

Volume 23/24 – 2 October 2023



smdnmra.org

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

I am happy to report to you that the 2023/2024 SMD program year is off to a good start. Attendance at the September meeting is historically small, but 17 members attended this year's meeting which is very close to average for a regular meeting. This number included at least three "new" members. We welcome them and hope they will continue to participate.

My thanks to our gracious host, Don Florwick (well at least Betty was gracious). The one shortcoming was that we did not have a clinic of any type presented. Don filled in by giving us an excellent overview of the "back story" for his Pittsburgh and South Pennsylvania Railroad. -Bob Johnson

October Meeting:

Our host for the October will be Larry Daily. Larry has been a member of the NMRA for several years but says that until now he has always been a "lone wolf" modeler. In a burst of enlightenment, he decided to get more out of the hobby by becoming active with the NMRA. He has taken the big step of hosting us at only the second meeting he will have attended so I encourage all of you to come to the October meeting and show him a big SMD welcome.

Larry's layout is based on the C&O's Piedmont Subdivision in late spring/early summer of 1970. It occupies a good bit of his basement. The track plan is basically a big oval bent into an L-shape, about 25.50 feet on the long leg and 17.67 feet on the short side. About two-thirds of the scenery is completed and many of the structures represent actual buildings found on the prototype (this is always a modeling challenge). He says that if you really want to know whether it's worth the trip, you can check it out on his web site <http://www.piedmontsub.com/Layout.shtml>.

Clinic – TBD

Email the Division southmountaindiv@gmail.com for Larry's address.

WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

smdnmra.org

Meeting Hosts Needed:

As of this writing we have filled five of the eight meeting slots for the coming year. We still need meeting hosts for November, December, and January. Remember that without hosts we cannot hold our meetings so I encourage any of you who can to throw your hat in the ring (it is painless). We are also always looking for clinic presenters so keep that in mind also. 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.

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 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 SMD members you believe the general membership will be interested in on an "as submitted" basis. This can include anything from an update on your modeling activities to a tutorial or 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:

In addition to our regular September meeting, the SMD co-sponsored the layout tours program associated with Mainline Hobby Supply's annual open house on September 16th and 17th. A large number of SMD member layouts were included on the tour and we thank all of you who opened your doors for helping.



smdnmra.org

Coming Events:

- 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