

Volume 23/24 – 1 September 2023



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From the Desk of the Superintendent:

Welcome to the start of the 2023 / 2024 SMD program year. Per our long standing “normal” schedule we will be meeting once a month throughout the coming division year. The September through March meetings will be held on the second Sunday of each month from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The April meeting will be our annual Mini-Con and will be held on the second Saturday (tentative) of April at the Blue Ridge Summit fire hall (across from Main Line Hobby Supply) and the May meeting will be held on the third Sunday of the month to avoid a conflict with Mother’s Day. I am looking forward to another successful year of model railroading activities and hope that all of you will join in sharing your knowledge and talents with the rest of the division. -Bob Johnson

September Meeting:

Our host for the first meeting of the year (September 10, 2023) will be Don Florwick. His Pittsburg and South Pennsylvania Railroad depicts a portion of the South Pennsylvania Railroad (prototype) as if it had been finished and was operating as an independent line. The layout occupies 1100 sq. ft. of space and is operated by a NCE DCC system. The layout features a number of major industries and a significant amount of thru traffic is also present during operating sessions.

Clinic – TBD

Email the Division southmountaindiv@gmail.com for Don’s address.

Meeting Hosts Needed:

We are still in desperate need of hosts for the October through January meetings for this year. We have a couple of offers but they are individuals who hosted last year and in general we try to avoid repeating hosts back to back. We thought we had a host for October but last minute conflicts raided their nasty head so we are back to looking for an October host. If you would like to host, or even have a question about hosting, contact the division

Superintendent at southmountaindiv@gmail.com at your earliest opportunity. As list of scheduled meeting hosts will be included in the next issue of the Wheel Report.



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New Wheel Report Format:

As previously announced earlier this summer the Wheel Report is going to a new format this year. In general each edition will be smaller but it will be issued on a monthly basis as a part of an attempt to keep everyone more engaged in division activities. It will primarily cover upcoming division activities and other items of significant interest to the membership. This will include schedule model railroad related activities such as hobby shows, and regional activities. To a large degree we will depend on the membership to notify us of these upcoming events so if you are aware of any such activities please let the Wheel Report editor know as soon as possible.

We will also publish short articles submitted by the SMV members that they think the general membership may be interested in on an "as submitted" basis. This can include anything from an update on your modeling activities to a mini-clinic that you have written up.

Remember – this is your division and we are depending on you to support us and provide us with content for the Wheel Report.

Recent Division Activities:

On Friday, August 11th, a group of SMD members and their guests visited the East Broad Top Railroad (the real one – not Jane and Pete Clarke's model thereof) for a very interesting and informative day of railfanning. The turnout was rather small but those who participated had a very interesting time. We started out with a walking tour of the remains of the coal mining area around Robertsdale led by our own Pete Clarke. This gave me a better understanding of how the mines actually operated.

Following a quick pizza lunch (provided by the SMD) we drove to Orbisonia (bit of an issue with road closures) for a guided tour of the facilities at Rock Hill to include the freight house, round house, mail shops, and a look in the door to the remains of the foundry. We then rushed off to ride a train pulled by some smoky old steam engine (newly restored number 16).

On our return to Rock Hill we then rode a trolley and had a tour of both the trolley barn and the trolley restoration shops. All in all, it was a good day with good company and good weather.

WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

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Coming Events:

- September 16 & 17, 2023: Mainline Hobby Supply annual Open House and Self-Guided Layout Tours. Doors open at 9:00 AM each day.
- Fri, Oct 13 – Sat, Oct 14: Great Scale Model Train Show (Oct 2023) Fairgrounds Center, 2101 York Rd, Timonium, MD
- Sat, Oct 14, 9 AM – 1 PM: NOVA Model Railroaders Open House, Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Rd NE Vienna, VA
- October 19-22, 2023: Round the Curve to Altoona 2023, Mid-Eastern Region Convention, Altoona Grand Hotel, Hosted by the Susquehanna Division 11 <https://www.mer2023.org/>

Renew On Line:



You can renew your NMRA membership on line at the following link;
<https://www.nmra.org/store/membership>

Remember that your national membership automatically includes membership in both the Mid-East Region and the South Mountain Division and you will receive the NMRA Bulletin electronically on a regular basis.

Membership is a requirement for insurance purposes but guests can attend one or two meetings without joining. There is also a trial membership category available at a reduced cost (see link above).

SMD Officers and Officials:

Superintendent: Bob Johnson

Clerk: Harvey Heyser

Paymaster: Ray Price

Webmaster/Digital Assets Manager: Tom Fedor

Wheel Report Editor: Alex Polimeni

Division Achievement Program Coordinator: Jane Clarke