

# WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



smdnmra.org

## SPRING 2013



### RENEW ONLINE

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.

### SPRING MEETINGS

**March** – Sunday, March 10, 2013, 2 to 5 pm. Steve Sherrill's On2.5 Shady Grove & Sherrill. Bill Miller, MMR designed Steve's layout for operation. It's controlled by DCC with sound in most locomotives. The SG&S was featured in *Model Railroading* and appeared in *Model Railroad Planning* and *Fine Scale Railroader* in 2005. The layout is 100% complete."

Clinic: Casting rock walls and applying radio control to model railroading.

**April** – Saturday, April 13, 2013, 9 am to 5 pm. Model Railroader's Meet at Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co. 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA. 17214. Open to the public. See Pete Clarke's article on page 2 below. Rental tables for sales available for \$10.

Clinics: See article on page 2

**May** – Sunday, May 19, 2013, 2 to 5 pm Pete and Jane Clarke's HOn3 East Broad Top Railroad 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. An addition is an iron furnace complex that was located at Orbisonia in an earlier time period. Scenery is complete, except for the iron furnace.

Clinic: To be determined.

### 2013 – 2014 ELECTIONS

Due to the April Minicon, we will be electing officers for SMD at the May meeting. Therefore, nominations need to be made by April 13th. To be an officer you must be a member of the NMRA in good standing and reside in the SMD area.

## FIRST ANNUAL SMD SPRING MINI-CONVENTION UPDATE

Our **Saturday April 13th** meeting will be a mini-convention at the Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Company at 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit PA. It's an all-day event. It's free and it's open to the public, and our greeters will be promoting NMRA membership and signing people up for the "make-it-and-take-it" clinics. Mainline Hobby Supply, across the highway (PA Route 16), is jointly sponsoring this event. We hope every member will stop by. Park behind the fire hall.

At 10 a.m. we will start with ten informal continuous clinics that will run off and on until 5 p.m. The Western Maryland modular layout will be operating all day as well.

If you have cool stuff to sell, you will be able to rent a table all day for \$10. You have to man your table or you will miss potential sales.

At 11 a.m. our ten informal clinics will take their first break during our featured clinic by Paul Dolkos. Paul will follow up on his recent article in *Model Railroader* with a clinic entitled, "PAPER OR PLASTIC: Thoughts on structure modeling."

At 1 PM Richard Lind and Stan Oaks will present two "make it and take it" clinics. One will be making HO express kit # 799 to be donated by American Model Builders. The other will be a plastic kit, such as Design Preservation Models manufactures. There will be a limited number of kits, so sign up as you come in at the greeter's table if you want to participate. This clinic is free and you keep what you build.

At 3:00 p.m., Jim Schweitzer will give a clinic on how to turn your model railroad into a living railroad by using a timetable and train orders, so you and your guest operators can run your trains in a prototypical manner. After this clinic those who want may sign up to attend an operating session at one of several local model railroads starting at 7

p.m.. So, here's your chance to really get into model railroad operations.

In between the formal clinics, we'll have informal clinics going on all day. Stop by and talk with SMD members as they work on making trees, using Fast Tracks jigs to make your own turnouts, tuning your freight cars, casting stone walls, weathering with chinks and pastels, painting buildings, and resurrecting flea market finds. We'll also have members ready to discuss: layout design, the NMRA's achievement program, and the benefits of joining NMRA.

Fred Schirmacher plans to be there with his "time saver" layout. This is a classic switching challenge that's fun for all ages and abilities.

So, tell everyone you meet, we want members and non-members. Anyone interested in model railroading is welcome.

## SMD SPONSORED TRIP TO CASS WV



This year the SMD invites all members (and family) to ride the Cass Scenic Railroad. Mark your calendar now. The date is Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>. As in the past trips, SMD will purchase one (Whittaker Station trip) ticket for any member of SMD. SMD will purchase up to two (Whittaker Station trip) tickets for any member who has hosted a meeting,

## SMD CASS TRIP, continued

given a clinic, assisted with one of the Mini-Cons, or helped the SMD in other ways.

The Cass Scenic Railroad runs Shay locomotives up steep mountain grades. If you've not been there, this is not to be missed. Learn more at the website [www.cassrailroad.com](http://www.cassrailroad.com)

The plan is to take the 11:00 AM trip to Whittaker Station, then stay there for lunch and catch the 2:00 trip when it returns to Cass. That way we'll be able to watch and photograph several trains as they go up and down the mountain.

Please note that Cass is a long drive from the SMD. Mapquest says it's a 4 hour drive from Hagerstown. Most of us will choose to go down on Friday. Some might choose to also stay Saturday night then drive home on Sunday. Cass is a W. VA state park, they offer houses for rent right in the town of Cass. See the website for more info. You could also stay at the Inn at Snowshoe. For more info on that, see the website [http://www.snowshoemtn.com/reservations/mg\\_358/v\\_3758/Inn-at-Snowshoe.detail](http://www.snowshoemtn.com/reservations/mg_358/v_3758/Inn-at-Snowshoe.detail) There is camping near by also. You could combine this with a trip to the Greenbank Radio Observatory, they have a great tour.

Note that SMD will purchase train tickets only. Lodging and travel is on your own.

W. VA parks encourage advance ticket purchase to ensure that you get on the train you desire. So SMD will require that you pre-order your tickets. Contact Ray Price to make your reservation. Please note that reservations are not fully refundable. If you ask SMD to purchase a ticket for you or your family you'll be expected to make the trip or refund all costs to SMD.

This promises to be the best train ride event the SMD has ever done. Possibly even better than the EBT! Don't miss it.

## MOTELS IN THE CASS AREA

**Company houses.** Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, P.O. Box 107, Cass WV 24927. Stay overnight in a two-story company house. There are twenty available, accommodating as few as four and as many as 14 guests. To reserve a company house, telephone Cass Scenic Railroad directly at (304) 456-4300. The Cass office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily in the summer season. For more info, see <http://www.cassrailroad.com/cottages.html>

**Bear Creek Lodge,** Route 66, Cass WV 24927. This place is on the Greenbrier River within sight of the Cass Scenic Railroad. Modern, but spartan. See <http://www.bearcreekwv.com/web/>. Cost: about \$70 during the summer. They have a general store and a short-order grill.

**Boyer Motel and Campground,** on Route 28/92 north of Greenbank WV. Phone (304) 456-4667. Twenty room motel, 50 electric hookups and two full service hookups. Fourteen miles from Cass. The drive to Cass should take 23 minutes on WV Routes 28/92 and 66. Also 10 minutes away from Durbin WV and the Durbin Rocket on WV Routes 28/92 and US Route 250.

**Cass Inn,** 100 First Avenue, Cass WV 24927. Phone (304) 456-3464. Brick house with sign painted on wall visible on the south side of WV Route 66 east of Cass. Once a mortuary and undertaker's home in East Cass. Needs paint.

**Inn at Snowshoe,** 10 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe WV 26209. The Inn at Snowshoe is a full service hotel with indoor pool, restaurant and bar at the base of Snowshoe Mountain. The Inn at Snowshoe is about 11 miles from Cass. The drive to Cass on WV Route 66 over Cheat Mountain should take 30 minutes or more. For info see [http://www.snowshoemtn.com/reservations/mg\\_358/v\\_3758/Inn-at-Snowshoe.detail](http://www.snowshoemtn.com/reservations/mg_358/v_3758/Inn-at-Snowshoe.detail)

There are many other options at Snowshoe. For info, see <http://www.snowshoemtn.com>

## 2013 SMD SPRING OPERATOR'S TRIPS

As reported in the Winter Wheel Report we will have our *first Operating Session on Saturday, March 16, 2013, 9:30 am to 2 pm*. Our host will be Steve King and we will operate on his Virginia Midland Railroad set in the mid-60's era. This very large N scale railroad is quite busy and runs like a Swiss watch. The type of operation is TT&TO (Time Table and Train Order).

*Our second operator's trip, Dave Baker's, is planned for Saturday, May 4, 2013, 1 to 5 pm.*

The last 2 years we had such a good time operating on Dave Bakers HO, Cumberland & Lake Erie RR we contacted Dave to see if he would have us back again this year. Dave said he thought Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> looked good to him for hosting an operating visit from the SMD crew.

Like the past 2 years, here is what we are doing: Saturday, May 4, 2013, from 1 to 5 PM, having an operating session on David Baker's HO freelanced Cumberland & Lake Erie Railroad. David models the Laurel Division between Johnstown and Cumberland and two branch lines as it might have been in 1957. This NCE controlled HO layout uses Time Table & Train Order for its operating scheme and traffic is generated by car cards and waybills. We are limited to 10 visiting operators because of space in the layout room. Dave and a few assistants will be on hand to dispatch the railroad and to help us run the yards.

We have met for lunch in Johnstown before the session and the crew stopped in Bedford, PA for dinner and fellowship on the way home.

Dave is located about 51 miles NW from Breezewood, PA. That's about an hour and ten minutes travel on that portion of the trip. Dave's address is 118 Lurlis Ln, Johnstown, PA if you would like to map quest his location. Those who

sign up will be notified of who their fellow travelers are so that carpooling can be arranged.

Sign up is the usual first come first served. You can e-mail Don Florwick at [DJFlorwick@comcast.net](mailto:DJFlorwick@comcast.net) or call him at 717-352-8759 to get on the list. So check your calendar and let Don know if you would like to join us.

## NEW TT&TO BOOK

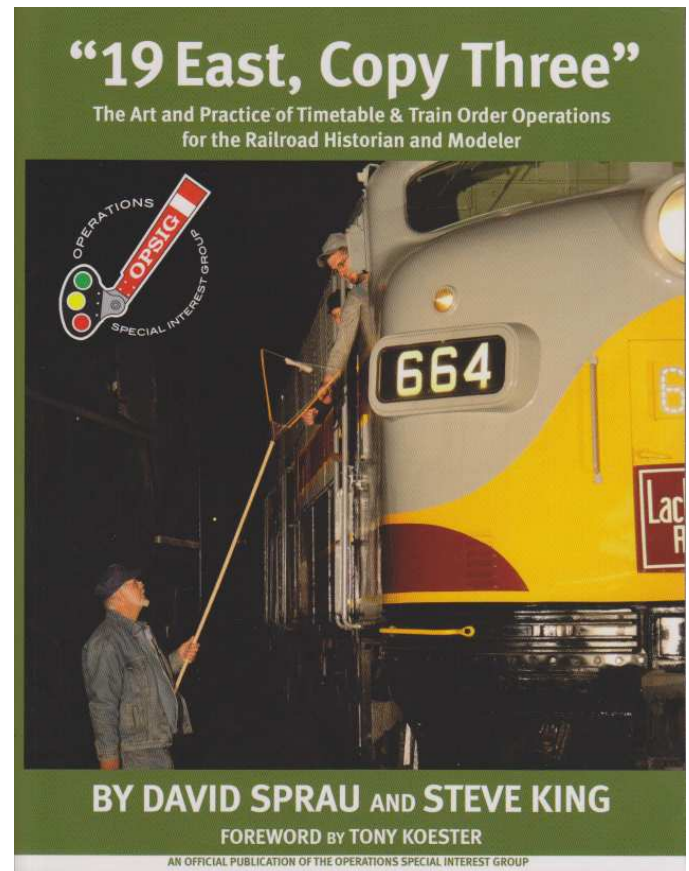


Photo by Jane Clarke

Until radio communications became prevalent around 1970, two-thirds of the Nation's rail lines operated by the timetable and train order system.

Our March meeting host, Steve Sherrill, showed us a new book on TT&TO operations by David Sprau and Steve King, titled: "19 East, Copy Three". It's a 160-page paperback with black and white and color photos in 8.5x11 format. Tony Koester provides a two-page forward. Then there are 54



## TT&TO BOOK, continued

pages by professional railroader David Sprau about prototype practices, 74 pages by Steve King applying David Sprau's information to model railroad operations, a six-page quiz and eight pages of answers. OPSIG's price is \$29.95 plus \$5.60 for shipping a single copy. If you're an OPSIG member, you get a \$5 break.

I picked up a copy this week at Mainline Hobby Supply in Blue Ridge Summit PA. It was their last copy, but they are reordering. You can order the book directly from the NMRA OPSIG Special Interest Group by going to [www.opsig.org](http://www.opsig.org).

I hoped I could skim this book and be better prepared for next Saturday's operating session. That hope was dashed when Sprau suggested reading his portion side-by-side with an operating rules book. This book is not for the timid or the dilettante.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPER

As spring and summer approach, it's time to start planning our 2013-2014 Year. We need to think about our schedule, which should be set prior to the September 2013 kick-off meeting. This summer I'd like to see a program set for each meeting, so we always have a clinic or presentation.

Please let Don Florwick know if want to host a meeting and what month if any, you prefer. Remember that hosting a meeting earns points for an Association Volunteer AP Certificate.

Please let Brian Greenawalt know what kinds of clinics you want to see at SMD meetings. If we can't find a presenter, we can get something from NMRA's Kalmbach Library. Take a look at what they offer at <http://www.nmra.org>.

Plan now to present a clinic on a model railroad subject and let Brian Greenawalt know what you are working on. This is an opportunity for SMD

members to step forward and be recognized. We've had some great clinics this past year and the two that were best were totally new. Creating a Power Point presentation is fun and we have experienced members you can get you started and help you. If you need help, contact Don Florwick or myself and we will help you. Remember, presenting a clinic also earns you points toward an Association Volunteer Certificate and if you have a handout, it counts toward the Author Certificate, also.

The 2012-2013 Year has been just amazing and I take no credit for that. The credit goes to our advisory board, especially Don Florwick. Let's make 2013-2014 just as good – maybe better.

## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND MER CONVENTION IN ROCKVILLE OCTOBER 10-13

The coming C&P Junction Convention in Rockville, Maryland, will feature all those elements you expect: clinics by nationally-recognized clinicians; layout tours of prominent modelers; a bursting White Elephant Room, operations call-boards for every level; a lively contest room, a Banquet and live Auction. ***But one big difference will be Rockville--Washington and Baltimore-area destination cities.*** This is one convention where, over the long Columbus Day weekend, you and your spouse, if you wish, can use the long weekend to enjoy the Washington and Baltimore area: the Air and Space Museum, the International Spy Museum, the Newseum, the Baltimore Inner Harbor, Aquarium and other attractions. C & P Junction, Crowne Plaza Hotel ([www.cprockville.com](http://www.cprockville.com)) with a free shuttle to the Metro and other points. Visit their website: Google C & P Junction-Comcast.net or <http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>. For questions, email [CandP2013@comcast.net](mailto:CandP2013@comcast.net).

Marshall Abrams, Potomac Division, co-chairman  
Kurt Thompson, Chesapeake Division, co-chairman

# FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> SMD MEETING



Our host: Joe Albert and the MP Sedalia Division

building. Downstairs is a soda fountain, two rooms displaying Joe’s interesting collections and a restroom. Joe lives in the Susquehanna Division. Many thanks to the Albert’s for hosting SMD.



Mrs. Albert’s refreshments after the meeting



Grain elevators at Myrick MO



St. Louis Union Station. Passenger train staging is behind the backdrop

Joe’s Sedalia Division of the Missouri Pacific is on two levels upstairs in a specially constructed

## CRATEX TRACK CLEANING BLOCK

At the March meeting, Bill Miller recommended using a Cratex abrasive block extra fine for cleaning track. This is part no. 949-522 in the Walther’s HO Reference Book. It’s 3” by 1” by ¼” and sells for \$9.29 each. If you’re looking for a mildly abrasive cleaning block for track and electrical contacts that minimizes scarring of your metal surfaces, this is it. This soft abrasive cleaner is ideal for polishing rail, wheels and other electrical contacts.

## MEETS, OPEN HOUSES AND TRAIN SHOWS

**March 10, 2013, 2 to 5 pm.** SMD meeting at Steve Sherrill’s near Charles Town WV. See his On2.5 scale Shady Grove & Sherrill.

**March 10, 2013, 9:30 am to 2 pm.** SMD spring TT&TO operator’s session at Steve King’s in Germantown MD. See Don Florwick’s article above.

**TRAIN SHOWS, continued**

March 16, 2013. 26<sup>th</sup> 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. The Harris Tower will be open this day. See <http://harrisburgnrhs.org/>

March 22 and 23, 2013. RPM – East Railroad Prototype Modeler Seminar. Same location – new name: The Ramada Inn, 100 Ramada Inn Drive, Greensburg PA 15601. Thursday evening operating sessions and Sunday home layout tours. Registration \$35. Presentations will start Friday afternoon and go through Saturday evening. Call Ramada Inn at 724-836-6060 and mention “Railroad Prototype Modelers” to reserve a room at a rate of \$89 plus tax. For registration form, go to [http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm\\_east/](http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/).

March 24, 2013. Cumberland Valley Model Railroad Club open house, 440 Nelson Stret, Chambersburg PA 17201. Noon – 5 pm. For more info, see <http://www.cvmrrc.com/>

April 6, 2013. Bunker Hill Train Club Show, Ranson Civic Center, 431 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Ranson WV 25438. For more info, see [www.bunkerhilltrainclub.org](http://www.bunkerhilltrainclub.org).

April 6, 2013, 10 am, sharp. Tour Tichy Train Group's facility at Burlington NC with the Carolina Piedmont Division. Be there by 9:45 am. Find bargains. NMRA members only.

**April 13, 2013, 9 am to 5 pm. Model Railroader's Meet at Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co. 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA. 17214. Open to the public**

**May 4, 2013, 1 to 5 pm. SMD spring TT&TO operator's session at Dave Baker's in Johnstown PA. See Don Florwick's article above.**

**May 19, 2013, 2 to 5 pm SMD meeting at Pete and Jane Clarke's near Damascus MD. See their HOn3 East Broad Top Railroad.**

June 22-23, 2013. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

June 24, 2012. Cumberland Valley Model Railroad Club open house, 440 Nelson Stret, Chambersburg PA 17201. Noon – 5 PM. For more info, see <http://www.cvmrrc.com/>

July 14-20, 2013. Peach Tree Express Rails. The NMRA's Annual Convention, Atlanta GA. For more info, see <http://www.nmra2013.org/>

July 19-21, 2013. National Train Show, Cobb Galleria Convention Centre, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta GA 30339. see <http://nmra2013.org/national-train-show>

October 10-13, 2013. C&P Junction. Mid-Eastern Region NMRA Convention hosted jointly by the Chesapeake and Potomac Divisions at the Crowne Plaza in Rockville MD. For info, see <http://home.comcast.net/~candp2013/>

**TRAIN RIDES**

March 9, 2013. Start of Sat. Sun Weekend service on the Strasburg Railroad. LO&S railcar will operate on select weekdays, weather permitting. 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572 <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

March 25, 2013 start of daily service on the Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info

March 29-31, 2013. Easter Bunny train. Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info

**TRAIN RIDES, continued**

Strasburg Railroad Wine and Cheese Trains, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. Saturdays at 6 pm starting April 6, 2013. For schedule, see <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/wine-and-cheese.php>

May 3, 2013. Operating season begins for the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See <http://www.wmsr.com/static.php?page=84>

May 4, 2013 Opening Saturday. Walkersville Southern Railroad, Walkersville MD. See <http://www.wsrr.org/schedule.htm> for schedule.

May 4, 2013 Opening Saturday. Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. See their schedule at <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php>

May 26 thru July 28, 2013. 1:00 PM Sunday trains the last Sunday of May, June and July. Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. See their schedule at <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php>

June 8 and 9, 2013. The Locomotive Experience. Operate a GP-30 on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See <http://www.wmsr.com/static.php?page=84>

June 15-23, 2013. Day Out with Thomas. Strasburg Railroad, East Strasburg PA. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

June 23, 2013. Romney Railroad Days. See Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad schedule at <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php>

July 11, 18, and 25, 2013. Senior Days. Seniors ride half price on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See <http://www.wmsr.com/static.php?page=84>

August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2013. Senior Days. Seniors ride half price on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See <http://www.wmsr.com/static.php?page=84>

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**Wheel Report Editor:**

Richard Lind



**Registration form for June 1, 2013 Cass Scenic 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Train ride:

# in my party aged 5 – 12 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 16.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
# in my party aged over 12 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 21.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total train ride cost = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check if applicable:

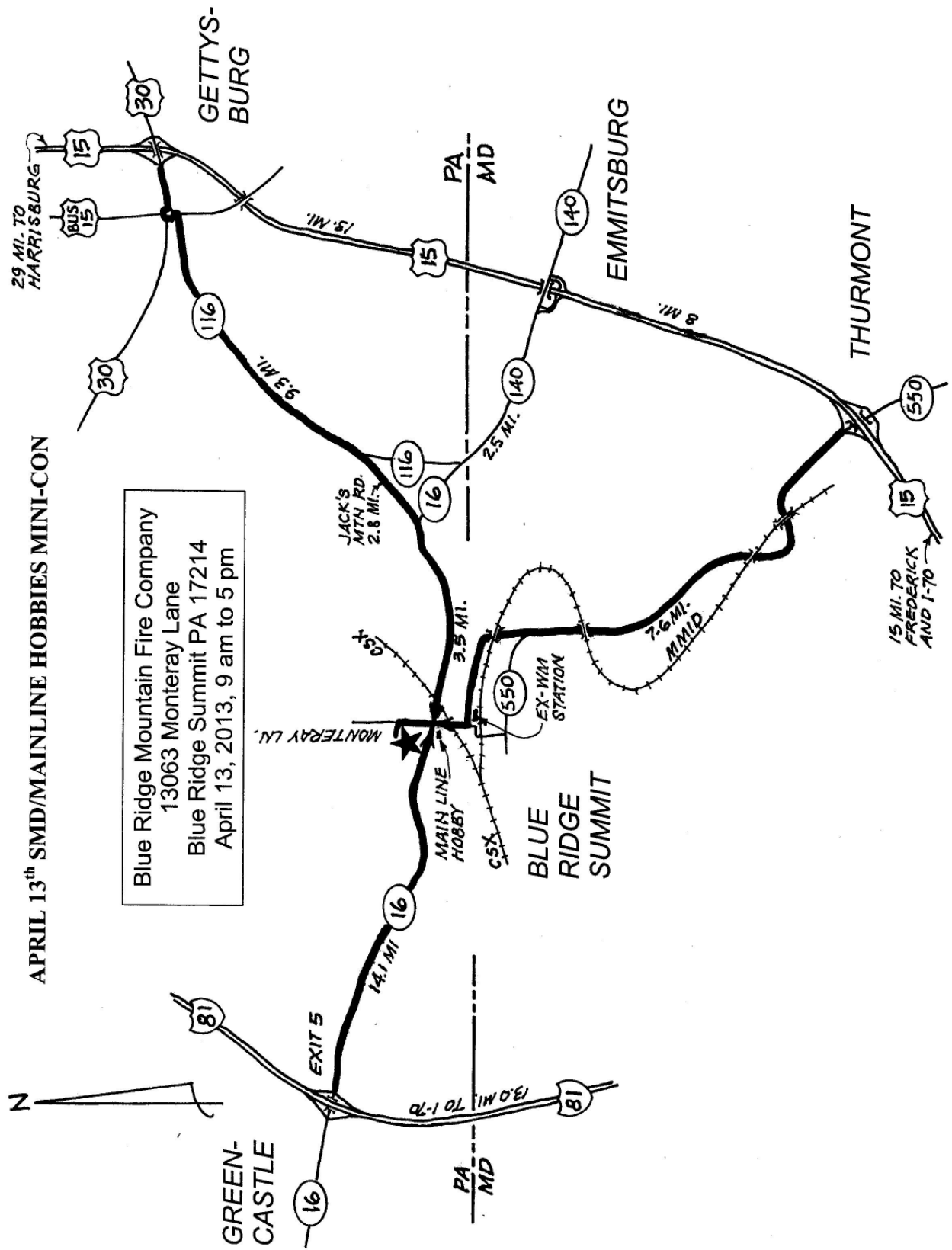
I qualify for the 2 person SMD discount. If so, reduce the total by the two most expensive tickets selected.

I qualify for the 1 person SMD discount. If so, reduce the total by the one most expensive ticket selected.

My final cost is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

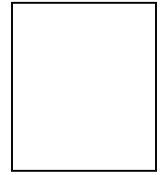
Write a check to the South Mountain Division for that amount and send it and this completed form to:

Raymond Price  
11620 Nicholson Road  
Keymar, MD. 21757-6500

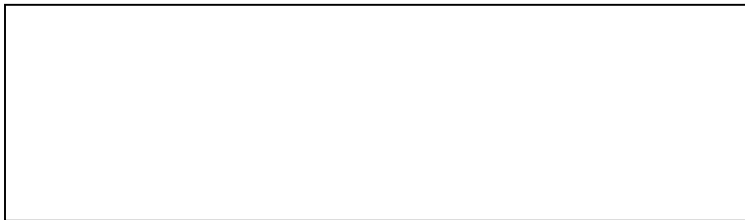


# WHEEL REPORT **SMD**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



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



No. 11 backing into Cass Station before departure to Spruce WV. R. Lind photo September 15, 2006