

WHEEL REPORT **SMD**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

smdnmra.org

SPRING 2010

SPRING MEETINGS

All three of our spring hosts' layouts were on the Western Maryland Transfer Layout Tour.

March – Sunday, March 14, 2010, 2 to 5 pm. Pete and Jane Clarke's HOn3 East Broad Top near Damascus MD. The Clarke's layout includes Mt. Union with the coal cleaning plant and a brick works, the Augwick Bridge, Orbisonia with the full EBT yard and shops, Pogue bridge, and Robertsdale and its mines. The layout is operated point to point. A recent addition is an iron furnace complex that was located at Orbisonia. Scenery is complete, except for the iron furnace.

Clinic: Adding "Operations" to Your Model Railroad by Pete Clarke

April – Sunday, April 11, 2010, 2 to 5 pm. Paul Rausch's HO scale Ohio Northern Railroad. The Northern Ohio RR is a fictional 1999 era short line that runs over some of the former roadbed of the Akron, Canton & Youngstown RR in northwestern Ohio. The HO scale RR is in a 1700 sq. ft. finished basement. It's designed for point-to-point operation with continuous running available on a double track main line. Although this model railroad is under construction, the conventional L-girder benchwork is about ¾ complete with around 750 feet of mainline and yard track already down. Williamsport and Allentown are complete with

scenery and some detail. A Lenz DCC system powers the railroad.

Clinic: TBD

May – Sunday, May 16, 2010, 2 to 5 pm, Stan Oak's N scale CSX – Warm Spring Run Subdivision. Stan's layout is based in the late 1990's to early part of this century. The main benchwork is C-shaped, covers an area of about 9x20 feet, with the hidden staging in a 4x10 ft. adjacent closet. It is largely prototypical, with some freelancing. The main features are Hancock Yard, US Silica, and Berkeley Springs, WV. Other industries served will include an art aglass plant and a small lumber mill. During operations, the CSX will interchange with both Western Maryland (modeler's license) and the South Branch Valley RR.

Clinic: "Building Turnouts Using FastTracks Jigs" by Stan Oaks.

June - Saturday, June 5th. SMD-sponsored railfan trip to the Strasburg Railroad, including a shop tour.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Grant Berry, Robert H. Davis, Megan and Philip Filosi, James D. Fisher, John Madden, and Steve Sherrill, . We invite you to our meetings: an important benefit of NMRA membership.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPER

Most likely this is the last time I'll write for this column. Careful study has shown that NMRA rules require officers to live in the boundaries of the division in which they serve. That's not true for me, I live in territory assigned to the Potomac division. So I can not serve again.

I hope you felt I did a good job. Personally I enjoyed doing it. I chose to write some articles for the Wheel Report that caused me to grow as a modeler. I was able to work with some fine folks who served as meeting hosts and those who gave clinics. I got to meet some folks from other divisions. I had the support of prior officers at all times. Thanks to the convention, I was able to get pictures of the EBT running in a snow storm. What a well run convention! It was nice to play my small role in it.

I hope that in some way I leave office with the SMD stronger and healthier than it's ever been. Just because I can't be an officer doesn't mean that I'll not be doing things for the SMD. The new Super will be looking for folks to help by doing various job functions. I expect to be involved in, well, something. perhaps more than one thing. It's the nature of volunteer groups to need people to volunteer. Lets all go up to the new Super and ask, "What can I do for you and for SMD?"

Pete

OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The SMD is a vibrant active group. We meet regularly every month and we get a pretty good turn out for most of our meetings. We have sub groups that get together for operating sessions. Every 5 years or so, we show the rest of the MER how conventions ought to be done. We are so active, that we attract folks who don't even live within our boundaries to become active members! There's a lot to like about the SMD.

It's time to vote for the officers for the SMD.

Your nominating committee is working hard to get slate of officers to stand for election. But it's not easy. They might fail. So volunteer now.

Afraid it's too much work? Wrong. It's not that much. Also, we just hosted a convention and re-wrote the By-laws. Serve now, while there's hardly any work to do!

It's time to stand and be counted. We need people willing to do a small amount of work in order to keep the SMD alive. Contact me (Pete Clarke, I'm listed in this Wheel Report and on the web site) and tell me that you are willing to run for office.

Don't sit and hope that some other guy to do it.

Division officers earn one certified time unit (1 TU) per month toward an Association Volunteer AP Award. If you are interested in running for a position please let our Clerk know as soon ASAP.

CLERK'S SCRIBBLINGS

I thank all those who contributed to the *Wheel Report*. You have made it what it is.

Looking back, volunteering for SMD office is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done in the hobby. It's certainly been a challenge sometimes, but meeting those challenges has been gratifying.

Former NMRA President Allen Pollock once wrote in *Scale Rails* that every NMRA member should get a Golden Spike Award and an Association Volunteer Achievement Award.

I encourage you all to get involved as an SMD volunteer. Host a meeting, give clinics, volunteer for SMD offices. There are only so many elected SMD offices to go around, so do as Pete Clarke suggests: ask the SMD Superintendent if there is anything you can do for him or for SMD. Be part of the team – a winning team.

CONVENTION RESULTS

At the February meeting, Jane Clarke presented Treasurer Ray Price with a check from the Mid-Eastern Region NMRA. This was our portion of the profit from the Western Maryland Transfer convention. That check was for \$2,635.41. Jane tells me that there are still some expenses that we'd promised to cover, but our final net should be over \$2,000.00. Don't even start to think about this in terms of a rate per hour of work. Rather, think of it as a bonus earned while working to enrich the hobby we all enjoy.

I'd like to thank everyone who worked on the convention.

Pete

RAILROADS IN THE SMD:

Classic book on Western Maryland Logging Railroads Reprinted

Richard W. Kirsch sent us a page from the March 2008 issue of *The Automatic Block*. Here are some excerpts:

Tall Pines and Winding Rivers, by Benjamin Franklin Good Kline, Jr. was originally published in 1976. It has been reprinted in 2007 under the auspices of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania at Strasburg PA with funds provided by the Western Maryland Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society

The new softbound edition has been printed in the same 8.5 by 11-inch format as the original one, containing 104 pages with 7 maps and 133 vintage photographs. ... During the past three decades, no other book has been published to supplant *Tall Pines and Winding Rivers* on the history of logging railroads in the mountains of Maryland. Copies of this book are available at the Western Maryland

Scenic Railroad gift shop and at local bookstores. For more information about this book or for book orders, contact the Western Maryland Chapter NRHS, ATTN: Publication Sales, Post Office Box 1331, Cumberland MD 21501-1331."

The retail price for this book is \$15 per copy, plus \$3.50 per book for shipping and handling. Maryland residents will please include a six percent sales tax.

Stemwinders in the Laurel Highlands, another book (one of 13) by Benjamin F. G. Kline, Jr., covering Somerset, Westmoreland, Fayette, Blair and Huntington Counties in Pennsylvania is available for \$14.50 from the Whistle Stop Shop in the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

POPULAR PICTURE AND PLAN BOOK

Popular Picture and Plan Book of Railroad Cars And Locomotives, by Walter A. Lucas is a 288-page book of builders' photos and plans originally published by Simmons-Boardman in 1951. This great reference book is now in Google's catalog of digital books and you can download it at no cost.

You can browse the Google Digital Books website, or you can go straight to this book at <http://books.google.com/books?id=ryhSAAAAMA-AJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Popular+Picture+and+Plan+Book+of+Railroad#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

RAILDRIVER CYCLOPEDIAS

Check out this web site: <http://www.raildriver.com/products/cyclopedias.php> for digital reprints of old cyclopedias.

For a review of Raildriver's digital 1922 Car Builders Cyclopedia, see www.virtualrailroader.com/volume_1/carbuilders.html.

SMD TRIP TO STRASBURG RR.

Join SMD this summer on the Strasburg Railroad.

When - Saturday, June 5th.

Where – Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572

What – Shop tour , train ride (coach).

What else – Possible visit to Linn Moedingers' model railroad layout. Also, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is right across the street.

Who – SMD members and their families or friends.

How much -- For any member who; hosted a division meeting, gave a clinic, worked on the convention (committee, clinic, tour guide, open house, Ops session, helper) in 2009 or so far in 2010, SMD will pay the train and shop tour ticket for you and one guest.

If you did not do any of the above but are a member, SMD will pay for you, but not for a guest.

The cost for those not covered by SMD is \$30.00 for adults, \$25.00 for children ages 5-11, Free for children ages 0-4 (but not allowed on the shop tour)

You must sign up in advance. Our clerk, Richard Lind, will handle this.

What's the plan?

Drive there on your own or in a car pool. Eat lunch on your own. Meet on the station platform at 1:00. Shop tour starts at 1:30. If possible, Chief Mechanical officer Linn Moedinger will lead this tour for us. Not a historic museum, this shop is an active railroad restoration shop. Among many such jobs, they helped bring EBT #15 back into service. Then we'll ride the 3:00 train. If we get enough people signed up, we'll get a car reserved for us. Afterward we may be able to tour Linn's personal model railroad. Linn spoke at the convention. I recall that he models a world in which the D & RGW and the EBT have an interchange point. I also recall that he spoke of adding functional signals. Not happy with ones that functioned and

looked right, he also made each function using the same linkage as used on the prototype. In HO scale. So he knows 'em big and small.

I suspect many of us will get an early start so that we can visit the RR Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, which opens at 9:00 in the morning.

While SMD will pay for one or two, the officers hope that you'll bring your whole family. Bring some friends as well.

We must order tickets in advance. That means there's things you must do: complete the attached registration form and get it to Richard Lind.

SMD will pay for 1 or 2 people in your party, but we will purchase all tickets as one block.

We'll be purchasing tickets in advance, so you'll have to give Richard money for any additional people.

Refund policy – SMD will refund whatever the Strasburg refunds.

We'd like to place our order on April 30th, so please sign up (and pay) by April 29th. Don't wait to the last moment. Don't make me write "registrations must be postmarked by April 30th." Do it now or risk missing it.

Want to know more about Strasburg? Their website is www.strasburgrailroad.com/

The RR Museum of Pennsylvania's website is www.rrmuseumpa.org/

Start setting up those car pools now. Anybody know a good place we could stop for dinner in Lancaster? Mike Resch of Strasburg recommends these: Huckleberry's Restaurant & Tavern/at Fullton Steamboat Inn, Routes US 30 & PA 896 (717)299-9999/Peter Chiccarine; Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, Route 896/1-800-767-0976/Justin Lapp; or Miller's Smorgasbord, 2811 Lincoln Highway East (US 30) 1-800-791-9062/Jennifer Buchter

LETTERS

To the editor,

Richard, I want Don to know how much I enjoyed his pictures from the “Day in Union Bridge” tour that are on the SMD web site (www.smdnmra.org) I particularly noticed the Legore bridge. It seemed interesting and also familiar. A search on the web came up with this site <http://www.historicbridges.org/maryland/legore/index.htm> which I found quite informative. I realize now that while Jane and I have ridden across this bridge on one of our bicycle rides, I was never quite sure where it was. The website gives information and also its location. I went to see it this afternoon (11/11/09). It is a real beauty, and worth a trip to see it. The restoration work has been completed and the bridge is open to traffic (none to speak of) and free of construction stuff. Here are some pictures of it with a month’s fewer leaves on the trees.

In this shot you can see all 5 arches.



This bridge was intended to be part of a large complex; a dam and an electric power plant were planned but never built. There is sadness and strife here as well. The builder’s son jumped off the bridge and died, and during construction one of the main piers was blown up!

This shot shows the stone work best.



This shot shows that the arches are not a consistent radius; even the left and right side of the same arch can vary.



Being a model railroader, I was curious to see what other bridges this site might list. There are a lot in Frederick county MD. I also found a very interesting railroad bridge listed in Howard county MD. Have you ever seen a Bollman Truss bridge? You should check it out. Wow, that would be a model! There were several more railroad bridges (in addition to many street bridges) in Summerset county PA. Thanks Don, for taking me down this road.
Pete

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You can renew your NMRA membership easily on line at <http://www.nmra.org/nmrastore/index.html>. There's a box in the upper right hand corner of this screen called "U. S. Membership". Click on the appropriate category and away you go.

NMRA INFONET NEWS

After five years of research and planning, the NMRA and California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) have announced the signing of an agreement authorizing the development of a 3,500 square foot model railroading exhibit at the CSRM. The exhibit will be housed in the museum's gallery, which is visited by more than 600,000 people annually.

The Kalmbach Memorial Library has announced that the book "*The History, Making, and Modeling of Steel*" by Dean Freytag is back by popular demand. After several years out of print, 700 identical reprints of the original 165-page hardcover book will be produced and released in December. This is the book's third printing. NMRA members can purchase the book for \$47.95 (plus s&h); all others pay \$65.95 (plus s&h). Visit the online store at www.nmra.org

Those driving to the 75th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee next summer who have some extra time may want to check out the *Milwaukee Area Railfan Guide* (MARGE) at <http://alturi.com/bj3r>. The guide points out many railfan sites, hobby shops, and other points of interest.

RPM REVS UP AT NMRA 75.

It started 75 years ago in Milwaukee. A group of model railroaders intent in setting interchangeability standards for motive power, rolling stock, and track formed the National Model Railroad Association or

NMRA.

It started 25 years ago at the 50th Anniversary NMRA convention in Milwaukee. A group of model railroaders interested in the contemporary scene formed The Modern Prototype Modelers. Over the years the emphasis changed to prototype modeling from all eras. As a result the name changed too, and the group became known as Railroad Prototype Modelers or RPM.

Over the years both the NMRA and the RPM continued to grow and now 25 years later, both are meeting once again in Milwaukee.

The event is NMRA 75, the National Model Railroad Association's 75th anniversary convention. From July 11 through the 16th, RPM modelers and NMRA members from all over the world will join together to celebrate the accomplishments of two great organizations.

Just as NMRA standards spawned innovations that have changed the hobby, so too has the innovative modeling of RPM members. In fact the level of detail and the technical excellence of today's models owe much of their origins to the NMRA and the RPM. No doubt about it, there is much to celebrate, which is why you should come to this party!

An entire room will be devoted to RPM models from all over the world and you're invited to bring yours to display as well. The room will be open from Wednesday to Friday during convention week.

In addition to the RPM exhibit, NMRA 75 will offer a huge array of tours, clinics programs, and special events designed for model railroaders and their non-modeling family members. That means NMRA 75 makes for an ideal family vacation this summer!

Get all the details by visiting our website at www.nmra75.org. You can even register online. So join the party. Come celebrate 75 years of model railroading this summer at NMRA '75!

CLINICS AT NMRA '75

Would you like to learn how to create a modern CTC panel for your layout using CATS? Or maybe you'd like to find out more about building kits made from brass etched parts, or increase your knowledge about chapel cars. Did you even know there were such things as chapel cars?

You can learn about these topics and many more by attending the clinics at NMRA 75, the National Model Railroad Association convention for 2010. This year the NMRA celebrates its 75th anniversary, so its altogether fitting that our national convention be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin, the city where it all began. The dates are July 11th through the 18th.

While NMRA 75 will take an affectionate look back at our hobby's days of old, it will also be looking ahead to the fresh and new. This year's clinic program reflects that idea very well. Of the 163 clinics scheduled to be presented, 123 are brand new and never before presented at an NMRA national convention. These new clinics will cover everything from scenery to structures to the newest trends in Digital Command Control. So if you're looking for fresh new ideas to enhance your modeling, NMRA 75 is the convention you must not miss!

But not all the new clinics at NMRA 75 are about fresh new ideas. You can look forward to a couple of them that look back. Clinician Paul Hobbs will present Seventy-Five Years Of Development And Achievement In Model Railroadng. Paul will review events, processes, inventions, companies and individuals that have made significant contributions to the hobby over the past 75 years. You might also want to see Steve Stewart's new clinic, Seventy-Five Years Of Railroadng. Steve examines prototype railroadng from what was in 1934 to what will be in 2011. And what could be more appropriate to bring the list of new clinics to an end than one about the history of Milwaukee Road Cabooses?

As an added bonus, many of the new clinics at NMRA 75 will be presented by some of the best-known names in model railroadng. Names like Jack Burgess, Bruce Chubb, Chuck Hitchcock, Tony Koester, Sam Swanson, Bill Schaumburg, Andy Sperandeo, Tony Thompson and Wayne Wesolowski.

Of course NMRA 75 is about much more than clinics. To find out everything you need to know, visit our website at www.nmra75.org. You can even register online. Come celebrate 75 years of model railroadng this summer in Milwaukee!

Oh and in case you were wondering, no actual cats were harmed in the making of that CTC clinic.

BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Our Oakland MD member, George T. Perrine, sent me a 13-page report with measured drawings, titled: *Connellsville Coal and Coke Region*. The originals were 24 by 36 inches, created by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) after 1968. The report shared by Mr. Perrine had been reduced to 8 ½ by 11 inches. If anybody without Internet access wants a copy, please contact the clerk.

The digital ID for this document is <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.pa2870>. You can view the drawings via this URL by clicking on the 13 drawings icon on the upper left hand corner of the page.

You can order the 24" by 36" drawings from The Library of Congress, using the URL above. The Library of Congress call number is PA,26 CONL.V,1

Besides the drawings, there are 180 + pages of data, plus photos taken by the researchers. Materials in the HABS/HAER/HALS collections are generally considered to be in the public domain.

Richard Lind

OPEN HOUSES AND TRAIN SHOWS

February 28, 2010. Cumberland Valley Model RR Club toy, doll and train show. Scotland Community Center, Main Street, Scotland PA. 9am to 2 pm. Directions: Take Exit 20 from I-81. Go north on PA 997. Turn left at M&T Bank. Community Center is on the right. Watch for show sign. . www.cvmrrc.com/events.htm

March 13, 2010. Winchester Model Railroad Club show and sale at the Friendship Fire Company meeting hall at 627 North Pleasant Valley Road, and open house at 430 North Cameron Street. The open house is from 9 am to 2 pm and is free. Admission for adults at the train show and sale is \$3.00. See www.wmrrc.org for info.

March 26-28, 2010. Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet. Diamond Great Valley Hotel & Convention Center, 1 Liberty Boulevard, Malvern PA. Seminar registration \$35. The seminar will be from 1 PM on Friday through 11 PM on Saturday, with a operating sessions on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Layout tours on Sunday. Call Diamond Great Valley at 800-575-1776 and mention "Prototype Modelers Meet" to reserve a room at a rate of \$109 plus tax. For more information and registration form, go to <http://www.trains.com/trc/community/events/event-info.asp?eventid=14741>

April 3, 2010. Bunker Hill Train Club Show, Musselman High School, 126 Excellence Way, Inwood VA 25428. For more info, see www.bunkerhilltrainclub.org .

April 10-11, 2010. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 www.gsmts.com

April 17, 2010. MCR Div. 2 Pittsburgh Model Railroad Janboree, Sewall Center, Robert Morris University Moon Campus www.keystonedivision.org

April 17, 2010. 2010 MiniCon hosted by the Potomac and Chesapeake Divisions, South Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia MD. Cost \$10. For info: http://home.comcast.net/~potomac_nmra/Minicon2010/Minicon2010.html

May 1, 2010. Operating season begins for the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See <http://www.wmsr.com/static.php?page=84>

May 13-16. The Coalfield Express, 2010 Mid-Central Region Convention, Charleston WV. http://www.coaldivision.org/coalfield_express.html

March 20, 2010. 24th Annual Harrisburg Railroad Show and Collector's Market. I. W. Abel Union Hall, 200 Gibson Street, Steelton PA 17113. 9 am to 3 pm. \$5 donation at the door. See http://nrhs-hbg.pennsyr.com/Trainshow/2009_show.pdf

June 12-20, 2010. Day Out with Thomas. Strasburg Railroad, East Strasburg PA. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

June 26-27, 2010. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 www.gsmts.com

July 11-18, 2010 The NMRA 75th Anniversary Convention Milwaukee WI <http://www.nmra75.org/>

July 16-18, 2010. National Train Show, Midwest Airlines Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53203 www.nationaltrainshow.org/2010/milwaukee.html

September 30 – October 3, 2010. Princeton Junction. Mid-Eastern Region NMRA Convention. Princeton NJ. For info, see <http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

TRAIN RIDES

February 13, 2010 start of Sat. Sun Weekend service on the Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572 <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

March 15-19, 22-26, 2010. Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. Lancaster, Oxford & Southern railcar rides – noon, 1:00, 2:00 for a unique ride through Pennsylvania Dutch Country. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

March 29, 2010 start of daily service on the Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572 <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

April 10, 2010. Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. First Wine and Cheese Train of the 2010 operating season. See <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/wine-and-cheese.php>

May 1-2, 2010 Opening weekend. Walkersville Southern Railroad, Walkersville MD. See <http://www.wsrr.org/schedule.htm> for schedule.

May 22, 2010. Opening day on the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. See their schedule at <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php>

June 5-6, 2010 Opening weekend. East Broad Top Railroad, Rockhill Furnace (Orbisonia) PA. <http://www.ebtrr.com/events.html>

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Registration Form for June 5 Strasburg Railroad Event.

Print your name (First and last. Be sure it's legible) _____

Print your address Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Print your phone number (_____) _____ - _____

Print your email address _____

Total # in my party _____

Shop tour;

in my party aged 5 – 99 _____ X \$ 16.00 = _____

- Note, no one under 5 years old is allowed on the shop tour.

Train ride;

in my party aged 0 – 2 _____ X \$ 0.00 = _____

in my party aged 3 – 11 _____ X \$ 7.00 = _____

in my party aged over 11 _____ X \$ 14.00 = _____

Total train ride cost = \$ _____

Total of Shop tour and train ride = \$ _____

I qualify for the 2 person SMD discount. If so,

Then if both are adults, reduce above total by \$ 60.00

Then if one is an adult and one a child 5-11, reduce above total by \$ 55.00

Then if one is an adult and one a child 3-4, reduce above total by \$ 37.00

Then if one is an adult and one a child 0-2, reduce above total by \$ 30.00

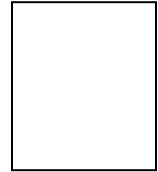
I qualify for the 1 person SMD discount. So reduce above total by \$ 30.00

My final cost is \$ _____

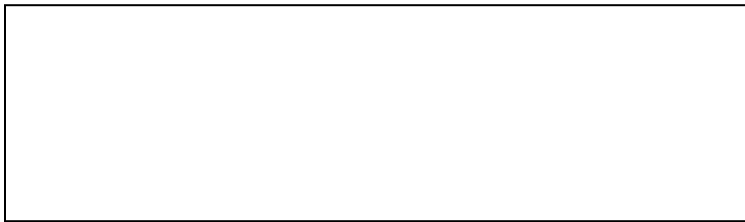
Write a check to the South Mountain Division for that amount and send it and this completed form to;
Richard Lind
202 W College Terrace
Frederick, MD. 21701-4844

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SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



Richard Lind, -- Editor, 202 West College Terrace, Frederick MD



Snow and wind Damage

Four-unit diesel set running as a plow extra passing by the historic ex-B&O station at Point of Rocks, MD on February 11th. On the lead is ex-Conrail GP40-2 No. 3339, now CSX No. 4424 and repainted into CSX colors. Note collapsed station canopy.

Alex Mayes photo, with permission