

WHEEL REPORT **SMD**



south mountain division - smdnmra.org

Fall Edition 2016

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Fall SMD Meetings

September Sunday, Sep. 11, 2016, 2 to 5 pm.

David Moltrup: HO scale.

David's layout is inspired by a real steel mill owned by his family in Beaver Falls, PA. The railroad represents steel operations in mid-1960's western Pennsylvania.

Clinic: TBD

October Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016, 2 to 5 pm.

Dave Thalman: HO scale Pennsylvania Railroad.

Dave's PRR layout represents the Wakanda Valley Branch, set in the 1940's & 50's.

Clinic: Bill Wilson: Supermagnets

November Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, 2 to 5 pm.

Mike Reed: N scale Maryland & Southern.

Mike's layout is freelanced, transition era, set in western Maryland.

Clinic: TBD

Maps by [Richard Lind](#) can be found at the back of this newsletter. Versions posted on the SMD web page have no maps. Please contact the [Superintendent](#) for directions.

Future meetings will be listed in the winter edition of the Wheel Report and on-line at smdnmra.org.

On the cover:

The landscape is painted with the colors of autumn along Owens Creek and Sabillasville Road (MD Rt550), just northwest of Thurmont, MD as Maryland Midland Railroad's train (symbol UBHF) crosses the high bridge in route to Highfield at Cascade, MD on Thursday morning, October 28, 2010. (Tom Fedor)

The *Wheel Report* is the official publication for the South Mountain Division of the NMRA. The newsletter is published three times annually. Please send your letters, articles, and pictures to the editorial team members listed in the masthead to the right.

2016 submission deadlines:

- Winter 2016/17.....November 15
- Spring 2017.....February 15
- Fall 2017.....August 15

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2016 MINI CON: Wrap-up



Photo by Don Florwick

Convention a Success

By Jane Clarke

Over 200 folks attended “Mainline Hobby Supply Presents the SMD Mini-Convention” at the Blue Ridge Summit fire hall on April 16. Although this was not an increase over 2015, it still qualified as a success. Everyone left with new ideas and full bellies.

It took many people to make this happen. Three modular groups set up their railroads: [Baltimore Area N-Trak](#); T-TRAK division, Steve Sherrill’s [Dead Rail Society](#), and the [Bricktown Model Railroaders Association](#). The June 2016 *Model Railroader* featured articles on T-Trak and on-board battery power. The mini-con was ahead of the curve!

New this year was a snack table by Venture Crew. These young people sold homemade treats to earn money for some of their projects. In addition, pizza from Rocky’s of Cascade MD was delivered.

Brian Greenawalt and Dave Sweeney ran make & take clinics using kits supplied by Brian Wolfe ([Mainline Hobby Supply](#)) and Jeff Grove ([Carolina Craftsman Kits](#)).



Photo by Don Florwick



Photo by Don Florwick



Photo by Don Florwick

Clockwise:

- *Dead Rail Society* modulares.
- *Weathering* with David Moltrup.
- *Convention hall*.
- *DPM Make & Take clinic*.

(Continued on next page)



Clockwise:

- *Timesaver layout and budget model railroading with Ron Polimeni.*
- *Baltimore Area N-Trak, T-TRAK Division.*
- *Rock casting with Bill Reynolds*
- *Figure & vehicle painting with Alex Polimeni.*



Mini Con... (Continued from page 3)

As in years past, there were many hands-on informal clinics. At 1 PM, those ended and some formal presentations began. Representatives from [Steam into History](#) of New Freedom, PA told tales of the Northern Central Railroad's history and its rebirth. [TCS Wow Sound](#) gave a demo of its new products. Eric Dervinis gave an impromptu promotion of the fall MER convention, "[Tracks to the Triangle](#)."



The afternoon ended with a roundtable discussion, moderated by Bob Johnson, called "You should model this railroad and here's why."

(Continued on next page)

Mini Con wrap... (Continued from page 4)

Thanks go to all those who helped with clinics, set up, welcome desk, and clean up; many hands do make light work. Big thanks to Brian and Bonnie Wolfe of [Mainline Hobby Supply](#) for their support of this event and for the hobby in general.

Now, go out and weather freight car trucks, use backyard stuff to make some scenery, try some glueshell landforms, cast some wet rocks, cast some



Photo by Don Florwick



Photo by Don Florwick



Photo by Don Florwick



Photo by Don Florwick

Clockwise:

- Carolina Craftsman Make & Take clinic with Brian Greenawalt
- Backyard scenery with Jane Clarke
- Layout design with Andrew Dodge.
- TCS WOW Sound decoder installs.

dry rocks (and try to avoid a fight between them), paint some buildings, vehicles & figures, scratch build something from styrene, add an easy electronic project, re-design the entire railroad (maybe change to the steel industry, model the 1800's, proto-freelance; the Western MD, the Erie Lackawanna, the Waynesboro, the EBT, go shortline only), or maybe just join a club, and do it all cheap!

2017 MINI CONVENTION

SMD's next Mini Con is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 8, 2017. Updates and a schedule will follow in coming editions of your *Wheel Report* and online at smdnmra.org.

(Continued on next page)

Mini Con wrap... (Continued from page 5)

Model Railroading Clinics Day

By Rick Uskert

My son and I attended the model railroading clinics day [Mini Con], hosted by the South Mountain Division on April 16th. We arrived right at the posted 9am open and the hall was already buzzing with activity. This was my second visit to the annual event and a first for Adam (pictured). Held at the Blue Ridge Fire Hall, it was rather easy to get to and there was plenty of parking space. We were lucky to have walked in when we did, as we grabbed the last spot on the sign up sheet for the free DPM Garage building clinic due to a scratched out name. While we waited for the 10AM start of the building clinic, we made a cursory pass through the room, and I spent most of my time redirecting Adam from the items for sale along the vendor's wall.

Ron Polmeni brought along a Timesaver layout for anyone to try. Adam took a crack at it and completed the switching circuit, with assistance, although it was not a timed event. It ran well and the engine stalled only twice. Adam enjoyed himself, as he does anytime he gets to run a train, and we finished in time to take our seats at the clinic table.

I had participated in the laser cut craftsman building clinic last year and thought the plastic project was more in-line with my son's current abilities. There was one other younger modeler working on our project, while there were three others working on the craftsman kit, which started an hour later than our session. This year's project was a [DPM Modular Building 360 Learning Kit](#) provided by [Mainline](#)

[Hobby Supply](#). David Sweeney ran a good clinic, although the one instance I felt soured the clinic for me was the gripes made by the modeler beside us, who complained about the need to share tools and materials. The clinicians have limited funds and the projects were donated such that each modeler could walk away with a free kit. It was less than courteous to complain about not having an individual knife or the need to share glue. Everyone is free to bring their

own gear to work on the projects, so I wish we do not have members of our own Division participate in this manner. I worked on trimming parts from the sprues while Adam sanded the sprue remnants from the parts with a block and sandpaper. There were a few different types of adhesives available, and I chose to work with the medium CA. An accelerator was available but, aside from a few joints, chose not to use it and just waited out the set time.

While patience lingered in the gluing department, Adam was

completely engaged when it came time to apply the dry transfers and weather the building with dry chalks. Aside for a couple tips on holding the brush and showing him how to get the chalk into the corners, he handled the weathering of the whole model. Throughout the process, he commented that everything looked more real when dusty and dirty, so I have a feeling we will be putting in some time knocking down all of the shine and new plastic on the O Gauge equipment at home when the more permanent layout is set up. In the end, Adam walked away happy, with a new kit and experiences.



*[Republished with permission. Edited for space. This article appeared in **The Relay**, a publication for the [Chesapeake Division](#) of the NMRA's Mid-Eastern Region. -Ed.]*

From the Super's Desk

by [Paul Rausch](#)

If you are like me, you are wondering where the summer went. We'll be meeting again in a couple of weeks for another fantastic year of visiting our member's layouts. We have a great lineup for you again this year.

In my last column, I mentioned that it would be my last one, as my time as Superintendent was coming to an end. Little did I know that the end wasn't as close as I thought it was. So sorry, but you will have to endure my ramblings for another year as I decided two years wasn't enough.

My railroad has been operational since May, and I've used the cool basement to avoid the heat outside as much as possible. I've been updating rolling stock with Kadee couplers on cars that were outfitted with McHenry couplers or other coupler brands and installing metal wheel sets on older cars that I plan on keeping so everything is consistent. Also during the summer I have been experimenting with the computer program called Decoder Pro through JMRI (JAVA Model Railroad Interface). I know a lot of you are familiar with this computer program. In addition, I'm working on an electrical project. I'll let you know how it went on it's conclusion.

On July 23 I had a group of local model railroad friends over to shake down the new railroad. We just ran trains over the mainline to get the people familiar with the railroad. No operations or switching yet. The result of this endeavor was a whole lot of fun, with some of us learning new facets of the hobby, strengthen friendships and make new ones while eating a whole batch of chocolate chip cookies, a bag of chips and jar of salsa. The photo



was taken as things were winding up that day. After running some trains, we had a clinic on how to correctly solder the old style metal buildings from Suydam. He was a pipefitter by trade and generously shared his soldering skills with us. I

highly recommend you get together with other model railroaders in your immediate area to maximize your model railroading experience.

Don't forget to visit our web site. If you have a layout, send me or Roy Hoffman a photo that you like, so we can put it on the web site. Also while looking around the web site, www.smdnmra.org sign up for the fall convention in Durham, NC. It promises to be a great convention with many layouts to visit and operate.

Again, I hope you had a great summer and I am looking forward to seeing you during the September business meeting at Paul Mahoney's home.



Renew Online

Your NMRA membership can easily be renewed online at: <http://www.nmra.org/membership-application-and-renewal>. There are hyperlinks at the bottom of the web page for the online "U.S. Renewal Membership Application" and a two page Portable Document Format (PDF) that can be printed, filled in by hand, and mailed to the address included at the top of the PDF document. Current one year renewal rates are \$66, which includes the NMRA magazine, and \$44 without the subscription. Click on the appropriate category and away you go.



Tracks to the Triangle

NMRA Mid-Eastern Region Convention

In less than 100 days, [Tracks to the Triangle](http://www.mer2016.org), the 2016 MER convention will offer attendees a variety of prototype tours and events that are certain to educate, entertain you and inspire your modeling.

- Tour a 1911 Pullman sleeper, The Villa Real, undergoing restoration by her owner in downtown Raleigh next door to the restored Seaboard Coastline station.
- Visit the [New Hope Valley Railroad](http://www.nhvr.org) in historic Bonsal, NC. NHRV operates restored prototype locomotives and rolling stock over 6.5 miles of track. Equipment includes General Electric and Whitcomb diesel-electric locomotives, a tank (0-4-0) steam locomotive, and passenger and freight cars. In addition to offering rides aboard the restored equipment, NHVR is also an open-air museum with a number of current and future restoration projects available for up-close inspection and photography. It also boasts a G-scale model garden railroad, with miniature trains that run on more than 1000 feet of track complete with tunnels, bridges, plants, trees, houses, churches and even its own engine house.
- The [Tichy Train Group](http://www.tichytrain.com) factory in nearby Burlington offers MER convention attendees a chance to get a behind the scenes look at a one of today's finest manufacturers of craftsman styrene rolling stock kits and detail parts for cars and structures.

All prototype tours are available for a nominal extra fare when you register for Tracks to The Triangle on the convention website, www.mer2016.org. The prototype section of the website includes additional information and more photos of each tour as well as links to other self-guided railfan attractions in The Triangle area. Plenty of tickets are still available for the Villa Real and New Hope Valley Railroad tours. Tichy Train Group tickets are going fast, but limited tickets are still available.

We look forward to seeing you at Tracks to the Triangle, October 20-23 2016 being held at the Marriott at Research Triangle Park in Durham, NC!
[Text acquired from MER convention update, 28 July. -Ed.]

Editor's Notes

[by Tom Fedor](#)

It is hot! Now I'm sitting at my desk in air conditioned comfort, but outside it's a sweltering 90 degrees or more, with high humidity. By the time you read this newsletter, I hope the summer heat will have diminished. In keeping with cooler thoughts and the fall period for this edition, I selected a late autumn image from my catalog to fill the cover.

If you have a great high resolution railroad picture (1:1 scale or models), send it along to me for consideration for a future edition of the *Wheel Report*. I'll also need a little bit of copy to write a caption.

And speaking about sending me things, **please** do submit articles for your *Wheel Report*. I am in need of content. Short, blog post style, 'how to' articles would be great. Maybe you have prepared a clinic in the past, and could share some step by step pictures with a bit of text for each image on your topic. Easy. Anything railroad related that you folks have to share is fair game.

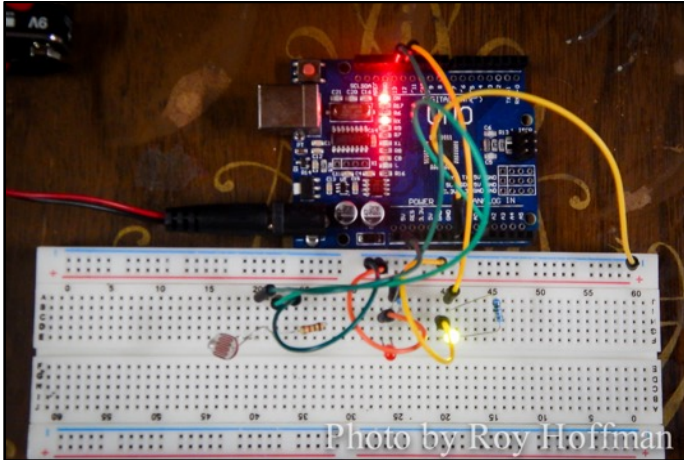
Well, I hope if the heat kept you indoors this summer, you made the best of it by making progress in your train rooms.

Stay cool my friends!

Arduino Applications

By Roy Hoffman

The model railroad world has an exciting new item. It's a small computer located on a printed circuit board called an Arduino (ARE-dwee-no).



The Arduino is an open-source prototyping platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software. Arduino boards are able to read inputs, such as light on a sensor or the push of a button. Those input signals are then converted into an output command, that can activate a motor or light an LED.

You tell the Arduino what to do by coding a set of instructions to the microcontroller on the board. To do so, use the Arduino programming language (based on C/C++ language), and the Arduino Software developing tool (IDE). These programming tools are available as a [free download](http://www.arduino.cc) for your home computer. By writing your own software, you customize the Arduino to do specific tasks on your railroad. The Arduino website is at www.arduino.cc.

Above: The Arduino is connected to a breadboard to prototype a project. A light sensor is attached to a red and a green LED to test a two color signal. Arduinos can be powered by a 9-volt battery or from a USB connection to a computer.

Right: An Arduino controls a LCD display in Roy's 30th Street station model, sending various lines of text animating the electronic display.



In the spring of 2016, several SMD members attended an Arduino for model railroads seminar in Severna Park, MD. That's where I thought of many applications for my S scale model railroad. My first project uses a LCD display of 4 lines of 20 characters each.

I installed the display in my model of 30th Street Station in Philly (pictured above) to announce the arrival and departure of Amtrak trains.

Future plans include a signal driven from a light sensor installed in the track (pictured at top left), and various LED's to illuminate structures. Many other model railroaders are actually controlling DCC systems with Arduinos as well as Circuitron Tortoise switch machines.

Train Shows / Meets

[If you don't see your activity listed, I apologize. Please send future press releases to tjfedor@gmail.com -Ed.]

- September 10, 2016. **Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum, Inc. Fall Model Train Sale.** 9 AM to 2 PM. Address: Washington County Agricultural Education Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Sharpsburg, MD 21782. Web: www.antietamstation.com
- September 17, 2016. **Cumberland Valley Model Railroad Club open house.** 11 AM to 4 PM. Address: 440 Nelson Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201. Web: www.cvmrrc.com



Frederick County Society of Model Engineers club layout opens for Mainline Hobby Supply layout tours, Sept. 18th.

- September 17-18, 2016. **Mainline Hobby Supply open house.** Address: 15066 Buchanan Trail East, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. Web: www.mainlinehobby.net
- September 18, 2016. **Frederick County Society of Model Engineers open house.** 1 PM to 4 PM. Address: 423 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Web: fcsme.com
- September 30-October 1, 2016. **Mid-Atlantic Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet (MARPM).** Address: Wingate by Wyndham Fredericksburg, 20 Sanford Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22406. Web: www.marpm.org
- October 1-2, 2016. **Brunswick (MD) Railroad Days.** 10 AM to 5 PM. Address: Square Corner Park, Brunswick, MD 21716. Web: brunswickmd.gov
- October 8, 2016. **Bunker Hill Train Club Show.** 10 AM - 3 PM. Address: Ranson Civic Center, 431 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV 26438. Web: www.bunkerhilltrainclub.org
- October 20-23, 2016. **Tracks to the Triangle, NMRA Mid-Eastern Region convention.** Address: Marriott at Research Triangle Park, 4700 Guardian Drive, Durham, NC 27703. Web: www.mer2016.org
- October 29-30, 2016. **Great Scale Model Train Show.** Sat: 9 AM to 5 PM; Sun 10 AM to 4 PM. Address: Maryland State Fair Grounds, Cow Palace, 2200 York Rd. Timonium, MD 21093. Web: www.gsmts.com
- November 5-6, 2016. **Greenberg's Great Train and Toy Show.** 10 AM to 4 PM. Address: Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Web: greenbergshows.com

(Continued on next page)

Train Shows... (Continued from page 10)

- November 6, 2016. **Golden Spike Enterprises 39th Gaithersburg Show.** Address: Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds, 501 Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Web: www.gserr.com
- November 6, 2016. **Waynesboro Lions Club model train sale.** 9 AM to 2 PM. Address: Mont Alto Fire Company, 517 S Main St, Mont Alto, PA 17237. Web: <https://www.facebook.com/Waynesboro-Lions-Club-250197655009766/>
[Vendors, contact Mike Toms mike@tomsfam.com - Ed.]
- November 12, 2016. **Winchester Model Railroad Club show.** 9 AM to 2 PM. Address: Moose Lodge, 215 East Cork Street, Winchester, VA. Web: www.wmrrc.org
- November 12, 2016. **Winchester Model Railroad Club open house.** 10 AM to 1 PM. Address: 430 North Cameron Street, Winchester, VA. Web: www.wmrrc.org
- November 18, 2016. **DCNRHS railroad related program** [TBD -Ed.]. 8 PM. Address: 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301. Web: www.dcnrhs.org
- November 26, 2016. **Waynesboro Model Railroad Club open house.** 1 PM to 5 PM. Address: 3291 Waynescastle Road, Greencastle, PA 17225. Web: www.waynesboromrrc.com
- November 26, 2016. **Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum, Inc. Winter Model Train Sale.** 9 AM to 2 PM. Address: Washington County Agricultural Education Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Sharpsburg, MD 21782. Web: www.antietamstation.com

Train Rides

[Highlights are posted below each listing. Call or visit on the web for comprehensive, up to date schedules and ticketing information. -Ed.]

- **B&O Railroad Museum**, Baltimore, MD. Phone: (410) 752-2490 Web: www.borail.org
Restoration facility tour, September 11, November 6.
Civil War days weekend, September 17 & 18.
Scout railroading day, September 24.
Railroad society days, October 1 & 2.
Veterans Day living history, November 12 & 13.
Polar Exp., November 19, 20 & 25 - 27 [w/SEPT. ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY -Ed.].
For more see web.
- **Chesapeake & Allegheny Live Steamers**, Baltimore, MD. Phone: (410) 448-0730 Web: calslivesteam.org
Monthly, second Sunday from April - November, 11AM - 3:30PM
- **DCNRHS**, Washington, DC. Phone: (703) 273-8440 Web: www.dcnrhs.org
The Low Country Limited, November 7, 2016
- **Ma & Pa Railroad Heritage Village**, Airville, PA. Phone: (717) 927-9565 Web: www.maandparailroad.com
Railroad heritage day, September 24.
Fall leaf excursions, October 9, 16, 22 & 23.
- **Mountain Rail Adventures**, Includes rides out of Elkins, Cheat Bridge, Cass and Durbin, WV. Phone: (877) 686.7245 Web: mountainrailwv.com
Cass Halloween, October 29.
Elf Limited, November 25 - 27 & November 30 - December 11.
Polar Express, November 4 - 30 & December 1 - 18, 5PM & 7:15PM departures (See web for specific days).
- **National Capitol Trolley Museum**, Colesville, MD. Phone: (301) 384-6088 Web: www.dctrolley.org
Life as a transit employee, September 3, 4 & 5.
Cavalcade of street cars, September 18.
Thursday/Friday fall ops, October 6 - November 11, 10AM - 2PM (in addition to weekend ops).
Pumpkin trolley fest, October 15, 16, 22 & 23.

(Continued on next page)

Train Rides... (Continued from page 11)

- **Rockhill Trolley Museum**, Rockhill Furnace, PA. Phone: (814) 447-9576 *weekends*, (610) 428-7200

weekdays Web: www.rockhilltrolley.org

Snow Cone Days, September 3 & 4.
Grandparent's Days, September 10 & 11.
Caboose Day, September 17.
Ragtime music festival, September 24.
Fall Spectacular, October 8 & 9.
Pumpkin patch trolley, October 15 & 16.
Halloween costume days, October 22, 23, 29 & 30.
Polar Bear Express, November 25 & 26.

- **Potomac Eagle**, Romney, WV. Phone: (304) 424-0736 Web: www.potomaceagle.com
Petersburg fall foliage specials, October 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23.
Greenspring special, October 30.

- **Steam Into History**, New Freedom, PA. Phone: (717) 942-2370 Web: steamintohistory.com
Rebel raid/Union encampment, Hanover Jct., September 3 & 4.
Glen Rock Express, September 10.
General & Mrs. Lee, Hanover Jct., September 11.
Murder Mystery, September 18.
Gilmore's raid, Glen Rock/Hanover Jct., October 1 & 2.
Hanover Jct. Ltd./Glen Rock Exp., October 5.
Rebel train/Union encampment, Hanover Jct., November 5 & 6.
Lincoln & the Hanover Jct. Ltd., November 12 & 13.
Tannenbaum Christmas tree train, November 25.

- **Strasburg Railroad**, Ronks, PA. Phone: (866) 725-9666 Web: www.strasburgrailroad.com
Day out w/Thomas, September 1 - 4.
Vintage baseball day, October 9.
Steampunk Ltd., October 14 - 16.
Great train robbery, October 22.
Day out w/Thomas, November 18 - 20.
Night before Christmas, November 25.
Santa's Paradise Exp., November 25 - 27.

- **Walkersville Southern Railroad**, Walkersville, MD. Phone: (301) 898-0899 Web: wsrr.org
Jesse James, September 10.
Civil War, September 24.
Costume mystery dinner train, October 28 & 29.
Santa Train, November 26 & 27.



Walkersville Southern Railroad operates multiple runs on weekends through October. Santa Claus trains begin the last weekend of November and run through December 18th.

- **Western Maryland Scenic Railroad**, Cumberland MD. Phone: 1-800-872-4650, x105. Web: www.wmsr.com

Murder mystery, September 10 & 24.
Murder mystery, October 8 & 22.
North Pole experience, weekend, evenings beginning November 18.



SMD September layout preview: David Moltrup

Name: Moltrup Steel, and Beaver Falls & Shenango

Scale: HO

Size: 19'x22'

Prototype: Proto-freelanced

Locale: Beaver Falls, PA

Era: Mid-1960's

Style: Around the walls with peninsula

Mainline run: *Unknown*

Minimum radius: 28"

Minimum turnout: No.4 (mills) / No.6 (main)

Maximum grade: 2%

Train length: Up to 20 cars

Benchwork: Plywood and open grid

Height: 42"

Roadbed: Cork

Track: Code 100

Scenery: Plaster cloth with rock castings

Backdrop: Hardboard with photographs

Control: NCE DCC



Top: P & L E, B&LE, and PRR provide service. Center: There really was a Moltrup Steel Corporation. Bottom: Two blast furnaces occupy the center peninsula.



SMD October layout preview: Dave Thalman



Name: Pennsylvania Railroad - Wakanda Valley
Branch

Scale: HO

Size: 30' x 15'

Prototype: Pennsylvania Railroad

Locale: Central Pennsylvania - Middle Division

Era: 1940-50s

Style: Continuous loop mainline

Mainline run: 204 feet

Minimum radius: 30"

Minimum turnout: No.6

Maximum grade: 2.5%

Train length: 6 feet

Benchwork: Open grid

Height: 55-60"

Roadbed: Homabed, foam

Track: Code 83

Scenery: None yet

Backdrop: Sheetrock, airbrushed/stenciled clouds

Control: NCE DCC



Top: Trains of up to 6' in length climb and descend on the 2.5% helix grade.

Above: Multi-deck layout construction allows for 204 foot mainline runs.



SMD November layout preview: Mike Reed



Photo by Mike Reed



Photo by Mike Reed

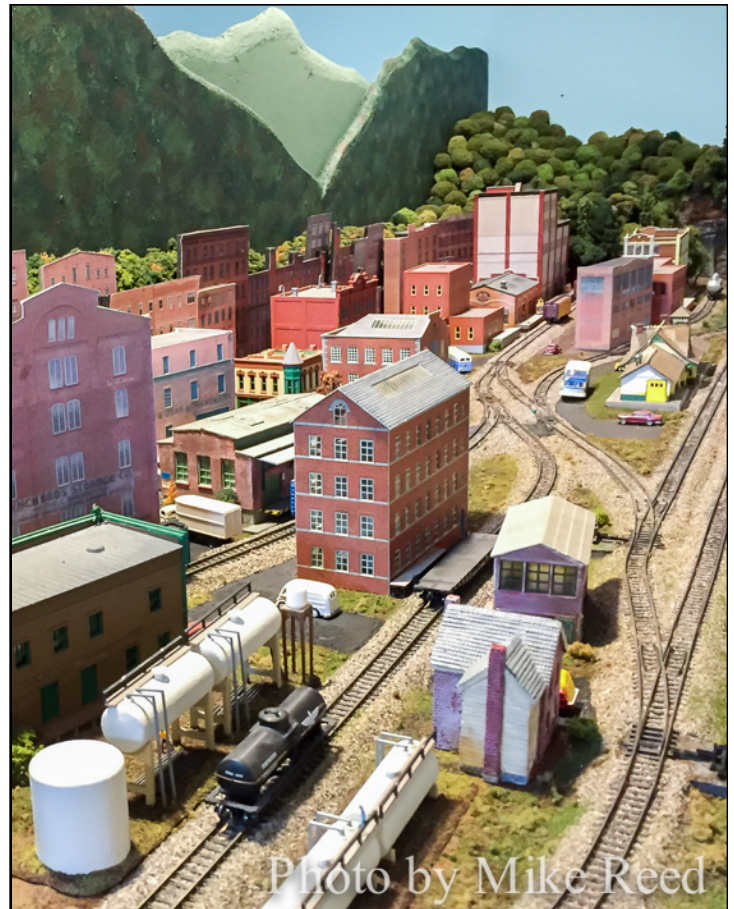


Photo by Mike Reed

Name: Maryland & Southern

Scale: N

Size: 28' x 13'

Prototype: Freelance

Locale: Western Maryland

Era: Transition

Style: Around the walls with 2 peninsulas

Mainline run: Approximately 80 feet

Minimum radius: Approximately 12" in places

Minimum turnout: No. 6 on mainline, No. 4 in yards

Maximum grade: 2% mainline, 4% branch line

Train length: 2 feet

Benchwork: Plywood tables

Track: Code Atlas 83

Scenery: Foam board with plaster

Backdrop: Hardboard, hand painted

Control: NCE DCC



Photo by Mike Reed

Clockwise: Operations are an important part of Mike's layout. Scenery has a western MD feel. Track work is mostly finished. Scenery is about 10% complete. The color scheme is based on the Southern Railway and Mike's college colors.