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clinics will be offered.

through the steps!

clinic.

GSD INFO



www.nergsd.com Contact email addresses can be found on Page 10 and on the website.

Instructions on how to attend the event are provided on Page 4. With the technology available to us today, we can be isolated yet still participate in Division activities. WP

on to exactly what this will be, but recommends viewers become participants, with a stack of

paper, some pencils, an eraser. This is intended to be a doing clinic, not a sit back and watch

The

Garden State Division events continue even with the social restrictions we are enduring. On Saturday May 16, the joint event with the NJ Division will be held online-that is, virtually. After the formality of electing GSD Officers and Directors (because there are no challenged positions), two The GSD's Fred Dellaiacono will present "Toilet Paper Water for Rebuilding my Waterfront". With his layout complete. Fred has been steadily redoing areas. One area he looked to redo was a waterfront scene. In the past, Fred has tried various methods of simulating water on his layout. But, after seeing a video on using toilet paper to simulate water, he wanted to give it a try. It looked easy, didn't create a mess, was cheap, and very forgiving. Now, Fred will take us John Gallagher from the NJD will present a clinic entitled "Something Creative". He is not letting

HISTLE POST

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

Joint Event still to be held May 16 —Virtually!

Above: Fred Dellaiacono will be presenting one of the two online clinics offered at the May 16th joint event between the GS Division and NJ Division. The above waterfront scene is on Fred's lavout.

THE CAB by President Chuck Diljak

Shelter-in-Place? How about a Meet-in-Place?

I hope this edition of *The Whistle Post* finds everyone healthy and in good spirits.

If there is one group that can survive shelter-in-place orders, it is model railroaders. It is what we have been practicing for years, in this hobby. Many of us bask in isolation, building our dream layout or model railroad projects. However, there are aspects of the hobby that suffer, as well. We have been seeing operating sessions, club open houses, RPM meets, and conventions being cancelled.

But, what about GSD events?

The GSD board has given this a lot of thought and want to try having a virtual meet...or a "Meet-in-Place. We plan to do this for at least the next two events. The first will be held on May 16 as a joint meet with our friends to the south of us, the New Jersey Division. The details are provided on Page 4.

On August 1, we will hold the second "Meet-in-Place" instead of what we originally planned, a face-to-face meet in Morristown. Since it is uncertain where we will be in the Coronavirus battle at that time, we decided to begin planning for a virtual meet. Otherwise, it might be a mad scramble to find a venue once things open up.

The question everyone may have is what technology will we use. Not everyone uses Facebook, so we are avoiding that. Instead, we are looking to use <u>FreeConferenceCall.com</u>. It is free to use, does not have a maximum time constraint for the meeting, and allows for 1000 people to join the call. We will give everyone an opportunity to try the technology prior to the virtual meets.

What we recommend is using a computer or tablet for the event. You can use a smartphone, but you may find it difficult to read the presentation slides. And, you can also call in with a phone, but you will not be able to see the slides. Look for more information in updates via emails. If you have not been receiving our emails in the past, you can contact us at <u>guestions@nergsd.com</u>.

So, while we shelter-in-place, let us meet-in-place.

And stay safe!

HUCK

THE CABOOSE by Editor Jim Homoki

What We Are Doing Now

The current stay at home situation can either help us get more done, or slow us down. In this issue Jim Walsh has an article showing how a few members in the Division are still getting things done, mostly on projects they would otherwise not be working on right now. I'd like to feature more of that in the next issue of the Whistle Post; just a paragraph or so per person with photos being optional. Especially some of my closer friends (I don't want to have to email you about this), please drop me a note and maybe a photo to go with it.

So what am I doing? One year ago this month I had an open house the afternoon of the joint event with the NJ Division. A major expansion of the layout was underway, and it wouldn't be until early this year before the heavy work was complete. Below is photo of the completed helix, which daylights in the center so operators can see their trains halfway through and be reassured they are still moving. The general idea was not mine, but came from ideas in articles and layouts I've seen.



Although I'm far enough along to operate, that can't happen right now and probably won't until June. Very disappointing. However, I still have hundreds of hours of work to do, from locomotive programming, to weathering new equipment added to the layout, to refining the schedule and paperwork, and I'm not even getting to scenery yet. These are tasks I prefer to do myself anyway, so I'm not slowed down by the threat of this virus. I hope you're able to make progress on whatever aspect of the hobby you prefer. Let me know!

The Timetable Upcoming Events

		nt Meet with N .FreeConferen						. BE A
New Engla CANCELLED	nd/Northea	st Railroad	Proto	otype	Modelers	Meet	May	29-30
NMRA 2020 CANCELLED		Convention	St.	Louis	Gateway	2020	July	12-18
GSD Summer Event August 1, THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL MEET Details TBA								
Greenberg's Great Train Show August 8-9, New Jersey Expo Center, Edison, NJ								
NJ Division September Meet Saturday Sept. 12, Lacey United Methodist Church, 203 Lacey Road, Forked River, NJ 08731								
Northeastern Region 2020 Convention "Mill City 2020" October 9-12, Westford, MA								
MidEastern Region 2020 Convention "Carolina Special" October 15-18, Crowne Plaza Charlotte, Charlotte, NC <u>http://carolinasouthern.org/MER2020.html</u>								
GSD Fall Eve	ent TBD							
NJ Division/Philadelphia Division Joint Meet Saturday November 7, Brandywine Town Center, Wilmington, DE								
NJ Division M	leet Januar	y 9, 2021, Gra	ce Chu	irch, Me	rchantville	NJ		
	NER) CON	VE	N7	TON			

Prototype Tours

Raffle and

Non-Rail

Activities

October 9-12, 2020

MillCity2020.org

Westford, MA

Banquet

Layout Tours

Clinics Contest



Have you seen the latest issue of the NER Coupler? Downloads are free, or with a subscription you will receive print copies with expanded content. The Region website is <u>https://nernmra.org/</u>

Back issues all the way to the 1960s can be found at: https://nernmra.org/index.php/newsletter/coupler-archives



Spring 2020

New Jersey Division - Garden State Division Virtual/Online Joint Event, Saturday, May 16

(Note: the logistics for the virtual meet have been developed by the NJD as they are the hosts for this year's joint event.)

We will begin with opening comments at 9 AM, this will be followed by the GSD Business Meeting and Elections at approximately 9:15 AM, which should last about 15 minutes.

Two clinics will follow:

First will be NJD's John Gallagher with his clinic "Something Creative", John offers no further details, it is a surprise!

Second will be GSD's Fred Dellaiacono explaining "Toilet Paper Water for Rebuilding My Waterfront"

After the clinics and closing comments, we hope to have some video or photo displays available to view following the clinics. These will be on the same conference site we are using for the meet, which will stay open for the remainder of our available 6 hours that we have for free.

Important Information For Accessing The Virtual Meet We are using FreeConferenceCall.com

You can use any laptop or desktop computer, tablets or iPads, and Android or iPhone smartphones. If you don't have any of those, you can dial in on any phone to listen in. If you have a computer without a microphone, you can log in to see and hear the meet, if you need to talk to us, mute your computer speakers, then use a phone to dial in so you can talk.

Ensure your device has allowed app access to microphone and camera, also allow notifications from <u>FreeConferenceCall.com</u>. **Type in FreeConferenceCall.com**, **allow app to open**. Do not click to make your own account, you do not need to have one. You only need to click Join Meeting

Input your Name and Email Info, and the Online Meeting ID Code which is between the [brackets]. After that you will need to enter the access code, which will be provided in a separate email.

Once you have entered, you will see video squares of people in attendance and a large section where the presentation will be. At the bottom left you will see 3 icons; a microphone [used to turn your mic on or mute], a telephone handset [to connect by audio], and a camera [to connect video].

Begin by clicking the telephone handset, this will get you connected. Next click the camera, you should see yourself in a video square. If there is no presentation in progress the host will welcome you, so you know you are connected. If you become disconnected at some point, follow the above information steps to reconnect.

We ask that you do the following;

* Keep other electronics away from your computer/device,

* Press the microphone icon to mute, except if needing to talk, but, please don't try to talk in the middle of a presentation as it will interfere with the audio of the presenter,

* Don't have a bright light behind you,

* If you are wearing something we shouldn't see, please don't stand up in front of the camera,

* Check your background, move things you don't want seen and don't have anyone walking behind you,

* If talking, do not have microphone too close to your mouth, to prevent distortion of the sound.

* If you need to send information during a presentation, there is a chat section to type and send a message to the host. If absolutely necessary, the host will interrupt the presenter.

Testing Service Prior To The Meet

There will be periods of time available for you to sign in and test the FreeConferenceCall.com service. This will likely be Thursday and/or Friday night before the meet, in the area of 7 PM through 8 to 8:30 PM. More information about this will be sent in a separate email with the access code that you will need to use.

The day of the meet, NJ Division Superintendent Bill Grosse will have the meeting service open by 8:30 AM to allow time to make sure you are connecting properly, if needed.

Please bear with us if there should be any issues, this is our first virtual meet and we are still learning to live virtually! WP



GSD Winter Event: A Good Start for Modeling in 2020 By Jim Walsh

Our first GSD event for 2020 went off as scheduled without any weather issues. That was certainly a good start for a meeting that included a different type of clinic and a good start for 2020. Andy Brusgard received a long overdue AP certificate for Association Volunteer and Chuck Diljak was presented with the Golden Spike Award.

Although Chuck's layout includes elements that exceed the basic requirements for the Golden Spike, our AP Chair, Steve Ascolese, delivered a presentation that emphasized how achievable it is for most layout owners. The Golden Spike Award is a great start and a fine transition to the Achievement Program that can lead to becoming a Master Model Railroader.

The centerpiece of the morning was a make-and-take clinic that began with an introduction by the kit's designer, Ron Klaiss, with pointers for building the Skip's Bait and Tackle kit. Then nearly 25 members started building their kit with the benefit of Ron being there to answer questions and provide advice. In the next Whistle Post we would like to feature photos of some completed kits. Ron also brought other kits manufactured by his company, Mine Mount Models.

In the afternoon, we had the opportunity to visit Jay Held's EL layout and two clubs: The New York Society of Model Engineers and the Garden State Model Railway Club.wP



Above: As GSD President Chuck Diljak brings the meeting to order, the modelers are in their places and ready to start building. (Photo: Jim Walsh)



Right: Members of the Garden State Division are hard at work building the Skip's Bait & Tackle kit. Assembling and finishing craftsman structures is a rewarding experience. (Photo: Chuck Diljak)

Left: Ron Klaiss of Mine Mount Models takes time to introduce the audience to craftsman structure kits and provides some instruction for assembling the Skip's Bait and Tackle kit. Ron's website is <u>https://minemountmodels.com/</u> (Photo: Jim Walsh)



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Below: The benefit of this make-and-take clinic was having Ron available to provide tips, advice and specific instruction to aid in assembling the kit. (Photo: Chuck Diljak)

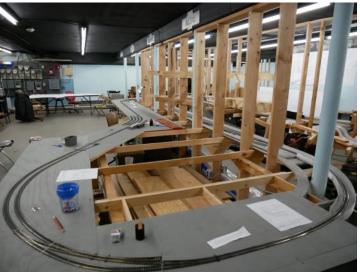




Above: The existing layout at the Garden State Model Railway Club has many completed and detailed scenes such as this Middletown station scene. (Photo: Jim Walsh) Below: We had the opportunity to see the location and plan for the new club layout of the Garden State Model Railway Club. The details of the benchwork are good to see and not often visible with a finished layout. (Photo: Chuck Diljak)



Left: The detailed track arrangement on Jay Held's layout was developed from actual drawings. Before we entered the layout room, Jay's son Nick explained the concept of the layout using those drawings. (Photo: Jim Walsh)



WHISTLE POST

AP Corner By Steve Ascolese, Achievement Program Chair

Now for some news that's a little different from what we have been concerned about for the past couple of months. On Februrary 29th the GSD had its winter member meeting in Park Ridge, NJ. The highlight of the meeting was the Make and Take covered in more detail elsewhere in this issue. However, we also had the awards presentation, which is always special, as we get to acknowledge the accomplishments of our fellow members. Pictured to the right is Chuck Diljak receiving his Golden Spike Award. Chuck has several AP awards, but decided to backtrack a bit and submit paperwork for the Golden Spike. More about that later.

Right: Chuck Diljak receiving his Golden Spike Award from Steve Ascolese





Also receiving an award was Andy Brusgard for Association Volunteer. Andy works selflessly on many projects that promote the hobby and the GSD, and had no problem qualifying for this certificate.

Not present was Tom Wortmann who achieved his Association Official AP Certificate and a merit award for Cars. When Tom completes the requirements for Cars he will have enough certificates for MMR.

Left: Andy Brusgard receiving his Association Volunteer AP Certificate

(continued on the following page)

Spring 2020

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 <u>http:/tmrci.org</u>

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 Allendale Communitty for Senior Living, 85 Harrenton Road, Allendale, NJ <u>www.ramapovalleyrailroad.com</u>

Bound Brook Presbyterian Railroad Club (BBPRR) Bound Brook Cemetery Office Building 500 Mountain Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805 <u>billandmartha3@verizon.net</u>

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 (continued from the previous page)

THE GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD

I mentioned earlier that Chuck has backtracked and concentrated on his Golden Spike. Let me explain what I mean by that. The Achievement Program is a multifaceted program to recognize modelers that have achieved (hence the name) a high degree of skill in certain model building skills. It also values time put into certain activities. Andy's Association Volunteer certificate is one of those categories. Association Official and Chief Dispatcher are two more categories that measure length of service as criteria for awards. All of these awards count towards the Master Model Railroader title.

However, to get modelers started, motivated and accustomed to the submission process, the Golden Spike Award was initiated. The Golden Spike does not count towards Master Model Railroader, but in itself is a kind of MMR primer. Consider it, if you will, MMR lite. So it's the perfect place to start.

The details of the Golden Spike Award criteria are more than this column will allow, however, they are a lot less than the AP certificate details which is the whole point. Let me give a brief summary.

Required:

- Cars Display 6 cars that have been detailed or modified in some way. Weathering, painting decaling all count. No need to be scratch built or different types, just show you can build.
 - Scenery 8 Square feet of scenery regardless of scale doesn't have to be elaborate
- Structures 5 structures no need to be scratch built, just kits that are upgraded a bit (see Cars above). Remember trestles and bridges are structures too.
- Engineering (Civil & Electrical) first of all, in the AP, these categories are so elaborate that they are separated into two categories. Here they are combined since the requirements are simpler. Bottom line...if you can show 3 identical commercial (unmodified) turnouts, installed, ballasted and wired so a train can run over them, then you have the Civil part. Operate two trains over any track work simultaneously and put lights in a building and you have the Electrical part.

So that's it! Of course anything more elaborate automatically qualifies. Scratch built cars and structures, hand laid track, powered turnouts and control panels with indicator light are examples of things that go beyond the requirements. I have been giving presentations and driving home one point that I will repeat here, If you have even the beginnings of a layout or a module you probably are, or close to, qualifying for the Golden Spike. With just a little work you can fill it what might be missing.

I have just received my Golden Spike and it's very gratifying. I also realized that by bringing up parts of the layout to qualify, I am now very close to getting my Scenery and Electrical AP Certificates. So it's a win-win!

In this time of sheltering in place and outside activities being greatly curtailed, what could be better than working to achieve something like the Golden Spike. Your layout will thank you as well. Please email me with any question and visit the NMRA page on the Golden Spike and other AP categories for more details. Stay safe.wP

https://www.nmra.org/golden-spike-award

Tools and Tips: Washing Protocol and Other Preparation

BY JIM WALSH

Recently, we are constantly reminded of the importance of hand washing and the potential risks of skipping it. Although nowhere near as serious as controlling the spread of COVID-19, it reminded me of the routine that I developed for washing the plastic parts before assembling and painting a model. Most plastic model instructions do not discuss washing the parts since they are often molded in color and painting would be "optional". For many modeling projects in magazines (not just trains) the authors make a point of washing prior to painting. Since I always intend to paint all the parts, I wash them before assembling the kit. That is my recommendation and it can't hurt unless you wash the parts down the drain. Be sure to use a sink strainer to prevent that from happening and maybe use a kitchen strainer as well. For this reason I also wash the parts while they are still on the sprue, if possible.

Since they are molded in a single color, resin kits will require painting and therefore washing. The common instruction is to wash in warm soapy water followed by a thorough rinsing. A grease cutting detergent may also be indicated. For Sylvan resin vehicle kits, Sylvan Resin-Prep is recommended for washing the parts. You could also use a toothbrush or paint brush to scrub the parts but be gentle and be careful.





Above: Be sure to maintain control of loose parts while washing them. You can use ordinary kitchen strainers. The little ball strainer is for tea but it would be great for holding small parts. Squeeze the handle to open it and insert the parts.

I have a package of metal castings from JL Innovative Design and the instructions direct the modeler to "clean all flash off metal castings with x-acto blade and/or small file." The next step specifically says to "wash the castings with soap and water and rinse thoroughly." These are common requirements for all metal castings since they may have been in contact with grease or oil during manufacturing and painting the metal parts is not an option – it is essential.

Left: Sylvan produces fine vehicle kits for model railroads. The kit instructions direct the builder to wash the parts and the specific recommendation is to use their own Resin-Prep product.

NEXT DIVISION EVENT

THE SPRING EVENT WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY!

<u>Тіме:</u> 9:00 АМ то 12:00 РМ

<u>DATE:</u> MAY 16, 2020

LOCATION: Online. The larger your screen, the better.

<u>Cost:</u> FREE

WEBSITE FOR MEETS: SEE PAGES 3 AND 4 AND <u>HTTP://WWW.NERGSD.COM/</u> <u>UPCOMING.HTML</u>

AGENDA: INTRODUCTION GSD ELECTIONS TWO CLINICS

(continued from the previous page)

Design Preservation Models (DPM) plastic kits have another preparation step for their buildings. The instructions call for eliminating the draft angles that were required for removal of the wall castings during manufacturing. They recommend carefully moving the edge back and forth on a sheet of sandpaper mounted on a flat board. I insure that the wall is perpendicular to the sandpaper by using a joined pair of 123 blocks to guide the sanding operation.

We may not wash our wood kits but there are some basic steps for their preparation. A primary step is applying bracing to help prevent warping due to washes, stains or paints. Further mitigation of this risk comes from painting both surfaces of walls and black paint on the inside wall prevents seeing unfinished wood through the windows. Don't forget that the wood structure kits may include plastic, resin or metal parts that would also require washing.

Now that we have safe habits for washing our hands, lets not forget to wash our plastic, resin and metal parts. Also remember some other advice: To be safe, stay inside and build models.WP



Above: Jim uses this assembly to remove the draft angle from walls of DPM plastic kits. Using two steel 123 blocks provides a longer guide for the sanding operation. The holes are used to align and join the blocks with a long bolt or threaded rod passing through the holes.

AT THE THROTTLE

President Chuck Diljak nmra chuck@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President Ciro Compagno richmondharbor@gmail.com

Vice President Mark Moritz mwmoritz@optonline.net

Treasurer and NER VP Bob Dennis treas@nergsd.com

Secretary and Clinic Chairman Jim Walsh sec@nergsd.com

Director, Public Relations, and Membership Chair Andrew Brusgard ajb1102@comcast.net

Director Tom Casey members@nergsd.com

Director and WP Editor Jim Homoki whistlepost@nergsd.com

Director, Division AP Chairman Steve Ascolese ap@nergsd.com

Director Paul Harbord pwharbord@gmail.com

Director JP Mikesh jpmikesh@yahoo.com

Webmaster Tom Wortmann webmaster@nergsd.com



More Modeling to Flatten the Curve

BY JIM WALSH

The COVID-19 Pandemic is a serious threat to us all and each of us needs to do his or her part to control the spread of the virus and "flatten the curve". Model railroaders, like everyone else, are following the guidelines and staying at home. Although we are accustomed to staying in to work on projects (like we did all winter), the pandemic is causing changes to our plans. Work sessions, train shows and operating sessions have all been cancelled and that means a change in our activity.



Above: With a shelter in place order, Kai Ebinger is ready with an ample supply of food in house and another structure kit to build. Assembling several buildings enabled him to expand the city on his layout. (Photo: Ursula Ebinger) chuck Di

Kai Ebinger is using the time to add a city to his lavout and has been assembling all the needed buildings. He is also adding a trolley to serve the city. No weekly work sessions on Mark Moritz's lavout. So now he has switched his focus to the structures that are needed but are not projects for work sessions. Joe Valentine has no work crew now but he is completing yard sections and carefully testing the

Chuck Diljak is scratch building

a flat car but it will be an idler or reach car. He will be using it on his layout to help push cars onto the scale track in order to eliminate the risk of the engine traveling on the scale. Since I am not going to train shows or work sessions, I am focusing on my own modeling including a small kitbashed pump house, finishing some craftsman structures that I started and a custom weathering project. For that I applied some techniques that I planned to try someday. This is just a sample of some of the model railroading activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and I am sure that many other members of the Garden State Division have some great stories of their own. As we do our best to be good citizens, we are probably becoming better modelers.WP



Above: When you have a little time, you assemble a building. When you have lots of time to stay home and be safe, you build a city. That's what Kai is doing, using his time to build a city. (Photo: Kai Ebinger)

Right: With layout work sessions on hold during the shelter in place order, Mark Moritz has focused on assembling buildings like this power plant. (Photo: Mark Moritz)



(continued on the following page)



Above: Mark is also busy scratch building an ore bin custom sized to fit into his layout. When Mark could not find a kit to meet his need, he designed and built his own structure (Photo: Mark Moritz)



Above: These two photos show opposite ends of a mine scene on Joe Valentine's layout. Joe finished gluing the track and he carefully tested the switches and track and all works well. Now he is on to the next project. (Photos: Joe Valentine)

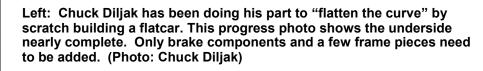


Image: State Stat

WHISTLE POST

Left: With all train shows cancelled as well as Joe's and Mark's work sessions, Jim Walsh has time to try something new. He had several tubes of artist oil paints purchased when he read some weathering articles. He weathered the covered hopper using the artist oils for rust effects. (Photo: Jim Walsh)

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ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

Editor Jim Homoki whistlepost@nergsd.com

<u>Mailing Address</u> P.O. Box 43 Flagtown, NJ 08821

<u>Division Photographer</u> 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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Introducing NMRA-X! Did you receive an email from National discussing NMRA-X on or about May 1? The content is reproduced below in case you didn't. We are pleased that this was prepared by the GSD's own Christina Zambri, the NMRA marketing consultant.

Some of you may have noticed a strange occurrence on Facebook between April 24th and April 25th and still might be wondering what happened to the NMRA. Well, the NMRA-X is what happened, and it is here to stay! The NMRA-X is the new virtual experience formed to bring some of the benefits of the organization live, right to your computer screens! Our very first NMRA-X Virtual Convention was held from 7pm EDT on April 24th to 7pm EDT on April 25th and consisted of 25 straight hours of clinics and tours from around the globe, featuring a new presentation every hour. Broadcasted through both the NMRA Facebook page and group, NMRA-X was a huge success with both members and non-members alike and it definitely broke the mold in the model railroading community. If you missed out on any of the action, all the videos are saved in the NMRA Facebook group:

First Set of Videos Second Set of Videos Third Set of Videos Fourth Set of Videos

and on the NMRA Facebook page:

All Videos

Eventually, the videos will be edited and added to the NMRA YouTube Channel:

http://www.youtube.com/c/NMRAORGModelRailroading

Marketing and the Social Media Team have been pushing for this and plan on making NMRA-X the virtual model railroading destination by continuing to bring you more valuable content over the coming months.

The next event is "Ask the Master Model Railroader" scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 5pm EDT. Additionally, four, 12-hour NMRA-X Virtual Conventions are set for May 16th, May 30th, June 13th and June 27th. These can all be accessed from the NMRA Facebook group and the NMRA Facebook page. It is our hope to add additional streams soon. We hope to see you all there!

A special "thank you" goes to Gordy Robinson, Martyn Jenkins, Gert "Speed" Muller, Brad Anderson, and Jordan Kramer for pulling together and running the entire event, the presenters for sharing their knowledge and time, and the group from the A Modeler's Life Podcast for wrapping up the event!

Christina Zambri NMRA Marketing Consultant



Meeting Reports, past articles, and complete issues of the Whistle Post can be found on the GSD website <u>www.nergsd.com</u>

The GSD now has a Twitter account and a Facebook page Follow the GSD at "GSD of the NMRA@GardenStateDiv"