

WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



smdnmra.org

WINTER 2012-2013



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.

FALL MEETINGS

December – Sunday, December 9, 2012, 2 to 5 pm. Jay Beckham's O scale Western Maryland/ Cumberland & Pennsylvania/Cumberland & Westernport. For an introduction to Jay's layout, see his article on the page 3 and <http://www.jaysoscalelayout.info/>. Jay is a former SMD Superintendent.

Please use the map and directions in the emailed meeting reminder . GPS is not dependable in this area.

Clinic: Carving plaster to make rock scenery by Warren Hart. Warren demonstrated his methods and provided a 2-page handout.

January – Sunday, January 13, 2013, 2 to 5 pm. Bob Johnson's HO scale West Virginia Midland. The WVM is set in the mountains of central West Virginia in the 1950's. The "Midland" is almost all steam and connects with the WM and B&O, which are all diesel. The layout is a 12 x 16-ft. "E" shape with a 60-ft. shelf extension. Scenery is 95 % complete and features rock castings made from coal and trees made from wild hyrangea.

Clinic: NMRA Achievement Program by Bob Johnson and Jane Clarke. Bob talked about why he refused to participate in the past and changes to the AP rules that caused him to change his mind.

February – Saturday, February 10, 2013, 2 to 5 pm. Joe Albert's HO Sedalia Division of the Missouri Pacific. Joe models the Sedalia Division and River Division of the MP between St. Louis and Kansas City. His layout is on two levels with a compound helix in the corner. Joe's layout is on the second floor of a windowless building he constructed for the layout. The ground floor has his workshop, display rooms for his collections, a bar and a bathroom.

Clinic: TBD

MAINLINE HOBBY PRESENTS: THE FIRST ANNUAL SMD SPRING MINI-CONVENTION

By Pete Clarke

April in Paris? No way, I'd rather be in Blue Ridge Summit!

Who? Our April meeting will be a joint event with Mainline Hobby Supply. We hope every member will stop by. There will be lots to see. Come see the great things we have planned, then walk over and browse in the store. This event will be open and free to the public. SMD will use it to spread the word about membership in the NMRA.

Where? Mainline rented the hall at the fire station that's directly across the street from the hobby shop: Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co. 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA. 17214. Parking at the shop is limited but there's plenty of parking behind the fire station.

When? Saturday, April 13, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

What? Starting at 10 AM we'll have clinics going on constantly, and you can rent a table to sell stuff. At 11 AM Paul Dolkos 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 by American Model Builders. AMB donated the kits; all you need to do is show up and be interested in building it. Finish it, take it home and put it on your layout. The other kit? Show up and find out. Kits are limited in number for these clinics. We'll have a signup sheet on the day of the event so you can reserve a spot. This will be a fun event, so even if you don't need the building, come on down and help others who might be new to model building.

At 3:00 Jim Schweitzer will give a clinic on how to turn your model railroad into a living railroad by using a timetable and train orders to allow guest operators to know how to run a train on your layout. After this clinic those who want, may sign up to attend an operating session at one of several local model railroads that evening. So, here's your chance to really get into model railroad operations.

Don't like the stiff formal sort of clinics? No problemo. 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 the following: making trees, using Fast Tracks jigs to lay your own turnouts, how to tune your freight cars, and how to cast walls. We'll also have members ready to discuss: layout design, the NMRA's achievement program, and the benefits of joining NMRA.

Rather just watch trains? Got you covered. Brian Wolfe is talking with several modular groups. We expect to have least one or more, modular railroads set up in the hall as well.

Want to run a train? Still got you! 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 much to do. Oh, and don't forget to go over to Mainline and shop!

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



Box motors move the freight on Rich Randall's
O Scale Milwaukee Road, Avery Division

JAY BECKHAM'S O SCALE LAYOUT

by Jay Beckham

My layout is based on two railroads and an interurban transit system. The Western Maryland Railway, the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad, and the Cumberland and Westernport Electric. We are modeling the Western Maryland Railway and the Cumberland and Pennsylvania in Maryland and West Virginia. The interurban is the former Cumberland & Westernport Electric Railway which was purchased by and operated by the Chicago, South Shore, and South Bend Railroad's Eastern Division. This purchase occurred in 1945 at which time the Insull group moved some of its interurban cars to Cumberland. The WM and C&P will use steam and early diesels. They will be modeled from the West Virginia coalfields to the Cumberland area in Maryland. The Eastern Division of the South Shore will be modeled from downtown Cumberland to Frostburg.

The railroad is operated with NEC DCC. Dispatching is by a CTC machine based on US&S designs. The electronics are Bruce Chubb's C/MRI and the machine is programmed in Visual Basic. Bill Carr of Rochester, NY did the programming. Bill and I built the actual CTC machine. The railroad is divided into about 100 blocks and OS sections and is fully detected. There is presently over 6,000 feet of wire and when completed there will be over 100 three color trackside signal heads.

The trackage is 95% complete and operational. Scenery is about 10% complete. The layout occupies most of a 30 x 60 foot basement. There is about 300 feet of mainline track. The following people have assisted in its construction over the years: Jay Beckham, Jim Withrow, Joe Donnelly, and Warren Hart.

Warren gave a clinic and passed out two pages of notes on rock carving.

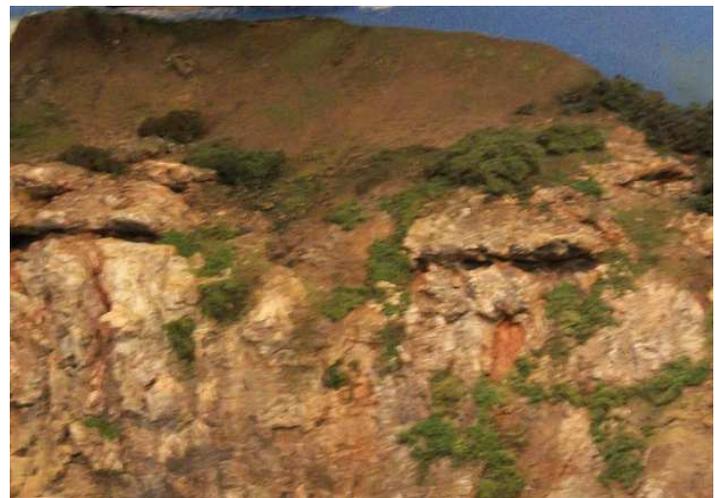
Some photos:



Completed portion of CTC Machine



Warren's Gap



Ocean Mine Area

OPERATIONS ROAD TRIP LAST MAY

by Richard Lind

There wasn't space to put this in the Fall Wheel Report, but we received a very nice email from Dave Baker after a group of us went up to operate his Cumberland & Lake Erie using timetable and train orders. Here it is:

South Mountain Members

I would like to thank you for coming over for the operating session. I know John and I enjoyed having you and we enjoyed the operating session.

I was surprised how well the two yards did at getting trains out. Often the yard crews do not get any trains out of the yard let alone sort the incoming cars. Both of the yard crews did a fantastic job sorting and getting trains ready to leave. Likewise the extra board crews did a great job of running over the line, switching industries, and reading their orders.

During the operating session we moved 19 trains over the C&LE railroad, had three light helper moves down the mountain and ran one train that only traveled on the PRR for a total of 22 trains. Not bad.

Thanks for helping the C&LE come alive.

*David Baker
Vice President of Operations*

Don Florwick and I were the Somerset yard operators. We had to work as a team. It was intense because we had to get as many trains out as possible to make room for trains that would arrive later. It was a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to future operating sessions on Dave Baker's layout.

SPRING OPERATING SESSIONS

by Don Florwick

Each spring the South Mountain Division has been sponsoring operating sessions on interesting layouts outside of our area. This year we will sponsor two sessions. Our first session is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2013. 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). If you have not experienced this type of operation before, here is your chance to become exposed to a very popular style of operation. Because this is a very organized session, we will be limited to 10 visiting members. We plan to be at Steve's home in Germantown, MD by 9:30 and to operate until 2 PM. After that we will go for Lunch and conversation, to add to what will be a great experience.

Sign up is first come, first served. To become part of this operating crew, Please contact Don Florwick at DJFlorwick@comcast.net or 717-352-8759.

We will have another operating session in late April after our Spring Mini Meet, or in early May. That session will be on Dave Baker's, HO Cumberland & Lake Erie Railroad located in Johnstown, PA. We visited and operated on Dave's layout last year so watch for a notice in our Spring Wheel Report for details.

FUTURE SMD MEETINGS

Sunday, March 10th – Dick McEvoy
Saturday, March 16th – Steve King's TT&TO
Saturday, April 13th – Mini-convention.
Sunday, May 19th – Pete and Jane Clarke

No meetings in June, July and August, but we will ride the Cass Scenic Railroad on Saturday, June 1, 2013. Since this is more than a day trip, start planning now.

HOPPER ON THE GHOST TOWN TRAIL



On Memorial Day weekend Jane and I were riding our bicycle on the Ghost Town Trail that runs up near Johnstown, PA. One day we headed east and decided to head up the Raxis Branch to add some miles to our ride. Just a few feet beyond the junction, we came to a small park area and there we saw a hopper car on display. The car is pretty cool, a nice 2 bay hopper that looks to be about the same length as an EBT hopper, but taller and of course wider. But the big story is that when we looked at the marker we learned that this car was donated by Randy Anderson of Hagerstown MD. Randy is not currently a member of SMD, but he did assist us by giving a clinic at the 2009 Western Maryland Transfer MER convention. So if any Hagerstown members happen to run in to Randy, tell him his hopper is still there, still looking good, and still impressing SMD members!

Pete

RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN NO. 20 DONATION CHALLENGE

The Colorado Railroad Museum found a matching grant; up to \$150,000 to put RGS 4-6-0 No. 20 back in service. To make a matching donation, see <http://shop.coloradorailroadmuseum.org/SelectSKU.aspx?skuid=1002284> Note the perks for donors.

SMD's SECOND ANNUAL FALL MEET AT HOBBYTOWN USA

By Richard Lind, photos by Don Florwick

Public attendance was a little lower this year than last year at our November 17th Modelers Meet at Hobby Town USA in Frederick, but it was a great SMD meeting.

We used Hobby Town USA's large activities room for clinics, displays, demonstrations, a white elephant sale, and a popular vote modelers contest.



One of our greeters: Jim Fisher

Our host was Richard Benjamin, storeowner and a long time SMD member

The point of the meet was to provide an all day venue bringing division members together to work, talk, and to share our hobby with each other. In addition we wanted to share our hobby with the public during Model Railroad Month. The result was a whole room of SMD people working on model railroad projects and taking breaks to see what others were doing, and so doing, learning from one another. We had a room of clinicians giving continuous clinics and we had a fun day. This year we had pizza for lunch – all you could eat.

Second Annual Meet, continued



Guest Sam Powell (left).talks to Larry Daily

When you first walked in there was Don Florwick and Jim Fisher to greet you. Next, in the corridor were Bob Proctor and Brian Greenawalt, running the White Elephant Table, which was much larger this year. In the activities room, we had Mike Reed making trees from natural materials collected from his flowerbeds and Roy Hoffman making all kinds of trees from green furnace filters. Then there was



Mike Reed with some of the trees he made from local natural materials.

Fred Schirmacher with his Time Saver switching puzzle. Next to Fred was Larry Daily with a survey designed to scientifically define the word “hobby”. You can take Larry’s survey too, by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S79ZV7R> .



Roy Hoffman made trees from green furnace filter material.



Fred Schirmacher demonstrates the Time Saver



Ron Polimeni shares his expertise in rehabilitating old rolling stock with Jane Clarke

Second Annual Meet, continued



Dorothy Caldwell discusses building painting and finishing with Fred Schirmmacher



Jeff Adams demonstrates weathering with chinks and pastels.

We had a popular model contest table set up and run by Jane Clarke. On the other side of the room Ron Polimeni was rehabilitating old, but basically good rolling stock. Next to Ron was Dorothy Caldwell, painting and detailing resin buildings. Jeff Adams demonstrated weathering with chinks and pastels. Ken Mazer was building NMRA conforming switches with Fast Tracks Hobbywork's milled aluminum templates. Pete and Jane Clarke were finishing the 2-foot by 4-foot N-Scale layout Pete started and got running at last



Lunch break at the tree-making table. Left to right clockwise: Roy Hoffman, Ray Price, Pete Clarke, Harvey Heyser, Jane Clarke, Sam Powell, Mike Reed and Louise Finch.



John Madden and Richard Benjamin trying to get around a bad spot in Richard Lind's video presentation. They succeeded!

year's event. It was finished at the end of the day and raffled off. The winner was Richard Benjamin. Next to Pete was Harvey Heyser, our layout-planning consultant. He had an amazing collection of excellent layout planning books.

Part of the activity room was curtained off and chairs arranged for formal clinic presentations. In the morning, I played a video showing how to model stone walls with expanded polystyrene insulation board. Halfway through, it stopped and

Second Annual Meet, continued

the computer froze. Somehow, John Madden and Richard Benjamin got past the corrupted spot in the DVD and we were able to see the rest of the video.

In the afternoon, Don Florwick presented an excellent clinic on wiring Tortoise switch machines and making control panels for them.

At the end of the day, we were wondering why more people didn't come, and I was feeling like the guilty party because I hadn't contacted the local media as I promised to. But then, an amazing thing happened. Sam Powell, a Potomac Division member, went home and wrote a two-page article about our event and fired it off to the *NASG Dispatch*, the official publication of the National Association of S Gaugers and they printed it in their December 2012 issue.

MER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Positions of Director, Photographer, Business Manager and editor of *The Local* are open in the Mid-Eastern Region NMRA. The Director and Photographer positions have been open for a year. Also, Charlie Fleishman wants to phase out as MER's Achievement Program Chair.

Other business from the MER Annual Meeting: hard copy subscriptions to *The Local* will increase to \$9 per year in 2013 to recover costs.

PREPARE FOR ELECTIONS

Time to start thinking about serving as an officer or to start thinking about your choices for division officers for the 2013-2014 year. Elections will be at the April 13th spring mini-con, and nominations must be in by Thursday, March 7th. It takes three members to nominate a member to run for office. Contact officers or advisory board members to place a nomination.

FROM THE SUPER'S DESK

by Richard Lind

My late wife Nancy was a knitter and weaver. Though she was an invalid late in life, her hobbies enhanced her social life, and the quality of her life to the end. She was active in three knitting circles and two weaver's guilds.

The guilds have meeting programs similar to ours. The Central Penn Guild of Handweavers meets at The Mannings, near East Berlin PA, which would be equivalent to us meeting at Mainline Hobby Supply every month. Since their meetings are always at the same location, members bring their projects to show and tell. It's like show and tell in school – think mini-clinic. The “weave doctor” portion of their meetings is a opportunity for members to bring in a project that isn't working out and solicit the advice from the assembled members. Then they have a program-a full-blown clinic. They have a Guild Advancement Program, which is similar to the NMRA AP program.

I mention this because here is an organization that is very similar to SMD, yet their attendance has grown four-fold over the past 20 years and ours has not. This may be because The Mannings offers classes in basic and advanced weaving techniques where many students discover the opportunity to join the guild to get to know other weavers and develop their weaving knowledge and skills.

That's food for thought.

DETAILS, DETAILS

by Pete Clark

In December I was able to go to Bob Johnson's layout for an operating session. I was assigned to the train that runs from Webster Springs to Doortown and works the lumber mill that's located there. This is a fun switching challenge. The only run around track is on the mainline, so you have to check the status of through trains before you

can use it. Ok, I might have cheated and tended more to just look both ways to see if anything was coming. But if it's within a yard limit (I don't know that it is), then this would be an acceptable action. There are several tracks that are reached by a switchback move, and the tail track is not very long. So some things that seem simple require multiple moves to accomplish.

When I finished up and rolled back into Webster Springs I was feeling pretty good. I had delivered all my cars to the correct locations and had picked up all the loaded, out-going cars correctly. Not a bad scale day's work I thought.

That's when Bob pointed out that all the empty cars that had been sitting on a storage track waiting to be moved and loaded at the start of the session were still sitting on that same track.

Bob and I have had other conversations about how we both want to be sure that no cars on our layouts are static models. We want them to move! On the EBT that Jane and I have built, that's why the empty hopper at the coal trestle in Mt. Union is always the farther back car. If it were the closer, more convenient car, then each operator would pick up the empty, and replace it with a loaded car. That same loaded car would, in the next session, become the empty and the farther back car would never move. That's why it's always the farther back car, the less convenient car that is empty and ready to go.

Back to Bob's. I pointed out that I had satisfied my shippers – all available spots for putting empty cars had been filled. I said that I understood from a model railroad point of view why he might be concerned about this. But, in a real world I asked, who cares what car gets used, as long as I used a car assigned for that type service? I imagine I saw Bob think, "Well Mister narrow gauge, on the EBT where 99% of cars are EBT cars, you have little reason to think of this." He then went on to say that on a real railroad (a standard gauge), where cars from many other railroads may be on the line, you have to think about the cost of each car. How much does it cost to have a home railroad car sit? Nothing. How much does it cost to let a car from

another railroad sit? The answer is, something. A railroad has to pay a per-day cost (per diem, called demurrage) to the owner of each foreign railroad car on the line. When I left those empty cars sitting there for the next session it's likely that they'll spend another day on Bob's railroad. It's likely that some were foreign road cars and so I was costing my employer railroad money. When I was spotting empty cars to be loaded, I should have thought to check for and use the foreign road cars first, that way they'd move off the railroad sooner and we'd save money. That would help my railroad employer turn a profit.

So now I'll try to remember one more detail in an ops session. Move those foreign road cars first!

OPEN HOUSES AND TRAIN SHOWS

Through February 24, 2013. "The Trains of Christmas". Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum, 300 S. Burhans Blvd (US Route 11), Hagerstown MD 21741, Hours: Friday—Sunday 1 –5 PM. <http://www.roundhouse.org/events.shtml> or call (301) 739-4665 for info

Sunday, February 3, 2013, 1 – 4 PM. Frederick County Soc. of Model Engineers Open House. In C&O horse car behind 423 East Patrick Street, Frederick MD 21701 www.fcsme.com or (301) 668-6371 for info.

Sunday, February 3, 2013. "Open House and Operating Train Displays" by the Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum, Inc. at Antietam Station, 7230 Shepherdstown Pike, Sharpsburg MD 21782, 1 to 5 PM. Free <http://www.antietamstation.com> or call (301) 824-2239 for info.

February 2-3, 2013. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 www.gsmts.com

February 9, 2013. "Winter 2013 Model Train Sale" by the Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum, Inc. at the Washington County Ag Center, 7313 Sharps-

TRAIN SHOWS, continued

burg Pike (6.5 mi. south on Maryland Route 65 from I-70 Exit 29, on the left), 9 AM to 3 PM. \$4 for adults <http://www.antietamstation.com> or call (301) 824-2239 for info.

March 9, 2013, "Late-Winter Hobby Show, Sale and Open House" sponsored by the Winchester Model Railroad Club. Free open house at the club building at 430 N. Commerce Street, Winchester from 9 AM to 2 PM. Show and sale at Friendship Fire Company's meeting hall at 627 North Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester VA. <http://wmrrc.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. Clinics on prototype models and operations, model displays, vendors' room, Thursday evening operating sessions and Sunday 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 more information and registration form, go to http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/.

TRAIN RIDES

February 16-18, 2013. Strasburg Railroad. First trains of the season at 12, 1 and 2 PM. For info, see <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com>

March 9-24, 2013. Strasburg Railroad. Sat/Sun at 12, 1 and 2 PM. LO&S railcar operates, weather permitting. For info, see <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com>

May 11, 2013., 7:00 AM. West Chester and Wilmington Ramble by Central Penn AAA for Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. For info, see www.rrmuseumpa.org/membership/eventsforfriends.shtml Cost: \$225 for members, otherwise \$240.

SMD OFFICERS 2012/13

Superintendent:

Richard Lind
(240) 454-2749
Email: rlind202@verizon.net

Assistant Superintendent:

Pete Clarke
(301) 482-1136
Email: ebtmx5@aol.com

Clerk:

Jim Fisher
(717) 762-7787
Email: aliceandjimf@cermak.com

Wheel Report Editor:

Richard Lind
202 West College Terrace
Frederick, MD 21701-4844
(301) 694-9496

Paymaster:

Ray Price
(301) 845-6465
wmrryar1904@gmail.com

smdnmra.org Webmaster:

Roy Hoffman
(717) 530-7977
Email: royhoffman@yahoo.com

Division Achievement Coordinator:

Jane Clarke
(301) 253-1913
Email: Jane.Clarke@BioReliance.com

Division Education and Training Coordinator:

C. Brian Greenawalt
(240) 381-3486
Email: cbgreenawalt@embarqmail.com

Advisory Committee:

Pete and Jane Clarke
(301) 482-1136 Email: ebtmx5@aol.com

Donald (Don) Florwick (717) 352-8759
Email: DJFlorwick@comcast.net

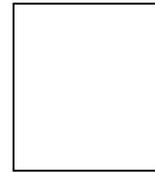
Bob Johnson
(301) 371-9129
Email: rcyrilj@aol.com

Mike Shockey
Email: SHOgone@aol.com

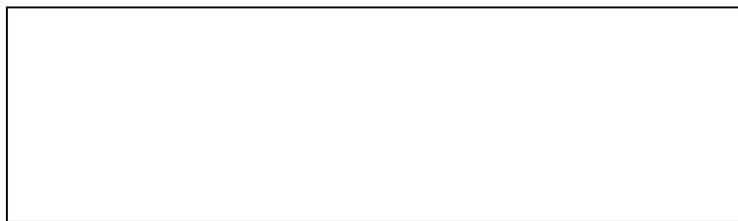
Vol. 12/13 No.2
December 2012

WHEEL REPORT **SMD**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



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



O-Scale Little Joes perform on Rich Randall's Milwaukee Road, Avery Division