

**Volume 23/24 – 3**

**November 2023**



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## **From the Desk of the Superintendent:**

First, I want to thank Larry Daily for hosting the October SMD meeting. Larry is a new member and stepped up right away by hosting. Larry's layout is one of the few photo-realistic layouts I have ever seen. He is modeling a specific place and time, and many of the scenes on the layout are documented by photos of the actual locations which confirm his skill in recreating these scenes in miniature.

We still need a host for the December 2023 membership meeting. All of the rest of the 2023/2024 meeting venues have been spoken for. If you can host us in December please let me know as soon as possible. We are also looking for volunteers to present clinics at a number of the meetings. These mini-clinics add interest to the meetings and provide additional value to those attending. Any railroad prototype and/or modeling topic is fair game for a clinic. You don't need to develop a "professional" presentation so don't worry about your presentation skills.

Finally, we are looking for one or more volunteers to join the SMD management team. One position I would like to fill is a membership coordinator. This position's duties would include new member recruiting efforts and welcoming new members to the Division. Again, if you think you might be interested let me know. -Bob Johnson

## **November Meeting:**

Our November SMD membership meeting will be held on Sunday, 12 November, starting at 2:00 PM. For this meeting we will be making a return visit to Steve King's "N" scale Virginia Midland railroad. Steve's railroad recalls both the N&W and the Virginian Railroads, featuring heavy coal operations in the mountains of Southwest Virginia and surrounding areas.

Steve resides in Fayetteville, PA (It is two houses down the street from Don Florwick's home, whom we visited in September.). Email the Division [southmountaindiv@gmail.com](mailto:southmountaindiv@gmail.com) for Steve's address.

Clinic - Grant Harrison will be presenting a clinic on the lighter side of railroading (traction/trolleys) that addresses both prototype and modeling considerations. This topic couples nicely with the Division's visit to the Trolley museum in Rock Hill this past summer.

# WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

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## Reminder:

SMD membership meetings are always the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2PM. The only exceptions are for April, when the Mini-Con replaces our business meeting, and in May, which will take place one week later, on the 3rd Sunday.

## Wheel Report Content:

Hey, folks! It's your friendly Division newsletter editor, Alex Polimeni. As you've likely noticed, I've struggled to deliver a timely, informative Wheel Report since taking over from the always capable Tom Fedor last year.

The vision behind this new era of the *Wheel Report* was to move from a magazine- style format toward more of a bulletin- not unlike the publication's very namesake.

What this format requires (and I've not been quick enough to deliver upon) is punctual sourcing. My intention, going into the current SMD year, has been to publish the WR the Sunday two weeks before a membership meeting (and yes, you're reading this one week before our November meeting at Steve King's).

If we infer a deadline allowing several days lead time, and 2-3 weeks for you to work up quality content, I need to be prepping your WR about two months in advance. So, here's how I intend things to shake out going forward...

The WR deadline for content submission will be the 3rd Sunday of each month. In addition to the Superintendent's editorial, upcoming meeting details, and Division management info, you can expect the following articles:

- **Recent Activities**

I'll be asking about what we've been up to at each month's meeting, so that I may get in touch and share what our Division members have been up to in the wider world of model railroading.

- **Coming Events**

A shortlist of railroad related things happening in our area. I'll need everyone's help on this one, though, as you always hear about things I've no idea about.

- **Bits & Bobs**

My personal favorite, inspired by club newsletters of olde. Don't worry, I'll pester folks directly for this one.

- **Trackside Photos**

Everyone has a smartphone these days, so please, put them to use! Submit a photo of something on your layout (or a layout you've visited!) with a brief caption, and I would love to add it in.

# WHEEL REPORT **SMD**

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- **Member Highlight**

Something I've wanted to do since the start, I'd like to begin writing up brief interviews/biographies of Division members- especially newcomers!- and covering their stories in the WR. Considering our Division covers four states, we have an incredibly varied membership and I would very much like to reflect that.

So, yeah! That's the plan. I've dropped the ball thus far, and can only thank you for the incredibly gracious patience you've shown for it. I've already begun assembling some the above for our December WR, and I am very excited to finally realize the things I've seen in my mind's eye since taking over as editor.

I hope you all have a happy Thanksgiving, and we'll talk again soon! -Alex Polemini



## **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