

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 # 474

September 2007



“I hope that crew with the catenary shows up soon!” That’s what the engineer in that Pennsy GG-1 is probably thinking as a re-routed “Montrealer” coasts around the curve west of Bernardsville on the HD&O Gladstone Branch. The 1960s – era train carried through cars from the Canadian National and the New Haven. This beauty belongs to Bruce Gottlieb who was running it as a show train on Saturday, August 4, 2007 - the same day the August Clearboard cover photo was taken. 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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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

By Bob Nalbone

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Founder: Paul Mallery (1918-2004)

What are you doing?

Here at the Club, I mean. Are you one of the “doers” or one of the talkers? What are you putting into this club (and what are you getting out of it)?

Some of you may know that I keep a weekly record of who shows up and works around the Club. With two exceptions, all of the members on my list belong to the HO Department (I leave tracking the N Scale Department in the capable hands of Eric Callender). I do this because that’s how seniority on the HD&O is determined for operating sessions. I must admit that my criteria for getting credit for “work” is pretty liberal. Almost anything counts, whether you empty garbage cans, clean bathrooms, waybill the railroad, attend a meeting, sit at the ticket window for as little as a half-hour, run show trains for the public, build scenery, lay track, or any of at least a dozen other activities will do the trick. Still, the fact is that the bulk of the work is done by a small minority of members (the so-called “2% Club”).

Or is it? Looking over the September list, I note that for the first three weeks of the month, no fewer than 18 members came down to the Club and did *something* constructive. In August, a heavy vacation month, no fewer than 17 members showed up and contributed in any one week. The total number of active members on the books is 77, with 61 of those belonging to the HO Department. That means approximately 25% of all active HO Department members are doers. Considering that some members live far away from the Club or are in school or can’t come down regularly for some other reason, I think that’s a pretty good level of participation.

So what are you doing? Let your department head (HO or N) know so it can be acknowledged in these pages. And keep up the good work!

end

Board of Directors:

President:	Carlos Langezaal
Vice-President:	Bob Nalbone
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N Dept. Head:	Eric Callender

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HO Scale

Layout Design Committee Chair:	Rich Cornell
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Electrical Committee Chair:	Bill Franklin
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TN Superintendent:	Neil Pettilo
Rahway River Superintendent:	Jeff Peal

N Scale

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Scenery Chair:	Claude Kelsoe
Benchwork Chair:	Stephen Lawler

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Jersey Shore & Western Railroad Company News

By Eric Callender

Work is proceeding on the NTrak module, which is set up under the HO layout, near temporary Hoboken area, for visitors to see. Fixing the three mainline tracks to the proper length and installation of another power bus are the priorities, with additions to the scenery to follow.

Preparations for the annual show is beginning, so if anyone has any special concerns please leave a message for me (just put it my attention and drop it in the dues payment slot in the lobby). For the show, areas of the layout in need of extra work are: the PSIRT trolley, the steel mill, Front Street in Lebanon and the Harrisburg area. I am also ordering some backdrops to complete some areas.

There have been instances of pests being spotted in the layout area. Please don't leave food and containers around to feed our little friends - and please make sure you do your part to help keep the *entire* building clean.

Speaking of which, the Club has published a list of cleaning tasks around the building which must be done. When you do complete a task, please take a minute to record it on the appropriate clipboard (these can be found all around the building; there's even one outside). I plan to speak to the N Scale department members as a group to make sure we pull our weight in this area.

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

end

LOCKERS AVAILABLE!

A very limited number of lockers are still available. Please contact Ed Majury for more information.

Operators Wanted

Operations is one of the most interesting and fun aspects of model railroading. It is also a great way to learn how the prototype did (and does) move goods and people. Operating positions are available every Tuesday night from 7 to 10 pm, so come down and have some fun!

Dear Fellow Members:

I want to thank you for your well wishes and for the fruit basket I received during my recent illness. I deeply appreciate your thoughts and your friendship.

HO Department News

By Martin Harriss

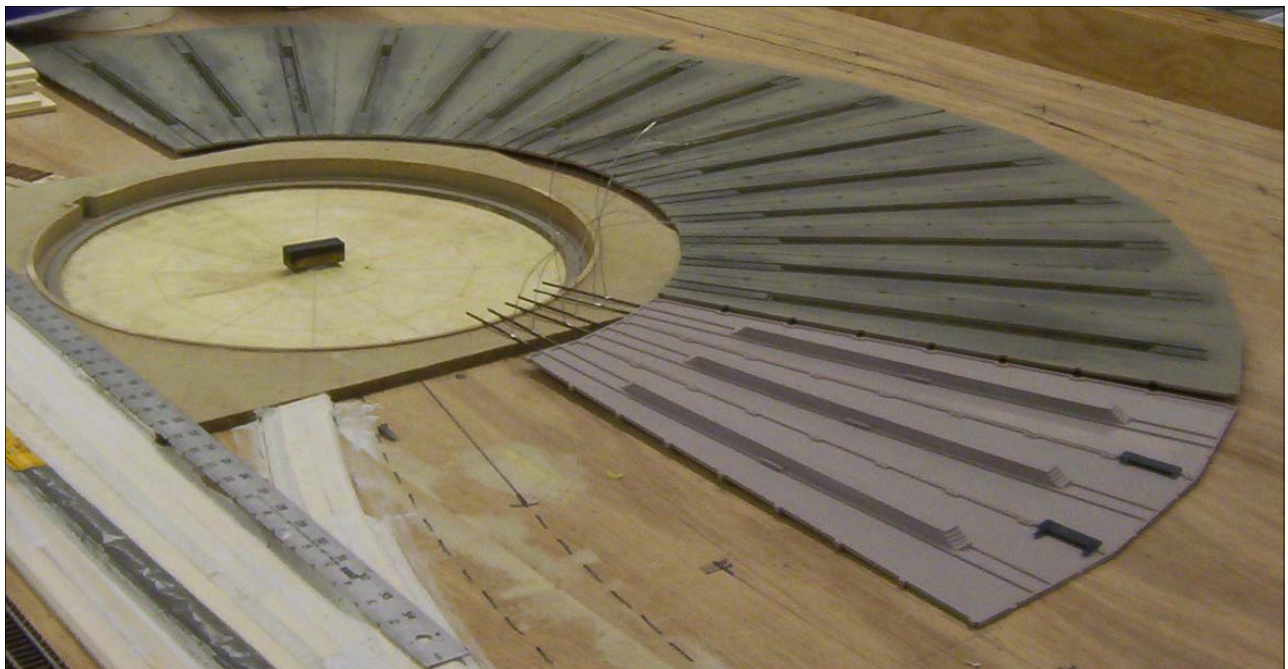
Although not yet evident on the layout, Ira Deutsch is making good progress with construction of the roundhouse for the Gilberton engine terminal. The first we will see of this structure is when Ira lays down the roundhouse floor. After the floor is laid, the stall rails will be put down. It's only then that the walls and roof of the structure can be put in place. Since the latter will only occur when the Gilberton yard trackage is completed, we are likely to have the roundhouse floor sitting by itself atop the benchwork for quite a while. Please be careful when working around this area.

The monthly meeting of the HO Department Operations Committee was held on Saturday, August 25. The committee recently completed an audit of all the freight cars on the layout. This will enable us to figure out what types and quantities of cars we should ask member to bring to the Club, as well as allow us to plan operations based on the cars we have in service. There was also a discussion of some of the problems that we have experienced with the radio throttles on Tuesday nights. The Electrical Committee has been asked to look into installing an additional receiver.

The committee is also working hard at producing documentation to describe the operation of the HD&O. A committee meeting report will appear elsewhere.

Finally, let me remind everyone that the next HO Department quarterly meeting will be held at the Club on Saturday, October 6th at 4 pm.

end



Work is progressing on several fronts on the HO Scale layout. In addition to working on the Mauch Chunk Terminal Railroad, Ira Deutsch is also hard at work assembling the Gilberton roundhouse. The floor sections arrived for a test fitting on September 15, 2007. Some rail has been installed, as evidence by the wire leads sticking up from the three stalls in the lower right foreground (that section of flooring has been placed on the layout upside down). Note the inspection pits and the contrast between the painted and weathered stalls and the molded plastic color as the kit comes out of the box. The roundhouse will have 18 stalls. Photo by Bob Nalbhone.

Member T-Shirts Now Available!



Sizes S thru 3XL

(VERY limited quantities of small & medium.)

Price: \$9.00 each

Welcome Aboard!

New Member

Mike Kruglyak — HO Scale

Returning Members

Ed Figler — N Scale

Matt Fogerty—HO Scale

Campaign21SM

Funding a New Century of Excellence
Have you made your contribution yet?

Please...

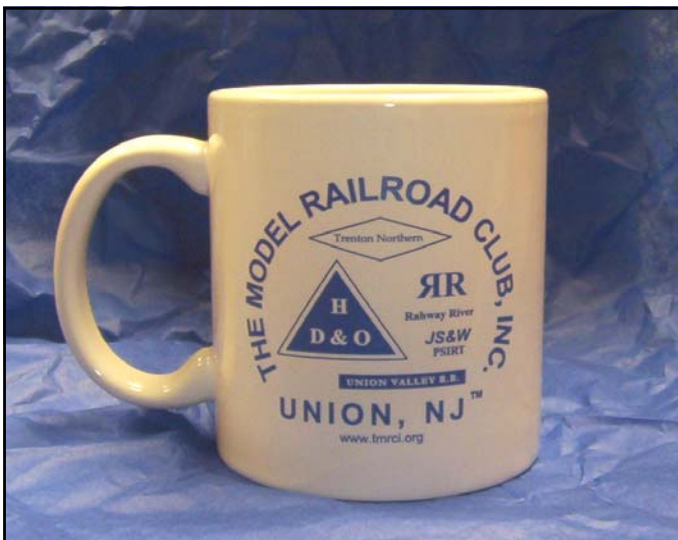
**Do your part to help keep the
building and grounds clean.**

CLUB CALENDAR

September 29: HO Dept. Operations Committee Meeting - 3:00 PM

ANNUAL SHOW DATES: November 23 - 25 & 30; December 2 - 3 & 7 - 9

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!

Club News

Compiled by The Clearboard Staff

PARKING LOT GETS PAVED!

Parking Spaces Striped, New Signage Coming

The Club parking lot, which consisted of just the base coat of asphalt for well over twenty years, was paved by the Union County parks department in late August. Government Liaison Bill Franklin has been working diligently on this project for the last several years. Thanks to help received from Charles Sigmund, Director of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, along with colleagues Daniel Bernier and Sean Ryan, the county's landscape architect, the project was finally moved up on the county's schedule and completed.

In addition to paving the lot, the paving crew also installed a ramp from the parking lot down to the shop doors and paved over the small gravel path leading from the south stairwell exit. The main entrance gravel walkway was left intact, by request.

"The county only does one major paving project a year and has only one crew to do it," explained Bill Franklin. "I'm very happy that we were able to get this done. It looks great."

Getting it done involved much more than a couple of workers showing up with a steam roller and a few trucks of asphalt. The paving crew first had to make sure that the parking lot, which had started to deteriorate at an accelerated rate over the past couple of years, would drain properly. It was a big job. An estimated 15,000 pounds of asphalt was used.

Once the new pavement cured, the county returned to stripe the parking spaces. A total of 48 spaces are available not including the handicap spaces, which were also repainted. A yellow box with an "X" marks the no-parking areas.

The new look has had a very positive impact on Club members and guests alike.

"The place is really starting to look like something," said Bill Jambor.

Club President Carlos Langezaal sent a letter to Mr. Sigmund on behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership, expressing the Club's gratitude.

New signs in the county's familiar green and yellow park colors will be installed in the near future, as well as updated signs for the handicap parking spaces.

NEW FEATURE ADDED TO ANNUAL SHOW PROGRAM

"Classic Streamliners on Parade" to Debut

When guests arrive to see this year's light and sound show, they will be treated to an extra bonus. Accurate models of several classic streamlined passenger trains will be on hand and operating over the show loops prior to the actual light and sound show.

Dubbed "Classic Streamliners on Parade," the program is designed to educate the public about how passenger trains looked and operated in the United States prior to the formation of Amtrak.

(Continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS (Continued from pg. 7)

"A majority of people in the United States were born after Amtrak began operating in May of 1971," pointed out Club Vice President and Development Department Head Bob Nalbone. "You'd be surprised how many visitors we get each year who don't know that the freight railroads also ran all the passenger trains at one time - including commuter service."

In fact, many visitors to the Club have never known a time when there wasn't an Amtrak, NJ Transit or Metro-North Railroad.

"'Classic Streamliners on Parade' is a way for us to tell this very important story in American transportation history," said Nalbone. "As an educational institution, we need to tell these stories.

Nalbone also pointed out that "Classic Streamliners on Parade" has an added benefit because it allows the Club to change the show, without actually changing the show.

"Each year the media and the public ask us: 'What's new?'" he added. "Well this year we have an answer."

The trains that will be "on parade" come courtesy of members Russ Fiero and Bruce Gottlieb. Five or six trains will be featured, including the Santa Fe "Super Chief" and the Great Northern "Empire Builder," among others. The trains will be accurate as of a specific date from motive power to drum head. A companion booklet is also planned.

The logistics of how the trains will operate over the layout without disrupting the light and sound show were still being worked out as this issue went to press.

ANNUAL SHOW ADVANCE TICKETS GO ON SALE

Discount advance tickets to the 2007 Light and Sound Show went on sale September 15, a full month earlier than in previous years. Tickets are available at the Club ticket window on Saturdays during regular public hours and by mail. An order form is available on the Club's website.

Club brochures and flyers have been printed and have already begun to be distributed, reported Club Vice President Bob Nalbone. Both the "regular" Club brochure and the show brochure include an order form. As was the case last year, a dollar-off coupon is also included.

"I want to get a jump on things this year," said Nalbone. "I want members to really push the show. We have a new feature that we are presenting, 'Classic Streamliners on Parade,' that I am excited about and I think will be well received by the public. We also started our publicity efforts earlier this year."

Other show-related efforts are well underway. A checklist has been posted on the large bulletin board under the Pittsburgh aisle that is updated as tasks are completed.

"Eric Callender is heading up the Annual Show Committee. Members interested in helping out, and we need as many members as possible to help out, should contact him," said Nalbone. "We all have a stake in the show being as successful as it can possibly be."

(Continued on page 12)

HELP WANTED

Help is needed to keep our building neat and clean and in the best condition.

Contact Jeff Peal, Building Dept. Head

A list of day-to-day tasks is posted by the exterior shop door. Talk to the Director to find out what you can do on special projects. Thank you.

CLUB NEWS (Continued from pg. 7)

JOE SANTOMAURO NAMED NEW CLEARBOARD EDITOR

Membership Department Head Dick Kunig announced that Joe Santomauro has been named the new *Clearboard* editor. The Board of Directors unanimously approved Joe's nomination at its September meeting. A transition period will begin with the October issue.

"I'm delighted that Joe has stepped up to the plate," said Director Kunig. "*The Clearboard* provides an important connection between the membership and the Club. But Joe can't do it alone. Articles and photos from members are needed to keep the publication vibrant and relevant."

"I also want to thank Bob Nalbone and Carlos Langezaal for carrying the ball in the interim."

Kunig also pointed out that the position of copy editor still needs to be filled. This is an important position, as this person also serves as a back-up to the editor. Anyone interested should contact Dick directly.

end

Clearboard Deadlines:

October 2007 Issue: September 29th. Publication on or about October 17th.

November 2007 Issue: October 6th. Publication on or about November 7th.

December 2007 Issue: November 24. Publication on or about December 19th.

THE CLEARBOARD

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