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# The WHISTLE POST

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

## RAILROAD SWAP MEETS

We are fortunate that in the vicinity of the Garden State Division there are many hobby stores that handle model railroading related stock. Advertisements for those stores that support the GSD can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Whistle Post*. In addition we are also fortunate that there are many train shows or swap meets in and around our division where a model railroader may find something of interest. While mail order and the internet are other available avenues, personally, I am not comfortable buying items (especially used items) that I haven't had the opportunity to inspect before buying. For those who have not been to a swap meet, it is basically a market place where many dealers come to sell their items. You might find a few vendors interested in buying your used items, but they are mostly there to sell their own items. In addition to the vendors, you will sometimes find individuals thinning out their personal inventory to raise funds to pursue a new area of interest. Finally, many swap meets, have operating layouts for your viewing pleasure.

When I want something that is currently being made, I find it best to go to a hobby store to get what I want when I want it. Even if I have to wait a few days to a week while the store orders it that's still acceptable to me. There are two principal reasons why I go to swap meets. First, I'm interested in reading material related to railroads. Used books and magazines that I haven't already read are as good as new to me. Second, I enjoy kit-bashing. Used items are generally less expensive than new items. Cutting up an inexpensive used model is less intimidating than doing so to a new model. These two interests often feed upon one another. Spotting

by Tom Casey

Photos by Chuck Diljak



▲ Tom Casey looking over items at a recent Greenberg Show.

a used model can remind me of something I've read about and can spark a creative desire to kit-bash a model to reflect what I read. Used items can range from previously owned but hardly used (possibly never out of the box or still in kit form) to built-up and

(Swap Meets continued on page 4)




## Grab onto the consist!

Few can seriously argue that the winter meet on Staten Island was anything but a fantastic success from every standpoint. The facility, the "Bring 'n Brag," the refreshments, the clinics, the awards and prizes, and the layout tours made for a fun and enriching experience for all. It is clear we are on the right track as a division. It now falls to each and every one of us to keep the steam up by participating in division activities in any way we can. Be a clinician, bring models for display, evaluation or to just brag about them, open your home layout for a tour by our members, or join a committee. There is no telling how exciting our meets can be when we all get involved in one way or another.

We intend to keep the throttle wide open. We are looking for new venues for our meets, new clinicians, and new modelers who are willing to share their accomplishments with us. Doing things the same old way will not do, anymore. Unless you, the member, decide to join the action, you will get very little out of your membership in the NMRA. This is a people friendly division. We want to get to know you as a model railroader and expand the ever growing interconnected circle of NMRA members known as the Garden State Division.

This is a hobby where the maxim "the

more the merrier" really rings true. So please don't miss the next opportunity you have to come to a meet and share great times with us: all of them focused on the hobby you love. You will be pleasantly surprised by how much fun you can have with model railroading when you are sharing several hours with like-minded hobbyists. The GSD train has left the station and is "high balling it." There is still time for you to grab onto the consist as we move into the future. Don't be left standing at the station wishing you had just reached out your hand to be part of the fun. 

## GSD Meets:

**Apr 22**

**Union, NJ**

**Aug 18**

**Ogdensburg, NJ**

**Oct 27**

**New Brunswick, NJ**



## This is my stop

What a ride it has been, and I can't believe it took nearly five years to get to my destination!

"What's he talking about?" you might ask. Well, I decided a few months ago to step down as editor for family reasons.

My Dad recently passed away after experiencing serious health issues in 2011. I spent a considerable amount of time with my parents in central Pennsylvania, as a result. If I was not visiting with them, I was spending another chunk of time working in North Carolina. When I was home, I had little time to spend with my wife, work on my Wyoming Valley Railroad, or to edit the *Whistle Post*.

This new year does not look any more promising than 2011, so something needed to be sacrificed. That something turned out to be editing this newsletter. It was an extremely difficult decision to make, but a necessary one.

Five years ago, an editor from another NMRA newsletter told me that it is healthy for the editorship of a newsletter to change after five to six years. His argument for change is that it brings in a fresh style and new ideas for the newsletter. And here I am leaving five years later, after hearing that opinion.


I am very proud of what I have accomplished as the editor for the *Whistle*

*Post*. I hope you have enjoyed the ride over the last few years.

When I started, the first priority was to establish an identity for the *Whistle Post*. Setting a standard of 16 pages filled with new artwork, a mix of modeling and GSD articles, a balance of photographs versus text, and developing a style and format all contributed to its identity. With every issue, there have been subtle and not so subtle changes, with the latest being the move to a landscape format for easier on-line reading. As the newsletter progressed over the years, I learned a lot and applied that knowledge with each issue.

You may think being editor is all work. But, there is also a fun side to the job. The best part of being editor was meeting many of you at various GSD meets and other railroad functions.

So, will I disappear from the GSD scene? No, I will not. I am planning to attend as many GSD meets as possible. I still plan to build models and have them evaluated for the Achievement Program. And, I will support the new editor by providing articles, photographs and encouragement for the *Whistle Post* in the future. I hope you will do the same!

And now, this is my stop. 



## AT THE THROTTLE

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# BOB DENNIS SPIKES GOLD!

Article and Photo  
By Tom Wortmann


On December 9th, 2011 three years after the first board was cut and the first screw turned, a Golden Spike ceremony was held on Staten Island celebrating the completion of a closed loop on the Sanilac Division of the New York Central RR in HO scale. The event also follows two years after Bob Dennis was given a gift of membership in the NMRA.

When the division heard about a new member, a phone call went out and everyone discovered that Bob was looking for help in building his layout, which follows a plan from the Atlas layout book. Fellow NMRA members on Staten Island gathered at his house and looked over his plans. Bob wanted to run long passenger cars and the design he chose would not allow that. With the help of his new friends, the design was revamped, refitted and all the existing frame work was taken down and rebuilt. As part of a round robin group, members gathered at his house on a number of Fridays rebuilt his framework, checked the grades and followed the new plans to the letter. Everyone worked together to help Bob reach this milestone.

To start off the event, Bob gave a brief rundown of what it took to get to this point on this railroad and thanked everyone that helped. After his speech, his private car, NYC "Gotham" was pulled around the layout by P&LE H10-44 number 9100. After



▲GSD members, from left to right, Al Taylor, Ciro Compagno, Bob Dennis, Richard Martin, and Frank Russo at the Gold Spike ceremony.

completing its run, visiting private cars Erie Lackawanna "Hoboken", D&RGW "Wilson McCarthy" were added to the train. A second train consisting of NYC FT number 1601 pulled visiting private cars Pennsylvania "Edgar Allan Poe", MS&K number 909 and ATSF "Topeka". After two complete loops both trains met at the ceremony location to witness the driving of the golden spike. In attendance for the event were GSD members Al Taylor, Ciro Compagno, Bob Dennis, Richard Martin, Frank Russo and Tom Wortmann. The event was capped off by pictures, champagne and congratulations to all for a job well done. Afterwards, everyone got back to work on the railroad which is why they gathered in the first place. 



▲ **Train enthusiasts move from table to table, searching for deals and items on their wish list.**

*(Swap Meets continued from page 1)*

heavily used. I have bought some built-up kits, carefully disassembled them and then reassembled them to my standards. If I buy a used locomotive, I assume that it is going to need a maintenance overhaul. In the worst case it becomes a source of maintenance parts.

When going to a swap meet you will most likely be disappointed if you are looking for a specific item and nothing else. If that's the case, a model railroad hobby store or an Internet search is the way to go. However, if you are looking for older models, used publications, and the occasional 'gem', a swap meet is the place to go. 'Gems' are in the eye of the beholder, you just have to be able to see them. One also has to be pre-

pared for the possibility that you will find nothing of interest at a swap meet. All it takes for me to make a swap meet worthwhile is to find a vendor or two with items that I find to be of interest at a reasonable price.

Some dealers think their goods are worth more than I do. If so they get to keep them. Some dealers will haggle and some won't. Bring more cash than you think you'll need. Not all dealers take plastic. If you don't have enough cash, you may hesitate to buy an item when you first see it and it most likely won't be there when you come back. Also the arrangement of tables in some shows makes it more difficult to both assure yourself you've seen all there is to see as well as remembering where that table was with that item

you passed up. A small note pad helps in that regard.

Different swap meets cater to different areas of interest in railroading. There are swap meets that cater more to what I call the "Toy Train" collectors market where one is more likely to find Lionel, American Flyer, etc. At those meets I hope to find used books and magazines of interest. Tinplate also has a large following and has specialized swap meets. The National Collectors Club runs train shows in Wayne, Toms River and Brick. Swap meets run by historical societies cater to those interested in railroad history and artifacts. In addition to used books and magazines I'd expect to find scale model railroad equipment but not toy trains at those meets. The swap meet at Mother Seton High School in Clark, NJ is run by the Jersey Central Railway Historical Society. The Reading Company Technical & Historical Society holds its meets in Leesport, PA. Swap Meets run by model railroad clubs tend to have a mix of vendors with items of interest to modelers. The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical society runs a show in the Louis E. Dieruff High School in Allentown, PA. Also in Allentown is the Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet held in the Merchants Square Mall, and the "Fall Frost" and "Spring Thaw" train meets run by Allentown Train Meet Associates in the Allentown Fairgrounds Agricultural Hall. The Franklin Model and Toy Train Show is run by both the Franklin Historical Society and the Sussex County Railroad Club. The Hudson Valley Railroad Society runs a show in the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. The Old Greenwich (Connecticut) Train meet is run by the Westchester Model Railroad Club. Some swap meets such as the one run by the New York Society of Model Engineers (NYSoME) exclude tinplate. Other swap meets cater to special interests such as the one run by the New York City Model Transit Association once a year in New Brunswick. While the \$20 admission seems steep, it benefits the Short Line Trolley Museum and I have an interest in modeling rapid transit.

*(Swap Meets continued on page 6)*



## THE CLUB CAR

GARDEN STATE MODEL  
RAILWAY CLUB  
575 HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD  
NORTH HALEDON, NJ 07508  
[www.gsmrrclub.org](http://www.gsmrrclub.org)

MODEL ENGINEERS RAILROAD  
CLUB OF NORTH JERSEY  
569 HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD  
NORTH HALEDON, NJ 07508  
[www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj](http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/merrcnj)

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB  
295 JEFFERSON AVENUE  
UNION, NJ 07083  
[www.tmrcl.com](http://www.tmrcl.com)

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  
[ramapovalleyrailroad.com](http://ramapovalleyrailroad.com)

SEND CLUB INFORMATION TO  
MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB CONTACT:  
TOM CASEY  
[tcasey@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:tcasey@co.bergen.nj.us)



# A SUCCESSFUL WINTER MEET ON STATEN ISLAND

Snow. A four-letter word that postponed the original date for the GSD's winter meet to February 11. But with the bad came the good: It gave us Staten Island boys three additional weeks to make additional improvements to our layouts and get them ready for the scheduled open houses. That is the one good thing with being faced with the GSD meet date. It was a deadline for the layout owners who opened their homes for layout tours. It was a deadline for us to get things done.

All of the open houses that were scheduled on the day of the meet were hosted by members of a round robin club called, the Igglemeisters. While clubs are a good thing, this round robin group is comprised of friends. And, as you would expect with a group of friends, we all stepped up to help one another prepare our layouts for the meet.

There were a number of areas that needed work on my Mohawk, Salem & Kensington (MS&K). But, I kept delaying these projects for various reasons or had plenty of excuses. "I want to get his done, first." Or, "I need help with that." With the extra shove of the pending deadline, I asked my fellow Staten Island modelers to lend me a hand. And, boy, did they step up to help me. Backdrops were painted. Scenery was installed. And, the track was cleaned over and over until the railheads glistened. My MS&K was ready for visitors when the day of the meet finally rolled around. But...

Snow. That four-letter word reappeared on February 11. Mother Nature was not finished tormenting us. Snow had not been mentioned by weather forecasters since the original meet date in January. But, once again, we were faced with snow in the forecast. After working so hard on preparing for this day, the Igglemeisters kept their fingers crossed and hoped for the best.

On the morning of the meet, snow was in the air and on the ground. But, it was not on the streets. I took this as a great sign

BY TOM WORTMANN

PHOTOS BY CHUCK DILJAK



▲ **Marc Pitanza brought two Staten Island Rapid Transit trains, one in N scale and the other in HO scale, to the meet to supplement his clinic.**

that the meet will go on, as planned! A friend showed up at my house, we packed up the car with all the good things I want to sell, and off we went to the Marine Corps League Clubhouse.

When we arrived at the clubhouse, we opened the building, turned on the heat, set up chairs and tables, and got the coffee started. We set aside space on the tables for "Bring 'n Brag", model judging, sale items, and of course, doughnuts! Just as we finished setting the room up, members and guests began to arrive. This meet already had the challenges of the location being Staten Island and tolls to conquer. Snow added another challenge for the meet. With the snow, we were unsure if people would come. But, come they did.

And, it is a good thing they came! The clinics at this meet were very good. Norman Frowley's clinic on guessing the judge's scores on models he submitted really put a perspective on first impressions judges have on models. And, by splitting the meet into three teams, each team competed to guess the score. Each member of the team that guessed closest to the score the most


*(Staten Island continued on page 8)*

(Swap Meets continued from page 4)

There are also what I'll call "travelling road shows" that are swap meets run by a group that conducts a swap meet each weekend in a different region. Greenberg is one of these travelling road shows which hold its Train and Toy Shows in our area two of three times a year. The "World Greatest Hobby" is also a travelling road show sponsored by the Hobby Manufacturer's Association but it visits our area less frequently. Both of these are more family oriented than most other swap meets. In addition to operating layouts they have rides for kids, seminars for hobbyists, and non railroad dealers as well.

Some shows are more regional in nature and are worth the trip. My two favorites are the Great Model Train Show in Timonium, Maryland and the Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, Mass. Both shows also have some manufactures present. Both of these shows are about a three hour drive for me, but I can usually find some fellow modelers to rideshare with to make the trip go quicker. The larger the show the further I'm willing to travel.

As you pay your admission and enter the show, most swap meets have a table where they provide you the opportunity to add yourself to their mailing list for notices of future shows. This table will also have fliers for other upcoming swap meets. I maintain a 3-ring binder with these swap meet flyers. I used this to help me organize my thinking for this article and to obtain the web addresses listed. However, one needs to check other sources. I'm not aware of one complete source listing. *Model Railroad Craftsman* still lists swap meets under train collector meets in its timetable section. The larger regional shows advertise themselves in the model railroad magazines. Kalmbach has in its web site, [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com), a listing of swap meets.

For your convenience, I have included a list of many of the swap meets that I have mentioned above and their websites. 

## Swap Meet Websites

**Allentown Train Meet Associates**  
[www.allentowntrainmeet.com](http://www.allentowntrainmeet.com)

**Amherst Railway Society Show**  
[www.amherstrail.org](http://www.amherstrail.org)

**Dover Train Show**  
[www.dovertrainshow.com](http://www.dovertrainshow.com)

**Franklin Show**  
[www.trainweb.org/sussexctyrrclub](http://www.trainweb.org/sussexctyrrclub)

**Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet**  
[valleygoto.com/train.html](http://valleygoto.com/train.html)

**Great Scale Model Train Show**  
[www.qsmts.com](http://www.qsmts.com)

**Greenberg Shows**  
[www.greenbergShows.com](http://www.greenbergShows.com)

**Hudson Valley Railroad Society**  
[www.hydeparkstation.com](http://www.hydeparkstation.com)

**METCA**  
[www.metca.org](http://www.metca.org)

**National Collectors Club**  
[www.eastcoasttrainparts.com](http://www.eastcoasttrainparts.com)

**NYC Model Transit Assoc**  
[www.nycmodeltransit.org](http://www.nycmodeltransit.org)

**NYSOME**  
[www.modelengineers.org](http://www.modelengineers.org)

**Pemberton Township Historic Trust**  
[www.pthtrust.org](http://www.pthtrust.org)

**World's Greatest Hobby**  
[www.greatesthobby.com](http://www.greatesthobby.com)


## Special Purpose Weights

*Article and Photo By Bruce DeYoung*

If you make models, you probably have an assortment of clamps and weights to hold parts together while the glue dries. For most applications, a great approach is to (1) test fit the parts; (2) apply glue to one or both surfaces once the fit is good; (3) hold the parts together with your fingers until the glue begins to set; and then (4) apply weights or clamps to the assembly until the glue fully dries.

Sometimes, our usual assortments of clamps and weights just don't seem to fit the bill. Gluing the roof on a peaked roof structure is one of those situations.

What would be nice would be to have a weight that conforms to the shape of the roof.

I have had good luck using baggies filled with sand to hold my roof segments in place until the glue fully dries. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. 



## MODELING TIP

DURING A RECENT NMRA LAYOUT TOUR, IT WAS NOTICED THAT THE LAYOUT OWNER WAS USING A FOAM STRIP FOR HIS ROADBED. AFTER ASKING IF IT WAS THE WOODLAND SCENICS TRACK-BED ROLL, THE LAYOUT OWNER SAID IT WAS A SIMILAR PRODUCT THAT HE FOUND AT HOME DEPOT. THE HOME DEPOT PRODUCT IS CHEAPER THAN THE WOODLAND SCENICS AND IS USED FOR INSULATING PIPES OR PROVIDING A SEAL FOR CAMPERS.

HOME DEPOT:

[TINYURL.COM/HD-ROADBED](http://TINYURL.COM/HD-ROADBED)

WOODLAND SCENICS:

[TINYURL.COM/WS-TRACKBED](http://TINYURL.COM/WS-TRACKBED)

MODELING TIPS CAN BE SENT TO:

CHUCK DILJAK, EDITOR  
[gswdwhistlepost@yahoo.com](mailto:gswdwhistlepost@yahoo.com)

## MALLERY AWARD

THE MALLERY AWARD IS AWARDED EACH YEAR TO A GARDEN STATE DIVISION MEMBER WHO HAS EXHIBITED EXCELLENCE IN MODELING CRAFTSMANSHIP DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THIS AWARD, THE RULES AND FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION WEBSITE AT: [www.nergsd.com/achiev.html](http://www.nergsd.com/achiev.html)




# NOT QUITE PAPERLESS, BUT NOT OVERWHELMING, EITHER

BY AP CHAIRMAN BRUCE DEYOUNG

For those of you who have been following the Achievement Program articles in the *Whistle Post* for the past few years, you will notice a name change in the by-line of this issue's column. Norm Frowley, who has been the Division's Chairman for the past few years, has passed the reins over to me. I want to extend my thanks to Norm for nurturing the program and for encouraging members to become more active as both participants and as judges. Whether it is evaluating a model at one of our meetings, visiting your home layout to evaluate your work there, or just in helping you to submit your application for one of the certificates, the Garden State Division has a large group of your fellow members who are there to help. In fact, under Norm's leadership, the GSD now has more qualified A.P. Judges than any other Division in the NER.

Every one of the A. P. Certificates does require a certain amount of paper work. In talking to fellow members, it is the often the thought of that paperwork that keeps a member from proceeding any fur-

ther. The fact is that we often make the paperwork more onerous than it needs to be. I know that I did in the beginning. The good news is that within the region we have members who have earned all the certificates except the Prototype Models Certificate. Those members have already gone through the process of filling out that paperwork that you might be worrying about and are willing to give you a hand. As for the Prototype Models Certificate, I have a good friend in another region who has earned that one, and I could always reach out to him for help. So, if you are stuck filling out the paperwork for an individual model to be evaluated or if you have a question on how to fill out the application for one of the Certificates, contact me via e-mail and we will lend a hand. My e-mail address is a hot link on our website and here it is again: [bdeyoung@optonline.net](mailto:bdeyoung@optonline.net).

In closing, I would just like to include pictures of two models that were evaluated at our Winter Meeting on Staten Island. 

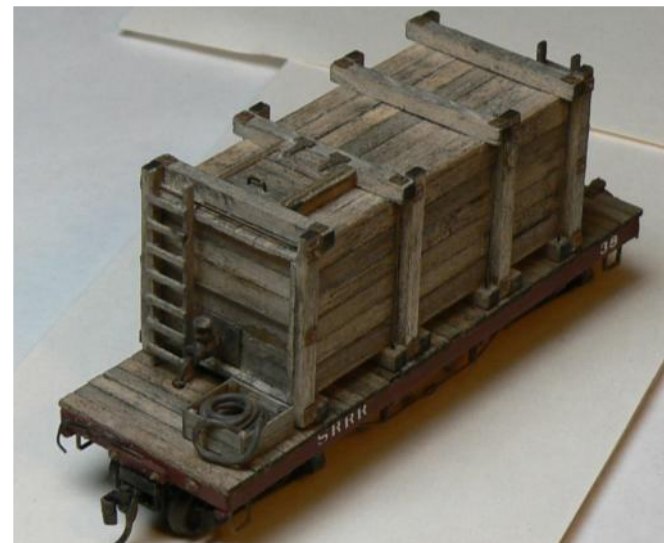
► **Mike Bowler brought this HO scale coaling tower for evaluation.**

*Photo by Chuck Diljak*



▼ **Continuing to work towards my Car Certificate, I brought this scratch built HOn3 water car for evaluation.**

*Photo by Bruce DeYoung*





(Staten Island continued from page 5)

times was awarded bending pliers as a prize. Mike Bowler presented a clinic on building turn-outs. And, Marc Pitanza's Staten Island Rapid Transit clinic really hit home for those of us at the meet.

A different form of clinic was the "Bring 'n Brag" portion of the agenda. Everyone who brought a model for "Bring 'n Brag" spent a few minutes talking about the models they brought. This portion of the meet was exciting, since it was something new. Everyone had an opportunity to see the work of other modelers and learn about them. There were a variety of models brought to the meet, including a HOn3 water car, O scale helium cars, HO passenger cars, an HO coaling tower, an O scale traction motor, and N and HO scale Staten Island Rapid Transit models.

The members spent the afternoon visiting the five layouts open for the meet. The Iggemeisters rushed home to open up the layouts before the members began to arrive.



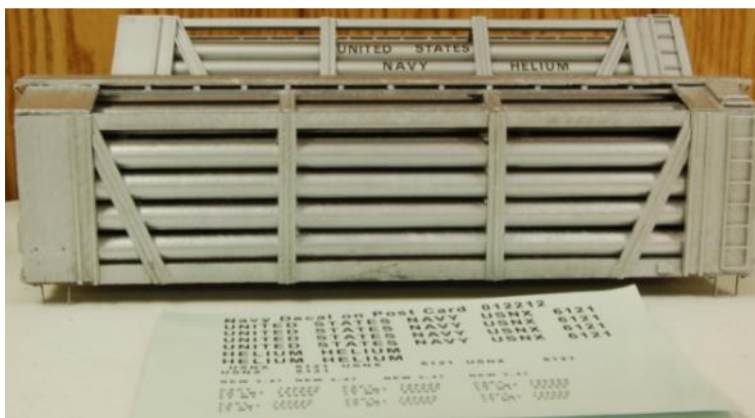
▲ **Tom Griffiths talked about his HO scale Richmond and Chicago instruction car. Tom entered this model in the British Region's convention and earned 96 points and a merit award for the model.**

Many of the visitors took pictures, which is always a compliment, and asked questions. By 4PM, the number of visitors dwindled. At 5PM, all of the Iggemeisters were able to shut down their trains, clean up, and head for dinner to share experiences.

So, when will we get back to Staten Island? I do not know. But, I am thinking of an eight letter word for when that day comes: Sunshine. ☀

◀ **Jim Homoki discusses the weathering techniques he used on his Bangor & Aroostook box car.**

▼ **Andy Brusgard brought a pair of O scale Helium cars and talked about their important role during World War II.**



## TOM PICCIRILLO WINS MALLERY AWARD



GSD President, Norman Frowley (shown at left in the photo above), presented Tom Piccirillo with the Mallery Award for his model railroad work in 2011. The Mallery Award is presented each year to a Garden State Division member who has exhibited excellence in modeling craftsmanship during the preceding year. In addition to the plaque, Tom's name was inscribed on the award that is on permanent display at the Model Railroad Club in Union, NJ, shown below. ☀





## NEXT DIVISION MEETING

**TIME:**  
**10AM-1:30PM SPRING MEET**  
**1:30PM-4:30PM LAYOUT TOURS**

**DATE:**  
**APRIL 22, 2012**

**LOCATION:**  
**THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**  
**295 JEFFERSON AVENUE**  
**UNION, NJ 07083**  
**[WWW.TMRCL.COM](http://WWW.TMRCL.COM)**

**DIRECTIONS:**  
**FOR A GOOGLE MAP, CLICK ON**



**AGENDA:**  
**LAYOUT TOURS**  
**CLINICS**  
**LUNCH**  
**WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE**  
**BRING 'N BRAG**  
**DOOR PRIZES**  
**MODEL JUDGING**

**COST:**  
**\$8**

**CLINIC CONTACT:**  
**IF INTERESTED IN PRESENTING A**  
**CLINIC AT A DIVISION MEETING,**  
**PLEASE CONTACT CLINIC CHAIR:**

**TOM PICCIRILLO, MMR**  
**[tomp1952@verizon.net](mailto:tomp1952@verizon.net)**

# GSD TO MEET IN UNION


The Spring Meet of the Garden State Division will be held at The Model Railroad Club, 295 Jefferson Ave. Union, N.J. on April 22, 2012 beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided by the Division.

Activities for the day include the clinics listed below, layout tours (see page 13), door prizes, a White Elephant table, evaluation of models for the Achievement Program, and an update by Club Representatives on what has been accomplished on the club's layout expansion since our meeting at the club last spring. This includes their plans to bring part of the eastern division on line later this year. A new addition to the agenda is our "Bring 'n Brag" session where members can bring models, etc. and spend a few minutes telling those in attendance about what they brought to show. We did this at our Winter Meet on Staten Island, and it was both interesting and well-received. So, bring a model to share!

Join us in Union for a little camaraderie, a little education, and

lots of fun!

### Upcoming dates:

- ♦ Our summer meet will be held at the Sterling Hill Zinc Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10 a.m. We will have a private underground tour of the mine (just for GSD members) and a tour of the museum followed by lunch provided free by the GSD. (The tour of the museum and mine will be a two hour tour!) The Zinc Mine was a big customer of the L&HR Rwy. More information on the Mine and the tour can be found on their website: Website: <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/index.php> In the afternoon we will have a list of local layouts of GSD members to visit.
- ♦ Speaking of your calendar, we have set the date for the Fall meet. Our meeting will be held in New Brunswick, on Saturday, October 27, 2012. The exact location will be announced shortly. Clinics in the morning and layout tours in the afternoon are planned. 

### Chuck Diljak: Tricks with Bricks

Frustrated with how his brick structures looked, using the usual methods of washes and pastes to highlight the mortar, Chuck Diljak developed his own technique. In this clinic, Chuck will talk about the need to highlight the mortar on brick walls, review the "tried and true" methods of painting the mortar and brick, and demonstrate his own simple method with basic materials. With a little practice, modelers will have better looking brick structures using his "dry sponging" process.




or op session. This clinic shows you how! By making a few adjustments, avoiding common mistakes, and doing a little post-production work, you can improve your pictures dramatically. And, best of all, if you already own a camera with a few extra features, it won't cost you a cent.



### Tom Wortmann - Adhesives for the Model Railroader

There are literally thousands of types of adhesives or glues that we can buy for model railroad-ing. How many of them do we really use? How many of them



have dried out on our shelves from lack of use? This clinic will cover the basics of what types of glues are essential to building not only a kit, but also your entire layout, plus how many can serve more than one purpose. This short but informative clinic can save you time and money, and you'll still end up with a great model railroad. 



# MEETING MINUTES

## Purpose:

Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting

## Date/Time:

Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 9:30 am

## Place:

Home of Tom Piccirillo

## Attendees:

Andy Brusgard, Joe Calderone, Ciro Compagno, Bruce De Young, Chuck Diljak, Tom Casey, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

## President's Report

Norman provided opening remarks. Last Board meeting of the year. He thanked everyone for their efforts this year. It takes a group effort to make it work. We tried new things this year – some things worked and some did not. We need to keep trying different things to move the Division forward. Division operations are similar to a restaurant. Patrons are served. If they do not like what is being served, they are never coming back. It is important to make a good impression every time. It is important a GSD event have something to offer and enjoy. We cannot afford to lose interest and attendance.

## Secretary's Report

The September meeting minutes were distributed. Norm asked to include details for motions, second motions, discussions and voting result in meeting minutes. The recent flat panel monitor expense approval was discussed as an example. Norm motioned to accept the September minutes amended with

## BY SECRETARY CIRO COMPAGNO

motion details. Tom P. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. September minutes, as amended, were accepted.

## Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented a financial update. He will rework the caboose, and rename it "Ed's Caboose". It will be ready for the January Winter Meet. The Paul Mallory Award Trophy was reworked and is completed. He has the 2010 plaque. There was general discussion regarding the intent of money to the Division from the National (i.e., \$1 per member). This money is intended for AP and membership communication, and not the general Division fund. Thus, related Division expenses need to be separated from year to year for accounting purposes. Norm motioned to accept the report. Bruce seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Treasurer's report was accepted.

## Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman provided a summary. He gave Division AP Chairpersons throughout the NER a DVD of his clinic and presentation given at a recent Regional Convention. The 2011 Paul Mallory Award recipient is Tom P. Norm clarified the intent of the modeling award "year", and the current discrepancy in the current rules. There are other smaller discrepancies that need to be addressed; e.g. median versus mean scoring method. Norm proposed to amend the award rules to remove discrepancies at a future Board meeting.

There was a general discussion about the Fall Meet and ways improve attendance. Suggestions include surveying the membership, access to a church or public hall, home layout tours, etc. There was a general discussion about mailing a color copy of the Whistle Post Newsletter Extra to the general membership to promote the upcoming Winter Meet. Andy motioned to send copies. Bruce seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Expenditure was approved.

## Events Report

There was a group discussion:

- Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, Saturday and Sunday, November 26 & 27, Edison, NJ.
  - ♦ Bruce gave the GSD banner to Bob Tumielewicz.
  - ♦ A new 30 x 60 in. GSD banner will be displayed.
  - ♦ Bruce advised to engage in a modeling activity to draw public interest.
  - ♦ Bruce indicated minimal coverage will be provided.
  - ♦ Ciro gave Norm GSD handouts to bring Saturday morning.
  - ♦ Ciro will bring the NMRA Railpass sign.
  - ♦ Norm advised to come early in the morning when vendors are setting up.
  - ♦ Norm advised to spend as much time as possible at the table.
- Winter Meet, Saturday, January 21, 2012, Marine Corps League Clubhouse,
  - ♦ Staten Island, NY, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Home layout tours: 2:00 – 5:00 pm.
  - ♦ Home layouts will open in the af-

ternoon. Owners will need to leave when the meeting ends to prepare. The remaining GSD staff members are available to cleanup room.

- ♦ Ciro briefly cited other requirements summarized in the September meeting minutes.
- ♦ Home layout owners will post an outdoor GSD sign.
- ♦ Tom W. and Ciro will produce home layout tour maps, which will be available the morning of the meet at the facility.
- ♦ Table will be available at no cost to sell items. Donations are accepted.
- ♦ Andy will bring his 50-cup coffee urn. Tom W. recommended early set-up (as early as 8:00 am).
- ♦ Bruce will bring coffee, cups, spoons, plates, sugar, etc.
- ♦ Tom P. and Norm summarized two planned clinics and one contest.
- ♦ Ciro will follow-up with Marc Pitanza for needed brief clinic write up and photo for Tom P.
- ♦ Tom P. will provide 15 small prizes for the planned contest by Norm.
- ♦ Bruce suggested Norm give his planned contest first so Norm can begin model judging earlier.
- ♦ Tom W. accepted the position as Door Prize Coordinator. All door prizes should be coordinated with Tom W.
- ♦ Admission ticket can be used for the door prize.
- ♦ 50/50 raffle ticket is separate.
- ♦ Show-and-Tell will be available.
- Spring Meet, May 2012, The Model Railroad Club, Union, NJ
  - ♦ Bruce will work with the club to finalize a May date.
  - ♦ Afternoon operation session or

(Minutes continued on page 14)



## ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

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## PHOTO THEME FOR NEXT ISSUE: *FREIGHT CARS: MODIFIED, SCRATCHBUILT OR KITBASHED*

► GSD members, Jack Ma-  
son and Tom Wortmann,  
joined forces to custom  
paint and letter this Accurail  
Boxcar. Jack created the  
decals while Tom painted  
and applied the decals to  
honor his late friend, Roy  
Fuchs. In case you are won-  
dering, the color of the car  
reflects Roy's love of orange  
paint.

Photo by Tom Wortmann

Photo Theme is a one or two  
page feature in each issue of  
*The Whistle Post*, based on a  
theme. Photos and captions  
can be e-mailed to [gsdwhis-  
tlepost@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdwhis-<br/>tlepost@yahoo.com).



## Want to be a...

# Clinician?

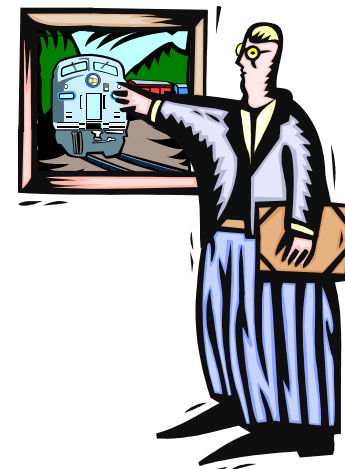
We seek members who would like to give a clinic at our Division Meets. If you can present a clinic, you'll help your fellow model railroaders enjoy their hobby even more than they do now, have a chance to strut your stuff, and have fun while doing it!

A video camera and projection screen will be available to assist your presentation. Fancy graphics are not required, but you should be prepared to clearly demonstrate and fully explain the topic. We'll even


help you set up your presentation!

If you'd like to present a clinic, please send an email to me at the email address below with your suggested topic and we'll discuss it further from there.

Tom Piccirillo, MMR  
Chairman, NMRA-GSD Clinic Program Committee  
[tomp1952@verizon.net](mailto:tomp1952@verizon.net)



- This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into NMRA Magazine, the full package can be downloaded from [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org). Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine.
- Speaking of the convention, even though Grand Rails 2012 has over 200 clinic slots filled, they're still looking for more. If one of your members is interested in presenting, go to [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) and click on the clinic application page. The convention still has some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show so if someone in your Division or Region wants to show the world what they've done, contact Tom Draper, Chairman of the National Train Show, at either [tcdraider@aol.com](mailto:tcdraider@aol.com), or call 602-953-1681.
- Tom Draper also reported that the number of booth sales for the show at Grand Rails 2012 is currently at the same level it was at this time last year for the show in Sacramento.
- The Grand Rails 2012 website at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) now has these new features:
  - ♦ A page for the Layout Design Special Interest Group
  - ♦ The Operations Special Interest Group Sign-up sheet
  - ♦ PDF copies of all of the traditional Registration forms
  - ♦ A complete list of all of the extra fare events and tours
  - ♦ A schedule of days and times for most scheduled events

- ♦ More Sidetracks events for the non-rails
- ♦ The Silent Auction schedule
- ♦ The contest room schedule
- More Grand Rails 2012 news: The convention has some great things planned for non-rails. There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100 acre Saugatuck Dunes! Have non-rails go to [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) for all the details.
- The Kalmbach Library's immensely popular "The Postwar Freight Car Fleet" book has sold out.
- NMRA elections. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)). It appeared as an insert in the center of the February issue of NMRA Magazine, which was mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012.
- The Board is in the initial stages of studying electronic balloting as a way of both saving on postage and encouraging additional member participation.
- Financially, the NMRA ended 2011 in very good standing and is currently rebuilding some of its funds from which it had borrowed in the past. In addition there is currently enough money in the budget to hire an IT professional to repair, maintain, and update the NMRA website. 

## The Model Railroad Shop

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## MODELING THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

**DURING THE AFTERNOON OF THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION'S SPRING MEET, YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE TWO PENNSY BASED LAYOUTS AND VISIT WITH THEIR OWNERS.**

**WHAT BRINGS SOMEONE TO MODEL THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD, THE "STANDARD RAILROAD OF THE WORLD"?**

**FIND OUT BY VISITING THE PENNSY LAYOUTS OF RUSS KRESS AND ANDY RUBBO.**


**THE LAYOUTS ARE ON TOUR FROM 1:30PM TO 4:30 PM AS PART OF THE GSD SPRING MEET ON APRIL 22. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MEET, SEE PAGE 9 IN THIS ISSUE.**



# VISIT PENNSY LAYOUTS DURING GSD SPRING MEET


## Russ Kress

Russ models the Pennsylvania Railroad in O scale. His layout is 14' x 26' with two small wing extensions. While the catenary is not live, it does serve a cosmetic purpose. Many of Russ's locomotives are equipped with sound.

Russ is considering a move in the next year. So, this may be your only opportunity to visit this sceniced layout. 



## Andy Rubbo

Beautiful catenary. Andy gave a clinic, at the 2008 GSD Spring Meet, on constructing catenary for his HO scale layout. Now is your opportunity to see his work, first hand. 



(Minutes continued from page 10)

home layout tour will be determined.

- **Summer Meet**

Bruce indicated Black River Railroad in Flemington, NJ is not suitable location. There was a general discussion on other possible venues.

### **Membership & Club Chair's Report**

Tom C. received an updated membership roster from the National via the NER. He will e-mail the latest membership roster next week.

### **Whistle Post Report**

Chuck is presently working on the Winter 2012 issue. For the first time it will use a landscape format to improve electronic viewing. Bob Dennis is submitting "My First Model Railroad Regional Convention" article. Photos are available on the GSD Officers Yahoo Group posted by Ciro. Chuck needs AP article from Norman, Richmond Harbor article from Ciro, and approved September meeting minutes from Ciro. Chuck is planning to publish the newsletter in early January 2012 before the Winter Meet. For Spring 2012, Bruce has reworked and will submit Tom C. article about swap meets. Chuck announced his resignation as Director and Editor of the newsletter due to personal reasons. The Spring 2012 issue will be his last issue. Chuck offered to assist the new person to help get up to speed as quickly as possible.

### **Discussion of remaining old business:**

1. Norman asked Ciro to draft a GSD Bylaws amendment, to include this duty for the Secretary, for review at

the next Board Meeting. Status: Open

2. Anthony will send National a check for \$75 for the NMRA Diamond Club. Status: Completed.
3. Anthony will follow-up and ask known individuals that participated in the white-elephant table in the past Spring Meet to give their 10% commission. Status: Consensus was to delete this action item.
4. Bruce will explore Black River Railroad in Flemington, NJ, or New Hope & Ivyland Railroad in New Hope, PA for a possible 2012 Summer Meet. Status: Completed.
5. Tom W. will purchase 25 in. monitor. Status: Tom W. presented an 18 in. monitor donated by a GSD member followed by a general discussion. Tom P. motioned to accept the 18 in. monitor. Ciro seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The 18 in. monitor was accepted. This cancels the previous Board approval for a 25 in. monitor.
6. Joe will share a NJ Division form asking who would like to open their home layout for a division event. Status: Joe will customize form for the GSD and send to Norm for review. Anthony P. and Tom W. offered to help mail the form. Logistics will be finalized later.
7. Norman asked Tom W. to finalize morning and afternoon Winter Meet timeline, and provide to Andy and Bruce for flyer development. Status: Winter Meet schedule finalized. *Whistle Post Extra* replaces the flyer.
8. Norman asked Tom P. to develop clinics. Status: Completed.
9. Tom C. went through the 30 and 60 days past due list. He noted about

five individuals that Norman, Tom P. and Tom W. (Staten Islanders) agreed to follow-up with. Tom C. will advise Andy the need to contact the rest of the individuals on this past due list. Tom C. has also provided Andy the new member list. Andy then follows up with a welcome letter. Status: In progress.


10. Tom W. sent Andy a brief write-up to e-mail the membership requesting photos for the newsletter. Andy will send e-mail. Status: Completed.
11. Andy will send proposed postcard to promote the Division to Norm. Once ready, Tom P. will insert given copies of this postcard in Micro-Mark packages to be shipped. Status: Open.
12. Tom W. and Tom C. will send final wording for Edward Fraedrich service award and provide to Norman by the next staff meeting. Status: Norm presented the final wording. Tom C. motioned to accept wording, as amended. Tom W. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Wording was accepted. Status: Completed.
13. Anthony will update The Paul Mallory Award Trophy to include the 2010 recipient's name. It will be presented at the Winter Meet. Status: Completed.
14. Tom C. will make contact with the North Haledon and Rocky Hill clubs to maintain a relationship, and advise the GSD is interested in a future meet. Status: Open.
15. Norman asked Tom W. to coordinate with Bruce on developing material for the GSD welcome CD. Status: Open.
16. Joe needs to appoint at least one other member to serve on the Nominating Committee that is not

up for election. Status: Bruce is assisting. Status: Completed.

17. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting including at least one name for each elective office per Article 7 of the Constitution of the GSD. Status: Completed.
18. The Nominating Committee shall provide the names of the candidates to the editor of the *Whistle Post* for publication in the issue preceding the January 2012 Annual Meeting. Status: Completed.
19. Anthony P. will follow-up with Richard Ross to determine if he is still interested in being a GSD Director. Then, provide Norman an update. Status: Tom W. motioned to ask Rich to resign as Director in accordance to the Bylaws. Tom C. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion was accepted. Norm will speak with Rich during the upcoming Greenberg Show. Status: Completed.
20. Door prize Chairperson position was approved. Position activities and responsibility were discussed. Status: Tom W. accepted position.

### **Discussion of new business:**

1. Logistics of purchasing envelopes, printing, labeling and mailing the *Whistle Post Extra* newsletter were finalized.
2. Ciro proposed to purchase a second easel for the GSD signs and clinics. Ciro motioned to purchase one. Tom W. seconded. There was no further discussion. Purchase was approved.

Meeting adjourned around 12:00 pm. Next staff meeting will be announced. 



## PHOTOGRAPHY TIP

HOW MANY OF YOU ARE USING SIMPLE DIGITAL CAMERAS? AND HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THE LIMITS OF THAT CAMERA? MANY A GOOD SHOT IS WASTED BECAUSE THE CAMERA WAS JUST OUT OF FLASH OR FOCUS RANGE. READ THE CAMERA MANUAL AND YOU'LL TAKE BETTER PICTURES.

CONTRIBUTED BY  
TOM WORTMANN

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY, INQUIRIES CAN BE SENT TO:

TOM WORTMANN  
t.misky@verizon.net

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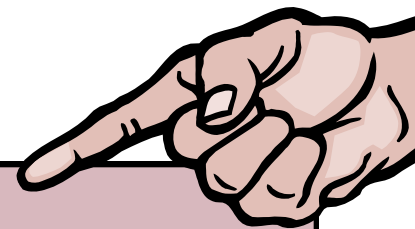
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# MAINTENANCE OF WAY



To see additional photos submitted for this month's photo theme, visit the photo theme webpage on the Garden State Division's website at: [www.nergsd.com/theme.html](http://www.nergsd.com/theme.html). ®



▲ Here's a stock gondola assigned to the track gang. Looks like new ties are in order somewhere on the line. Photo by Rich Ross

Here is a home made car which looks like it is used on the RIP track or on the line. It is a TT scale model! ▶

Photo by William DeBuvitz



▲ A 60 Ton crane and tender await the next call out on the Thorn Creek & Western. While the crane is a well known kit, notice how it and the tender have been given the railroads personal touch. No two were ever perfectly alike. Photo by Dave Hunt

▼ According to the crews of the Denver & Rio Grande, this is a "Snow Dozer". Snow is always a problem and it must be cleared. Photo by Frank Russo



Completely scratch built crane tender made out of wood for the Jerilyn & Western.▶

Photo by Gabriel Caprio



## THE TIMETABLE

Saturday-Sunday, 4/14-15/12, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$9, children under 15 Free, Family \$18. For more information: [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

**Sunday, 4/22/12, NMRA Garden State Division Spring Meet, The Model Railroad Club,, 295 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ. See Page 9 of this issue.**

Sunday, 4/29/12, Train Collectors Association Meet, Mount Arlington Elks Club, Howard Boulevard, Roxbury Township, NJ. 9AM-2PM. Free to TCA members, \$4 for Non-TCA adults, \$3 for 12 and under, and \$2 for seniors 65+. For more information: [www.metca.org](http://www.metca.org)

Sunday, 5/6/12, 10th Annual Franklin Model and Toy Train Sale and Show, Littell Community Center, Franklin, NJ. 9AM-3PM. General admission \$5, children under 12 Free. For more information: [www.trainweb.org/sussexctyrrclub/](http://www.trainweb.org/sussexctyrrclub/)

Friday-Saturday, 6/1-2/12, New England/Northeast Prototype Modelers Meet, Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. For more information: [www.neprototypemeet.com](http://www.neprototypemeet.com)

Saturday-Sunday, 6/23-24/12, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$9, children under 15 Free, Family \$18. For more information: [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

**Sunday-Saturday, 7/29-8/4/12, NMRA National Convention, "Grand Rails 2012," Grand Rapids, MI. For more information: [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org)**

Sunday, 8/5/12, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: [www.dovertrainshow.com](http://www.dovertrainshow.com)

**Saturday, 8/18/12, NMRA Garden State Division Summer Meet, The Sterling Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, NJ. Fee is \$9 for the mine tour. No GSD fee will be collected. Send an e-mail to [gsdtrains@yahoo.com](mailto:gsdtrains@yahoo.com) if you plan to attend.**

**Thursday-Sunday, 9/6-9/9/12, NER Regional Convention, "Empire Junction '12", Syracuse, NY. For more information: [www.empirejunction.org](http://www.empirejunction.org)**

Saturday, 10/6/12, Northeast Fallen Flags Railroad Prototype Meet, Ted Blum 4-H Center, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ. For more information: [www.hansmanns.org/neff\\_rpm/](http://www.hansmanns.org/neff_rpm/)

Sunday, 10/7/12, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: [www.dovertrainshow.com](http://www.dovertrainshow.com)

Thursday-Saturday, 10/11-13/12, The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo, The Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Highway East Route 30, Lancaster, PA. For more information: [modelrailroadexpo.com](http://modelrailroadexpo.com)

**Sunday, 10/27/12, NMRA Garden State Division Fall Meet, New Brunswick NJ. Details are still being developed.**



*The date in the mailing label corner identifies when your subscription ends → 1/12*  
*Subscriptions run from January to January*



**Chuck Diljak  
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