

Volume 23/24 – 4

December 2023



[smdnmra.org](http://smdnmra.org)

## From the Desk of the Superintendent:

As I am sure all of you know by now, the December meeting of the South Mountain Division has been annulled due to a lack of a venue host. That is the bad news. The good news is that all of the rest of the meetings for the 2023 / 2024 program year are set. The schedules for the balance of the year are as follows:

**January - Dave Thalman, Winchester, VA.** Dave will be presenting a clinic on his recent mountain scenery experience using Woodland Scenics new Shaper Sheets.

**February - Jane and Pete Clarke, Damascus, Maryland.** They will be providing us with an update on the progress being made on the revitalization of the 12" to the foot East Broad Top Railroad.

**March - Bob Johnson, Jefferson, MD.** Tentatively division member Larry Daily will be presenting a clinic on developing plans for structures working from photographs.

**April - Mini-Con – Blue Ridge Summit, PA.**

**May- Jay Beckham, Berkley Springs, WV.** Clinic TBD Detailed information, including layout descriptions, special directions / parking info, etc. will be provided in the *Wheel Report* each month.

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.

## 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

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

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## Mini Con 2024:

We have finally been given a firm date for the 2024 Mini-Con at Blue Ridge Summit. That date (put it on your calendars) is Saturday, April 6th. The format for this year's event will be the same as last year with informal table clinics in the morning, a "Ask the Expert" round table during the lunch break (on site catering) and another round of informal table clinics after lunch. Tentatively we will have a modular layout group at the convention this year.

Mini-Con coordinator Grant Berry will be reaching out to the membership in the near future to line up clinicians. If you would like to volunteer right now shoot Grant a message at [southmountaindiv@gmail.com](mailto:southmountaindiv@gmail.com) and we will put you in contact with him.

## Bits & Pieces:

**Free magazine offer** - "I have been an NMRA member for many years and was an active model railroader for many years as well. I gave it up about three years ago due to age and lack of adequate space for a layout or a workshop. However, during the time that I was active I also subscribed to the primary modeling magazines (*Model Railroader*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, etc.) and accumulated an archive that in some cases covers about 50 years at least in part. My collection is available free to anyone who would like to have the magazines. They are sorted by name and year. They are boxed. They have been stored in a dry, smoke free location and I would sure like to give them to someone. I am contacting you because I have had no luck giving these magazines away and I am about to give up and try to take them to a recycler. I can provide a list identifying the magazines and years/months that I have."

Reginald Bowman, Williamsport, MD

*Ed. - Email [southmountaindiv@gmail.com](mailto:southmountaindiv@gmail.com) and we will put you in contact with him.*

**Decal Printing** - Division member Gary Snook has made the following offer.

"Would anyone in the division be interested in printing their own white decals? I have a printer that will print white."

Gary Snook

*Ed. - Email [southmountaindiv@gmail.com](mailto:southmountaindiv@gmail.com) and we will put you in contact with him.*

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## **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