



The

Relay

A publication of the Chesapeake Division of the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA

Volume 7 Issue 1

View From The Cupola

Winter 2017

By Bill Ataras



HAIL TO OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT!

Although I've been in MER for most of my adult life, I'm relatively new to Chesapeake Division. A move to Westminster nearly 4 years ago closed the deal. But, that said, I've been active in the hobby since I received an American Flyer train set for Christmas just 3 months before my 4th birthday. I didn't get to play with the train very much on Christmas day; there was a wall of adult-sized backsides surrounding the loop around the tree. That was my first clue that even grown-ups will play with trains.

I can even remember the early days: articles by Frank Ellison, John Allen, John Armstrong, Jack Work, and Linn Westcott. These are but a few of what may have been the most visible members of our Community of Model Railroaders in the 50's and 60's; I mean no disrespect to anyone else not mentioned.

Since my goal was to become an Electrical Engineer, my time through high school and college focused on electronics; for a time, model railroading was a secondary, but always present, interest. After college, my youngest brother Dave, 10 years my junior, asked me to help him with his little 4 x 8 layout. That reawakened my interest in model railroading. I've been active in the hobby ever since. I'll skip over the subsequent 50 years till today; those years can be discussed over coffee and stacks of doughnuts sometime.

I'm very grateful to have followed Tom Casey and Greg Kidwell into the position as Superintendent. They set an excellent example and I'll try to remember at least a percentage of their leadership techniques.

Rick Uskert has completed the Division Survey. Not only did it answer questions about members' interests, it suggested additional questions to be asked. Naturally, Division leadership will try to reach two goals: 1) Address the expressed interests of the members; and 2) Open up new topics that could provide some possibilities for use on their layouts or modeling activities. We are certainly open to any hearing any suggestions.

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Rick has also been busy bringing our Division website back to life. Now that it's running again, we should go through it and identify any areas that need updating or outright change. We can probably find someone willing to volunteer to make the changes. It's not difficult for someone who knows how to do it.

David Arday has told us that the Railroad Museum in Elicott City is seeking help in restoring their model railroad. This would be a volunteer activity and could be of service to the Museum and community, and might lead to contacts with prospective NMRA members and hobbyists.

Modeler's Day Out has usually been well attended. I know the thought of going motivated me to get a kit and start assembling it before, during and after the Modeler's Day Out. I hate to admit how long it's been since I cut myself with an X-acto knife!

I'm looking forward to an exciting year for all of us, and will do all I can to make it exactly that – a very exciting year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bill



Hello, Fellow Modelers;

Another year has gone by. 2016 is now history and 2017 is beginning. I hope that each of you had a great and happy holiday season. Hopefully, you enjoyed some time in between the hustle and bustle to enjoy your layout and share with others the hobby of model railroading.

With the New Year come changes to your Division leadership. My tenure as Superintendent comes to an end and Bill Ataras is your new Superintendent with Rick Uskert moving up to Assistant Superintendent. I have enjoyed my time as your Superintendent and look forward to Bill and Rick's leadership. Join me in sharing your ideas and thoughts with them.

We look forward to input from each and every one of you as this is your Division. No comment or idea is too insignificant as to be dismissed. Now, on with the rest of the show!

Thanks,

Greg

Greg Kidwell
Past-Superintendent

Membership, Subscriptions and Article Submissions

To become a member of the Chesapeake Division of the NMRA, please contact any Board Member, fill out the form for a free Railpass (page 20) or join us at our next Divisional meeting on Sunday,

To receive electronic versions of *The Relay*, send an e-mail message to Russell Forte at Web.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com

If you would prefer to receive printed copies, please send a check for \$6 (payable to the Chesapeake Division, MER, NMRA)

Dave Arday
P.O. Box 428
Fulton, MD. 20759-0428

To submit an article for future publication in *The Relay*, please send it to the Newsletter editor, John Darlington, at

jjdjr3@verizon.net

**no later than
Friday March 17, 2017**



Results of the Chesapeake Division Survey

By Rick Uskert, Assistant Superintendent

The survey results are in, and thank you to all who submitted. We achieved a 16% response rate with a total of 22 returned surveys. For those who did not respond, the chance to share your views and desires is not over. Feel free to submit your survey at anytime and we will add it to the collection. In addition, we will be emailing one or two question surveys to delve deeper into the responses collected to better drive future content and events; more on that later.

With surveys, the goal is to obtain a reasonable snapshot of our audience and extrapolate or assume the results apply to the group as a whole. We know this is not foolproof, and based upon our response rate, there are known pockets of the population missed, but we will work with the information shared and adjust as new information becomes available.

The Chesapeake Division

So, let's start by sharing a bit about ourselves. All respondents listed themselves as active modelers, 82% have layouts or modules while only 18% consider those projects complete. Whether we ask for help from others, or not, is broken down thus,

- 23% Elicit help from others frequently
- 18% Ask for assistance from like-minded individuals
- 32% Don't request help, but are willing to accept it if offered
- 27% Consider themselves "Lone Wolves" and tackle the hobby without assistance.

Below is a graphic representing the responding membership's interests within the hobby, with the number of members which selected the interest on the horizontal axis.

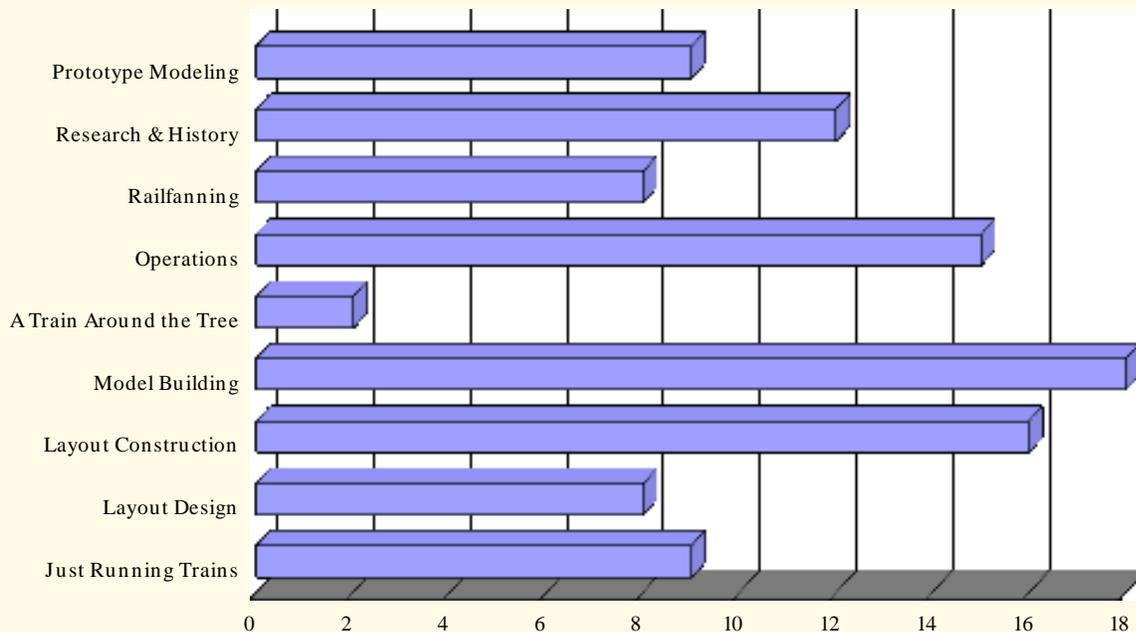


Figure 1: Member Interests

(Continued on page 4)

We're going to delve into the top four topics (Research & History, Operations, Model Building and Layout Construction) in the first short email surveys, to better understand and tailor future content to these interests. As part of this survey, our interest in Research & History shows active memberships in nineteen separate Historical and Technical societies, including the NMRA Library.

The next four areas of interest (Prototype Modeling, Railfanning, Layout Design and "Just Running Trains") will not be ignored, as each is supported by a third of the population. Along the lines of these main themes, the membership provided responses to its "Favorite Parts of the Hobby" and most "Enjoyed Activities:"

Favorite Parts of the Hobby

- Model Building
- Scenic
- Operations
- Weathering
- Electronics
- Engineering
- Research & Development
- Layout Construction
- Hand-laying Track
- Signaling
- Recreating a Historic Railroad
- Involvement w Other Modelers
- Train Shows
- Railfanning
- Passenger History
- Layout Design

Enjoyed Activities

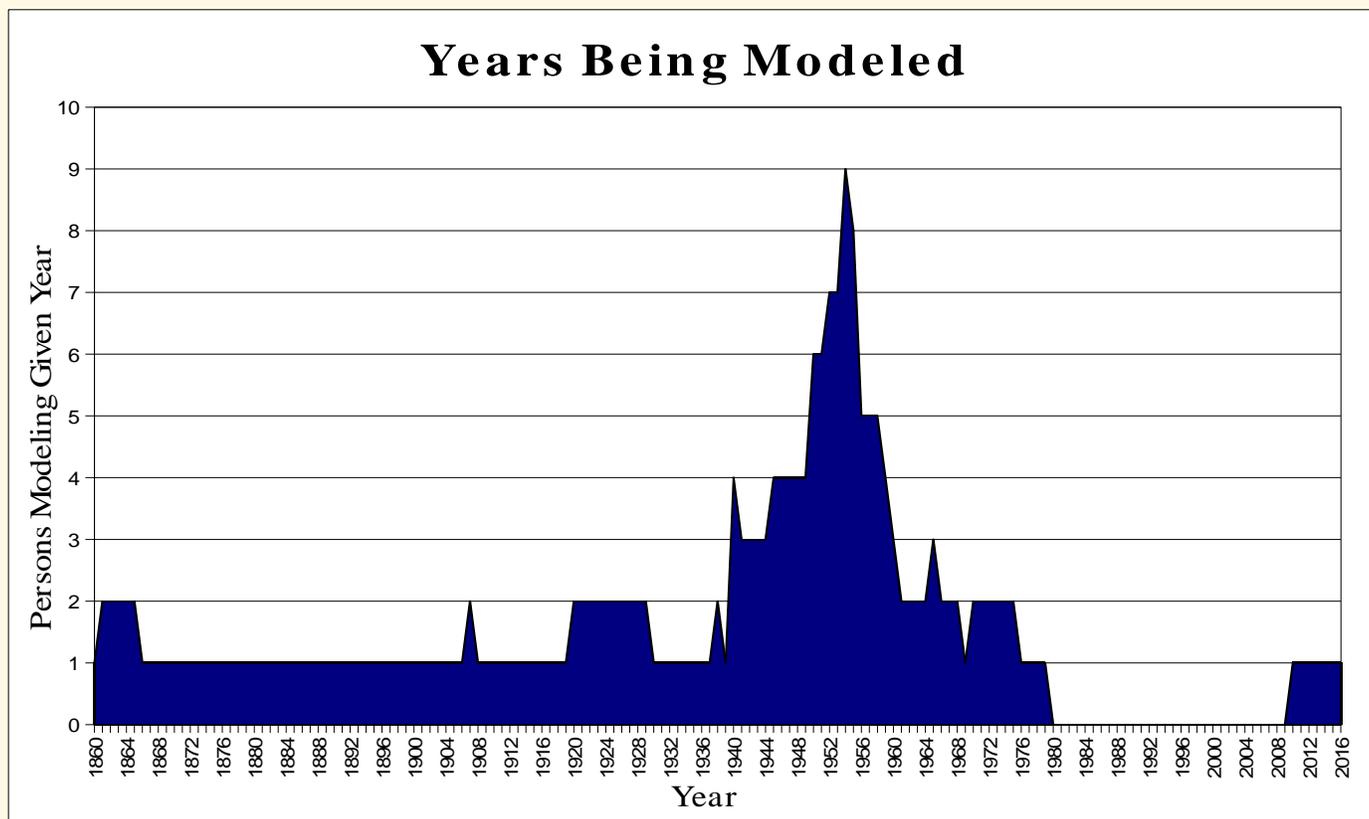
- Model Building
- Structures
- Scenic
- Operations
- Weathering
- Writing
- Creating Flawless Track
- Layout Design
- Layout Construction
- Working w Other Modelers
- Railfanning
- RPM Meets
- History

Layout Design

For those looking for subjects to write about within *The Relay*, or if you are interested in presenting a clinic as part of your AP goals, draw from the above lists and the following answers to "What subject matters, events or clinics would you be interested in reading about or attending?"

- Model Building
- Scenic
- Operations
- Weathering
- New Technologies
- DCC/Decoders for Dummies, Wiring
- Electrical (Soldering)
- Airbrush / Bristle Brush Practicum for Weathering Everything
- Anything
- Structures
- Arduino
- Modeling Realistic Trees
- Radio Control
- Layout Design
- Passenger Car Modeling
- B&O, Baltimore RR in 1950
- Benchwork
- Layout Visits
- Hand Laying Track
- AP Requirements Clinics
- Prototype Lectures
- Detailing
- Decal Making

Figure 2: Years Modeled by Members Responding



Should you care to delve deeper and address the major preferences of our group, the majority follow the hobby as a whole, regarding modeling period, as most have taken the transition era to heart. A few are modeling railroads reaching back to the civil war period, as well as one response noted modeling the current generation of diesels and double stack container cars.

Many respondents listed more than one railroad being modeled on their layouts. Of those, the local flavor was prevalent: Pennsylvania, Western Maryland and the Ma & Pa, followed by the Norfolk & Western and Southern lines.

What should the NMRA do for you?

The membership provided many great comments on what the NMRA should do for the individual and the group. All of those comments, unaltered, are presented below, and we will strive to bring about changes within the Division, provide content or activities accordingly.

By entity:

Divisional: Provide seminars and other activities on railroading, both model and prototype. Organize railfanning trips for members. Provide help to members on layout construction, model building, operations, etc.

Regional: Continue to organize annual conventions on the current "round robin" basis. Encourage and aid Divisions to actively participate in regional activities such as seminars, railfanning, historical, etc.

(Continued from page 5)

National: Continue to organize and promote the annual National Convention. Keep members up to date on national events effecting model railroading. Continue to develop national standards for model railroading and continue to provide railroad archives for the benefit of the membership. Improve their relationships and interest at both Region and Division levels

Have meetings closer to Shady Side or Annapolis

The Division should work to have plenty of activities throughout the year. It is where I meet local, like-minded model railroaders. The Region and National should be more supportive of the Division efforts.

Division needs to organize layout tours, workshops, clinics, and publish the quarterly newsletter. Ideally should have 8-10 events per year. I know we need more volunteers to take the lead and do this, though. Need to do more outreach with portable layout we started a couple years ago, too.

Maintain, create and advance standards; maintain & improve the library. I appreciate divisional & regional activities, and I also appreciate how much work, much of it thankless, it takes to run and manage them, so I try to ask little of you. On the other hand, national is next to worthless, except for the standards program & the library.

Provide opportunities for fellowship and sharing of ideas and techniques.

Be a continuous educational vehicle, provide access to willing member layouts

Keep me informed of local events and modeling news.

Provide standards for DCC; (LCC is already covered by commercial offerings); Provide standards for track work; provide opportunities for socialization on a small scale basis with SIG's, Birds-of-a-Feather type groups; Present clinics

I would like to see more prototype, "behind-the-scenes" tours of railroad operations and rail-served industries. I know that these are challenging to set up, but are needed in light of the increased suspicion of railfans.

Nothing. I'm happy with things as they are. Should do more for new and annual members.

Friendships, guidance, information, trips, etc.

Continue to provide good information

Keep me advised about Regional meetings.

Disseminate information, keep fine-tuning standards

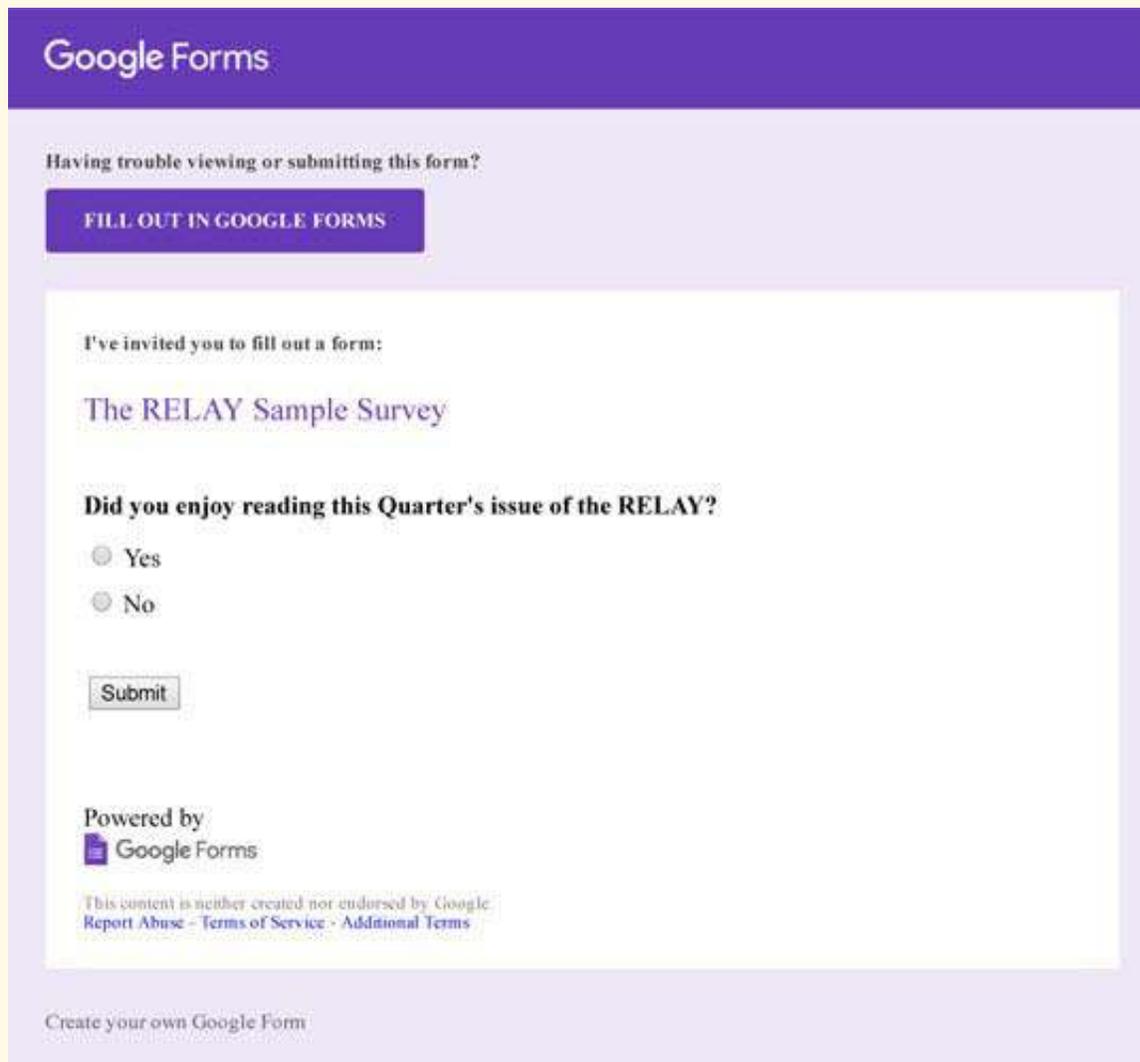
I have no idea, other than support the hobby.

(Continued on page 7)

What's Coming

More surveys, but far simpler and easier to complete. These surveys will be exceptionally brief, containing one, possibly two, questions about a specific topic for an event or article. Completion of these surveys will be measured in less than two minutes, and most of that time will be spent reading the question. As an example, you will be receiving a survey regarding "Operations" and "Layout Construction" to better understand these interests as future events are being molded around them.

In an effort to tailor future content to the membership interests, we will be distributing future surveys via email, to be completed directly in your email Inbox, or through another window, which is accessed simply by clicking on the "Fill Out in Google Forms" link at the top of the survey. These email surveys have been tested on a number of platforms, including laptop/desktops, tablets and phones



The screenshot shows a Google Forms interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the text "Google Forms". Below this, a link says "Having trouble viewing or submitting this form?". A prominent purple button reads "FILL OUT IN GOOGLE FORMS". The main content area is white and contains the text "I've invited you to fill out a form:" followed by the title "The RELAY Sample Survey". The question is "Did you enjoy reading this Quarter's issue of the RELAY?". There are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". A "Submit" button is located below the options. At the bottom of the form, it says "Powered by Google Forms" with the Google Forms logo. Below that, there is a small disclaimer: "This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. Report Abuse - Terms of Service - Additional Terms". At the very bottom of the form, there is a link that says "Create your own Google Form".

The general consensus is that laptop/desktop email services will generally allow completion of the survey within the email (Gmail, Yahoo!) while most mobile device users (tablets, phones) should open a new window to complete the survey. In my own testing, which I chose to use my phone, I could completely fill out the survey in the email, but clicking "Submit" opened another window, prompting me to re-enter the data. For one or two questions, re-entering was painless, but had I needed to type the answer to a few questions, it might have been a little annoy-

(Continued from page 7)

ing. Choose the platform that works best for you and clicking "Fill Out in Google Forms" is the foolproof way to participate.

Take a look at the *Activities and Events* section of this quarter's issue of *The Relay*. This has been generated per the requests to "Keep me informed of local events and modeling news" and those asking to have multiple activities throughout the year, with a slowdown or hiatus during the summer months of lawn care and vacations. This section, which will be updated with each new issue of the Relay, presents a broad list of activities this year, both NMRA and non-NMRA. Should you know of an event at least 3 months out which has been omitted, please email us for inclusion. I'll speak briefly of the upcoming Division events, as internet links are provided for all non-Division activity information.

Members of the Severna Park area are opening their layouts for viewing in February. The four railroads are in various stages of completion and complexity. Jack Keene is modeling the Susquehanna Division of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad circa 1974 in 2 rail O Scale (pictured) from Mechanicville and Colonie, NY south

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Don Marvel's Wilson Creek Division is a free-lanced HO model railroad located in West Virginia in the 1955 – 1960 time period. Track work is 95% complete and scenery is 60% complete. NCE wireless radio is utilized and operation of the railroad is in the beginning stages. Travers Stavac will be stationed at Don's place, providing design details of his B&O plans and offering layout design pointers for your own endeavors.

The Erie Lackawanna climbed steep grades both east and west out of Scranton, PA. Jeff Mutter's 26 by 34 foot HO Scale layout faithfully models the eastward climb to Pocono Summit and then to East Stroudsburg in July 1975, and nearly all trains require helpers to make the grade. Sound-equipped DCC locomotives help operators feel the struggle up the grade and NCE radio throttles let the train and helper crews focus on getting the train to the summit. Two eleven-track and one seven-track staging yards provide traffic. Two on-line yards and multiple on-line industries provide operating interest beyond the mainline action, and the Bloomsburg Branch provides interchange with the Reading and Lehigh Valley railroads, plus additional industry. Turnouts are a mix of commercial and hand laid, using code 83 rail for the mainline and code 70 in the yards and industrial areas. The layout is fully operational, and scenery is about 40% complete.

Finally, Fred Scheer is constructing a Lance Mindheim-contracted layout design representing York, PA Industrial

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District circa 1953. Pennsylvania Railroad, Western Maryland Railway, and Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad. HO gauge, not operational, considerably more track is in place than when I was last open on November 22, 2014. Completion: Crew Room 100 percent; Backdrop 100 percent; Roadbed 100 percent; Track (laid but not dressed) 50 percent; Wiring 10 percent; Scenery Other Than Backdrop 0 percent.

March marches in with two events: March 25th brings us Kurt Thompson's popular Arduino clinic, preceded by the Division's participation in the B&O Museum's Railroad Society Days on March 18th & 19th.

"This inaugural two-day event hosted by the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore will showcase participating railroad historical societies, model train groups, museums and tourist railroads from the Mid-Atlantic region in the Museum's historic Roundhouse and in other areas throughout the Museum's campus. Visit to see displays, exhibits, railroad preservation projects, artifacts and learn about how these historical organizations work to preserve American railroading in the Mid-Atlantic region."

Please contact me if you would like to participate in this event

In April, we will be hosting a railroad-related photography clinic, for all skill levels. We will discuss camera-agnostic basics, such as framing and lighting, how to shoot static and fast movers while railfanning, followed up in the afternoon with photo backdrops and photo buildings. Bring your camera(s)--cell, point and shoot and/or DSLR--for the in-class opportunities. We will be sending out information in the future on basic photo-editing software you may wish to download to a laptop for use during the clinic. Don't forget your camera to PC data cables!



In May, providing no exceptions arise, we will be taking a tour of the Canton Railroad, located in Baltimore, MD. The railroad is receptive to us visiting to learn about shortline operations, and an email survey will be distributed to collect questions and/or topics you would like answered and discussed during the tour, within the confines of current day laws and restrictions. This event date, very likely to be a weekday, will be solidified in April. We will better understand the safety requirements and number restrictions the railroad will place upon us.

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We will be dropping in additional clinics later in the year on Layout Construction, History & Research and Operations, so keep an eye out for these and, as always, if you would like to present, if only for fifteen minutes, please let us know.

Again, thank you to all who participated in the survey, and I encourage all to voice your opinions in the forthcoming email surveys. They will be very short and painless and will result in activities or information.

For those who have not claimed your Helping Hands gift, please let me know of your plan to attend an activity in advance and I will be sure to bring you one.

Rick

- Charles Haverstock
- Raymond Stern
- Dave Pugh
- Travers Stavac
- Henry Kramer
- John Stralka

**South Mountain
Division**
A Mid Eastern Regional Division
of the NMRA

South Mountain Division Mini-Con

Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania, April 8, 2017, NMRA, MER South Mountain Division and Mainline Hobby Supply Host its 5th annual Mini-Con at the Blue Ridge Fire Hall, 13063 Monterey Ln., Blue Ridge Summit, PA, come enjoy from 9 AM to 4 PM, this one day free event one block north of Main Line Hobby Supply, consisting of prototype and modeling presentations, formal and informal clinics, modular displays, and interaction with your fellow hobbyists and beginners. This year's formal clinics will focus on Steel Mills and associated Steel Industries. This no admission charge, educational event is open to the public for the promotion of the hobby of Model Railroading.

Please come and see us. All are welcome!

Don

Don Florwick,
Member, Advisory Committee
DJFlorwick@comcast.net,
Phone 717-414-0660 for the South Mountain Division, Mid-Eastern Region.



HANDY TOOLS!

By John Darlington

I do not know about the rest of you, you are probably smarter and more careful than me, but one of the frustrations that I have is with sticking bottle caps and tube tops.

I have read countless articles on the subject, and many of them appear to be good ideas at first. They range from being careful to wipe off the bottle lid and neck each time you use the paint, to any number of mechanical devices, both commercial and hand made.



One that I have had limited success with is pictured to the left. It supposedly is designed for this exact purpose and it works along as the bottle cap matches up with the adjustment holes. As far

as tubes are concerned, this device is really useless! If you are interested, you can get it from MicroMark.

The one I discovered that works on any paint jar and most tube top is a device that is not designed for this kind of work. You may even have one lying about your house. It is called a Nut Cracker, and it works like a charm! It fits all modeling paint tops that I am familiar with and it is also handy with most tube tops as well.



Give it a try. See what you think.

John

The Relay

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Thanks for Your Support!

By Kurt Thompson



As most of you know by now, I have been elected to the office of Vice President, Mid-East Region. I was elected by the majority of the votes submitted. I want to thank each of you in the Chesapeake Division who voted for me. (If you vote for the other guy, I'm sorry your candidate lost.) I am here to serve just the same as when I served as your Superintendent. I just have a larger group of modelers to help out.

As part of the tasks of Vice President, my primary function is to be the voice and point of contact for the Division Superintendents. This means that I'm responsible to collect the Division annual reports in January so they can be published in the April issue of *The Local*. Also, I'm the Superintendents' voice on the MER Board. I'm also responsible to bring the Superintendents' concerns to the MER BOD.

If any of you remember the movie Saving Private Ryan, during the patrol to find and retrieve Private Ryan, several of the men were complaining to the Lt., Tom Hank's character. One of them ask him why they never hear him complain. He replied complaining also has a chain of command. "You all complain to me. And I, in turn, complain to the Major." I see that as part of my job as Vice President; I'm the next step up the chain for any NMRA complaints and, hopefully, any compliments.

One of the fun parts of my job is to be the visible face of the MER. This task I share with the other members of the MER Board, particularly the MER President. So with Chesapeake, this part of my job will be easy. Just because I'm now on the MER BOD doesn't mean you won't see me locally. Remember, there is an Arduino clinic on Saturday, March 25, 2017 that I'm leading. (See the calendar of events listed elsewhere.)

On my travel agenda for this year: the South Mtn. Division's annual Mini-Con. This year's will be held the second Saturday in April, 4/8/2017. The location will be same as last year's, Blue Ridge Summit. I hope many of you will take the opportunity.

If you have any issues you would like to discuss regarding how the Division and MER interact, please contact me. I will be happy to meet with you and a member of the Chesapeake BOD to discuss any NMRA issue. I may not have an answer for you immediately, but I will work to find the right one. As with other things though, the answer I find may not be the answer you want but we can work things out.

Sincerely your new Vice President

Kurt Thompson

Editors Note: I just heard through the grape vine that a protest is being lodged by one of the losing candidates which is based upon an FBI disclosure that the Russians hacked into the MER's computer and changed the votes!



Quick Fix for a Cheap Car

By Tom Casey

At the recent MER convention I found a car on the silent auction table for \$5. It was nothing special, a CNW gondola with two car weights glued into it and some graffiti decals applied. I figured I could clean it up and make something reasonable out of it. For five dollars what did I have to lose?

When I got it home I scrubbed off the graffiti and tried to remove the weights only to find that they were adhered with caulk liberally applied. After looking at it for a few minutes it occurred to me that the weights sort of looked like a steel plate load but that the holes in the ends and the overall length were a dead giveaway so I figured that if I added several pieces of styrene I could make the car a bit more convincing. The result is in the photo. It's a simple fix and won't win any awards but hey, for five bucks what do you want?



Tom

The gondola before the fix

The gondola with the “steel plate” added.





Arduino Parte Due

(or Arduino Part Two, For Those Who Do Not Read Italian)

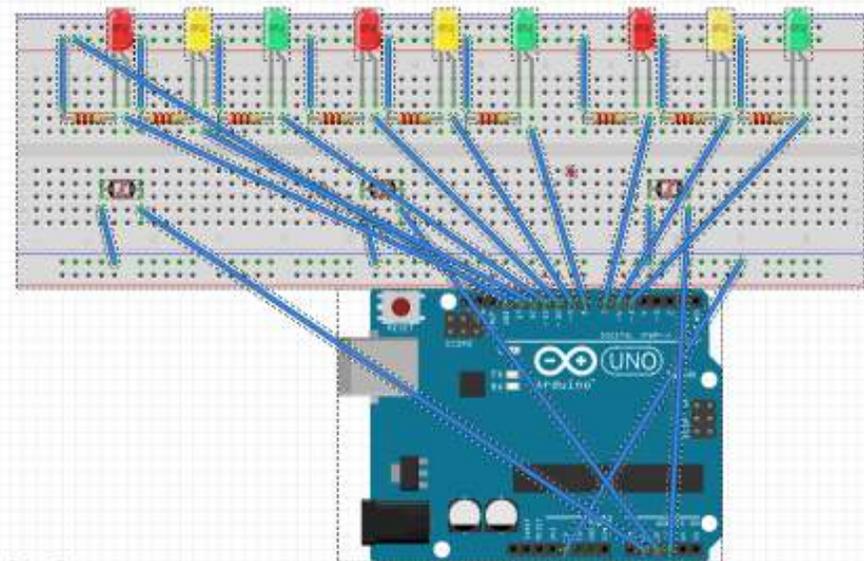
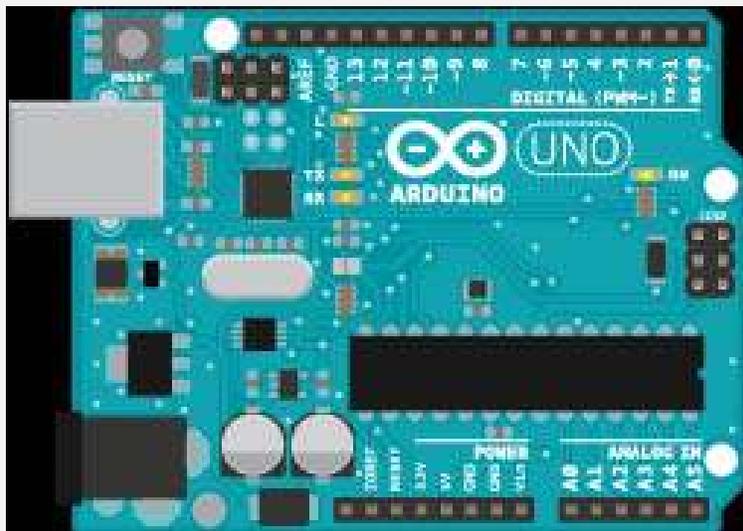
By Kurt Thompson

Last February, the Division hosted an all-day clinic on the basics of Arduinos. Thirty-three NMRA members from 4 different Divisions came to Severna Park to get a basic handle on what Arduinos are and how they can be used to enhance our model railroading experience. If you missed last year's clinic, we are running the clinic again.

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, we will again be visiting the Severna Park Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library. This time we'll be going over the basics of Arduinos again for anyone who missed last year's clinic or needs a refresher.

We have invited back all of last year's participants to come and share what they have done with their Arduino since last year. Those who wish to will have 10 to 15 minutes to share on their current projects or what they accomplished since last February.

If you wish to attend as a new participant, please contact Kurt Thompson via email at kurtrain@verizon.net. The cost for new participants is still only \$10.00 which will cover the cost of an Arduino board, a prototyping board, and an assortment of parts. If you attending last year and want to purchase another board and parts, it's \$10.00 as well.



The deadline to register is February 28, 2017. This will allow time for us to get the boards and supplies ordered.

The reason for the Italian title for the article: Arduinos were first developed and produced in Italy.

Kurt

[ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS](#)

All information is current at the time of publication. Check the referenced web site prior to visiting for schedule changes or cancellations. Send event information to **Rick Uskert** Asstsuper.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com for inclusion in the next issue of *The Relay*.

[NMRA EVENTS](#)

NATIONAL:

2017 National Convention

Orlando, FL

July 30 - August 6, 2017

<http://nmra2017orlando.org/>

REGIONAL:

2017 MER Convention

The Susquehannock

Harrisburg, PA

October 12 - 15, 2017

<http://www.mer2017.org/>

DIVISION:

Philadelphia & New Jersey Division Joint Meet

Westmont, NJ 08108

January 7, 2017

<http://www.phillynmra.org/events/philadelphia-new-jersey-division-joint-meet>

Chesapeake Division Open House Tour

Severna Park Area, 1-5 pm

February 25, 2017

Four (4) layouts, various stages of completion

Addresses will be emailed one week prior; Non-Division members should send an email with your affiliation to super.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com to receive the list.

Potomac Division Mini-Convention

Annandale, VA

March 4, 2017

<http://potomac-nmra.org/>

Chesapeake Division Interactive Booth

B&O Railroad Museum Railroad Society Days

March 18 - 19, 2017

Contact Rick Uskert (Asstsuper.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com) to participate

Chesapeake Division Arduino Clinic

Severna Park, MD

March 25, 2017

Register with Kurt Thompson (kurtrain@verizon.net) before February 28, 2017 to receive a kit (\$10)

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

South Mountain Division Mini-Convention

Blue Ridge Summit, PA April 8, 2017 <http://www.smdnmra.org>

Chesapeake Division Railroad Photography Clinic

April 22, 2017

From the basics to the technical, covering models through railfanning, using cell phones, point and shoot and SLRs; bring your own equipment for the hands-on segments.

Contact Rick Uskert (Asstsuper.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com) if you are interested in presenting during the clinic

Chesapeake Division Canton Railroad Company Operations Tour

May 2017

Final date will be set approximate one month in advance

Note that this will likely be a *weekday* event and active RR restrictions will apply

Register with & email Operations-related questions to Rick Uskert (Asstsuper.chesdivmernmra@gmail.com) to help direct the tour.

Chesapeake Division Layout Construction Clinic - Infrastructure

September 2017

What goes in before the benchwork: Plan for your power needs by considering lighting and layout electrical; HVAC; Sound abatement; Emergencies

Chesapeake Division Annual Meeting

November 2017

Board of Directors, Paymaster Elections

History & Research Presentations

Bring a project you have been working on or completed this year to discuss with fellow modelers in a low-key environment

Chesapeake Division Operations Clinic

December 2017

MODEL RAILROAD OPEN HOUSES

Baltimore Society of Model Engineers

January 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2017

<http://www.modelengineers.com/home.html>

Columbia Historic Preservation Society HO Model RR Open Houses

January 7 - 8, 2017

<http://tonysegro.com/cola.html>

Delmarva Model Railroad Club 31th Annual Holiday Open House

January 7 - 8 & 14 - 15, 2017

<http://www.delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org/>

(Continued on page 17)

[MUSEUM & SOCIETY EVENTS & RIDES](#)

Day Out With Thomas (2 Locations)

B&O Railroad Museum

April 28 - 30, 2017

May 5 - 7, 2017

<http://www.borail.org/April.aspx>

<http://www.borail.org/May.aspx>

Strasburg Railroad

June 17 - 25, 2017

September 16, - 24, 2017

November 17 - 19, 2017

<http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/train-schedule/events/>

Easter Bunny Train

Strasburg Railroad

April 14 - 16, 2017

<http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/train-schedule/events/>

The Great Train Robbery

Strasburg Railroad

April 29, 2017

July 22, 2017

October 21, 2017

<http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/train-schedule/events/>

Historic Roundhouse Turntable Demonstrations

B&O Railroad Museum

January 14, 2017

February 11, 2017

March 11, 2017

<http://www.borail.org>

Railroad Society Days

B&O Railroad Museum

March 18 - 19, 2017

<http://www.borail.org/march.aspx>

Railfest Hamburg

Reading Railroad Heritage Museum

August 11 - 13, 2017

<http://readingrailroad.org/events.shtml>

Restoration Facility Tour: The New, The Old, & The Restored!

B&O Railroad Museum

September 10, 2017

<http://www.borail.org/September.aspx>

RPM MEETS

Railroad Prototype Modelers - East 2017

Greensburg, PA

March 24-25, 2017

http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/

Mid-Atlantic Railroad Prototype Modelers 2017

Fredericksburg, VA

September 22-23, 2017

<http://www.marpm.org/>

Railroad Prototype Modelers - Valley Forge 2018

Valley Forge, PA

March 23 - 25, 2018

<http://www.rpmvalleyforge.com/Index.php>

SHOWS & SALES

Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show & Railroad Marketplace

Feb 4-5, 2017, Cow Palace

April 8-9, 2017, Cow Palace

June 17-18, 2017, Exhibition Hall

Oct 7 & 8, 2017, Cow Palace

<http://gsmts.com/>

Hagerstown Model RR Museum Model Train Sale

February 11, 2017

<http://www.antietamstation.com/>

New Hope - Solebury Train Show and Sale

February 12, 2017

<http://trc.trains.com/events.aspx?page=info&eventid=20922>

Greenberg Model Train Show

B&O Railroad Museum

February 25 - 26, 2017

<http://www.borail.org/february.aspx>

Scalefest

Altoona, PA

March 5, 2017

<http://altoonatrains.org/>

Billy Budd Model Train Meet

York, PA

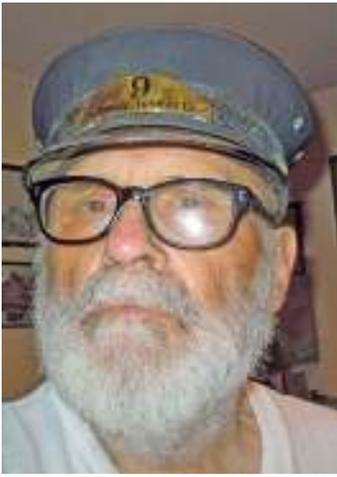
October 17 - 19, 2017

<http://trc.trains.com/events.aspx?page=info&eventid=20746>

Editor's Note: A sincere "thank You" goes out to our Assistant Superintendent, Rick Uskert for putting together this Activities and Events listing for The Relay

SHORTY GAS-ELECTRIC IN On30

By Martin K. Van Horn



This started some years back when my good friend and Bachmann On30 dealer, John Weigel, brass hat of the Peterboro Railroad, suggested that the unique arch roofed Baggage-R.P.O. of the Maryland & Pennsylvania R.R. (Ma & Pa) would make a great adaptation to On30.

I bashed one from a Bachmann Combine, selectively compressing the length. (And of course I had to build another for the Peterboro R.R.) Since it operates on my narrow gauge Kenly's Creek R.R., it only has the flavor of the Ma & Pa. Now I needed something to pull it and I bashed an On30 narrow gauge 4-4-0 from an I.H.C.-Mehano HO model, and gave it the characteristics of Ma & Pa 4-4-0 No. 6. But No. 6 in later years only pulled the Baggage-R.P.O. and an open-platform coach (stock Bachmann for me) when one of the gas-electric cars built by Electro-Motive Corporation in 1927 and 1928 was laid up. So this past year I bashed a shorty version of Ma & Pa No. 62 from Bachmann coach parts, sheet styrene, wood and various scrap box parts. An S scale plan of 62 (since On30 has the mass of S standard gauge) was compressed until its wheelbase matched that of an Atlas HO RS-11 which was used for power.

The motor and gearboxes are below the level of the windows, and a single row of seats on each side plus passengers hide the mechanism quite effectively. A motor housing depicting an engine from a Boulder Valley Models On30 boxcab diesel covers the forward gearbox. This is



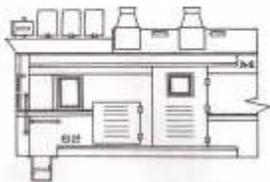
necessary as the Ma & Pa engineer always ran the car with the door open behind him on the right side of the car. This to get an air flow over himself from the window in the hot engine compartment he shared with the prime mover! To look right (to me) my model has this door perpetually open. It telescoped into a second door that was hinged. This door could be swung open to get the engine and/or the generator out for major overhauls.

One thing: the plan had a big error, it showed the car with a diaphragm and the MA & PA had no need of this as any coach it might pull was open platform. And the 62 pulled 2 coaches and an open flat car with benches on a 1941 fan trip. I made the mistake of giving my model a diaphragm. But hey! The car is owned by the Kenly's Creek R.R. not the Ma & Pa. As my late friend and mentor, Clyde L. Gerald said "When you build a freelance model for a freelance model railroad, then that is the prototype!" The car and trailer ran in New York state in mid-October this year at the Fall Mid-Hudson On30 Model R.R. Meet, the Best Little Train Meet In..." anywhere!



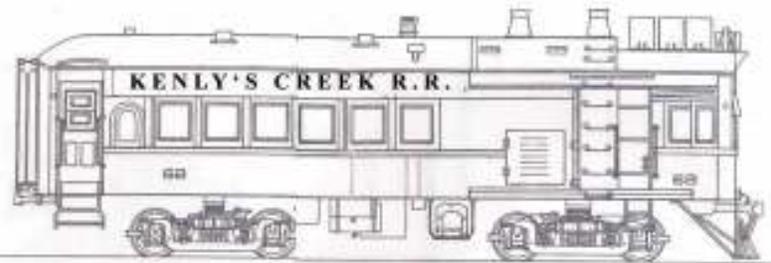
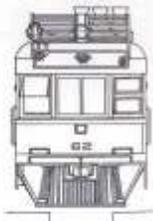
Martin

Continued on page 20

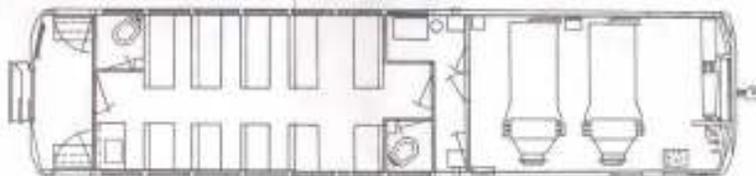


On30 Gauge 1928 E.M.C. Ga-Electric Railcar
to fit Atlas HO ALCO RS Mechanism

By Martin K. Van Horn 3/6/2013



Scale 1/4" = 1'0"



On30 Gauge 1928 E.M.C. Gas-Electric Railcar to fit Atlas RS
HO Mechanism. By Martin K. Van Horn 3/6/2013



Annual Paymaster Report November 2015 - October 2016

As of the end of the fiscal year, on 31 October, Chesapeake Division had current assets of \$3,341.79 and \$662.24 in liabilities. The liabilities represented purchase receipts not yet presented for reimbursement.

There were two sources of income for the Division, this year. First was our annual NMRA membership dues allocation, totaling \$138.50 (\$1 per active member, paid in two 50-cent increments). This was a decline of \$4.50 from 2015 due to a decline in active NMRA members. The second source of income was participation fees for the February Arduino clinic, totaling \$340. This was offset by material expenses for the clinic totaling \$326.99. The only other recorded expenses were \$30.00 for rental of the Baltimore County Public Library meeting room, used for the March modelers' day in event, and 96¢ for postage.

David
David Arday
Paymaster
Chesapeake Div, MER, NMRA

Balance Sheet as of 10/31/16

Current Assets

Severna Savings Bank	\$3,277.52
Petty Cash	64.27
Subtotal	3,341.79

Current Liabilities

Unpaid receipts (pending)	\$662.24
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Net Worth \$2,679.55

I

Income and Expenses Recorded for '15-'16

Date	Description	Debit	Cred- it	Total
11/1/15	Balance forward			3221.24
11/14/1	5 Cash in for Arduino clinic		40.00	3261.24
11/14/1	5 Arduino materials reimburs	99.00		3162.24
12/15/1	5 Deposit MER dues allocation		72.00	3234.24
12/15/1	5 Deposit Arduino clinic check (Casey)		50.00	3284.24
2/27/16	Arduino materials reimburs -2	161.13		3123.11
2/27/16	Cash in for Arduino clinic		250.00	3373.11
2/28/16	Balto Co Pub Libr - mtg rm	30.00		3343.11
2/28/16	Postage	0.49		3342.62
3/13/16	Arduino materials reimburs -3	66.86		3275.76
3/13/16	Postage	0.47		3275.29
6/13/16	Deposit MER dues allocation		66.50	3341.79
10/31/1	5 Annual Totals	607.95	728.50	

e sign me up for a

The Relay

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 my local Division. During the six-month period, I understand that I may attend conventions, meets, and participate in contests. I will receive the NMRA Magazine, the monthly national publication, and The Local, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office or receive a New Member Pack.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six-month Railpass Trial Membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Note: Regardless of who pays, the six-month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person) At the end of the six month period, I may join the NMRA by paying the regular active member dues.

During the past thirty months, I have not been a member of the NMRA.

Name: _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Scale (s): _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of "Recruiter:" _____

(a Regional Officer or Board Member)

When this form is completed,

mail to:

Bob Price
MER Business Manager
666 Princeton Ave
Collingswood NJ, 08108

Please do not mail this form
Directly to the NMRA Headquarters
In Chattanooga, TN.

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