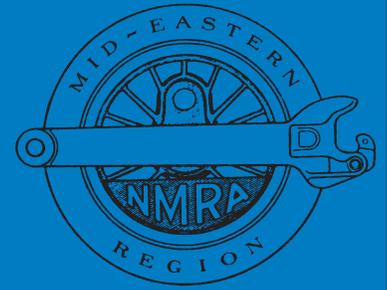


The Local

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA



Volume 67

MARCH — APRIL 2012

Number 2

Research and Your Personal Way Back Machine

By Mike White
MER Secretary

Potomac Division/HO Scale

MOST OF WHAT WE REMEMBER and see of railroads was built before we were born. The visible railroad: track, stations, towers, etc. were pretty much completed by the 1930's. The invisible railroad: finance, engineering, accounting, etc. had been under development since the late 1800's, but was pretty much settled by the 1920's.

For those who are researching earlier times and looking for sources of information, you probably have your own 'Way Back Machine' and may not realize it. The Internet is a rich and deep well of old documents that were written during the high-water mark of railroad development. "Google" is your best friend. Many university libraries have embarked on recent digitizing efforts and have reproduced (scanned) the full text of these sources, which are long past copyright protection. In many cases you can download your own copy as a PDF file. While Google has a pretty comprehensive search engine under "Google Books", don't neglect your own browser. It may cast a wider net and find something that Google has not yet cataloged.

Don't let the book title alone fool you. Look at least at the Table of Contents to determine if the document contains information that matches your needs. In many cases the scope is wider than the title would lead you to believe. Many of the results you get from searching for documents are books that have the Table of Contents linked to the pages of the book itself (every entry in the TOC is a link).

Listed below is a morning's work browsing the Internet for information on various railroad topics. I have attempted to assign them to very general categories to make finding the sources I am concentrating on at the moment a little easier to find. Take a look at some of the links below. You may find the result is something you're interested in.

GENERAL – OVERVIEW

American Railway Transportation by Emory R. Johnson (1908)
http://books.google.com/books?id=UnM0AAAAAAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

DISPATCHING

Train Rules and Train Dispatching by H. A. Dalby (1904)
http://books.google.com/books?id=X2sEAAAAAAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=railroad+dispatching&hl=en&ei=qqHNTLaJEYSglAeyk-XoCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=9&ved=0CFUQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q&f=false

The Train Wire: A Discussion of the Science of Train Dispatching by J. A. Anderson (1891)

http://books.google.com/books?id=qhYFAAAAAAAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=The+Train+Wire&hl=en&ei=0LPNTPemEcK-ALaEmsf5nCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

TELEGRAPHY

Telegraphy: Railroading, Express and Freight by Julien Elizabeth Soule (1911)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=HBdDAAAAIAAJ>

The Train Dispatcher: A Manual of Railway Telegraphy by A. W. Early (1903)

<http://www.google.com/books?id=dRYFAAAAAAAAJ>

Operation of Trains and Station Work and Telegraphy by Frederick J. Prior (1907)

<http://www.google.com/books?id=ULopAAAAYAAJ>

continued on page 4

The Local

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

The Local is published six times a year. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of MER elected officials. 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.

EDITORIAL STAFF



Editor: Steve Kindig
800 York Road, Lot #3
Dover, PA 17315
(717) 825-5558
stevespressrr@yahoo.com



Webmaster: Martin Oakes
8057 Lucky Creek Lane
Denver, NC 28037-8004
(704) 483-7972
martinoakes@charter.net



Photographer: Position Open.
Contact any Director or
President for information
and to apply.



Publisher: Julianne H. Smith
7221 Ridgeway Drive
Manassas, VA 20112,
(703) 794-7309
dragonjuls@comcast.net

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



President: John Janosko
264 White Cedar Lane
Youngsville, NC 27596-9196
(919) 562-0260
johnajan@embarqmail.com



Vice President: P. J. Mattson
129 East Avenue
Swedesboro, NJ 08085-1209
(856) 467-0421
pjmattson@comcast.net



Secretary: Mike White
3800 Chaneyville Road
Owings, MD 20736
(410) 286-2873
mm.white@comcast.net



Treasurer: Thomas R. Buckingham
7216 S. Osborne Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-4206
(301) 952-0427
tombuckingham@juno.com



MER Archivist: Bob Price
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(856) 854-8585
Bob.Price4@comcast.net



MER Contest Chair/Manager:
Martin Brechbiel
3404 Monarch Lane
Annandale, VA 22003
(703) 309-3082
martinwb@verizon.net



Director:
Bob Price
666 Princeton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(856) 854-8585
Bob.Price4@comcast.net



Director:
Donald H. Jennings
217 Lake Tillery Drive
Cary, NC 27519-9518
(919) 468-0910,
donj1044@aol.com



Director:
Marty McGuirk
7958 Priva Ct
Manassas, VA 20111
(703) 331-1285,
mjmcguirk@comcast.net



Achievement Program Manager
Charles Flichman
6909 Crandall Court
Clemmons, NC 27012-9056
(336) 766-8353,
cwflich@aol.com



Business Manager:
Fred Miller, MMR
333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504
Charlotte, NC 28202-1961
(704) 332-1753
merbusmgr@aol.com



Nominations Chairman:
Bob Minnis
3016 Dower House Drive
Oak Hill, VA 20171
(703) 391-0675,
kahlualab@aol.com

MER DIVISION CONTACTS



New Jersey Division 1
Superintendent: Robert Clegg
(856) 696-0463
bobcats@comcast.net
Division web page:
www.njdivnmra.org



Potomac Division 2
Superintendent: Marshall Abrams
(301) 588-1005
Abrams_railroad@comcast.net
Division web page: http://home.comcast.net/~potomac_nmra/



Philadelphia Division 3
Superintendent: Greg Shindledecker
(610) 383-7767
greg@shindledecker.com
Division web page:
<http://www.phillynmra.org/>



Tidewater Division 4
Superintendent: Gary Brown; (757) 481-2348; alleghenyrr@yahoo.com
Division web page:
www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org



James River Division 5
Superintendent: Robert Alvis
(804) 329-4060, rwalvis@mac.com
Division web page:
<http://www.trainweb.org/jrd/>



South Mountain Division 10
Superintendent: Michael Shockey
(240) 675-9352, SHOgone@aol.com
Division web page:
www.smdnmra.org

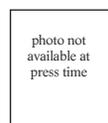


photo not available at press time

Susquehanna Division 11
Superintendent: John Frantz;
(717) 324-9449;
jfrantz@susquehannanmra.org
Division web page:
www.susquehannanmra.org



Carolina Southern Division 12
Superintendent: Bob Halsey;
(704) 660-9712; xnavman@adelphia.net
Division web page:
www.carolinasouthern.org

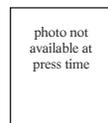


photo not available at press time

Carolina Piedmont Division 13
Superintendent: Grif Bond;
(919) 556-7066,
grifbond@embarqmail.com
Division web page:
<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13>



Chesapeake Division 14
Superintendent: Kurt A. Thompson
(410) 544-7247;
super.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com
Division web page:
www.chesapeake-nmra.org



All subscription information, advertising rates and publication deadlines are now located on page 16.

The MER website is <http://mer.nmra.org/>

From The Business Car

(President's Guest Column)

By Bob Clegg
New Jersey Division Superintendent

AT THE MER CONVENTION in Cary last October, I was chatting with our MER President and was discussing the fact that the membership of the region has declined over the last few years. I had a few suggestions about some of the ways that we can recruit new members and keep the members that we have. John asked if I would share them with you, and so here they are:

First, we all need to be salesmen, of sorts, for our organization. Since you are a member there must be a reason. Do you think that reason might be the same for someone you know who shares your hobby interests but is not a member? Bring them along to a division activity and let them see for themselves what it is we do. That's not the end of it, though. Follow up, follow up, follow up! Ask what they thought, bring them to a second meet, maybe a third, then, if they are still interested in coming with you, ask them to join.

The same even applies to total strangers. If you see someone in a hobby shop who looks like they could use some help, offer it. Talk about the hobby and about the organizations. The members of our board of directors carry New Jersey Division business cards and we use them to introduce ourselves in such situations.

Many times you'll be turned down, of course, but keep trying. There will be successes, too. Case in point: On my way to Cary for the convention via Amtrak, the train stopped at Washington, DC Union Station to change engines. Of course I had to hop out to watch the action. I struck up a conversation with one of the employees on the scene. Turns out he was a conductor on our train...and a model railroader. I asked him for his email address which he happily furnished. When I returned home Sunday night, I sent an email to him with a copy of our newsletter attached, to which I received a very nice thank you note in return. I also sent his information to Marshall Abrams, the superintendent of the Potomac Division in which he lives, that being in Bladensburg, MD. I am sure Marshall will be following up with him, as will I.

Sometimes a person will join the NMRA and not know that there is a region or division involved. Every month when Fred sends out the file with the current roster of division members I sort it to find any new names as well as names of those who have let their membership lapse.

Sometime before the next meet, I will send a welcome letter to the new members via e-mail if there is an address listed, or via USPS if not. Either way I provide information about the next meet and an invitation to attend. The e-mail versions have the newsletter attached and our web site and my phone number are included in either case.

In the last year we have had at least a half dozen members come out to our meets and become involved. Although this does not increase the overall membership, keeping members is more likely to be the outcome when they feel welcome.

For those who have let their membership lapse, again an e-mail goes to those who have supplied it, and a phone call goes to those who haven't. Most of the time I receive a thank you for the reminder and the member re-ups for the year. Generally those who don't choose to do that send their thanks along with an explanation. Point is, letting someone know that you noticed and took the time to contact them can go a long way toward keeping a member.

We are all getting older and for some that means that they can no longer get around as easily. Although we can't always accommodate everyone, we make every effort to see that a ride to our meets is provided to anyone who needs it. This is generally done by contacting via e-mail those members who live in the general area of the person needing the ride. When a volunteer comes forward, we put them in direct contact with the person making the request so they can make their own arrangements.

The bottom line is that each and every one of us can be a salesman for our organizations, national, regional and local. If you enjoy the meets, conventions, and other activities don't be selfish. When you meet another modeler, extend an invitation to your next activity. Share with others to opportunity to join in the experiences that the hobby and the organizations bring. Above all, be sure to make them feel welcome.

I hope you will use some of these suggestions and come up with a few of your own to share. Let us know what works for you. Maybe it will work for us, too. New ideas are what make any organization grow and the MER and your divisions are no exception. 

Election Time

By Bob Minnis

Next year is a national election. The MER will also have an election for the four top offices: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations are due to the Nominating committee before April 15. Any interested MER member interested in serving in one of these positions needs to submit a 200 word Candidates Statement and a photo. These items should be sent to the Nominations Committee (see page 2) prior to the deadline. Serving in these offices count towards the requirement for an AP certificate as an Association Official.

Keeping In Touch...

By Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager

LAST MONTH'S ISSUE of **The Local** did not include the usual page describing the MER subsidized Rail Pass program and the application form. I have received inquiries as to whether the plan is still available. Yes it is! In fact the MER Board voted at the January meeting to continue the program. The money is available. I suspect the usual Rail Pass page just didn't fit space-wise into the Jan-Feb issue due to convention results.

The MER board feels the subsidized program works well to get reluctant model railroaders into the NMRA without an initial financial obligation so that they can experience the benefits and perhaps subsequently decide to renew in the regular membership program.

Just to revisit this program: The MER will pay the \$9.95 application fee for the NMRA Rail Pass membership. This membership provides all the benefits of NMRA membership including the NMRA Magazine but does not provide for voting privileges or the New Member Pak. The membership is for 6 months. The NMRA's rules for the program specify this program is only available on a once-in-a-lifetime basis and an applicant must not have been a regular member for two years prior to application for the Rail Pass program.

The MER's rules for the subsidized version are that the applicant must be sponsored by a Region or Division official. That individual will sign the application form or simply forward necessary enrolment information to me. The thinking, of course, is to bring the new applicant into fellowship at the Division level.

As always *Keep in Touch* with any questions or changes in your subscriptions or addresses. A current address on file saves the MER some money. 

Research and Your Personal Way Back Machine continued from page 1

STATION AGENT

Geer's Express Directory and Railway Forwarders Guide by George P. Gear (1858)

http://books.google.com/books?id=tPdCAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA1&dq=Geer%27s+Express+Directory&hl=en&ei=CILNtKXqEsL98AaA24y7AQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqi=2&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Express Office Handbook and Directory, for the Use of 1,200 Express Agents by Alexander Stimson (1860)

http://books.google.com/books?id=MBMcOMb_ht4C&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false

FINANCE-EXTERNAL

Poor's Manual of Railroads by Henry V. Poor (1868)

http://books.google.com/books?id=vohS7PpusAQC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Poor%27s+Manual+of+Railroads&hl=en&ei=sITNTOyTMMOBIAf37r2kBg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

The Financial Review Finance, Commerce, Railroads Annual (1914)

http://books.google.com/books?id=WykrAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Railroad Finance by Frederick A. Cleveland and Fred Wilbur Powell (1912)

http://books.google.com/books?id=Omw2smGgGNoC&pg=PA189&dq=Railroad+ticket+collections%27&hl=en&ei=RqDNTKfTLYagLafv07XnCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=bookthumbnail&resnum=3&ved=0CDwQ6wEwAjgy#v=onepage&q=Railroad%20ticket%20collections%27&f=false

FINANCE – INTERNAL

Railway Accounting Procedure 1922 Edition. Edited by E. R. Woodson

<http://www.archive.org/stream/railwayaccountin00railuoft#page/n3/mode/2up>

Railroad Agency Accounting; Railroad General-office Accounting. International Library of Technology (1913-1914)

http://books.google.com/books?id=Yg9WAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Railroad+Accounting&hl=en&ei=qo_NTIyLcT7lwfcP7nlCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CD0Q6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false

INFRASTRUCTURE

Surveying, Land Surveying, Mapping, Railroad Location, Railroad Construction, Trackwork, Railroad Structures. International Library of Technology (1903)

http://books.google.com/books?id=JhVWAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=railroad+structures&hl=en&ei=AJLNTpvjG8H68Aac3LDsAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&sqi=2&ved=0CEsQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q&f=false

Railroad Structure and Estimates by J. W. Orrock (1918)

http://books.google.com/books?id=1v48AAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=railroad+structures&hl=en&ei=AJLNTpvjG8H68Aac3LDsAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&sqi=2&ved=0CDUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false

Buildings and Structures of American Railroads by Walter Gilman Berg (1893)

http://books.google.com/books?id=gIs5AAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Reinforced Concrete Railway Structures by J. D. W. Ball (1914)
http://books.google.com/books?id=ze7y_gn53aAC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

TRAFFIC – PASSENGER TRAINS

Railroad Traffic and Rates: Passenger, express and mail services.

Edited by Emory R. Johnson (1911)
http://books.google.com/books?id=GLEpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA41&dq=Railroad+forms+tickets&hl=en&ei=4JjNTMy5KYOKlwes1LXmCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CDoQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Railroad%20forms%20tickets&f=false

Passenger Train Traffic and Accounts by Marshall M. Kirkman (1907)

http://books.google.com/books?id=M245AAAAMAAJ&pg=PA208&dq=Railroad+ticket+collections%27&hl=en&ei=_Z7NTOqZMo01QfdsJHwCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10&ved=0CGAQ6AEwCTgK#v=onepage&q=Railroad%20ticket%20collections%27&f=false

In each of the above entries, everything beginning with “http://” to the end of the entry is a single link. You should be able to “copy and paste” the entire link into your Internet browser and go directly to the book that is referenced. If not, search for “Google Books”, then type in the title of the book as listed. You should get a page of results – one of which is what you’re looking for.

If you find anything in your own research that you think myself or others may be interested in, send me an e-mail (contact information on page 2). I will find a forum for publishing them when there are enough collected. 

Statement of Financial Condition Mid-Eastern Region

As of December 31, 2011

*Respectfully Submitted by
Thomas R. Buckingham, MER Treasurer*

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>Assets (excluding inventories)</u>		Breakdown of Net Assets	
High Point Bank Checking Account	\$2,803.01	<u>Restricted Assets</u>	
High Point Bank Money Market Account	\$7,261.30	Life Member Fund	\$42,516.95
High Point Bank General CD 1	\$12,055.94	Life Member Fund Interest	
High Point Bank Life CD	\$42,516.95	(paid to Money Market Account)	\$917.75
High Point Bank General CD 2	\$15,000.00	Pre-paid Subscriptions	\$3,803.00
Convention Advance	\$500.00		
		<u>Assets Restricted by Board of Directors</u>	
<u>Liabilities</u>		Donation Fund	\$3,935.69
None		Kit Fund	\$5,752.40
		Unrestricted Assets	\$23,211.41
Net Assets (excluding inventories)	\$80,137.20	Total Net Assets	\$80,137.20

The Life Member Fund covers our liability to provide services to our Life Members. It consists of fees paid by Life Members and interest earned on that money. Pre-Paid Subscriptions are those collected in the current and prior years and held for use in future years.

The Donation Fund collects the donations made by members and other donors. Since we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization, these donations are tax deductible. The Board of Directors may direct the use of these funds for special projects.

The Kit Fund is a revolving fund for the car kits and building kits we sell. Proceeds from the kits sold are used to buy new kits. Surplus proceeds may be used for purposes designated by the Board of Directors.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the MER Treasurer (contact information is listed on Page 2).

First State Model Railroad Club Helps the Boy Scouts

By Don Jennings

Director and Liaison to the Boy Scouts
Carolina Piedmont Division/HO Scale

Photograph supplied by Jeff Shockley Railroading Merit Badge Counselor.

I ATTENDED MID-EASTERN Region Board of Directors meeting in Maryland on January 14th 2012.

After the meeting, I continued on to New Jersey to visit family. Through email communications, I was invited to see a model railroad club in Dover, Delaware. The First State Model Railroad Club has been very active in the Railroading Merit Badge process.

Our region has been supplying HO Scale boxcar kits to this club for a few years for the purpose of fulfilling the Railroading Merit Badge requirement of 8a and 8b. So it was very important to me to actually visit the club that successfully had several Railroad Merit Badge sessions for the Boy Scouts.

I just wish other clubs and groups in the Mid-Eastern Region were as actively involved with the teaching of the railroading merit badge as The First State Model Railroad Club.

EDITOR'S NOTE: See the May/June 2011 issue to view a list of requirements for "Planning a Railroading Merit Badge Class." 



Scouts in front (left to right) Liam Shane, Chris Foster and Michael Di Donato of Troop 109, Magnolia, Delaware, Andrew May of Troop 142 of Smyrna-Clayton Delaware and Jonathan Simon of Troop 109.

Club members in back (left to right) Paul Buckley (retired Amtrak conductor), Jim Valle (club secretary), Jeff Shockley (club BSA Merit Badge Coordinator), Paul Roy, John Gray, Kevin Hermann and Jim Thompson (club President).

Not pictured Bill Benzin, Richard Lush and John Murphy.

Five No-Cost Tips to Improve Your Model Building

By Dr. John Pursell

(South Mountain Division/HO Scale)

WHILE THE HOBBY of model railroading incorporates many different facets, including design, operations, research and others, for many of us it remains fundamentally a hobby of model building. While ready-to-run engines, cars and structures are plentiful, few things compare to actually having built the model yourself.

Of course, if you are like me, you also try to save a few bucks wherever you can. Here then, are my five no-cost tips to improve your modeling results.

1) Always wash your hands before starting to work. Few things spoil a beautiful paint job more than a greasy thumbprint. Don't

ask me how I know this—it's far too painful to talk about. They say learn from your mistakes, but a far better (and cheaper) way is to learn from the mistakes of others! Many modelers wear latex gloves when spray painting—certainly a good idea, but we won't have them on after the paint dries. So I wash my hands every time I start in on any aspect of the layout, and periodically during the work session.

2) Use white glue for filling gaps. Many of us use white glue for scenery and for wood or paper gluing, but it's also handy for filling in thin gaps between plastic parts. Many times, sides of a structure or other model will not match up perfectly and a thin

gap may remain. While we can use the well-known green putty to fill it in, this usually requires tedious sanding or filing in often small places. Instead, you can use white glue. Run a thin line into the gap, let it set for a few minutes, then smooth it with a damp cloth. Once dry, it's easy to paint and usually needs no sanding or filing. Occasionally you may need a second application since the glue will shrink slightly when dry. For those times when you do need putty, I have also found that very good filler can be made from tube-style plastic cement mixed with talcum powder. Not to put the putty people out of business, but we all know that Murphy's Law will have us run out of putty on Sunday evening when the hobby shop is closed.

3) Clean your paint brush more frequently. An air brush is a great and relatively inexpensive tool that is often the first serious

tool many hobbyists purchase, but we still need brushes for small details, figures, weathering, etc. When brush painting, remember that the paint on your brush is drying just as fast as the paint on the model! I wash my brush every 3 or 4 dips in the paint to keep the paint in the brush from setting up. Also, if you use solvent-based paints, I suggest that after cleaning them with solvent at the end of your painting session, clean out the residual solvent with a soap and water bath. Some solvents will attack bristles if left on the brush. This may seem like overkill, but good brushes are not cheap and keeping them in pristine shape is easy; you just need to take a few seconds to do it. Being the miser I am, I want to keep those brushes in good shape for as long as I can.

4) Paint brushes part two. How many modelers actually practice their brush technique? Many of us past a certain age will remember our elementary school days when we learned to write in cursive and how we spent what seemed to be hours drawing letters over and over on lined paper. The excessive repetition helped us

develop the hand control and technique necessary for long-hand writing. As a professional musician, I know all too well that repetitive exercises are necessary for the development of any kind of manual technique and that the technique, once acquired, must be maintained through regular practice. The technique of painting with a brush is no different. Similar technical exercises can help significantly improve your brush technique. Try this exercise: get a sheet of cardboard or thick paper and try to write the alphabet with brush and paint. If you are like me, you'll find at first that the letters are unbelievably sloppy and inconsistent. You will paint your models the same sloppy way! So practice a little every week and you'll be amazed how much better your brushwork looks.

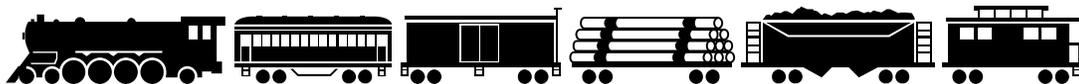
5) Build a grid board. I build most of my models as small dioramas or modules and I still, after all these years, have trouble visualizing the dimensions of the area they will take up on the layout unless I drag out a ruler or tape. A few months ago, I looked more closely at a set of shelves the previous homeowner had left that I was using for kit storage. I realized it was 2 feet by 4 feet, and had a particleboard top 30 inches from the floor. On came the proverbial light! I grabbed my ruler and felt-tip marker and drew a grid on the board in one-foot squares, then further subdivided it into 6-inch squares using a broken line. Now it's easy to arrange models in various positions and know almost to the inch how much room they'll require. See figure 1. All I have to do is refrain



Figure 1: Build a grid board to easily arrange models in various positions and know exactly how much room they will require.

from cluttering up that particular shelf.

Well, those are my five tips—five and a half if you count the part about talcum powder putty. Not a penny spent, but more importantly, maybe some better modeling! 🚂



Milepost 40

2012 Special Contest Awards

*By Martin Brechbiel
MER General Contest Chairman*

MILEPOST 40, the MER 2012 convention, runs October 18 through October 21, in addition to the range of the standard Contest Room awards and Categories will feature the following Special Awards:

THE BEST OF SHOW AWARD is given to the model that scores the highest point total in the judged model contest. Not only does the winner receive a plaque, but starting in 2012, the winner of Best in Show will also receive registration for the following year's convention, but will also then be disqualified for winning Best in Show at that same following year's convention. So, if you win Best in Show in 2012, you get your 2013 convention registration covered, but are ineligible for Best of Show in 2013.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD for 2012 has been chosen by MER President Janosko to be given for a "Water Tower" – Diesel or Steam.

THE CLYDE GERALD AWARD is sponsored by the MER and named for the late Clyde Gerald, former MER Business Manager and long time modeler. It is awarded to the kit-bashed model which scores highest in the judged model contest. Be sure to check the definition of kit-bashed for this award!

THE BLUE LANTERN AWARD is privately sponsored and chosen by long time MER modeler Terry Nesbit and his Narrow Gauge Car Shop. The Blue Lantern is given to a model best representing branch or private line equipment or facilities, which contain no more than forty (40) percent commercial parts. The prize—a genuine railroad lantern—is presented to the winner by Mr. Nesbit.

THE PHILADELPHIA DIVISION MODELER AWARD rewards excellence in model building by first time entrants in an NMRA sponsored judged model contest. The highest score achieved by a new modeler in the contest is worth not only a plaque, but a cash prize of twenty-five dollars!

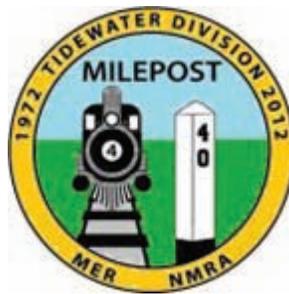
THE PRIDE OF DIXIE AWARD, sponsored by the James River Division, this year will be awarded for a still.

THE RAY BILODEAU NARROW GAUGE AWARD is also privately sponsored by a group of narrow gauge modelers, and encourages building models depicting aspects of narrow gauge railroading. The narrow gauge model that scores highest in the model contest is presented a plaque.

THE MA AND PA MODELING AWARD is sponsored by the Ma & Pa Society. The winner is a Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad model, which scores highest in the judged model contest.

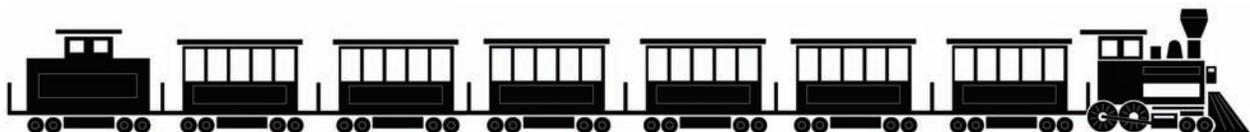
THE FAVORITE TRAIN AWARD, sponsored by the Tidewater Division, is a popular vote award and will be included on the Popular Vote ballot. Yes, members who can find their way to the contest room and fill out a ballot get to choose the winner!

THE HENRY (BUD) KAISER AWARD, sponsored by the Philadelphia Division, will be awarded to the best-detailed and weathered piece of rolling stock model in the opinion of the judges of the model contest.



These special awards, and awards for all of the categories in the Model, Photo, and Arts & Crafts contests, will be presented at the convention banquet on Saturday evening. Awards and other contest information will soon be available on the convention website!

In my continuing role as MER General Contest Chairman, I would like to encourage everyone to consider bringing a model to enter into the various NMRA contest categories. I have found it to be very educational and of considerable general value. My modeling skills continue to improve from participating in the AP program and Contest room. I feel this to be a valuable part of the MER and the NMRA, and I also know that the MER has a great number of truly outstanding modelers out there. So, bring your models to the contest room this fall in Cary, NC!! If you have any questions, contact me martinwb@verizon.net. 



NMRA Data Sheets Program

By M. David Johnson
 NMRA Data Sheets Manager

THE NMRA DATA SHEETS are intended to be a resource for modelers. They comprise a collection of information on General Modeling, Scenery, Trackwork, Motive Power, Rolling Stock, Structures, Electrical Work, Operations, and Prototype Information. The Data Sheets are available on the new Members-Only section of the NMRA website at www.nmra.org/member/.

For example, from D9a.1 – Classification of Locomotives, Steam Type:

0-10-0 10-wheel Switcher For heavy switching service 1905-25: 60	2-4-2 Columbia Obsolete light passenger type 1890-1900: 121	2-6-0 – Mogul One-time freight, now used on branches 1860-1910: 11,000
2-6-2 Prarie Rare, light freight type 1901-10: 1,700	2-8-0 Consolidation For way freights and heavy switching 1866-1916: 33,000	2-8-2 – Mikado (or MacArthur) Most used freight type 1905-30: 14,000

However, many of the Data Sheets are out of date, having been originally prepared in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Most have only received cosmetic updates. For example, Data Sheet D4g (Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specifications) was first issued in April of 1960. It doesn't include data on any locomotive much newer than a GP-9.

The NMRA Data Sheets Assistant Manager, Van Fehr of Connecticut, along with Tony Koester, the Exalted Grand Poobah of the Data Sheets Revitalization Project and I are currently engaged in efforts to bring the Data Sheets up to date and to add new data sheets to provide even more information to support your modeling.

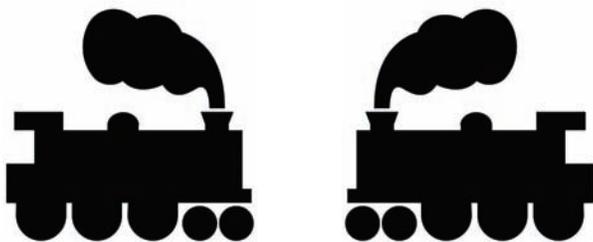
We have already added four new Data Sheets which were published in the **NMRA Magazine**, two of which are now on the website as well:

- Alco HH-Series Switchers by Jerry T. Moyers (11/2009 issue – also on the website)
- Monon 42-Foot Gondola by Mont Switzer (1/2010 issue)
- One Room Milk House by Mont Switzer (3/2010 issue – also on the website)
- Alco S-Series Switchers by Jerry T. Moyers (2/2011 issue)

Meanwhile, we're also working on the following three tasks:

- Perform a survey, by sections, of the existing Data Sheets to determine revision needs and set priorities, and to assess the need for new and additional sheets.
- Assemble a database of existing and potential Data Sheet authors.
- Assemble a peer review committee to check proposed Data Sheets before publication.

When we have completed those three tasks, we will be ready to start work on revising and updating the existing Data Sheets and adding more new ones as well. And, if you have any ideas for the project, e.g. any ideas for improvements or new Data Sheets, please drop me a line at mdj@bds-soft.com. 



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Visit the MER's website for all the latest information, contacts and archives
www.mer-nmra.org.

MER position open:

Official Photographer – Duties include shooting all model contest photos, award ceremony/winners, layouts and scenes from around convention.

Contact any Director or President (see contact page 2) for information and to apply.

Support of National Model Railroad Month

*Text and photographs by Bob Minnis
James River Division/HO Scale*

SINCE I RETIRED, I do not have an office where I usually participated in “Take a Train to Work Day.” So, I contacted the local county library to see if they were interested in supporting the month with some sort of railroad activity. I suggested a static display of model equipment.

The library staff was very receptive to the idea. Since the library did not have any available display cases, we agreed to have a live static display during the Saturday after Thanksgiving during normal operating hours. The exhibit ran from 10 AM till 2 PM. The Library provided the tables which I set up in an ‘L’ configuration in the open center of the book racks. See photographs.

The display consisted of a comparison of scale equipment in ‘O’, ‘S’, ‘HO’ and ‘N’ using actual models. I included a short section of HO track that had a small diesel engine that ran back and forth. There were several examples of the same model both in kit and assembled form. Similarly, assembled and kit samples of buildings were displayed. I also included scale vehicles in both formats.

On one table, I displayed a selection of “how to books” on all aspect of modeling (layout design, scenery, electrical, bridge and trestle design). Several copies of the current hobby magazines were available to look at. The Walther’s HO catalog and a ’53 ORER rounded out the literature. While low the attendance at the library during the four hours was influenced by the holiday weekend and the warm bright weather, all those who stopped by the tables were enthusiastic and appreciative of the effort. I even heard a story or two of dads and grandfathers who had trains in prior years. 🚂



MER member and local county library helps support the month of November with railroad display.



MER member and local county library helps support the month of November with railroad display, close-up view.

Time to Replace Your Gas Line

Article and photos by: Ron Baile
New Jersey Division/HO Scale

THE LITTLE “TAP, TAP, TAP” on my front doorframe was the smallest part of the whole thing. Shortly after I moved into the house I paid the gas company extra to install a remote meter so no one would have to come into the basement to read the meter. There were two trains of thought here. One was I wouldn’t have to be home for them to read the meter and the other was that I could build my railroad around the gas pipe without some guy telling me I couldn’t do that.

So, here we are some 24 or so years later and I get a tap, tap, tap on my front door. It’s the gas guy. He told me that there is an

I didn’t know if nature was being kind or mean when the next day it rained. I didn’t go to work. I spent all morning tearing out at least two to three feet of the railroad. One lesson learned is: don’t use hot-melt glue near your track and don’t use window screen wire if you ever hope to modify a scene. I even had to move the legs of the section of bench work in question because the end of the old pipe was right behind one. What they do is use the old pipe like a conduit to pull the new one in.

I numbered and cut all the wiring. I salvaged everything I could from the scenery and the switches. About 1 PM I got another tap,



Before.



During.

ancient gas main in my street and there was only one customer left on it and they want to abandon it. “Guess who it is,” he says.

I said to him that I knew this day would come but I wasn’t prepared for it so soon. I took him to the basement and he declared that they needed at least a foot on either side of the existing pipe that drops down from the meter. I had 30 inches of multi-level railroad between the aisle and his gas pipe!

That evening I spent an hour or so taking photographs of the area around the gas meter. I was too depressed to have a “last run” because it would have taken all night to get the track clean. I just looked at it for a long time. Then I turned the lights off and went upstairs. Here I’ll leave out the part about the bottle of wine and the curse words.

tap on my doorframe (Someday I’ll put that bell in). The contractor who was actually going to do the job was on my front step. He said that he would like to do the job tomorrow. I took him down to the basement and explained my plight. He wasn’t fazed at all. He said, “I can work around that. I just need room to swing a wrench.” I wish he had shown up a few hours earlier.

My boss says there might be an opportunity here to change some things that I don’t like about the railroad. I agreed but that location isn’t where I would have made any changes. However, as I was putting hammer to chisel I did have a few flashes about how I could improve the area. Maybe now I can fit that trestle in someplace. 🚧

New Membership Recruitment Program

As an aid to membership recruitment, NMRA recently instituted a six month "Railpass" trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. Building on this idea, the MER is instituting a program whereby it will pay the \$9.95 Railpass fee for interested applicants in the MER. In other words, we are making available FREE six month Railpass trial memberships to encourage recruitment of regular members.

What's covered?

Same as Railpass—receive six issues of **NMRA Magazine**, three issues of **The Local**, eligibility to attend conventions and meets, eligibility to participate in contests.

What's not covered?

Same as Railpass—applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national (it's rather expensive).

Who can be recruited?

Anyone living within the MER who has not been a member of NMRA during the past two years.

How will the recruitment process work?

(1) The prospective member fills out the MER trial membership application form which was sent to all division superintendents (not the standard NMRA Railpass form) (2) The "recruiter" should

also sign the form, and then forward it to: Fred Miller, MER Business Manager, 333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504, Charlotte, NC 28202-1961. (3) Fred will record the information he needs in his data base, and will forward the application to the MER Treasurer. (4) The Treasurer will add the necessary check and forward the application and check to the national headquarters in Chattanooga.

What happens after the member's six month trial period?

The Railpass trial member will receive a standard dues notice from national headquarters. We hope a substantial number of Railpass trial members will sign up to become regular members.

Are there limits on the program?

The MER initially allocated \$2,000 for this program. The Board recently allocated an additional \$1,000 to extend the program to the end of 2012, or when the funds are spent – whichever comes first. When and if we approach either limit, Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At that time, the program will be evaluated by the MER Board of Directors. If successful, we will try to continue it.

For questions?

Contact Fred Miller, MER Business Manager (mailing address is below, 704-332-1753, tractionfan@aol.com), or John Janosko, MER President (see contact information on page 2). 

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Mid-Eastern Region Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership

YES, please sign me up for a free six month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA—which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region, and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive **NMRA Magazine**, the monthly national magazine, and **The Local**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pak.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.)

At the end of the six months, I may join NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

During the past two years, I have **not** been a member of NMRA.

=====

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Scale(s): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____ (Required)
(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

When this form is completed,
mail it to:

Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager
333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504
Charlotte, NC 28202-1961

Do **not** mail it directly to MMRA
headquarters in Chattanooga, TN.

Date of form: 1/31/07

Custom HO Scale PRR X29 Shadow Herald Boxcar Express SK2a Version

Made by Red Caboose/Intermountain
Exclusively for Sale by



Amarillo Railroad Museum and Texas Western Model Railroad Club

Ready to Run car in six numbers
(includes Kadee couplers, RC PRR 2D-F8 trucks, IRC metal wheelsets)

\$34.95 + shipping



Order online: shop.twmrc.org
By phone: 682-587-2092

MC • VISA • Discover • American Express • PayPal • Check



Achievement Program Update

By Charlie Flichman, NMR
MER AP Manager

Since the last report in **The Local**, the following Achievement Program certificates were earned and awarded:

Division 2 – Potomac

Mark Addison - Golden Spike
Robert Reid - Master Builder Scenery
Robert Reid - Model Railroad Engineer Civil
Robert Reid - Model Railroad Engineer Electrical
Mathew Thompson - Model Railroad Author

Division 5 – James River

John Siegle - Model Railroad Engineer Civil
John Siegle - Association Volunteer

In a perfect world, this information will appear soon in **NMRA Magazine**. This should not deter you from giving recognition locally. Normally you will be able to recognize AP accomplishments long before the names appear in **NMRA Magazine**. 📄

Congratulations

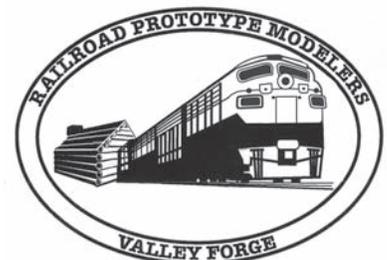


on your
Achievement!

Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge

March 23-25, 2012

Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
Malvern, PA



Clinics ■ Model Displays ■ Vendors' Room
Operating Sessions ■ Sunday Home Layout Tour

For information, updates, or to register, go to:

www.phillynmra.org

SUPPORT YOUR NMRA REGION AND PURCHASE THESE GREAT PRODUCTS FROM MER



COURTESY OF THE FREIGHTYARD

These 40' Western Maryland N-Scale box cars are Micro-Train bodies custom painted by The Freight Yard. They are box car red with prominent white "speed lettering".

MER Cloth Patch



MER Lapel
Pin/Tie Tack

WESTERN MD. N-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#29290	_____	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$_____
#29299	_____	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$_____
Shipping \$2.50 for first car, + \$1.50 for each additional car				\$_____

* Please list your MER or NMRA Membership # _____

MER CLOTH PATCH**	QUANTITY _____	\$3.00 including S&H	\$_____
MER LAPEL PIN/TIE TACK**	QUANTITY _____	\$6.00 including S&H	\$_____

THE LOCALS** —	QUANTITY _____	\$5.00 postpaid	\$_____
----------------	----------------	-----------------	---------

NEW! (all issues 1947–2011) on CD

** Only available to MER members.

DONATION \$_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MID-EASTERN REGION

Ship to:
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to:
 Roger Ossman
 MER Merchandise Sales Agent
 3307 Englewood Road
 Wilmington, DE 19819-3323

CALLBOARD

Coming Events

March 3rd. New Jersey Divisional meet at Switlik Park Recreational Building; 5 Fisher Place in Hamilton Twp, NJ. Registration opens at 8:30 AM. Clinics from 9 AM until Noon. Layout Tours from 1 PM until 5 PM. Contact Robert Clegg at BobcatCS@comcast.net or (856) 696-0463.

March 3rd & 4th. GATSME Model Railroad Club Annual Open House. 1,800 square feet of HO model railroad in both standard and narrow gauges. Located in the old Fort Washington (Montessori) Elementary School, Prospect and Madison Avenues, Fort Washington, PA. Noon until 4 PM each day. Everyone is welcome – bring your friends and family. Donations appreciated. In case of inclement weather check website or call us during show hours. Club phone number 215-646-2033. For more information, visit www.gatsme.org.

March 10th. Wade's Train Town monthly open house. Operated by Carolina Southern division members at the Brookford Town Center located at 1700 South Center St in Hickory, NC. 10 AM till 4 PM.

March 17th. HO scale Model Railroad Open House and Display at the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders Club. Located in the historic Vienna Depot of the former Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, 231 Dominion Road NE (at Ayr Hill Avenue), Vienna, VA. Hours: 1 PM until 5 PM. Admission is free (donations accepted). The layout depicts the Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. For more information, visit www.nvmr.org or (703) 938-5157 and leave message.

March 17th. Carolina Model Railroaders Show. Held at The Depot, 236 E Washington St in Greensboro, NC. Hours: 10AM until 3 PM. Admission: \$5, children under 12 Free. Contact John Schneider at (336) 698-0021, carolinamodelrr@aol.com or Carolina Model Railroaders PO Box 13642 Greensboro, NC 27415.

March 17th. Potomac Division layout tour in Mclean, VA. 1 PM till 4 PM. Contact: Brian Sheron at (301) 349-5754 or bwsheron@mac.com.

March 23rd – 25th. Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, PA. Registration: \$35. Prototype clinics, vendors' room, model display room, Friday Op Sessions, Sunday layout tour. Contact Paul Backenstose, at PRRpaul@aol.com or (610) 269-2763. Visit www.phillynmra.org for details.

March 31st. Potomac Division/Chesapeake Division Minicon. Contact Marshall Abrams at Abrams_railroad@comcast.net or (301) 588-1005. Contact Kurt A. Thompson at super.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com or (410) 544-7247.

April 14th. Wade's Train Town monthly open house. Operated by Carolina Southern division members at the Brookford Town Center located at 1700 South Center St in Hickory, NC. 10 AM till 4 PM.

April 14th. NVMR Model Railroad Open House, 1 PM until 5 PM. See address and contact info for NVMR Club.

Divisions and Clubs tell MER members about your upcoming event!! Send your FREE (limit of 25 words) event listings to the editor (contact information is listed on page 2.) Be sure to include all the specifics for the event: including the date/time, place, cost, a contact person, and a means of getting in touch with him/her (address, phone, e-mail, etc.), and if available a web site for updates or to get more information. Please see the publication deadlines on page 16 to make sure your event is published on time.

CLASSIFIED

ATTENTION ALL MER MEMBERS:

Do you have a wanted/trade/for sale item(s)? Looking for carpool options to an event or options for sharing a room? **The Local** publishes a FREE classified section for all MER members. Send your classified ad to the Editor at stevespressrr@yahoo.com, or see all the editor's contact information on page 2. The ad must include full name and contact information and will be limited to one issue. Word count is also limited to seventy-five (75) words. Please include your NMRA number for verification purposes (number will not be published). 

Great Decals!™

Fallout Shelter Signs
CP Mandarin Orange
B&O—3 titles
Interstate—2 titles
Virginian—15 titles

Southern cabooses
PRR X-29 box cars
L&N—6 titles
RF&P—6 titles
FEC—3 titles



...and more! In G-, O-, S-, HO-, and N-scales

William Mosteller, P.O. Box 994, Herndon, VA 20172
SASE for list, or see www.greatdecals.com

03/11

The Mid-Eastern Region Inc., NMRA
 An IRS Tax Exempt Organization
 Business Manager
 333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504
 Charlotte, NC 28202-1961

**Non-profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 York, PA
 Permit No. 363**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Research & Your Way Back Machine.....1
 Staff & Division Contacts2
 From the Business Car / Election Time..3
 Keep In Touch4
 Statement of Financial Condition5
 Model RR Club Helps Boy Scouts6
 Five No-Cost Tips6
 Mllepst 40 Special Contest Awards8
 NMRA Data Sheets Program9
 Support National Model RR Month10
 Time to Replace Your Gas Lines11
 New Membership Program12
 Achievement Program Update.....13
 MER Products For Sale14
 Callboard15

The Mid-Eastern Region Inc., NMRA
An IRS Tax Exempt Organization
 Business Manager
 333 W. Trade St, Unit #2504
 Charlotte, NC 28202-1961

Subscriptions to The Local

I want to receive the printed copies
 of **The Local** at \$6.00 per year (6 issues) \$ _____

I want to receive the free electronic
 version of **The Local**
 Email: _____

Donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip (+4) _____

Email _____

NMRA # _____ Expire Date _____

Scale _____ Telephone # _____

Make checks payable to the Mid-Eastern Region

The Local welcomes articles, photographs and model railroad related material as contributions to members' mutual enjoyment of the hobby. Materials should have a wide appeal. The editor will exercise all due care of submissions, but contributors should not send originals without having back-up copies of both articles and photographs. Editors, by definition, reserve the right—and have the responsibility—to make corrections, deletions and changes to accommodate space. Upon receiving any submission the editor will also confirm receipt and at a later date indicate the anticipated edition the submission will appear in **The Local**. If you do not receive a postcard or e-mail within two weeks please resend your submission or contact the editor by phone.

Publication Schedule:	Articles/Callboard items due to Editor by:
Jan/Feb	December 1st of previous year
Mar/Apr	Feb 1st
May/June	Apr 1st
Jul/Aug	Jun 1st
Sept/Oct	Aug 1st
Nov/Dec	Oct 1st

If you are interested in advertising with the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association please contact the Editor, as listed on page 2. The current advertising rates for **The Local** are as follows and must include camera ready art (jpeg, pdf, bmp, tiff formats):

Callboard Ads (30-50 words) (Div. and Clubs Only)...	Free
Business Card size (6 issues)	\$60.00
Quarter Page ad (6 issues).....	\$125.00
Half Page ad (6 issues).....	\$225.00
Half page ad (per issue) (Div. Only)	\$25.00