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## WEBSITE

[www.nergsd.com](http://www.nergsd.com)

Contact email addresses can be found on Page 8 and on the website. Note that the GSD will no longer be using the Yahoo email accounts.



The

# HISTLE POST

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

## Summer Meet near the Water Gap

Saturday, August 1, 2015

**Meet location and all but one layout within 15 minutes of Exit 4 on I-80 in New Jersey**

Our summer meet will be a departure from the normal routine at our events, and instead will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch at a historic hotel in Bangor, Pennsylvania. Right in the heart of the Pennsylvania Slate Belt, Bangor is just 15 minutes off I-80 in New Jersey, and a simple hop across the Delaware River.

We will meet at the Broadway Pub, 62 Broadway, Bangor, PA in the historic Colonial Hotel. Meet us at 11 a.m. and have lunch, a snack, or simply stop in to say hello and pick up the layout tour map! Note: although we will eat together, each member will order their own lunch and pay

separately. Some metered street parking is available in the area and there is a free parking lot across the side street. You will need some change for the meters. (If you do not plan on eating with us, make sure to stop in to pick up the map between 11 a.m. and noon.)

Check out the Pub's website for directions and their menu: <http://www.thebroadwaypub.com/>

After lunch, you may want to walk the two blocks to the Slate Belt Heritage Center and learn about the quarrying and uses of slate. They are open from Noon to 3 and will be expecting us! *(continued on Page 4)*

## Spring 2015—Another Great Joint Meet

*Article and Photos by Jim Walsh*

After surviving the recent winter, light rain on May 9 could not dampen the enthusiasm of around 110 model railroaders gathered at the Spring Division Meet. Like last spring, it was a joint meet with the New Jersey Division but this time it was hosted by the GSD at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Building. Besides the usual blend of clinics, "Bring 'N Brag", layout tours and general information, the meet included the GSD elections and annual business meeting.

The clinics provided timely information for somebody planning a new layout or renovating an older one. Mike Prokop

presented an introduction to LED layout lighting and included comprehensive information on the use of LED light strips. Mike also brought examples of the lighting and power supplies to demonstrate the look and operation of the LEDs. In addition, the LED lighting could be applied to other uses around the house. Most modelers are familiar with styrene but Jim Fawcett's "Fun with Styrene" clinic presented it as a great backdrop material for his layout. In determining his selection, Jim reviewed several alternative materials and explained why they were not chosen. *(continued on Page 7)*



## How to Get the Most from Your NMRA Membership

As I write this first column as the President of the GSD, I want to take a moment to thank my predecessor, Ciro Compagno for his leadership, friendship, and dedication to the Division. During his time in office, the attendance at our Division Meets has increased tremendously. He nurtured our relationship with the New Jersey Division and helped establish the practice of having dual meets with the NJD once a year. It is fitting that the last meet we had while Ciro was President was such a dual meet and that the attendance broke our previous record. We had 110 attend the dual GSD/NJD meet on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information on that meet elsewhere in this newsletter.

Now for some comments on how to maximize the benefits that you get from your NMRA membership. For many members, the publications they receive from the National, Regional, and Divisional levels seem to be enough for them to justify their membership fees. However, that is just the tip of the iceberg for many other members. Lets look at what else there is available as the result of your membership.

First and foremost are the Division level events. The GSD currently schedules four (4) events a year. We purposely hold these events at different geographic locations within our Division with the hope that if one location is too far away for some members, the next location might be much closer. Our format generally includes educational clinics in the morning along with the opportunity for members to bring models to show and discuss with the members present (we call it 'Bring and Brag'), a white elephant table, and the opportunity to bring models for evaluation for those involved in the AP Program, and layout tours in the afternoon. Quite often, our summer meet will be less formal and have a different format. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on this year's summer meet. At least half of our GSD membership rarely or never attend one of our events. If you haven't been in a while, or have never attended one of our events, why not give it a try. It is a great benefit that your NMRA membership makes available to you.

Second, attend a Regional Convention. These are the real gems of the organization. They are generally closer in distance, shorter in duration, and way less expensive than the National Convention, and provide many of the same experiences – clinics, prototype tours, layout tours, opportunities for operations, modular layouts at the convention site, contest room. Sales room, etc. My wife Bonnie and I have attended many Regional Conventions in the NER, MER and even the SER, and have yet to have one that we didn't enjoy immensely. If you haven't ever attended a regional convention, the MER Convention in Mt. Laurel, NJ from *(continued on following page)*



## Historical Societies

If you are not already a member of a historical society for your favorite railroad, have you considered joining one? Maybe you're not even aware that there is one, as there are now many that cover the less popular roads, in addition to the big ones like PRR and Santa Fe. There are also broader groups, such as the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) which focuses on preservation and railfan trips, and the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society (R&LHS), which promotes railroad history from a more academic perspective. (Disclaimer: I'm a member of both, along with about 5 others!). A few of the larger ones have a paid employee or two, but nearly all are volunteer organizations.

There are many reasons to join a historical society, with one of the best being the variety of people you can meet with a common interest. For us, modeling may be the main consideration. Most publish a magazine or maintain a website that provides in-depth information for the modeler. Not just on freight cars or locomotives, but on prototype operations, passenger service, and structures. The detail you obtain can be as simple as a roster for a given year, down to the type of power and caboose used on a certain train—and as well as what time of day it usually ran.

Most of us appreciate the highly detailed equipment that is now being offered by the high end manufacturers. In many cases, there are individuals associated with a historical society that provide photos and data to make these models as accurate as they could be. Some groups also issue books and reprints of company material that are very useful in modeling. Through the Penn Central RR Historical Society (PCRRHS), I've worked first hand with several companies to help them produce more accurate products. It can be time consuming, but it is also rewarding when you know a new model is done correctly.

I would guess the majority of the individual railroad historical society members are modelers (unlike broad-based groups like the NRHS, for example). In the PCRRHS, there are members that are former employees, collect railroadians, have an interest in timetables, or join because of a regional interest such as a branch line where they grew up. Getting to know a few of these people with common interests will greatly expand your knowledge, and may even head you in a different direction within the hobby. That is not necessarily a bad thing.

Think about what you may want to learn, look into a group or two that could help, and check them out. There is almost certainly one for you. **WP**

## NEXT DIVISION MEETING

### TIME:

MEET.....11AM TO 12:00 NOON  
SLATE MUSEUM..NOON TO 3PM  
LAYOUT TOURS ..... 1-4 PM

### DATE:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015

### LOCATION:

BROADWAY PUB  
62 BROADWAY AVENUE  
BANGOR, PA

### WEB SITE FOR MEETS:

[HTTP://WWW.NERGS.COM/  
UPCOMING.HTML](http://www.nergsd.com/upcoming.html)

DIRECTIONS CAN BE FOUND ON  
PAGE 10

### AGENDA:

MEET FOR LUNCH AND MAPS  
VISIT LOCAL SITES  
LAYOUT TOURS

### ACTIVITY DONATION:

NONE REQUESTED

*(The Cab continued from previous page)*

October 22-25, 2015 offers you the perfect opportunity! The NER is not having a convention this fall, so many NER members will be attending and even serving as clinicians and hosts for layout tours. This includes several of your GSD Board Members and Officers. This convention will indeed serve as the fall event of the GSD. Follow this link to learn more about the MER Convention: <http://www.delawarevalleyturn.org/>

A third and final benefit of your NMRA membership that I will discuss in this column is the Members Only side of the NMRA Website. To access this part of the site, you have to create a user name and password that will take you a minute or two. After that, you have access to a wealth of photos, articles, clinics, modeling information and even an interactive members' Forum. If you haven't been there recently, you must take the time to visit the site. There are now dozens of clinics on streaming video that you can watch on your computer, clinics in PowerPoint format under the EduTRAIN section, copies of many Data Sheets, collections of modeling articles from Region Newsletters under the NMRA@Home link, and the Forum that I mentioned before. This is a great benefit of

membership in the NMRA that you can enjoy from home! Although this list of benefits is not complete, it surely represents a great start for getting more from your NMRA membership! Give them a try.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events! **WP**

### The GSD Welcomes New Members

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

Steven Kay	Charles Lewowski	Jim Rizzolo
William R. Start	Raymond Watrous	Chris Olivia
Reddy Sudhaker		Christopher Adams

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

(Spring Meet continued from Page 1)



Above: A photo of our meeting location, the Broadway Pub in the Colonial Hotel.



Above: The Slate Belt Heritage Center

While driving around the Slate Belt, take notice of all the slate roofs that you will see along the way, and don't miss the huge piles of slate debris that you will find along the road. It will be a good time to stop and pick up some slate to use as scenic material on your layout or dioramas!



Above: One of the many slate slag heaps in the Bangor, PA area.

After lunch we have three great layouts in New Jersey to visit, within 15 minutes of Exit 4 on I-80 except for Tony Koester's Nickel Plate Road, which is about a half hour from I-80!

First is a Santa Fe based HO scale layout owned by Ed Suhy. Much of the scenery is complete, and it features two large helices.

The second layout belongs to Harold Werthwein and is based on the Erie Railroad. Harold is a spry 92 years old – or is it 93??? When we visited him in March, we interrupted him hand laying some turnouts! Harold's layout is a huge 85' x 30' in size and is fully scened. It has appeared in many magazine articles over the years, and has been the subject of two of Allen Keller's 'Great Model Railroad' videos. If you haven't seen Harold's layout in person, this is a rare opportunity for sure!

The third layout is Tony Koester's HO Scale Nickel Plate Road. Although Tony's layout is about a half hour down the road, it is well worth the ride. Since we last visited the Nickel Plate two years ago, Tony has added a lot more scenery. *(continued on following page)*

*(Summer Meet continued from previous page)*

So why not join us for a pleasant Saturday drive in western New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania? Oh, and bring your spouse and/or a friend. They will enjoy the scenery, lunch in a historic inn, a visit to the Slate Belt Heritage Museum, and some great model railroads.

More information and pictures are available on our website at: <http://www.nergsd.com/docs/Garden%20State%20Division%20Summer%20Meet%202015.pdf> WP

## The Timetable *Upcoming Events*

**GSD Summer Meet** Saturday, August 1 in Bangor, PA, with home layouts in North-western NJ (details in this newsletter).

**Wayne Train Show** Sunday, August 16 at the Wayne PAL Hall, PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ <http://www.eastcoasttrainparts.com/wayne.htm>

**NMRA National Convention** Portland, Oregon, August 23-29, 2015. [www.nmra2015portland.org](http://www.nmra2015portland.org)

**Old Bridge Train and Toy Show** Saturday, September 19 at 1 Old Bridge Plaza (Senior Center), Rt. 516, Old Bridge, NJ <http://www.eastcoasttrainparts.com/oldbridge.htm>

**Lehigh Valley Regional Train Show** Sunday, September 27 at Charles Palmer Community Center, 4100 Green Pond Road, Easton, PA [www.palmercommunitycenter.org](http://www.palmercommunitycenter.org)

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

**NJ Division, MER Mid-Eastern Region Fall Convention** –The NJ Division is hosting the 2015 Fall Convention, the Delaware Valley Turn, for the MER. It will be held in Mt. Laurel, NJ at the Hotel ML on Route 73 between I-295 and the NJ Turnpike from October 22-25. There will be all the features you expect at a regional convention including clinics, tours, contests, layout operations, and more. [www.delawarevalleyturn.org](http://www.delawarevalleyturn.org)

**Garden State RPM Meet** November 14-15 at the Union County Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains. If you haven't been to an RPM meet, this local event is a great one to start with. Clinics, model displays, layout open houses, and vendor tables. Registration and clinics for this year's event are not yet available, but there are photos from previous meets can be seen at <http://hansmanns.org/ld-op-nj/index.htm> This is a GSD/NMRA co-sponsored event.

**GSD Winter Meet** Date and location to be determined.

Right: A view of Ed Suhy's Santa Fe based layout.



Right: Starrucca Viaduct on Harold Werthwein's Erie layout.



Right: Tony Koester's well known Nickel Plate Road layout.



## THE CLUB CAR

Garden State Model  
Railway Club  
575 High Mountain Road  
North Haledon, NJ 07508  
[www.gsmrrclub.org](http://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](http://www.modelengineers.org)

Pacific Southern Railway Club  
26 Washington Street  
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553  
[www.pacificsouthern.org](http://www.pacificsouthern.org)

Ramapo Valley  
Railroad Club  
620 Cliff Street  
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423  
[www.ramapovalleyrailroad.com](http://www.ramapovalleyrailroad.com)

Bound Brook Presbyterian  
Railroad Club (BBPRR)  
Bound Brook Cemetery  
Office Building  
500 Mountain Avenue,  
Bound Brook, NJ 08805  
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SEND CLUB INFORMATION TO  
MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:  
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## AP Corner *By Bruce De Young, MMR - Achievement Program Chair*

This past winter saw a lot of activity in the Achievement Program here in the Garden State Division. This resulted in numerous awards being handed out at our spring meet on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Hillsborough.

GSD Treasurer and NER Director Bob Dennis earned his Golden Spike Award as well as AP Certificates for Electrical Engineering and as Association Volunteer.

Member Fred Dellaiaco was extremely busy this past year culminating in him earning four AP Certificates! They were in Scenery, Structures, Electrical Engineering, and Civil Engineering.

Chuck Diljak, who is working on his Structures Certificate, finished a beautiful HO Scale Freight House that earned a Merit Award.

And Howard Lash, who was our Paul Mallery Award winner for 2014, received a Merit Award for his scratch built O-Scale 40' Lumber Box Car.

As for me, I finished up my Civil Engineering Certificate this winter. That earned me my seventh certificate and my MMR (#555). I now join Norm Frowley (MMR #382) and Tom Piccirillo (MMR #418) as the Garden State Division's three living MMRs.

Although warm weather has arrived, work in the AP Program has not stopped. We now have two requests to visit layouts to evaluate them for the Civil Engineering Certificate. How about you? Would you like to get involved in the AP Program? If so, feel free to contact me for more information. **WP**

*(additional photos on following page)*



**Above: Bruce awards Fred three of the four Certificates he has earned this year. Below: Bob also has an armful with the Golden Spike Award and two AP Certificates. (photos by Jim Walsh)**



(AP Corner continued from previous page)



Above: Bruce awards Chuck a Structures Merit Award.  
Below: Howard also received a Merit Award, this one for rolling stock. (all photos by Jim Walsh)



Summer 2015

(Spring Meet continued from Page 1)

The clinic was a thorough presentation on working with styrene for backdrops and included some very helpful techniques that Jim discovered while developing his method.

Bruce De Young introduced the plan for the August 1<sup>st</sup> Summer Meet and Ciro Compagno presented information about the GSD co-sponsored Garden State RPM meet at the Union County Vocational-Technical School on November 14 and 15.

Both Divisions presented awards to members and each Division recognized its latest member to achieve Master Model Railroader. Bruce De Young of the GSD is MMR 555 and Tom Griffiths of the NJD is MMR 557. Congratulations on a great accomplishment and reaching a major milestone in the hobby.

Before the meeting adjourned, the attendees were reminded about the MER convention, the Delaware Valley Turn, being hosted by the NJD in Mount Laurel, NJ, October 22-25. NMRA members are encouraged to attend and volunteers are needed and appreciated.

For the afternoon two HO scale layouts and two N scale layouts were open for self-guided tours. The layout owners reported they were very busy and even crowded at times with visitors. WP



Above: Tom Griffiths has the attention of the room as he presents a Bring 'N Brag project. Tom also received his MMR certificate at the meet.

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# Remembering Thomas J. Matthews, 1944-2015

*By Tom Wortmann*

*Tom Matthews was GSD President from 2000-2003*

I first met Tom during a meeting he hosted at Teterboro Airport where he worked as an Air Traffic Controller in Winter of 2000. I had heard of this meeting via a flyer I was happy to hear the Division may be coming back. I was saddened by the shut down of the Garden State Division right after the 1987 convention. I wasn't really active but I belonged to it. In those days we paid separate dues to the Region and the Division.

After the shutdown of the Division most of us active Staten Island NMRA members gravitated over to the Sunrise Trail Division on Long Island. So I was happy to hear that the GSD was starting up again or was at least trying to.

About 20 people attended this meeting. I didn't know anyone but this guy Tom Matthews kept saying if you wanted it to come back, you need to help him make that happen. Afterwards Tom took down your name and phone number. I remember him asking me what I wanted to do and I said, "Pay Dues", to which he replied, "No, I need more than that".

Well, soon afterwards I received a phone call from Tom asking me to attend a meeting he was having in a diner on Route 22. Tom was a very good speaker and had a way of talking you into things and even though I was not an 'official' GSD member I felt welcome and wanted. It appears Tom knew Hal Carstens of RMC very well and got Hal to pay for most of our early expenses.

And Tom kept calling. I'm not sure what he saw in me but he kept asking me to attend these early meetings, always in diners, always in the middle of Route 22, and I did.

Speaking with Tom about himself was rare. His mind was on getting the GSD back up and running. He would hand address and stamp hundreds of envelopes to members

containing our fledgling newsletter or a notice. He would personally go door to door to clubs and manufacturers trying to get not only donations but members as well. He also pounded the pavement looking for a place to hold a meeting - cheap.

I knew he lived in Saddle Brook, NJ. I knew he had once lived on Long Island and only rented houses until buying his last house in Emmaus, PA. I much later found out that he originally came from Walden, NY.

One of our very first meetings as a Division was at the Ramapo club in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. Soon afterwards I became a Director in the GSD and brought with me a lot of ideas from the Sunrise Trail. Soon I was the Newsletter Editor, Mel Ponton was the AP Chair, and Tom was still going door to door ringing up support for the Division.

It was Tom who introduced me to Frank Neufeld, who became a GSD VP, Mel Ponton who became GSD President, Glen Glasstetter, NER President at the time, Harold Werthwein whose layout Tom built many buildings for, Ed Fraedrich, past GSD Director, Tony Koester, past NMRA World Director, Tom Casey, current GSD Director and many other good people.

Thanks to Tom I soon became friends with all, but very good friends with Ed, Frank, and Mel, I think because they were all veterans like me. Speaking of veterans, Tom served in the U.S. Coast Guard during Vietnam and was wounded flying helicopter rescue missions into hostile territory.

By the time Tom passed on he had given up all his FAA licenses but had over 7,500 hours of flying time under his belt. If you don't know what that means, Mel Ponton, who flew private jets had 1,500 hours of flight time when he retired. *(continued on following page)*

*(Tom Matthews continued from previous page)*

Tom was licensed to fly rotary and fixed wing aircraft, single and multi-engine as well as holding an airframe license to repair both rotary and fixed wing aircraft. While Tom always made extra money as a pilot and a mechanic he was in fact, as I said earlier, an air traffic controller by trade. While I was working on the ground during the 911 recovery, Tom was in the air flying a news helicopter for Channel 11. I remember once he called me up to ask me when I would break for lunch and when I told him, he said to watch for a 'dancing' helicopter above and sure enough, when I got outside and looked up at the prescribed time I would see this one of twelve or so helicopters doing this rocking back and forth or moving forward and back and I knew, Tom was up there.

Tom was great fun at conventions be it Nationals or Regionals. And if you knew Tom, you knew he loved his Dunkin Donuts. When Tom was in any city the very first thing on his mind was finding the nearest Dunkin Donuts. Trains, tours and such came later. Ed once commented that Tom looked like a lost puppy until he found one. He always knew where the tracks were and always loved to railfan, with his DD coffee in his hand, of course. By the way, he and Ed were very close friends and Ed's passing affected Tom greatly.

At conventions we would take trips to where the trains were, and in some cases where Tom thought they were, but it was always good and he loved a good joke and always had a smile on his face. He was the kind of guy you wanted to be his friend. Tom was very adventuresome and that could lead you anywhere. I am grateful to be blessed with many great memories of Tom and convention adventures that will always make me smile.

But Tom never had a layout until the end. He would work on yours, helping with

**Below, a table of GSD Staff at the 2002 NER Syracuse Convention. Tom Matthews is seated on the left.**



suggestions and ideas. In fact, he constructed a number of buildings which you can still see today on Harold Werthwein's layout. He kept telling me that when he retired he was going to build this huge New York, Ontario and Western layout, and when he did retire, he did start work on it. Tom also gave many hours of his time to the NYO&W Historical Society.

In his final house in Emmaus, PA, he did start that layout he dreamed of and worked it out to the last detail. We spent hours on the phone as he explained his design and interchanges and I explained wiring to him, helped him find a problem, and at times with others from Staten Island actually being there to help build the layout.

I was happy that both Tom and Mel Ponton were able to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. It was the last time I saw Mel alive.

When Tom traveled through Staten Island I would always get a call and if I was home, Tom would most times stop in for coffee, which meant, of course, a visit to my local Dunkin Donuts. If not a visit Tom would call about once a week to chat while waiting in a doctor's office, waiting for his wife to come out a of store or waiting for his car to be done and I returned the favor many times while I was waiting for someone or something.

In ending, Tom gave of himself in many ways. He was generous, kind and never had a bad word to say about anyone. I can only hope to be half as

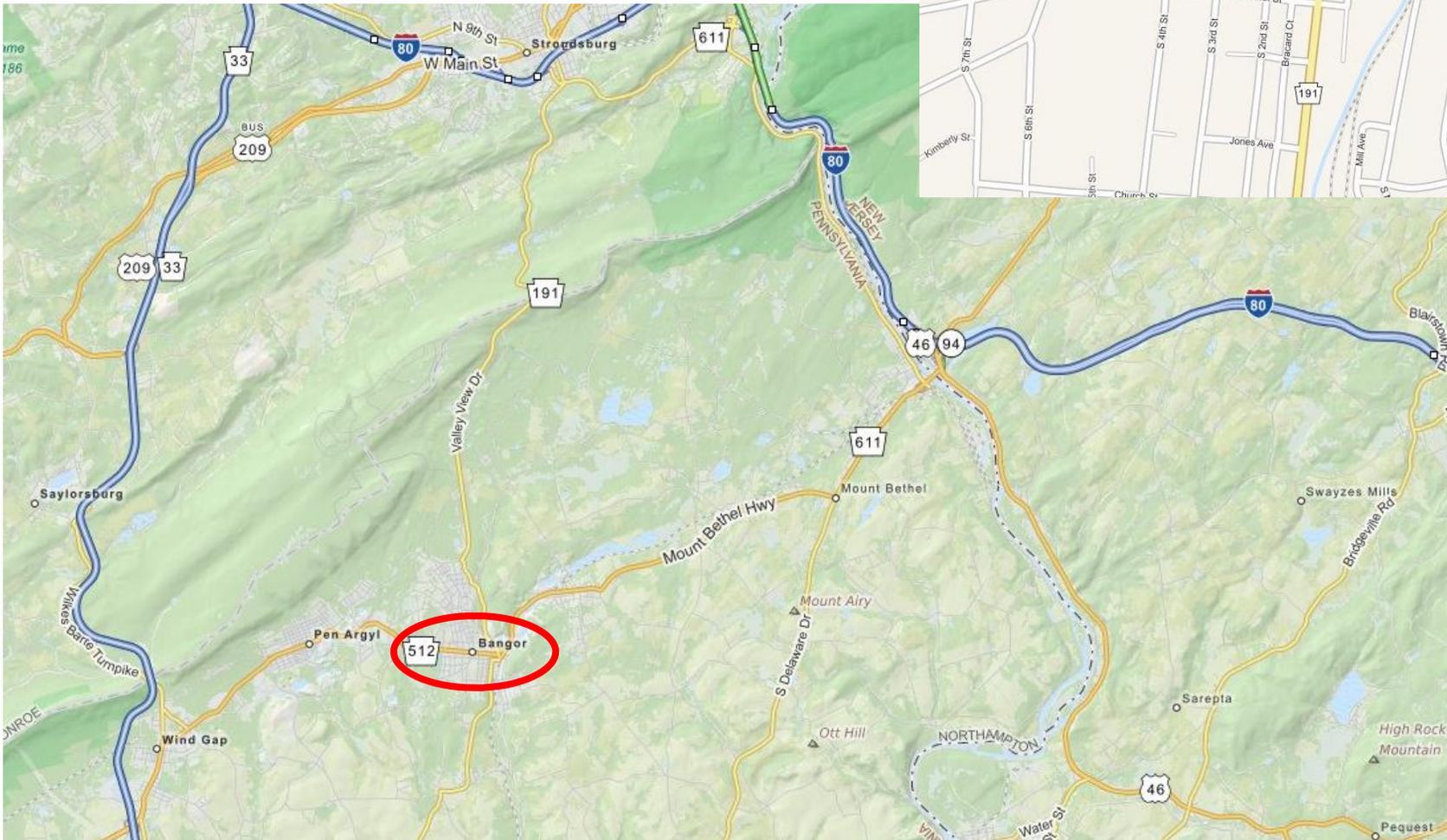
**Below, left to right: GSD Presidents Tom Wortmann, good as he was. He was a good friend and is already missed. Thanks to all his tireless work and foot pounding we have the Division we have today. Without Tom, we would still be inactive. I was honored to call him friend. WP**



# Directions to the Summer Meet

From anywhere in New Jersey take Route 94 South, Route 46 West, or I-80 Exit 4 to the Columbia-Portland Toll Bridge in Columbia.

- Cross the Delaware River on North Delaware Drive. There is a westbound toll of \$1.
- This leads to PA Route 611 south (South Delaware Drive)
- Turn right onto Mt. Bethel Hwy (PA Route 512)
- In East Bangor, PA Route 512 turns into West Central Avenue
- In Bangor, bear left onto Main Street, then right onto Broadway Avenue. The Broadway Pub is at 62 Broadway Avenue, two blocks on the left. Parking is available on the street and across the street.



## ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

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**The GSD now has a Twitter account!** Announcements and updates can be made more quickly than on our website. Follow the GSD at “**GSD of the NMRA@GardenStateDiv**”

Meeting Reports, past Articles, and complete issues of the Whistle Post can be found on the GSD website [www.nergds.com](http://www.nergds.com)

**Communications and Webmaster Help Wanted!**  
The GSD would like additional help with our electronic communications and website. Please contact **Bruce DeYoung:**  
[pres@nergds.com](mailto:pres@nergds.com)



### **New Members Wanted!**

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

The New York Society of Model Engineers is looking for new members. 5,000 square feet of model trains. Two large layouts, "HO" and "O". Full machine shop, large research library. Dues only \$15.00 a month. Located in Carlstadt, NJ, 1/2 mile from MetLife Stadium. See Membership page at [www.ModelEngineers.org](http://www.ModelEngineers.org) for details and directions.

## ***Not getting the bi-monthly NMRA eBULLETIN?***

The new **NMRA eBulletin** comes out every other month near the 1st of the month. Either your SPAM filter is blocking it, or you need to update your email address. Go to:

<http://www.nmra.org/nmra-magazine>

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