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The WHISTLE POST

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

DUAL MEET SUCCESS!


BY TOM WORTMANN

The spring meet was our first dual meet with the New Jersey Division since 2009. During that meet only 7 members attended. This time the two boards met to do things differently and have a truly collaborative meet. Working with NJD board the GSD provided some fine clinicians, some models and over 30 GSD members! We also took steps to ensure that the event was well communicated to our division. It was a big success both for the GSD and the NJD. The room was packed with interesting tables of clinics, contests, white elephant sales and give aways. Afterwards there were a number of fine layouts and clubs to visit and many of us tried see as many as we could.



▲ A number of GSD members can be seen here as GSD's Jim Homoki shares his techniques on upgrading flats and gondolas with realistic wood floors.

Photo by Tom Wortmann

There were 107 attendees (72 NJD, 32 GSD, and 3 guests). NJD President Bob Clegg was very thankful for the contribution of our members and clinicians. Thanks to Bob and our NJD hosts for fine meet! As we left, the Bob commented to us that we must do this again - and we will! 



▲ Former GSD member Frank Neufeld draws a crowd with tips on making signals.

Photo by Tom Wortmann

Photographs of the meet are on Page 6




THE CAB

by President *Ciro Compagno*

What does it take to have successful meets?

We are coming off the heels of very successful Winter and Spring Meets. The later was a dual meet with our neighboring New Jersey Division. An important part of our mission statement is to develop our members' model railroading skills through learning, sharing of information and building camaraderie. These are critical to having a thriving hobby, especially, for a volunteer organization. Equally important is having fun along the way. I cannot stress the importance of having fun. We are asking members to carve out several hours of their busy weekend schedule to join our local division meets. To make this happen, meets must be interesting enough to make members come. How do we make meets interesting? Clinics – a lot of them on a variety of relevant mainstream topics. Home layout tours – a lot of them in the local area of the venue. It is through clinics and home layout tours that members can learn, share ideas and engage with fellow members. Learn how to try different materials and methods. Learn how to use different tools. Learn what they like and dislike. Learn the mistakes from others before diving into what you thought was a good idea. Clinics and home layout tours are two of the most important deliverables to having very successful meets. We believe this is the right formula, and clearly differentiates ourselves from other model railroad associations. To round out our

meets, we also offer the popular Bring 'n' Brag, door prizes, and AP model judging.

Our next meet is the upcoming Summer Meet. This is an once-in-a-lifetime event celebrating our 50th anniversary. Similarly, this will have clinics and a home layout tour. To better accommodate the meet, the home layout tour will take place first followed by the main event. We will have special guests to inform and enlighten our members. We will reflect back on the GSD's birth in 1963, and the rebirth in 1999. The mission in 1963 was simple: "to increase the enjoyment of model railroading". Fifty years later, this mission is still embodied in the GSD. So, please take a moment and register for this meet. I promise you will not be disappointed. 

Welcome to our New GSD Members!

- ◆ William J Graham, Staten Island, NY
- ◆ Martin E. Gray, New Brunswick, NJ
- ◆ David Steggles, Roselle, NJ
- ◆ Peter Blomstrom, Staten Island, NY
- ◆ Walter Johnson, Rochelle Park, NJ
- ◆ Peter Mueller, Staten Island, NY
- ◆ Edward F. Small, Union, NJ



THE CABOOSE

by Editor *Joe Calderone*

GSD 50th and more on my paper mill project!

As of this writing the board is putting the finishing touches on plans for the 50th anniversary and the summer meet. If you have not made your plans to join please follow the links here and get going, seats are filling up fast!. This meet promises to be a great celebration of the divisions past and looks forward to our future. Remember this is a volunteer organization of its members of which you are all part of! Your participation in any small way is always appreciated. Perhaps you can serve on the board? Helps us find new meeting venues, or open your home layout for a meet? There are any number of things you can do just reach out we need you!

As I shared in my past post I am working on a section of my railroad where I am looking to have a paper mill be a dominant feature or industry on the pike. As I thought about what the paper mill would look like and what types of buildings a mill would have I turned to back issues of Model railroader and Model Railroad Craftsman for some inspiration. I also turned to the internet and found great number of resources to help me understand the paper mill operations and structures. Within Yahoo I found a paper mill group which provided me a wealth of great information as well as photographs of existing paper mills some of which are now gone. Through this research I have been able

to get a better idea of the types of rail traffic a plant needed along with the appropriate types of rolling stock. The good news here is these plants take in and send out some much in the way of products that many types of freight cars work well in an operations schemes. Everything from chemical, pulpwood, wood chips, machinery as well as all sorts of boxcars even coal may be needed for the plant to run. My mill though compact attempts to convey some of the scale these plants have.

My model area covers about 13.5 x 20 inch shelf. I have modeled such structures as a digester, wood chip unloaded, rolling mills, warehouse, team and chemical delivery tracks. The plant also is powered by coal in my timeframe so there is a coal unloading facility as well. During a session as many 15 to 20 cars are switched in and out of the facility including some internal movements. This keeps one crew busy for an entire session as they move cars from the mainline down the branch to the plant and back to the interchange with the mainline. So far this seems to be a popular position with the crews so perhaps I hit the mark.

Now my time will be spent on finishing the scenery in this area and finishing the unique and complex structures found in a mill, this suits me just fine!

AT THE THROTTLE

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A Whistle Post for *The Whistle Post*

By Chuck Diljak



▲This Lehigh Valley Baldwin DS44-1000, most likely number 142, passes a whistle post as it approaches the Shoemaker Street crossing in Swoyersville, PA on the West Pittston Branch in 1968. The unusually short train was on it's way to the Acme Markets warehouse in Forty Fort.

Photo by Dave Klutchko

scale kit consists of an etched-brass sign face and a scale 13' section of .025 metal rod. That's it.

My interest in this type of whistle post is due to my interest in the Lehigh Valley Railroad. When I became editor of *The Whistle Post*, I redesigned the masthead of the newsletter based on this whistle post design. While the prototype painted their signs white to make them visible, I colored the logo for the masthead Cornell Red to make it more interesting.

These kits are an accurate reproduction of the prototype's whistle posts. The LVRR whistle posts were produced in their own shops from 1/4" steel plates. The face of the sign was two feet in diameter with the "W" torched or cut out of the face. The "W" in the prototype sign varied, also. In some cases, the "W" was completely cut out while in others a bridge was left to connect each leg of the "W", like a stencil. The kit reflects the "stencil" version. The face was then attached to old boiler tubes before being installed. According to the instructions, the signs

According to my Model Railroad Dictionary, a kit is a set of materials consisting of at least two parts and requires some assembly. The Lehigh Valley Railroad whistle post kit produced for the Anthracite Railroads Historical Society by Model Memories barely meets this definition. The HO



▲From left to right, the front of the sign, back of the sign showing the groove for the post, soldered assembly, and painted assembly.

Photo by Chuck Diljak

were positioned no more than eight feet above ground, ten feet from the track center, and 1200-1500 feet from a grade crossing.

The kit is pretty simple to assemble. After removing a sign from the brass sheet, I noticed the backside of the sign has a groove etched in for placing the tip of the metal rod. You can attach the rod by soldering, epoxy or cyanoacrylate adhesive (CA). I chose to solder mine for durability. I have a feeling I will bump these when they are placed on the layout. I applied a little bit of flux on the tip of the rod and in the groove with a toothpick. Then, I touched the iron to the rod while touching the joint between the rod and sign with rosin-core solder. A little bit of alcohol and a brush cleaned up any flux residue.

Finishing is a matter of painting the sign post black and both sides of the sign face white. I wanted mine to appear weathered from being in


(Continued on page 4)



A LVRR SW-9, number 292, passes a whistle post on the author's diorama.

Photo by Chuck Diljak

the elements. So, I painted the face of the sign a base coat of Polyscale Roof Brown using a makeup sponge. I applied a little bit of the paint to the sponge and removed most of it with a rag. Then, I dabbed both faces of the sign until the paint completely covered it. The sponge will apply a thinner coat than a brush and will also leave a texture. After the paint dried, I used the same process to apply Polyscale Reefer White, leaving just enough to allow the Roof Brown to show through in some spots. The sign post was painted with Polyscale Grimy Black. All that was left to do is install it on the layout.


So, if you want a unique whistle post for your layout, you can order your own at <http://www.anthracerailroads.org/sale/index.php>. There are four whistle posts in each package at a cost of \$6, per package. 

The AP Corner

by Bruce De Young A.P. Chairman

Chuck Diljak is the most recent GSD member to earn an Achievement Program Certificate. His latest certificate was for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, and is Chuck's third Achievement Program Certificate. (Chuck's other certificates were for Author and Association Volunteer.)

The Achievement Program has seen a recent jump in activity with seven members actively working towards, and getting close to completing, their work towards certificates in the following areas: Scenery, Electrical, Cars, Motive Power, and Structures. We also have two individuals almost ready to apply for their Golden Spike Certificate.

If you have any interest in the program, please send me an e-mail at bdeyoung@optonline.net. More information on the Achievement Program can be found on the GSD website at <http://www.nergsd.com/achiev.html>. I am more than willing to make house calls! 



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.tmrcl.com

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
ramapovalleyrailroad.com

Bound Brook Presbyterian
Railroad Club (BBPRR)
Bound Brook Cemetery Of-
fice Building
500 Mountain Avenue,
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
Riley1644@verizon.net

SEND CLUB INFORMATION TO
MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:
TOM CASEY
tcasey@co.bergen.nj.us

Around The Division

The GSD board extends its thanks to the local merchants who continuously support the division with their donations also in March the GSD set up a table at the Mother Seton Train show.



▲ Tom Wortmann (left) and Bob Dennis (right) present plaque to Jack De Rosset (middle) of The Model Railroad Shop in Piscataway thanking him for his support.



▲ Bob Dennis (Left) and Tom Wortmann (middle) present Jan Lush (right) of The Big Little Railroad Shop in Somerville with her plaque thanking her for her support.



▲ The GSD set up a table at this years Mother Seton Show in March. Andy, Bob and Jim, man the GSD table. The show had a great turnout!



▲ Andy Brusgard (left) and Anthony Piccirillo (right) present Tom Piccirillo (center) of Micro - Mark an plaque for their support of our division. .

SPRING MEET PHOTOGRAPHS

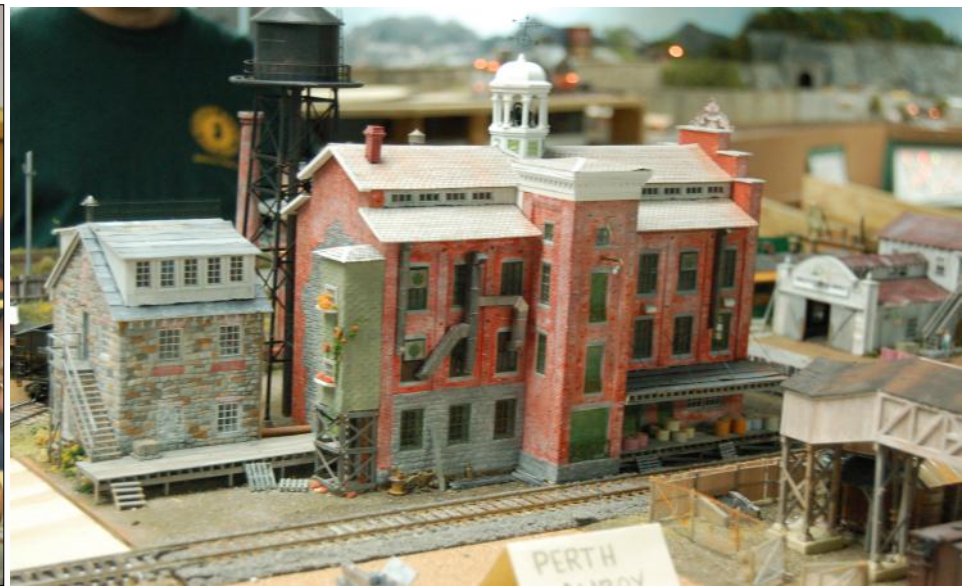
Photos by Chuck Diljak



▲ Lackawanna station on the Ocean County Model Railroad Club. Built by Tom Griffiths.
▼ GSD's Chuck Diljak shares his techniques on painting bricks .



▲ One of the models in the popular contest by Tom Griffith .
▼ A scene on Joe Garsick's free-lanced layout.



NEXT DIVISION MEETING

TIME:

LAYOUT TOURS11-1:30

DINNER.....2-6:30

DATE:

JULY 27, 2013

LOCATION:

VFW HALL

66 MAIN STREET

SPARTA, NJ 07871

DIRECTIONS:

FOR A GOOGLE MAP, CLICK ON
THE GOOGLE LOGO, BELOW:



AGENDA:

LAYOUT TOURS

PRESENTATIONS BY TONY

KOESTER AND ROB PISANI

POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST

DINNER

COST:

\$15

REGISTER BY JULY 12:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DOWN-

LOAD A FORM AND MAIL A

CHECK OR USE PAYPAL:

WWW.NERGSD.COM/DINNER.HTML

**Tickets are
Going FAST!!!**

Celebrate the GSD's 50th!

Can you believe it has been 50 years? That's something worth celebrating!

Festivities will begin at 11AM with the opening of two layouts. Then head over to the VFW Hall in Sparta at 2PM when the cash bar opens. The first half hour gives everyone time to socialize with other attendees and register your models for the Popular Vote contest.

Unlike judging for the NMRA's Achievement Program, we will be relying on all attendees to judge the models everyone has brought in four categories: Steam Locomotives, Diesel Locomotives, Cars, and Structures. So, we encourage everyone to bring some models for this fun portion of the program. Later in the day, the votes will be tabulated and the results announced.

Prior to dinner, you will be welcomed by the GSD President, Ciro Compagno, and other dignitaries from the NMRA. Tony Koester will follow their welcomes with "Tales of Well Known Model Railroaders." Tony is a well known model railroader and has crossed the paths of many other well known model railroaders as a result of his professional career and volunteer activities in our hobby.

At this point in the program, you will have worked up an appetite. Dinner will be served buffet style and will include salad, roasted chicken, ziti, vegetables, potatoes and an anniversary cake for dessert.

After dinner, Rob Pisani from Atlas Model Railroad company will share his experiences on "Manufacturing in China." Rob is Vice President of Product Development for Atlas Model Railroad Company and dealt firsthand with the manufacturing challenges that our hobby struggled with in recent years.

To wrap up the day's activities, it is time to announce the winners of the popular vote contest. Closing remarks will also be given at this time in addition to a teaser on the exciting fall meet that is planned.

So, come help us celebrate the past 50 years of the Garden State Division and the start of the next 50! Bring some models for the popular vote! Eat well! Socialize! And, enjoy the presentations by two influential model railroaders and railfans.


The registration deadline is July 12 and tickets are going fast! The cost is \$15 and there are two options for registering. Go to www.nergsd.com/dinner.html to register and pay, on-line with PayPal. Or, complete and return the form included on the website along with payment to the address provided on the form. We hope you will join us for the celebration! 🚂



▲ Ted Pamperin's HO scale C&O layout is one of two layouts on tour prior to the dinner
▼ Rob Pisani, from Atlas Manufacturing, and Tony Koester are the featured speakers.



SUMMER MEET, LAYOUT TOURS

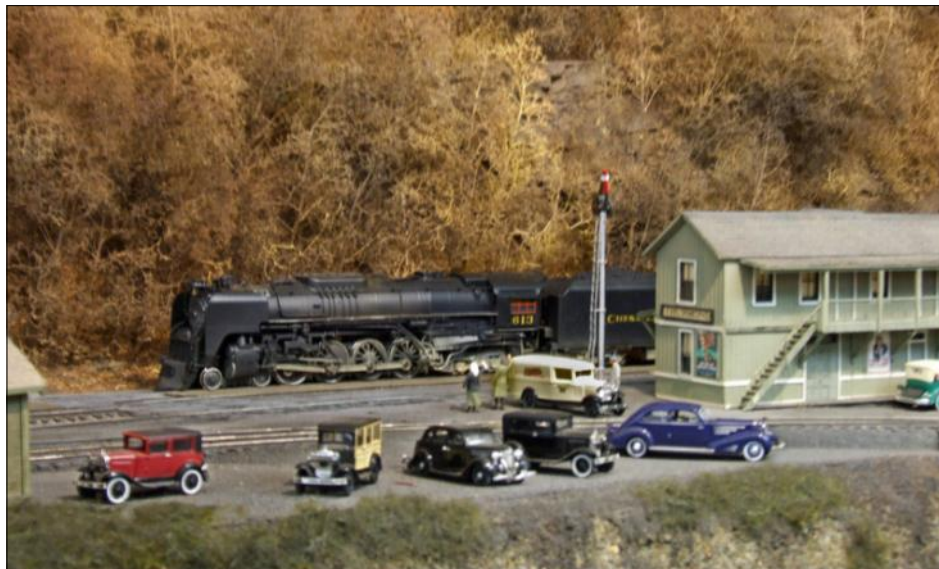
Just a teaser there will be two layouts that will be open for the meet! Ted Pamperin's C&O and Rich Ross's EL. The layouts will be open prior to the actual meet and may be on your way to the location. If your attending an email with directions will be sent you! See you at the meet! 



▲ ▼ Ted Pamperin's exquisite C&O HO scale layout.



▲ ▼ Rich Ross's highly detailed Erie Lackawanna HO scale



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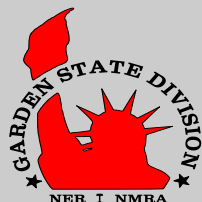
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The Meeting Minutes and Infonet have now been moved to the GSD website. Clickable links provided below. Also links have been inserted for the hobby dealers on the right panel. Please click on any of the pictures to link to the dealers.

**GSD Board
Meeting Minutes**



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

We are currently looking for more clinics to fill up our meet schedule for the year. In addition we need new meet locations! Please contact Jim Homoki at **heavyelectric@netscape.net** Thanks! 

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/member/content/member-info-update>

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LIGHTING THE OLD MAIN LINE!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JIM FAWCETT

My depiction of a 20 mile stretch along the B&O's Old Main Line will reside in a fully finished and dedicated 15' x 21' basement space. Ground was officially broken for the HO scale single deck layout November 2012 after two years of planning, designing and researching, and once the space was deemed fully complete. Well, almost fully complete. Although the walls were neatly sheet rocked, the floor carefully tiled and the ceiling nicely covered with a dropped system, lighting was absent due to several issues. My 1949-built home featured basement ceiling joists that sat just 6'-6" above the finished floor. Even with a dropped ceiling system that I installed at the tightest possible tolerance of two inches, my clearance was now only 6'-4".

Lighting options were limited. Large surface mounted wrap-around fixtures reduced head clearance further while drop-in units were obstructed by the proximate ceiling joists. Recessed cans fit, but I was advised they would provide a very limited 'cone' due to the modest 2'-0" distance between my bench work and the ceiling. Further, the requisite number to illuminate the layout properly was both cost prohibitive and problematic in heat generation. Track lighting? Too hot, too intrusive and too expensive.

In evaluating the emerging lighting technologies from halogen to LEDs to compact fluorescents, I quickly zeroed in on CFLs. I ultimately realized that my lighting system would be temporary and surface mounted, but needed to be unobtrusive and flexible while giving bright, even light without breaking the bank. Simple criteria!

My decision was made easier when buddy Ted Dilorio sought to

sell some lighting that he had decided not to use on his multi-deck railroad. A single 48' string of Party Lights was temporarily hung along my ceiling behind an improvised kraft brown paper valence. The (24) 14 watt CFL bulbs @ 5000K spaced at two foot intervals illuminated the space wonderfully. The cool white bulbs grayed out my blue backdrop nicely and unlike tubular fluorescents, the CFLs easily handled curves and corners. When I realized that a second string would perfectly complete my required 95' linear run I was hooked. A deal was struck.

The next trick would be designing an installation that would be functional and aesthetically pleasing. I decided to utilize ceiling clips specifically made for track lighting systems to hold painted 1x3's that would support both the lighting and the valence. The clips were positioned on the

ceiling grid to align with the front edge of soon-to-be-built bench work, the footprint of which was mimicked on the floor by more kraft brown paper. The 1x3's had holes drilled to match the positioned clips and partially routed out to accept the clip.

Once the 1 x 3's were attached to the ceiling grid and joined to one another with 3" stainless steel mending plates, the two strings of lights were easily mounted via their integrated ears and some 3/8" TV cable clamps using #6 x 1/2" sheet metal screws. I cut 1/8" tempered hardboard into 8" x 8' lengths painting the inside linen white and the outside deep gray before mounting them to the side of the 1 x 3's using #8 x 1" lath screws. The ends of the valence sections were mated using plastic molding joiners that I cut to size and painted to match.



(Continued on page 11)

GSD Mileposts

1980 The division had over 400 members and hosted nine events per year, including a trip on the ex-Pennsylvania Railroad diesel-electric motor car #4666 from Ringoes to Flemington, Three Bridges, and Lambertville.

1981 The Model Railroad Club in Union hosted division workshops during the year on hydrocal scenery, prototype railroading, and casting buildings.

1989 The division hosted the NER Spring Convention in Edison and was attended by 150 guests.

2000 In February, Tom Matthews called a meeting at the Aviation Hall of Fame at Teterboro Airport to discuss reorganizing the division.

2001 On October 23, the division was reorganized at a meeting held at the Dover Train Show. Tom Matthews became the first President and Roger Oliver the first editor of the *Whistle Post* after the reorganization.


2002 Meets were hosted by the Ramapo Valley Railroad Club in Ho-Ho-Kus and the Model Railroad Club in Union. Mel Ponton chaired the Achievement Program and Tom Wortmann became the editor of the *Whistle Post*. A petition was raised at the NER board of director's meeting to return Staten Island to the division.

2003 The division's annual meeting was held in Chester. Mel Ponton became President of the division.

2004 Meets were held in Chester and at the Model Railroad Club in Union. A rolling meet of the Morris Canal and northern New Jersey railroads was hosted by the division. The 2006 NER Regional Fall Convention was awarded to the Division. The division attained tax exempt status from the IRS.


2005 The division held meets at the Model Railroad Club in Union, the Ramapo Valley Railroad Club in Ho-Ho-Kus and a rolling meet in Phillipsburg. Tom Wortmann became President and Ralph Heiss became editor of the *Whistle Post*.

2006 The division hosted the NER Regional Fall Convention in Parsippany called the "Garden State Comet" with 150 members in attendance. The division also held meets at the Ramapo Valley Railroad Club in Ho-Ho-Kus and the North Jersey Hi-Railers Club in Paterson. Kevin Olsen became editor of the *Whistle Post* and Norman Frowley became Master Model Railroader number 382.

2007 The division held meets at the Ramapo Valley Railroad Club in Ho-Ho-Kus, the New York Society of Model Engineers in Carlstadt, the Model Railroad Club in Union and a summer barbecue was hosted by the Garden State Model Railway Club in North Haledon. The division hosted the youth program at the Lake Mohawk Sleepy Lagoon Beach Community. Chuck Diljak became editor of the *Whistle Post*. 

(Continued from page 10)

The lighting around the walls was now complete, but the peninsula section of the layout posed an added challenge as the installation was visible and somewhat distracting. I decided to place a 3" deep interior hardboard valence, painted linen white, to hide the wires and clean up the overall look without affecting the actual light source. Then I ran the ends of the two strings of lights to an outlet installed behind the dropped ceiling that is operated via a wall switch and presto, there's light, wonderful, bright, even light.

The entire project including two 48' strings, (48) CFLs and all mounting hardware and materials cost less than \$300, a fraction of what some of the alternatives cost, and gives me everything that I was looking for. I am very pleased with the results and would be happy to answer any questions anyone may have. Contact me @ jimfawcett@comcast.net. 



Most items available at your Lowes or Home Depot. Caddy Twist Clip Tee Bar Hanger #4G16GR ;

www.graininger.com

48' medium base string light - black #M48BK ;

www.partylights.com



THE TIMETABLE

Saturday, 7/27 GSD Summer meet and 50th Anniversary

**2:00 - 6:30 p.m. Veterans of Foreign War Hall
66 Main Street Sparta, NJ 07871 \$15 with advanced registration More info can be found at;
<http://www.nergsd.com/dinner.html>**

**Sunday-Saturday, 7/14-20/13, NMRA National Convention, "Peachtree Express," Atlanta, GA.
For more information: www.nmra2013.org**

Saturday 10/5 GSD Fall Meet

9:00-5:00 PM Ramsey Middle School

Auxiliary Gymnasium

73 Monroe St. Ramsey NJ

For more information:

<http://www.nergsd.com/upcoming.html>

**Thursday-Sunday, 10/17-20/13, NER Regional Convention, "Tracks to Lakeport 2013", Laco-
nia, NH. For more information: [http://
seacoastnmra.org/seacoast/Welcome.html](http://seacoastnmra.org/seacoast/Welcome.html)**



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