

Volume 24/25 – 8

April 2025



smdnmra.org

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

By Bob Johnson

This month's *Wheel Report* will be rather abbreviated. There is no regular meeting in April but don't forget to attend the annual Mini-Convention which is happening this coming Saturday 5 April, at the Blue Ridge Summit fire hall (across the street from Mainline Hobby Supply). More on that follows!

I want to thank Jane and Pete C for hosting the March meeting. Just think – their layout is so realistic that another group up in Pennsylvania have copied it in 12 inches to the foot scale.

I will be handing over the reigns of the SMD to Dan Mulhearn for the 2025 – 2026 program year. Thanks to Dan for stepping up to assume the position of Superintendent. He will be looking for members to host our monthly meetings next year (starting in September of 2025). Please consider being a host – specially if you have not hosted in several years or never hosted at all.

The doors for the 2025 SMD Mini-Con will officially open at 9:00 AM but feel free to come earlier to help set up.

A big "Thank You" to Grant Berry for again taking the lead this year. As always there will be a limited supply of donuts available to reward the people helping with the set up and lunch will be available on site. Don F and Ray P are again helping with the registration (and probably many others that I am missing – my apologies). I also want to thank the volunteer clinicians because without you there would be no Mini-Con.

New officer elections were held at the March meeting. As previously mentioned Dan Mulhearn is taking over as Superintendent in July and Ray Price is the official Clerk / Paymaster. We are still looking for someone to take on the Clerk's (secretary) position. Since this is an elected position you need to live within the boundaries of the SMD to officially hold this position. That being said – if one of our many unofficial members (NMRA members living outside of the SMD area) would consider "assisting" Ray in the Clerk's position please let me know ASAP.

In addition, we need a number of volunteers to serve in "appointed" positions (especially *Wheel Report* Editor). A listing of the primary positions, along with a description of the associated duties, was published in the [December Wheel Report](#) and on our [web site](#).



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May Meeting:

The last meeting of the 2024 – 2025 program year is scheduled for 18 May (3rd Sunday to avoid Mother's Day conflict). Dan Mulhearn has arranged for us to visit the Quincy Village model railroad layout room. More information will be provided in May's *Wheel Report*.

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.

Please consider hosting a meeting sometime during the 2025 - 2026 program year. Email southmountaindiv@gmail.com. We try to avoid back-to-back repeat visits so if you have never hosted, or it has been a year or so since you did, give it a thought.

The meeting schedule for the balance of the year is:

April 5th (first Saturday) – Annual Mini-Con – Blue Ridge Summit, PA.

May 18th (3rd Sunday to avoid Mother's Day conflict) – Dan M has arranged for us to visit the Quincy Village model railroad layout room.

Wheel Report Content:

We are always looking for *Wheel Report* content from the membership. Articles addressing prototype railroading (including your experiences while visiting a prototype location) and model railroading (how you designed / built your layout, modeling structures, model railroad operations, etc. All of this adds interest to your *Wheel Report* and builds membership enthusiasm.

If you would like to submit an article please email southmountaindiv@gmail.com. *Wheel Report* articles should be formatted in a Microsoft Word compatible file or pasted into the body of the email. Please do not submit PDF files. Pictures for articles should be attached to the email, with their corresponding captions clearly labeled with each picture's file name so they can be matched to each image. Do not paste images into a Word document. All submissions and pictures must be the property of the author to be considered for publication.

2027 MER Convention:

We have volunteers for an exploratory committee to get things started for the 2027 MER convention which we are scheduled to host.

WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

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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.

SMD Officers and Officials:

Superintendent:	Bob Johnson
Clerk:	Alex Polimeni
Paymaster:	Ray Price
Webmaster/Digital Assets Manager:	Tom Fedor
Wheel Report Editor/Publisher:	Bob Johnson
Wheel Report Contributing Editor:	Alex Polimeni
Division Achievement Program Coordinator:	Jane Clarke
Mini-Con Coordinator:	Grant Berry