

WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



smdnmra.org

FALL 2012



RENEW ONLINE

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FALL MEETINGS

September – Sunday, September 9, 2012, 2 to 5 pm. Mike Reed's N scale Maryland & Southern RR.. Mike's around the wall freelance layout is generally set in the Hagerstown/Cumberland Valley area in the transition era. The layout features a single-track mainline loop with several passing sidings, an upper level branch serving two coal mines and staging. There are two peninsulas.

Clinic: Noch Gras Master. A hands-on clinic by Richard Lind..

October – Sunday, October 14, 2012, 2 to 5 pm. Richard Randall's O scale Milwaukee Road, Avery ID division point. Avery was at the west end of the Milwaukee Road's electrified division through Cascade Tunnel. Rich's 40' by 34' layout is set in 1972 and features a single-track dogbone with passing sidings. In the center is the Avery yard, much compressed. To the east is a 2% grade up through the Bitterroot Mountains to a 3-track siding and 3-track return loop. West of Avery is a flat run of track passing through another 3-track siding and dropping down a modest 2% grade to another 3-track return loop.

Clinic: TBD

November – Saturday, November 17, 2012, Model Railroaders' meet: 9 am to 4 pm at Hobbytown USA at 919 N. East Street in Frederick. Open to the public. See Don Florwick's article below.

Clinics: Largely TBD, but see the article below.

STAN OAK'S WIFE PASSES

Stan Oaks' wife Lynn passed away this summer after an extended illness. They lived in Rockville MD and built a beautiful retirement home near Berkeley Springs WV that included a train room and a stained glass studio for Lynn. Stan is active in SMD and instrumental in adding Morgan, Mineral and Hampshire Counties to the SMD area.

SMD's 2nd ANNUAL FREE MODEL RAILROADER'S MEET

By Don Florwick



In recognition of National Model Railroad Month, the South Mountain Division (SMD) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) will again sponsor an all day Model Railroader's meet at the HobbyTown USA's Frederick, MD store on Saturday, November 17th from 10 AM till 4 PM.



There will be live clinics on Weathering Freight Cars with Chalks, Building Fast Track Turnouts, and Installing Tortoise Switch Machines and Control Panels. A no-fee white elephant sale, AKA, the Albino pachyderm will be held for the convenience of division members and our guests. And as we did last year we will again have the Popular Vote Model Contest along with model

displays, demonstrations and working modelers who will demonstrate various modeling techniques and answer questions as they work. This event is designed to both connect current railroad modelers in the area and to introduce the hobby to the public.

This is a good opportunity for members to spend the day having fun by participating and interacting with division members and with the public. You can get involved by just attending, or by bringing a model or models to display, enter into the Model Contest, or to bring a kit or scratch building project to work on at a table so that folks can watch you, ask questions, and learn from your experience.



Maybe you would like to try your hand at giving a live clinic? It's an opportunity for you to encourage and inspire someone to join with us and/or to become an active practicing model railroader.

Contact Don Florwick at DJFlorwick@comcast.net or phone 717-352-8759 for information and to get involved.

HobbyTown USA is located at 919 C North East Street in Frederick, MD

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to new member John Pucciano.

WESTERN MD SCENIC RR TRIP

By Pete Clarke and Bob Johnson,
Photos by Pete Clarke

On Saturday morning, June 2 2012, SMD members Rick Arestad (and guest), Jay Beckham (and guest), Pete & Jane Clarke, Bob Johnson (and guest), Richard Lind, John Madden (and guest), Ray Price (and 2 guests) met at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad station in Cumberland MD. Most were there early enough to get to see the train come storming across the Potomac River bridge and pull



into the station. We loaded up and started our assault on the grade to Frostburg. Jane and I gained a whole new respect for this grade when we rode it on our bicycle last year. The Great Alleghany Passage bike trail runs right next to the rails. So we know that the crew had the automatic stoker working for real, not just for the cameras. Engine 734 was putting out some real work to pull the train up to Frostburg. This was just a normal weekend trip, no photo run-by's, but the line has many curves, so there were many opportunities to watch 734 as it worked. It was nice to see that they also did a bit of freight hauling on this trip – a good number of folks had their bicycles hauled up to Frostburg so they could coast on back down the G. A. P. trail and watch as the train went past them.

Once in Frostburg we watched as the loco ran on to the turntable and came back off to run around the train and get to the head end to take us back to Cumberland. Then it was off for a filling and tasty meal at the nearby café.

Back at Cumberland we toured a caboose and took a look at two diesel locomotives freshly painted in Western Maryland speed lettering. These engines



are the latest additions to the motive power fleet of the Georges Creek Railway (GCR). The George's Creek Railway is a Maryland limited liability corporation formed in March 2006. It currently provides third party switching services at the NewPage Corporation paper mill in Luke, Maryland (formerly West Virginia Pulp & Paper). In October 2010, the George's Creek Railway filed a Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board for the authority to operate former CSX trackage in the George's Creek Valley of Allegany County, Maryland. That exemption was approved on November 4, 2010. They are currently in the process of rebuilding this track and are developing a trans loading facility located on Maryland State Route 936 at Cabin Run Road. This facility will handle bulk products, heavy equipment, raw and finished hardwood products, coal, and aggregates.

The GCR has five locomotives on it's roster as follows:

Alco T-6 switcher # 101 (former PRR)
 Alco FA2 # 303 (formerly WM 303)
 EMD GP9 # 25 (formerly WM 25)
 EMD SD-35 # 7436 (formerly WM 7436)
 EMD SD-40 # 7471

According to some sources they have also had another WM GP-9 and a Western Maryland Alco T-6 switcher on the property but neither is listed as active on the GCR website (parts?). All of the former WM engines are painted and lettered for the Western Maryland (black / speed lettering) and sub-lettered GCR. The former PRR T-6 is painted red and silver.

After viewing the engines and caboose (lettered for the Clinchfield RR) a large number of us then walked over to the Queen City Creamery and had the ice cream treat of our choice. What a nice day. We hope to see you when we take next years' train ride.

NEW NMRA EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Richard Lind

Lack of developed skills is a big problem with most model railroaders. So, the NMRA just started an education and training program to address this problem using an effective technique used by the military for a century. This program will be for all model railroaders – not just NMRA members – and the plan is to develop course materials that meet the needs of model railroaders and don't require an expert to present..

A Training Committee will manage the program and work on-line, using a Yahoo group, to develop and approve training materials. SMD's committee representative is C. Brian Greenawalt.

This is exciting news if all goes as planned. More on this later.

OPEN HOUSES & TRAIN SHOWS

September 15 & 16, 2012. Mainline Hobby Supply, Inc Open House, 15066 Buchanan Trail East, Blue Ridge Summit PA 17213. Saturday 9 AM till 5 PM, Sunday noon till 5 PM. Free model railroad/layout tours. See www.mainlinehobby.com

September 15, 2012, 11 am to 4 pm. Cumberland Valley Model RR Club open house, 440 Nelson St., Chambersburg PA. www.cvmrrc.com/events.htm

October 6-7, 2012, 10 am to 5 pm. Brunswick Railroad Days, Brunswick MD. MARC train rides, live music, carnival, pony rides; crafts, car, truck, motorcycle and train shows. www.brunswickmd.gov

October 18-21, 2012. Milepost 40. Mid-Eastern Region NMRA Convention hosted by the Tidewater Division at the Hilton Garden Inn in Suffolk VA. For info, see <http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

October 11-14, 2012. B&O Railroad Historical Society 2012 Annual Convention. Somerset PA. For info, see www.borhs.org .

October 27-28, 2012. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093. Nine am to 4 pm on Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. See www.gsmts.com

November 4, 2012, 9 am to 4 pm. 35th Gaithersburg Train Show, Montgomery County Fair Grounds, Gaithersburg MD (railroadiana)

Saturday, November 17, 2012. SMD Mini-Con. 10 am to 4 pm at Hobbytown USA at 919 N. East Street in Frederick. Open to the public.

December 1-2, 2012. Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093

www.greenbergshows.com

TRAIN RIDES

Cass Scenic Railroad, Cass WV. Trains operate daily until September 3rd, then September 7-9, 14-16, 21-30; October 1-28, 2012. See

http://www.cassrailroad.com/CASS_schedule.pdf for times and destinations.

The Cheat Mountain Salamander, Elkins WV. Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad. Trains operate September 8, 22, and 28th; plus Tuesday through Sunday in October, except the 30th and 31st. Trains depart the historic Elkins WV depot at 10:15 am. Call 1-877 MTN.RAIL to reserve a seat.

The Durbin Rocket, Durbin WV. Climax powered trains operate Saturday and Sunday in September, plus 20, 21, 27 and 28th; Tuesday through Sunday in October, except the 30th and 31st. Trains depart Durbin at 10 am and 2:30 pm. Call for availability. Some trains sold out. 1-877-MTN-RAIL.

East Broad Top Railroad, Rockhill Furnace (Orbisonia) PA. Not operating in 2012.

www.ebtrr.com .

New River Train, Huntington WV. The October 20 & 21, 27 & 28, 2012. All seats are sold out for the October 20th trip. Check www.newrivertrain.com for available seating and turned back tickets. After the New Year, check the website for 2013 schedules and prices.

New Tygart Flyer, Elkins WV. Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad. Trains operate September 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 and 30th; plus Tuesday through Sunday in October, except the 30th and 31st. Trains depart the historic Elkins WV depot at 11 am. Call 1-877 MTN.RAIL to reserve a seat.

Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. Trains operate September 1, 8, 9, 22, 29 and 30th; October 4-29, and November 3,4,10, 11,17 and 18th. See <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php> for special events and seating options. Every train has a first class car.

Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. Trains operate daily through November 12th; Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 23rd and December 26-31. For info, see

<http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> .

Walkersville Southern Railroad, Walkersville MD. Trains operate on Saturdays only in September, and on Saturdays and Sundays in October. Trains depart from the historic Walkersville depot at 11 am and 2 pm. See <http://www.wsrr.org/schedule.htm> .

Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. Cumberland MD. Trains operate daily, with regular excursions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in September; Thursday thru Sunday starting October 4th, Wednesday thru Sunday starting October 10th, Tuesday thru Sunday starting October 16th; and on weekends in November and December until December 21st, plus Friday, November 23rd. See <http://www.wmsr.com/> for info.

Saturday evenings. Strasburg Railroad Wine and Cheese trains thru November 17th. See www.strasburgrailroad.com/wine-and-cheese.php

Saturday evenings. Walkersville Southern Railroad Diner Trains. Septempmber 17, October 1, 15 at 6:00 pm. Call 302-898-0899 or 1-877-363-WSRR toll free.

Steam powered Thomas trains operate with Day Out With Thomas, Strasburg Railroad. September 15 – 23 and November 16 – 18, 2012. regularly scheduled trains all day. See <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/day-out-with-thomas.php> for tickets.

September 9, 2012. Potomac Eagle, Romney WV. Fort Mill Ridge History Train, departing at 1:00 pm. www.potomaceagle.info/events.php

TRAIN RIDES, continued

September 22, 2012. Walkersville Southern Railroad, Civil War Reinactors, 11 am and 2 pm. See <http://www.wsrr.org/events.htm> .

September 29, 2012. Potomac Eagle. Hardy Heritage Days trains, departing at 12:00 pm from Morefield WV and at 1:00 pm from Romney WV.. www.potomaceagle.info/events.php

October 27, 2012. Walkersville Southern Railroad, Ghost Trains, 7 and 8:30 pm. See <http://www.wsrr.org/events.htm> .

November 4 and 17, 2012. Potomac Eagle entire railroad trip, Romney WV, 10:00 am. www.potomaceagle.info/events.php .

November 10-11, 2012. Roanoke Chapter NRHS Veteran's Day Weekend Amtrak excursions. Roanoke to Abington on Saturday, Shenandoah Valley trip on Sunday. See www.roanokenrhs.org/excursions_2012.html

Santa Trains. Walkersville Southern Railroad, November 24, 25, December 1, 2, 8, 9, and 15, 2012 at 11 am, 1 and 3 pm. See <http://www.wsrr.org/events.htm> .

FUTURE SMD MEETINGS

December 10th – Jay Beckham
January 13th – Bob Johnson
February 10th – Joe Albers
March 10th – Dick McEvoy
April 13th – Mini-con at Mainline Hobby Supply
May 19th – Pete and Jane Clarke

No meetings in June, July and August, but we will ride the Cass Scenic Railroad in June 2013. Since this is more than a day trip, start planning now.

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Donald (Don) Florwick

Mike Shockey

HAGERSTOWN

Mike Reed's N Scale
Maryland & Southern
12910 Cathedral Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21701
Sunday, Sept. 9th, 2 to 5 pm

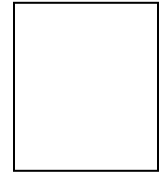
Directions from I-81: Take the **Maugan's Avenue** exit, **Exit 9**. **TURN EAST** onto Maugan's Ave. After 0.6 miles Maugan's Ave. becomes **Longmeadow Road**. Continue **STRAIGHT** on **Longmeadow Road** 1.4 miles to a traffic signal at **Marsh Pike**. Turn **RIGHT** onto Marsh Pike and go 0.8 miles to a stop sign at **MD-60/ Leitersburg Pike**. Turn **RIGHT** onto Leitersburg Pike and go 0,4 miles to a traffic signal at **Meadow View Drive**.

Turn **RIGHT** onto Meadow View and go 0.2 miles to a T-intersection with **Cathedral Avenue**. Turn **RIGHT**. Mike and Stef's house will be the third on the **RIGHT**.

Directions from I-70: Take **Exit 32B** toward Hagerstown. **Merge** onto **US-40/ National Pike** and go 2.6 miles to a traffic signal at **Eastern Avenue**. Turn **RIGHT** onto Eastern Ave. and go 2.6 miles to a traffic signal at **MD-60/Potomac Avenue**. Turn **RIGHT** onto MD-60 and go 0.4 miles to the 2nd traffic signal, which will be at **Meadow View Drive**. Turn **LEFT** onto Meadow View and follow instructions above.

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