

THE LOCAL



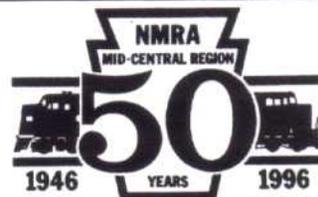
A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA

Volume 51

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Number 2

Pittsburgh Limited 1996 MCR / MER Joint Regional Convention April 25th through April 28th, 1996



You're Invited!

If you love trains and can't make it to the National convention in Long Beach, then we'd love to see you in Pittsburgh for the next best event in 1996! Consider joining us for a joint convention of the Mid-Central Region and the Mid-East Region, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the MCR.

Convention activities will be concentrated around a large group of clinics, a special symposium on the Pennsylvania Railroad, contests, industrial and prototype tours, and self-guided home and club layout tours.

The convention hotel will be the Radison Hotel in suburban Monroeville. This comfortable and spacious facility is an easy half-hour drive east of downtown Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh is a compact, cosmopolitan city whose roots go back to the mid-1700's during the French and Indian war. Vitaly located where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio River, it was surveyed by George Washington, and its restored Fort Pitt is a reminder of that period. In the nineteenth century, Pittsburgh became established as one of the leader in mining, steelmaking, and manufacturing. Although its position as the heart of the steel industry has eroded, it has emerged as a major high-tech center and a leader in education and health care. Railroads have long been essential to Pittsburgh, and the area continues to see considerable rail activity.

Pittsburgh is a reasonably priced city, including our confirmed Radison rates of \$64.00 per room, regardless of the number of occupants. There are plenty of eating establishments within and adjacent to our hotel, as well as a large regional shopping mall within walking distance.

Schedule Highlights

Thursday Evening, April 25

- Registration desk open 5PM to 10PM
- Clinics
- Selected layout tours (self guided)
possibly including operating sessions

Friday, April 26

- Registration desk open 7AM to 10PM
- Prototype tours
- Modular Layouts
- Contests & Displays
- Non-rail activities (planned for sure?)
- MCR BOD meeting 10PM
- Ongoing videos until ??
- Full clinic schedule through 11PM, featuring PRR Symposium

Saturday, April 27

- Registration desk open 7AM to 10PM
- Full clinic schedule, featuring PRR Symposium
- Prototype and industrial tours
- Train show and flea market (including white elephant table, so bring your stuff to sell.)
- Continuous videos
- Modular Layouts
- Non-rail activities
- KODTRAK Challenge Kup (see page 8)
- Boiler wash 6-7PM
- Awards / Banquet / MCR General meeting from 7:00-9:00PM
- Special 3D slide show by Mitch Dakelman at 9:00PM

Sunday, April 28

- Train show and flea market
- Self-guided layout tours (starting early!)
- MER general membership meeting
- Have a safe trip home!

MER LOCAL

Official Publication of the
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
A Tax-Exempt Organization

The LOCAL is published six times a year. The opinions expressed in the LOCAL do not necessarily reflect those of the MER elected officials or the editorial staff. Commercial suppliers, supplies and materials addressed in the LOCAL in no way constitute an endorsement by the MER. Copyright material that appears in the LOCAL is used for educational and historical benefit only and does not constitute infringement of the copyright holder.

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The MER LOCAL welcomes articles, photographs, artwork, cartoons and model railroad related material as contributions to the mutual enjoyment of the hobby by the membership. Materials should have a wide appeal. The MER LOCAL assumes no responsibility for contributions. When necessary, the LOCAL editor reserves the right to delete small portions of the text in order to accommodate the space allowed per issue. Photographs and artwork will be gladly returned ONLY when the author submits a self addressed return envelope of ample size and containing ample postage.

DUES: \$8 - year, \$16 - 2 years

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Apply to Office Manager with date of
birth for quotation

Send all dues and membership inquiries to the Office
Manager:

Nelson D. Garber, Office Manager
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
13212 Bellevue Street
Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703



CALLBOARD OF COMING EVENTS

Notices must be typed and have complete address of the event. Notices will print in subsequent LOCALS before the event occurs. Use the style shown below and be brief.

CONVENTIONS

Pittsburgh, PA, Mid-Central & Mid-Eastern Region Spring Convention. Celebrating the MCR 50th Anniversary. April 25-28, 1996. Contact Loren McCullough, 159 Donora Rd., Monongahela, PA 15063 (412) 379-8596

Durango, CO, 16th National Narrow Gauge Convention. September 18-21, 1996. Contact Bob Shank, PO Box 2191, Durango, CO 81302 (970) 259-0267

Mount Laurel, NJ Mid-Eastern Region Fall Convention October 3-6, 1996. Operations Lottery, Prototype Tours, Nationally-Known Clinicians. Contact Jersey Limited '96, PO Box 517, Swedesboro, NJ 08085 (609) 467-3385

DIVISION MEETS

Lynchburg, VA, James River Division Winter Meet Saturday March 2, 1996 10AM till Noon with layout tours till 4PM River Ridge Mall Community Room, 3405 Candler Mountain Rd. Contact Ron Herfurth, 1325 Oaktree Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901 (804) 978-4199

Deptford, NJ, New Jersey Division Meet, March 9, 1996. Deptford Municipal Building, 1011 Cooper from 9AM to 4PM. Layouts, clinics and swap tables. Contact Frank Sedio, Jr., 51 Columbia Ave. Vineland, NJ (609) 696-5195

Cary, NC Division 7 Re-organization Saturday, April 20, 1996. Starting Noon at the Page Walker Center, N Academy at the NS tracks Contact John Johnson, 22398 Scojo Drive, Franklin, VA 23851 (804) 562-5917

OTHER EVENTS

Timonium MD, Ellicott City Scale Model RR Assn.'s Great Scale Train Show, March 23-24, 1996. 10AM - 4PM Maryland State Fairgrounds (Exit 17 off Rt. 83) \$5.00 admission (come back Sunday Free) \$1.00 Children 6-12. Howard Zane (410) 730-1036 or Ken Young (410) 997-2166. 5236 Thunder Hill Rd., Columbia, MD 21045

New Bern NC, Carolina Coastal RR Modular Show and Swap Meet, March 23-24, 1996 10AM to 5PM, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3303 Pine Tree Drive, \$3.00 Admission - children under 12 Free with adult. Contact Tommie I. Phelps, 509 River Road, New Bern NC 28562 (919) 637-4026

Greensboro NC, Carolina Model Railroader's Ninth Annual Scale Model Train Show & Swap Meet. April 6, 1996. 10AM to 3PM Southern Railroad Pass. Depot, 300 E. Washington St., Admission \$3.00. Operating HO & N scale layouts. Swap tables available. Contact Neil Jones, 5805 Siler Rd., Greensboro NC 27406 (910) 674-0576

CLUBS

Ft. Washington, PA, GATSMELines Model Railroad Club. HO - Hon3. Meets Thursday 7-9:30pm. Prospect and Madison Avenues. Contact: George Weissgerber (610) 688-5818.

Vienna, VA Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. HO Scale. Meets Tuesday evenings in the Vienna Railroad Station. For more information (703) 938-5157

OPERATIONS • OPERATIONS • OPERATIONS

Get help from the experts for your own layout
Win a special "hands-on" operating session
Interlocking Tower Model Contest
Celebrity Car Auction

JERSEY LIMITED HAS IT ALL!!

Mid-Eastern Region NMRA JERSEY LIMITED '96
October 3 - 6, 1996, Mt. Laurel, NJ
Write: Box 517, Swedesboro, NJ 08085
(609) 467-3385

Notes from the President

Gary Quale

Just a short note this month so we can devote as much space as possible to the Pittsburgh Convention. As is stated elsewhere, this is a joint Mid-Eastern and Mid-Central Region affair. With the convention being in MCR territory, the MCR members on the convention staff have done the bulk of the work. The schedule is impressive with a large number and wide variety of tours, clinics, layouts and other activities. I have stayed in the convention hotel on business, and it's very comfortable and conveniently located on the east side of Pittsburgh. This site is a longer trip than usual for a MER convention, but looks to be well worth it.

Remember that a large part of the pleasure of an NMRA convention is the camaraderie with other model railroaders, and it's best with a good friend, so share a ride, save gas, and the ride to Pittsburgh will fly by. Let's have a good turnout of MER members so we can show the MCR folks that we are the Most Enthusiastic Region! See you there!

Nominations

Alex Pope reports that he has the following slate of nominations for this years election.

President	Gary Quale Bill Gruber
Vice President	John Johnson Fred Voelcker, Jr.
Treasure	Cal Reynolds Jim Atkinson
Secretary	John Long

The resumes and photos will appear in the May-June Local along with the ballot in response to suggestions by several members. Please read over the resumes in the next issue and vote for the candidate of your choice.



Want to learn about operations? Jersey Limited Layout Lottery is for you!

By Tom Brown, Layout Lottery Coordinator

At regional and national conventions you often hear someone say, "I would like to learn to operate on an operating layout, but no one will invite me." And someone always answers that bringing an inexperienced operator into a regular session upsets the evening because it is difficult to explain to the "new guy" what he should be doing while all hell is breaking loose. So he leaves feeling rejected and not at all sure he would like operations because he didn't really experience the fun of it.

Jersey Limited '96, the Mid-Eastern Region Fall Convention, October 3 to 6, 1996, has found a way to change all that. Six operating and scened layouts will run all-day sessions on Friday, October 4, and 72 people can attend.

Here's how it works. Sign up prior to the Convention. One week before the Convention, we will hold a Layout Lottery and pick 72 names with priority given by registration number. Tickets at \$12 include transportation to the layout and will be included in the registration packets of the 72 winners. (Others will be get stand-by tickets or refunds as requested.)

You must be 18 years of age to participate in these six morning and six afternoon "hands on" sessions which will consist of switching lists, way bill with car card and paperclip and many different schemes such as heavy way freight, prototype schedules and random operations.

The schedule includes a 9 pm, Oct. 30 pre-operation clinic with handouts. Morning sessions will leave the hotel on Oct. 4th at 8 am, and at 1 pm for afternoon sessions. On Oct. 4, a follow-up clinic and forum open to the public will be held.

All participants will receive a "Certificate of Success," and "Dispatcher/Operation" forms will be issued toward the Dispatcher AP award.

The Layout Lottery is a brand new idea for NMRA conventions and the sessions should be a fun time for all involved.

For Jersey Limited '96 registration, write: Registrar P. J. Mattson, Box 517, Swedesboro, NJ 08085. Phone: (609) 467-3385. Hotel reservations are available from Clarion Hotel, 915 Route 73 North, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. Phone: (609) 234-7300.

Help Revitalize Division 7
April 20, 1996 - Starting at Noon
Page Walker Center

N Academy at the NS Track, Cary, NC
Contact John Johnson (804) 562-5917

Clinics

We have over 40 clinics planned, presented by an esteemed group of clinicians including many nationally known modelers.

Contests

We will present the usual array of contests at the Convention, and as usual we will follow NMRA National rules wherever applicable. To help you with your plans, here's a list of the contests, and a few words about each one.

Entry blanks for the contests may be requested when you register for the convention. And remember: although the convention is open to everyone, only NMRA members may enter the contests.

Photo Contest

All of the standard categories will be open for judging, including:

- Color Print / Model
- Color Print / Prototype
- B&W Print / Model
- B&W Print / Prototype
- 35mm Color Slide / Model
- 35mm Color Slide / Prototype

Prints may be from 5"x7" to 12"x16" in size, and must be mounted on 8"x10" to 12"x16" mats. Slides must be in standard 2"x2" mounts. Each person is allowed a maximum of ten entries total, with no more than five in any one category. Photos or slides not fitting the above categories or sizes may be entered in the "Display Only" category.

Also, the KODTRAK "KLEM AWARD" will be awarded to the best special effects photograph.

Model Contest

Categories for the model contest will be:

- Steam
- Diesel & Other
- Traction
- Freight Cars
- Passenger Cars
- Cabooses
- Non-Revenue Cars
- On-Line Structures
- Off-Line Structures
- On-Line Display
- Off-Line Display
- Module
- Popular Vote
- Non-Rail

Favorite Train Contest

A TRAIN is defined as a locomotive with one or more pieces of rolling stock and a tail-end car if applicable. Each train should represent some particular type of train or historic train, and should be set up on track provided by the entrant. Each entrant will be limited to one train of 16' or less.

Open Judging

As is MCR policy, spectators will be allowed in the contest room during judging so long as a proper decorum is maintained. During open judging, spectators must remain back from the tables and are not allowed to talk to the judges or to one another. Complete silence must be maintained by any spectators during judging. Any infraction of these rules will result in the removal of the offender from the contest room by the Chief Judge and assorted ill-tempered members of the MCR/MER Beef Trust.

Switching Contest

The Pittsburgh Limited '96 is proud to host the prototype-oriented switching contest sponsored MCR Division 3's Dalmation Switching District. This fully scenicked 11' x 20' industrial switching layout has appeared at several previous regionals, as well as the 1992 National in Columbus and the 1995 National in Atlanta. An article on the group appeared in the May 1995 NMRA *Bulletin*.

As a contestant, you will be required to move cars into and out of the many customer sites of the DSD. Two-person crews will be allowed 50 minutes to complete the assigned switching tasks. One person will run the locomotive, the other will be the conductor.

Scoring for this contest is different from conventional switching contests. Scoring is affected by total elapsed time, accuracy of switching moves, and crew communications. The number of moves will not be counted. The lowest score wins!

KODTRAK Challenge Kup

Just to keep the weekend from being totally serious, the members of KODTRAK will sponsor their HO scale 1/4 scale mile drag race known as the KODTRAK Challenge Kup. This popular feature of MCR Division 2's annual spring Jamboree will make its first appearance at a regional event. The hour-long event will take place late Saturday afternoon as a lead-in to the banquet. Full rules are shown on page 8. Warning: stock Athearn Hustlers get eaten for lunch!

Prototype and Industrial Tours

Pittsburgh and the surrounding area have a lot of industrial heritage to offer. We are happy to offer guided bus tours to a number of different industries. Please note that the quantity of seats we can offer is quite limited,*so get your registration in early. First come, first served!

Times listed are our best ESTIMATED departure time as of late January. Pittsburgh Limited '96 will NOT guarantee that you will get back from a morning tour in time for afternoon tours. All tours subject to cancellation by host company or organization. Refunds for each tour will close at 10PM the night before the tour.

Hard hats will probably NOT be available in any substantial quantity. PLEASE make a strong effort to bring your own if required. (Safety glasses and hearing protection will be available from the Company Store.)

FRIDAY

(#601) **Oakmont Steel, 8:00AM**, 4 hours (2 hours at site), \$20, 20 seats available

(#602) **Corning Glass, 8:00AM**, 4.5 hours (1.5 hours at site), \$20, 40 seats available

(#603) **Weirton Steel, 10:30AM**, 8 hours (3 hours at site), \$20, 20 seats

(#604) **CONRAIL's Conway Yard, 12:00PM**, 7 hours (3 hours at site), \$20, 40 seats

(#605) **McConway & Torley Foundry, 5:00 PM**, 4 hours (2 hours at site), \$20, 20 seats

SATURDAY

(#702) **Glenshaw Glass, 8:00am**, 3.5 hours (1.5 hours at site), \$20, 40 seats

(#703) **Tour-Ed Mine and Pittsburgh Model Railroad Historical Society, 1:00pm**, 3 hours (1.5 hours at sites), \$25, 40 seats

(#704) **Port Authority Transit Shops, 1:30pm**, 5 hours (3 hours at site), \$20, 40 seats

Layout Tours

A favorite part of any convention, the layout tours for the Pittsburgh Limited will be self-guided and will happen Sunday. A select few layouts will be open on Thursday night for the early birds. We do hope to be able to arrange for operating sessions at some of these. (Sorry, no advance reservation is possible.)

The bulk of the layouts will be open for inspection on Sunday only. We hope to have many of these opening fairly early so that those who have a way to

drive on Sunday can still have the opportunity to see these fine layouts.

A booklet containing detailed maps and layout descriptions will be available when you arrive.

Banquet

The banquet will take place on Saturday evening at 7:00PM, with the preliminaries of the KODTRAK Challenge Kup at 5:00 and boiler wash (Social Hour) at 6:00. The buffet-style banquet itself is activity #710, offered at a cost of \$20.

For the after-dinner program, Mitch Dakelman will present a stunning 3-D slide show at 9:00PM. You need not attend the banquet to see this amazing feature. (3-D glasses are free with the banquet, and will be available for a very nominal cost otherwise.)

Scale Train Show and Sale

Bring your asbestos checkbook! This 50 table show will take place on Saturday and Sunday. The show will be open from 9AM to 10AM on Saturday for convention registrants only, and from 10AM to 4PM for registrants and the general public.

To help your inevitable cash flow crunch, there will be a staffed White Elephant Table where registrants may submit items for sale. The Pittsburgh Limited '96 will retain a 10% commission for each item sold.

Non-Rail Inside and Outside Activities

Several non-rail clinics are in the works. (Details were not available at press time.) Some crafts-type clinics may require a nominal charge for materials.

Two extra-fare tours are planned for Non-Rails.

(#606) **Pittsburgh Attractions, Friday**, \$30, departs at 10AM, and includes

Phipps Conservatory With 2.5 acres under glass, this is one of the nation's largest and most fabulous greenhouses. Complemented by several outdoor gardens also. A destination in itself, and a perennial favorite. (Sorry.)

Lunch (not included in price)

Clayton The restored and elegant Victorian mansion of Henry Clay Frick, steelmaking magnate.

(#705) **Grove City Outlet Mall, Saturday**, \$20, departs at 8:30AM, planned return by 5PM.

Registration Details

Both the hotel and convention registration forms are presented on the next page. Pu-LEEEZE send the hotel form directly to the hotel, and the convention form to the convention registrar.

Please note that the "FAMILY" registration applies to each family member other than the main ("REGULAR") registrant. It does *not* mean "\$10 for the whole crew." If only it were so...

In the event you must cancel, the Pittsburgh Limited '96 will give you a full refund if notice is received before April 1st. A \$10.00 cancellation fee will apply after that time.

Pre-registrants are urged to return their full registrations by April 1. All registrations received will be processed on that date. Tours and other limited-availability items will be allocated in order of registration number. Registrations received after April 1st will be handled on a first-come first-served basis.

For more information...

Registration Only

Jeff Gregg, Registrar
7228 Baptist Road #178
Bethel Park, PA 15102

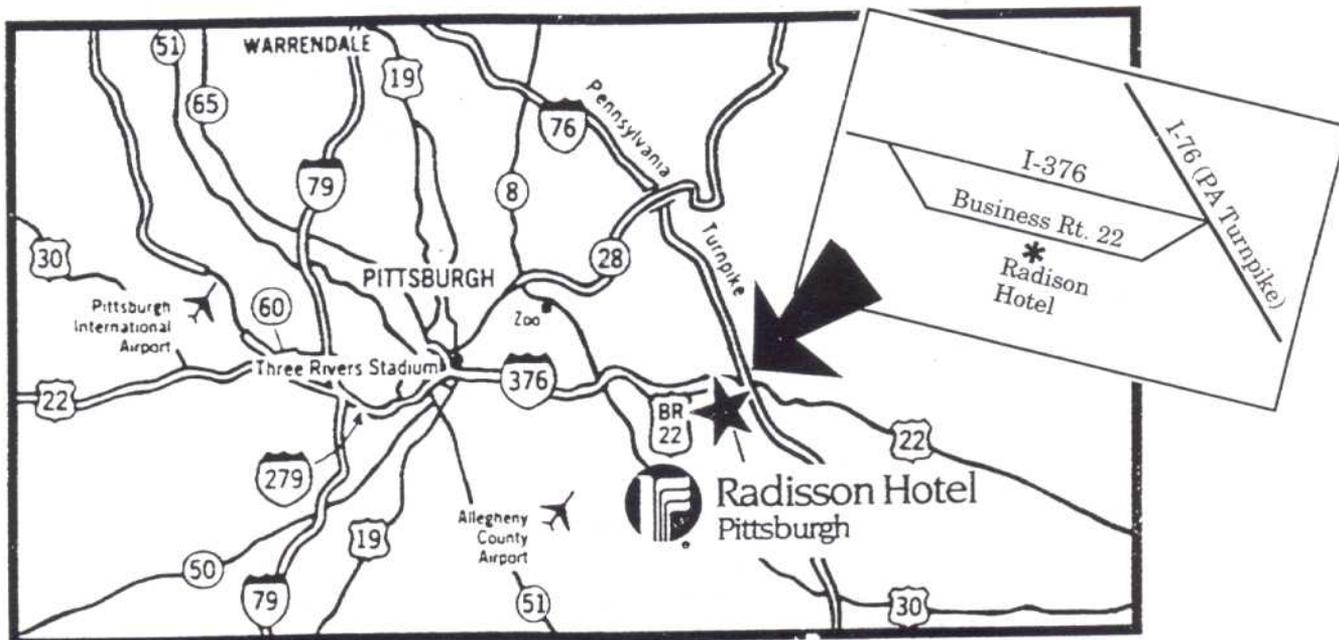
(412) 258-5810

General Information

Loren McCullough
Convention Chairman
159 Donora Road
Monongahela, PA 15063

(412) 379-8596

Getting There.....



Pittsburgh Limited 1996



MCR-MER Joint Regional April 26-28, 1996

MID-EASTERN REGION, NMRA, INC.
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