

# WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



smdnmra.org

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## Spring 2015

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### 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 8, 2015, 2 to 5 pm.  
Richard Lind's two freelance S scale B&O layouts. Richard has four 4-foot modules in the basement. One has a model of half of the Catoctin Creek Viaduct. The 5' by 9' layout upstairs is S highrail, representing a portion of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh. It will be converted to Code 100 scale to improve reliability.

Clinic: Bill Wilson will give an introduction to Panel-Pro.

**April** – Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9 am to 3 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.

Clinics: See article on page 2

**May** – Sunday, May 17, 2015, 2 to 5 pm Steve Bittenger's G-gauge Western Maryland, southwest of Charles Town WV. Steve's layout is indoor and outdoor prototype modeling. It represents a 26-mile subdivision of the WM in central West Virginia. Operation is by radio dispatcher and car cards. All locomotives are battery powered, sound equipped and radio controlled.

Clinic: To be determined, but we hope Steve will talk about his layout and explain the technology he uses to run it.

### WELCOME TO NEW SMD MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Richard Taylor, Robert Geldmacher, Jr., Warren Hart, Paul Mahoney, Leighton Scott, David Sweeney, David Basil, Sr., Tim Kalbflesh, Pamela Brandon, John Rundle, Juan Zubiaga, Joseph DiGirolamo, Richard Keller, Julien Lesh, Mark Thomas, Jerry Ryan, Dennis Moss and Mike Weisenmiller.

## MAINLINE HOBBY PRESENTS: THE THIRD ANNUAL SMD SPRING MINI-CONVENTION

Join us on Saturday April 18, 2015 in Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania!

**Who?** The April SMD meeting will be a joint event with Mainline Hobby Supply. We hope every member will stop by. Come see the great things we have planned, then walk over and browse in the store. This event will be open to the public. SMD will use it to spread the word about membership in the NMRA. Oh, and have a great fun time as well. Questions: Contact Pete Clarke at [ebtmx5@aol.com](mailto:ebtmx5@aol.com) or 301-253-4913.

**Where?** Brian Wolfe of Mainline Hobby Supply has rented the fire hall across the street from the shop. The address is Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co., 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit PA 17214. There's plenty of parking at the fire station.

**When?** Saturday, April 18th, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**What?** From 9 AM to 1 PM we'll have informal clinics going on constantly. These free-form, casual clinics allow you to watch as much or as little as you like and also allow you to really talk with the presenter to get deep into the topic. Same old topics as last year? No sir! There will be a mixture of old and new clinics: Super Trees, Fast Tracks, layout design, Achievement Program, casting walls, soldering mini LEDs or locomotive tune-up, structure painting, rejuvenating flea market finds, recycling old structures, timesaver layout, planting structures in an existing layout, making car card boxes, low-profile backdrops, easy truck weathering, building craftsman kits, and building models out of cardstock. Wouldn't you like to join in the fun and give one yourself? Contact Pete.

There will be a "Make it and take it" clinic featuring a laser-cut wood structure from Carolina Craftsman

Kits and a plastic structure from DPM. You may have the option to paint your structure.

Bob Van Zant and Lee Scott will have tables of items for sale. Jeff Grove will have his Carolina Craftsman Kits on display, and Larry Nice will have a table of railroadians for sale.

At 1:00 PM informal clinics will end and formal presentations will begin. One will be "Believable Scenarios for Freelance Model Railroads" and the other will be an interactive clinic called "Nice model railroad, what comes next?" Got an idea for clinics you'd like to see? Contact Pete.

All those who gave "informal clinics" at last year's mini-con reported that they had a great time and enjoyed the event. Wouldn't you like to demonstrate some aspect of the hobby you enjoy? You don't have to sweat over a PowerPoint presentation; you don't have to write a script. You could do something as simple as bring a model that you are working on with you and work on it. Then, just talk with anyone who stops by to look at what you are doing. Or, if you've got something to say (for example, The EBT is the perfect railroad to model!), here's a chance to say it. Contact Pete.

**What else?** Got some stuff you'd like to sell? You can have a table and sell your stuff. Note that SMD will not "man" the table for you. That will be up to you.

Rather just watch trains? Got you covered! Three modular groups (Western Maryland Historical Society, Steve Sherrill, and Bricktown Model Railroad Club) will be set up in the hall as well.

Food will be available on site; this year we'll have pizza delivered. Also new this year: ask the baker in your family to make a dessert treat and bring it for all to share. Pizza, soda, and baked goods; isn't that the perfect meal? We'll ask for donations to cover the cost of the food. So, tell everyone you meet, we want members and non-members to attend. Anyone interested in model railroading is welcome.

## FROM THE SUPER'S DESK

Hello folks. I hope everyone is making it through the cold weather. As I write this, it is supposed to be the coldest night of the winter thus far. Like most of you, I am ready for spring.

Normally this is the time of the year we are all hard at work on our model railroads. I'm no exception, I have been working in the train room getting it ready to start building a new layout. It is a good incentive to keep plugging away at the lighting and suspended ceiling.

Over the past several months, I have meet a lot of new members of this group. It is always a such a pleasure to sit down and talk to another model railroader because of their experience and knowledge. You can always learn something or rediscover something new.. I hope you all take advantage of such meetings.

We are very fortunate to be in this hobby with such a diversity of backgrounds, work experience and modeling skills.

We have a great spring planned. I hope to see you all soon.

Paul

## JUNE 7TH TRAIN TRIP AND PICNIC

By Stefanie Boss

The first Sunday in June 2015 (June 7) I am organizing a train trip for all who are interested (including spouses). We are planning a group train ride on the "Steam Into History" steam train which runs from New Freedom, Pa. to Hanover Junction. The cost of the trip is \$28 and it runs for 2 1/2 hours (leaving New Freedom at 2:30pm). If we end up with a group of 20 or more we will get a 10% discount.



The plan is to have a picnic near New Freedom (potentially in a nearby town called Railroad but I will confirm this at a later date). We would bring a pot luck lunch. Then we would proceed to the train at New Freedom. This is a very picturesque and scenic ride. In addition to the small towns we would travel through, we would stop at Hanover Junction where there is a museum about Lincoln and his stop there.

If you are not familiar with this train, I would suggest you visit their website "steamintohistory.com". The engine is a reproduction of an 1860's 4-4-0. The cars are also replicas.

As we get closer I will communicate more information. I am also planning on pointing out opportunities to carpool. Those interested could also drive to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore (38 miles from this train) early that morning and then meet us in Railroad (or wherever we end up picnicking).

Any questions or suggestions feel free to email Stefanie Boss, [sboss49@att.net](mailto:sboss49@att.net) (Mike Reed's wife and steam railfan in her own right)!

Thanks,  
Stefanie

## SPRING OPERATOR'S TRIP SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

The last few years we had such a good time operating on Dave Baker's 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 16<sup>th</sup> looked good to him for hosting an operating visit from the SMD crew.

Like past years, here is what we are doing: Saturday, May 16, 2015, 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 Lauris 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.

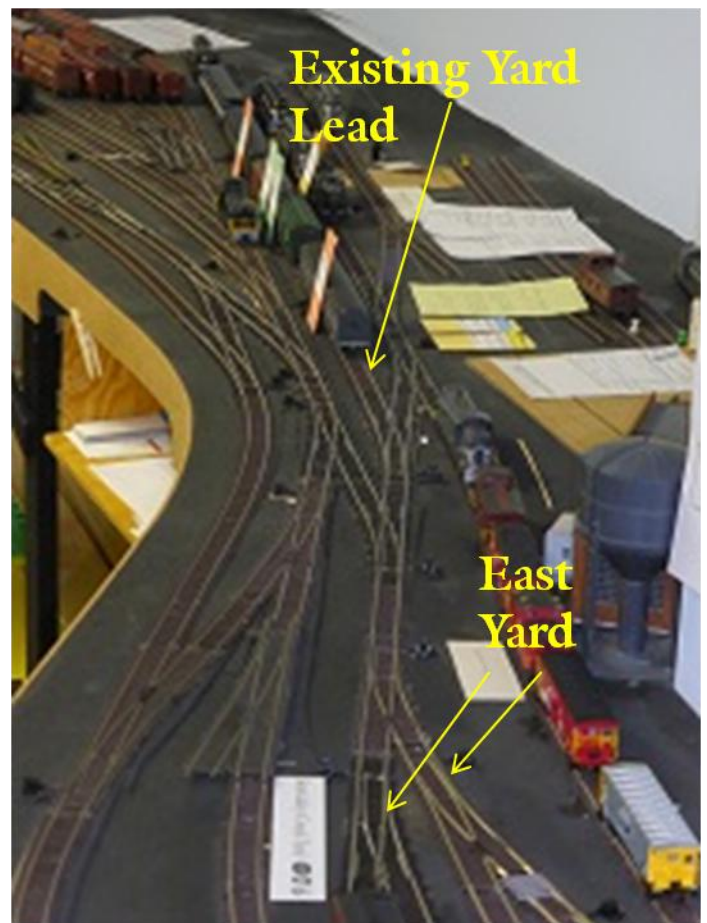
Sign up is the usual first come first served. You can e-mail Don Florwick at [DJFlorwick@comcast.net](mailto:DJFlorwick@comcast.net) or call or text him at 717-414-0660 to get on the list. So check your calendar and let Don know if you would like to join us.

## MER OPS SESSION INSPIRES CHANGES TO P&SP

by Don Florwick

Don asked for comments from MER ops session participants, and he got some thoughtful ones. The article below is edited from an email Don sent to one of the ops session participants to show how he cleared up some problems at Youngwood's Sewickley Yard. Ed.

Don speaks:

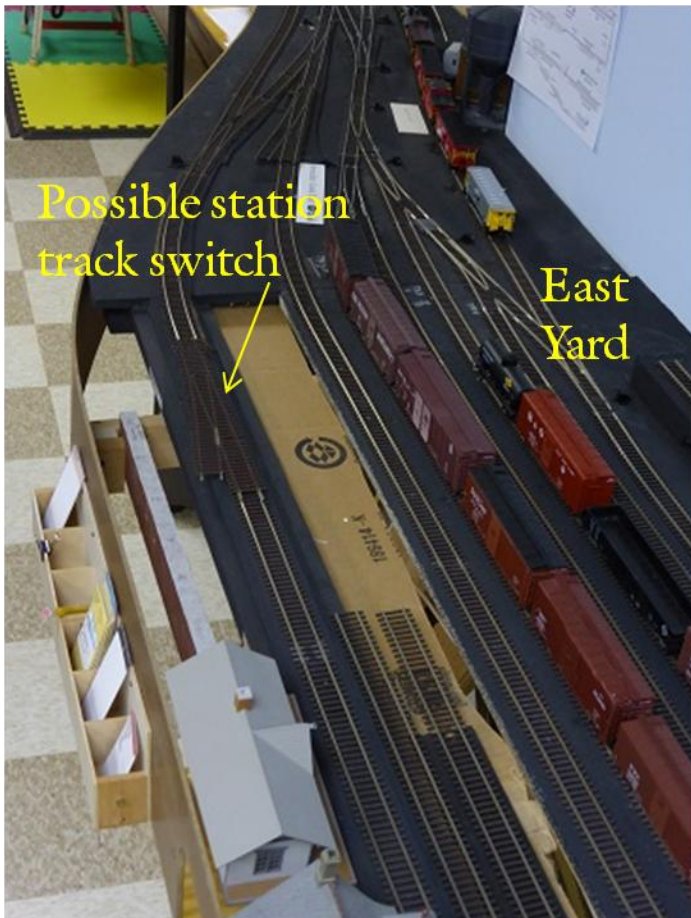


The picture above shows the state of the yard on the night that we were operating. There is an existing yard lead for East Yard but the passenger equipment is parked on it because there is no other good place for it to go. I had planned for the station at Youngwood to be towards the upper left hand corner of the picture above. The platform was to be

**PS&P CHANGES, continued**

between the main and the siding with the station itself imagined in the aisle since there was no room for a building there.

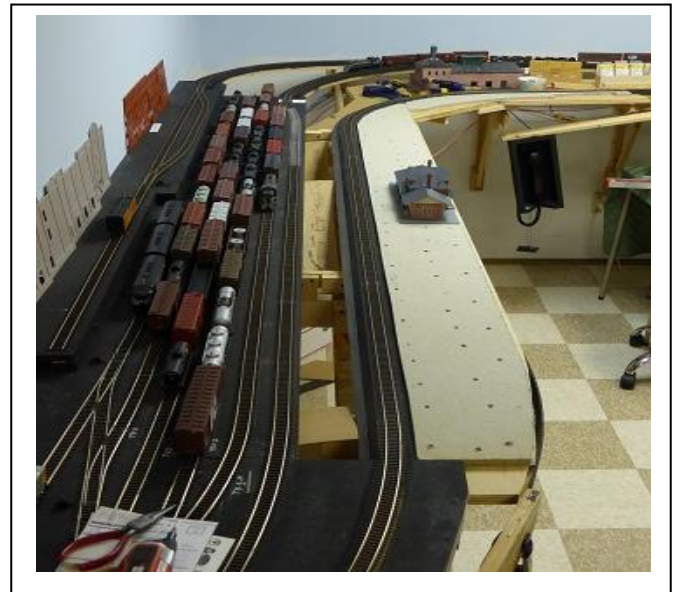
The next picture shows some experimenting with putting a station to the east of the main yard and possibly fitting in a siding to hold the Youngwood sleeper. That would give me a place to park the sleeper and free up the East Yard Lead Track. I could also have a station building at the site, which I much preferred doing. While this solved some of the problem, it appeared that it might be difficult to service the passenger train while in the station with the arrangement shown in the picture.



On the other hand, one advantage of moving east was there was more room in the aisle there for the passenger train operator and the yard crew. This

would also free congestion from the west yard and part of the main yard so that another yard master could continue working when a passenger train was in the station.

There's room to put another track where the cardboard filler is showing and maybe providing more flexibility here, however I wanted to place a stream there. This was the reason for the separation between the tracks in the first place. The track to the right of the cardboard is the Westmoreland secondary to the industries at New Stanton and to the auto plant at Westmoreland. The stream would give a nice reason for separation through this area.

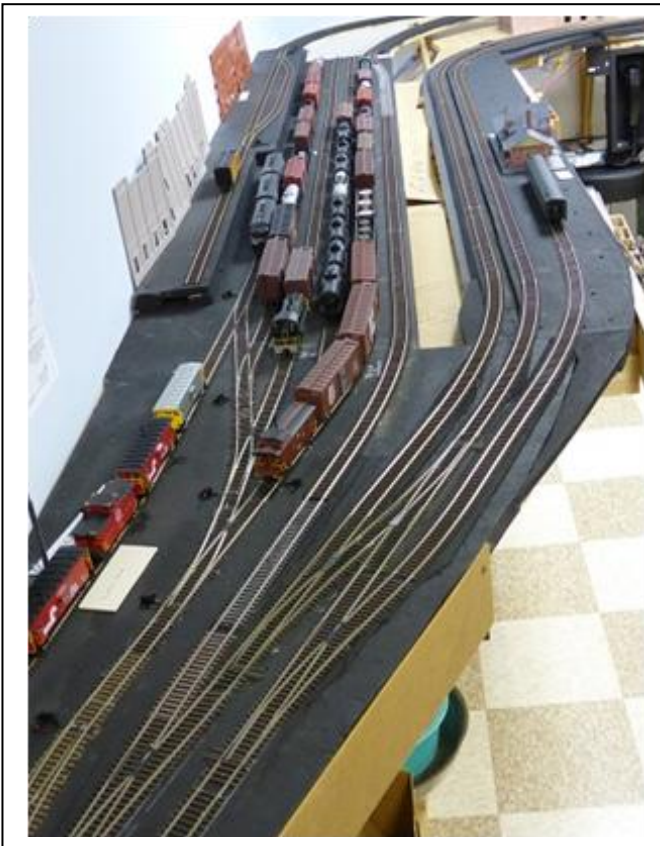


After seeing the station alongside the tracks in the picture above, I liked it. This looked like the right place to site the station. Since I had room in the aisle at this location I could also create more space to the aisle side of the main track. I am a small guy so first I checked my reach to the industry tracks against the wall before enlarging the table width. I was able to comfortably add 4 ½ inches to the table and the picture above shows the extension installed. I continued sub-roadbed down and around the far corner while I was at it. The extension gave me ample room for the station and possibly a passing track and station track.

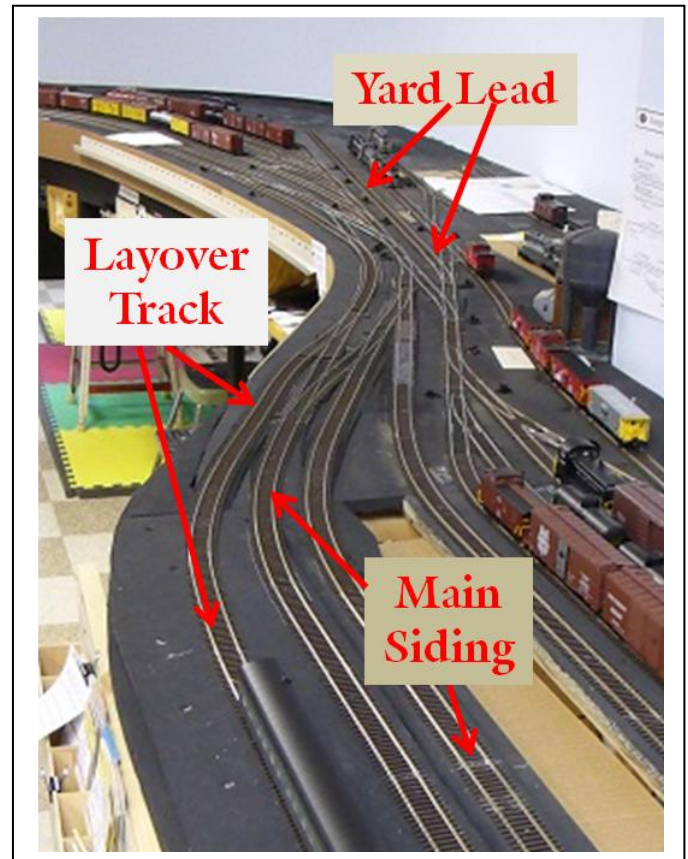
## PS&P CHANGES, continued

I decided to add a track to the right of the existing main track in the previous picture and to also put in a station track with enough length to hold the locals that came to Youngwood from Wheeling and Connellsville. Both these trains laid over in Youngwood for a few hours each day waiting for connecting traffic.

Once the alignment was determined for the siding and the new position of the main it was time to add back a crossover, put in the station track, and lineup and reconnect the Westmoreland Secondary.



In the picture above you can see all the connections have been made and the sleeper for Youngwood is happily tucked next to the newly sited station. There also is plenty of room on the station track to hold a local laying over. The siding rejoins the main just to the right of the curve in the upper right hand corner of this photo.



Here is a picture looking west. All of the new tracks fit in nicely and the yard lead is freed up and there finally is room for the passenger traffic on the P&SP.

## MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS

The annual Old Threshers Reunion has been held in Mount Pleasant, Iowa since 1950, always for five days, ending on Labor Day. It is one of the largest celebrations of our agricultural heritage and is arguably the largest steam and gas tractor event in the country. The Midwest Central Railroad circles the main exhibit area, providing transportation from North Station to South Station.. A trolley line circles a 5,000-spot camp ground. Besides the CW entertainment in the evening, there is continuous free entertain-ment provided on three stages scattered around the grounds during the day. The exhibit barns are open daily year-round as a museum.

## **SIDE TRIP TO MUDDY CREEK FORKS PA, JUNE 7th**

By Richard Lind

On Sunday, June 7th, you can take a side trip to Muddy Creek Forks PA. This is a preserved hamlet owned and maintained by the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society. For information see <http://www.maandparailroad.com>



Muddy Creek Forks consists of a privately owned late 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone house and a three-story wood general store built about 1900 that was also the post office and railroad station. The store is now a wheelchair accessible museum. Also on the site is a mill, grain elevator, fertilizer warehouse, a number of other buildings, and a couple miles of track stopping just short of Laurel PA. You will find Ma & Pa SW-9 No 82, two 8-wheel cabooses, flat car 110, tool car X-11, and the remains of other Ma & Pa equipment they hope to restore

On Sundays in the summer the buildings are open and they offer rides on an inspection car train. The train ride is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children, This is unlike any train ride you've ever taken, because you are so in touch with nature. However, taking your own seat cushion would be a good idea.

Despite it's remoteness, Muddy Creek Forks is easy to get to. It's 36 miles east of New Freedom PA via Pennsylvania Route 851 to New Park PA, where you bear left on New Park Road to Gatchettville and bear left again to stay on New Park Road to Muddy Creek Forks.

Along the way, Route 851 follows the Stewartsville Railroad into Stewartsville. The highway crosses the tracks at the engine house and turns left at the railroad station, where you will find Reading coaches and cabooses. They also offer a section car ride while they're upgrading their track.

## **MIDWEST CENTRAL RR. No. 6**

Number 6 on our back page, was built by Baldwin in October 1891 for the Surrey Sussex & Southampton Railway, a three-foot gauge line that operated in those Virginia counties. It worked for the Argent Lumber Company out of Hardeeville SC from 1926 to 1959. Midwest Central bought No. 6 along with No. 2 when the seven Argent locomotives were auctioned in February 1960. Midwest Central shortened the smokebox and converted it to burn oil, but retained Argent's Rushton stack.

## **MEETS, OPEN HOUSES AND TRAIN SHOWS**

**March 8, 2015, 2 to 5 pm. SMD meeting at Richard Lind's in Frederick MD. See his S scale modules and portable layout.**

March 14, 2015. 27<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 27-28, 2015. Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge. The Ramada Inn, 100 Ramada Inn Drive, Greensburg PA 15601. Presentations will

**MEETS & SHOWS, continued**

start 1 PM Friday afternoon and go through Saturday evening. Call Ramada Inn at 724-836-6060 and mention "Railroad Prototype Modelers" to reserve a room. For more information and registration form, [http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm\\_east/](http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/)

April 4, 2015. Bunker Hill Train Club Show, Ranson Civic Center, 10 AM to 3 PM, 431 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Ranson WV 25438. For more info, see [www.bunkerhilltrainclub.org](http://www.bunkerhilltrainclub.org) .

**April 18, 2015, 9 am to 3 pm. Model Railroader's Meet at Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Co. 13063 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA. 17214. Open to the public**

April 11-12, 2015. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Cow Palace, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

April 22-26 2015. Spring Work Camp. Stewartstown Railroad. For info see <http://stewartstownrailroadcompany.com/help-rebuild-the-railroad/>

**May 16, 2015, 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 17, 2015, 2 to 5 pm SMD meeting at Steve Bittenger's east of Martinsburg WV. See his indoor and outdoor G scale Western Maryland.**

June 6, 2015, 10 AM to 2 PM. Quincy (PA) Village Model Railroad Club open house - part of the Quincy Village Spring Fling

June 13-14, 2015, 10 AM to 5 PM. Mid-Atlantic Milling Weekend. From rain to flour. Old and new methods. Preserved Muddy Creek Forks Village PA. [www.maandparailroad.com/whatsnew.php](http://www.maandparailroad.com/whatsnew.php)

June 20-21, 2015. Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Exhibition Building, 2200 York Road, Timonium MD 21093 [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

August 23-30, 2015. Portland Daylight Express. The NMRA's annual convention, Portland OR. For more info, see <http://www.nmra.org/conventions>

August 28-30, 2015. National Train Show, Portland Espo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland OR 97217. see <http://www.nmra2015portland.org/trainshow>

September 3-7, 2015. Midwest Old Threshers and Settlers event, Mt. Pleasant IA. See <http://www.oldthreshers.org> .

**October 22 -25, 2015. Delaware Valley Turn. Mid-Eastern Region NMRA Convention hosted by the New Jersey Division at the Hotel ML, 915 Highway 73, Mount Laurel NJ 08054, just minutes from Philadelphia. For info, see <http://www.delawarevalleyturn.org/>**

**TRAIN RIDES**

March 7, 2015. Start of Sat. Sun Weekend service on the Strasburg Railroad. LO&S railcar will operate on weekdays, March 9-27, weather permitting. 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572 <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

March 30. 2015 start of daily service on the Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info

April 3-5, 2015. Easter Bunny train. Strasburg Railroad, 301 Gap Rd Ronks, PA 17572. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info

April 11, 2015. Steam Into History starts it's 2015 steam operating season. New Freedom PA. Prices for the Glen Rock run are \$26 for adults and \$15 for children, for the Hanover Junction 2 ½ hour run is \$28 for adults and \$15 for children. See <http://steamintohistory.com>



## TRAIN RIDES, continued

May 1, 2015. Operating season begins for the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See <http://www.wmsr.com>

May 2, 2015 Opening Saturday. Walkersville Southern Railroad, Walkersville MD. See <http://www.wsrr.org/schedule.htm> for more information.

May 2, 2015 Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. The 2015 schedule has been finalized and will be on their website shortly. See their schedule at <http://www.potomaceagle.info/trips.php>

May 16-17, 23-25, 30-31, 2015 Steam runs on the Walkersville Southern Railroad, Walkersville MD. See <http://www.wsrr.org/schedule.htm> for more information

### June 7, 2015. SMD ride on Steam Into History at New Freedom PA.

Summer and fall Sundays, starting June 7th. 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>

June 20 - 28, 2015. Day Out with Thomas. Strasburg Railroad, East Strasburg PA. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for info.

July 18, 2015. The Rolling Antique Auto Show and Run. Strasburg Railroad, East Strasburg PA. <http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/train-schedule/events/>

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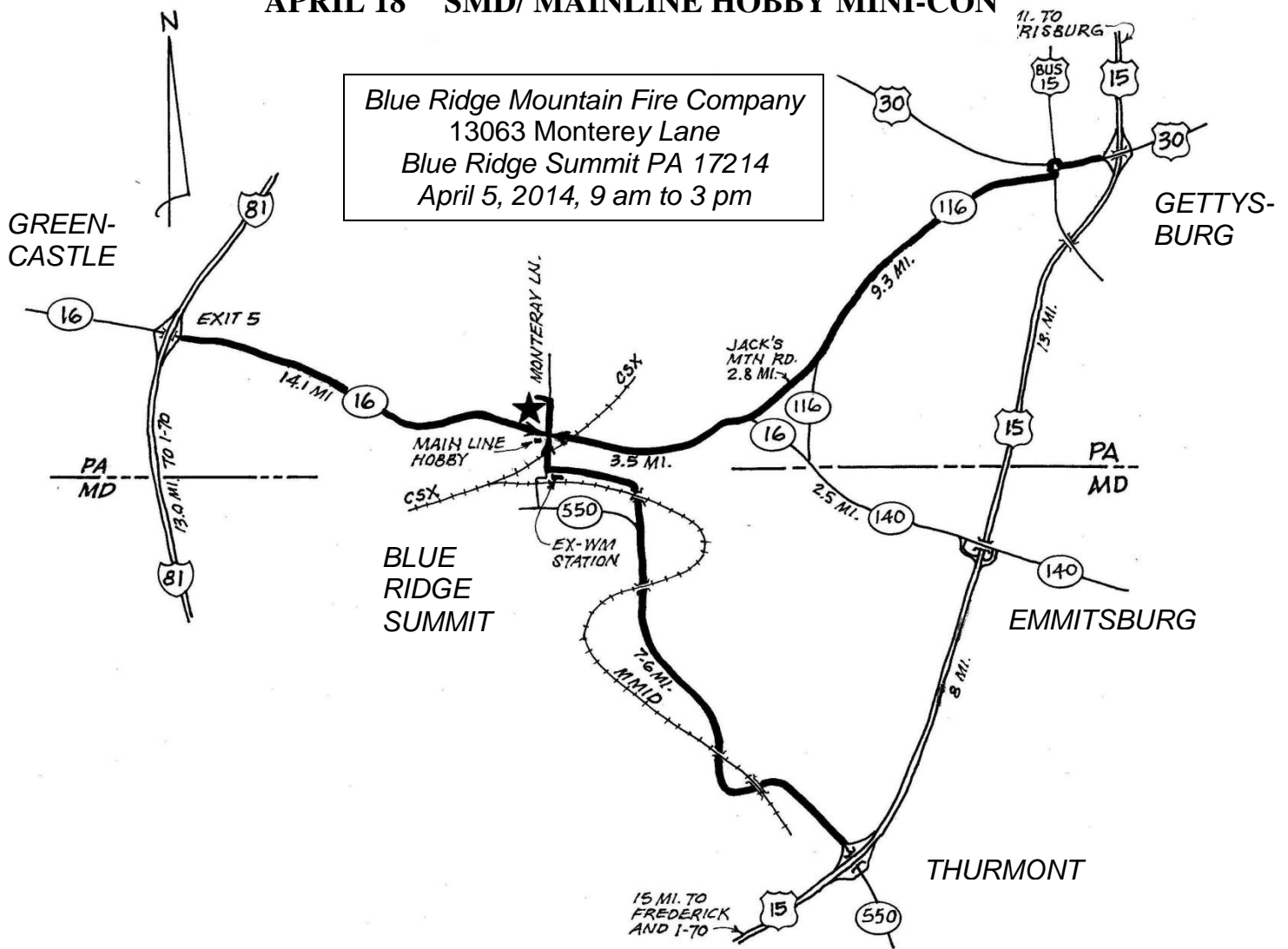
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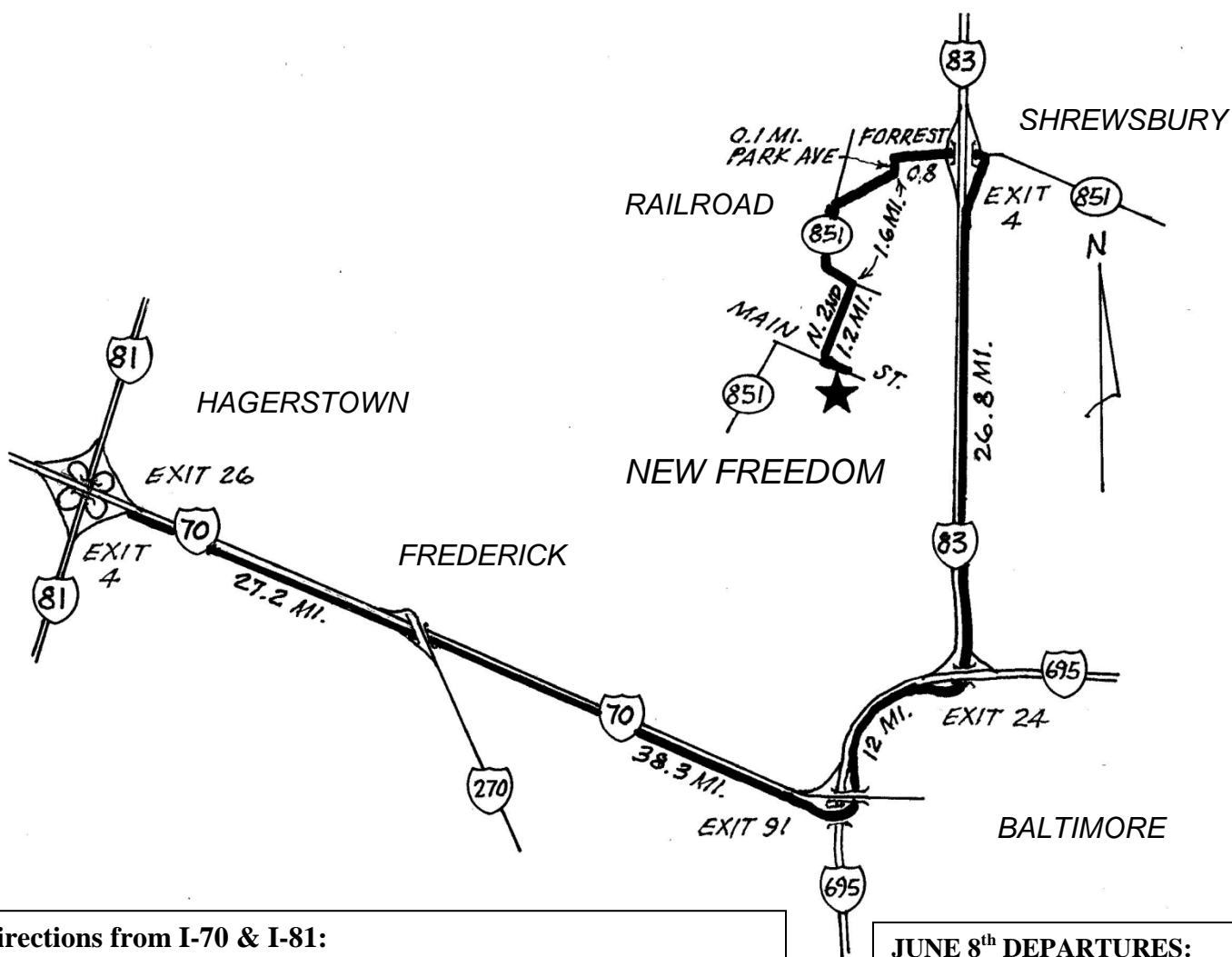
Richard Lind  
(301) 694-9496

### APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> SMD/ MAINLINE HOBBY MINI-CON

Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Company  
13063 Monterey Lane  
Blue Ridge Summit PA 17214  
April 5, 2014, 9 am to 3 pm



## JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> SMD TRAIN RIDE STEAM INTO HISTORY – NEW FREEDOM PA



**Directions from I-70 & I-81:**  
 Go east on **I-70** from the **I-70/I-81 Interchange** 65.5 miles **MERGE** into **I-695 N** via **Exit 91 B-A** toward Timonium and go 12.0 miles. After passing the exits for I-83 S and Falls Road N, move into the **RIGHT** lane and keep straight to take **I-83 N** via **Exit 24** toward York. Go north 26.7 miles, passing into Pennsylvania. Take **Exit 4** for **PA Route 851** toward **Shrewsbury** and stay in the left lane on the exit ramp. Turn **LEFT** onto **Forrest Ave./PA 851** and go 0.8 miles, passing through Shrewsbury. Turn **LEFT** to stay on PA 851 and go 0.1 miles on **Park Avenue**. Bear **RIGHT** onto **W Railroad Ave./PA 851** and go 1.6 miles, passing through **Railroad PA**, where you will turn **LEFT** onto **S Main Street** at the stop sign. Turn **RIGHT** onto **N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/PA 851** and go 1.2 miles. Turn **LEFT** onto **W Main Street** and go about a city block. **2 W. Main Street** is the storefront building on your **RIGHT**. You will find parking south and north of Steam Into History’s building.

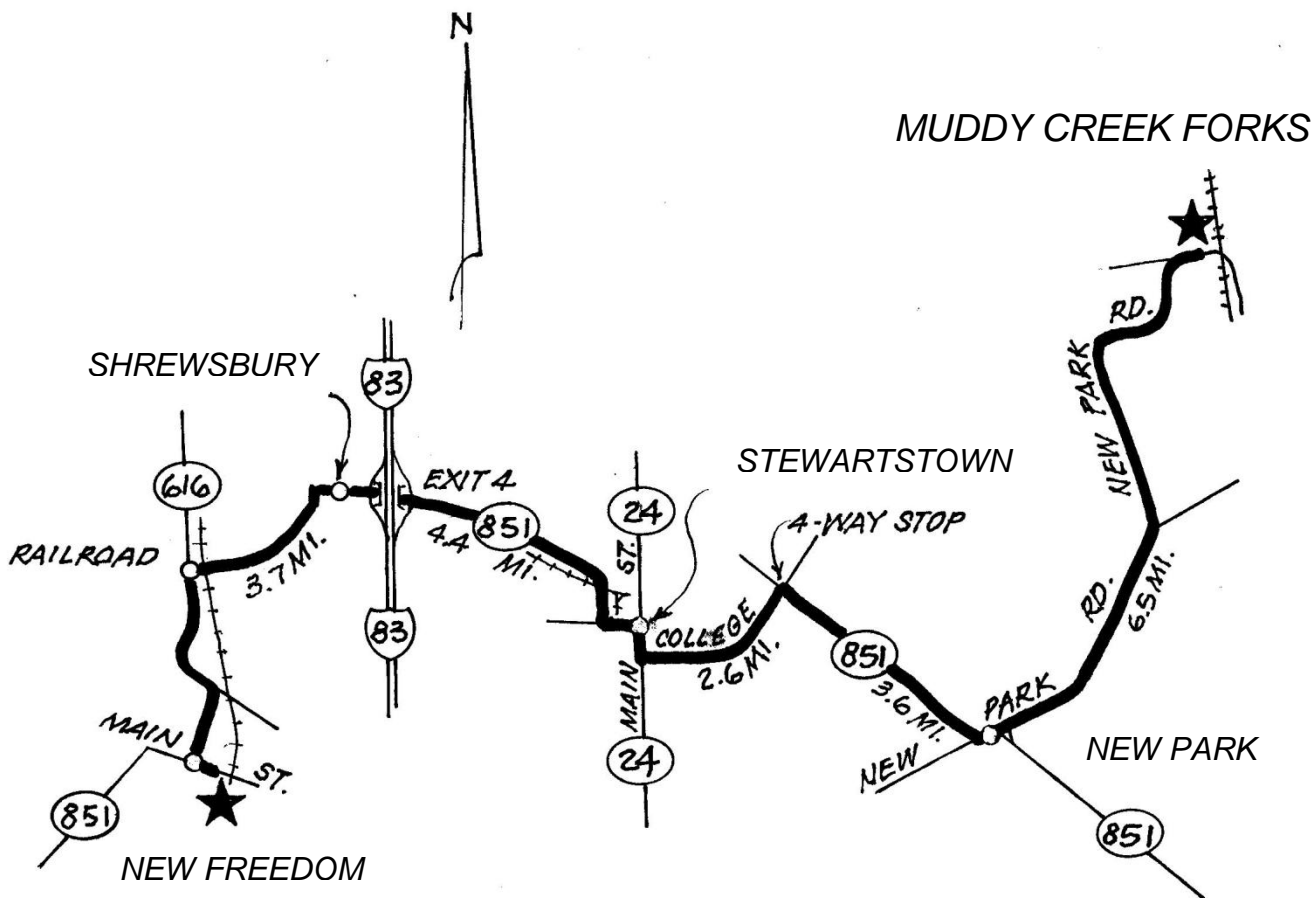
**JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> DEPARTURES:**  
 9:00 AM to Hanover Jct  
 11:00 AM to Glen Rock  
 2:30 PM to Hanover Jct

**ENTERTAINMENT:**  
 Kent Courtney  
[www.livinghistorymusic.com](http://www.livinghistorymusic.com)

<b>ROUND TRIP FARES</b>	
Glen Rock	
Adults	\$22
Children (3—13)	\$14
Hanover Junction	
Adults:	\$27
Children	\$15

## OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP TO Ma &amp; Pa RAILROAD HERITAGE VILLAGE

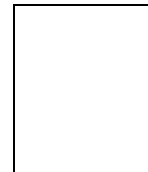
1258 Muddy Creek Forks Road, York PA

**Directions from Steam Into History:**

Start out by going west on **W. Main Street**, Take the first **RIGHT** onto **North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/ PA Route 851** and go 1.2 miles. Turn **LEFT** onto **South Main Street** to stay on **PA Route 851** and go 1.6 miles, turning **RIGHT** onto **East Main Street** at the stop sign in the village of **Railroad**. **East Main Street** becomes **West Railroad Avenue**. Take a slight **LEFT** onto **Park Avenue** and take the second **RIGHT** onto **Forrest Avenue** to stay on **PA Route 851**. Go east on **Forrest Avenue/Route 851** 0.8 miles to the interchange with **I-83**. Continue east on **Route 851** 4.8 miles to **Stewartstown**. Turn **LEFT** onto **Pennsylvania Ave**, and go 0.1 miles to a stop sign. Turn **RIGHT** onto **N. Main St./PA Route 24/PA Route 851** and go 0.2 miles. Take the first **LEFT** onto **College Ave./PA Route 851** and go 2.6 miles to a 4-way stop. Turn **RIGHT** onto **Woolen Mill Rd./PA Route 851** and go 3.3 miles to a stop sign in **New Park**. Take a slight **LEFT** onto **New Park Rd./Pa Route 851** Go a short block and take a slight **LEFT** to stay on **New Park Road**. Go 6,5 miles, staying on **New Park Road** almost to the Ma & Pa railroad tracks. Park in the lot in front of Grove's General Store.

# WHEEL REPORT **SMD**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA



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



Midwest Centrl RR. at Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, Mt. Pleasant IA

R. Lind photo Aug. 30, 2014