

WHEEL REPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION - NMRA

Fall, 2007

Fall Meetings

September – September 9, 2007, Mike Shockey's Great Northern Railway (HO) – The layout is designed with operations as the main goal, using NCE DCC and Car Cards. The layout represents mainline operations between Spokane, WA and Bonners Ferry, ID. There is a section of the Spokane, Portland, & Seattle RY representing that line from Spokane to Pasco, WA. This late 1950's layout uses mostly first generation diesels and fills a 35' x 27' basement.

Clinic -- DCC Wiring For Your Layout –
Presenter: Richard Benjamin

Directions: From the center of Hagerstown, proceed south on Rte. 11 (N. Prospect St. – turns into Virginia Ave.) Go 2.33 miles and turn right on Greenberry Rd. Proceed until dead-end at Burnside Ave. Turn left and go approx. 1 block to 17726 (on right).

Yahoo Maps Link:

http://maps.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTEExNmIycG51BF9TAzI3MTYxNDkEc2VjA2ZwLWJ1dHRvbgRzbGsDbGluaw--#mvt=m&q1=17726%20Burnside%20Ave.,%20Hagerstown,%20MD&trf=0&lon=-77.753098&lat=39.627391&mag=3

October – October 14, 2007, Rich Nemchik's Tug Fork & Eastern (HO) – loosely based on WM and B&O. Small "L" shaped design with the future plans for a logging branch and small seaport. It will go from an urban setting, with yard and engine

facility, to a rural area. This will be a transition era (circa 1950-55) with mostly 8-10 car trains. Mostly locals. There will be unit trains to a Power Plant and Coal Mine. Most of the mainline is completed and industrial areas are "temporary," a word often used with our group. My DCC control is NCE.

Clinic – The development of 16MM Scale –
Presenter: Harvey Heyser

Directions: Coming either North or South on 81, get off on the Maugans Ave. exit, go West. Go to the Stop Sign, Maugansville Rd. turn left. Proceed over the tracks and turn Right on Gardenview Road. Go about half a mile to Ivy Way, turn left. The first right is Gardenspot Dr. Mine is the second house on the right. 17726. Tan Brick rancher.

Yahoo Maps Link:

<http://maps.yahoo.com/broadband#mvt=m&q1=17726%20Gardenspot%20Dr.%20Hagerstown,%20MD%20&trf=0&lon=-7.750952&lat=39.693104&mag=3>

November – November 4, 2007, Richard Benjamin's Bedford Div. of the PRR (HO). The Bedford Division served a variety of small farming communities as well as limestone refactories. But its main traffic was coal from the Broadtop Mountain area. A visit to this layout takes you back to late summer in 1949 when Consolidations ruled the line. The B&O interchanged with the Bedford branch at Hyndyman and is represented as a double main line loop on the lower level. From this junction, the Bedford branch works its way north through a gentle valley to Bedford and beyond,

climbing up to the top level to Brookes Mill where it tied into the rest of the PRR system. This layout is a much condensed version of the original mushroom layout invented by Richard that John Armstrong saw in Dallas and subsequently wrote about and used in his designs. It occupies a 12.5 x 25 foot space in the basement. Digitrax DCC has been used since the beginning of their production of command stations and decoders.

Clinic -- Installing Decoders – Presenter: Mike Shockey

Directions: This layout is located on the north side of Frederick. From US 15 north or south bound, take the Hayward Road exit just north of MD 26 (be careful if you are crossing traffic from the northbound lanes - it is a left turn across the southbound lanes). Proceed to the traffic light at Opposumtown Pike. Continue west (on now Autumn Leaf Lane) one house and turn right on Claiborne Drive. Find a place to park as we are the first driveway on the left (7124 Autumn Leaf Lane).

Richard Benjamin is a Life Member of MER, LSR and NMRA and owner of Hobbytown USA Yahoo Maps Link:

<http://maps.yahoo.com/broadband#mvt=m&q1=17124%20Autumn%20Leaf%20Lane,%20%20Frederick,%20MD%20&trf=0&lon=-77.415193&lat=39.456897&mag=2>

Please note that the November meeting has been moved to the 1st Sunday of the month to avoid conflict with Veteran's Day weekend.

From the Desk of the Division Superintendent:

Welcome back for another year of South Mountain Division activities. I hope all of you had a good summer, but even more, I hope that with the change of seasons you will all be looking forward to spending more time with the trains. As per our normal schedule we will be having monthly meetings from September through May. Our goal for this year is to make every meeting a “must attend” event for each of you.

New Things and Different Places

We have made an effort this year to schedule most of our meetings at locations that are either new to the division, or locations that we have not visited for several years. Each meeting will give you the opportunity to see how your fellow modelers have approached the hobby and to learn new techniques.

Clinics:

As you know, we made an effort this past year to revive the practice of including a modeling clinic with each meeting. These clinics were well received so this year our goal is to present a clinic at every meeting. At this time we already have seven clinics scheduled with one more pending so we are almost to our goal. Five of the clinics address the use of digital command control systems (DCC) with each clinic building on the previous presentations. These clinics include the following:

Basic DCC Wiring for your Layout

Installing DCC Decoders in your locomotives

Basic Decoder Programming

Advanced Decoder Programming

DCC Accessories Devices

Other clinics already scheduled include presentations on Time Table / Train Order Operation (TTTO) and the Development of 16MM Scale.

If you would like to present a clinic, or have a suggestion for a future clinic, please let me know.

Growing the Division

After several years of declining attendance participation in South Mountain Division activities seemed to stabilize a couple of years ago and have been slowly growing since that time. There are almost 100 NMRA members within the SMD area and all are automatically a member of the division. If you know of a fellow modeler who is a member of the NMRA, but does not participate in our division activities, encourage them to do so. Also,

while you have to be an NMRA member to belong to the SMD non-members are welcome to attend as guests of members. A good way to get more modelers to join the NMRA is to introduce to the grass roots activities of the division.

The MER Local:

Don't forget that the Mid-East Region (MER) News letter – *The Local* – is distributed electronically. If you did not receive a notification as to the availability of the most recent issue be sure to go to the MER web site (www.mer-nmra.com) to download and print the Local as a pdf file (past issues are also available).

I hope to see you at a division meeting this year.

Bob Johnson
Superintendent -- SMD

Future Open Houses and Train Shows:

Mainline Hobbies Open House/Layout Tours: 9/22-9/23 Blue Ridge Summit, PA
<http://www.mainlinehobby.com> for info

Waynesboro Model RR Club Open House: 9/22-9/23 Zullinger, PA
www.waynesborotoytrains.blogspot.com or 717-762-9579 for info

Cumberland Valley Model RR Club Open House: 9/22-9/23 Chambersburg, PA
<http://www.cvmrrc.com/events.htm> for info

Great Scale Model Train Show: 10/13-10/14, Timonium, MD www.gsmts.com for info

Waynesboro Lions Club Train Show: 11/4, Mt. Alto, PA Fire Hall. Dave McCarney at (717) 762-4044 (work) or (717) 762-5543 (home) or Mike Toms [mjtoms@innernet.net] for info.

Hagerstown Model RR Museum Trainfest: 11/24 Wash. Co. Ag. Center: 301-824-2239 or hmrrm_inc@hotmail.com for info

Note: If you know of a train show or open house coming up in the Dec – Mar time frame, please let me know for inclusion in the next issue. MAR

“Clerical” Notes:

In order to keep up with the modern age, we would like to develop and maintain a web page for the Division. At some point in the past we had one, but it was limited due to the lack of a person to act as a web master. So we are now looking for a volunteer with a certain degree of computer literacy (the ability to use Dreamweaver or some similar software) and a little bit of time to work with the Clerk to develop and maintain a web page to provide information for the benefit of our members. If you're interested, send an email to: mreed_44@att.net or call 301-745-3169.

NMRA Achievement Program in the SMD

Not too much news to report in this issue, but I've just found out from Jane Clarke that Ed Maldonado received his Golden Spike Award back in March. Congratulations, Ed !

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