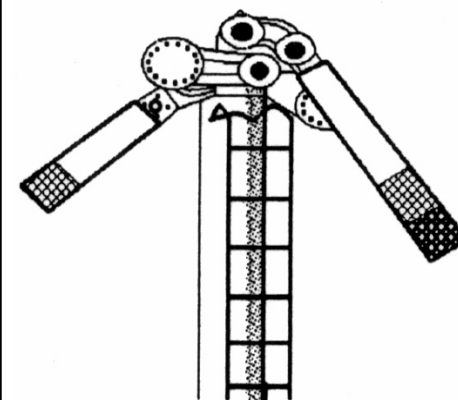


The **CLEARBOARD**
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The Clearboard

The official newsletter of The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Issue No 507

September / October, 2011



Ya gotta be kidding me!

It's a disease, but on the beach in Cancun Mexico? Our guys, Randy (l) and Ben (r) taking in the latest news on their hobby.



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:

November/December 2011 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is November 26. Publication on or about December 3.

January/February 2012 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is December 31. Publication on or about January 7.

The CLEARBOARD

EDITOR: Roger Oliver

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Randy Martin, Bob Nalbone, Russ Fiero, Brian Cicero and Pete Ezzard.

Photographers: Roger Oliver, Gene Mikijanic, Don Kern, Brian Cicero, and Carlos Langezaal.

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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 Anonymous submissions will not be published.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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The job of editing *The Clearboard* can be very daunting. Especially when you're doing it basically with a little help here, a brief article there and a snap shot once in a while. I don't want those who do contribute to think that I don't appreciate their efforts. Anyway, Randy Martin has volunteered to come on board as co-editor (subject to BOD approval) to help out. I haven't decided yet how long I'll continue as editor, but maybe an editorial staff is in the offing. Ed.

Under the Spreading Maple Tree by Roger Oliver



I would like to dedicate this month's article to the "other" members of the Garden Railroad Department. The Garden Railroad Department is as small as our trains are big. There are officially just four of us; Matt, Charlie, Peter and me. Our two layouts, indoors and outdoors are, or were, built on unstable bases, with track that is near impossible to bend by hand without breaking those little plastic tabs which secure it to its ties and gauge it. On the indoor layout the scenery was a few home made buildings which were either out of scale or trying to be something they

weren't. The track was laid on a variety of plywood pieces that were screwed or nailed to 2" x 2" strips that were laid across 2" x 6" joists spaced 4' apart. If you looked at a train running along on the track from a low angle it looked like it was cruising at sea rolling up and down the waves of the table top. The indoor layout was put up quickly and with very little planning other than just get it up and running.

The outdoor layout was a test track to see how exposure to the elements would affect the plastic ties and how the rail would weather. We are trying to correct the various issues we inherited. The indoor layout has been pulled up. The outdoor layout has been reballasted and the kinks in the rails bent out. It's a lot of work. When you look at our department's membership you realize that there's not a lot of manpower to do the work we hope to get done. We're really basically starting from the very beginning with designing both layouts, establishing standards, setting up the department, formulating our budget, getting our equipment and supplies in order, figuring whose equipment is whose, fixing things that are broken and so on.

Through all this we have been very lucky because of the generosity of a number of other club members who have come along side us to help us out and work with us to get the Garden Railroads up and running. Above you see a picture of Bob Nalbone reballasting the outdoor track. Joe Marateo has been putting up 2"x 4" risers for the indoor layout. Pete Ezzard and Bob Nalbone painted the floor and woodwork in the aisles by the indoor layout. And others have done various jobs to help us out. We appreciate all that you have done to help us get up and running. We look forward to working with you in the future to advance the goals and objectives of the club. This demonstrates one of the unsung traits of our hobby—camaraderie; Working side by side to achieve a common goal. To all who've helped us, Thanks!

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

October 22, 2011

Deadline for getting your trains to the Master Mechanic to be inspected for the Annual Show.

November 5, 2011

No new work to be started after this date at the club. Time to clean up!

ALL BUILDING ACCESS REQUESTS MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY!

Forms can be obtained from the club office and must be submitted to the Board of Directors by the end of the Annual Meeting so that they can be processed by the end of January. If your building access is not renewed it will expire and your door fob will be deactivated and your code dropped from the alarm system.

SETTING OUT SLEEPERS ON OVERNIGHT TRAINS

By Don Kern

From the late 19th century until late in the 20th century many railroads with intercity passenger trains would provide sleeping cars (often called Pullman cars because of the Pullman Porters staffing the cars as well as the fact that Pullman built most of them too.) Among those sleeping cars that ran many were set out and picked up along the route. So that passengers didn't have to stay up, or get up in middle of the night to disembark, the railroads would provide a "Setout Sleeper" at large and mid-sized cities (often the railroads' division point as well). The car would be opened around 9:00 PM and picked up after 1:00 PM or set out at 4:00AM or so and you could stay on until about 7:00AM or later.

On the Current HD&O there is one city that would justify set out sleeper service, Gilberton. It would be appropriate to have Gilberton – New York (Hoboken) cars on the respective trains that serve Gilberton. Eastward Train #10 arrives at Gilberton around 1:00 AM by "Fast clock" translation and would pick up the Sleeper as well as doing head end work. Westward #7 would set out a Sleeper from Hoboken.

As a parallel example, the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad had set out sleepers at Scranton, PA., Binghamton, Elmira and Syracuse*, NY. (*Sleepers from Hoboken and Philadelphia (via a train jointly run by the DL&W, CNJ and Reading Railroads)) The Binghamton sleeper survived at least until the 1960 merger with the Erie. [Research for this came from Public Timetables, Night Trains by Peter T. Maiken, and How to Operate your Model Railroad by Bruce Chubb]

Webmaster's Report:

Thursday, October 6, 2011
-- Site Summary --

Visits	
Total	47,972
Average per Day	20
Average Visit Length	1:15
This Week	138
Page Views	
Total	153,717
Average per Day	38
Average per Visit	1.9
This Week	264

The CLEARBOARD Commentary

By Roger Oliver, ed.

Its **SHOW TIME** again at the Club! Many of our members will be putting in long hours over three weekends putting on our Annual Light and Sound Show to entertain our guests, display our talents and craftsmanship, and hopefully fund many of our activities for the coming year.

Yet it seems that the same faces appear behind the scenes or in the engineers stations on the balcony, or explaining what we're trying to do in Gilberton or hand laying track and so on. We have a sizeable membership; a little over a hundred members. Now I realize that some of us just don't get around like we used to. And some of us are busy six ways come Sunday with our families, work, and other commitments. But if a few more of us would drop by and put in a few hours on a Friday night or Sunday afternoon it would help the club and your fellow members out.

We all have talents we can contribute. We all, to varying degrees, have monetary resources we can give. These are all important and I hope you drop off a check for the 21st Century fund. But the best thing you can give is yourself and some of your valuable time and companionship.

Calendar of upcoming events

2011

- Oct 16-19 **NER/NMRA Convention in Warwick, RI**
www.nernmra.org
- Oct 27-30 **MER Convention Cary, NC.**
Mer.nmra.org
- Nov 12 **BOD Meeting at 10:30 AM**
- Nov 12-13 **First Frost Show Allentown, PA**
www.allentowntrainmeet.com
- Nov 19 **Garden RR Dept. Budget Planning Meeting at 1:00 PM.**
- Nov 20 **North-west Jersey Train-o-Rama**
Dover, NJ. www.dovertrainshow.com
- Nov 25, 26 & 27 **Annual Light & Sound Show**
- Dec 2, 3 & 4 **Annual Light & Sound Show**
- Dec 4 **North-west Jersey Train-o-Rama**
Dover, NJ. www.dovertrainshow.com
- Dec 9, 10, & 11 **Annual Light & Sound Show**
- Dec 17 **BOD Meeting at 10:30 AM**

2012

- Jan 7 **BOD Meeting at 10:30 AM**
- Jan 7 **Garden Railroad Dept Annual Meeting**
12 Noon, bad weather date Jan 14.
- Jan 7 **N Scale Dept. Annual Meeting 1:00 PM**
Bad weather date Jan 14.
- Jan 14 **HO Dept. Annual Meeting at 1:00 PM**
Bad weather date Jan 21 at 11:00 AM.
- Jan 21 **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEEETING.**
1:00 PM, bad weather date Jan. 28, 2012
- Jan 22 **North-west Jersey Train-o-Rama**
Dover, NJ. www.dovertrainshow.com
- Feb 25-26 **Spring Thaw Show Allentown, PA**
www.allentowntrainmeet.com
- Jul 19 -22 **2012 "O" Scale National Convention**
at the Parsippany Hilton Hotel. Hosted by the NYSME <http://modelengineers.org>
- Jul 29 - Aug 4 **NMRA National Convention**
Grand Rapids, MI. www.gr2012.org
- Aug 14-19 **National Garden Railway Convention**
Pleasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL
<http://2012ngrc.com>

2013

- Jul 14 - 20 **NMRA National Convention**
Atlanta, GA. www.nmra2013.org

Our web page is looking a little, well let's just say that it doesn't give a very good picture of what all is going on at the club. It could use a few pictures, maybe an article or two, tell everyone about something you've done or seen or want to know more about. Let's put our best foot forward to the rest of the world and send Gene Mikijanic (our webmaster) something to perk it up!

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Founder: A. Paul Mallery (1918-2004)

An activity of the Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal.

Board of Directors:

President:	Carlos Langezaal
Vice-President: <i>Development Dept.</i>	Bob Nalbhone
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		
Associate Librarian	Brian Cicero	

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
Electrical Committee Chair:	Bill Franklin
Operations Committee Chair:	Edward Small
Master Mechanic:	Russ Fiero
HD&O Superintendent:	Pete Ezzard
TN Superintendent:	Neil Petillo
Rahway River Superintendent:	Jeff Peal

N Scale

Master Mechanic:	John Cicero
Electrical Dept. Chair:	Ed Fiegler
Scenery Chair:	Claude Kelseoe
Bench work Chair:	vacant

Garden Railroad Department

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

Club Mailing Address:

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Clearboard Editor:	TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCi.org
Webmaster:	Webmaster@TMRCi.org

Summary of the Board of Directors Meeting June 11, 2011

Present— Carlos Langezaal, Bob Nalbhone, Eugene Mikijanic, John Cicero, Peter Ezzard, Roger Oliver arrived later, . John Wilkens, Russ Fiero and Tom Voytac was absent.

The minutes of the May 14, 2011 BOD Meeting were read and accepted as was the agenda for today's meeting.

The reminder was given that **monthly reports** are due Tuesday 8 PM/ Thursday 8 PM/ Saturday at meeting on in-person meeting months. On non-meeting months they are due on the 7th of the month by 8 PM. Reports are for the prior month's activities; the February 7, 2011 report covers the events for January, 2011.

Treasurer's Report: The report was distributed with appropriate cautions for everyone to carefully watch all expenditures and that all donations are greatly appreciated.

Development Report: May 2011 report noted that attendance is ahead on a year-to-year comparison to last year. But last year was really very bad so the 27.5% bump may not be that great news.

Building Department Report: Stained ceiling tiles need to be replaced so we can tell if the roof is leaking.

Membership Report: Membership activities were discussed by Carlos.

HO Department Report: Thanks to Bob and Bill for taking the lead in organizing the Invitational—a successful event. Work is progressing on the layout. Nothing else to report.

N Scale Department Report: Slow progress continues on rewiring the lower section.

Garden Railroad Department Report: There was discussion about the possibility that there would be no running trains at the end of the new building for the show. Bob and Pete volunteered for various painting projects related to the indoor layout. Priorities are 1) Lockers, 2) securing equipment, 3) reconstruction of re-worked interior layout. August 31 is drop dead date for construction of the new layout, otherwise a show loop will be installed for the Annual Show. Garden is responsible to construct at an elevation as to not impact elevation needs of the HO department. Work continues on various projects.

Constitution Rewrite Committee: Nothing new to report.

Website: Material is still needed for posting on the Club's website. Directors should read emails.

Club Architect: Tom will address this item.

Office Equipment: Current status of office equipment was reviewed. Costs for repairing/replacing were discussed. This needs to be addressed as a general topic at this next budget cycle.

Invitational Ops Report: Bob reported that it was a lot of work, perhaps more than the benefit we gain based on the limited number of people who help out before or during the session. Rich and Karen were specifically thanked for their help. The BBQ was a hit. Funds for food and cleanup were also addressed.

New Business -

Building access: No applications on file for action..

New Members: Two candidates are not eligible due to date of filing. Tabled for later date. Two candidates were accepted for membership; **Zack Wolloch** (HO) and **George Hoff** (HO). Welcome!

Policies, Procedures, Membership and non-Members in the Aisles: Four different related issues of facility use (operation) and dues/membership were covered. Time and use of the layout by those individuals who participate without paying dues in comparison to those who pay as "Family" or other schedules were noted. Fairness of access, dues payments and related topics were also covered. Issuance of member badges will help in addressing this. Coverage and responsibility ensuring that the layouts are up and running on Saturdays, supervision of the consists, dealing with derailments and general responsibility was also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM.



NEW WORK STATIONS GET WORKOUT!

Pictured above are Bob Nalbhone and Brian Cicero (I apologize as I do not know the name of the other young man who I believe is a family member). Brian is decaling and Bob is making 'Super Trees' to go on the layout in preparation for this years Annual Light and Sound Show. (We need to spruce up the place.)

They are using one of the new work stations that Joe Marateo build in the members' lounge. They've been hard to use up 'til now as 'stuff' would be put on them, such as boxes of magazines, printers, computers, etc. The club librarians have made a concerted effort to keep library related 'stuff' off the work stations so that they can be used by our members to, well do what they do best - model. Having the work stations in the members' lounge was a strategic decision on someone's part. The club used to have its workshop where the club's office now resides. There was a large table in the middle of the room and work benches and spray booths (and a lot of other "stuff") all around the room. It was messy but it was also the heart of the club. We would sit around and model or paint and discuss what we were doing and generally shared our expertise or learned from the gurus of the club. Since that workshop was remodeled, that culture has disappeared. Hopefully these new workstations will reignite that culture. Looks like it may just do that. In the meantime there are two more work stations next to these which are loaded up with 'stuff' from constructing the hidden yard loops around the members' lounge ceiling. Guess we got to clean that up and get our priorities back to what they were.