



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division  
of the Mid-Eastern Region,  
National Model Railroad Association

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As we begin a new year of model railroad activities, the Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Railroad Prototype Modelers meet on March 26, 27, and 28. This meet will be the first of what we hope will become a bi-annual event.

The meet will be held at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, located at One Liberty Boulevard in Malvern PA. The Desmond Hotel is one of the finest hotels in the suburban Philadelphia area, offering an excellent conference area and many in-room amenities, including free high speed internet access in all hotel rooms. The special rate for hotel rooms is only \$89.00 per night plus tax. You **must** mention the Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet to receive this special rate.

We are excited to have the use of the large 130 seat amphitheater with full audio visual capabilities for clinics, plus other rooms for more clinics, model displays, and dealer tables.

The lineup of clinics for this meeting is one of the best in recent history. The clinics are very different and varied and include topics covering many subjects and how to model them. There are sure to be clinics of interest to everyone. Some of the

topics planned are maintenance of way equipment, weathering, New York harbor railroads, cabooses, freight cars, passenger cars, and many other topics too numerous to mention here. For the current list of topics please visit the Philadelphia Division web site at: [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org), or go to the GATSME web site and click on the Philadelphia Division link, then click on the RPM meet. This site will have an updated clinic list and much more information for you to access.

In addition to the clinics, there will be a model display room. Here some of the finest model work will be available for you to view. These pieces will be available for your viewing from 1:00 PM Friday until late Saturday night. In most cases the creators of these models will be in attendance and would be glad to discuss the techniques they have used.

In addition, there will be a vendor room with many manufacturers bringing their products for you to purchase. The list of dealers includes companies as Westerfield, Funaro & Camerlengo, Bethlehem Car Works, and many more. The vendor room is quite large and is sure to be a busy place throughout the weekend.

To conclude the weekend's activities, there will be a number of layouts open for you to visit; these include two on Thursday night, and many more on Sunday. Only those with registration badges will be allowed to visit.

On Saturday night there will be a buffet dinner. There will be no speeches, awards, or any other distractions, just an opportunity to talk trains. Cost for the meal is \$25.00.

The division officers hope you will register now for this exciting event. Due to the costs involved in producing a weekend like this, all attendees must pay the registration fee. A registration form is included on page 5 of this issue of The Dispatcher for your convenience, or you may visit our Web site as noted elsewhere and download a copy.

## Important Information

In order to ensure that you receive your confirmation in time, all registrations must be postmarked by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Registrations will be available at the door starting on Friday at 11:00 AM and on Saturday at 8:00 AM. In order to receive notice about the Thursday night layout tours you must pre register.

Ever wonder how some people seem to accomplish so much in a short time? Like how does Ken McCrorry get so much done on his large layout? And I'm sure there are others that put us to shame. I have been working on my current railroad for about 10 years now, and some days when I walk into the basement and look around it just seems to me that there should just be a little more progress.

Like there is this turnout in the developing Edgewater yard that has been half built for over two years as of this writing. In fact, the only thing that stops this turnout from shutting down the entire railroad from a dead electrical short is the little scrap of paper I put between the pieces of rail where the frog is being built.

And then there is the long planned but as yet un-built Paterson City branch. This branch leaves the main line at Paterson Junction and serves a number of small industries in downtown Paterson, and then terminates at a stub end passenger terminal. The timetable for the passenger trains has been written, the sub roadbed is in place, the junction is complete, and the railcar to service the station is ready to paint. But somehow there are no rails to run on yet.

Now some of these things remain undone for ostensibly good reasons. Like the turnout at Edgewater. When it was started I planned to go in one direction, but as work commenced, a few new ideas popped up, which caused the work to grind to a halt. And there is still some uncertainty on my part which way I'm going to go with the rest of the branch. So for now at least it will remain unfinished.

But that Paterson city branch is another story. There is plenty of room to model almost everything that was on the prototype, and maybe even add a couple bonus items. But somehow, there is just no progress. The roadbed sure does make a nice shelf though.

One way to get things moving is to plan an open house. With the upcoming RPM Meet and its associated tours, it would be a good idea to have something new completed. And with this group it had better look great.

Then there is the round robin operating group. These guys come every month, and if there is no progress anywhere they do notice, and they can be pretty brutal, (just make a mistake operating some time). But hey, it's my railroad, and if I don't want to do it, I don't have to, right? Nah, I'm my own worse critic. It some times just gets to me.

So what am I doing about it? Well, one thing that seems to help is to shut off the idiot box (television), not much of value coming out of that thing anymore, and drag myself to the basement. Then just find something undone and start it. Even if I don't finish it right away at least it will be sitting there begging me to finish it. Having those unfinished things around recently prompted me to "clean up" the room by finishing a couple of them, like the dispatcher's panel, the Pompton Lakes fire house, and some scenery (those trees have hung there too long). Now, what else can I get started?

Happy Railroading,

Steve Salotti

## THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division, Mid-Eastern Region,

National Model Railroad Association

### Editor

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**Submissions:** The PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER welcomes any model railroad- or railroad-related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc. Submissions are preferred typed, double-spaced. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

**Next issue:** May 2004. Due out approx. May 1st. Deadline: April 15th.

**Membership:** \$7.00 per year. Address all membership applications, renewals; address changes, etc. to the Clerk. If the date in the upper-right corner of your mailing label is highlighted, your membership will expire soon. Please pay at the next meet or mail payment to the Clerk. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Division, NMRA."

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### National Model Railroad Association

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(615) 892-2946

Dues: \$45.00 per year

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## Superintendent's Notes

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Your division Board met recently to plan out / line up activities for the rest of 2004, as well as to look at early 2005. It is hard to believe how time flies. 2006 and the IJ2006 will be upon us before we know it. This subject will be addressed separately--.

We try to do three-four Division meets annually. Currently the plan is that the RPM Meet, which we are sponsoring, will be the March meet – you can get the information, including a list of planned clinics at the Division web site. If some of you are concerned perhaps that the RPM meet is being used in lieu of a “normal” Division meet, let me point out that the same few individuals are doing both. Do I hear the sound of volunteers?

The June meet will be at St.Albans Church, with a theme of operations, followed by actual operations on the StARR railroad in the afternoon. This is a nice operation and this part of the meet is designed to get

folks exposed to another aspect of the hobby. Try it, you might like it, but to try it doesn't mean you have to do it all the time. For me, all aspects of the hobby are interesting, even wiring though I'd give it a somewhat lower rating than some other areas.

The September meet will be at the Fairview Church, and we are looking at the possibility of a meet at the Hagley Museum in November.

A November meet is somewhat problematic, in part because of the open houses associated with Model Railroad Month: our Downingtown meet this past November was, in a word, sparsely attended. In fact, attendance at several recent meets has been underwhelming. What do you, the membership, think we should do to encourage increased participation?

Jim

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## Important Renewal Information!

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As announced in past issues of the Dispatcher, we are beginning a new system for membership. All current members have had their memberships extended to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year it expires, and all future membership cycles will be based on a calendar year. We will not be sending renewal notices, but will include a membership form in the last two issues of the Dispatcher for the current year. Please mail the form to the Clerk, or bring it to any division meet to renew. We hope this system will simplify the process for both the membership and the clerk. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any board member. Please also note that dues have been increased to \$7.00 per year as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003. It is also important to note that due to the cost of printing and postage, the Division can no longer afford carry those members who do not renew promptly. Your name will be moved to an inactive list.

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### Membership Renewal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

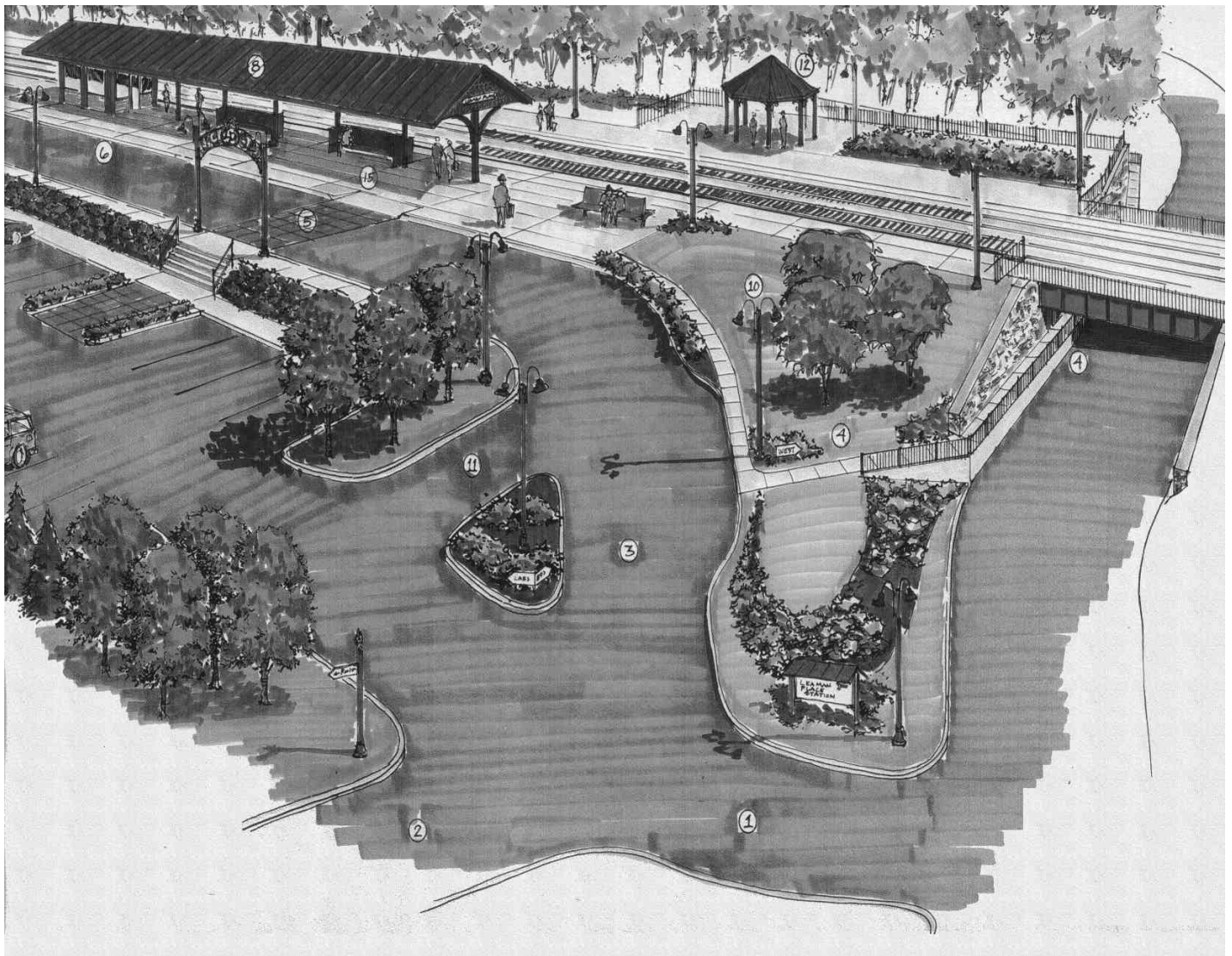
NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_ MER #: \_\_\_\_\_ Div. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$7.00 per year. Please mail to the Clerk or bring to the next meeting.

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## New Paradise Station moves toward completion

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During a recent conversation I asked former division Superintendent John Nawn when he expected the new Paradise station project to be completed. The following was his reply:

“When do "I" expect it to be finished? Plans are 75% complete. We are negotiating our Amtrak agreements now. We are currently finalizing our Historic/Environmental permits and finalizing funding with FTA. We could be in a position to go to construction mid to late this year and actual construction time should be less than a year. I need to take the Strasburg out of service for roughly 30 days and my best opportunity to do that is in January, so we missed this year.

Nonetheless, we could expect a Grand Opening in mid-2005.

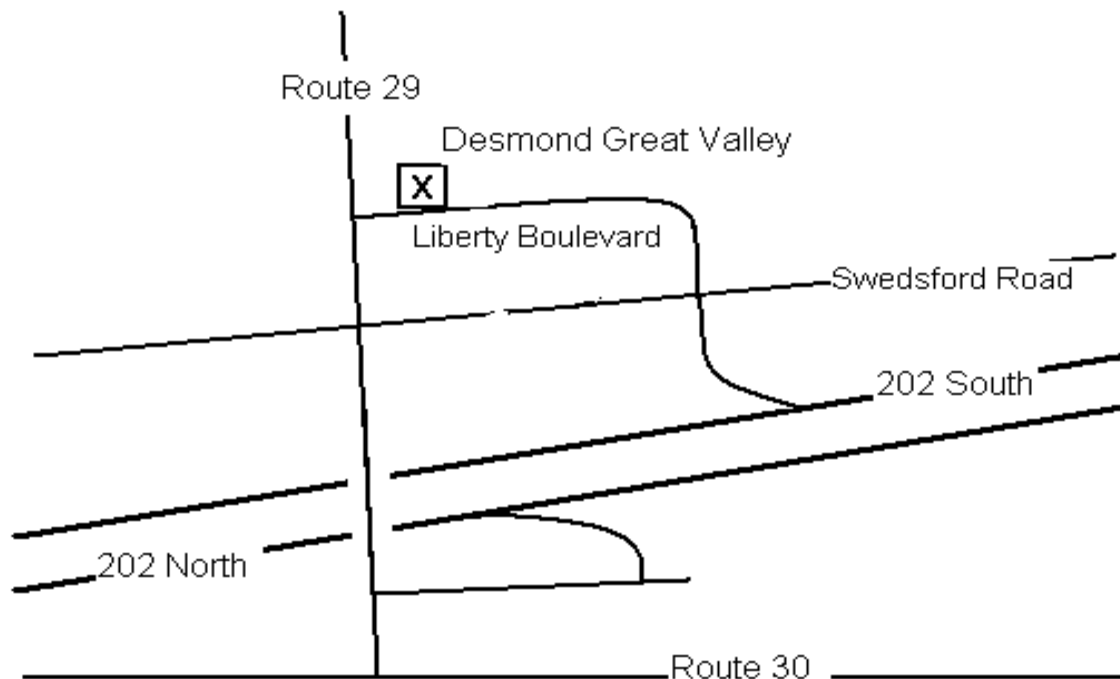
I'm hoping to finish it soon. The County has been pushing the project since 1991 and I have been involved since 1995. We are currently at our second location and on our third design scheme. If everything goes as envisioned, I would anticipate a Grand Opening Celebration which I would expect the Division to be formally invited to.”

John

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## Directions to the Desmond Great Valley Hotel

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From 202 North: Take the Great Valley/Route 29 exit. Turn right at the light, then right at the second light onto 29 N. Take 29 North to the second traffic light, then right onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your left.

From 202 South: Take the Great Valley/29 exit. At the end of the ramp proceed through the traffic light onto Liberty Boulevard. The Desmond will be on your right.

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## Schedules

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**RPM Meet** March 26, 27, 28  
Desmond Great Valley Hotel  
Sponsored by the Philadelphia  
Division. See details elsewhere  
in this issue of The Dispatcher.

**New Jersey Division Meet**  
**March 20, 2004 - Delran area**  
Location: Walnut Street School,  
411 Walnut Street, Delanco,  
Clinics & Meeting: Saturday  
9:00AM to 12:00PM Layouts:  
Saturday - 1:00PM to 4:00PM  
Contest: M-of-W and Non-  
Revenue Cars

**April 3 & 4, 2004 - Timonium**  
**Train Show** *Great Scale Model*  
*Train Show* Timonium, MD  
[www.GSMTS.com](http://www.GSMTS.com)  
(410) 730-1036

**New Jersey Division Meet**  
**May 8, 2004** Location: TBD  
(Toms River/Monmouth County)  
Clinics & Meeting: Saturday -  
9:00AM to 12:00PM Layouts:  
Saturday 1:00PM to 4:00PM  
Contest: Trackside Structures

**May 13-16, 2004 - MCR/MER**  
**Joint Region Convention**  
Three Rivers Transfer Location:  
Pittsburgh, Plaza Hotel: Sheraton  
Four Points, Cranberry Twp See  
MER Local for more details

**New Jersey Division Meet**  
**June 5, 2004 - Garden Layout**  
**Tour** Location: Throughout  
South Jersey Time: 10:00AM to  
3:00PM Rain Date: Sunday, June  
6, 12-5PM

**Philadelphia Division Meet**  
**June 12** Saint Albans church,  
Newtown Square. Clinics:  
Operations theme. Contest:  
Weathered model (any subject)

**June 19 & 20, 2004 - Timonium**  
**Train Show**  
*Great Scale Model Train Show*  
Timonium, MD  
[www.GSMTS.com](http://www.GSMTS.com) (410) 730-  
1036

**Joint Philadelphia & New**  
**Jersey Division Meet**  
**September 18<sup>th</sup>** Location to be  
determined. Contest, layout  
tours.