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www.nergsd.com

The WHISTLE POST

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

Winter Meet Scheduled for February 7th on Staten Island

(Snow Date February 28)

The GSD returns to Staten Island on February 7th for our Winter Meet. After a years' absence we return to the Marine Corps League Clubhouse at 46 Ontario Boulevard, with a 9:00 AM start. Directions and a map can be found on Page 8. Our morning program will include two clinics and members' Bring-n-Brag with white elephant tables available. Maps for self guided tours to three layouts in the afternoon will be available.

The first of two clinics will be **Modeling the B&O Old Main Line** by Jim Fawcett, who has had his layout open for Scotch Plains area meets. Jim will present a lively clinic on the research, design and construction of his HO scale B&O Old Main Line across the Maryland countryside circa 1960. Jim's presentation will trace the history of the first railroad built in America to its demise with prototype photos and humorous anecdotes. He will also depict his design to recreate a 20

mile stretch of the Old Main just west of Baltimore and how it could best be accommodated into his basement space. Finally, photos and diagrams of some very creative construction methods and materials will be documented from lighting to benchwork to backdrops. Along the way, Jim will recount how two major mid-stream decisions to build a better layout resulted in major construction detours and taught him to alter his mantra from "Get it right the first time" to "Just get it right before it's too late."

Joe D'Agostino will present the second clinic on weathering

(continued on Page 8)

Upcoming Events

See Page 9 for Information and dates on upcoming meets and conventions. 2015 promises to be another busy year!

Fall Meet Wrap-up

The Fall Meet was held October 11th at a new location, the Ted Blum 4-H Center in Bridgewater, NJ. The venue worked out very well with plenty of parking and a large hall that allowed tables to be comfortably arranged to the outside of the chairs that were set up. Kevin Olsen enlightened many of us with a well researched clinic on the prototype entitled *The Railroads of Jamaica Bay*. Bruce DeYoung then presented a

clinic on weathering using a variety of materials.

After the meet three layouts were open: the Pacific Southern club in Rocky Hill, the Bound Brook Presbyterian Railroad club in Bound Brook, and Jim Homoki's Newark Terminal Division. We thank the presenters and layout owners for their effort and hospitality in making this meet a success. **WP**



A Busy New Year

Happy New Year to fellow members and model railroaders!

Hopefully you were able to join one of the many NMRA events in our area this past Fall. If not, there will be great opportunities to join us at many planned GSD sponsored events throughout the year. First up is our Winter Meet on Saturday, February 7th at the Marine Corps League on Staten Island. This will be our third time at this venue with clinics in the morning and a home layout tour in the afternoon. Please visit our website for more information and latest the updates.

In May, we are planning a third dual Spring Meet with our sister New Jersey Division. This year it will be our turn to take the lead and host a venue in the southernmost portion of our territory, which in this case will be Hillsborough Township. The date has been confirmed as Saturday, May 9. Watch for future details on our website and in the next Whistle Post. The Summer Meet is still being researched but will likely be held in the northwestern part of our Division. As you can see, your BOD is hard at work to delivery quality meets all around our Division. We may approach you if you have a home layout or expressed an interest in presenting a clinic. On that note, our BOD member Jim Walsh presents the findings of our first membership survey in this issue. We will study this very carefully and implement improvements. Your opinion helps us to ensure we are going in the right direction and engaging our members as best as possible.

Lastly, we will follow our updated Division election process that moves the elections to the annual business meeting that will now be held at the Spring Meet. If you have an interest in joining the BOD but are not sure what's involved, reach out to any one of us. We will give you more insight on our culture and process. It's both very engaging and rewarding on many levels.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Meet. **WP**



Staying on Track

Happy New Year and welcome to my first issue as Editor of the Whistle Post. First, a big thanks is deserved by Joe Calderone, for his efforts in editing the Whistle Post for the past two years. Joe stepped up to fill an urgent need at the time, with no prior newsletter experience. Hmm....this is sounding a lot what I'm doing! In any case, this is a volunteer organization, and things only happen if someone volunteers. I figured I'd give this a try and find out firsthand what it takes to put together a newsletter.

I don't like to mess with what is not broken, so don't expect any big changes in the format of the Whistle Post. What I would like to see is to make it even better with more contributions from the membership. There is no large backlog of material, so there is a good chance your submittal can be printed within an issue or two. Short articles will obviously fit within one issue. Long articles, with many photos or graphics, can begin here with a link to the entire article on the GSD website. Many subjects will work—send me an email!

Another source for articles that has been untapped is from clubs within our Division. Maybe your club is undertaking the rebuilding of an area, or expanding with signals, or trying out a new operating system. The same applies to round robin groups. There surely must be something new to share. We'd like to hear about it! Photos are especially welcome.

That is how I intend to stay on track—and hopefully pick up some speed along the way. **WP**

The GSD Welcomes New Members

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

David Start	Timothy Moses
Ronald Klaiss	Paul Sommers
Timothy McKenna	Peter Cantalupo
Stephen Ehmann	Philip Noberini
Stuart Freedman	Ronald Macari
Judy Koester (full membership)	Raphael Hamil
Robert Czech	

AT THE THROTTLE

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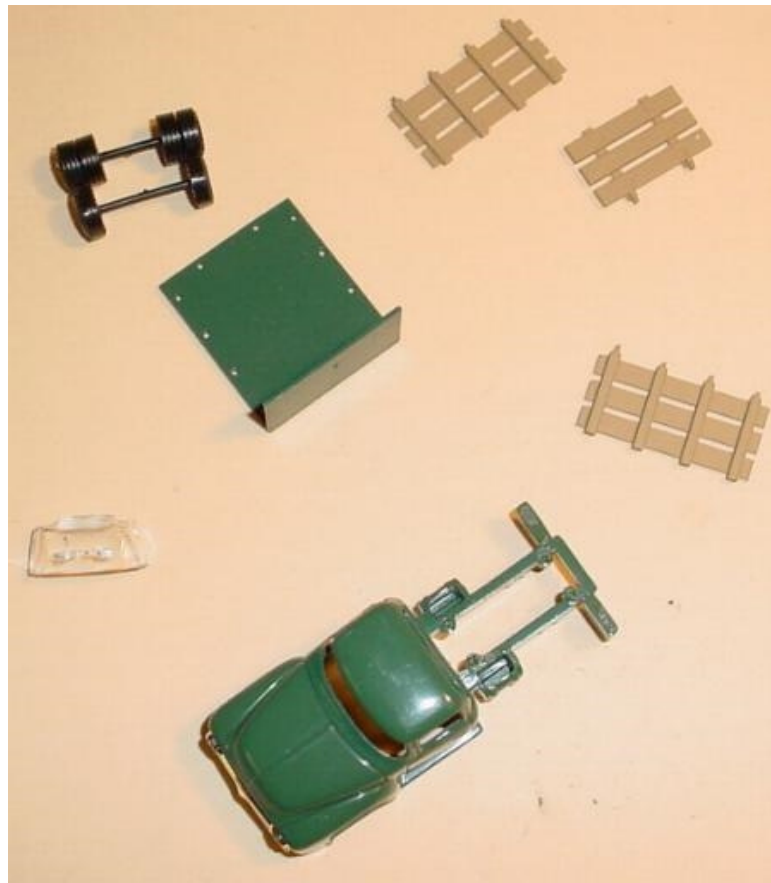
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Director and Clinic Chair
Jim Fawcett
jimfawcett@comcast.net

Upgrading Plastic Vehicles *A Modeling Tips Feature by Bruce De Young*

I find that the inexpensive plastic HO vehicles offered by Life-Like Products under their Scene Master line can easily be transformed into nice looking models on your layout or modules. Key to this is getting rid of the plastic shine, painting them a more realistic color, adding a driver and/or passenger, and doing some subtle weathering.

An example, below, is this disassembled Stake Body Truck that Life-Like offers.



The nice thing about these models is that I have found them to be easy to disassemble into their component parts. Usually a #17 small chisel blade in your X-Acto knife is all you need.

As you can see, I even popped the windshield out. While not necessary, with that out I could then easily spray the entire model with DullCote without fogging the windshield or having to mask it first.

In my case I decided to replace the stake body with a wood flat bed made out of stained scale 2" x 6" stripwood. First I painted the under frame, gas tanks, and mud flaps a tarnished black color. Next I sprayed the cab and frame with DullCote to get rid of that plastic shine. Making the wood deck was easy. I cut 13 pieces of scale 2" x 6" stripwood to a scale 8.5' length. The stripwood had been previously stained with an Alcohol and India Ink wash.

Gluing these boards together is easily done by drawing a base line on a piece of paper and then putting a piece of Scotch double sided tape perpendicular to that line. Take one piece of the wood, and line it up with that base line and push it down on the tape. Now add a little white glue to the edge of the next piece of stripwood and lay it down next to that first piece on the tape. Continue doing that until you have all 13 pieces glued together. Before trying to lift this assembly off the tape, I painted a piece of Evergreen Scale Models strip styrene channel stock (.060") a tarnished black. Cutting a piece long enough to span the width of the wood deck, glue it to one edge of the deck (the edge that will be next to the cab.) You will glue two more lengths of channel stock to the wood deck – one that lines up with the end of the underframe just over the mud flaps, and the last one half-way between the other two pieces of channel stock. Once dry, you can now lift the assembly off the tape by carefully sliding a single

edge razor blade between the wood and the tape. Finally, I used some .060" styrene angle stock (previously painted) to edge the entire wood deck. You will have to use a fine brush to touch up the ends of the angle stock and channel stock if any white plastic is showing. In about the time it took to write this I had a nice flat bed ready to install. To install it, simply glue the three pieces of channel stock to the frame of the truck. The result looks like this **below**:



This particular truck did not have a seat in it, so I glued a piece of styrene (painted black) that spanned from one door of the cab to the other, and glued a sitting figure to that piece of styrene.

I gave the front grill a thin wash of rust colored paint and then re-assembled the truck. The finishing touches were some powdered chalks to make the truck look a bit more 'used', as shown **below**:



Another offering from Life-Like is a 'scissors' coal truck. The dump body is a bright red that screams 'plastic' and the scissors mechanism to dump the coal is not prototypical. So, I removed the scissors mechanism and glued two pieces of .100" styrene channel stock length-wise on top of the truck's under frame. I then painted the dump body a more realistic blue/grey and added a coal load.



The completed "scissors" coal truck is shown above.

This truck did have a front seat and steering wheel, so I added a driver after lifting the body off the underframe. That did require 'shortening' the driver's legs a bit. Okay, I removed his legs just below his waist. Application of a little flat finish and some dusting powders yielded a much more realistic vehicle.

So the next time you see some of these Scene Master vehicles at your hobby shop or at a train show don't pass them up. They are reasonably priced and with just a little work, they make up into very nice models. **WP**

2014 GSD Survey Results

Compiled by Jim Walsh

Last March, the Garden State Division distributed a survey to the membership by email and noted that it is a way for us to communicate and collaborate on the future direction of the Division. You can always send email to the GSD officers and directors with suggestions but the survey was focused on certain points in order to discover the interests and opinions of the members of the Division. In July, a follow up email distribution resulted in additional responses. Thank you to those that responded and we look forward to more participation in future surveys.

From the survey, there is a general satisfaction with the management of the Division. There was very positive feedback for the GSD serving the interests of the members as well as for the meets being well organized, interesting, and in satisfactory locations. The responses also favored the meet format including the frequency of the meets, number of clinics, average clinic duration and the time used for announcements and GSD business. In addition, there was interest in prototype tours even if they required some travel.

A large section of the survey was dedicated to feedback on topics for upcoming clinics. The table to the right contains a listing of the topics sorted according to interest as measured in the survey. The list shows the average interest rating of each topic based upon a maximum value of 4.

The results showed strong interest in the classic model railroading topics of scenery, structures, locomotives and rolling stock. The survey also reported on the interest of potential clinicians with at least one member expressing an interest for each of the clinic topics. In the future, those volunteers may be contacted to discuss their interest and availability to present a clinic at an upcoming GSD meet.

We will continue using surveys as a communication strategy and always depend upon your participation to make your Division be what you want it to be. Thanks again for your support. **WP**

Clinics Wanted!

The summary to the right provides a good idea of what our members are interested in. If you have an idea for a clinic, contact clinic chairman Jim Fawcett. A video projector and screen will be available for your use. We'll also help you set up the presentation. Remember, clinics count towards Author and Volunteer AP credit!

CLINIC TOPIC	RATING
Scenery Techniques	3.6
Structure Building	3.6
Maintaining Engines and Rolling Stock	3.4
DCC Advanced	3.4
Painting and Lettering	3.4
Applying Electronics to Model Railroading	3.3
Photography in Model Railroading	3.3
Track Laying and Turnout Construction	3.3
Prototype Modeling	3.3
Layout Design	3.2
Installing Decoders	3.1
NMRA Achievement Program	3.1
DCC Basics	3.0
Applying Computers to Model Railroading	3.0
Layout Operations and Dispatching	2.9
Model Building to Win Contests	2.8
Benchwork Construction	2.8
Layout Room Construction and Lighting	2.5
Narrow Gauge Modeling	2.4
Traction/Trolley Modeling	2.3
Garden Railroading	1.7

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

www.tmrcki.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

SEND CLUB INFORMATION TO
MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:
TOM CASEY
members@nergds.com

AP Corner

By Bruce De Young, Achievement Program Chair

This past fall, a number of GSD members who had been active in the NMRA's Achievement Program throughout the year received their Merit Awards and/or AP Certificates at either the NER Convention in Palmer, Massachusetts or at our Fall Meet at the 4H Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

At the NER Convention in September, Dr. Mark Moritz received his Electrical Engineering AP Certificate, Tom Wortmann was awarded his Scenery Certificate, and I picked up both the Cars and Electrical Certificates.



Dr. Mark Moritz, left, receives his Electrical Certificate from Bill Brown, NER AP Chairman at the NER Convention in Palmer, Mass. (photo by Jim Walsh)

Those members who could not attend the Fall Convention received their certificates at our Fall Meet in Bridgewater. Those included Frank Russo who has earned the Electrical Engineering AP Certificate, Ciro Compagno for his Civil Engineering Certificate, and Joe D'Agostino for his Scenery Certificate.



Joe D'Agostino, left, receives his AP Scenery Certificate from Bruce De Young, GSD AP Chairperson. (photo by Jim Walsh)

Finally, I want to announce that the winner of the 2014 Mallery Award is Howard Lash. To be eligible for consideration for this award, a members has to enter his/her model(s) in the Model Contest at the National Convention or at a Regional Convention within the dates specified in the rules. Those rules can be found at this link:

http://www.nergds.com/docs/Paul_Mallery.pdf

I am happy to report that three members of the GSD were eligible for consideration this year. The top point earner was Howard, who entered his models at the NER Convention in September. The model that earned Howard the award was a scratch built O-Scale Motorcar (shown on the next page).

NEXT DIVISION MEETING

TIME:

MEET.....9 AM TO 12:00 NOON

LAYOUT TOURS 1-4 PM

DATE:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

LOCATION:

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
CLUBHOUSE
46 ONTARIO BLVD.,
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

WEB SITE FOR MEET:

[HTTP://WWW.NERGSD.COM/](http://www.nergsd.com/)

[UPCOMING.HTML](#)

DIRECTIONS:

FOR A GOOGLE MAP, CLICK ON
THE [GOOGLE LOGO](#), BELOW:



AGENDA:

TWO CLINICS
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLES
BRING-N-BRAG
LAYOUT TOURS

ACTIVITY DONATION:

\$5



Howard Lash's scratch build O-Scale Motorcar, entered in the Model Contest at the NER Convention, earned him a Merit Award, the Paul Mallery Award, and the Sunrise Trail Division's New Modeler's Award!

I want to thank and congratulate all those GSD members who participated in the AP Program during 2014 and also thank those AP Judges who volunteered their time to evaluate AP entries throughout the year.

2015 is off to a great start, with one GSD member earning two AP Certificates already, and being well on his way to earn his third - more about that in my next column. In the meantime, if you are interested in the AP Program, send me an e-mail at bdeyoung@optonline.net. **WP**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the revised Bylaws, the terms of office and Annual Business Meeting have been moved to the Spring Meet. All Officer positions are up for election, and three of the Director positions. Officer positions are one year terms, while Director are two year terms. To run for an Officer position, the member must be in good standing and have served two years (one term) as a Director. Any member in good standing may run for a Director position. Current Directors Anthony Piccirillo and Jim Homoki intend to run again, but Joe Calderone will not, so the GSD has a Director position open.

Interested members should send their name, address, and phone number to Tom Casey as shown as the contacts page. The deadline for this election cycle is April 1. **WP**

DID YOU KNOW?

That a selection of past articles from the Whistle Post are now being posted on the GSD website?

That back issues of the Whistle Post all the way to 1974 have been scanned and can be found on the GSD website?

That our own GSD Vice President, Bruce De Young, is the Manager of the NMRA Education Department?

All of this information and more can be found on the GSD or National web pages. **WP**

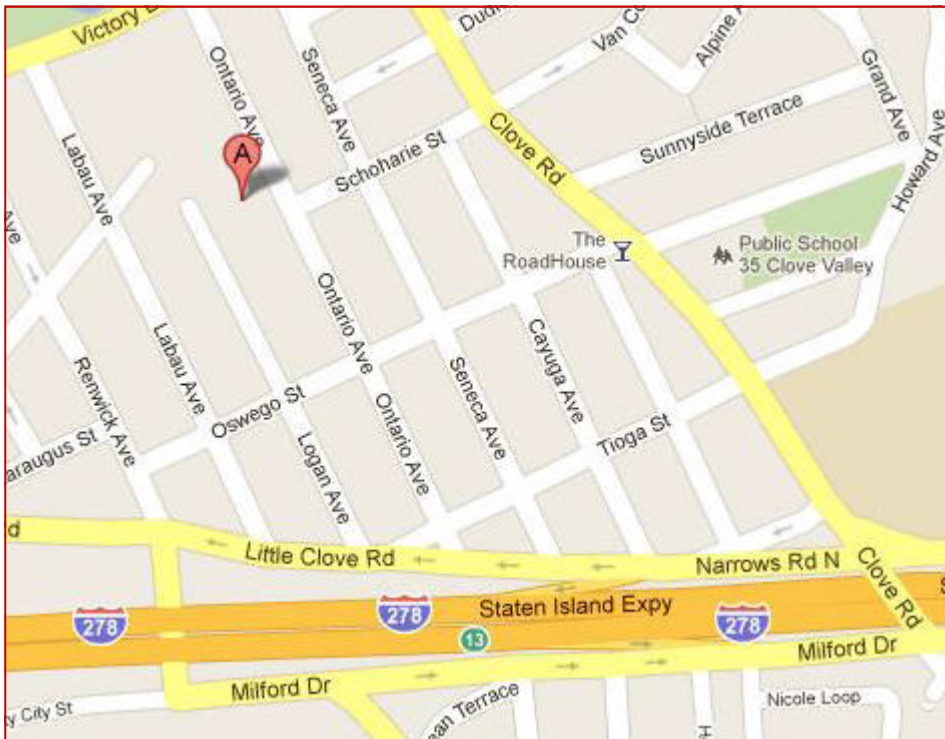
(*"Winter Meet..." continued from Page 1*)

industrial structures. His presentation on "**Industrial Weathering**" will demonstrate how to mass weather industrial buildings using a mix of common latex paint diluted with 91% rubbing alcohol, a hair dryer, and more diluted paints. His methods are quick and easy allowing for an entire complex to be weathered within a day.

For the afternoon layout open house tours, Joe is doing double duty as his **Pennsylvania and Erie** layout will be open. It is HO scale and approximately 25 x 38 feet in size with most of the scenery complete. New for this visit are a maintenance area complete with car shops, roundhouse, water towers, sand house, machine shop, and a large REA building all weathered with the methods he will show us in his clinic.

Directions to the Winter Meet

- **Staten Island Expressway to the Clove Road Exit.**
- **Turn Left onto Clove Road.**
- **Turn Left onto Oswego Street.**
- **Turn Right onto Ontario Avenue. The Clubhouse is on the Left.**



The freelanced HO scale **New York Central Sanilac Division** by Bob Dennis has been completely reconstructed in his 11 x 19 foot garage. It is a shelf style layout with a center island featuring a 5 track classification yard, a 6 track passenger terminal, a section of hand laid gauntlet track, and a harbor scene with a float bridge. The layout is 90% operational with 30% of the scenery complete. Bob calls it a work in progress, but like any layout there are unique features to see.

Ciro Compagno will open his **Richmond Harbor** proto-freelanced, HO scale layout representing the Staten Island Rapid Transit in the Fall of 1952. In an area of 12 x 18 feet he is modeling the 6.1 mile North Shore Branch from Port Ivory to St. George. There is also a planned lower level for rail-marine operations at the West 26th St. B&O facility in Manhattan. The layout is under construction and features spline roadbed, hand laid trackwork including third rail, and custom built turnouts along a double track mainline. NCE DCC is utilized for control.

All three layouts are located on Staten Island and maps will be available at the meet. See the next page for additional photos. **WP**

Bob Dennis' new layout will be one of three open to visitors during the afternoon of the meet. His main freight yard is shown below.
(photo by Bob Dennis)



The Timetable *Upcoming Events*

GSD Winter Meet Saturday, February 7, 2015 (details in this newsletter)

NJ Division, MER March Meet will return to Switlik Park in Hamilton Twp., NJ on Saturday, March 14. The usual program of presentations in the morning with layout ours in the afternoon will be followed. Details will be posted at www.njdivnmra.org when available.

Worlds Greatest Hobby Show March 28 and 29, 2015. See page 10 for more details.

The New York Society of Model Engineers

The Oldest Model Railroad Club in America 89th Annual Model Train Show, 31 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ 07072, 1/2 mile from MetLife Stadium. Four weekends in March: Saturdays and Sundays March 7th, 8th, 24th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th. Hours: Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1 pm to 6 pm. See www.ModelEngineers.org for details and directions.

GSD Spring Meet Saturday, May 9, 2015. Joint meet with the NJ Division to be held at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Building. Hillsborough is in Somerset County and is located 10 minutes south of Somerville and the Routes 202/206 circle. In addition to clinics and home layouts the afternoon, the GSD will hold a brief Annual Business Meeting and introduce the Officers and Directors for the next year.

GSD Summer Meet Details are being developed for a meet in the Northwestern area of our Division.

NMRA National Convention Portland, Oregon, August 23-29, 2015. www.nmra2015portland.org

GSD Fall Meet No meet to be held. The GSD will support the NJ Division with their MER Fall Convention in October and the Garden State RPM meet in November.

NJ Division, MER—MidEastern Region Fall Convention —The NJ Division is hosting the 2015 Fall Convention, the Delaware Valley Turn, for the MER. It will be held in Mt. Laurel, NJ at the Hotel ML on Route 73 between I-295 and the NJ Turnpike from October 22-25. There will be all the features you expect at a regional convention including clinics, prototype layout tours, model railroad tours, contests, the Operations Callboard, and more. The convention website is www.delawarevalleyturn.org.

Garden State RPM Meet November 14-15 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.



Many brass steam locomotives and rolling stock of the PRR are featured on Joe D'Agostino's Pennsylvania and Erie. A lot of coal has been loaded in the scene above. (photo by Jim Fawcett)



A SIRT multiple unit car is under construction on Ciro Compagno's Richmond Harbor. Note the extended ties for the future third rail. (photo by Ciro Compagno)

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The Meeting Minutes and Infonet have now been moved to the GSD website. Clickable links provided below. Also links have been inserted for the hobby dealers on the right panel. Please click on any of the pictures to link to the dealers.

[GSD Board Meeting Minutes](#)



GSD at the Worlds Greatest Hobby Show

The GSD will have a table to promote the NMRA at the Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour event being held on **March 28 and 29** at the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center. The center is located at 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ, in Raritan Center off of I-287 and Route 440. If you are able to assist us for a few hours, please contact Tom Wortmann.



New Members Wanted!

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

The New York Society 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 with us. Go to:

<http://www.nmra.org/update-membership-information>

The GSD now has a **Twitter account!** Announcements and updates can be made more quickly than on our website.

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

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