



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 # 457

July/August 2005



Union Station at GATSME Layout. Photo by Don Kern taken during July 2005 GATSME invitational.

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The CLEARBOARD

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES and 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 Directors 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 crhlk@comcast.net, or tmrci_clearboard@yahoo.com. Scanning services for photographs are available. Submit photographs in *The Clearboard* editor's 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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Clearboard Commentary By Carlos Langezaal

Summer time draws to a close with school time sneaking up on the kids. This summer has been a busy time for the TMRCI. In May we had the invitational Ops session, followed in July by an invitational Ops session at GATSME. Several members of TMRCI went there and had a great time as reflected by the report in this issue.

In June we had a birthday of Scott (a frequent visitor to the Club). The N-scale representatives made his birthday party extra special with their help in his present.

On page 4 through 5, there is a report with pictures of the TMRCI trip to the GATSME invitational operating session. Don took some big shots of the great lay-out.

Please note the Club News on Pages 5 through 7 as well as the internal news on pages 8 and 9, and 12 & 13. On pages 9 through 11, Bob presents an article on the amended Club color scheme for cars.

In the upcoming Clearboard issues you will see reports of the August 21 trip to Steamtown by several members, the September NMRA fall meeting at TMRCI, etc. Also watch announcements about the 2005 Annual Show in the upcoming issues as well as at the Club notice boards.

In several places in the Club clip boards have been put up with tasks needed to be carried out to keep the Clu7b in shape. Please participate by taking part..

Have You Moved?????

Clearboard labels are printed every month. If you have moved, please notify us as soon as possible so we can adjust your address. You can drop a note addressed to the "Roster Clerk" in the mail slot in the lobby of the Club building. Thank you.

FIRE PREVENTION

Please refrain from depositing trash in the bucket containing sand located outside the building. This should be used for putting out cigarettes only. Your cooperation will help prevent fires. Thank you.

JERSEY SHORE & WESTERN NEWS The N-Scale Report

By Eric Tappen



The N Scale Department - Progress Report for July/August 2005:

It was wall-to-wall children when Scott Kaiser held his 5th birthday party at the club. I counted 21 kids and 9 adults. Bob Nalbone couldn't help beaming as he gave them all the "grand tour". Once Scott's new layout was unveiled, the remaining presents went unopened, and were later loaded up to be opened at home.

For those who do not know, Scott shows up almost EVERY Saturday during visitor's hours. His curiosity and enthusiasm for model railroading is unusual for a 5 year old, and well developed vocabulary has taught him words like "ballast" and "articulated". Once again, "Happy Birthday" to our favorite mini-fan.

The CTI project is progressing well. We are now able to turn on signals, lights and throw switches from the computer interface. 8 Tortoise switches have been installed on the "peninsula".

The upper level "Steel Mill" area has been redesigned and track is currently being laid to complete the loop.

Well, that's all for now. See you next month.

Eric Tappen
N Scale Publicity Chairman
TappansRUs@comcast.net

ROAD TRIP to GATSME

By Bob Nalbone

Photos by Don Kern

On Saturday, July 16, several members gathered early at the Club to attend an invitational operating session at the GATSME model railroad club in Port Washington, Pennsylvania.

At 8:15 AM our crew, consisting of Mike Bowler, Don Kern, Dick Kunig, Jeff Peal and the author departed Union. Dick Kunig graciously offered to drive. We made excellent time, arriving at Port Washington in less than two hours. We were the first guests to arrive.

After introductions it was time to inspect the layout. For Mike, Don, Dick and Jeff it was their first visit to GATSME and they took full advantage of the opportunity to get acquainted with the railroads and admire the craftsmanship.



Unlike our club's layout, the GATSME layout is linear in design and the backdrops also serve as view-blocks. You cannot see the entire layout from any one vantage point, similar to Harold Werthwein's layout (for those familiar with his excellent Erie Railroad).

Another difference is the way they move trains. Rather than use colored magnetic waybills, like on our club's HO scale layout, GATSME uses a car-forwarding system using car cards--but not the same one that our N scale layout uses. Apparently the system used by GATSME is very popular with model railroads in the Delaware Valley. It's described on their website (www.gatsme.org)

The layout consists of two main railroads: the Great Lakes and Eastern ("GL&E") and the Lehigh and Susquehanna ("L&S"). There is also a fairly substantial narrow gauge line, the Sheffield and Tionesta, which did not run during the op session. There is also a Pennsy branch and a Bessemer and Lake Erie line, the latter to be included in a section under construction in the front part of the layout that will feature an engine terminal. The layout is transition era, specifically 1954-1956.

GATSME shares some similarities with our own club, including handlaid track, highly detailed scenes (most are super-detailed) and Digitrax® control, to name a few.



(Continued next page)

By noon we were ready to start posting for positions. Operations are at an early stage at GATSME, and trains are dispatched in a sequence, with crews being called every three minutes. A nice variety of trains were operated and excluding a few DCC hiccups, things ran smoothly.

Mid-way through the session we broke for lunch and conversation. There was even a homemade cake, decorated in GATSME colors, just like last year! The author was even able to discuss some 2006 NMRA national convention business.

Then it was back to operating trains. We arrived back at Union around 9 PM, having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Thanks to Val Pistilli, Chirs O'Brien and the whole gang at GATSME for a great time. Thanks, also, to Pete Goldsmith from the N Scale group for sitting at the ticket window and to all members who covered for the "regulars" during our public hours.

END



Club News

Compiled by *The Clearboard Staff*

CLUB TO PARTICIPATE IN FALL NMRA EVENTS

The Club will be participating in two NMRA events this fall. First up will be the Garden State Division fall meet, which will be held at the Club on Sunday, September 18, 2005 (times to be announced). The division meet is the NMRA on the local level and is a great way to get involved with the association and meet other modelers. Past division meets have featured clinics, slide shows, a white elephant table and a model contest .

In October, the Club will be hosting an special operating session on Sunday, October 9, 2005 from 1 to 4 PM as part of the NMRA Northeast Region Fall, 2005 convention in Stamford, Connecticut. The convention runs from October 7th through the 9th and is being hosted by the Metro-North Division. Phil

Monat, a long-time member of our club and the person who produced our light and sound show, is serving as the convention chairman.

Dubbed "The Metropolitan Limited," the convention will feature model and photo contests, over 30 different clinics presented by such notable modelers as Tony Koester, Henry Freeman and our very own Martin Harriss, rail and non-rail tours and activities, and four "Modeling With the Masters" workshops. In addition, there will be 25

home layout tours and 5 reservation-required operating sessions, including here at the Club.

For more information regarding the Garden State Division, members may visit the division's website: www.trainweb.org/nergds/ . For information regarding the Northeast Region, the website is www.metronorthnmra.org .

END

TASK SHEETS POSTED THROUGHOUT BUILDING

Keeping the Building Clean is Every Member's Responsibility

Members may have noticed that recently a number of clipboards with a single sheet of paper clipped to them have been posted throughout the building, and even outside the main entrance door. These pieces of paper are task sheets. Their purpose is to identify specific areas to be cleaned and the members who cleaned them. This idea was first mentioned at the 2004 Annual Meeting and is patterned after similar signage found in the restrooms and other facilities at organizations such as Wal-Mart® as a way to address the chronic problem of lack of cleanliness in the Club.

The tasks are broken down so as not to be too cumbersome and many have an estimated completion time, in some cases as little as fifteen

minutes. The Board of Directors expects that all members who come to the Club on Saturdays or other days do their part by completing just one task. That way, all members who make use of the Club's facilities will share equally in its cleaning and maintenance and not burden the few dedicated members with more work.

Once a member completes a task, they should record their name and the date they completed the task on the form on the clipboard. A member of the Board of Directors will check periodically to make sure tasks are completed properly, as well as complete tasks themselves.

END

AREA HOBBY SHOPS HONORED ON SPECIAL GALLERY DISPLAY

As a tribute to several area hobby shops that help support the Club, a special placard has been made and will be installed in the Gallery area. The matted and framed placard pays tribute to the role of the hobby shop proprietor, as well as recognizes specific hobby shops.

Three establishments are listed on the placard: The Model Railroad Shop in Piscataway, The Big Little Railroad Shop in Somerville and

Gene's Trains in Brick Twp. Each of these hobby shops have supported the Club by offering discounts, contributing door prizes for the annual show and serving as merchandise vendors for the gift shop.

The placard will be updated as more hobby shops are added to the list.

END

WILL IT BE STEAM, DIESEL OR ELECTRIC? New Promotion Rolled Out to Boost Saturday Attendance During Summer

Summer is a traditionally slow time of the year for Saturday public visits. Over the past two summers the "Family Summer Savings Program" was instituted in an effort to boost Saturday public attendance. This year the Development Department is rolling out a new promotion to try to accomplish the same goal.

A new two-sided flyer, cut long ways and folded in half was designed with the title of this article printed on the front. The intent of having this question is to get the person reading it curious enough to open the flyer. Inside is

information about the Club and a coupon admitting one child, age 12 or younger, free.

The flyers were printed on a variety of brightly colored stock. Establishments receiving the flyers are assigned separate colors to track effectiveness. The flyers are designed in such a way as to also allow them to be used in a direct-mail campaign.

The promotion will be in effect through August 27, 2005.

END

Upcoming Club Events

September:

Sunday, September 18:

Garden State Division, NMRA Fall Meeting at the Club – 12 pm

October:

Friday, October 7 through Sunday, October 9:

Northeast Region, NMRA "Metropolitan Limited" Fall Convention, sponsored by the Metro-North Division. Stamford, Connecticut.

****Special Operating Session at the Club on Sunday, October 9, 1 to 4 pm.**

Members and convention attendees only.

**The Hudson, Delaware & Ohio Railroad
Equipment Color Scheme Standards**

General Guidelines

Rolling Stock

Revised April, 2005

Paint Manufacturer

Colors: Company Colors – Blue; C&O Enchantment Blue

Floquil, Poly Scale,
Model Flex, Accu Flex

Gray; SP Lettering Gray

SAME AS ABOVE

Passenger: Company Colors – Blue & Gray

SAME AS ABOVE

General Merchandise: Boxcar – Boxcar Red

Water-based Acrylics: Scalecoat II, Floquil,
Poly Scale, Model Flex,
Accu Flex

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Safety Equipment: Yellow (DULUX) – Your choice of paint, but try to match decal color. Railbox Yellow is a good choice. Other colors that come close: Floquil EL [Erie-Lackawanna] Yellow, Accu/Model Flex SOO Line Yellow, Scalecoat I CP [Canadian Pacific] Yellow, Scalecoat II Reading Yellow.

Caboose: Caboose Red - Suggested Color: Scalecoat II Bright Caboose Red or Floquil Caboose Red.

Black: Grimey Black - Floquil, Poly Scale, Accu/Model Flex, Scalecoat II Loco Grime

White - Any Manufacturer

Painting Recommendations: Follow manufacturer’s instructions.

APPLICATION

<u>TYPE:</u>	<u>COLOR/DESIGN</u>	<u>LETTERING</u>
<u>PASSENGER – STEAM ERA:</u>	Blue only; Dulux stripe low on car body	Dulux
Commuter:	Blue only; no striping	Dulux
Long Distance (smooth side)	Blue with gray center band; dulux striping	Dulux
“ (corrugated)	Stainless steel with blue letter board	Dulux
<u>CABOOSE – ALL TYPES:</u>	Red ends and sides; black roofs; white grab irons & safety railings	White
<u>FREIGHT:</u>		
Express Box Car	SAME AS COMMUTER	Dulux
Ice Reefer	Gray sides; blue roof and ends	Black
Mechanical Reefer	Gray sides; blue roof and ends	Black
Flat Car	Black	White
Bulkhead Flat Car	Boxcar Red	White
Tank Car	Black	White
Stock Car	Boxcar Red	White
Hopper Cars –		
<u>Coal:</u>	Black	White
<u>Covered:</u> Cement, Plastics, and/or chemicals	Gray	Black
Food service	Boxcar Red	White

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APPLICATION

TYPE:

COLOR/DESIGN

LETTERING

FREIGHT (Continued):

Gondola Cars	Black	White
"DF" Box Cars	Boxcar Red with black door	White

Must be a combination plug/sliding door; 50 ft. with cushion underframe.

LOCOMOTIVES:

STEAM:

Overall black with graphite smoke box and fire box lagging; Dulux stripe on running board; headlight number board, bell, and pop valves brass

No dulux stripe on freight locomotives.

DIESEL – FREIGHT:

Early paint scheme on all diesels is two-tone blue and gray (see color specs for actual colors), with gray on the bottom half of the loco and a dulux stripe separating the two colors. Actual location of stripe lettering and other details, refer to data sheet for the particular locomotive you are painting.

The HD&O carried this scheme for its freight units until 1967. Starting in 1968, the HD&O began a repainting program of its older units and its newly delivered locomotives painted in a two-tone blue and gray, but the application was a less expensive BILLBOARD design. These units carry a blue roof and underframe, cab top of short hood (reflection) and walkways. At this time, a large HD&O **Three Rivers Route** was placed across the sides, while maintaining the dulux striping between the colors lines. Pilot stripes were carried over from 1st generation diesels. All safety equipment was painted dulux and remaining handrails were painted gray above the frame line.

DIESEL – PASSENGER:

The HD&O had all passenger locomotives painted blue with a gray band running through the center of the loco (except the cab, which remained dark blue). This band was striped on each side where it met the blue with dulux stripes. This passenger scheme was carried through to the present.

For specific of these locomotives, refer to the **MASTER MECHANIC** or the **HO DEPARTMENT HEAD**. They can provide you with the necessary information for the locomotive you wish to paint, or suggest a Club member that can help guide you through the process.

NOTE: With black equipment, you can use own discretion to paint it Black, Grimey Black, Weathered Black, etc.

END



Clearboard Deadlines:

September 2005 Issue: September 10, 2005. To be distributed around September 24, 2005.
October/November 2005 Issue: October 2, 2005. To be distributed around November 12, 2005.

OUR SATURDAY VISITORS PAY US.
PAY THEM THE RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION DUE
GUESTS IN OUR HOME.

THE CLEARBOARD

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FIRST CLASS MAIL