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www.nergdsd.com

Contact email addresses
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on the website.

The WHISTLE POST

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

A New Summer Event Location: Flemington

The never ending quest to provide variety in our event locations will lead us to the Lone Eagle Brewing Company in Flemington, NJ, for the Summer Event. Former President Bruce De Young did lot of footwork to find this venue, as he has with other locations that have hosted GSD events. As usual, the start time is 9:00 AM. A map can be found on Page 10.

The morning will follow the usual format of two clinics, door prizes, sales tables, and the Bring and Brag. There are no nearby layouts available in the afternoon, but literally across the parking lot is the Black River & Western RR, which will be running excursions in the afternoon.

Chris Oliva will be presenting one of the two clinics. Chris will discuss how he designed and built the LED street lights he is using on his layout, and why he felt he needed to make them himself instead of buying what is available.

Shane Blische is a rail historian and member of the Black River Historical Trust who has spent nearly 10 years collecting information on the Bel-Del. The Bel-Del was part of the Pennsylvania RR, running about 70 miles from Trenton, past Phillipsburg, to Belvidere and Manuka Chunk. Items from his vast archive of photographs, postcards, and documents will illustrate his presentation.

In the afternoon, steam is scheduled to be running on the BR&W. Grab a lunch before or after a train ride, and support the efforts of the BR&W to preserve tourist railroading in New Jersey. **WP**



Above: Chris Oliva will present a clinic on how he makes his own LED street lights.

Below: A 1966 view of the Bel-Del with PRR diesels.





I Took a Left Turn

Back in 2012, when I was editor of *The Whistle Post*, I wrote the column that appears on the right-hand side of this page. At the time, I never thought I would someday be writing the column on the left-hand side. But, here I am! And, I am very excited to be here!

My becoming President of the GSD is only one of the changes that occurred to the GSD leadership at our Spring event in Wall. So, for my first column, I would like to recognize the contributions Bruce DeYoung and Tom Wortmann have made to the Garden State Division and welcome two new members of the team.

Bruce was the previous President of the Garden State Division board. He joined the NMRA in 2006 and attended the last NER convention this Division hosted, that year. This was the beginning of Bruce's NMRA involvement. Since then, Bruce has been very active in the division, taking over responsibility of the Achievement Program for our division, becoming the Education Department Manager at the national level, and his various roles as Director, Vice President, and President of the Division. Under his leadership, the Division has grown in member participation at our events and participation in the Achievement Program. Under his guidance, many members are working towards their Master Model Railroader certificate, just as Bruce accomplished in 2015. Now, Bruce and Bonnie are in the process of moving to Michigan and I wish them well in their new State and home! And, if he ever has a "hankerin'" for a Taylor Ham, egg, and cheese sandwich, he knows where to find us!

One of the members that is close to obtaining Master Model Railroader status is Tom Wortmann. In 2002, a year after the Division became active again, the Division was looking for an editor for its newsletter, *The Whistle Post*. This was the first time Tom raised his hand to help the Garden State Division. Since then, Tom raised his hand a few more times to become Director and President of the Division. He also raised his hand to develop the Division website, which he will continue maintaining for us. And, he raised his hand to become the 2018 NER Erie Limited Convention Chairman. But, after nearly 50 years as an NMRA member and 16 years of an active role in the Division, he recently decided to raise his hand one more time to become a "plain old member" so that he can spend more time with his family. Thank you, Tom, for raising your hand so many times over the years!

(Continued on Page 4)



Inspiration

I can be found working on several model railroad projects at any given time, but the order in which they get completed usually depends on something outside of the basement for inspiration. I know what I should be doing first, but it rarely works that way. I would say doing things in the order they should be done requires motivation, but jumping into a new project often comes from inspiration.

Very recently (June 1-2) I attended the NE RPM meet in Enfield, CT, located a little north of Hartford. A large contingent from New Jersey was there. Any kind of model railroading related event provides motivation to make some progress on my many projects. More than 300 attended, with enough model displays, presentations, and conversation packed into two days to satisfy almost anyone. I've been meaning to model a few boxcars rebuilt by US Railway Equipment, and a clinic on these cars showed that they were more common than I thought. You may have noticed these before — they are generally older 40' boxcars in the 1970s with the USRE map logo on the sides.

There is no need to go out of NJ, though. We have our own GSD events, so if you've been thinking about how to build street lights, Chris Oliva may provide the inspiration you need to get moving on that project at the June 23rd event in Flemington.

Also close are the many layouts within the GSD that open for visiting, or that hold operating sessions if you like that a part of the hobby. Just seeing the latest completed projects by your friends may be enough. I recently bought a lattice style yard light tower after seeing one on a layout. These were very common and can still be found, whether in operating condition or not. I'm inspired to do it, and pretty motivated as well to have it ready by the next time my crew comes over.

Certainly the NMRA National Convention should provide inspiration, but if you are not going there, second best is the 2018 NER Regional Convention, The Erie Limited, to be held in our Division in September. There is a large lineup of operating sessions, layout open houses, and clinics, among other activities. If you can't find something inspiring at a regional convention, then I don't know what else to suggest! Registration is open now. [WP](#)

The Timetable *Upcoming Events*

GSD Summer Event to be held June 23 at Lone Eagle Brewing, Flemington, NJ. Start time is 9:00 AM, see details in this newsletter. There will be no Fall Event due to the GSD hosting the September NER Convention.

NMRA 2018 National Convention August 5-12 in Kansas City

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

MidEastern Region 2018 Convention "Crossroads of the MER" October 4-7, Rockville, MD
<http://potomac-nmra.org/MER2018/Main/index.html>

Great Scale Model Train Show October 7-8, Timonium, MD <https://www.gsmts.com/index.htm>

Garden State Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet November 3, 2018 at Union County Vo-Tech, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ. <http://gsrpm.org/>

NMRA 2019 National Convention to be held in Salt Lake City



Clinicians Wanted

For GSD Events and the NER Convention

We seek members who would like to give a clinic at our Division events and the upcoming NER Convention. If you can present a clinic, **ANY topic, prototype, modeling or general interest**, you will be helping your fellow model railroaders enjoy their hobby and have fun while doing it! A video projector and screen will be available to assist your presentation. Fancy graphics are not required, just be prepared to demonstrate and explain the topic. We'll even help you set up your presentation to get you started. Did you know Clinics count towards Author and Volunteer AP credit?

If you would like assist, please contact Jim Fawcett at jim.fawcett@comcast.net.

Ever Been to a Convention?

Ever been to a National Convention? They run a full week and have bus tours and tons of clinics and displays for you to see. They are indeed fun for any model railroader because in the end you always meet someone and make a new friend. It is one of the best things about being a member of the NMRA.

The regions have conventions too. Smaller, more compact but still fun. Yes, there are tours, clinics, model railroads to visit, Operating sessions if that is your thing, but shorter, kind of a mini National Convention so to speak.

Never been to any of these? Then my friend you have no idea what you are missing. You may come to meets, you may even have visited another layout, but nothing like this. To really enjoy your membership and this hobby you really need to come and check one out. And we, your local division can help!

How? Well this September there will be a Regional convention right here in your own back yard. Not upstate New York, not Rhode Island, not even Canada but right here in New Jersey and we haven't had one here for the last 12 years. And the one before that was in 1987! There is no telling when it will come back. Do you want to wait another 12 years? Or worse, 19 years?

Come on and sign up for the Erie Limited this coming September in Mahwah, NJ, right on Route 17! How can you beat that? Any closer and it would be almost in your living room.

And yes, we have it all planned and laid out for you. From the moment you check in, until you leave to go home, we have something for everyone.

Don't miss this as no one has even an idea of when it will return to New Jersey.

Join the fun, meet new friend, attend some clinics and have a wonderful time.

See you there,

Tom Wortmann
2018 NER Convention Chairman

Registration is now open – you won't be disappointed. **WP**



NEXT DIVISION EVENT

TIME:

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

VISIT AND RIDE THE BLACK
RIVER AND WESTERN IN THE
AFTERNOON

DATE:

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

LOCATION:

LONE EAGLE BREWING COMPANY
44 STANGL ROAD
FLEMINGTON NJ 08822
EVENT FEE: \$5

WEBSITE FOR MEETS:

SEE PAGE 3 AND

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

AGENDA:

REFRESHMENTS
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLES
TWO CLINICS
BRING AND BRAG
MODEL JUDGING
BR&W RR

(The Cab Continued from Page 2)

Another individual that is working towards his Master Model Railroader certificate is Steve Ascolese. He is just beginning his journey towards MMR, but he has already made an impression with his modeling skills and attitude. Steve is an N scale modeler and won the Sunrise Trail Division New Modeler Award in 2015 at the joint MER/NER convention in Mount Laurel, NJ and the Paul Mallory Award in 2016. After working with Steve in evaluating his models and seeing his skill level, I asked Steve to replace Bruce as Achievement Program Chairman for our division. With Steve, I believe the program will continue to grow in activity. So, please welcome Steve in his new role and let him know you have models that need evaluating!

Jim Rizzolo is a new director on the GSD board. And, if you ever come to our division events, you will usually find Jim at the door welcoming and registering members. Jim is also the NER's Membership Chairman and is often found at train shows when the NMRA has a booth at the show. Recently, Jim helped sign over 70 new members at the World's Greatest Hobby show in Edison, NJ. So, when you come to our next meet, say hello to Jim and welcome him to our board!

When is the next GSD meet? It is June 23 at the Lone Eagle Brewery in Flemington, NJ starting at 9 AM. The morning will feature two clinics. But, the afternoon will offer something different. The Black River & Western Railroad will be running steam for their passenger excursions on this day. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/BRW-GSD> to buy a ticket for the 1:00 PM or 2:30 PM train ride at the Flemington Station. You may want to take your time and try the beers offered by the brewery and have a leisurely lunch at a nearby restaurant before embarking on the 2:30 train. Or, you might want to get on the first train that you can at 1:00 PM. Either way, the train station is only a short walk across the parking lot from the brewery.

We are also in the final months of planning and preparing for the Erie Limited NER convention in Mahwah, NJ. I am very excited about the tours, the large number of clinics, the layouts and the banquet. We didn't overlook your Non-Rail companions, either. We compiled a booklet of over 50 activities for them to visit in the area while you focus on everything rail related. Here is your chance to attend a convention without traveling too far. Visit the convention website at erielimited.org for more information. The convention will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on September 13-16. WP



NMRA Membership and Insurance Policy

If you are reading this you are probably an NMRA member, which also makes you a member of your Region and a member of your Division. If you are not a member, we hope you consider joining!

Members are reminded that guests attending an event can join the NMRA as a new member through the Railpass program for 9 months at reduced membership rate, and the GSD will pay half of it. For guests that choose not to join, there is a limit of three meets they are allowed to attend. Why? If we could all get the benefits of clinics, layout visits, and the social aspects of being a member without joining, then why would anyone join? Also, we all pay for insurance through our dues, and insurance is intended for members and those who open their homes for layout tours. National has stated that three free meets is a reasonable number for a potential member to decide on joining. The \$5 that the GSD charges at a meet is for a different purpose, which is to provide funds for the refreshments, supplies, meeting venue fees, and miscellaneous items like lawn signs to mark home layouts.

AT THE THROTTLE

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AP Chairman
Steve Ascolese
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SPRING EVENT GSD/NJD COMBINED EVENT

By Jim Walsh

A new tradition for the past few years has been the Spring joint event with the New Jersey Division. This time we traveled to Wall, NJ, for the 6th annual meeting, as the NJD was hosting. Like every other time the two groups get together, we had a great day of model railroading. Following some announcements, the GSD had our annual business meeting. Besides the usual reports, we elected the officers for the next year and the directors for the next two years. The GSD welcomed a new president, Chuck Diljak, and he provided information on upcoming events including a presentation to promote our 2018 NER convention in September. Two very informative clinics began with Thom Radice describing the research and planning that went into his model railroad. His description and pictures gave the attendees a good incentive to go to his open house that afternoon. In the other clinic, Chuck Diljak introduced the various structures that make up a coal mining operation. There were also several buildings on display as part of the NJD model contest for kitbashed industrial buildings. In the afternoon, there were several layouts to choose from including the Garden State Central located on the grounds of the meeting location. As usual, we all had a great time. *WP*



Above: Chuck Diljak during his presentation on anthracite mining facilities.

Left: President Bruce De Young presides over his last GSD business meeting. (Both photos by Jim Walsh)

Tools and Tips: Need Another Hand or Two? Use a Fixture

By Jim Walsh

In the prototype world, part of going from the design of an item to production of it is the design of fixtures for fabrication or assembly. Fixtures are important in performing repeated tasks with the same results. The extra time required to make and use the fixture will save the time needed to build a replacement for a poorly built item. Most model railroaders are familiar with the Fast Tracks fixtures used to build turnouts. From reading instructions or watching videos, the utility of those fixture becomes obvious. However, for other tasks the need for a fixture may not be as clear.

You could probably make a fixture for any task but sometimes you need one to do quality work. Let's say that you need to glue two parts together. You pick up one part in one hand, the other part in the other hand and fit them together and now you need to add the glue. If you are lucky enough to enlist another person, he or she can apply the glue. However, if you are alone, you may try balancing the parts in one hand and use the other hand to apply the glue. Hopefully, you don't drop the parts and pick up dust on the glue joint. If you have been through this before, you may get an good idea right around the time when you were wishing for a third hand. That idea would be using a clamp or vice to hold one part and then your two hands would work well for gluing the parts together. That device holding the first part is a simple fixture. If the glue takes much time to cure, you might make a fixture to hold both parts together while the glue cures.

I have two examples of fixtures that I used for making models. The first fixture demonstrates that you don't need a custom manufactured fixture but you can use anything that will get the job done. I was using my airbrush to paint some of the external frame parts of a gas storage tank and I needed to support them while they were being painted. I secured the frame parts to the outside of a round oatmeal box that was mounted to a turntable. Not only were they supported but I could easily move from one part to the next one.

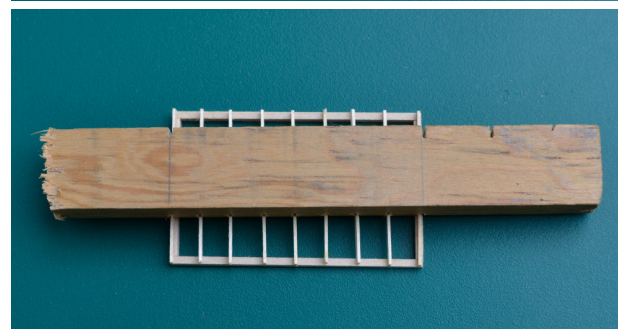
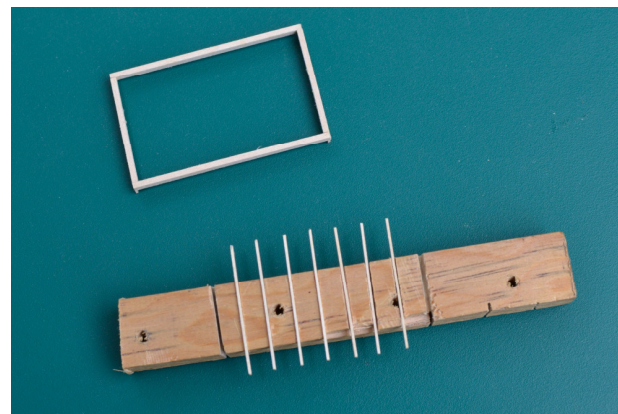


Above: A round cardboard box serves as a holding fixture for painting several parts.

Right: Saw kerfs in a piece of wood were spaced to hold wood strips in place for gluing.

The second example was used in the fabrication of a scratch built handcar shed. Early in the project, I assembled the timber foundation and glued on the two end floor joists but I needed to apply the remaining floor joists. They had to be evenly spaced and standing upright. For this, I made the fixture shown in the pictures below. I had the correct distance between the end floor joists to fit the number of joists in the plan. On a scrap piece of wood, I drew lines for the correct locations for the end joists as well as the others. I also identified a saw with a kerf that could loosely fit the floor joist pieces. I first used a hobby knife and razor saw to cut the wood at the line locations. Then I used a scribe with a tapered point to deepen and widen the groove. When the top of the groove was wide enough, I used the saw with the right size kerf to make the grooves to support the joists. The fixture holds the joists in place while the glue sets.

You may not need these same fixtures for your project but consider the use of fixtures as you are planning the steps in building your model. It may make the assembly easier and the results better. **WP**



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
The Club is looking for a new
building to start a new layout
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 Steve Ascolese - Achievement Program Chair

I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I live on Staten Island with my wife Sue, and our Yorkie, Franklin. I have been an N Scale modeler in various states of activity/inactivity for the past 40 years. Being recently retired, I have become more involved in the NMRA, especially at the division level. This involvement prompted the powers that be to give me the opportunity to take the GSD AP Chair. There is a bit of irony in this since I have yet to receive my first AP certificate. However, I have received five merit awards for my structures with two of them being scratch built, so I am no stranger to the judging process. One of the scratch built structures is a small retail oil dealer, the other, a retail coal dealer, typical of the 1950's era which is the era I am modeling. I am not fixated on fossil fuels, they are just cool looking prototypes. In addition to being retired I finally got the small 8x9 bedroom to build my railroad. The locale for the railroad will be vaguely western Pennsylvania so you will see some Pennsy, but since it's a freelance road, there will be some hijinks going on as well. However, I promise you most of the layout will be "plausible" (plausible is the new standard rivet counters have applied to freelance models).

This brings me back to the AP certificates where the work you present must be a little beyond "plausible". For instance, if you are using scribed sheeting to represent the floor of a loading dock, scribe joints to show that it made up of individual 12 or 16 foot planks and not implausible 60 foot 2x6's. If you are building a bridge, don't build a scale 1/4 mile bridge with no supports. We can get away with a lot on our models, but the laws of physics are harsh on the prototype, and judging is done with that in mind. If you are going for your scenery certificate you wouldn't have a palm tree next to a ponderosa pine, but be careful not to inadvertently create a scene that looks OK, but in reality, would be implausible. The judges are very knowledgeable in the categories for which they are qualified. For electrical and civil certificates, there is another aspect to modeling in that we are making the leap from representational models to devices that must actually work. Test, test and retest.

This all sounds like a lot of work, but we have a stable of fine judges in the GSD and we are all rooting for you. This is not a pass/fail exercise and there is leeway in certain aspects of the judging. Check out the NMRA AP page at <https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program>. Look at the categories and get inspired. You will become a better modeler and the division will continue to grow. Any questions or to submit paperwork, email me at ap@nergds.com. WP

The GSD Welcomes New Members

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

Rob Blank Gary Colarossi Peter Danzo John Greco
Petr Kloucek Robert Mack Kevin Murphy Stephen Pelissier
Ron Ricci Peter Schaeffer Joseph Soriano
John Stubing Hank Treger John Wetzel
Wayne Wishbow Robert Wolfskahl Peter Stoebling

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 Layout Open Houses

Photos By Scott Dunlap



Clockwise from above are the layouts of Jack Menaker, Thom Radice (2), George Speidel, and Bob Hans



New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Car

The New Jersey Division is offering a custom run gondola in celebration of their 50th Anniversary. The car is a Tangent Scale Models Bethlehem 70 Ton Riveted Drop-End Gondola in HO Scale. All cars will be ready to run.

They are being produced in two numbers, 1968 & 2018. The car will be black with white NJDX reporting marks and lettering with data for the 1950s, including the return stencil. When Empty Return To Roebling Steel, Roebling, NJ. The cost is \$35.00 each, with a set of both numbers for \$65.00.

Reservations are being accepted now. All reservations must be accompanied by a check made payable to NJ Division.

The expected delivery date is late 2018.

Return this form to: NJ Division

P O Box 8694

Trenton, NJ 08650

Name _____

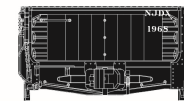
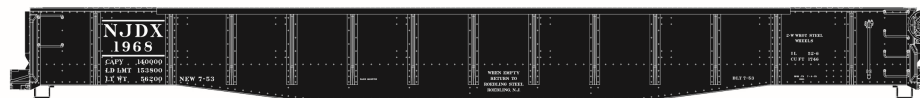
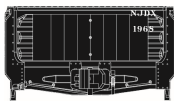
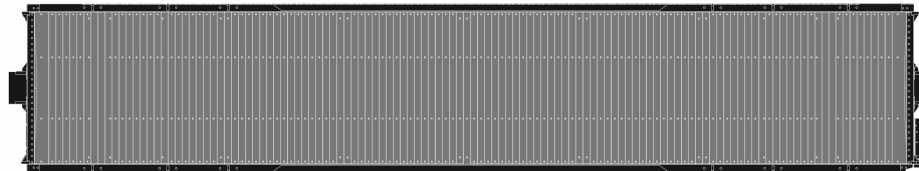
Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

See the Tangent website for information on the prototype for this car. www.tangentscalemodels.com



TANGENT
SCALE MODELS

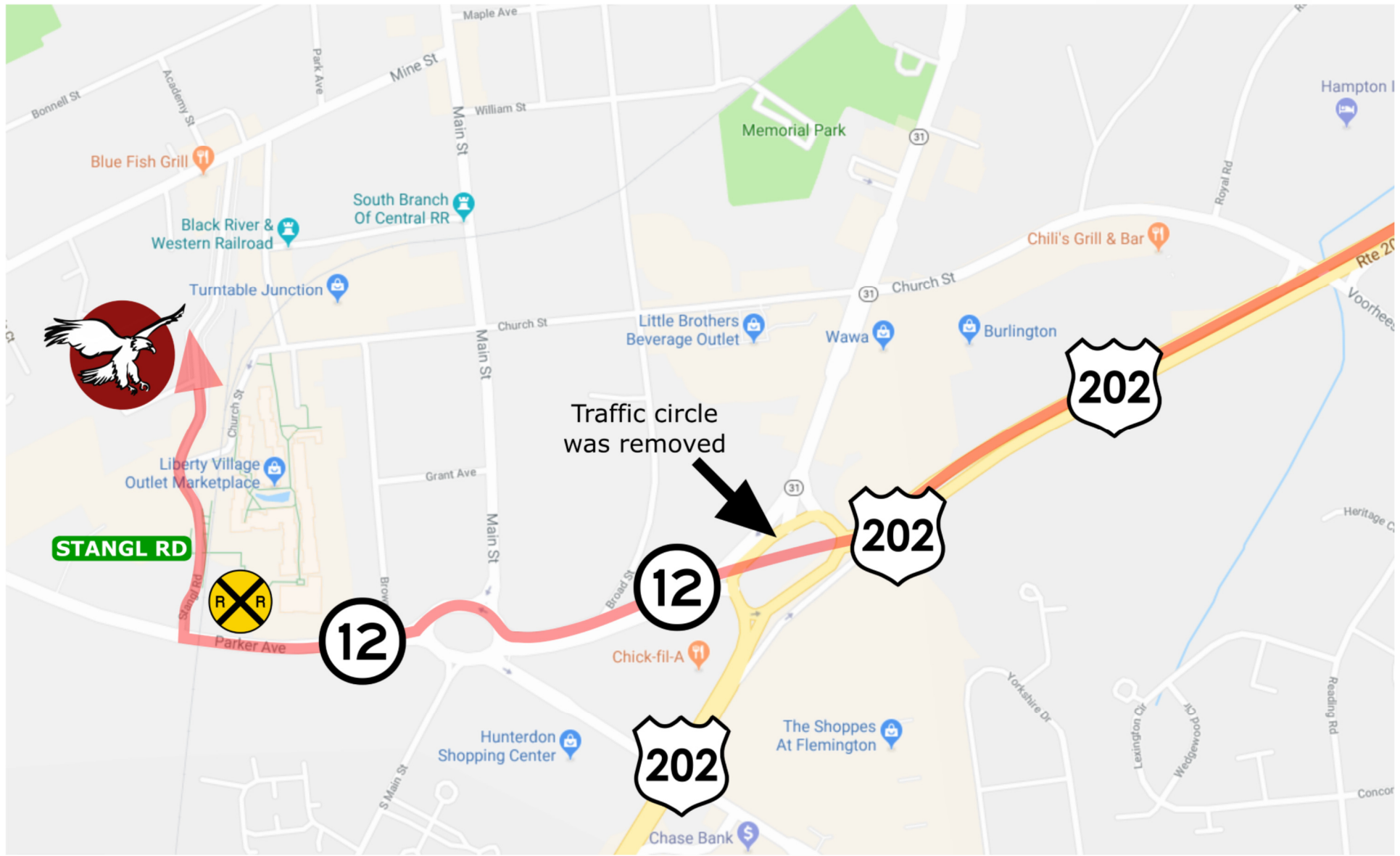


From Route 202/31 Flemington Circle:

- Exit to Rout 12 West
- About 1/4 Mile turn right onto Stangl Road (just after RR tracks)
- 44 Stangle Road is about 1/4 mile on left

MAP FOR THE SUMMER EVENT

LONE EAGLE BREWING COMPANY
44 STANGL ROAD
FLEMINGTON, NJ 08822



ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

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Jim Walsh

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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Right: You can't start them off too early! Tom Wortmann's granddaughter, 4 year old Juliette, is shown with her trains. She also likes to run the Lionel trains under the Christmas tree.



Garden State RPM Meet Union County Vo-Tech Scotch Plains, NJ

November 3rd, Clinics
November 4th, Layout Tours

<http://gsrpm.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

The Model Railroad Shop

290 Vail Avenue, Piscataway NJ 08854
Phone: 732-968-5696
Fax: 732-968-3314

Continuously operated since 1933

Daily 10AM - 6PM
Wed and Fri 10AM - 9PM
Sun Closed

www.themodelrailroadshop.com

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

The GSD now has a Twitter account and a Facebook page

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