

INSIDE

WINTER EVENT	1
THE CAB AND THE CABOOSE	2
TIMETABLE	3
2019 SERVICE AWARDS	5
GET ON BOARD FACEBOOK	6
CLUB CAR	6
NOTICE OF ELECTIONS	6
HAROLD F. WERTHWEIN	7
TOOLS AND TIPS	8
MAP FOR THE EVENT	9
GSD INFO	10



www.nergds.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

Join the Make & Take on Leap Day!

The next GSD event is on February 29. February 29 comes around every four years. Even more rare is to have February 29 fall on a Saturday!

Since the date is unusual, we thought we would plan something unusual for the GSD event: a Make-and-Take clinic. Members that purchase a kit, will spend the morning learning how to finish and assemble a laser cut kit.

If you decide that you do not want to participate in assembling your own version of the kit, you are still welcome to attend. But, a hands-on experience at learning techniques is not an opportunity you want to miss. So, please register!

Ron Klaiss, owner of Mine Mount Models, will be leading the Make-and-Take clinic, teaching you many of the techniques he uses to build great models. The kit we will be building is the HO Scale Skip's Bait and Tackle from Mine Mount Models. The structure is versatile for use as any business, not just a bait and tackle shop. More information about the kit can be found here: <https://minemountmodels.com/shop?olsPage=products%2Fskips-bait-tackle-ho-scale>

Ron will also have a supply of his many other kits, for sale, at the event.

The cost for the Make-and-Take clinic is \$20, which includes the cost of the kit and the GSD event fee. The kit regularly retails for \$25 and the event fee is normally \$5. You are saving a total of \$10! If you decide to participate, a list of the tools that you need to bring are included in this article. If you are not interested in participating in the Make-and-Take clinic, you are still

(continued on Page 4)





What's Next?

Did you keep your New Year's resolution from last year? I did. Barely. Originally, it was my goal to have the mining scene completed on my layout in time for the 2018 NER Convention in Mahwah, for my open house. Regretfully, that didn't happen. Since I missed that goal, I set a new goal to complete it by the end of 2019 and earn my NMRA Golden Spike. I finished the mine scene in late November. In early December, Fred Dellaiacono checked that I met the requirements for the Golden Spike. After his visit, the paperwork was sent off to Steve Ascolese to get processed in the NMRA Achievement Program machine. Resolution met!

So, what's next for me? Incredibly, I am two Achievement Program certificates shy of Master Model Railroader. Ten years ago, I would have told you that I did not have a goal to become a Master Model Railroader. When I looked at the categories of the NMRA Achievement Program, there were a few that I did not think I could complete.

Then, I participated in a Make-and-Take clinic on building a turnout with a Fast Tracks jig. As a result of that clinic, one of the categories I did not feel I could do became very possible to do. And, it was fun! Until then, all of the other certificates I received contained requirements that I would have completed, regardless of the Achievement Program's existence. Plus, if I did not pursue the Civil certificate, I may have never redesigned the track plan for the mining scene. The redesign made the mine scene better, by adding a scale track, allowing additional space for needed structures, and reducing the amount of track that was originally there. So, here I am, two certificates short of Master Model Railroader, all because of a Make-and-Take clinic.

And, wouldn't you know it, the GSD is featuring a Make-and-Take clinic at our event in Park Ridge, NJ on Feb 29! What a great opportunity to learn new skills, build confidence, and construct a model, while in the company of friends. In between working on cars for my next Achievement Program certificate, I will be participating in this Make-and-Take clinic. Read more about the clinic and event in this issue.

Is the Make-and-Take clinic next for you? I hope so.

Register and join me!

Chuck



Harold

The GSD and all model railroaders recently lost a fine friend, Harold F. Werthwein. I was honored to have been on Harold's operator list and to be able to attend his last operating session, as mentioned in a tribute on Page 7. His well known Erie RR was featured in the Allen Keller video series *Great Model Railroads Vol. 18* and *Vol. 61*, and the Kalmbach annual *Great Model Railroads 1999*, among other publications. Phil Monat remembers Harold in the February 2020 RMC *Perspectives* column.

Although I wasn't as familiar with the specifics of the modeled towns and structures as much as the serious Erie and EL fans were, there was no doubt about the setting of the railroad. The layout was about as complete as layouts get, yet there were always plans to do more. I recall a session not too long ago where a solder joint broke on a turnout, and Harold got right up on a stool with a soldering iron to fix it. We should all be so fortunate to enjoy and participate in the hobby as long as Harold did.



Above: Harold poses with the Editor for a quick photo at an operating session a few years ago, when the crew celebrated his 95th birthday.

The Timetable *Upcoming Events*

GSD Winter Event Saturday February 29, Park Ridge, NJ Details in this issue.

New Jersey Division March Meet March, Date TBA, 9:00-12:00, Switlik Park, 5 Fischer Place, Hamilton, NJ 08620 Clinics-Contest-Layouts <https://www.njdivnmra.org/>

RPM Valley Forge March 26-29, Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, PA
<http://rpmvalleyforge.com/>

GSD Spring Event Joint Meet with NJ Division, May 16, Christ Episcopal Church, 90 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748 9:00 – 12:00 Noon, Layout Tours 1:00 - 5:00
<https://www.njdivnmra.org/>

Please wear your GSD name tag, or ask for one if you have not already received it at a meet

New England/Northeast Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet May 29-30, Farmington Marriott, Farmington, CT <http://nerpm.org/index.html>

GSD Summer Special Event A special event is being considered for June. Details are being developed.

NMRA 2020 National Convention St. Louis Gateway 2020 July 12-18
<http://www.gateway2020.org>

GSD Summer Event Morristown, NJ July or August. Details being developed

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 <http://carolinasouthern.org/MER2020.html>



The GSD Welcomes New Members

The following have joined the NMRA and GSD since last summer.

Please welcome them:

William Davies

Edward Breen

Sergio Acosta

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

NER) CONVENTION **October 9-12, 2020** **Westford, MA**



Banquet
Clinics
Contest
Layout Tours



Prototype Tours
Raffle and
Non-Rail
Activities

MillCity2020.org



What you need to bring:	Provided by the GSD:
Files Squares Sanding sticks X-Acto knives Clamps	Wood glue Craft paints Color pallets Water Paint brushes Toothpicks



The afternoon will feature layout tours of the ▲ New York Society of Model Engineers, ▼ Garden State Northern Model Railway Club, and ► Jay and Nick Held.



(continued from Page 1)

welcome to attend. The regular event fee of \$5 will be collected at the door.

To register for the Make & Take clinic, visit the GSD website at <http://www.nergds.com/upcoming.html>. Click on the "Buy Now" button in the middle of the webpage to register through PayPal. When you are taken to PayPal's webpage, you have the option of paying directly with a credit card or by using your PayPal account.

The afternoon will feature three layouts to tour:

Jay and Nick Held's HO Scale Erie Lackawanna North Jersey is being developed to prototypically represent the extensive yard and interchange traffic that was found at the north Jersey terminals. Currently the Erie Jersey City yard and float bridges, as well as Croxton Yard east are under construction. In progress is design and construction of the Erie Weehawken Branch and yard with two open piers, the New York Central New Jersey Junction Railroad, and a piece of the Hoboken Shore Railroad.



The Garden State Model Railway Club has been busy constructing a new HO layout, in the space where the O scale model railroad club used to be located. You will have a chance to see how the new layout has progressed as well as visit the existing layout, pictured here.

The New York Society of Model Engineers features two operating model railroad displays, one in O scale and the other in HO scale. Both layouts will be up and running during your visit. Visitors will have an opportunity to see what is new, learn about the operating systems used on the two layouts. **WP**

2019 Service Awards



Above: Andy Brusgard receives the Robert W. Spate Award from Chuck Diljak at NYSME.

volunteered his services. Ed always had a smile on his face and nice things to say about people. The GSD established the Ed Fraedrich Award to be presented to a member of the GSD that has provided services to the division and is not a member of the board.

Mason Logie was the 2019 recipient of the Ed Fraedrich Award. Mason organized the tour to Gulliver's Gate for the 2018 NER Convention in Mahwah. Unfortunately, that tour was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. However, Mason organized a cruise of the New York harbor on the John J. Harvey fireboat and provided a guided tour of the High Line, on Manhattan's west side, in June 2019.

Congratulations to Andy and Mason! **WP**

Right: Mason Logie (l) receives the Ed Fraedrich Award from Tom Wortmann at the GSD Fall meet on Staten Island.

Two service awards were presented to two Garden State Division members in 2019.

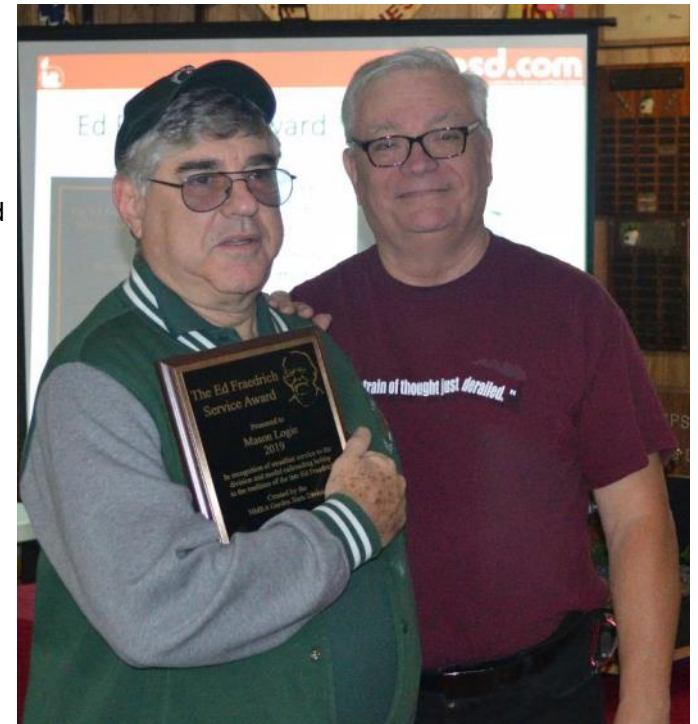
The first award, the Robert W. Spate Public Service Award, was presented to Andy Brusgard at the Northeastern Regions' convention in Syracuse. Bob Spate actively shared his model railroading interests with young folks and others who wanted to learn more about the hobby. This award was created to honor Bob, and to recognize others who continue to foster the hobby.

Andy has been a member of the NYSME club in Carlstadt, serving as its President and a Director. He has also been involved in organizing the National O Scale National Convention, three times. He has helped organize joint meets between NYSME and METCA. And, he is a Director of the NMRA Garden State Division, serving as its Membership Chairman.

All of these activities results in Andy engaging with people of all ages, sharing his knowledge about the hobby, including its history and whatever he thinks his audience may be interested in. For the GSD, Andy also found new ways of reaching its members and friends, recommending the use of Constant Contact for emails and working as an administrator on the GSD and NER Facebook pages and groups. Andy is soft-spoken and a friendly face to every one he meets and continues to be an ambassador to our hobby.

The second award, the Ed Fraedrich Service Award, was presented to Mason Logie at the GSD's Fall Meet on Staten Island.

Ed Fraedrich was a Director on the GSD board until his untimely passing in 2010. Ed always



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
Allendale Community for
Senior Living, 85 Harrenton
Road, Allendale, NJ
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)

GET ON BOARD FACEBOOK



What has your social life been like, these days? Not that social life! I mean your on-line social life. Facebook, to be specific. Do you Facebook?

The Garden State Division and Northeastern Region are on Facebook. Here is why you should join these pages and groups:

Facebook pages are used by their moderators to announce upcoming events. The GSD page will list events that are occurring within the borders of our division that may be of interest to its members, including our own membership events. Likewise, the NER will post events that are occurring within the region's borders that may be of interest to its members. Without joining these pages, you will miss the opportunity to learn about these events. Maybe there is a train show that you never heard of in Connecticut that caught your interest.

Facebook groups are where members share what they are working on, ask questions, and talk about anything of interest to other NMRA members. And, a Facebook group is only successful when more and more people post to it. Activity draws more activity. Everyone likes to see what everyone else is doing. That includes you, too. You can post photos, add comments, or just like a post.

Below are the links for the pages and groups. Get on board and join them!

GSD Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/nmragsd/>

NER Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/nernmra/>

NER Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1884645128243966/>

Notice of Elections

In accordance with the Bylaws, this year all Officer positions and three Director positions are up for election. 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.

Director seats up for election this year are held by Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, and Steve Ascolese.

Interested members should send their name, address, and phone number to Nominations Chairman Ciro Compagno as shown in the column on Page 7. The deadline for this election cycle is April 1. Officers and Directors will be installed at the Spring Event to be held in May.

NEXT DIVISION EVENT

THE WINTER EVENT WILL BE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 29, 2020.

TIME:
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

DATE:
FEBRUARY 29, 2020

LOCATION:
FULTON FRIENDSHIP LODGE
147 KINDERKAMACK ROAD
PARK RIDGE, NJ 07656

COST:
\$20 ALL INCLUSIVE MAKE &
TAKE AND ACTIVITY FEE
-OR-
\$5 FOR ACTIVITY FEE, ONLY

WEBSITE FOR MAKE & TAKE
REGISTRATION:
[http://www.nergsd.com/
upcoming.html](http://www.nergsd.com/upcoming.html)

WEBSITE FOR MEETS:
SEE PAGE 3 AND
[HTTP://WWW.NERGS.D.COM/
UPCOMING.HTML](http://www.nergsd.com/upcoming.html)

AGENDA:
REFRESHMENTS
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLES
MAKE AND TAKE CLINIC
BRING AND BRAG
MODEL JUDGING
LAYOUT OPEN HOUSES

HAROLD F. WERTHWEIN OCTOBER 3, 1921 - DECEMBER 15, 2019

Harold became well known in the world of model railroading when, upon his retirement from Picatinny Arsenal in northern New Jersey, he started construction of an HO scale layout representing the Delaware Division of the Erie Railroad between Port Jervis and Binghamton, N.Y. This layout filled the entire basement of his ranch-style home and was later expanded to include the various branches that worked the coal mines in northeastern Pennsylvania. The layout was featured in magazines and videos, making a star of Harold, but true to his character, he took it all in stride with his usual quiet modesty. The layout hosted hundreds of operating sessions during Harold's life, acting as a monthly meeting point for model railroaders in and around the northern New Jersey area.

His wit was sharp and the sparkle in his eye showed he enjoyed what he was doing. The operating sessions he hosted were the seed of what became the vibrant model railroading community in northern New Jersey (and pulling in folks from adjacent Pennsylvania and New York).

Harold was a master manager who quickly identified talents in his operators and put them to good use in many areas around the layout. The final layout was a true collaboration between Harold and dozens of talented modelers, resulting in a masterpiece.

As much as he was a manager, he was equally a mentor, helping others and offering advice and tips to other modelers just starting on their own layouts. Virtually every major model railroad in the area bears the stamp of Harold Werthwein somewhere on it.

During the last month of his life, Harold was moved into hospice. A final operating session on the Delaware Division was held on December 14, 2019, with record attendance to see the final run of Harold's masterpiece. People from far and wide gathered to honor the man who affected each one of them in some way, great or small. The attendees demonstrated the same respect to one another that Harold had for every person who ever walked into his basement. The day following the session, Harold passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service, friendship and accomplishment that will be remembered long afterwards. He was a truly remarkable individual in every way.

Rest in peace, Harold.

By Paul Tupaczewski with members of the ELRRHS

AT THE THROTTLE

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TOOLS AND TIPS: THE LAST STEP IN LEARNING IS DOING

BY JIM WALSH

To learn various aspects of modeling we have many sources of instruction including books, magazine articles, YouTube videos, online forums, blogs and even columns in newsletters. They can help you understand how to execute a technique or achieve an effect in your modeling but you need to do it yourself to really understand how the concept works. Live demonstrations and clinics are more helpful because they allow an interaction where the audience is able to ask questions or to see the model close up or even handle it. In recent years the Garden State Division has hosted Works-in-Progress clinic events with smaller groups and shorter clinics. They allowed the audience a closer look and even better interaction with the clinician. For some of these sessions, the audience was invited to try for themselves.

The best type of clinic for learning something is one where you receive instruction and then you do it yourself to see how well you learned. In general, this is not revolutionary and that process of instruction followed by testing of your understanding has been the basis of education throughout our school years. However, learning to build models is much more fun.

Hands on and Make-and-Take clinics are common at regional conventions. A very popular version at NMRA national conventions is the Modeling with the Masters program that includes instruction and assistance by Master Model Railroaders. More recently that program has been available at some regional conventions as well.

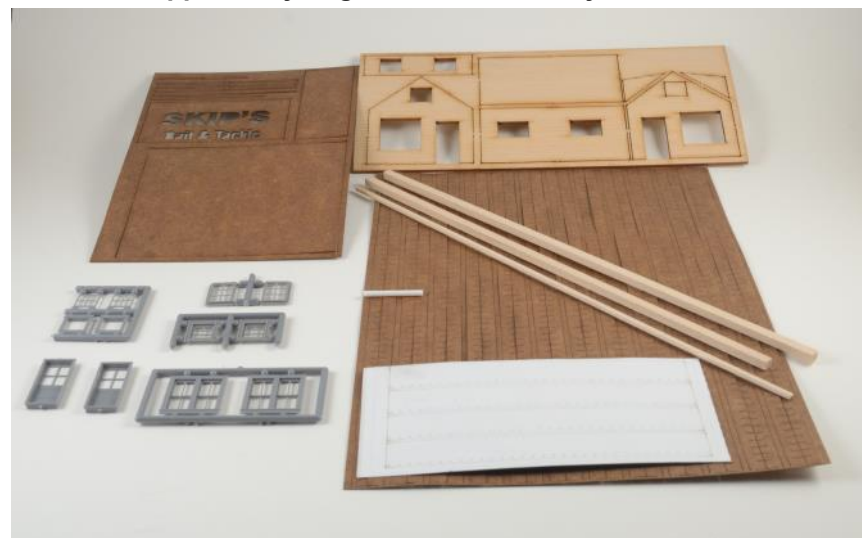
At the Garden State Division 2020 Winter event, we will have the opportunity to participate in a Make-and-Take clinic and learn the necessary skills to build a laser cut wood craftsman kit. If you never built such a kit, here is your opportunity to do it with help not from reading the instructions but with guidance and instruction from the designer and builder, Ron Klaiss, owner of Mine Mount Models. If you have already seen a craftsman kit and were intimidated by looking at the parts, let Ron show you the steps that make building the kit a project that any model railroader can accomplish. If you are already a builder of these kits, come and add another structure to your inventory and maybe share some tips. If you are an armchair model railroader, this clinic will be a great time for you to get out of the chair, come to the table, get hands on and build the kit with the rest of us.

I am looking forward to the event and I hope that you will join me in building your first or your latest laser cut wood structure. [WP](#)

Right: Although some of the parts may not be familiar to some modelers, they should not be intimidating, especially after participating in the upcoming Make-and-Take clinic.



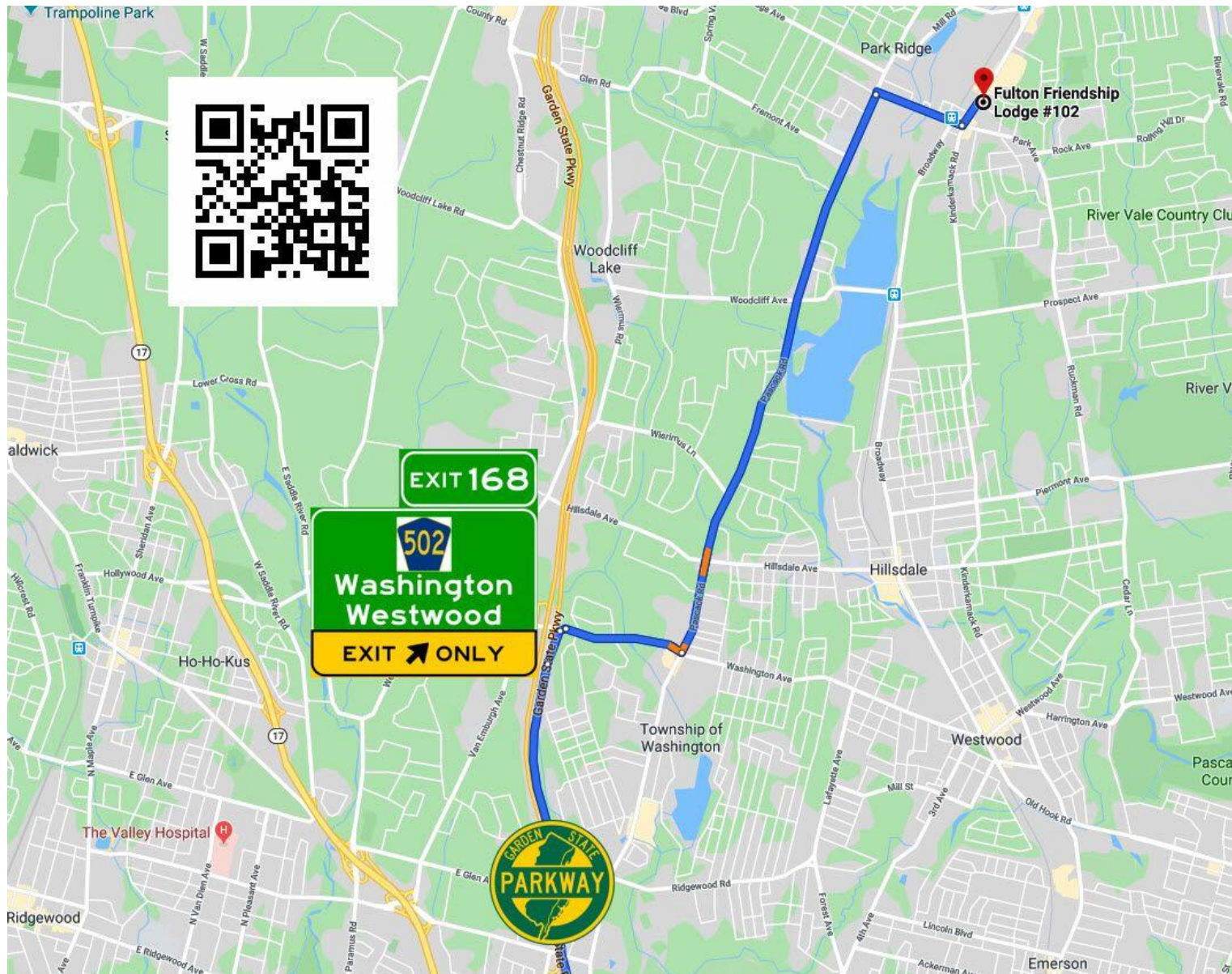
Above: Tony Koester demonstrated freight car weathering using PanPastel Colors at a Works-in-Progress clinic during the GSD 2016 Fall event. Following his instruction, the clinic attendees had the opportunity to get hands on and try it themselves.



MAP FOR THE WINTER EVENT

FULTON FRIENDSHIP LODGE
147 KINDERKAMACK ROAD
PARK RIDGE, NJ

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
DOORS OPEN AT 8:30
EVENT STARTS AT 9:00



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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Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

An NMRA Sponsored Event

March 26, 27, 28, 29, 2020

at the

Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
One Liberty Boulevard, Malvern, PA

Friday Operating Sessions

Clinics

Model Displays

Vendor Rooms

Sunday Home Layout Tour



Information & Updates
RPMValleyForge.com

or

Paul Backenstose
103 West Uwchlan Ave.
Downingtown PA 19335
(Please include an SASE for a reply)
(610) 269-2763

Interested in Presenting a Clinic?

Fred Alston
rpm-vf-clinic@outlook.com

Vendor Information & Ops Sessions

Steve Salotti
salotti.steve@gmail.com
(610) 489-1940

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<https://www.facebook.com/nmragsd/>

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