



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 # 458

September 2005



*Engine 3254 with the passenger cars ready to take us from Steamtown station to Tobyhanna.
 Photo by Carlos Langezaal*

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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

Welcome to this first Fall, 2005 issue of *The Clearboard*. A main topic in this issue is the Annual Show 2005 for which preparations are in full swing. All members and friends are encouraged to contact the Annual Show Committee members, Bob Nalbone, Mike Bowler or me for any tasks they can do in preparation for the show. The show is a very important fund raising activity for The Club and one area that is always a challenge is staffing. It is important to have as many members participate as possible. Remember at the Annual Meeting in January, we voted to change the hours of the show (see page 11). A sign-up sheet will be posted soon at The Club.

In this issue you will find the usual N-scale and HO-scale reports as well as summaries for the August and September BOD meetings. Please note that the BOD meeting of November is rescheduled to Saturday November 5 at 7:00 PM. A 501(c)(3) seminar will be held October 15. All members are encouraged to attend either the afternoon or evening seminar. Topics will include making donations and allowable deductions.

In the October/November issue we will feature the trip to Steamtown in August, attended by 10 members, and their fun trip to Tobyhanna, as well as more info regarding preparation for the Annual Show.

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 Callender

As usual I'm so busy that I have to squeeze in this promised work at 4:30 AM. In the N-scale department the attitude is one that I can only describe as overjoyed and energetic. I must thank individual workers for their efforts:

Stu Keil is working on refurbishing a small town scene for the back left corner. **John Cicero** has been busy rewiring sections for smoother operations. **Brian Cicero** has been helping with various scenery projects. **John Ashby** built a small reserve U.S. Army Armor division area (John, I'm working on your CSX army train loco). **Ira Heisler** is working on track for the revised Steel mill area on the upper level. **Steve Lawler** has redone the benchwork on the upper level. **Don Magee** has installed new locks on the upstairs lockers and is working on shelves for the downstairs lockers. Our newest member, **Mark Juchniewicz**, has been keeping us entertained while installing acres of hardshell for scenery. **Eric Tappan** has gotten the CTI system back up and has gotten control of the switches from the JPt. Reading passenger and intermodal yards. **Claude Kelsoe** has been an electronic wiz, restoring special scenery lighting effects, laying track for the steel mill and building a boatload of models. New applicants Craig and Deneice have been helping lay roadbed and with scenery. Pete Goldsmith is working on a new bridge and waterfall scene for the back right side area of the upper level. 'Little' **Mike Antkowiak** has redone the scenery in the intermodal yard and promised to be around for more scenery work before the Annual Holliday Show. **Bob Purcell** managed a few visits. Feel better, Bob. I'm even doing a little work here and there.

I feel our Friday night work sessions have allowed us to catch up with work so we wont be so jammed for time before the show. I hope some of younger members can squeeze in a little time to help us work; only after homework is done, kids. Let's pull together so this years show and subsequent operations are the best yet.



HO Department Report

Submitted by Peter Ezzard

Summer is normally a slow time at The Model Railroad Club and the HO Department, but there have been some projects of note over the last couple of months:

- A new HD&O employee timetable will go into effect at the end of the month. It features increased passenger services during “non-rush-hour times” as well as adjustments in the freight schedules that the Operations Committee and the HD&O Superintendent have recommended. Notably, certain freights have been listed on the schedule as Second or Fourth Class trains to allow for better equipment utilization and crew calling. Serving regularly on the Operations Committee have been Bob Nalbhone, Ed Small, Jeff Peal and Don Kern.
- Wiring of switch machines and temporary control panel work continue in “new” Gilberton, with Martin Harriss, Bill Franklin, Ira Deutsch and John Morris all spotted working in the area.
- An “earthquake” struck between Morris and Jim Thorpe this past month. No damage was reported, but track levels between these two points have been lowered by as much as two inches. Dick Kunig, assisted by Michael Altman-Ezzard and others were spotted removing risers between the two points on the railroad in order to bring it into proper alignment with the new routing when we enter the “new section” of the railroad.
- The original Gladstone/Gilberton “temporary” turntable has been removed. The modified Atlas turntable has been retired after over fifteen years of service and replaced by a turntable donated by Friend member Henry Barsky, which too will be used “temporarily” until the rest of Gilberton yard goes into service. Both the old and new turntable were “golf-links” arrangement which allow for one turntable to serve two different terminals. Locomotives from the Gladstone branch use the “show-loop” connection to access the turntable.

Previously Gilberton locomotive servicing and turning required a round-trip of almost three scale miles – from the passenger station west to west of West Gil, then east through the freight yard to the turntable. After turning, the engines would have to reverse the move back to the passenger station. In its new location, in addition to its Gladstone duties, separate lead tracks from the passenger and freight yards were installed making turning and servicing moves much more efficient. Thanks, again, to Henry Barsky, as well as Paul Preuss who refurbished the donated turntable. Also thanks to Bill Franklin who inspired the idea for the new location, did the engineering studies and helped install the turntable.

Finally, Mike Bowler and Joe Santomauro have continued with trackwork in the new section and Rich Cornell, Paul Preuss and others have been fine tuning tracks that are currently in service.

Keep filling out those trouble tickets because the crew has really been addressing the hot spots on the railroad as of late. Thanks guys!

end

Club News

Compiled by *The Clearboard Staff*

CLUB TO HOST SPECIAL OPERATING SESSION AS PART OF NER CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, October 9, 2005 the Club will be hosting a special operating session from 1 to 4 PM as part of the NMRA Northeast Region Fall, 2005 convention. The convention, held in Stamford, Connecticut, 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

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not a mistake. This article from last issue is being reprinted in an effort to reinforce the importance of everyone doing their part. Is your name on any of the sheets yet?)

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

**Notice to All HO
Department Members:**

If you plan to bring down any equipment to run on the HO layout during this year's annual show, it **MUST** be submitted for inspection **NO LATER** than October 29, 2005.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Ed Van Savage
Master Mechanic

**Important Notice to
All Members:**

A 501(c)(3) seminar will be held at the Club on Saturday, October 15 in the Gallery area. Topics will include making donations and allowable deductions. An information package will be handed out.

Two sessions will be scheduled: 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The seminar will last approximately 45 minutes. All members, regardless of membership class are encouraged to attend.

In order to make sure that an adequate supply of information packages are available, I am requesting that you e-mail me if you plan to attend. Thank you.

Bob Nalbone
Vice President &
Development Dept. Head
Bobnalbone@aol.com

Upcoming Club Events

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.

Notice to All Members

We recently noticed that we have once again been invaded by mice. I have asked the Building Department Head to address this problem. We can all help by keeping the building clean. There are task sheets posted throughout the building. These tasks can take as little as fifteen minutes to complete.

In addition, effective immediately, **no food is to be left out on counter tops, tables or other open areas when the building is unoccupied.** This goes for sealed items, such as hot chocolate and popcorn. Mice have no trouble tearing open the packaging. If a bag or other package has been opened, the item must be consumed, discarded or placed in a sealed plastic container. **All left over perishable food items must be placed in the lounge area refrigerator upon completion of an event.**

The above should be part of the process of securing the building when leaving for the day.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Bob Nalbone
Vice President and
Development Dept. Head

ANNUAL SHOW

9 WEEKS AND
COUNTING DOWN

Show opens Friday,
November 25,
12:00 PM.

What are you doing
to help prepare?



Upcoming activities— Annual Show

Carlos Langezaal & Bob Nalbone

Several activities and events are scheduled in the upcoming months. Preparations for the Annual Show have already begun. There are a number of tasks that need to be completed before now and the opening of the show on November 25. Your help is needed to accomplish these tasks.

As we all are aware, the show is a very important fund raising activity for the club and one area that is always a challenge is staffing. It is important to have as many members participate as possible. This year we are trying to get a head start on this critical area. Please fill out on the special form that will be posted soon at the club your availability for the show. We're counting on your commitment to the Club to help make it a success.

In addition, distribution of flyers, posters to businesses and other public areas to make the public aware of our upcoming annual show will be available in the upcoming weeks. We encourage all members to distribute this as wide as possible, including on posting boards, at work etc.

**Dates: November 25, 26, 27;
December 2, 3, 4; and December 9, 10, 11**

**Show Times:
Fridays: Nov. 25 noon - 9 pm, Dec. 2 & 9 7 pm to 9 pm;
Saturdays 10 am - 7 pm;**



*Annual Show 2004 - One of the scenes during last year's show.
Long coal train approaches Ashland.*



Tobyhanna Tower. Photographed during the August, 2005 Steamtown trip.

**RESCHEDULING OF
NOVEMBER, 2005
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING**

To all members and BOD members:
Please be advised that the November
2005 BOD meeting has been rescheduled
to Saturday November 5, 2005 at
7:00 PM.

Clearboard Deadlines:

October/November 2005 Issue: October 14, 2005. To be distributed around November 12, 2005.
December 2005 Issue: December 14. To be distributed around December 24, 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