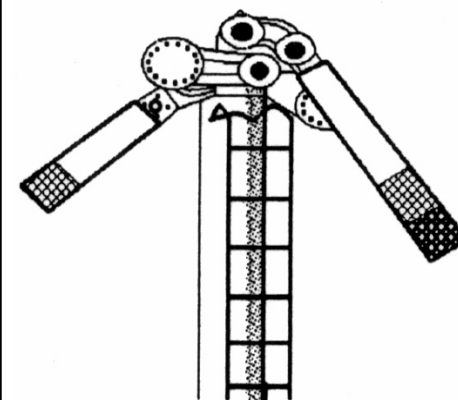


The **CLEARBOARD**
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Union, NJ 07083-1146

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The Clearboard

The official newsletter of The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Issue No 501

October/November, 2010



Nice Mug...

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

MEMBER PRICE: \$5.00

(Price includes 7% NJ sales tax.)

Get Yours Today!

Clearboard Deadlines:

December 2010 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is November 27.

Publication on or about December 4.

January 2011 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is January 1.

Publication on or about January 8.



After much work Brian Cicero runs a Forney on the Garden Railroad layout!

The CLEARBOARD

EDITOR: (only 2 issues left!) Roger Oliver
COPY EDITOR: Still vacant

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Bob Nalbome, Russ Fiero, Brian Cicero, Dick Kunig, and Don Kern

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION: Bill Jambor

Unless otherwise attributed, all photographs were taken by the staff photographer: Roger Oliver.

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES & EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editors of *The Clearboard* welcome articles and photographs submitted by members. Submitted articles will be given due consideration and may be edited for content as well as spelling and syntax. Articles edited for content will be reviewed with the author prior to being published. 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. Anonymous submissions will not be published.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 all sides.
- If you submit an article by disk or thumb drive. We prefer MS Word 2000 or MS 2003 format, but we can use submissions saved as text files.
- A hard copy of the article should accompany your submission just incase we destroy your disk.
- You may email articles to:

TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCi.org.

Scanning services for photographs are available. Submit your photographs to *The Clearboard* editor's mail box in the Club office.

- 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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Write an article or take a picture and put it in the CLEARBOARD! This is your Club Newsletter, participate in it.

Help Wanted CLEARBOARD EDITOR

It is my intention to step down as CLEARBOARD editor as of January 2, 2011. The job requires a good sense of humor, the persistence to see the sunlight peaking out from behind the clouds, and the ability to always find the little something that others don't always notice that shows the best in all of us coming out when we least expect it. It is hard work and it requires a great deal of time and attention to detail but it is well worth the effort. You put the ideas and the work of the club into print for all the world to see and to encourage the members of our club regardless of their skill or level of participation. I'll continue editing the CLEARBOARD until then. I will help anyone who wants to learn the job and I will support whoever the new editor is with monthly articles pictures, and whatever other support I can muster. R. Oliver

Switching Problem on the Rahway River RR.

By "Boomer Pete" Ezzard

Over the past couple of months I have been "touring" the various HO railroads during the operating sessions. I have found that each railroad presents its own challenges to the operator. Here is one that I regularly confronted during my stint "booming" on the River:

The morning passenger train has just made its stop at the Trenton Northern's Allentown Station. It sometimes runs as a "Mixed Train". This means that freight and passenger cars may be mixed into the same train. This morning the train arrived in Allentown with a locomotive and passenger coach, but for its return trip it needs to pick up one box car for the Kenilworth freight house and return to Kenilworth.

Sometimes you can hail the TN dispatcher and ask for a "headroom move at Allen", but today you are unable to contact them. How long will it

take you to pick up your box car and have the train set up properly for the return trip to Kenilworth? Can you beat the 15 minutes it took me?

Each time you stop your locomotive, it takes 1 minute of time. How long will it take you to get the task done? Remember, you must stop to couple, uncouple or change directions, and throw switches, but you can combine your moves. Begin the count after the stop to unload your passengers.

Webmaster's Report:

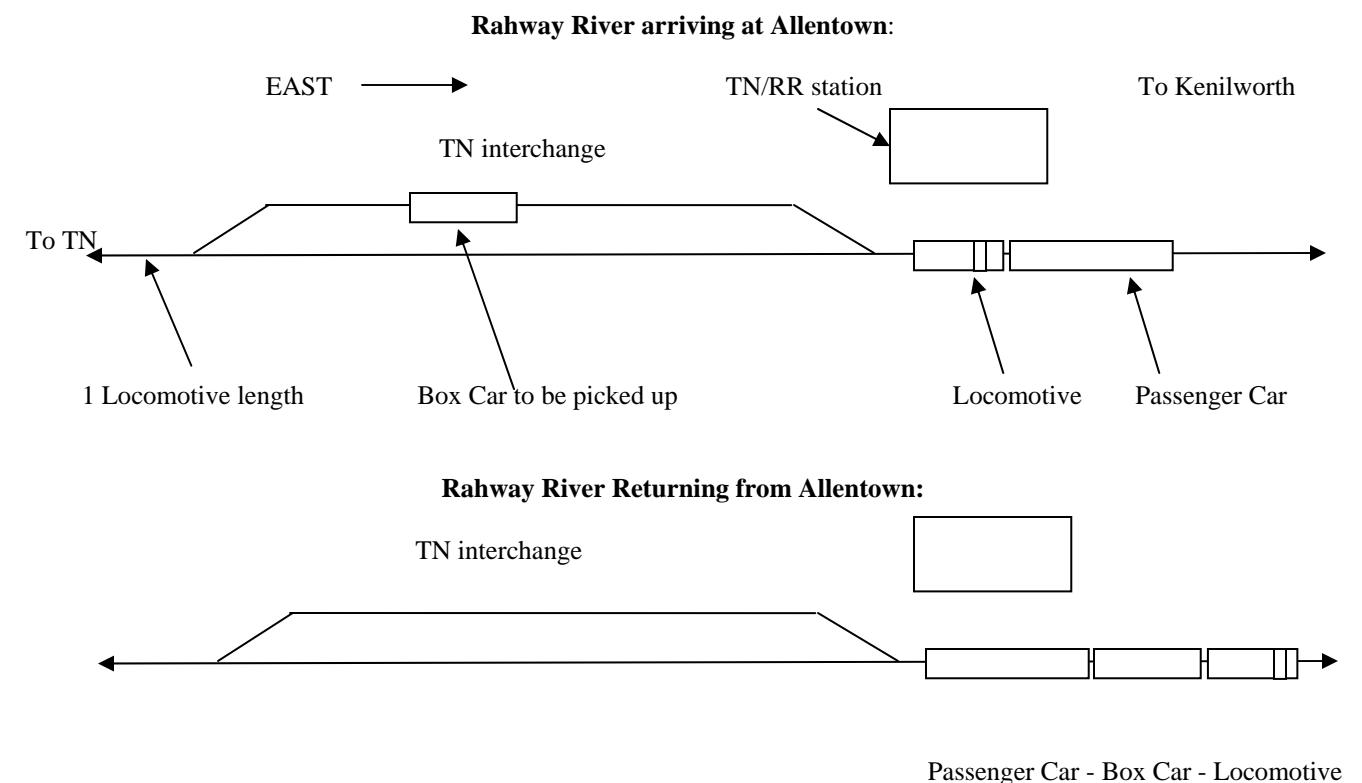
Thursday, October 21, 2010

-- Site Summary --
Visits

Total	39,609
Average per Day	21
Average Visit Length	2:21
This Week	146

Page Views

Total	136,670
Average per Day	46
Average per Visit	2.2
This Week	323



Under the Spreading Maple Tree by Roger Oliver

Peter Summers, Rich Laube, Brian Cicero, and myself have been working on the Garden Railroad over the last few weeks. The result is that we have been able to regrade most of the layout, find the electrical connections for the power



Peter Summers checking the locomotive's progress

pack, and actually run (albeit with fits and starts) a locomotive around the loop! We found the usual issues of kinked track, poor electrical connections, voltage drops, weeds, dips, swerves, misalignments and out-of-gauge or damaged track.

The next project we have to do outdoors is check the electrical continuity of the track. Right now, the loop is fed power on opposite sides of the loop. We do not know if there is a significant drop in the voltage to the rails as the engine moves towards the midpoint between the two power feeds or not. The rails are held in place by rail joiners that slip over the ends of the track and four screws through the rail joiner into the track ends. This makes for a mechanical bond that, while better than a simple pressure fit rail joiner bond, is not as good as a soldered wire bond or solid rail bond.

The Garden Railroad Department just bought a RRAmp Meter from Tony's Train Exchange in Vermont. This nifty piece of technology allows us

to measure our track voltage at any point along the rail, the power draw of our engines, and the true DCC power readings of our DCC system. This will allow us to take much more accurate measurements of our motive power performance. It will allow us to keep better records so we can document how our engines change over time or as we modify them.

Inside we will be looking to get the layout up and running reliably for the show. This will entail getting the sidings electrified, using the smaller engines and trains on the inner loop and keeping the larger engines on the outer loop. We also need to decide and draw conceptual plans for the new indoor and outdoor layouts so that we can start developing detailed plans, costing out materials, and developing working and projected budgets to begin to build these projects.

All in all, there's lots of work to do both on the inside layout and the outdoors layout. We need more Garden Railroad Department members as well as anyone else who is willing to help us out.

NOTICE

As of November 14, 2010 All work on the HO and N scale layouts must be complete in order to prepare for this year's Light & Sound Show.

CLUB SHIRTS

John Wilkens is taking prepaid orders for club polo shirts. Cost is \$30.00 per shirt. Shirts will be blue polo style shirt with white club logo. See John for more information and to place your order.

Calendar of upcoming events 2010

- Nov 6 BOD Meeting at 4:00 PM
- Nov 21 Dover Train-o-Rama
Dover H.S. Dover, NJ
- Nov 27&28 Greenberg Train Show
NJ Expo Ctr. Edison, NJ
- Nov 26, 27 & 28 **Annual Light & Sound Show**
- Dec 3, 4 & 5 **Annual Light & Sound Show**
- Dec 5 Dover Train-o-Rama 9 AM—3 PM
Dover H.S. Dover, NJ
- Dec 10, 11 & 12 **Annual Light & Sound Show**
- Dec 18 BOD Meeting at 4:00 PM

2011

- Jan 8 **Garden RR Dept. Annual Meeting**
12:00 PM at the Club / Jan 15 Alt.date
- Jan 8 **N Dept. Annual Meeting**
1:00 PM at the Club / Jan 15 Alt.date
- Jan 8 **HO Dept. Annual Meeting**
2:30 PM at the Club / Jan 15 Alt.date
- Jan 8 BOD Meeting at 4:00 PM
- Jan 22 **Annual Membership Meeting**
1:00 PM at the Club/Jan 29 Alt. Date
- Jan 22 **Board of Directors Reorganization Meeting directly following the Annual Membership Meeting/Jan 29 Alt. Date.**
- Jan 23 Dover Train-o-Rama
Dover H.S. Dover, NJ
- Jan 29 &30 Amherst Rwy. Soc. RR. Hobby Show
Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds
West Springfield, MA
www.railroadhobbyshow.com

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please make sure you keep your contact information current. Any address changes or other updated information should be written legibly on a piece of paper and dropped in the mail slot in the lobby of the Club building, attention "Roster Clerk." Thank You.

Bill Jambor, Roster Clerk

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

There will be a club wide cleanout sometime before the show. All personal items that are not in your locker need to be removed from the club or they will be tagged for disposal. See Tom Voytac for details.

The Model Railroad Club, Inc. Founder: Paul Mallery (1918-2004)

Board of Directors:

President:	Carlos Langezaal
Vice-President: <i>Development Dept.</i>	Bob Nalbene
Treasurer:	John Wilkens
Secretary:	Gene Mikijanic
Director: Building Department	Thomas Voytac
Director: <i>Membership Department</i>	Russ Fiero
HO Department.	Peter Ezzard
N Department.	John Cicero
Garden Railroad Department	Roger Oliver

Club Functionaries:

Government Liaison:	Bill Franklin
Office Manager:	Bill Jambor
Club Librarians:	Roger Oliver
	Russ Fiero
	Brian Cicero

Assistant to the Librarians

Security Chairman:	Tom Voytac
Civil Engineer:	Rich Cornell
Club Architect:	vacant
Club Architect Emeritus:	John Morris
Club Construction Supervisor:	Paul Preuss

Activity Dept. Functionaries: HO Scale

Layout Design Committee Chair:	Rich Cornell
Scenery Committee Co-Chair:	John Morris & Ira Deutsch
	Bill Franklin
	vacant
Electrical Committee Chair:	Russ Fiero
Operations Committee Chair:	Pete Ezzard
Master Mechanic:	Neil Petillo
HD&O Superintendent:	Jeff Peal
TN Superintendent:	
Rahway River Superintendent:	

N Scale

Master Mechanic:	John Cicero
Electrical Dept. Chair:	Mark Juchniewicz
Scenery Chair:	Claude Kelsoe
Bench work Chair:	vacant

Garden Railroad Department

Master Mechanic/Electrical:	Russ Fiero
Layout Design/Track work:	vacant
Construction/Horticultural:	vacant
Community Outreach:	vacant

Club Mailing Address:

PO Box 1146
Union, NJ 07083-1146

Telephone: (908) 964-9724

Website: www.tmrcl.org

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Clearboard Editor: TMRci_Clearboard@TMRCl.org
Webmaster: Webmaster@TMRCl.org

Summary of the Minutes of the June 26,2010 BOD meeting

Summary of the Minutes of the September 11,2010 Extra BOD meeting, at 1:30 PM.

The CLEARBOARD Commentary

By Roger Oliver, ed.

'Twas the week before "*Showtime*" and all through the Club, members were sweeping while some had to scrub.

The trains were lined up in the yards with care, in hopes the Master Mechanic soon would be there.

And me in my bifocals and him in his boots,
we set out towards Gilberton to find our caboose.
Those guys on the N Scale, what can they be
thinking, you look at their layout and all them lights
blinking.

And now there's the HO and all its got going,
off in the distance, it just keeps going and going.

But there's the Garden with such size and loud
humming, all the children are excited; "Will they
soon be running?"

Then all of a sudden there arose such a clatter,
we all ran back to see what could be the matter.
We raced down the aisles, down ladders and stairs
we coursed around corners, o'er boxes and chairs.

And what to our wondering eyes should we find
but a pile of spot lights that would boggle your
mind.

We picked through the pile, getting everything
right, then up on the scaffold we carried each light.

While out of the office there appeared a strange
creature, with glasses and goatee and all ruddy
features.

In one hand he had posters and the other he had
flyers, He shook at the members, "Won't there be
any buyers?"

"We must get these out in every village and shop,
the people must know or our show will be a flop!"

He set about pacing then he folded some more,
"Really everybody, take them to every hobby shop
and store."

"The signs; oh the signs!" "Are they ready to go?"
"How will anybody be able to find our light show?"

A faint bell rung and he turned with a start,
and off he went running as fast as a dart.

"Yes ma'am we're open again this year."

"Book fifty tickets?", he exclaimed with a tear.

First one call, then another, then the internet
chattered, he rushed around giddily, the pre-sales
all mattered.

When he looked up he smiled, his face shown like
a light, "I think we're going to make it, we'll just
have to work all night!"

We all groaned and muttered, our families will
miss us. At this rate we won't get home 'til just
before Christmas!

Join us. Many hands make light work!