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www.nergsd.com

Contact email addresses
can be found on Page 5 and
on the website.



The WHISTLE POST

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

Summer Event to be on Staten Island July 1

The GSD returns to Staten Island on Saturday July 1 at a new location, VFW Post 7172 at 49 The Boulevard. The event kicks off at 9:00 AM. The GSD activities you have come to expect will be there: two presentations, Bring 'N Brag, model judging will be available, sales tables, layouts in the afternoon, and of course refreshments.

Chuck Diljak will be presenting a clinic on anthracite mines. Chuck models northeastern Pennsylvania, the heart of anthracite country. After building the breaker for his Wyoming Valley, he

discovered there is a lot more to model for an anthracite mine than he realized. His clinic will give prototype examples of various mining structures and discuss how he modeled them for his layout.



The second presentation will be by Tom Wortmann, who will show us how he models garbage and litter on his layout. This is much more than not vacuuming; Tom has methods to create the debris that is so common around railroads.

There will be three HO layouts open in the afternoon. Bobby Schmitt will be opening for the GSD for the first time. Bob Dennis has been open before but has made a lot of progress since we've last visited. Joe D'Agostino has been continuously improving his already impressive stream era layout.

Looking for something else to do in the afternoon? Check out the National Lighthouse Museum in St George <http://lighthousemuseum.org/>

We're also going to have some rail fanning spots for you. Maps will be available at the meet. WP



THE CAB by President Bruce De Young, MMR

On Road Trips, Pneumatics and Model Railroaders

When I got a call from the Clinic Chair of the Midwest Regional Convention asking if I would be willing to give a couple of clinics at their Spring Convention in Rockford, Illinois, I told him that I would have to get back to him. After all, it is a 14-hour drive if you encounter no road problems, and what are the chances of that? Getting around Chicago on I-80/90 with no backups is about as likely as getting around Washington D.C. on I-95 with no problems – slim and none.

After talking to my wife Bonnie, and throwing in a mid-trip stay in a Bed & Breakfast on the way out and a side trip to visit our son in Michigan on the way back, we decided to go. After all, what American doesn't like a road trip?

I've said this before in this column – Regional Conventions are real hidden gems of the NMRA!

Some of you might be familiar with the live webcam located at the Rochelle, IL Railroad Park. This is a great location set between the double track main lines of the UP and BNSF railroads and right by the double diamond where they cross.

(Continued on the next page)



THE CABOOSE by Editor Jim Homoki

Summer Plans

A lot of modelers seem to take the summer off. Not me, I'm always doing something with models, the layout, or a railroad related activity. Vacations aside, which can be taken at any time of the year (an island in the Caribbean in January, anyone?) there are certainly more outside activities available for those of us in the northeast that we can't, or don't have to, do during the winter.

Most of my modeling takes place in the basement, where the layout is located. I know some people give up on the basement when the heat and humidity starts to build. In order to make mine more habitable I have an air conditioner as well as a dehumidifier. It's battling appliances to remove both hot air and moisture. The dehumidifier is also needed if the layout is to run as it swells too much for operation without it.

My largest goal for the summer is to develop an expansion plan for the layout. It's a fairly ambitious amount of work. An expansion will provide some great benefits to the current operating system and allow me to try out some new construction techniques, as the oldest sections of my current layout were started 20 years ago. With an increasing hobby interest in operations, the time is right for me to take this plunge. Equipment for this will not be a problem as over the years I've already prepared and weathered enough locomotives and rolling stock to meet the demand. There will be more on this in the future.

Model railroading can be a 12 month hobby if we want it to be. I already need a 14 month year to get done all I want to do, so I use all of the time I have. **WP**

The Timetable *Upcoming Events*

GSD Summer Event Saturday July 1, 9 AM-12 Noon at VFW Post 7172, 49 The Boulevard, Staten Island, NY. Details elsewhere in this issue.

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

Greenberg's Train and Toy Show August 12-13 New Jersey Expo Center, Edison, NJ www.GreenbergShows.com

NJD Fall Event Saturday September 16, 9 AM-12 Noon, Cumberland Co. Community Church, Broad St. & Wade Blvd., Millville, NJ. Contest: Detailed/weathered flat cars.

GSD Fall Event Tentatively set for Saturday October 7 at a Sussex County location. Details to be announced.

Mideastern Region 2017 Convention "The Susquehannock" October 12-15, 2017 Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA , www.mer2017.org

Garden State Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet November 2017 at Union County Vo-Tech, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ. Details to be announced <http://gsrpm.org/>

Northeastern Region 2017 Convention "Rails to the Gilded Age" November 9-12, Newport, Rhode Island. Hosted by the Little Rhody Division. www.newport2017.org



GSD Winter Event Tentatively set for March at a Bergen County location. Details to be announced.

NMRA 2018 National Convention to be held in Kansas City

Northeastern Region 2018 Convention "The Erie Limited" September 13-16, Mahwah, NJ. Hosted by the Garden State Division.

NMRA 2019 National Convention to be held in Salt Lake City

(The Cab continued from the previous page)

The kickoff event at this Convention was a lunch time 'Hobo Grill' (hot dogs, brats, chips, soda, hot chocolate, etc.) located in the covered pavilion between the converging tracks seen above. What a great way to give attendees a way to socialize prior to the evening's clinics – and rail fan at the same time! As has been our experience, our fellow model railroaders were friendly and outgoing. Shown below is Bonnie grabbing a hot chocolate as the temperature was hovering in the low 40's. Did I mention that this was a 'no fee' offering to registered attendees?

(Continued on the next page)



NEXT DIVISION EVENT

TIME:

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

LAYOUT SELF GUIDED TOURS

1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

DATE:

SATURDAY, JULY 1

LOCATION:

VFW POST 7172

49 THE BOULEVARD

STATEN ISLAND, NY

EVENT FEE: \$5

WEBSITE FOR MEETS:

SEE PAGE 3 AND

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

[UPCOMING.HTML](http://www.nergsd.com/upcoming.html)

AGENDA:

REFRESHMENTS

TWO CLINICS

WHITE ELEPHANT TABLES

BRING 'N BRAG

DOOR PRIZES

MODEL JUDGING

LAYOUT TOURS

(The Cab continued from the previous page)

Clinics and layout operating sessions were offered Friday evening, and Saturday morning was solely devoted to clinics. In the photo to the right I am presenting one of my clinics. That is Charlie Getz, NMRA President, sitting closest to the camera on the right side of the photo.

Saturday afternoon Bonnie and I visited four different layouts. As is my practice, I chose layouts representing several scales. This time they included O, N, and HO scales. Besides meeting the layout owners, we bumped into (literally sometimes) some friendly co-attendees. When visiting layouts at these Conventions (and at our local Division events), I am often amazed at the quality of the modeling and the inventiveness of the modelers. This time that inventiveness included operating lift, swing, and tilt bridges all powered by small pneumatic devices. The layout was the HO Scale Waukon Mineral & Addison layout of modeler Dick Caudle. Dick had worked in the commercial HVAC industry which had air handling units controlled by pneumatics. As these units were upgraded with newer technology, Dick picked up the old pneumatic devices that were destined for the trash bin and adapted them to control his many bridges. I watched some of them in action, and they were smooth and opened/closed at appropriate 'scale' speeds. Amazing. To the right is one of Dick's lift bridges in the open position.

Saturday evening finished up with the Banquet which featured awards, door prizes and a speaker. Bonnie even won one of the door prizes – a Bowser hopper kit.

I once again urge you to attend a Regional Convention. You can combine an all-American road trip with great clinics, layout visits, and even some good food. Oh, and you will meet great folks!



Upcoming conventions within easy driving distance will occur this fall. Bonnie and I will attend both the MER Convention in Harrisburg, PA in October (<http://www.mer2017.org/>) and the NER Convention in Newport, RI in November (<http://www.newport2017.org/>). Won't you join us? WP

AT THE THROTTLE

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HAVE SAW — WILL MODIFY

By Fred Dellaiacono

I have always been attracted to coal drags and associated mining operations. My previous layouts incorporated at least one coal mine and lots and lots of hopper cars. Moving to my present home in 2004, my layout now being 60% smaller than my old one, I still had to have a mine with coal drags, so I built one with 2 loading tracks each about 2 feet long.

After 12 years, I realized that the mine did not fit in with the surrounding scene. It dominated the mountain. Furthermore, I was not running long coal drags on this smaller layout. Something had to be done.

Bruce De Young and Chuck Diljak visited one afternoon to help in resolving the corner I boxed myself into. They suggested that perhaps a simple truck dump site would work. At last, a new direction. From the web, I was able to find many photos of such sites that would fit in.

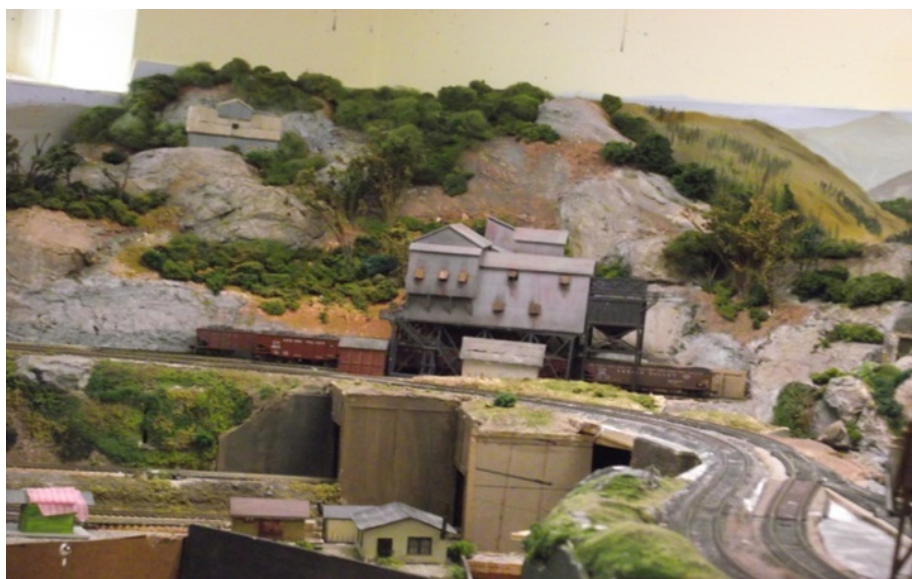
Never one to hesitate to rip something out and rebuild, I manned the cutting tools and before I knew it, the mine and its tracks were removed and the area cleaned up. I was left with a depression in the mountain where the mine shaft was, so instead of filling it in, I found an old metal shed in the scrap box and made a small abandoned mine.

Right: A closer view of the mine and the two loading tracks. This scene was not fitting in with the rest of the layout.

(Continued on the following page)



Above: The mine that was troubling Fred is shown in the distance in this view of Fred's layout. Something had to be done.



(Continued from previous page)

Right: A small shed representing an abandoned mine was found to replace the large mine complex.

A new road, made from a few laminated sections of 1 inch rigid foam, was built to fit 2.5 inches above a single spur track (for hopper loading).

Below: Rigid foam shapes were glued together to rough out the new landform and rock faces.



(Continued on the following page)



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At the end of the new road, from scrap dimensional lumber, I built a short trestle to support the dump trucks. The road guard rail was made from bamboo barbecue skewers and the simulated wire from .015 inch diameter solder. A little paint, ground cover, trees and shrubs completed the scene.

Left: A closeup of the new scenery , truck dump, and single spur kept to service the truck dump.

I am pleased with the results. It made the mountain appear larger gave the scene a more restful look in keeping with my laid back operations of short trains headed by light steam. By the way, I can still spot one or two hoppers. As a side note, this entire mountain is made from rigid foam and is removable to access the mainline run through it.

Moral: If it does not look or feel right, don't be afraid to rip it out and make it right. **WP**



Left: An overall view of the layout and completed scene.

The GSD Welcomes New Members

The following have joined the NMRA and GSD within the last few months. Please welcome them:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| R. Jonathon Venkcus | Joe Valentine |
| John Stewart | Alan Bornstein |

Members are reminded that guests attending a meet can join the NMRA as a new member through the Railpass program, and the GSD will pay for it! National, Regional, and Division membership is included.

SPRING GSD/NJD COMBINED EVENT

Photos by Jim Walsh

Although it was a dreary rainy day outside, for the 67 model railroaders at our Spring event, it was a chance to take shelter from the rain and maybe take control of nature with two scenery clinics. But first there were announcements and the GSD business meeting. Besides the usual reports, we elected the officers for the next year and the directors for the next two years. One clinic demonstrated the use of static grass to add variety to the landscape. The other clinic introduced lightweight and removable scenery and addressed some techniques for finishing the scenery. The two layouts that were open featured different types of model railroads. Joe Garsick has a good size layout with many excellent craftsman structures and lighted scenes throughout. Dick Genthner demonstrated that with clever use of building flats and the right track plan, you can have an operating layout in a garage and still have room for the car. As usual, we all had a great time. **WP**



Above: Jan Kucsma of The Big Little Railroad Shop in Somerville says a few words to the crowd. Jan was key in helping the GSD obtain the 4-H center in Bridgewater as our venue for the event. The large banner was inspired by the NMRA, and was a collaborative project by GSD Board members. It is a great promotional item for shows and events.

Far Left: Chris Conaway demonstrates his techniques for applying static grass.

Left: Bill Frankenfield explains his methods of creating lightweight and removable scenery.

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
billandmartha3@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*

A regular part of our event agendas is the handing out of plaques earned by Garden State Division members working on the NMRA's Achievement Program. At our recent Spring Joint Meet with the New Jersey Division, we had two members receive their plaques.

A great way to get started in the Achievement Program is through the Golden Spike Award. Here receiving his Golden Spike plaque from Immediate Past President Ciro Compagno is GSD member Kai Ebinger.

Right: Kai Ebinger was presented with his Golden Spike certificate by Ciro Compagno. Jim Walsh photo.



Our second member receiving plaques was Craig Bisgeier. Craig has been very busy in the Program and here you will see him holding the following three AP Certificates: Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Chief Dispatcher. Notice Craig's huge smile!

I can't wait to see which member(s) receive plaques at our summer event on Staten Island. **WP**

Right: Craig Bisgeier has his hands full accepting three certificates from Ciro Compagno. Jim Walsh photo.



NER 2017 CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPEN: RAILS TO THE GILDED AGE

By now you have likely heard of the annual regional convention to be held in Newport, RI and we would like to suggest why this unusual convention is well worth attending. You have probably noticed that we have devoted at least as much publication space to Newport itself. Unlike the typical NER convention held in Podunk, USA, there is so much to see and do in Newport for the entire family - a rare opportunity to combine a family vacation with a model railroading event. If you are not familiar with Newport, we suggest you fire up the internet and see the numerous attractions the area has to offer.

Make no mistake, Rails to the Gilded Age will offer all of the activities found at every other convention - including all of the clinics, contests, trips, operating sessions, and layout tours one comes to expect at an NER convention. Besides the hobby oriented and hands-on clinics, there will be a number of excellent speakers that are knowledgeable about local railroad history. A Viking tour of Newport and its mansions is not to be missed, as well as a tour of the Naval War College and its museum, since 9/11 a very difficult place to visit. A special layout owned by the Vanderbilt family and not generally open to the public will also be available, as well as a visit to a large prototype industrial railroad and a beautiful train ride along Narragansett Bay.

We are also fortunate to have the convention in a brand new seaside facility minutes from the famed Cliff Walk and Mansion Row. The Atlantic Resort Newport is as nice a hotel as I have stayed in anywhere. For once there will be a contest room with decent lighting and a banquet room with ocean views. The lodging rate for this hotel is only a few dollars more than the rooms at the previous Albany convention, and is as good a price as is to be found anywhere near Newport. If you would like to extend your visit by staying a few additional days, the weekday rate is even lower. It is Restaurant Week- Newport has many excellent restaurants - so there will be many dining choices at good prices. Newport and Middletown are on Aquidneck Island, and so are surrounded by water - the warm ocean currents make the Veteran's Day average daytime temperature even warmer than it would be at Lake Winnepesaukee a month earlier. All in all, a great bargain for a great vacation and convention! We hope we will see you in Newport, one of the northeast's favorite tourist destinations. **WP**

RAILS to the GILDED AGE

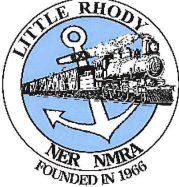


A Destination
Model rail convention
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Newport, RI








November 9-12, 2017

Save the Date!

Hosted by the Little Rhody Division
Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



Atlantic Resort Newport
240 Aquidneck Ave., Middletown, RI

-  **Newport Tours & Activities**
-  **Prototype Rail Trips**
-  **Model Rail Open Houses**
-  **Model Rail Clinics**
-  **General Interest Clinics**
-  **Photo & Model Contest**
-  **And Much More!**

Saturday Train Show
9:00-2:00
Free to Public!!!

To register or for more information:
www.newport2017.org



LAYOUTS FOR THE SUMMER EVENT

Three layouts will be open in the afternoon following the morning activities at the summer event. In addition to the two layouts pictured on this page, Bobby Schmitt will have his HO layout open. Bobby models the NYC in a 12' x 16' area. It is about 60% complete with scenery and structures but is fully operational.



Right: Bob Dennis models the NYC in HO in an 11' x 20' area and features a waterfront scene. There has been a lot of progress since the last Staten Island visit.



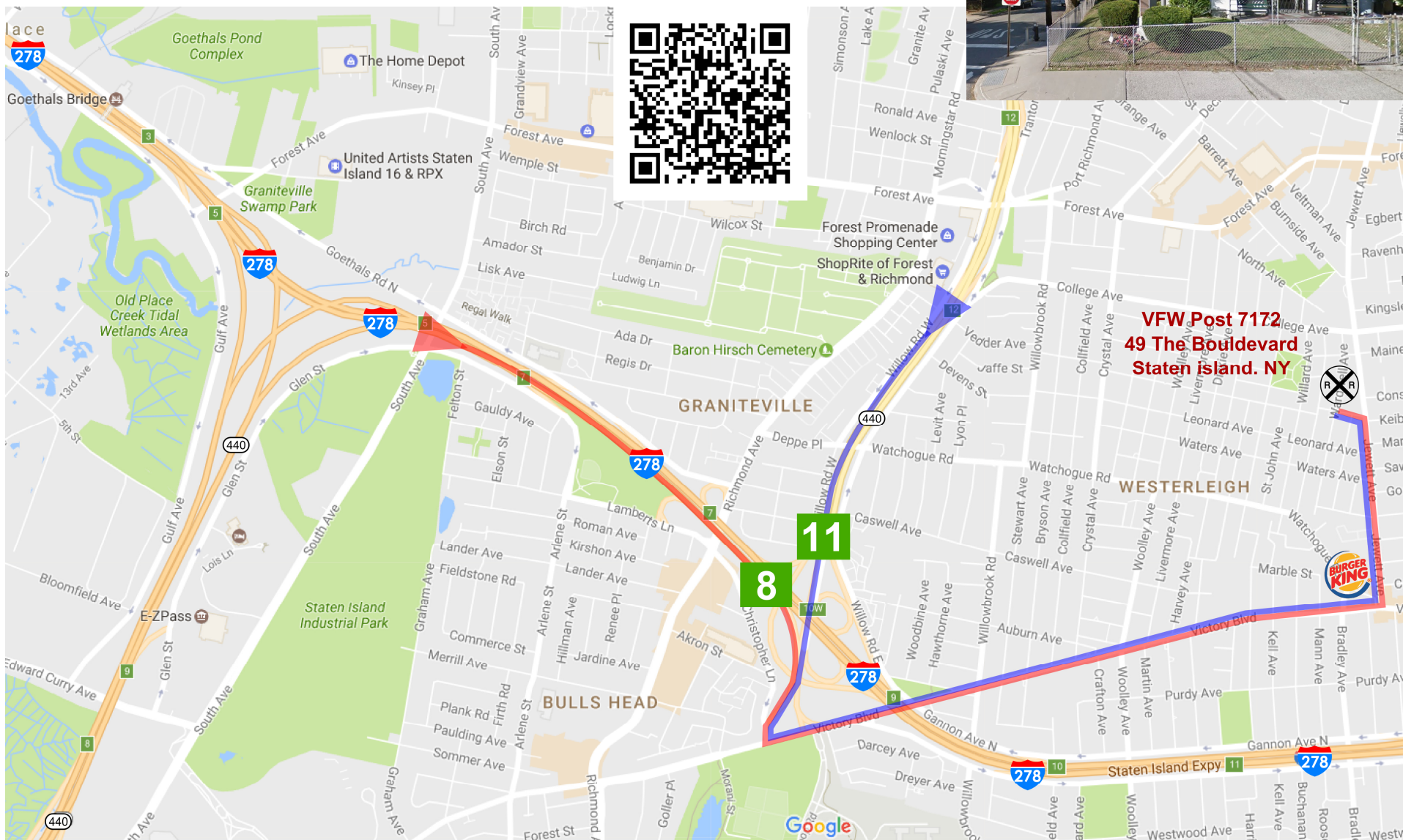
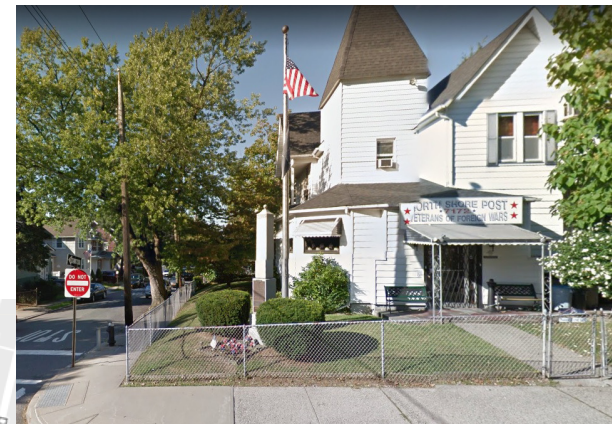
Above and Right: Joe D'Agostino models the Pennsy and the Erie in HO. Joe's layout measures 45' x 25' and is about 95% complete.



DIRECTIONS: Route 440 or I-278 to Victory Blvd exit, Turn left onto Victory Blvd., Turn left on Jewett Ave, Turn left onto The Boulevard. VFW Hall is on the right. Street sign is missing so look for GSD signs on the corner.

MAP FOR THE SUMMER EVENT

VFW Post 7172
49 The Boulevard, Staten Island, NY



ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

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Deadlines for submissions to the Whistle Post are four weeks prior to the next Division event, as announced in the prior 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"

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

The GSD has added a new page to its website featuring YouTube clinics made by GSD members

<http://www.nergdsd.com/videoclinic.html>



MidEastern Region 2017 Convention, Harrisburg, PA October 12-15 www.mer2017.org

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>

NER Convention Mahwah, New Jersey



September 13-16, 2018

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