



The

WHISTLE POST

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

July 23rd Event Features Operations at
The Model Railroad Club





Our Ever-Changing (Digital) Hobby

Recently, an announcement was made at the National level that our NMRA magazine would be available at extra cost to the membership if in the printed edition, but that a digital edition would be included with the membership fee. Most members, it is anticipated, will eventually only subscribe to the on-line digital edition and the print edition would someday disappear. Most regional newsletters now are digital. Our Northeastern Region still prints a magazine edition though. Our Garden State Division newsletter, the Whistle Post, is on-line digital only now. Digital technology is so integrated into the hobby now that we often don't think of it as being revolutionary.

The most obvious change to the hobby is Digital Command Control, which has been around now for a few decades. Having grown up with DC control of my model railroad, I was unfamiliar with DCC when returning to the hobby after a decades-long interval when I pursued higher education and raised a family. However, except for small layouts, I cannot imagine why anyone would not run on DCC now. We all know how a DCC controlled layout allows the operators to follow their trains around the layout, making it more realistic to operate, and simplifying the wiring needed to build it.

The next emerging digital-based control system is Layout Command Control, LCC, which allows expansion of digital control to accessories on the layout. I will be the first to admit I am only now beginning to understand how it works and its capabilities, but do comprehend that a DCC system can reach capacity for signal saturation and power delivery, making LCC a logical step for control of turnouts, lighting, signals and other aspects of the model railroad. As commercial systems for LCC are introduced, it is likely to become much more commonplace and useful to the average model railroader. Right now, an LCC system requires special skills and equipment to implement.

Less dramatic perhaps, but no less impressive is the digital artwork capabilities that are now commonly utilized in our hobby. These are fairly well-developed and include such familiar programs as Photoshop and similar products, which are essential for the design of some structure components, commercial backdrops, etc.

Laser-cutting of structure components from thin plywood extends the possibilities of craftsman kits, and has significantly changed the hobby. Flat parts can be fashioned to fine tolerances, provided a computer is programmed with a CAD drawing of the part, and simply cut from their sheets prior to painting and assembling.

Perhaps the most remarkable technology now finding its place in the hobby is 3D printing. We have only just begun to see the effect this will have on the hobby. Whether it is used for making master parts for commercial production, or is used to actually produce the finished product, there is yet a long way to go before its full capabilities are utilized in model railroading.

I have probably missed something, but you get the idea: this is not your father's model railroading. Stay tuned for the next amazing technology. **WP**



Layout Next Step: Track Painting

Painting track is one aspect of scenery that some modelers seem to avoid. I think it adds a great deal to the overall realism of the layout, and tends to make the rail look smaller.

It is definitely easier to do prior to ballasting, and that is what I started on last month. Most of my track is Atlas Code 83.

Polly Scale was my paint of choice, but now I'm forced to use alternatives. Compared to the currently available acrylic paints, PS seemed to cover bare rail much better. To deal with this, I now apply a fairly heavy brush coat of a rusty brown color mix to the rail and tie plates, then follow up with an air-brush to even everything out. The plastic ties are more forgiving than bare metal. Brush painting or airbrushing a "railroad tie brown" color seems to work equally well.

Foreground track gets a little extra attention with the painting of individual ties. Several different shades are used that are both lighter and darker than the base "railroad tie brown". I really like the individual tie effect it gives the track as shown in the bottom photo. In a few yard areas I've already started ballasting, with the mainline to begin soon. The rest of the scenery will soon follow. **WP**



Upcoming Events

GSD Summer Event July 23, 9 AM-12 PM at The Model Railroad Club, Route 22, Union, NJ. Clinics with an operating session following the meet.

NMRA 2022 National Convention Gateway 2022 St. Louis, MO August 7-13

NER 2022 Convention Windsor, CT September 15-18 Registration Now Open!
<https://ner-conventions.org/index.php/connecticut-yankee>

Lehigh and Keystone Valley Model RR Museum Open House Saturdays Sept 18 and October 16th, 70 Linden Street, Bethlehem, PA
<https://lkvmodelrailroad.com/open-houses>

GSD Fall Event Saturday October 8, 9 AM-12 PM at the Firehouse in Hope, NJ. Two clinics and layout open houses.

Hindsight 20/20 An online day of prototype clinics held via Zoom approximately every two months. <http://speedwitchmedia.com/>

MER 2022 Convention Carolina Special, Charlotte, NC October 20-23
www.CarolinaSouthern.org

GSD Winter Event TBD

In this Issue

THE CAB AND THE CABOOSE 2

UPCOMING EVENTS 3

GSD EVENT JULY 23 4

THE MALLERY AWARD 6

TENTH ANNUAL GET TOGETHER 7

AP CORNER 11

TOOLS AND TIPS 12

MAP TO THE MEET 14

CLUBS AND BOARD MEMBERS 15

WP INFO 16

On the Cover

Our cover photo is a head-on shot of a Hudson, Delaware, & Ohio (HD&O) train (on the right) coming into the Bernardsville station to meet a waiting Trenton Northern inter-urban connection. The HD&O and Trenton Northern are the two home roads of The Model Railroad Club in Union NJ, where the June event will be held. Club member Scott Dunlap took the photo.

GSD website
www.nergsd.com

NER COUPLER

If you are not getting notifications of new issues of the NER Coupler, sign up on the NER website <https://nERNMRA.org/> Full color print editions as well as a PDF edition are available.



Previous virtual events held by the NER can be found on the [NMRA's YouTube channel](#). Just look for "NERx" in the video titles.

NER CONVENTION
Windsor, CT
September 15-18, 2022



GSD Event at The Model Railroad Club on July 23

After a long absence, The Model Railroad Club (TMRCI) will host the Summer Event at the club in Union, NJ. The program will include two clinics and a Bring 'n' Brag segment where members can discuss their current projects. We will provide space for members to bring their (hopefully) completed ITLA kits that were started at the Make 'n' Take Winter Event.

Instead of layout tours in the afternoon, an operating session will be held after the lunch break. Operators are welcome to bring their own Digitrax throttles or phones for WiFi control. All members will be able to view the progress being made on the layout.

To prepare attendees for the op session, Bob Nalbone, TMRCI past president and current chair of the HO Scale Department Operations Committee, will give a brief history of the club entitled **Operations at The Model Railroad Club, Inc.—Then and Now** from its start as the Summit-New Providence HO Railroad Club in the basement of the home of founder Paul Mallery, MMR® to the present day. Bob will also describe the evolution of the Club's operating sessions, ending with an overview of how the special operating session that follows the meet will work.



Above: A photo of a HD&O inspection train departing the Gilberton depot. (Photo by Bob Nalbone)

Kai Ebinger will present the second clinic, **Modeling with Paper and Card**. In the early days of model railroading many kits and scratchbuilding projects were based upon cardstock or paper as building materials.

Nowadays most structure kits use injection molded plastic as the building material, while the craftsman structures kits rely on plaster, resin or wood. Many scratchbuilding projects use styrene sheet, strips, siding and other shapes. However, some modelers, mostly in the UK, are still building with card and paper. One such modeler is Kai Ebinger and many buildings on Kai's layout are made from paper and card. Some of the structures are from kits from Metcalfe, but he has even scratchbuilt some structures using card and paper. In this clinic, Kai will share his experience and techniques for paper modeling addressing materials and resources. He will also show examples of models on his layout that are made from paper and card. A finished scene with a paper and card structure is shown on the next page. **WP**



Above: Operators are busy during a HD&O op session in this photo taken last December. (Photo by Bob Nalbone)

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Above: At the July event, Kai Ebinger will discuss the construction of card and paper structures, such as the Blue Moon brewery in the above scene from his layout. (Photo by Jim Walsh)

THE MALLERY AWARD

By JIM WALSH

Since 2008, the Garden State Division (GSD) has been recognizing modeling excellence by the presentation of the A. Paul Mallery Award. The winner receives a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment for that year and the winner's name is added to the trophy. Currently the trophy is displayed at the New York Society of Model Engineers in Carlstadt, New Jersey. This year, the GSD Board of Directors voted to change the look of the plaque so that locomotive graphic matched the model of the Berkshire mounted on the trophy. The 2021 winner was Chuck Diljak but he was not present at our winter meet to accept the plaque. Therefore, he received his plaque later and sent a photo of himself with the plaque and one of the models for which he won.



Above: Chuck Diljak proudly displays his 2021 Mallery Award plaque. The freight car behind Chuck is one of the cars entered in the model contests at the NER Convention and submitted for the Mallery Award. (Photo by Chuck Diljak)

At this time of year we start to plan our convention activities and GSD members should be aware of the Paul Mallery Award and consider entering model contests at the National or regional conventions. Remember that the last contests for consideration for 2022 are the contests at the NER convention in September. Check the requirements on the GSD website and think about entering an eligible model. Even if you don't win the contest at a convention, you could win the Paul Mallery Award. WP



Above Two Photos: These photo show the A. Paul Mallery Award Trophy with the locomotive model. The bottom photo shows the new plaque that has a locomotive graphic that matches the model on the trophy. (Photos by Jim Walsh)

TENTH ANNUAL JOINT GET TOGETHER

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY JIM WALSH



Above: Ciro Compagno of the Garden State Division explained how he used CADRAIL to design his layout.

Our spring meet with the New Jersey Division was the tenth time that we had the joint event. Even during the pandemic we had our annual joint meets virtually. However, this time we were back together in-person with real layout open houses. As usual for spring, the Garden State Division had our annual business meeting and elections. We had two fine clinics and the opportunity to see impressive layouts. It was another great event and a fine day of model railroading activities. *WP*

Below: New Jersey Division member Herb Gishlick, MMR, demonstrated his method of constructing backdrops, which blends painting with photo cutouts.



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Left: On this section of the Garden State Central Model Railroad Club the steel industry is recreated with models of the massive structures. The club is located in one of the buildings at the Info Age Museum.



Above: Here is a busy waterfront scene on the layout of the Garden State Central Model Railroad Club.

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Right Top: Thom Radice has built a wonderful Civil War era layout with detailed locomotives and rolling stock that accurately capture the time period. The many details and scenes add to the quality of the layout.



Right Bottom: The structures, scenery and details make Thom Radice's layout resemble a museum display.



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Bob Hans had his New York Central Upper Harlem Division HO scale layout open for the joint meet. The three photos on this page are from his layout.

Left: Bob has many structures that look great in the day as well as at night.

Below: Another great model structure by Bob with details that make the scene realistic.



Above: Bob enhanced this structure by adding details to the interior.

The Golden Spike Award

AP Corner By Mark Moritz

In this issue, I'd like to bring to the membership's attention, especially new members, the Golden Spike Award, which is for many the first award they earn. Unlike the Achievement Program Certificates, it is designed to demonstrate familiarity with different areas of the hobby, rather than expertise in a particular area. For those who have already started on a layout, or have already built model kits, they may find they have already met most or all the requirements for the certificate. I encourage you to examine your activities so far, and consider applying for the award.

The award evaluates three areas of hobby activity: rolling stock, structures and scenery, and engineering - civil and electrical.

You must display six units of rolling stock, which you built. These can be scratch built, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits. You don't have to have them judged, just displayed at a meet, or on your home layout or on a table in your basement. The models must show more effort than a "shake the box" kit. But by painting, decaling, and detailing, the model will qualify.

Second, for structures and scenery, you must construct five structures. These may include buildings, bridges, and trestles. They can be scratch built, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits. Like in rolling stock, painting and weathering can qualify an otherwise simple kit for this category. For scenery, you must construct eight square feet of layout. A 2 x 4 foot module would qualify. There is no requirement how good or elaborate it must be, but it must be more than a simple loop of track on a painted board. Adding scenery is advised.

For Engineering (civil and electrical), three types of trackage must be installed and ballasted on roadbed. Commercial, store-bought turnouts will qualify. Three turnouts will qualify, although other types of trackage (crossings, crossovers, grade elevation) also qualify. You can lay the track on cork roadbed, for instance, and ballast it.

The trackage must be wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously. This can include a double track main, single-track main with a siding, DC or DCC. An additional electrical feature such as a powered turnout (an Atlas switch machine qualifies), signal, lighted building, etc. must also be included.

Not all these requirements need to be on the same layout or even in the same scale. The AP committee can visit more than one site to evaluate your work. This means that you may do some work on a home layout, and some other work on a club layout.

I hope to hear from some of you who have an interest in acquiring this award. You can contact me at docmwm51@gmail.com. **WP**

ITLA Make 'n' Take

Did you finish your ITLA Intro Brick Building kit from the winter event Make 'n' Take? We hope so. Please bring your completed model to the Summer Event at The Model Railroad Club and show everyone how you added personal touches to the project. As an incentive, we will be providing a \$100 ITLA Gift Certificate for the model deemed Best in Show for this competition.

All extra HO kits have been sold, while a few O scale kits still remain at \$75 each and will be available at the event.



<https://itlascalemodels.com/>

NMRA At-Risk Persons Policy Update

The NMRA recently revised the organization At-Risk policy, which applies to all NMRA sanctioned activities at all levels of the organization.

From the National website: "*At-risk persons are anyone under the age of majority or persons who have legal guardians. Age of majority means the age of legally becoming an adult, which is 18 in the United States.*"

Others who are "at-risk" are persons who have legal guardians because they have been judged or deemed incapable of handling their own matters. An example might be a mentally challenged individual who enjoys our hobby."

There is much more to this policy that members should be aware of. The full policy, forms, and a very helpful FAQ section can be found at <https://www.nmra.org/nmra-risk-persons-policy>

TOOLS AND TIPS: The Gulliver Effect

By JIM WALSH

I read the story of Gulliver's Travels when I was young and I also remember seeing a motion picture adaptation of the story. It was called "The 3 Worlds of Gulliver" and it had some very memorable special effects by Ray Harryhausen. He used a type of stop motion animation of models that he called Dynamation. The special effects really enhanced the different perspectives that Gulliver experienced as he traveled to a place of tiny people and another land inhabited by giants. The changing perspectives from looking at miniatures to viewing normal size from a miniature perspective were very memorable. I find that as a model railroader I also switch between two perspectives. On one hand I look at a full size object and try to figure out how to model it. On the other hand I often look at full size objects and think about how they could be used for a model. At times I have heard other model railroaders relate similar experiences.

One time when I was gardening, I came across a root formation that looked a lot like a real tree. I dried it and added some stretched poly fiber and fine leaf material and it made a good looking tree. One important feature is that the poly fiber must be stretched so thin that you can barely see it. Since then I am always looking at the roots of weeds and plants that I need to remove from the garden I am trying to find ones that look like real scale trees.

For your next modeling project, change your perspective and look around you for objects that can start that model. Maybe by looking around with that different perspective, you may see a common object that inspires you to make a new model.

When I was young and new to model railroading, my first scratchbuilding project used a cut down cylindrical oatmeal box that I painted to create an oil storage tank. I made the sign from a gulf oil logo cut from a magazine ad. I often look at things around me with the idea of how they could be used for modeling. I also considered that reuse is better than recycling and always better than throwing things in the trash. It is great to be able to reuse a leftover part from a home improvement project to become a part for a modeling project. But if the needed item is

Right: This tree started with some actual root material and some very thin stretched out poly fiber was added. Then an application of fine leaf material completed the tree. (Photo by Jim Walsh)



Above: Some plant roots make some very good looking tree branches. By trimming and relocating the branches, you can create a realistic model tree. Finish it by adding some fine leaf material. (Photos by Jim Walsh)



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not found at home, then a trip to the hardware store or home center becomes a quest for the particular sized item to make the model. One item that works well for many projects is PVC pipe. Sections of pipe make great silos or storage tanks for many industries. Coal or fuel dealers, grain elevators and refinery structures could all be based on plastic pipe.

One time, Chuck Diljak asked for a simple case from a package of blank CDs and he transformed it into a model of a Dorr thickener. A Dorr thickener is a tank used to separate suspended solids from a liquid. It is one of the structures in Chuck's model of an anthracite mine. Chuck did a great modeling job and you can't tell that it was once a CD case. In fact you may think it is the real thing and not a model. **WP**



Above: These photos show industrial structures that are being added to Steve Kay's layout. Major components of both projects are sections of PVC pipe. They are cost effective and look good. (Photos by Steve Kay)



Above: I found a discarded CD case and provided it to Chuck Diljak. He needed the case to scratchbuild a Dorr thickener for his anthracite mine complex. (Photo by Jim Walsh)



Above: Here is the model Dorr thickener that Chuck Diljak scratchbuilt. You can barely recognize it as the CD case. In fact, his work is so good that you may even forget that it is a model. (Photo by Chuck Diljak)

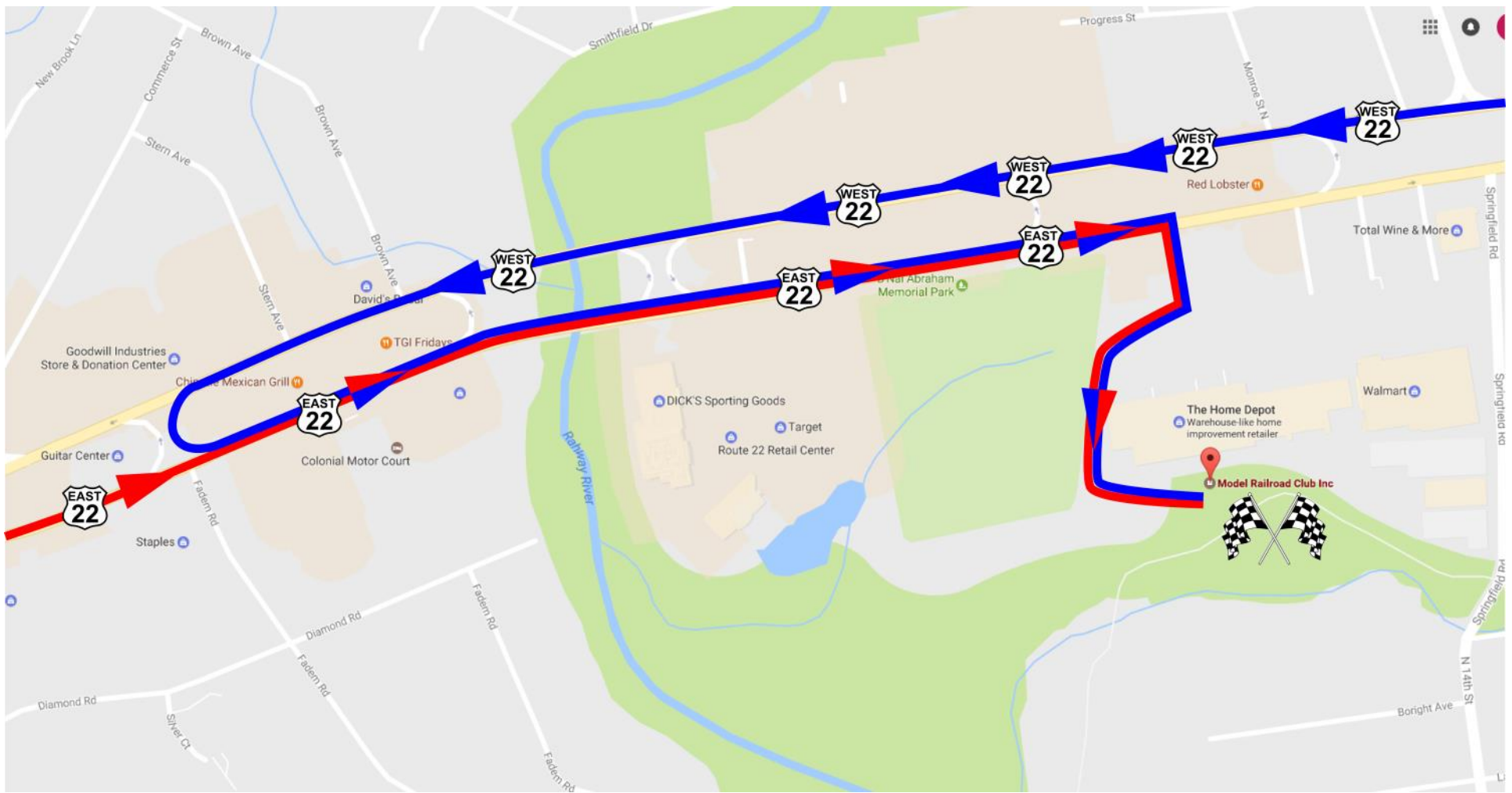
The Model Railroad Club is located behind The Home Depot on Route 22 in Union. It can only be accessed from Route 22 Eastbound.

- From the east, north, or south, it is a short distance from the Garden State Parkway.
- From the west, northwest, or southwest, take Route 22 Eastbound.
- U-Turns from Route 22 WB to Route 22 EB can be difficult to make as three lanes of traffic need to be crossed. The U-Turn shown is not the shortest route but is easier to make.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE SUMMER EVENT

The Model Railroad Club
295 Jefferson Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

<http://www.themodelrailroadclub.org>



NEXT DIVISION EVENT

AFTER AN ABSENCE OF
SEVERAL YEARS WE RETURN
TO THE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB!

TIME:
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 AM

DATE:
SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022

LOCATION:
THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB,
ROUTE 22, UNION, NJ
SEE THE MAP ON PAGE 14

COST:
\$5 DONATION WHICH
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

WEBSITE FOR MEETS:
SEE PAGE 3
[HTTPS://WWW.NERGSD.COM/](https://www.nergsd.com/)

AGENDA:
INTRODUCTION
TWO CLINICS
BRING 'N' BRAG
DOOR PRIZES
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
OPERATING SESSION

An NMRA partnership with Northlandz has been made!

You may have heard that there is a new owner of Northlandz, located on Route 202 South in Flemington. Promising changes are in the works! The NMRA is now partnering with Northlandz, which should prove very beneficial to both parties.

<https://northlandz.com/>



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://www.themodelrailroadclub.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>

AT THE THROTTLE

President
Mark Moritz
mwmoritz@optonline.net

Vice President and WP Editor
Jim Homoki

Treasurer
Bob Dennis

Secretary and Clinic Chairman
Jim Walsh

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

Director, Division AP Chairman
Steve Ascolese

Director
Tom Casey

Director and
NER Southern Director
Ciro Compagno
richmondharbor@gmail.com

Director
Paul Harbord
pwharbord@gmail.com

Director
JP Mikesch
jpmikesh@yahoo.com

Any of the above officials may
be contacted by email using
gsdtrains@yahoo.com

ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

Editor

Jim Homoki
gsdtrains@yahoo.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 43
Flagtown, NJ 08821

Division Photographer

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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All NMRAX and NERx virtual conventions can be found on You Tube and Facebook

The Origin of the Mallory Award?

The WP Editor found the below notice in Issue 28, September 1953, of *The Coupler*. For those who may not know, the Summit-New Providence Club was hosted at the home of Paul Mallory. Could this be the origin of what is now the Mallory Award, which is featured on Page 6?

Most back issues of *The Coupler* can be found on the NER website.

<https://nrmra.org/ner-couplers/>

JERSEY CLUB OFFERS CONTEST TROPHY.

The model contests which are traditionally part of NER conventions are attracting a fine group of entries, and the SUMMIT-NEW PROVIDENCE CLUB offers to implement this by offering a rotating best-in-show trophy, to be kept by the winner until the next contest, with his name to be engraved upon it. This would constitute a permanent record of the achievement of our model builders. The offer is to be on the following conditions:-

1. It shall be known as "The Delaware Trophy", after the name of the club's railroad, the Hudson, Delaware & Ohio R.R."
2. It will remain the property of NER, with the winner keeping it until the next convention.
3. It will be on display, and awarded at each convention model contest.
4. Maintenance and method of engraving to be a function of NER.
5. S-NP Club to replace it when there is no more space for additional names.

This is a most commendable offer on the part of an enterprising and loyal club, and the Region should be proud and happy to accept it at the Fall meet.

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