

Volume 25/26 – 2

October 2025



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From the Desk of the Superintendent:

By Dan Mulhearn

I was reading recently of some politician, I believe it may have been a vice president who said, "This job is just one dxxx thing after another." I know the feeling. Thanks to the wonderful physical therapy and occupational therapy staffs here at Quincy Village; I was off the walker and even driving again. Subsequently, on September 11th, myself and two other gentlemen seated at my table tested positive for COVID-19. My apologies for not being able to attend our September gathering. As this is written my quarantine ends tomorrow. Barring some other dxxx thing I look forward to our October meeting as well as the annual [MER Convention](#) at King of Prussia, 16-19 October.

Have you downloaded the latest [MER newsletter](#)? It updates us on National and Regional happenings. There are also well done articles on such things as decals, structure building and other items of interest. It is well worth your time.

Our Division needs volunteers willing to host a Division Meeting at their home. If that volunteer is you, please reach out to [Division staff](#) to put that in motion. We are always interested in what you've been up to and enjoying the progress on your model railroad.

October Meeting:

The Sunday, 12 October meeting will be held at Bob Johnson's home where we will be visiting the West Virginia Midland RR (WVM). This is a stand gauge short line operation that features steep grades and lots of geared engines. The Midland is a "what might have been" railroad inspired by the prototype West Virginia Midland and is set in the early summer of 1954. The only catch is that the real WVM was a narrow-gauge line that went out of business in 1930. In my world the WVM survived the great depression, converted to standard gauge and prospered during World War II. Like the prototype, the WVM is based in and around Webster Springs, WV. It connects with the B&O on the west end and Western Maryland Ry on the east.

As usual, the meeting starts at 2:00PM.

Please email southmountaindiv@gmail.com to obtain the street address.

Park on the street in front of the house walk down the driveway. Enter through the basement door at the rear of the house (directional signage will be posted).



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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.

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 schedule is as follows.

- November 9th - Larry Daily; Shepherdstown, WV.

Hosts Needed:

As of this writing we do not have any meeting hosts signed up for December through May of 2026. We need volunteers to step up as hosts. Your layout doesn't need to be large, or finished, or even operational. Without hosts we cannot hold our meetings. Repeat hosts (within the past year) are okay but we really would like to see some layouts that we have not visited for a couple of year or never seen at all. If you would like to host, or have any questions concerning hosting please contact your Division superintendent at southmountaindiv@gmail.com.

Mini-Clinics:

It has long been the policy of the SMD to present mini-clinics at each meeting. In some cases clinics are conducted by the host. However, not every host is in a position to do so. We are asking for members to volunteer to develop and present mini-clinics at meetings to fill these gaps. If you can to do a mini-clinic please contact your Division superintendent at southmountaindiv@gmail.com.

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.

In October we are publishing the second of a four-part article written by Division member Andrew Dodge, MMR. Note that Andrew's feature piece will only be available to members via the emailed distribution of the newsletter.

Your October issue will also include an article by Bob Johnson discussing how he developed the concept for his West Virginia Midland and how that development drives operations on the layout.

Wheel Report Content:

If you would like to submit an article please email southmountaindiv@gmail.com. *Wheel Report* editor Ron Polimeni would like articles 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.

Notes from the Editor:

By Ron Polimeni

Here we are already publishing our second edition of the *Wheel Report*. Although this is a monthly publication it seems like only last week that I wrote an editorial.

We had our monthly meeting on 14 September, graciously hosted by Steve King. Attendance was good considering this was our first meeting after our three month summer break. Contents of the meeting will be found in the minutes, therefore I'll jump directly to Steve's presentation after the business meeting concluded. Steve provided an interesting talk on TT/TO operation as practiced on model railroads. Steve should know as he wrote a book on the subject, "*19 East, Copy Three*", a revised copy of which is now being reprinted for the second time. Anyone interested in TT/TO operation on a model railroad should definitely think about obtaining a copy.

One item that was discussed was the possible termination of our highly successful Mini-Convention. Attendance has been dwindling since the pandemic and it may no longer be possible to obtain the use of the firehouse opposite Mainline Hobby. As a replacement or as an addition to the Mini, I suggested we consider expanding the promotional demonstration we exhibited at Hobbytown in Frederick, MD last year. It was intended to create interest and hopefully increase membership in the SMD. To that end, we were successful in that at least three people showed an interest in joining our group. My thoughts are, that displays such as that could be used to promote our hobby to the general public. Anyone to whom I've ever described an operating session was amazed that such things could be done with what they'd always thought of as 'toy trains'.

I think if we tailored our displays to the general public and engaged such venues as libraries in which to interact with the public, we could generate interest in model railroading and possibly increase our membership. To that end, perhaps we could create a committee to develop a cohesive show intended for presentation at public venues.

Anyway, just my 2¢ for this month. Take care all.

Contact Ron through the Division email, southmountaindiv@gmail.com.

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.

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Superintendent:	Dan Mulhearn
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Webmaster/Digital Assets Manager:	Tom Fedor
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