

WHEEL REPORT



SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

smdnmra.org

FALL 2014



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

September – Sunday, September 14th, 2 to 5 pm. Bob Van Zant's On30 Tolchester & Annapolis. Bob took a finished freelance HO layout and converted it to On30. Come and see the result and learn what's involved.

Clinic: Richard Lind will give a clinic on preparing and flocking Super Trees.

October – SMD hosts the Hub City Interchange: the **NMRA Mid-Eastern Region's Annual**

Convention, October 16-19, 2014 at The Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1718 Underpass Way, Halfway Boulevard, Hagerstown MD 21740 301-797-2500 To register, see <http://www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html>

November – Sunday, November 9, 2014, 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 hydrangea.

Clinic: Bob Johnson will give a clinic on forced perspective and building a convincing city less than a foot deep, using low relief buildings and profiles that blend into the scenic backdrop.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION ELECTIONS FOR 2014-2015

The annual SMD election of officers was held at our May 18th meeting. The following were elected:
Superintendent – Paul Rausch
Clerk – Jim Fisher
Paymaster – Ray Price

HUB CITY INTERCHANGE AT HAGERSTOWN OCTOBER 16-19

The Mid Eastern Region NMRA convention in Hagerstown is really coming together! The convention venue, the Ramada Plaza Hotel, is on the west side of Hagerstown, just off I-81 and easy to get to from all directions. You can call and make reservations now; ask for the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, rate. Basic registration is only \$35. For more information, please check the website: www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html. If you have any questions email Richard Benjamin (hubcity-smd@mail.ribeninc.com) or Grant Berry (granthberry@aol.com).

There will be three full-day prototype tours. We will travel by carpool convoy on all three tours, and fuel expenses for drivers with three or more passengers will be reimbursed from tour fees.

On Friday, we will have two simultaneous tours. One tour will travel to the Dickerson Power Plant, near Dickerson, Maryland; a coal-fired plant being converted to burn natural gas and trash. There will be a side trip to visit the nearby rebuilt Monocacy Aqueduct on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal the longest and most attractive aqueduct on the C&O Canal.

The other Friday tour will travel to the Koppers Tie Treatment plant at Green Spring, West Virginia

On Saturday we will travel by to Orbisonia, Pennsylvania to tour the shops of the East Broad Top Railroad and the Rockhill Trolley Museum. This fun- and fact-filled day includes a trolley ride.

Thursday evening between 7 and 8 pm we will have six clinics going simultaneously in one room, just as we do for our April mini-cons There will be more than thirty formal clinics. Here is a sampling: Steve King on Time Table/Train Order operations (please register for both the clinic and the lab at one of three layouts), Lee Rainey on the EBT, Clint Hyde, Dave Emory and Martin Brechbiel's Build-It clinic,

Achievable Realism by Lance Mindheim, Everything JMRI by Bob Bucklew, The Model Railroad Goes To War by Bernard Kempinski, and many other topics on other modeling techniques and railroads. The TT/TO and Build-It clinics are extra fare.

Operations call boards will be held Friday evening at the following local layouts: Brian Wolfe's Western Maryland Railway - Blue Ridge Division (Baltimore to Hagerstown through Pennsylvania). Don Florwick's Pittsburgh and South Penn, Dave Moltrup's PRR/P&LE, John King's B&O Winchester Branch and Bob Johnson's West Virginia Midland. All are TT/TO, except Dave Moltrup's. See the registration form for times. The fee for each session is only \$5.

Saturday evening we will be on our own for supper. We will get together in the evening dessert (\$8 charge) at the awards meeting. We will arrange for diabetic options and a huge coffee pot. During dessert, there will be a keynote presentation, likely by Bob Markle, from Keedysville, about local rail history. Of course there will be a raffle, white elephant table, auction, model contest, and layout tours.

There will be nine non-rail events you can visit on your own, including the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.

Our division has a great opportunity to shine during this convention. As we get closer to convention time, We'll be asking for help ranging from guest greeting to crowd control (hopefully!) You can let Co-chairs Richard Benjamin and Grant Berry know now if you will be available or just volunteer to help out while you're there.

APRIL MINI-CON

by Richard Lind, photos by Don Florwick

Our spring mini-con in the Blue Ridge Summit fire hall on Saturday, April 5th was another success for

APRIL MINI-CON, continued

Jane and Pete Clarke and SMD. This year 170 participants signed in.

Pete Clarke and Brian Wolf, owner of Mainline Hobby Supply collaborated planning this event. Pete coordinated the volunteers and Brian got make and take kits, paid for the hall and the formal clinicians and publicized the event.



Jane Clarke supervised the "make and take" plastic building kit table.



Brian Greenawalt helps at the "make and take" wood building kit table.

We had three "make and take" clinics starting at 9 am. Frank Benenoti had people converting a bug zapper into a static grass applicator, Jane Clarke had a table for building a small plastic kit, and Brian

Greenawalt helped people build a small laser-cut wood building kit.

The Western Maryland Model Group had a part of their layout in the back of the hall, and next to them, along the west wall, Steve Sherrill set up his 30 feet long On30 sectional dead rail layout with battery/ radio control used to operate trains. There is unique mechanism used to control the switches using paper clip redesigned to manually operate at a cost of



Attendees try staining wood at Bill Reynold's table.



Richard Lind showing what raw Super Tree plant material looks like right out of the box.

about 25 cents.

We had ten informal clinics running continuously from 10 am to 5 pm. Ken Mazer made turnouts with Fast Tracks templates, Harvey Heyser was a

APRIL MINI-CON, continued

consultant for layout design, Bill Reynolds had a hands-on clinic on staining wood, Bob Johnson showed how to tune your rolling stock, Dorothy Caldwell demonstrated painting buildings, Ron Polimeni resurrected flea market finds and Jeff Adams did double duty exhibiting the Western Maryland modular layout and repairing locomotives.

At 11 AM Bernard Kempinski presented an Introduction to railroads of the Civil War. He presented charts showing the relative strengths of the Union and the Confederacy in terms of population, industry, miles of railroad and amount of railroad equipment. He showed many historic photographs of railroads and supply depots in the Civil War, and he showed how the Civil War Era



Bernard Kempinski, dressed as General Herman Haupt gave a clinic on the role of railroads in the Civil War.

can be modeled.

At 1 pm, a representative, of Train Control Systems gave a clinic on TCS steam locomotive decoders, using a decoder equipped model on a set of rollers. The TCS decoder was back-EMF controlled, so as the engine works harder, it sounds like it was working harder. He demonstrated this by pressing

down on the model locomotive as it was running until it stalled. The result was amazing.

At 3 PM we ended the clinics in the fire hall and encouraged attendees to visit Don Florwick's HO Pittsburgh & South Penn open house.

A big thank you is well deserved and well earned by Brian and Mainline for their support to this event's success, and by Pete and Jane Clarke for pulling it together again.

SPRING OPERATOR'S TRIP TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014



Ray Price and Bill Wilson operate Somerset Yard



Dave Baker's grandson Carter operated the passenger train on schedule.

OPERATORS' TRIP, continued

Dave Baker agreed to host a spring visit from SMD Operators on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. Dave and his Railroad are located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The session was from 10 to 3 PM with a lunch break to a nearby Burger King.

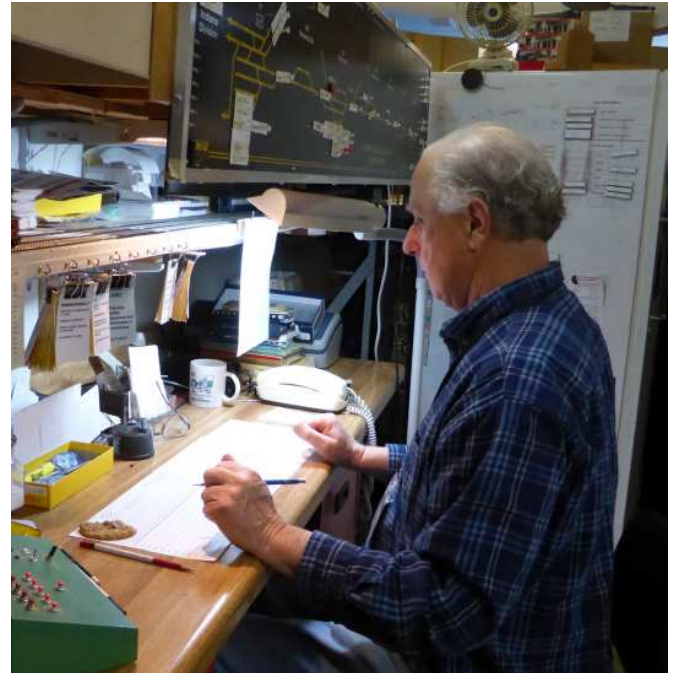
Attending were Don Florwick, who organized the event, Paul Rausch, Mike Shockey, Ray Price, Bill Wilson, Wayne Caouette, Jim Fisher, John Madden and Richard Lind.



Wayne Caouette worked an operator's shift.



Paul Rausch operating a train coming down from the upper level.



Dave Baker worked as dispatcher

David's HO Scale freelanced Cumberland & Lake Erie Railroad models the Laurel Division between Johnstown and Cumberland and two branch lines as it might have been in 1957. Dave uses NCE DCC and most of Dave's locomotives have sound. The operating scheme uses Time Table & Train Order and traffic is generated by Car Cards and Waybills. We are limited to 10 visiting operators because of space in the layout room.

FUTURE SMD MEETINGS

September 14th –	Bob Van Zant
October 16th – 19th	Hub City Interchange
November 9th –	Bob Johnson
December 8th –	not confirmed
January 11th –	Don Florwick
February 8 th –	not confirmed
March 8 th –	Mike Toms
April 18 th –	Mini-con at Blue Ridge Summit
May 17 th –	not confirmed

No meetings in June, July and August, 2015.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPER

What an exciting year we have planned. We have several new layouts to visit as well as some old reliables.

We will start the year in September by visiting Bob Van Zant's On30 layout that he converted from HO. Richard Lind is going to present a clinic on making Super Trees.

In October the SMD will host the Mid East Regions's convention in Hagerstown. The web site for the convention is <http://www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html> Please review the site and make plans to attend on or more days. It is a great way to meet people you are interested in the hobby and maybe learn something new.

In November we will be visiting Bob Johnson's beautiful layout. Bob will be presenting a clinic on a 'forced perspective' for background buildings.

I was going to host the September meeting but circumstances made me change my mind. My house sold and I am in the middle of dismantling my HO Ohio Northern HO layout that I've been working on for 10 plus years. A new layout room has been found and progress will start on a new layout in early October.

I look forward to seeing all of you again and meeting our new members. Help us make this a great year.

Paul



JANE AND PETE'S BIG RIDE

By Richard Lind, photos from Pete and Jaanes'sblog

Jane and Pete Clarke rode their tandem bicycle from Damascus, Maryland to the mouth of the Columbia River at Astoria, Oregon. On April 8th Jane and Pete started out pulling a pup trailer loaded with camping gear. There were four saddle bags on the bike, too, and their whole rig weighed about 175 pounds. They arrived in Astoria August 18th, after pedaling 4176 miles in 133 days (including rest days). You can follow their interesting daily trip notes and see their posted photos on www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/13615 If you

BIG RIDE, continued

search "Jane and Pete's Big Ride", you'll go right to it.

Originally, Jane and Pete were going to ride counter-clockwise around much of the lower 48 states, but they've decided to continue their adventure at a later date. So, we should be seeing Pete and Jane soon. They shipped their tandem and trailer and took Amtrak home.

Congratulations Pete and Jane!

OPEN HOUSES & TRAIN SHOWS

August 27 - 31, 2014. Steel Mill Modeler's Meet, presented by The Magarac Society and sponsored by Peach Creek Shops, Inc. at the Great Western Lehigh Valley Hotel in Bethlehem PA. Go see some fantastic modeling. For more info, see www.peachcreekshops.com/2014steelmeet.php.

September 6, 2014. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg PA Model Railroading Day. Layouts, clinics, demonstrations and tour of the restoration area; in conjunction with the Susquehanna Division NMRA. See www.rrmuseumpa.org.

September 20, 2014. Cumberland Valley Model Railroad Club open house, 440 Nelson Street, Chambersburg PA 17201. 11 AM – 4 PM. For more info, see <http://www.cvmrrc.com/>

September 20 & 21 2014. 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

October 4, 2014, 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 4-5, 2014. B&O Railroad Museum, Civil War Steam Days Weekend. Ride behind St. Elizabeth No. 4 to visit the restoration facility and the Mount Claire House Museum. See <http://www.borail.org/railfest.aspx>.

October 16 -19, 2014. Hub City Interchange. Mid-Eastern Region NMRA Convention hosted jointly by the South Mountain Division at the Ramada Plaza in Hagerstown MD. For info, see <http://home.comcast.net/~candp2013/>

October 18 & 25, 2014. B&O Railroad Museum, Steam'n Saturdays. Stem train ride only. See <http://www.borail.org/railfest.aspx>.

October 25-26, 2014. 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 1-2, 2014. Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton Street, Harrisburg PA 17111 www.greenbergshows.com

November 2, 2014, 9 am to 4 pm. 37th Gaithersburg Artifacts & Model Train Show, Montgomery County Fair Grounds, Gaithersburg MD (set up for dealers – Oct 30 & Nov. 1) <http://www.gserr.com/shows.htm>

December 6-7, 2014. Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 www.greenbergshows.com

TRAIN RIDES

Summer and fall Sundays, starting June 1st. Tour preserved Muddy Creek Forks village on the Ma & Pa: general store, roller mill and grain elevator – free. Section car rides: adults \$7, children \$5. <http://www.maandparailroad.com/whatsnew.php>

TRAIN RIDES, continued

August 30, 2014. Freedom Lies Just North: The Story of the Underground Railroad. Steam Into History, New Freedom PA. Deb McCauslin will bring this story to life.

Cass Scenic Railroad, Cass WV. Trains operate daily, except Monday until September 1st, then September 6-7 and 13-14th. Full moon train only on September 19th. Fall rides run daily except Monday from September 19th through November 3th, 2014. http://www.cassrailroad.com/CASS_schedule.pdf for times and destinations.

The Cheat Mountain Salamander, Elkins WV. Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad. Nine-hour trips sold out. Six and a half-hour trips: September 30th; Tuesday through Sunday in October, except 4, 11 and 28-31. Call 1-877 MTN.RAIL to reserve a seat. . See <http://mountainrailwv.com> .

The Durbin Rocket, Durbin WV. Climax powered trains operate Saturday and Sunday in September, plus 18, 19, 25, 26 and 30th; Tuesday through Sunday in October, except 28th and 29th. November 1, 2, 8 and 9th, 2014. Trains depart Durbin WV at 10 am and 2:30 pm. Call for availability. Some trains sold out. 1-877-MTN-RAIL. See <http://mountainrailwv.com> .

Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway autumn leaf excursions, Jim Thorpe PA. Steam: October 12th , \$69. Call 610-562-2102 for tickets and to check Pullman availability. See <http://www.lgsry.com/> for their many events and their regular schedule. Jim Thorpe PA by itself is worth the trip.

New River Train, Huntington WV. October 18 & 19, 25 & 26th, 2014. Check www.newrivertrain.com for available seating and turned back tickets.

New Tygart Flyer, Elkins WV. Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad. Trains operate September 6, 7,, 13, 14, 18, 19-21, 25- 28 and 30th;

plus Tuesday through Sunday in October, except 28- 31st; and November 1st and 2nd, 2014. Trains depart the historic Elkins WV depot at 11 am. Call 1-877 MTN.RAIL to reserve a seat. . See <http://mountainrailwv.com> .

Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. Trains operate 3-hour trips at 1 pm on Saturdays only in September. All-day Heritage Train departs Romney at 9 am on September 27th. Fall foliage trips operate daily starting October 3rd; plus November 1, 2, 8, and 9th, 2014. See <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php> for schedule, 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 11th; Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 21st and December 26-31, 2014. 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 August 28-31; Friday, Saturday and Sunday in September; daily, except Tuesday October 1 through November 2nd; weekends November 8-23; and Friday, Saturday and Sunday November 28-December 21,. See <http://www.wmsr.com/> for info.

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

Saturday evenings. Walkersville Southern Railroad Diner Trains. September 16, 30, October 14 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

14 – 21 and November 21 – 23, 2014. regularly scheduled trains all day. See <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/day-out-with-thomas.php> for tickets.

September 27, 2014. Potomac Eagle. Hardy Heritage Days trains, departing at 9:00 am from Romney WV.. www.potomaceagle.info/events.php

October 26, 2013. Walkersville Southern Railroad, Ghost Trains, 7 and 8:30 pm. See <http://www.wsrr.org/events.htm> .

Santa Trains. Walkersville Southern Railroad, November 23, 24, 30, December 1, 7, 8, and 14, 2013 at 11 am, 1 and 3 pm. See <http://www.wsrr.org/events.htm> .

SMD OFFICERS 2013/14

Superintendent:

Paul Rausch
(717)
Email: pdldrausch@embarqmail.com

Assistant Superintendent:

Pete Clarke
(301) 253-4913
Email: ebtmx5@aol.com

Clerk:

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

Paymaster:

Ray Price
(301) 845-6465
wrryar1904@gmail.com

Division Achievement Coordinator:

Jane Clarke
(301) 253-4913
Email: Jane.Clarke@BioReliance.com

smdnmra.org Webmaster:

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

Division Education and Training Coordinator:

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

Advisory Committee:

Pete and Jane Clarke
(301) 253-4913 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

Convention Co-Chairmen:

Grant Berry
Email: granthberry@aol.com

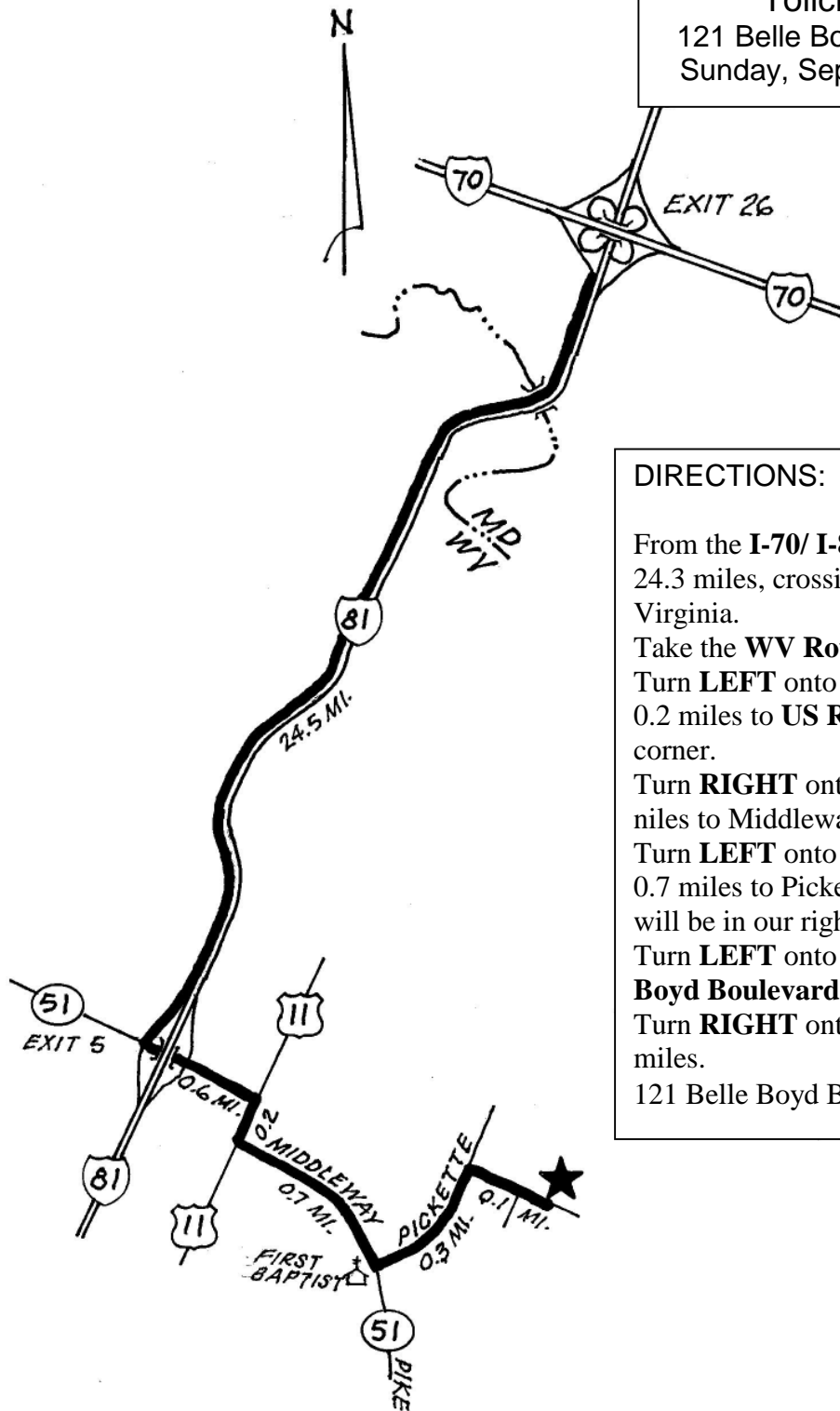
Richard Benjamin
Email: rbenjamin@ribeninc.com

Wheel Report Editor:

Richard Lind
(301) 694-9496
Email: rlind202@verizon.net

SEPTEMBER SMD MEETING

Bob Van Zant's On30 scale
Tollchester & Annapolis
121 Belle Boyd Blvd., Inwood WV 25428
Sunday, September 14, 2014, 2 to 5 pm

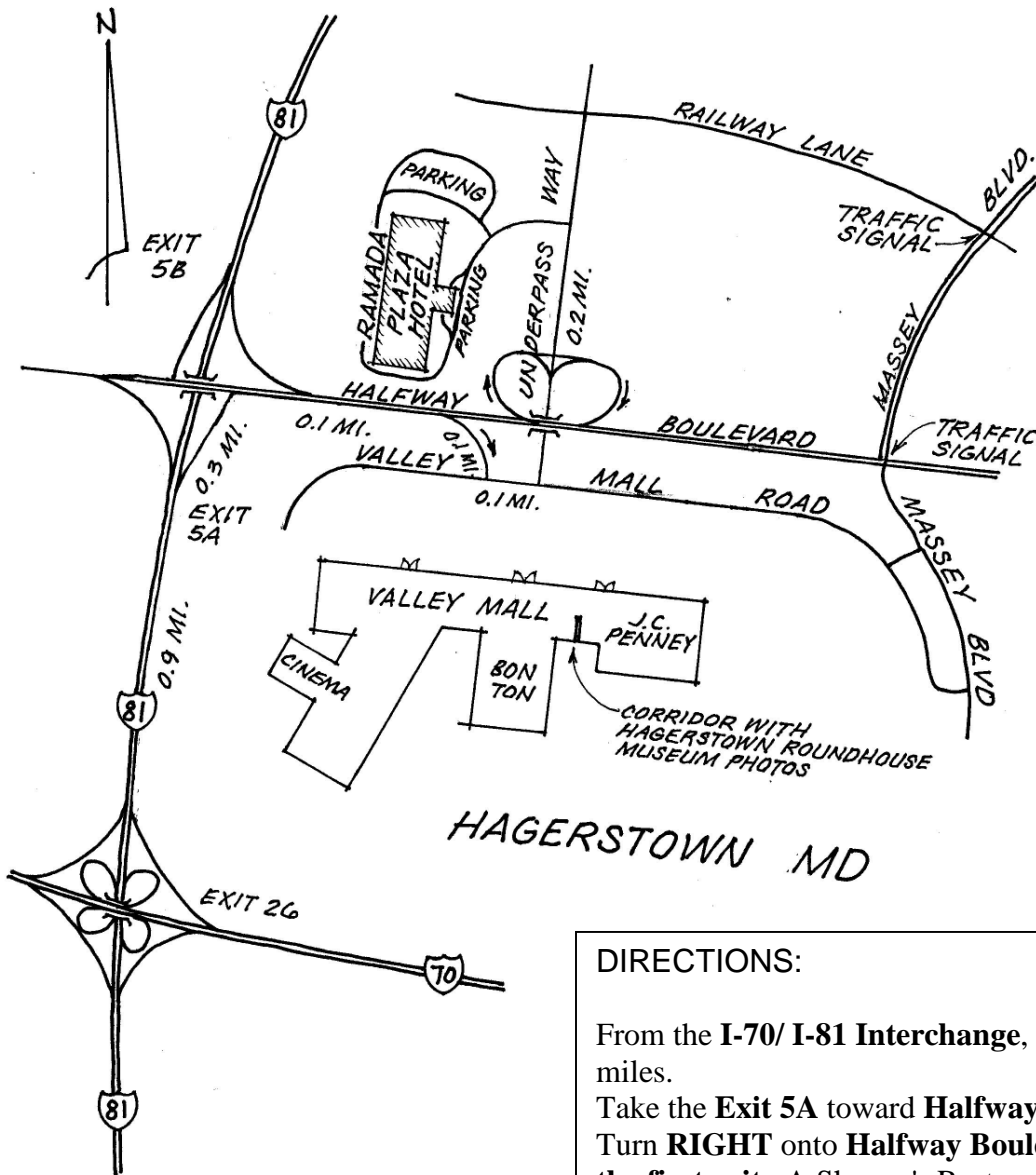


DIRECTIONS:

From the **I-70/ I-81 Interchange**, go south on I-81 24.3 miles, crossing the Potomac River into West Virginia.
Take the **WV Route 51** exit, Exit 5 toward Inwood. Turn **LEFT** onto **WV-51/Germantown Road** and go 0.2 miles to **US Route 11**. A Seven-11 is on the corner.
Turn **RIGHT** onto **Route 11/WV-51** and go 0.7 niles to Middleway Pike. A Rite Aid is on the right.
Turn **LEFT** onto **Middleway Pike/WV-51** and go 0.7 miles to Pickette Street. The First Baptist Church will be in our right at Pickette.
Turn **LEFT** onto **Pickette** and go 0.3 miles to **Belle Boyd Boulevard**.
Turn **RIGHT** onto **Belle Boyd Blvd.** and go 0.1 miles.
121 Belle Boyd Blvd. will be on your **LEFT**.

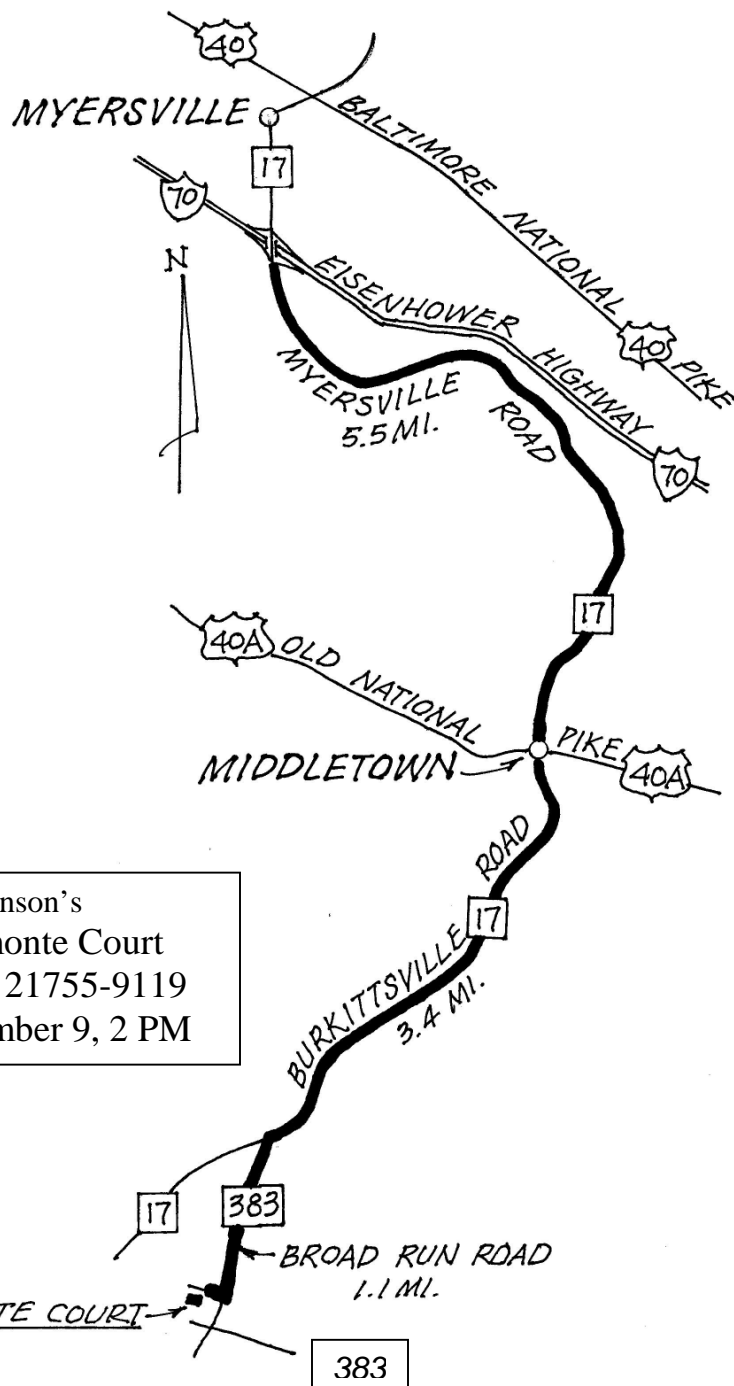
OCTOBER SMD MEETING

Hub City Interchange
MER Annual Convention
 1718 Underpass Way, Hagerstown MD 21740
 Thursday, October 16 to Sunday the 19th, 2014



DIRECTIONS:

From the **I-70/ I-81 Interchange**, go north on I-81 0.9 miles.
 Take the **Exit 5A** toward **Halfway Boulevard**.
 Turn **RIGHT** onto **Halfway Boulevard** and go 0.1 miles to **the first exit**. A Shoney's Restaurant is just past the exit..
 Turn **RIGHT** toward **Valley Mall** and go 0.1 miles to a T-intersection.
 Turn **LEFT** and go 0.1 miles to a stop sign at **Underpass Way**.
 Turn **LEFT** onto **Underpass Way** and go 0.2 miles to the **Ramada Plaza Hotel** entrance. Turn **LEFT**.



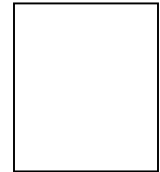
Bob Johnson's
 2193 Bellemonte Court
 Jefferson MD 21755-9119
 Sunday November 9, 2 PM

Directions: From the **I-70/I-81 Interchange** at Hagerstown, go east on **I-70** 16.2 mi. to **Exit 42** (Myersville/ Middletown). Turn **RIGHT** and go south on **MD Route 17/ Myersville Rd.** for 5.5 miles to a traffic light at US-40A in Middletown. Continue straight on **MD-17/ Burkettsville Road** 3.4 miles and **Turn LEFT** (south) onto **Route 383/Broad Run Rd.** Go 1.1 miles and **Turn RIGHT** (west) onto **Bellemonte Court.** House is on the south side of the street.

Alternate directions from Frederick: **Jefferson Street** in **Frederick** becomes **US Route 340.** Take **US 340** south from the interchange with US Route 40 and US Route 15 4.6 miles toward Jefferson. Take the **Lander Road** exit. Turn **RIGHT** onto **Lander Road** and make an **IMMEDIATE LEFT** at the traffic signal onto **Jefferson Pike/ MD 180.** Go south 0.8 miles and turn **RIGHT** at the school onto **Broad Run Road/MD 383.** Go 4.5 miles, turning right twice to stay on **MD 383.** **Bellemonte Court** is 0.3 miles north of the second right turn at the intersection with **Catholic Church Road.** Turn **LEFT** onto **Bellemonte Court.**

WHEEL REPORT **SMD**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



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



Pete Clarke in front of the Dayton, Washington railroad station. Photo by Jane Clarke