bring them along and be part of the Bring 'N Brag segment of the event.

In the afternoon, we have two home layouts and one club layout open for visiting, and an escorted tour of the Boonton yard of the United Railroads Historical Society (URHS) available. See pages 10 and 11 for more on the layouts of Mark Moritz, Steve Kay, and the Morris Plains Model RR Club. The URHS Boonton facility is usually open to the public only once a year, so this is a special opportunity to see the collection. Our tour will start at 3:00, providing



Above: Restored GG-1 4877 is one of many pieces of equipment, both restored and unrestored, that members will be able to see at the URHS Boonton equipment yard the afternoon of the Morristown event. (photo by Jim Homoki)

time to visit the layouts beforehand. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and no open top footwear. URHS activities and a roster of the equipment can be found at <http://urhs.org/>. Maps to the layouts and the Boonton yard will be provided at the event. WP



Conventions, Conventions!

By the time you read this, Bonnie and I will either be at the NMRA's National Convention in Indianapolis, or recently returned and recuperating from the experience. We decided to drive to Indy, so who knows, we might still be taking some sightseeing detours on the way home.

I know that only a small percentage of our Division's members will attend the National Convention. It tends to get costly both in time and dollars, and unless it becomes a 'family vacation', it doesn't fit in to many family plans. However, it is something that you might want to try at least once to get the feel of 'the big convention'. The NMRA recently posted a great series of videos on its website that will give you a great idea of what you will experience at the National Convention. It can be viewed at this link: <http://www.nmra.org/what-goes-on-at-a-nmra-convention>.

On the other hand, you can experience many of the same activities on a smaller (and less expensive) scale by attending a Regional Convention. That usually involves taking a Friday off from work and making it a long weekend. The NER Regional Convention this year will be held in Albany, NY which makes it a reasonable drive for GSD members. There is still plenty of time to register for "The Pacemaker" as the convention is titled. The dates are September 15–18, 2016. Bonnie and I will be there and we hope to see many GSD members attend!

Here is a link to The Pacemaker's website: <http://www.hbdpacemaker.org/>.



In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that the GSD, along with our neighbors in the Hudson Valley Division, are sponsoring the 2018 NER Convention called the Erie Limited. We will keep you abreast of the planning for the Erie Limited in future issues of the Whistle Post. Remember, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in this endeavor. Just let us know if you are interested. **WP**



Model Railroading Blogs

Do any of you read or write blogs? Do you know what a blog is?

Let's first get a definition. Going to an old dictionary I keep handy, it says....nothing. Being a creation of the internet, blogs didn't exist when my dictionary was printed. I guess I am a bit old fashioned. So going to the internet, I found this definition: "a web site on which someone writes about personal opinions, activities, and experiences". One might also come up with a somewhat cynical yet true definition such as: "yet another place on the internet to spend time instead of actually doing model railroading."

For the record, I do read a few blogs, though I do not have one. Nor do I have a Facebook page, although a friend has offered to set one up for my Newark Terminal Railroad. Indeed, I do find some entertainment on blogs. I like to see what some of my friends are up to, and on occasion I even learn something. One of my favorites is by our own GSD VP Jim Fawcett on the ups and downs of the progress on his B&O Old Main Line Subdivision. Jim's blog can be found at <http://oldmainline.blogspot.com/>. His June 9 musings, the latest as of this writing, discuss his experience at the recent NE RPM meet. Other blogs focus on recent projects by the owner with mini-articles, or on the prototype, or operations.

Like the way most things work on the internet, a blog will provide links to other blogs, which then provides even more links. This is where a 5 minute check can turn into an hour of surfing and cut into your own modeling progress.

Assuming you have the time, blogs provide a convenient way to keep up with what a friend or owner of a popular layout has been up to. The posts tend to have a lot of personal content, rather than technical information as you would find in most magazine articles. The writers are free to wander off into any topic they wish—and many do. After reading a few pages you may start to feel that you know that person, even though you have never met him (or her)!

From what I understand, a blog is not very difficult to create. There are free platforms and software, or you can create your own domain. A quick check using Google shows there is a lot of information on this on the internet. Talking with someone who has a blog should be informative as well. Just be aware that once you start reading about it, that website is sure to have links that take you to other sites, then....another evening will be gone before you know it. **WP**

THE MEET AT THE BEACH

by GSD Board Members

The sun is shining and the temperature is rising. And, to top it all off, it was the weekend! That sounds like all the makings of a great trip to the Jersey Shore to...

...see and talk everything trains!

What? See and talk trains instead of sand, waves, lotion, and beach umbrellas? For those ignorant to model railroading, that is just plain crazy behavior. But for us train lovers, it was a grand day out at the Jersey Shore!

The Garden State Central Model Railroad Club, one of two 100% NMRA clubs in New Jersey, hosted the joint New Jersey Division (NJD)/Garden State Division (GSD) meet. The club has been working hard since moving to their new location at the InfoAge Science History Museum in Wall Township, and this was the club's first "unofficial" open house.

The general meet took place in the morning within another building on the InfoAge campus. A quick run through the GSD annual business meeting was followed by two clinics and several award presentations. Highlights of this



Above: Chuck Diljak presented an informative clinic on scale houses and how the prototype weighs cars. (photo by Jim Walsh)

meeting included the annual Board election, which creating a new Immediate Past President position (Ciro Compagno), and electing two new Directors (Chuck Diljak & Fred Dellaiacono). A big welcome back for Chuck and for newcomer Fred. They are both an excellent boost for the GSD. Lastly, Ciro presented numerous Merit and Achievement Program awards that included Steve Ascolese, Bob Dennis, Mark Lutz, Alexis Nowatka and Andy Rubbo.



Above: Ciro Compagno presents a Merit Award to Steve Ascolese. (photo by Jim Walsh)

The meet also provided an opportunity for Christina Ganzer to speak. She was recently hired by the NMRA as a marketing consultant. The meet provided an excellent opportunity for everyone to welcome her, as she solicited feedback from NMRA members.

(Continued on the following page)

NEXT DIVISION EVENT

TIME:

9:00 AM START

DATE:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

LOCATION:

MORRISTOWN TOWN HALL
200 SOUTH ST/NJ ROUTE 124
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960
EVENT FEE: \$5

WEBSITE FOR MEETS:

SEE PAGE 6 AND

[HTTP://WWW.NERGS.COM/
UPCOMING.HTML](http://www.nergsd.com/upcoming.html)

AGENDA:

REFRESHMENTS
M&E PRESENTATION
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLES
BRING 'N BRAG
DOOR PRIZES
OPEN HOUSE LAYOUT TOURS

(continued from previous page)

Right: Ed Elwell was well along on his HO scale layout, as seen in this view of a station.
(photo by Chuck Diljak)

Below: Moveable bridges are a requirement if modeling the New York & Long Branch (now NJT's North Jersey Coast Line), so Jerry Wooley has built several for his layout. (photo by Chuck Diljak)



(continued from previous page)

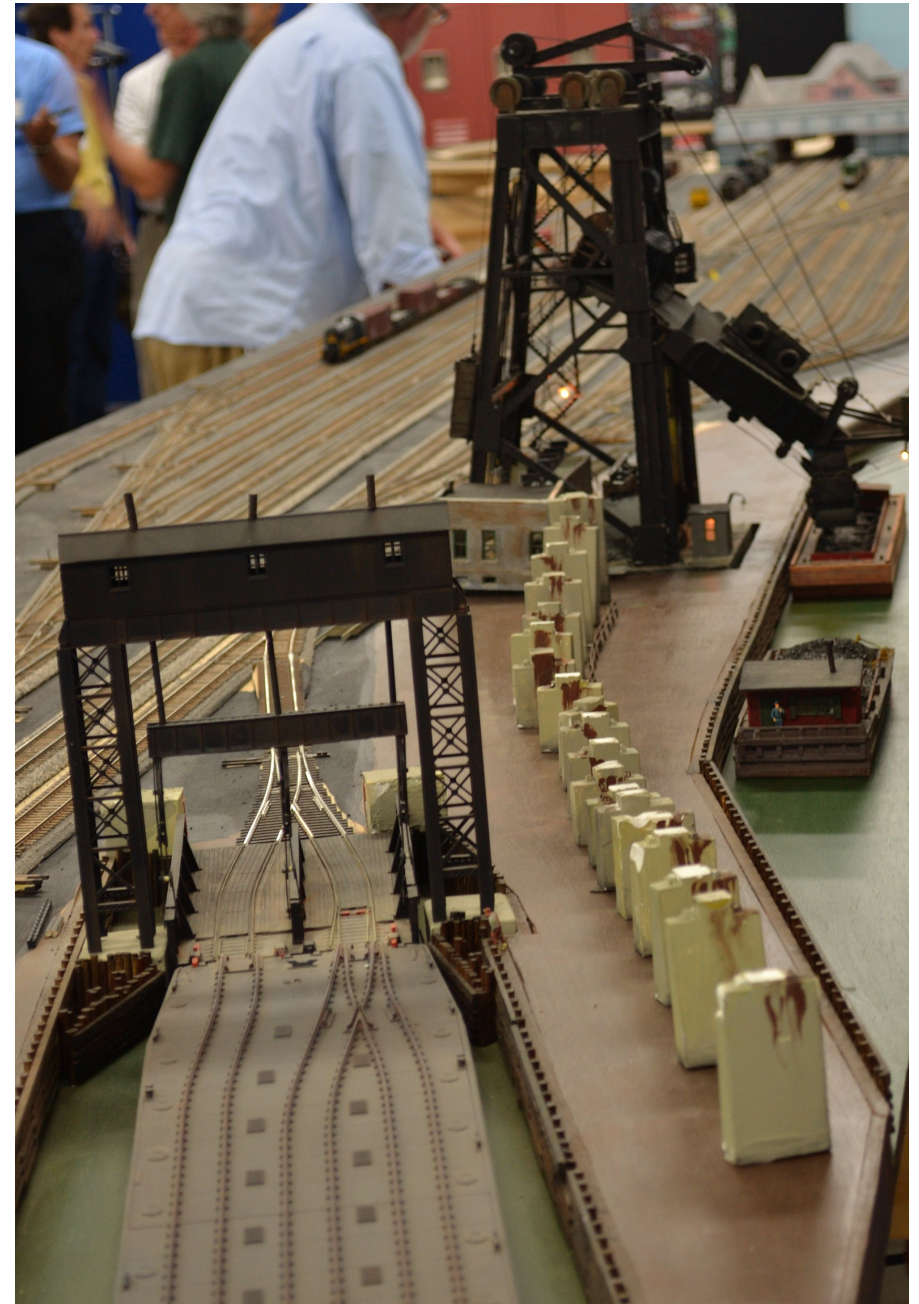


Above: The highly complete and detailed layout of Frank Neufeld.

Below: The garden layout of Jules Heiliczzer was the only large scale outdoor layout on the tour. (photos this page by Jim Walsh)



Summer 2016



Above: A waterfront scene on the Garden State Model RR Club at their new location. The return track from the McMyler dumper is not yet in place.

The Timetable

Upcoming Events

GSD Summer Event Saturday August 6 at Morristown Town Hall in Morristown, NJ. This will be a new location for the GSD. Details featured in this issue of the WP.

Greenberg's Train and Toy Show August 13-14, New Jersey Expo Center, Edison, NJ www.GreenbergShows.com

NER 2016 Convention "The Pacemaker" September 15-18 at the Desmond Hotel and Convention Center in Albany, NY. <http://www.hbdpacemaker.org/>

NJ Division September Meet Saturday 17th, M. Joan Pearson Elementary School, Delanco, NJ Details on the NJD website <http://www.njdivnmra.org/>

GSD Fall Event Saturday October 1 at Hillsborough Twp. Municipal Building in Hillsborough, NJ. This will be a joint event with the New Jersey Division. A "Works in Progress" format will be featured.

Great Scale Model Train Show, aka "Timonium" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. October 15-16. www.gsmts.com

MER 2016 Convention "Tracks to the Triangle" October 20-23 at the Marriott Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC <http://www.mer2016.org/>

Garden State RPM Meet November 5-6 at the Union County Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains. If you haven't been to an RPM meet, this local event is a great one to start with. Clinics, model displays, layout open houses, and vendor tables. Registration and information available at <http://hansmanns.org/ld-op-nj/index.htm> This is a NMRA supported event.

November Model Railroad Open House NJ/PA/DE/MD An annual event where dozens of layout owners and clubs open their doors to the public. <http://modelrailroadopenhouse.com/>

Amherst Railway Society "West Springfield" MA show January 28-29, 2017. The largest on the east coast. www.railroadhobbyshow.com

NE Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet June 2017 at the Holiday Inn, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd., Enfield, CT. <http://www.neprototypemeet.com/Welcome.html>

NMRA 2017 National Convention "Orange Blossom Special" Orlando, FL July 30-August 6, 2017. <http://nmra2017orlando.org/>

NER 2018 Convention "The Erie Limited" Details to be announced.

(Meet at the Beach continued from previous page)

Chuck Diljak presented the first clinic "My Big Fat Clinic, or How to Weigh Cars like the Prototype." He covered how he built a scale track for his mining operation using Fast Track jigs, gauges, and other tools. A scale track is one track element that can be used to satisfy the NMRA's Civil Engineer requirements. He displayed his scratch built scale house and also identified kit sources for those who prefer to go that route. His model was based on Santa Fe and Pennsylvania RR prototypes. To wrap up the clinic, he also covered how he incorporated the scale track into his layout operations.

Master Model Railroader Tom Griffiths presented the encore clinic "Urban Modeling in a Limited Space". Since many members missed his clinic during the MER convention last fall, he was asked to present it again. His clinic covered how he added 25 buildings, 2 roads, 2 sections of mainline track and sidings, within 25 square feet at his old club. The center of the scene was a station based on the Lehigh Valley's "under track" station in Easton, PA. He guided the attendees through how he built up the scene around the station, carefully selecting, painting, and detailing structures to finish the scene.

And, while some people may have been tempted to head to the beach after the morning session, most attendees opted to visit the 10 available layouts that were open. In addition to the host club's layout, there were eight NJD layouts and one GSD layout open. Most of the eight NJD layouts were located in the Wall and Point Pleasant area. Many also took a side trip to The Train Room, a local train shop located in Point Pleasant Beach, and accepted a 10% discount for meet attendees. Afterwards, a visit to GSD member Ted Dilorio's Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad was likely the final layout stop for many GSD members headed home, since he is located right off the Garden State Parkway. Ted's layout is interesting to see since it features a backbone helix, allowing portions of it to be scened.

So, while the sun was shining and the temperatures were rising, it was still a fine day at the beach, even if none of us went to the beach.^{WP}

Call for Works-in-Progress Clinicians

For the GSD October 1 event we will return to Hillsborough Township at the Municipal Building. This venue has plenty of space for a Works-in-Progress format, and we are looking to fill out the morning with several more clinicians. This format requires short clinics of about 20 minutes in length. If you can provide a clinic, or have any questions, contact Jim Homoki or Jim Fawcett as listed on Page 7.

AT THE THROTTLE

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ramapo41@gmail.com

A NEW CONTEST: GSD BOXCAR CHALLENGE

By Fred and the GSD

The national headquarters of the NMRA recently received a very large number of 50' HO scale boxcar shells from a model railroad manufacturer. And, headquarters is offering them to any region or division for their use. So, your Garden State Division team was batting around a few ideas when Fred Dellaiacono suggested a contest. Brilliant! What kind of contest?

Fred suggested we could have a contest where GSD modelers can turn the boxcar into anything they wanted...including a boxcar! Whoa! That means it can be a standalone model, it can be part of a diorama. It can be realistic, prototypical, or completely whimsical. It is entirely up to the modeler.

"But, there is one requirement," Fred said.

"Of course!" we said. "What?"

"The modeler must use 80% of the boxcar shell in some form or another in the finished contest entry. That doesn't mean that 80% of the finished entry has to be the box car, however."

"But what if the modeler wants to use more than one shell for the model?" we asked.

Fred explained. "You can use more than one box car shell, but the same 80% rule applies. You must use at least 80% of each boxcar in the entry."


One more question, we continued "What if they want to enter more than one model in the contest?"

Fred replied, "Of course members can have more than one model in the contest! The more, the merrier."


So, there you have it! Each shell will cost \$2 and can be picked up at the summer GSD event in Morristown and the fall GSD event in Hillsborough. They are available in sliding door and plug door versions. All of the proceeds will be used for cash prizes. At the 2017 winter meet, the winners will be decided by popular vote by those in attendance.

So come to the summer and fall events to purchase your shell. Fred shared his idea for a contest. Now, it's your turn to share YOUR idea for turning a boxcar shell into a winner next winter! WP

FRED'S GSD Boxcar Challenge



Hmmm. What could I make with this?



- Model, Diorama, Prototypical, or Whimsical
- Use minimum 80% of boxcar shell
- Shells available at summer and fall GSD events
- Only \$2 per shell
- All proceeds used for cash prizes
- Complete models for winter 2017 event
- Winners chosen by popular vote

THE CLUB CAR

Garden State Model
Railway Club
575 High Mountain Road
North Haledon, NJ 07508
www.gsmrrclub.org

The Model Railroad Club
295 Jefferson Avenue
Union, NJ 07083
<http://tmrci.org>

New York Society of Model
Engineers
341 Hoboken Road
Carlstadt, NJ 07072
www.modelengineers.org

Pacific Southern Railway Club
26 Washington Street
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553
www.pacificsouthern.org

Ramapo Valley Railroad Club
620 Cliff Street
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423
www.ramapovalleyrailroad.com

Bound Brook Presbyterian
Railroad Club (BBPRR)
Bound Brook Cemetery
Office Building
500 Mountain Avenue,
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
Riley1644@verizon.net

Staten Island Society of
Model Railroaders
Train Club Room, 3rd Floor
Staff House, Seaview Hospital
460 Brielle Avenue
Staten Island, NY
[http://sismrinc.tripod.com/
index.html](http://sismrinc.tripod.com/index.html)

AP Corner *By Bruce De Young, MMR - Achievement Program Chair*

The Achievement Program in the GSD once again saw a lot of activity thru the winter and early spring.

Three of our members earned the Golden Spike Award by meeting the requirements on their layouts. (<http://www.nmra.org/golden-spike-award>) Those members are Alexis Nawotka (N-Scale), Mark Lutz (HO Scale), and Andy Rubbo (HO Scale).

Merit Awards for structures were earned by both Steve Ascolese and Chuck Diljak. Steve earned his for a terrific wood working factory in N-Scale, and Chuck actually earned four for the following HO Scale structures: Scale House, Piano Store (MJ's Pianos), Water Tower (in the shape of a beer bottle), and Coal Trestle.

Finally, both Tom Wortmann and Bob Dennis earned their Civil Engineering AP Certificates.

Paperwork is in progress for other GSD members' work in the AP Program. How about you? If you are interested or just have some questions, send me an e-mail or give me a call. **WP**



Members of the GSD and NJD pose for a group photo after receiving awards at the Spring Event. From left to right: Alexis Nawotka, Mark Lutz, Andy Rubbo, John Vogler, Chuck Higdon, Dave Albertson, Bob Dennis. (photo by Jim Walsh)

MAP AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE SUMMER EVENT

MORRISTOWN TOWN HALL, MORRISTOWN, NJ

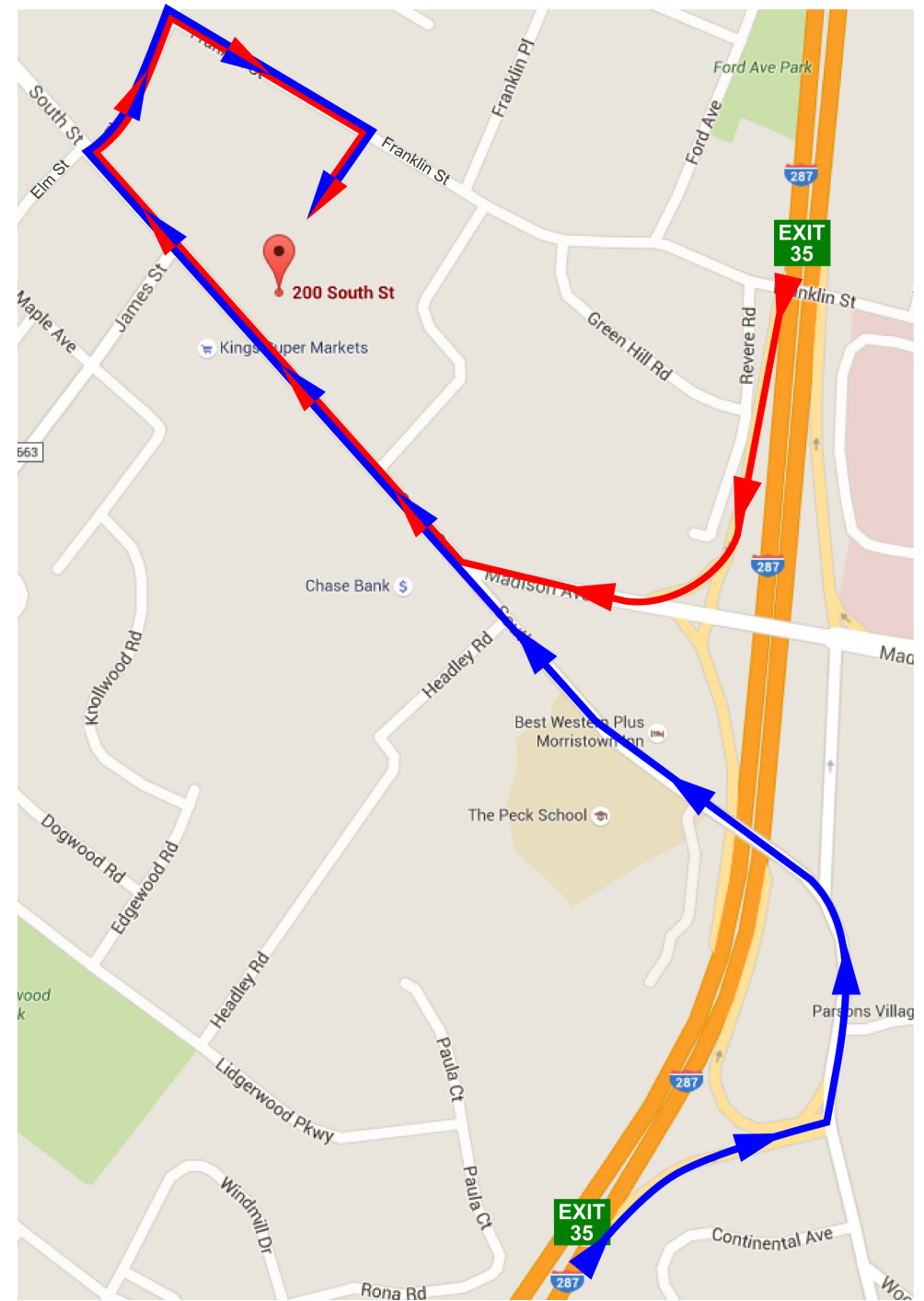
The event is conveniently located off Route I-287 with plenty of parking behind Town Hall.

From I-287 South: Take Exit 35 for Route 124/South St/Madison Ave and turn left at the end of the ramp onto South Street. Proceed through the next traffic signal and Town Hall will be on the right.

From I-287 North: Take Exit 35 for Madison Ave and turn right at the end of the ramp. At the next traffic signal bear right onto South Street. The Town Hall will be on the right.

Parking: After passing Town Hall, turn right onto Elm Street, then right onto Franklin Street. The parking lot is on the right.

Below: The Whippany Railway Museum will not be open the afternoon of our event, but the equipment at the museum site is a short distance from Morristown. Located on Route 10 westbound in Whippany, from Morristown take I-287 north to Route 10 east; you can't miss it after the grade crossing. The museum website is <http://www.whippanyrailwaymuseum.net/> (photo by Chuck Diljak)

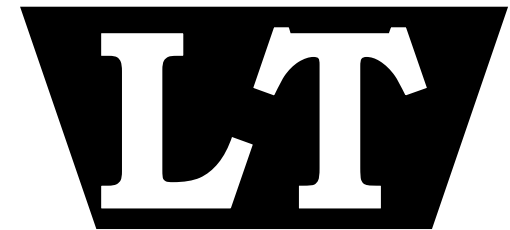


LAYOUT SELF GUIDED TOURS

For the Summer Event there will be the Morris Plains Model RR Club and two home layouts open for self guided tours. Driving directions will be provided at the event.

Steve Kay has a large double deck layout with his railroad being the proto-freelanced HO scale Lackawanna Terminal Railway. The LT took its current form after the creation of Conrail. Many locomotives are patched out in a manner similar to early Conrail equipment. An extensive website has been created for the LT including a Frequently Asked Questions section. There is plenty to read at <http://www.ltths.org/>

Right: A former L&HR Alco C420 in Conrail blue now works for the Lackawanna Terminal.



Left: An SW1500 waits for an RS3 on the main to clear. These units wear the corporate paint scheme of the LT.

(Layouts continued on following page)

(Layouts continued from previous page)



Left: Mark Moritz has recently started construction of an HO scale double deck layout that will depict operations in North Jersey during the 1920s. Benchwork and track is complete on the lower level. He will be working hard to get the upper level in place in time for the Morristown event. NCE DCC is used for control.

Below: The HO scale layout of the Morris Plains Model RR Club will be open during the afternoon.



Below: Another scene on the Morris Plains Model RR Club.



ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

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The GSD now has a Twitter account and a Facebook page.

Follow the GSD at "GSD of the NMRA@GardenStateDiv"



New Members Wanted!

No room for a home layout? Not sure you have the experience? We will teach.

The New York Society of Model Engineers is looking for new members. 5,000 square feet of model trains. Two large layouts, "HO" and "O". Full machine shop, large research library. Dues only \$15.00 a month. Located in Carlstadt, NJ, 1/2 mile from MetLife Stadium. See membership page at www.ModelEngineers.org for details and directions.

Not getting the bi-monthly NMRA eBULLETIN?

The new **NMRA eBulletin** comes out every other month near the 1st of the month. Either your SPAM filter is blocking it, or you need to update your email address. Go to:

<http://www.nmra.org/nmra-magazine>

Meeting Reports, past Articles, and complete issues of the Whistle Post can be found on the GSD website www.nergds.com

Communications and Webmaster Help Wanted!

The GSD would like additional help with our electronic communications and website. Please contact Bruce De Young: pres@nergds.com

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