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The WHISTLE POST

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

WINTER MEET, NEW LOCATION!

The Garden State Division is pleased to announce that its winter meet will be held Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Scotch Hills Country Club, Scotch Plains, NJ. A popular 'Works-in-Progress' program will be featured from 9 am – 12 noon followed by a lunch break and a self-guided afternoon tour of five outstanding area layouts.

The 'WIP' format has proved very popular and features multiple simultaneous mini- groups in which a clinician can intimately detail their work on a given project and engage in casual conversation with 6-8 attendees for 20-30 minutes before the groups rotate to another WIP. The GSD is currently evaluating many potential WIPS including, but not limited to, weathering techniques with Pan Pastels, building Fast-Track turnouts, unique scenery techniques with Super Trees, molds and resin castings and railfanning photography.



▲ **Awesome city modeling scene on Andy Rubbo's HO scale PRR.**

Photo by Chuck Diljak

The five HO scale layouts include some updated old favorites like the massive, but still-expanding Model Railroad Club in Union and Jeff Taylor's beautiful Rockaway Southern depicting a bridge line between the Central of New Jersey and the Erie Lackawanna in the late 60's early 70's. Andy Rubbo's New York Division of the PRR, featured in Great Model Railroads 2013, is also on tour and features astounding detail including hand-fabricated overhead catenary and stunning urban scenery.

The Lehigh Valley Harbor Railroad of Ralph Heiss is a 1951 depiction of the New York waterfront and the intricate switching challenges brought operators from throughout the nation to South Plainfield this past April as part of the renowned Pro-Rail

(Continued on page 10)



THE CAB

by President *Ciro Compagno*

A very busy Fall!

Happy New Year to fellow members and model railroaders!

Hopefully you were able to join one of the many NMRA events in our area this Fall. In fact, there were events from Maryland all the way to New Hampshire with a lot to offer for model railroaders. Your GSD Board of Directors and general membership were busy participating in these events.

Let us start from the south with the Mid-East Region Fall Convention in Rockville, MD. Our Bruce De Young presented the clinics "Modeling Tips & Tricks" and "Modeling Slate Roofs". In addition, our Chuck Diljak presented the clinic "Tricks with Bricks". These clinics were well received. In Ramsey, NJ, we had our GSD Fall Meet. We had two interesting clinics "Under Table Roundhouse" by Fred Dellaiacomo and "Rapid Prototyping" by Bryan Bussey. In the afternoon, there was full suite of home and club layouts including the Mahwah Museum. It was a little something for everyone.

GSD co-sponsored the NJ Model Railroad Layout Design and Operations SIG Event in Scotch Plains, NJ. Our Joe Calderone, Jim Fawcett and Jim Homoki opened their homes for the daylong layout tour. Many other GSD members opened their home layouts including Craig Bisgeier, Tony Koester, Ted Pamperin, and Andy Rubbo to name a few. The event offered a great mix of clinics, model displays and home layouts.

Still not enough? Our Bruce De Young entered several models in the Northeastern Region Convention in Laconia, NH. Bruce represented us exceptionally well and won multiple awards and for his models. Bob Dennis and I operated on the Amherst Belt Lines modular layout. This was first time the NER offered operating sessions within the hotel proper. This was a great way to introduce modular layout design, construction and operations to event attendees.

Last and not least, was the Sunrise Trail Convention in Baldwin, NY. GSD member Marc Pitanza and I were the award dinner's guest speakers and shared a presentation on the Staten Island Rapid Transit. There was a good mix operating modular layouts, model displays and clinics. So, there we have it. It was a very busy this Fall with NMRA events in a wide variety of venues and activities. If you missed these, no need to fret. We are planning a great Division Winter Meet in Scotch Plains, NJ that will include many of the members noted above. Watch for future details on our website.



THE CABOOSE

by Editor *Joe Calderone*

Happy Holidays & trains

For me Christmas always reminds me of interest with trains. I wonder how many have had the same experience, a simple circle of track under the Christmas tree with a loco and few cars! It was a something I used to look forward to setting up each year. In time this lead to layout set up on my dads ping pong table then as they say the rest is history! I have been hooked on this hobby ever since.


With the cold weather settling the leaves all raked and gone and with some spare time for the holidays I have now have more time to spend on the layout. While I have majority of my scenery completed there are still several areas that require a lot of work. Having gone on some layout tours during the fall my interest level has been rejuvenated with tons of great ideas and interesting modeling tips I have picked up. In the last issue of the Whistle Post I had suggested heading out on the road for open house month and sure hope you were able to do so! Going out on open house tours or even hosting one is a great way to share in the hobby.

I had written about my paper mill project several issues back and while work still continues on the paper mill more improvements to structures and ground cover are needed. I have also scratch



▲ **Warehouse section of the paper mill on my D&H railroad. Constructed with Walthers wall components**

built some structures which need details and perhaps write ups so I can have them evaluated for AP points! My Next area of focus will be on a cement plant and aggregate facility. In this area I had chosen to use a photo backdrop which I will blend in foreground scenery and structures. This is another very active industry for operations and is in keeping with the prototype industries found along the Delaware and Hudson railroad. As I make progress I hope to share more about this scene.

As always I ask you the membership to please think about how you can help the Division! We have around 247 members and we need to see more of each one of you! We are a volunteer organization and we do need your help! Something as simple as coming out to the next meet helps us! 

AT THE THROTTLE

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Modeling Tips - Just Your Cup of Tea

By Bruce De Young

Here is a quick tip of what you can do with those used tea bags other than throwing them away!



▲ First, set them aside and let them dry out.



▲ Once dry, cut them open and put the dry tea leaves into a container - more about the use of the leaves in a moment.



Now, the next time you need to model a canvas tarp, reach for one of those tea bags instead of tissue paper. They are pre-colored in a convincing 'canvas color' and each one is slightly different. They can be shaped the way you want and then soaked with some thin ACC. Once dry, they will hold their shape, and the ACC becomes invisible.

Here are two ideas – one a tarp on a truck, and one being used as a 'door' on a tree fort.

Now, as to those dried tea leaves? Use them as dried leaves for scenery work. They are quite convincing – they are leaves after all. 🍃



That Picture looks Familiar!

Getting a Photo published

By Marc Pitanza




▲ The photo above should look familiar to you if you have the NMRA's 2014 calendar. Marc's great eye for scenery and photography landed him in the 2014 edition.

Photo by Marc Pitanza

One of the aspects I enjoy most about the hobby is model photography. In August 2012, I shot a series of five images for Model Railroader magazine. One of the photographs from that shoot was published in the magazine's June 2013 Trackside Photos column. I then saw the ad in May 2013 NMRA magazine calling for images for the calendar. GSD President

bookcase. It is 6 feet long and only 15 inches deep. Its small size makes it ideal to photograph outdoors. So every spring I bring the layout out to my backyard patio and photograph it in natural sunlight. I usually shoot mid-morning and mid-afternoon. The sun is still strong at these times but not low enough to create harsh shadows across the layout. I used a semi-professional 10 megapixel Canon S-95 point and shoot camera for the calendar shot and I always shoot with the camera set to aperture priority mode.

Ciro Compagno, whom I regularly share my photos with, contacted me in late June and suggested that I should submit one of my images to the NMRA calendar. I put together a selection from the MR shoot and sent them off to the NMRA. It was a great feeling to see the photo of my layout in the calendar when I opened the envelope in November.

The scene depicts a typical day on the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway in 1953. The SIRT was B&O's freight branch to NY Harbor. St. George was its main waterfront transfer terminal. Cars were floated across the harbor to destinations in other boroughs. 


My layout is small switching layout designed to fit on top of an Ikea

Around The Division

NOTABLES:

IslandOps 2014

Friday, April 25th, Saturday April 26th, & Sunday April 27th, 2014

Want to join in the prototype operations fun on some great local layouts? An operations weekend is coming to Long Island, under the sponsorship of the Sunrise Trail Division, NMRA, and the West Island Model Railroad Club. We will have four operations sessions - One on Friday evening, two on Saturday and one on Sunday morning - at several different layouts within about 30 minutes of each other. They range in size from a 2 x 10 layout representing one city block plus a floatbridge in New York City to a 5,600 square foot club layout representing a line from the New Jersey waterfront to central Pennsylvania. They range in era from 1940 to 1996. Visit our website www.islandops.org for more details and registration information. 

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

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

AP Corner

Both the Achievement Program and the Contest Program come under the Education Department of the NMRA, but each has its own Program Chair. Clearly, some contest modelers do not participate in the Achievement Program and just as clearly, many (most?) participants in the Achievement Program do not enter their models in either Regional or the National Contests.




▲ Mark Moritz's Scratch Built Furniture Car at NER Model Contest. (Merit Award)

However, at this fall's NER Regional Convention "Tracks to Lakeport" up in Laconia, New Hampshire, the GSD had two members who have had models evaluated as part of the Achievement Program enter then in the Regional Contest. GSD member Dr. Mark Moritz and I entered a total of seven models in the contest. All happened to be models of rolling stock. Of the seven models, a total of six earned Merit Awards and five earned either First or Second Place Awards in their categories. Additionally, Mark won the "New Modeler's Award" offered by the Sunrise Trail Division. Congratulations, Mark!

This was a great showing from the GSD. As you spend time modeling this winter, why not think ahead about producing at least one to enter into both the Achievement Program and in next fall's Convention. Unable to attend the Convention? No problem. If you fill out the paperwork, any member of the GSD


Bruce De Young, Achievement Program Chair

who attends can bring the model up to the Convention for you. Why not give it a try?

In the meantime, if you have a model that you would like evaluated, or if you would like someone to visit your layout to see if you might qualify for one of the Achievement Program Certificates, simply contact me at bdeyoung@optonline.net. 

CNY Division Plans "Ops 'til You Drop" Event


Any NER member that enjoys operating model trains like the real railroads is invited to participate in the CNY Division's first annual operations weekend titled "Ops 'til You Drop". The event will take place on six railroads in the Utica and Syracuse NY area on Saturday and Sunday April 5th and 6th 2014. Participants will be assigned to three different sessions beginning at 12:30 pm Saturday and Ending at 2:30pm Sunday. The \$10 registration fee includes all three sessions including snacks, plus their Saturday night dinner. Participants are responsible for the cost of their own overnight lodging and suggested hotels will be supplied upon registration. In addition participants will gather for a common breakfast Sunday morning.

The CNY Division is known for some outstanding layouts that have well-oiled operations plans. Participants will choose three of the six available railroads that include The NY and PA Central of Roger Beiswenger, The Leadville and Red Cliff of Bill Brown, The Ogdensburg and Norwood of Jim Heidt, The Canada Spokane and Pacific of Drew James, The CSX Northeast of Dave Martini, and The Mohawk Valley Southern of Bernie Messenger. Several of the railroads above have recently been featured in national rail magazines. For more information and/or a registration form email coordinator Bill Brown at LARCProducts@yahoo.com. 

RAMSEY FALL MEET PHOTOGRAPHS

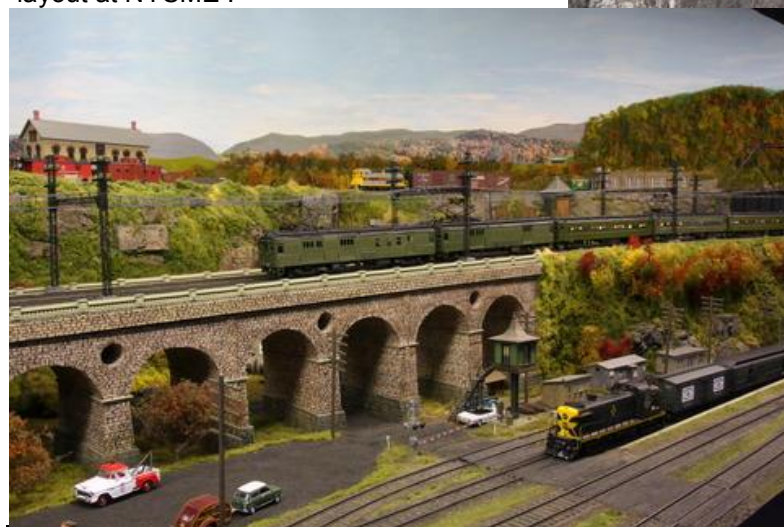
PHOTOS BY MEMBERS OF THE DIVISON



The Fall GSD meet was yet another success. The Ramsey location was centrally located to many prototype sites and home layouts to visit. There were 6 layouts open and great clinics making for great day to be out! 

▲ Chuck Diljak presenting overview of clinics. Chuck and Bruce DeYoung did a great job with the venue presenters and tours.

▼ This captivating photo from the O scale layout at NYSME .



▲ Old Erie tower in Waldwick NJ



▲ The old Erie station in Mahwah.

▼ Ted Brandon's gorgeous layout features unique scratch built locomotives. .



NEXT DIVISION MEETING

TIME:

MEET.....9:AM TO 12:00 NOON
LAYOUT TOURS 1-5 PM

DATE:

SATURDAY FEBURARY 8TH
2014

LOCATION:

SCOTCH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
820 JERUSALEM RD.
SCOTCH PLAINS NJ

WEB SITE FOR MEET:

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

DIRECTIONS:

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



AGENDA:

WORKS IN PROGRESS CLINICS
ANNUAL MEETING
WHITE ELEPANT TABLES
LAYOUT TOURS

ACTIVITY DONATION:

\$6

Have You Heard about Model Railroad Podcasts?

by Jim Walsh


I have discovered that there are people who don't listen to podcasts and some that do not know what they are. Podcasts are audio programs that are delivered over the internet to an iPod or accessed on computer. There are podcasts on a variety of topics and I listen to one on photography as well as a few on model railroading.

I discovered the Scotty Mason Show (www.themodelrailroadpodcast.com) on my computer late in 2009 and later transferred the MP3 files to my MP3 player. It enabled listening to model railroad discussions and tips while working on activities like raking leaves and shoveling snow and it made those chores a lot less tedious. On Christmas Day 2011, I received an iPod Touch and discovered all the podcasts available for subscription through iTunes. That is when I discovered more podcasts dedicated to model railroading.

The Model Railcast Show (www.modelrailcast.com) is cohosted by the Garden State Division's own Craig Bisgeier. The show relates helpful information and there are guest model railroaders with great information, tips and stories. The Model Railway Show (www.themodelrailwayshow.com) was a shorter format podcast with two guests interviewed on each show. The guests were often famous or important people in model railroading. This podcast ended in early 2013 but all shows are still available and worth hearing. All episodes of The Model Railway Show are now available for downloading at the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/TheModelRailwayShow>) or through iTunes.

While the previous podcasts are organized like radio talk shows, the Model Rail Radio (www.modelrailradio.com) podcast is the only live call-in talk show for model railroaders. All modelers are invited to call with questions or comments about model railroading. Alternatively, listeners can participate through the online chat or simply listen to the live broadcast. After the live show, the host, Tom Barbalet edits the hours of material and posts the resulting podcast for everyone to hear.

There are some other podcasts that are not as regular in schedule but still available. The Observation Car Podcast (www.observationcarpodcast.com) This podcast's hosts include Dave Frary and contains good model railroading discussions. It has not been updated for a long time but there are currently a few episodes available. Another podcast that is not very regular and available through iTunes is the Model Railroad Hobbyist Podcast. This one is affiliated with the Model Railroad Hobbyist free online magazine.

This is a summary of the model railroad podcasts that I listen to for concepts and ideas and I recommend that you try some. I find them to be valuable resources for model railroading -instructional and inspirational. Besides the podcast audio program, most usually feature additional information on their web sites through text, photographs and helpful links to other web pages. As a result of listening to these podcasts, I became more active in the hobby, started annual trips to the West Springfield train show (Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show), started building craftsman kits, joined the NMRA, subscribed to RMC and the Model Railroad Hobbyist online magazine and purchased a TI Launchpad microcontroller development kit (but that's a story for another article). 

WALKWAY



OVER THE HUDSON

An Unusual Rail to Trail

By Chuck Diljak

I have hiked on a few “Rail to Trails” over the years, but this one was very different from most. This one includes a hike over a 1.28 mile long bridge, 212 feet above the Hudson River, on a former railroad bridge in Poughkeepsie, NY. Nicknamed “The Walkway”, the bridge became part of the New York State Park system and opened to the public in 2009.

Construction of the bridge started in 1886 and was completed in 1889. When finished, it was


the longest bridge in the world and the only bridge to span the Hudson River between New York City and Albany, NY. The bridge was a key rail link between the west and east side of the river until a fire in 1974 closed the bridge to rail traffic.



In 1998, the first steps toward making the bridge a park were taken. By 2008, the design of the park was complete and construction began. The only remaining piece to be completed is an elevator on the Poughkeepsie end of the bridge. The glass elevator will provide for dramatic views of the river and structural elements of the bridge.

ments of the bridge.

There is ample parking on both ends of the bridge. Access to the bridge is provided during daylight hours with special night-time programs during the month. The bridge attracts many visitors during the day, many cycling, walking, or dog-walking.

The park's website, <http://walkway.org/>, has more information about visiting the bridge and its special programs. It may be an unusual park, but it is a fun park. 



▲ A view of the Poughkeepsie railroad bridge.

▼ Fall foliage and the Hudson River are the focal point from this view from the bridge.



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THE EDITOR.




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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Garden State Division Winter Meet

(Continued from page 1)

event. Finally, meet coordinator Jim Fawcett will be unveiling his B&O Old Main Line as a true work-in-progress with a display of outstanding benchwork, creative lighting and thoughtful backdrop design that he has completed prior to trackwork.

Maps featuring nearby lunch options and the area layouts will be distributed at the meet. The Scotch Hills Country Club is located at 820 Jerusalem Road and is easily accessed by the Garden State Parkway or Routes 22 and 78. Follow updates on the GSD website at www.nergsd.com for a final schedule of Works-in-Progress. We will also have a white elephant tables and door prizes. Snow date is Saturday, February 22, 2014. We hope to see you all there so please spread the word as we are always happy to see new faces! 



▲ Andy's layout features intricate hand made catenary.

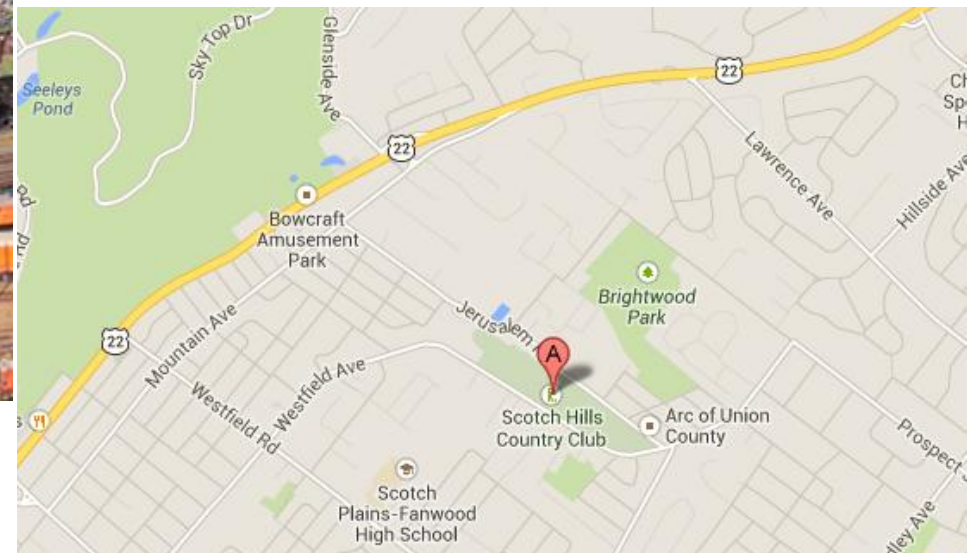
Photo by Chuck Diljak.

▼ Layout tour maps will be provided at the meet. The venue map and google link are below; <http://goo.gl/maps/6ahoQ>



▲ Power plant scene on the TMRRC in Union.

Photo Courtesy of the TMRRC website.



THE TIMETABLE

Saturday, January 25 & 26 2014

Amherst Railway Society Show

Eastern States Expo Ctr, 130 Memorial Ave, West Springfield, MA 01089

railroadhobbyshow.com

Saturday January 18th

New Jersey Division Meet

9-12 Noon Layout tours 1-5 PM

Haddon Township High School

406 Memorial Ave., Westmont NJ 08108

<http://njdivnmra.org/Timetable.html>

Saturday February 8th 9-12 noon,

Layout tours 1-5 pm

Garden State Division Winter Meet

Scotch Hills Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Road Scotch Plains, NJ.

<http://goo.gl/maps/6ahoQ>

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

Saturday, February 01 & 02 2014

9-4 PM

The Great Scale Model Train Show

Maryland Fairgrounds, Timonium MD

GSMTS.com



Joe Calderone

32 Hillside Ave.

Monmouth Jct NJ 08852

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when your subscription ends → 1/12

Subscriptions run from January to January