

The
CLEARBOARD

The Official Publication of The Model Railroad Club, Inc

Hudson, Delaware & Ohio Railroad
Trenton Northern Transportation & Light Company
Rahway River Railroad
Mauch Chunk Terminal Railroad
Jersey Shore & Western Railroad
Public Service Interurban Rapid Transit Company

“Information and Ideas, By and For Our Members.”

Issue # 482

September 2008



HD&O Mikado-type (2-8-2) locomotive arrives with a freshly-shopped cabin car (HD&O parlance for caboose) in Gilberton Yard. The Mikado appears to be missing its road number from underneath the fireman's window. This model shows how simple detail modifications can be made to a stock model to give it a "family look." Russ Fiero discusses this in his "From the Backshop" column on page 5. Model by Russ Fiero, photo by Bob Nalbone.

The CLEARBOARD

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES & EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editors of *The Clearboard* welcome articles and photographs submitted by members. We will try to publish articles in a timely manner. When submitting an article for publication in *The Clearboard*, we ask that you follow these procedures:

- The Board of Director's requires all articles to be bylined. No anonymous submissions will be published.
- We prefer computer disk files to typewritten or handwritten pages. All typewritten and handwritten submissions must be double-spaced with one-inch margins on either side.
- If you submit an article by disk, we prefer Word 2000 format, but we can use submissions saved as text files.
- Include, if possible, a hard copy of the article. If we destroy your disk, we are willing to put in the effort to retype your article if we have something to type from.
- You may email articles to:
TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCI.org.
Scanning services for photographs are available. Submit photographs in *The Clearboard* editor's mail box .
- All editorials are the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Club or the Board of Directors

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CONTENTS

From the Editor 3

Features

From the Backshop 5
"That Family Look" By Russ Fiero

EXTRA! HD&O Orders Boxcars 11

Club Information

Club News 4

**Mid-Year Condensed
Financial Statements** 10

Departmental News

N-Scale News 6

HO-Scale News 6

Draft Minutes 6/7/08 HO Meeting 7

Proposed HO Dept. Bylaw Change 9

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please make sure you keep your contact information current. Write (legibly, please) any address changes or other updated information on a piece of paper and drop it in the mail slot in the lobby of the Club building, attention "Roster Clerk." Thank You.

*Bill Jambor,
Roster Clerk*

Clearboard Commentary Participate!

By Bob Nalbhone, Vice President

There are many ways to *participate* at the Club. Members can help out with administrative tasks, man the ticket window, run trains on Saturdays and meet and greet guests. Then there are those purely model railroad activities, like laying track, scenery, wiring, building models and, of course, operations. Then there is the most important activity to *participate* in: the annual show. Do you know it's just around the corner, already?

With so many ways to *participate*, I am continually amazed by the lack of *participation* by some members. If sitting around belly-aching about how you're losing interest in the hobby or trading World War II stories or discussing the Lackawanna's E-8s were Olympic events, I'm convinced that the Club could send *participants* and come home with gold medals every time. If that hits a sore spot with you, then perhaps you need to *participate* more in Club activities.

Now don't get me wrong, it's nice to sit in the lounge and socialize (I even do it myself!), but it's even nicer to *participate* in your favorite hobby (model railroading is your favorite hobby, isn't it?).

There are even ways to *participate* in Club activities outside of the Club. The annual operations day at GATSME is one activity that comes to mind. In fact, visiting and operating on other model railroads is a great way to keep up your interest in what is aptly named "The World's Greatest Hobby."

By the time you read this, you should have received a mailing from the Membership Department describing two Club activities that you can *participate* in. One is coming up at the end of this month and is a visit to two of the most well-known home layouts in the country, located right here in New Jersey. The other is a trip to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in October.

So get ready, get set and *participate!*

A note to members and Friends of the Club: We have missed publishing a couple of issues of *The Clearboard* this year due to ongoing staffing issues. We are working to get these issues resolved and hopefully will not miss any more this year. Thanks for your understanding.

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

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N Scale

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Club News

Compiled by the Clearboard Staff

ANNUAL SHOW ADVANCE TICKET AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCED

The Development Department announced that discount advance sale tickets to the 2008 Annual Light & Sound and Open House will go on sale Saturday, October 4. Tickets will be available at the ticket window, as well as by mail through the Club's Website. As this issue was going to press, there was no word on whether or not credit card orders will be accepted.

"John Wilkens has been working hard trying to get this done," said Club vice-president and Development Department Head Bob Nalbhone, referring to getting a credit card merchant account set up. "Hopefully, we'll have it all in place for this year's show, but I know how busy John is at work and how tight the budget is."

Nalbhone has long contended that the Club is missing out on potential sales and donations, not only during the show but during the rest of the year as well.

"We are really still in the dark ages around here when it comes to some pretty important business activities," he lamented.

Ticket prices will remain the same as last year, as will show hours.

Also returning this year will be the "Classic Streamliners on Parade" presentation that proved to be very popular in its inaugural run last year. The line up of trains is still to be finalized.

ROAD TRIPS FINALIZED

TWO FAMOUS MODEL RAILROADS & A WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM ON TAP

In the July issue, Membership Department Head Dick Kunig announced that some activities in the form of road trips were being planned. These activities have been finalized and itineraries have been prepared and mailed out to the membership.

The first trip is a visit to two of the most famous home layouts in the country: Harold Worthwein's Erie Railroad and Tony Koester's Nickel Plate Road. The trip will take place on Saturday, September 27. Departure from the Club will be at 11:45 am. The cost per person of \$5 for travel expenses.

The second trip is scheduled for Sunday, October 12 and the destination is Strasburg,

Pennsylvania, home of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and the Strasburg Railroad. This will be an all-day trip, with departure from the Club at 8:45 am. The cost per person is \$10 for travel expenses **plus** the cost of admission to the attractions. Members are urged to call the museum and railroad or visit their Websites for ticket and other information.

Transportation for each trip will be via carpools. Drivers are needed for both outings.

Members should contact either Dick Kunig or Roger Oliver if they have any questions or need any additional information.

CAMPAIGN 21 FALL DRIVE GEARING UP

SLUGGISH ECONOMY POSES CHALLENGE

The Campaign21SM fall drive is getting underway under what weather forecasters would call "cloudy skies." However many Development Department directors across the country might take issue with such an optimistic forecast.

Charities large and small have watched nervously as the amount of donations and gifts

have fallen, in some cases dramatically, in 2008. Some organizations have had to lay off workers and postpone projects.

While the Club doesn't have to worry about the prospects of laying off workers, it is vulnerable to the same economic conditions as any other charity.

(continued on pg. 9)

From the Backshop

By Russ Fiero, HO Dept. Master Mechanic

“That Family Look”

I was recently discussing with Bob Nalbone the concept of a “family look” for HD&O steam power. If you look at photos of the prototype, you can spot details that gave certain railroads’ steam power a similar appearance. Some examples include:

- The Pennsylvania’s Belpare-designed boilers were on almost every engine they owned.
- The Chesapeake & Ohio’s Mikados, Pacifics, and Mountains with the “flying air pumps”, low mounted headlight, high front mounted bell with flanking number boards & Vanderbilt tenders.
- The New York Central’s J3a Hudson, L3 Mohawk. Here are two engines when viewed from directly in front you couldn’t tell which you were looking at without looking at the number.

There was no mistaking that these engines belonged to their railroads.

If you look at the engines of the C&O and the Great Northern, a lot of similar practices can be seen but there are enough subtle differences to tell which railroad owned which engine.

The idea of a family look can be easily brought to the HD&O with some detail changes & additions. We wouldn’t have to do extensive rebuilding – just adding details the same way on the engines. Here are some suggestions:

- Start with our basic USRA engines
- Raise the tender coal bunkers to increase capacity
- Add a “dog house” on freight tenders
- Substitute a Sunbeam headlight for the one that came with the engine
- Add a backup light of same make (which could be elevated above tender deck)
- Install a Sunbeam generator, mounted just ahead of the steam turret
- Centrally mounted bell of the same design.

Using the same paint configuration would also add to the “family look” of the HD&O’s steam fleet. Consider the effect the following would achieve:

- Graphite on smokebox & firebox.
- Window frames the same color
- Safety paint (white or yellow) on steps and grabs

The placement of the hardware and the painting methods described above will give the HD&O’s fleet of iron horses a look and feel of belonging to a “family,” instead of looking like they just came out of the box and had the railroad name and number slapped on.

end

Compare the out-of-the-box 2-8-2 (right, top) with the modified version (right, bottom). Visible changes include relocated bell, extended coal bunker & added “dog house.”

Photos by Bob Nalbone



N Scale Dept. News

Submitted by Eric Callender

Ongoing work in our department includes installation of track in the Buffalo Steel Mill area, completion of scenery in the Palmyra/back side of Lebanon area, renewing work on upper level, Elmira scenery, relocation of the PSIRT trolley service, installation of the Faller bus-system, and completion of the N-Track module. The bus system is 80% complete and work is progressing with the Hewlets for the Buffalo waterfront area.

At the current time operations have been slow due to required attention in other locations, but I encourage members to participate in HO scale operations.

I would like to thank John and Brian Cicero, Mark Juchniewicz, Don Magee, Pete Goldsmith, and Claude Kelsoe for their work on the layout, cleaning up the club, running trains for the general public and for other work on our layout.

Below is a general schedule for proposed N-Scale activities:

Fall 2008 - Possible Fall Foliage Trip to Port Jervis, NY.

November 14, 2008 - Completion of Show preparation & Local NJT/MTA /Light Rail- NJT trip.

Finally, I must remind all members to keep their dues responsibilities current.

end

HO Dept. News

Submitted by Martin Harriss

Despite the fact that we are in a usually quiet Summer period, there has been much construction activity in the HO Department.

- Ira Deutsch is continuing the work on erecting the Gilberton roundhouse
- John Wilkens, Rich Cornell, Ralph Kristeller et al are continuing to lay track at the east end of Gilberton
- Paul Preuss continues building the helix
- Tom Voytec is working on wiring the new track at the east end of Gilberton while Bill Franklin is finalizing the wiring in Gilberton passenger station
- Dick Kunig and Jeff Peal have been installing Plexiglas along the edge of the west end hidden trackage

There is nothing significant to report on the operations front; the Operations Committee is taking a well deserved Summer break and will reconvene in September.

end

Draft Minutes of the June 7, 2008 HO Dept. Meeting

HO Department Head Martin Harriss called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. There were 14 members present. There was one valid and one “questionable” proxy presented. A quorum was deemed present, per the Bylaws of the department (Section III, Subsection 4).

Roger Oliver was in attendance as a guest.

A motion to accept the proposed agenda was made by Bill Jambor and seconded by Carlos Langezaal. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the January 5, 2008 annual meeting of the department were reviewed by those in attendance. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Carlos Langezaal and seconded by Ed Small. The motion passed unanimously.

(Sec. Note: Jeff Peal arrived and signed in at 4:14 pm.)

Announcements by the HO Dept. Head

Martin Harriss made the following announcements:

Ed Van Savage will be stepping down as the department’s Master Mechanic. Martin thanked Ed for his many years of service. Russ Fiero was named the new Master Mechanic.

The Annual Show is just around the corner. We need to start thinking about it now. Bill Jambor mentioned that it is just 20 weeks away. Ed Van Savage mentioned that those who are cleaning up should remember where they put things, noting that the tie jig is still missing.

The invitational ops session is June 21. Bob Nalbone reviewed the times. Help with clean up & set up is needed.

Reports

Electrical Committee: Martin Harriss reported for Bill Franklin. A lot of work is being done in “new” Gilberton and a good job is being done with maintenance. Martin is working on some new power supplies, with Gilberton station switches/detection/etc. close to finished. John Morris asked about scenery lighting wiring; location of wires, etc. *(Sec. Note: response, if any, not recorded).*

Scenery Committee: John Morris noted that there have been no formal meetings of the committee so far this year. John reported that he is researching what scenery items are needed for the Gilberton depot area and has been performing layout Plexiglas repair; Ira Deutsch is working on the permanent Gilberton turntable; and Pat Romano has been doing touch-up maintenance on the layout. Ira Deutsch reported that the new Gilberton turntable is mechanically finished, but not yet wired up. The roundhouse tracks are being worked on and the structure is almost finished. The roundhouse itself is a huge building and will have to be assembled in place. The roof will be removable.

Members were reminded to be careful around the layout. Library stools were suggested as a possible solution for accessing difficult to reach areas. Ed small asked about Gilberton passenger station magnet locations. *(Sec. Note: response, if any, not recorded).*

Bob Nalbone reported that the ash hoist is being installed in the Pittsburgh engine terminal.

Master Mechanic: No report. Mike Briante asked if the current roster of car inspectors is the same, or were changes made. Martin stated that to his knowledge, the roster is the same as it has been.

(Continued on next page)

DRAFT MINUTES 6/7/08 HO DEPT. MEETING (cont'd from pg. 7)

Superintendents: Jeff Peal reported that the Rahway River is running smoothly. Bill Jambor (for Neil Petillo) commented that the interface between the TN & the HD&O could be a little smoother. Advertised connection times are not being honored. Bob Nalbone (for Pete Ezzard) reported that the HD&O is generally running well, but more bodies are needed. Many chimed in with opinions on this. Gilberton passenger is now in service and a new guide book is also in service. A new operating position is available. Carlos Langezaal mentioned that we need to look at new radios, as the current group is wearing out. Ed Small asked about the phone system; he was asked to defer until the Ops Committee report by Martin.

Operations Committee: Mike Briante reported the following:

- 1) The draft of the waybilling procedures document should be done soon.
- 2) The phone system repair project is still on the list; unfortunately there is a limited number of members who know the system.
- 3) A supply of 5,000 blank waybills was purchased; paint manufacturers are being checked to get good colors. Bob Nalbone is working on the waybilling procedures document. Martin stated that he wants this document used by all, once it has been approved.
- 4) Mike commented about communications during the operating sessions.
- 5) We need to think about how we will operate east of Gilberton.

Mike thanked the members of the committee for their efforts.

Layout Planning/Construction: Rich Cornell gave an update on work east of Gilberton. Track layers are needed work on East End Yard permanent tracks. Martin asked Bob Nalbone about the motor and operating mechanism for the Gilberton turntable. Bob replied that he had the parts in his locker. Martin reported that Paul Preuss is making good progress on the helix. Mike Briante mentioned that the Operations Committee looked at the choke point in the design of the east end of Gilberton freight and noted that it is potentially a big problem if the switch to the main fails. He asked if there was anything that could be done about it. Rich Cornell said there isn't and that there are several ways in and out of the yard.

Old Business

East End Electrification: Not much here yet. A committee is to be put together to study and report. Bill Jambor moved to table; seconded by Jeff Peal. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Alarm: Martin reminded everyone about the process when the fire alarm goes off. Bob Nalbone stated that it was practiced earlier in the day.

By-law Changes: Martin asked if we can proceed with the proposed by-law change. Bill Jambor asked if it was published in *The Clearboard*, and if it needs to be. It was decided that it should be published and Jambor moved the proposed by-law change and have it published in *The Clearboard*; seconded by Jeff Peal. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Carlos Langezaal suggested to Martin that he get written reports from the committee heads prior to the next department meeting and publish them in *The Clearboard* in the issue immediately preceding the meeting.

Bill Jambor moved to adjourn; seconded by Ed Small. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Nalbone
Recording Secretary
end

Proposed Amendment to the HO Dept. Bylaws

The following proposed amendment to the HO Department bylaws will, if adopted, reduce the number of formal meetings of the department during the year from four to three. Section III, Subsection 1 of the department bylaws currently reads:

III. Meetings

- 1. General meetings of the membership of the Department shall be held quarterly in January, April, July and October. The annual meeting of the Department shall be held in January.

If the amendment is agreed to, Section III, Subsection 1 will be changed to read:

III. Meetings

- 1. General meetings of the membership of the Department shall be held in January, May and September. The annual meeting of the Department shall be held in January.

The proposed amendment will be voted on at the next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the department in October.

end

CAMPAIGN21 (Cont'd from pg. 4)

"It's a tough time to be asking people for money, no doubt about it," said Club Vice-President and Development Department Head Bob Nalbone. "We have to compete with organizations like The Salvation Army or the local volunteer ambulance corps, and when the economy slows down the amount of disposable income dries up. But we don't have any choice; we have to make our case effectively and continually."

The fall fundraising appeal will be the last to the general public before the annual show. Only around five hundred families will get a direct mail

appeal, due to budget constraints. There will also be a second appeal to the membership. An appeal earlier this year raised just over \$1,500.

The fourth quarter is typically when charities see the bulk of their donations come in because that's when donors start thinking about their tax deductions for the year. This has certainly been true for the Club since conversion to 501c3 status. So far this year, the Club is ahead of last year's record-setting amount for donations but Nalbone knows as well as anyone that there's no guarantee that will continue.

end

Attention HO Dept. Members:

The will be a meeting of the HO Dept. in October, the specific date and time TBD. Additional information will be posted on the message board in the Club building lobby.

Martin Harriss, Dept. Head

To All Members:

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Margery Preuss, mother of our friend and fellow member Paul Preuss on September 3rd. Our condolences to Paul and his family.

The Board of Directors

Mid-Year Condensed Financial Statements

Submitted by John Wilkens, Treasurer

Campaign21SM

Funding a New Century of Excellence

Have you made *your*
contribution yet?

Please...

**Do your part to help
keep the building
and grounds clean.**

EXTRA! HD&O Places Order for Forty-Foot Boxcars

Accurail to Produce First Custom Painted Car to Commemorate Club's 60th Anniversary



Accurail has been awarded a contract to produce ninety-six forty-foot AAR boxcars, lettered for the Hudson, Delaware & Ohio. This is the first car to be produced to commemorate the Club's 60th Anniversary. Unlike the 50th Anniversary car, however, these cars will be in the standard HD&O paint scheme with a correct number in the approved number series. Number decals will be provided to make cars with different numbers. The cars will carry a built date of February, 1949 - the month and date the Club was formed (as the Summit-New Providence HO Railroad Club). The final proof from Accurail is shown above. Their "mineral red" is comparable to the "boxcar red" approved color standard.

Thirty cars will be reserved for sell to the public by the Development Department. Sixty cars are reserved for member purchase, with six reserved for promotional use. The cost to members will be \$13.95 per car, plus applicable New Jersey sales tax. **A \$5 per car, non-refundable deposit is required for member orders. The balance due, plus 7% New Jersey sales tax is payable upon delivery. Cars will not be released without payment of Balance Due.**

To reserve your car(s), fill out the form below and mail it, along with a check or money order payable to The Model Railroad Club, Inc. or "TMRCI", to the Club's PO Box. You may also place your order and payment in a payment envelope and drop it in the mail slot in the Club building lobby. The cars are currently in production and will be available to members by mid October. The cars will be available for sale to the public at the annual show and via the Club's Website beginning November 28.

Special thanks to Club treasurer John Wilkens for managing this project.

HD&O BOXCAR ORDER FORM

Instructions: Fill out lines 1 & 2 completely and PRINT all information. Incomplete or illegible forms will not be processed.

1. Quantity: _____ X \$5.00 Deposit = \$ _____ Enclosed

2. Member Name: _____

Do NOT write below this line. For office use only.

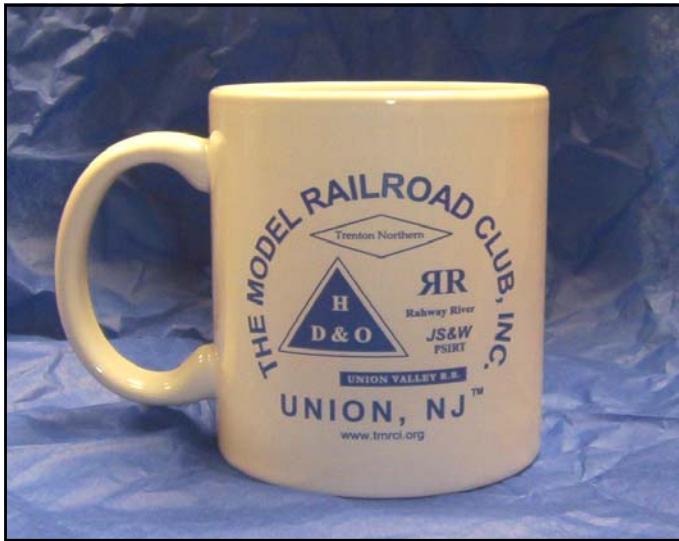
Quantity: _____ X \$13.95 = \$ _____.

Plus 7% NJ Sales Tax: + \$ _____.

Less Deposit: - \$ _____.

Balance Due: \$ _____.

Nice Mug...



11oz. White ceramic coffee mug with Club logo printed in blue on both sides. Dish-washer and microwave safe.

MEMBER PRICE: \$5.00

(Price includes 7% NJ sales tax.)

Get Yours Today!

Clearboard Deadlines:

October, 2008 Issue: September 27. Publication on or about October 15.

November, 2008 Issue: October 11. Publication on or about November 15.

(Please note the close deadline schedule for these two issues.)

THE CLEARBOARD

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