

# THE WHISTLE POST

The Official Publication of the Garden State Division  
Of the Northeast Region of the NMRA



Number 90

WINTER 2003/2004

## Bloomsbury NJ

Our Winter Meet, running late due to problems obtaining halls, went off very well. It was a picture perfect day in Bloomsbury. The trees being all decked out in fall colors made the trip from Staten Island very pleasant and as most know, Bloomsbury is almost a straight line from Staten Island on Route 78.

We sure had enough room. The video table was showing videos of the old Lackawanna, and other NJ railroads. The white elephant table had tons of stuff, so much so that we had to double the size of it and most of it sold out! Everything from Varney to Atharan to Accurail. And that was only the rolling stock! Building kits, accessories, parts, video tapes and much more. A number of local hobby shops also helped stock the table.

In short you had a nice selection to pick

from and quite a few fellows went home with smiles on the faces.

The clinics went along nicely. Ralph Heiss gave a winner on the Lehigh Valley with slides, handouts with questions afterward. I've come to think that if it's Cornel red and has to do with water, Ralph's the man to see. His clinic is a bloom for anyone modeling the Lehigh Valley, Rail/Harbor operations or any New Jersey coast railroads. Richard Bendever gave an excellent clinic on weather buildings and other scenery areas again with slides and handouts. He models 'S' scale but weathering has no scale as we all know so it was good information for all. Afterwards he had a number of models to display using these techniques as well as answers all the questions that followed.

Pictures are on page 7

The contest table also was quite loaded. We had

asked that participates keep their numbers down to two per due to the time it takes for judging but the word did not get out to all. In the long run it all worked out and everything got judged fairly.

There were some fine models entered as well. Norman Fowley is an up and coming modeler who has a great start and submitted a number of building. Our judges know talent when they see it and this man will go far.

Door prizes were plentiful thanks to our local hobby shops and manu-

facturers. Everyone got a free raffle ticket upon paying their admission fee (\$5.00) and were able to buy extras at \$1.00 apiece. Some of the items handed out were freight car kits, tools, decals and detail parts. I don't believe anyone left empty handed.

To our winners, please send off a note to the supplier of your prize thanking them for their donation. If they hear from you, they are sure to keep giving and that makes for a better meet.

(right) President Mel Ponton speaks to the membership during the annual meeting during the Fall meet. About the need for more help and our upcoming ideas for the future of the GSD.



## THE YARD MASTERS

### President & AP Chairman

Mel Ponton  
Bloomsbury NJ  
908-479-4345  
Mponton@ptd.com

### Vice President

Tom Wortmann  
Staten Island NY  
718-494-0388  
miskyrails@msn.com

### Secretary-Treasurer

Roger Oliver  
Denville, NJ  
973-625-3414  
tangramassoc@netscape.net

### Trustee

Don Jennings  
Ridgewood, NJ  
201-444-9274  
donj1044@aol.com

### Trustee

Frank Neufeld  
Staten Island NY  
718-979-0862  
Fwneufeld@aol.com

### Trustee

Ralph Heiss  
So. Plainfield NJ  
908-922-2835  
Rheiss@dvc.com

### Editor

### & Webmaster

Tom Wortmann  
68 Carmel Ave  
Staten Island NY  
718-494-0388  
miskyrails@msn.com

### NJ NER Director

Don Jennings  
Ridgewood NJ  
201-444-9274  
Donj1044@aol.com

*Notice that some people have  
two titles? Yes, we need more  
help in running the division.  
Please step up and lend a hand*



## Clubs around the Division



### THE RAMAPO VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB

Meets Tues. & Fri.  
620 CLIFF ST. HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07  
Dennis Alderman 845-359-0746

### GARDEN STATE MODEL Ry. CLUB, Inc.

Meets Tues. & Fri.  
575 High Mountain Rd. North Haledon, NJ 07508  
www.gsmrrclub.org  
"O" SCALE CLUB  
Meets Tues. & Fri. at above  
Contact; Karl Geffchen 973-857-2825

### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY N-TRAK

Meets Fridays GARFIELD, NJ  
Harry 2001-460-7290 or Ric 201-939-2134  
http://members.aol.com/awOL/ntrak.html  
E-mail trackcrew@aol.com

### THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, Inc.

Route 22 Union, NJ  
http://www.tmrcc.com  
MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

### STATEN ISLAND SOCIETY of MODEL RAILROADERS

HO Modular Club, Round Robin meets  
once a month.

Contact Willie Butler  
Pennsy39@aol.com  
http://members.tripod.com/MSKRR/SISMR  
MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

### NY SOCIETY of MODEL ENGINEERS

HO & O scale club  
341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt NJ  
201-939-9212  
http://community.nj.com/cc/sme  
MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

### GARDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

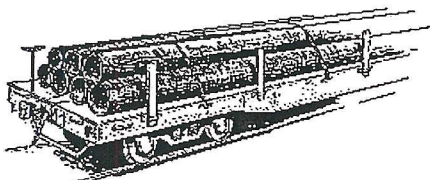
Meets Tues. & Fri.  
607 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Asbury Park, NJ 07  
inlinebob@aol.com

Did we miss  
a club?

If so Please  
get us the  
Information

By  
Emailing  
gsdtrains  
@yahoo  
.com and  
we'll be glad  
to  
include  
it in the  
next issue

Please sup-  
port the  
division on  
your website





## Staff Meeting, Jan 3rd 2004

The meeting, which took place at Director Tom Wortmann's house was defined by President Ponton as being very fruitful. A large number of issues were discussed which some being acted upon as listed below. Other issues were tabled and will be acted upon at a future date.

Art 4 Sec 3 of the Constitution changed as follows: Proposed and accepted by the board to change the Constitution to change the rule forcing the Vice President to become the President once the Presidents term was over. Now both officers will have one-year terms with the membership voting for both.

Art 4 Sec 1 & 2 of the Constitution changed as follows: Proposed and accepted that the office of Secretary -Treasurer be broken into two separate offices which can merge back into one if need be. Both officers will be elected by the membership

Art 3 sec 5 (Secretary – Treasurer) Clause K added to read as a break down of the duties of the new office of Secretary and the new office of Treasurer.

A new office of Director at large (for a total of 3) was created so as the division grows as new director will be created per 30 members.

Vice President Neufeld resigned his office and Director Tom Wortmann resigned his as to accepted the Office of Vice President of the GSD and Frank Neufeld accepted the remaining term left in the office of Tom Wortmann's Directorship.

Elections will take place at the Chester Meet. Nominees are listed elsewhere in this issue.

The creation of an EVENTS Committee that will have input over all events, Meets, Meetings and Conventions both Division and any supported or hosted by the division.

The staff has appointed Ralph Heiss to head this committee.

The following terms were defined. Meet or Convention, when we hold a member only event with a number of different activates taking place which could include but are not limited to Clinics, Contests, Videos, and sales of some type. We will have a minimum of two a year.

Meetings were defined as a gathering where voting and all other division business will be presented to the membership. Meetings can take place during a Meet/ Convention but is not limited to that. We will hold at least one every year.

As it stands now the next meet will be in Union on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

## Elections

The Divisions Nominating Committee is presenting the following slate at Chester.

### For the Following Offices

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>President -</b>      | Mel Ponton    |
| <b>Vice President -</b> | Tom Wortmann  |
| <b>Secretary -</b>      | Norman Fowley |
| <b>Treasurer -</b>      | Roger Oliver  |

**And for Director at large 2004 – 2006**  
(2 openings)

Ralph Heiss & Don Jennings

Any member can nominate themselves or another for any of these offices and please do so. We need members to stand up and participate.



## DISCOVERING THE AP PROGRAM

**Norman Fowley**

For years I modeled in the seclusion we all know. I created the best I could. The best I knew how. But how good was I? My family and friends would visit my layout and marvel. But frankly, I thought to myself, what did they know. I could have built anything and they would have complimented it because, after all, they were my family and friends. I yearned for someone who knew what they were talking about to tell me whether I was on the right track, so to speak, or not. I had always known about the NMRA. The Achievement Program, however, had escaped my attention, until this last year.

I read about the AP on line and contacted some fellow at the Division named Mel Ponton, who at the time was the AP Chairman. Mel's response was typical for anyone who knows Mel. He was enthusiastic. He was effusive and encouraging. That's all I needed to get going. I started preparing for the Golden Spike award by building some rolling stock. I had the rest of the items to qualify. I took digital photos of my layout,

including all of the elements needed, sent them to Mel by email and before you knew it I had the award. I had the approval I had yearned for and it only encouraged me more. I went to work on qualifying for the electrical Achievement Certificate by preparing schematics which I had always intended on doing, but never seemed to get around to. I prepared a short video of my operation. Once those were done I sent them to Mel and made an appointment for Mel and Tom Wortmann to visit my layout.

They spent a number of hours one Saturday at my home. They viewed and judged the layout and electrical operation. But we also spent time over coffee just discussing the hobby and some tricks they knew which made the experience all the more pleasurable. This I thought was what model railroading is all about. Sharing information, insights and laughs about the thing we love to do: model railroading.

I now have Achievement Certificates in Scenery and Electrical and I'm

working on scratch building structures for the Structure Certificate, for almost all of my buildings are from craftsman kits. But here too, I'm well on my way. My scratch built structures won First, Second and Third Prizes at the last Division meet. I have several more ready for the NER convention in June.

The point is that the AP program has sparked my enthusiasm. I will no longer model without intelligent feedback. If I'm doing something correctly there will be people to tell me that I am. If I'm not, I know I will get advice on how I can improve. It's what I've been looking for almost since I began modeling many years ago. For those of you just getting involved in our hobby it's a great way to keep yourself from getting into bad habits, or just to learn and grow as a model railroader. The Achievement Program is there for you. So don't hesitate. Get involved and find out just how good you are and how you can improve. Its fun and rewarding, and the Achievement Certificates look pretty good on the wall as well.

## MODEL RAILROADING IN THE GARDEN STATE AND OTHER IDEAS

One of the many ideas floating around the division is to host a Convention highlighting all the clubs, Hobby Shops and Manufacturers in the Garden State.

It is felt that this way you, the NMRA member can get to meet all the people in the Garden State that help you enjoy the Hobby. Meet one on one the people who make the things you use everyday in the hobby, the people who sell it to you and the clubs around the State that you could become members of.

Did you know that there were over 48 Manufacturers, Hobby Shops and Clubs in New Jersey? I doubt if many other states can match that number. And we should be proud of it!

So far your staff has contacted these people, asked that they all share in the cost and how much room they would need and we'll have to sit back and see who responds and how. Hopefully we'll get a good turn out and have a great time.

Another idea is to host a few "Rolling Meets" These would be meets or events that would take place other than a convention hall. Like a bus ride to Steam Town or a train show outside the normal areas like Allentown or Springfield.

Wither or not we hold these events would depend on the memberships interest in such an event.

Also being considered would be a rolling meet to members homes to show off their layouts and or to clubs again to see the layouts and maybe

operate some trains.

There is still talk of hosting a Regional convention here in the GSD. This would really be good for the division and would help us grow. Such an event would draw NMRA members from all over New England. Of course there would be quite a bit of work to do for such an event, or any event for that matter and again it takes hands to get the job done so that all can enjoy. Your staff is always looking for help, in any shape or form. Be it to help do a clinic, sitting on a committee or running for office.

The future can be bright, It's up to all of us.



## THE CONTEST TABLE

Taking the lead with all three places and best of show was Norman Fowley with his Covered Bridge, being Best of Show., his Miners Shack for taking second place and his Watchman's Shanty bringing up third place.

Norman is new to the contest and the AP program but has shown us right from the start that he is well on his way to maybe becoming the GSD first Master Model Railroader.

Sadly none of the pictures taken of his model came out good enough for printing and for that we are truly sorry because they were models to see.

### PLEASE NOTE

Due to amount of judging being done at our meets, we have to limit the entries to one per member. Our judges want to see the convention as well and usually they spend all their time judging.

Also please have all your paper work done before the convention. We use the NER contest forms and NOT the nationals forms for judging. You can get these forms off the Regional website at:

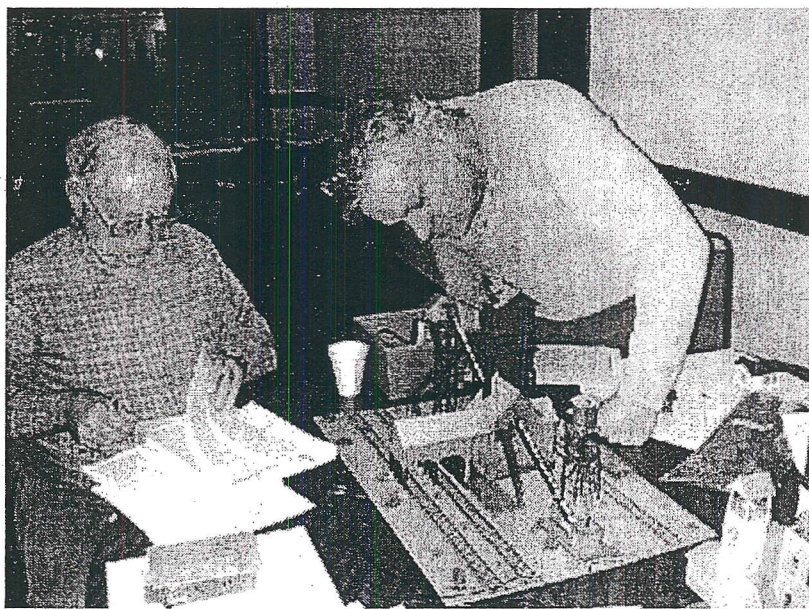
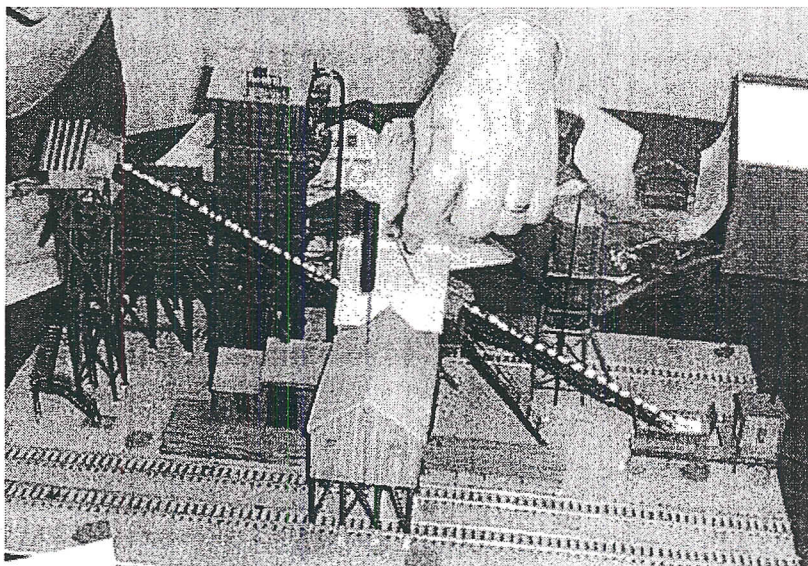
[www.trainweb.org/  
northeasternregion/NERREG03.HTML](http://www.trainweb.org/northeasternregion/NERREG03.HTML)

Click on CONTEST forms  
and print them out.

You will need a adobe acrobat reader  
to read them

You can get a free one at their website  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Thank you



All Photos are by Don Jennings

# Garden State Division

## Winter Meet

Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 12 noon to 4 PM

Chester Fire House/Banquet Hall

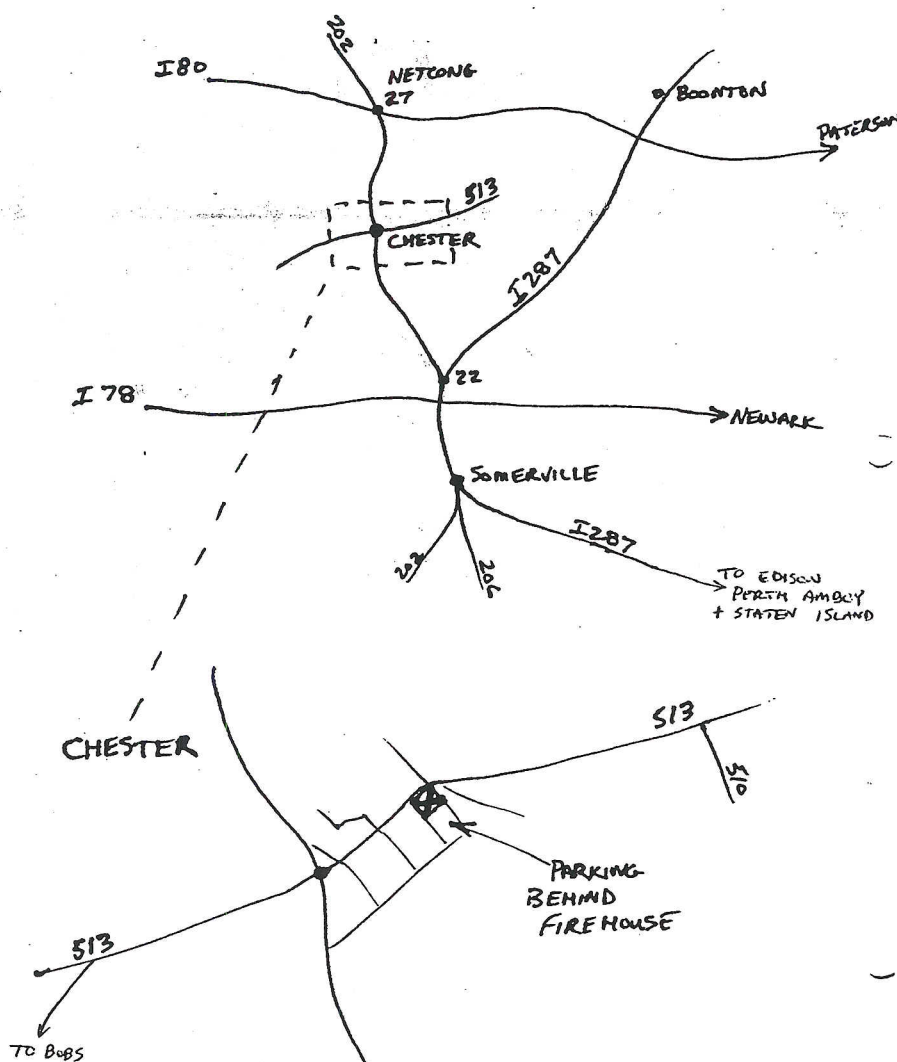
Main Street (Rear Entrance)

Chester, New Jersey

Contest Table, White Elephant Table  
Video Corner, Timesaver Layout, Clinics

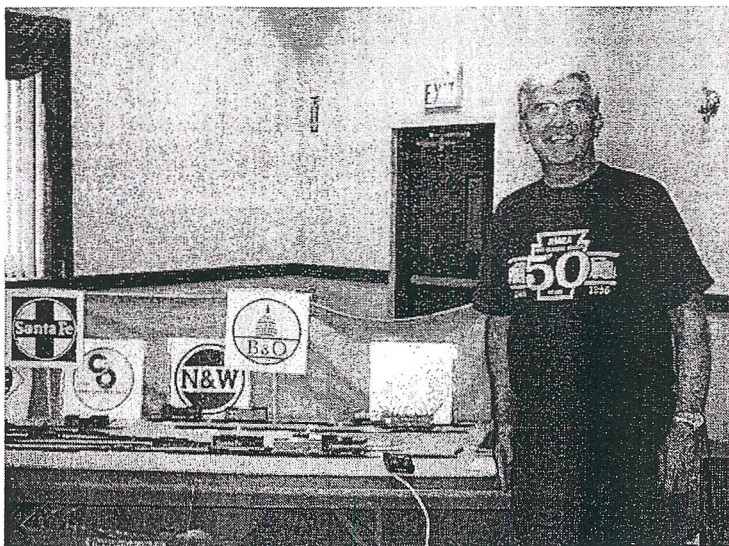
### Chester Fire Hall

Is located 1/10 of a mile east of US Rte. 206 on County Rte. 513

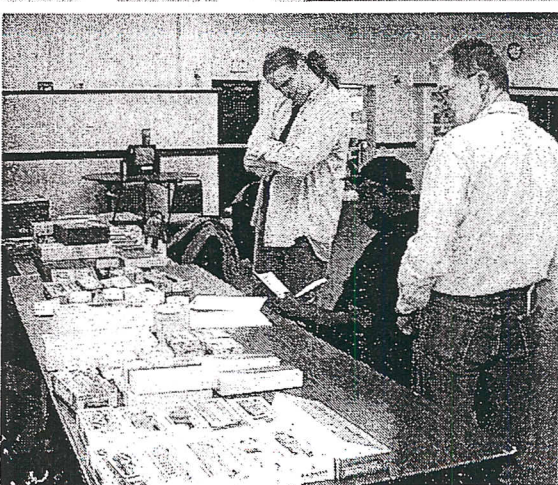
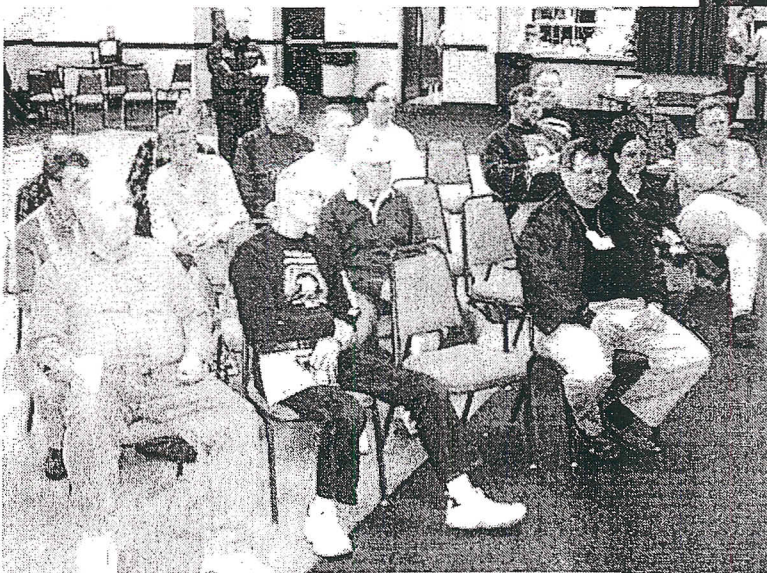




## BLOOMSBURY 2003



Clinics, Time Saver and a great White Elephant table made for a fun day in Bloomsbury.

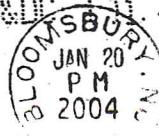


All Photos are by Don Jennings

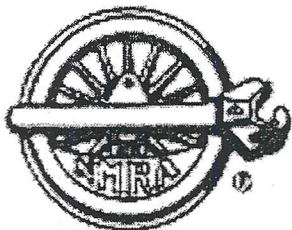


**The Whistle Post**  
Tom Wortmann  
68 Carmel Ave.  
Staten Island NY 10314

KILMER N.J. P&D JAN 21 / 04 00:07



<http://www.trainweb.org/nergds>  
Email: [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com)

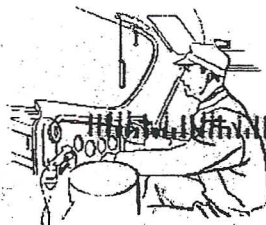


---

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GARDEN  
STATE DIVISION**

The Whistle Post is published quarterly. Contributions, in any format are always welcome.  
Please contact the editor, [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com)

05 35 34 1 55 34 0 34



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb 8th, 2004**  
**GSD Winter Meet**  
**Chester Fire House Hall**  
**Chester NJ**

**May 23rd, 2004**  
**GSD Spring Meet**  
**Union NJ**

**June 12-13th, 2004**  
**NER Spring Convention**  
**Fishkill NY**

**July 4th-10th 2004**  
**NMRA National Convention**  
**Seattle, Washington**

**October 10th, 2004**  
**GSD Fall Meet**  
**Location yet unknown**

Know of an railroad or model railroad event coming up?  
Let us know so we can share it with the entire division.  
Email [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com) Thank you



**NOT JUST A HOBBY, BUT A WAY OF LIFE!**