



The WHISTLE POST

The Official Publication of the Garden State Division of the NMRA Northeast Region

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THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION

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GSDWHISTLEPOST@YAHOO.COM

Logo-Less, No more!


One of the first things many freelancing model railroaders do is design the logo of their railroad. The Garden State Division isn't exactly a freelanced model railroad, but we have been floundering around without a logo for many years. A logo can be many different things to the organization it represents. And, for us, we wanted a logo that identified us with railroads, New Jersey, and the NMRA.

If you were to look at the divisions and regions in the NMRA, many of the logos incorporate the NMRA logo in their design. Many others include a geographic symbol or other symbol from their region. It was

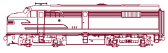
this second idea that was popular with the board members. But what geographic symbol or other symbol could we use?

In 2006, the Garden State Division hosted the Northeast Region's convention in Parsippany. The logo for the convention was based on the Central Railroad of New Jersey's logo: The Statue of Liberty. Recently, it was suggested that we modify and use this same logo for our division.

Many iterations of the logo were made based on color, text, and font before agreeing on the logo you see here.

Many New Yorkers say that Lady Liberty turned her back on New Jersey based on the way she is positioned on Liberty Island. I say she is leading New Jersey. And now, Lady Liberty is leading our division. 





THE CAB

????????????

by President Tom Wortmann



THE CABOOSE

by Editor Chuck Diljak

Youths in Model Railroading

What stimulates the minds of today's youth? Music, sports, and video games would be near the top of the list. I bet model railroading would not be on their list. Why is that?

Music has been around for years. In fact, many of us will have music playing while we toil away at the workbench. So, in my way of thinking, music can be enjoyed simultaneously with model railroading. Whether it is jazz, classical, new age, country, rock, rap, hip hop, or just pop, youths can enjoy their music while model railroading.

However, sports are another story. Today, youths are more involved in sports than when I grew up. Today's society sees the competitiveness in dual career households carrying over to their children's lives on the sports field. It seems that every waking hour that a child is not in school needs to be consumed in baseball, soccer, basketball, football, dance, Tae Kwon Do, and many other sports. Where is the creative outlet that so many kids need to express their individualism?


I don't think video games are what I would call a creative outlet. Where is the reward in video games? Is the ability to compare scores with your friends? That may be fine for today, but tomorrow, those scores are forgotten. This only results in short term satisfaction. It is not something where you will look back and say,

"Wow, I did that!"

This is why it is heartening to see young people, such as Joey Piccirillo, participating in our hobby. Joey is managing to split his time between school, baseball, and his N scale layout. It was also heartening to see so many of the GSD membership support Joey in the hobby by donating their door prizes to him at the Spring meet in Union, NJ.

I was also happy to see a few young members participating in activities at the Ramapo Valley Railroad club in Ho-Ho-Kus during the GSD Winter meet. They were operating trains and dispatching during the operating session. And, all looked to be enjoying themselves.

And, it was also satisfying to see so many youths participate in the first annual Sleepy Hollow Express in Lake Mohawk, last year. On September 20, 2008, the second annual Sleepy Hollow Express will be held at the same location.

So, whenever you can, help the future of this hobby by supporting youth activities. You can start by joining us at Lake Mohawk in September! 

To feature your layout in the *Whistle Post*, contact the editor at: gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com

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INTERIOR DECORATION

by Bruce De Young

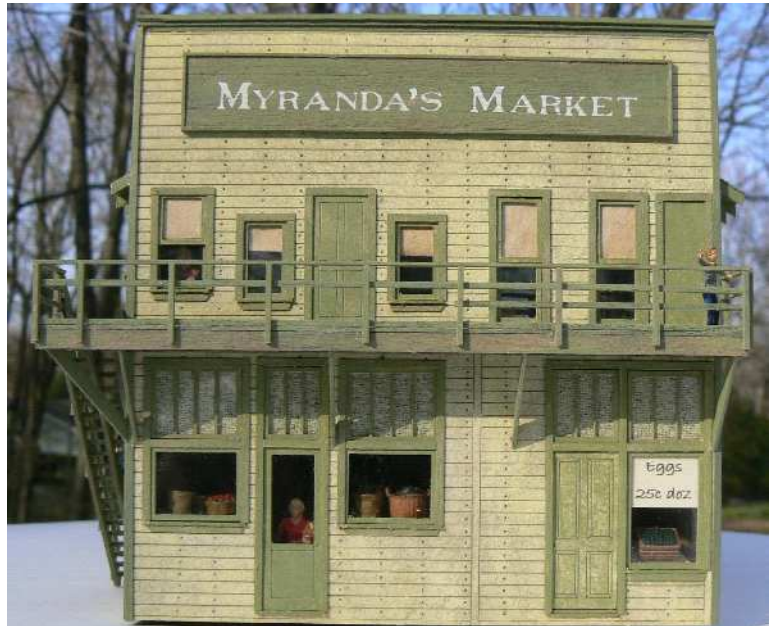
Let me confess, right up front, that I am a detail junkie. Not just content with adding details to the outside of my structures, I find myself adding details to the inside - just to give them that 'lived in' look. Although I tend to get carried away with my interior decorating, there are a number of quick and easy things to do that will eliminate that 'vacant building' look. For the sake of organization (another of my many hang-ups), let's look at some ideas in three areas: windows, doors, and interiors.

Windows:

One of the easiest ways to add interior detail to your structures is with window treatments. Although some modelers add shades to their windows by painting the inside with a beige paint, I tend to make mine out of old faded newsprint paper. I found an old pad of 'arithmetic' paper in my desk drawer that had faded nicely with time, and that will last me my modeling lifetime. If you put shades in every win-

dow in every structure, it would become very boring, so what else can you do? I find that beige and light yellow napkins (like those from Starbucks and Wendy's) also make nice curtains and drapes. I also found a piece of thin fabric that makes nice drapes. Although there are detail suppliers who offer Venetian Blinds, I find that you can make very believable blinds by just drawing parallel pencil lines on white paper. A modeling friend of mine also e-mailed me a file of Venetian Blinds that when printed out on white paper look terrific. If you would like a copy, just e-mail me at bdeyoung@optonline.net. Tissue paper also makes great drapes, and if you leave a window open a bit, why not model one of those drapes blowing out the open window. That is easy to do if you are making your drapes with thin tissue paper. Before leaving the topic of window treatments, let me suggest that you look through all the catalogs that come into your house that contain pictures of home decorations. I have found patterned curtains that look fine in HO scale from this source.

Besides window treatments, adding signs to windows are another way to imply the building is occupied and help block direct view into an empty building. Grabbing a few signs from the internet and reducing them in size, or making up your own signs on your computer are easy sources for these details. These signs can be attached to the inside of your window glazing. I have also had success modeling signs 'painted on' windows by adding dry transfer lettering right to the glazing material (thin styrene or acetate) before installing the glazing on the window frame.



▲ Figure 1: Myranda's Market

"Interior Decoration" continued on Page 4

“Interior Decoration” continued from page 3

Finally, placing a little person or other detail item right behind a window can be a quick and easy way to imply a fully detailed interior. Again, a person looking out at widow also helps provide a view block to an otherwise empty interior. A very easy way to display 'goods' inside a store window is to glue a piece of wood inside of the building wall, directly under the window. I take a piece of basswood a scale 2' wide, and glue it to the wall with a piece of 1/8" square bracing under it. Paint this a dark color so as not to attract attention. Add some crates or

case you are pretty much done. If it is a 'people door' with a window, you can add some window treatment or person standing just behind the window as in the discussion above. However, closed doors can be pretty uninteresting, so I tend to model many of them in open or partially open positions. That brings us back to our topic of interior decoration.

One of the first issues to address is to have a floor of some type behind that open door. You don't want a gaping hole behind the open door. I use either a sheet of basswood or heavy cardstock for a quick floor, etch some floor planking on with the back of a #11 X-Acto blade, and then color it with Guardsman Furniture Touch-Up Pens (magic markers sold to touch up scratches in furniture). Now that you have an open door with a floor behind it, you can place some figures in the doorway, or place some appropriate detail items just in view inside the building. If it is a freight door, a few crates and barrels will suffice. The picture of the trackside structures in Figure 2 show how easy that can be.

Interiors:

There are times when just a few figures, or a few crates and barrels will not suffice. This can occur when a structure has very large windows (such as in a factory or store front), or when you wish to model a fully detailed interior and provide the structure with a removable roof. Let's begin by looking at the first situation - very large windows. You could 'frost' the windows, but I think that you are missing out on a real mod-



▲ **Figure 2: Trackside Structures**

baskets of fruits and vegetables, a crate of soda bottles, or a sack of apples, and you are good to go. Three great sources for HO scale detail items for this use are the following Preiser sets: #17105 (beer barrels, beer crates, beer bottles), #17501 (fruit and vegetable boxes), and #17502 (fruit and vegetable baskets). These three sets will provide enough detail items for all the structures on your layout!

The photo of Myranda's Market in Figure 1 illustrates many of the techniques mentioned above. The shades in the second storey windows are made from that pad of arithmetic paper. The curtains on the windows just below the porch are made from a paper napkin, and the window sign was printed out on my computer. Notice the figure looking out of the window on the door, and the Preiser vegetable items on the display shelves just behind the windows. The shelf by the 'Egg Sign' is tilted a bit to better display the veggies.

Doors:

There are generally two types of doors - 'people' doors and larger 'freight' doors. Of course, you can model both types of doors in the closed position, in which

▼ **Figure 3: Model Tech Studios model**



“Interior Decoration” continued on Page 6

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TOM CASEY
TCASEY@CO.BERGEN.NJ.US

Union, NJ Spring Meet

You can't say you weren't warned! The Spring Meet, held at The Model Railroad Club, in Union, NJ was a great success.

Many models were entered for judging for the Achievement Program. Tom Piccirillo submitted many of his O scale traction engines for the Motive Power category while Bruce DeYoung submitted models to complete



▲ Tom Griffiths of the New Jersey Division displayed this near HO scale replica of the Lackawanna Hoboken Terminal for Show and Tell



▲ Andy Rubbo presenting his clinic on building catenary

his certificate in the Structure category.

Many fine models were also entered in the first Show and Tell. You will have to excuse us. We remembered the "Show" portion of Show and Tell, but forgot the "Tell" portion. The idea was to have modelers talk about their models. Since this was the first time we held Show and Tell, and there were so many other things occurring during the meeting, we forgot to have modelers talk about their models. Fortunately, many of the models had small write-ups next to the models. We will do better at

the next Show and Tell.

There were also a couple clinics presented at the meeting. Andy Rubbo brought a diorama to supplement his fine presentation on building catenary lines. Chuck Diljak presented a short clinic on the steps he takes to have articles published in the model railroad magazines.

The meeting wrapped up with door prizes for all participants and a three hour operating session.

Looking back, there was a little bit of something for everyone. 🍷

Chuck Diljak presenting his clinic on "Getting Published" ▼



eling opportunity.



▲ **Figure 4: Interior of Boarding House**


I recently modeled a factory as a background building. This model, offered by Model Tech Studios, features huge factory windows. Even though it was to sit against the backdrop, about three feet from the viewers, an empty structure would have been obvious. The solution? Insert a floor just below the window level, add a figure that looks busy, dig through the scrap box for colorful plastic shapes that would suggest machinery, and add some crates and barrels. It did not require the purchase of any expensive detail items. In fact, it allowed me to get rid of some items that would not stand up to close viewing. Figure 3 is a picture showing the results.

Figure 4 is of another model with large front windows. This model represents a boarding house, so I decided to model the lobby behind those windows. Again, this did not require the purchase of fancy detail items. In the following picture, only the people and the sofa were purchased items. I quickly turned the round table from a piece of wood dowel placed in my electric drill, made the registration desk from some scrap wood, and made the potted plant from a dried weed covered with ground foam. The picture on the wall behind the desk is taken from the Internet and reduced in size, while the rug is a picture taken from one of my wife's many catalogs. I made the globe lamp from stuff I had found and saved over the years.

Finally, you might want to fully detail an interior and provide your model with a removable roof for better viewing. In this situation, you might want to plan ahead and purchase the necessary detail castings in advance. I have done that on only one model so far. Since this issue of *The Whistle Post* has 'stations' as its theme, it is fitting that the model I'm talking about is a station. The station is a Bar Mills model, and I fully detailed the interior, as shown in Figure 5. The wood paneling on the interior walls is made from individual pieces of stripwood. I scribed the planking on the wooden floor provided by the manufacturer, and colored it using MicroMark's Age-It-Easy Brown stain, although the Guardsman Furniture Markers that I mentioned before would do a great job also. Many of the detail items are from SS Ltd, but there are many other manufacturers represented as well.

To get more ideas about 'Interior Decoration', there is a terrific thread devoted to the topic on the Railroad-Line Forum. The Railroad Line Forum is one of the premier on-line forums dedicated to model railroading. Here is the link to that thread:

http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=7418

So, if you haven't been adding detail items to your building interiors, give it a try. As I have shown, it doesn't have to be either expensive or time consuming. I think you will like it! 

▼ **Figure 5: Interior of Bar Mills Station**



MODELING TIP

PROBLEM:

Many kits and scratchbuilt structures contain elements that are brick or wood. How do you model a structure that has a stucco texture, instead?

SOLUTION:

Many modelers use Durham's water putty. However, there is another product that is worth trying. Go to your local craft store, such as Michael's, and look for a product called Deco Art Sandstones. Several colors are offered and can be applied with a dabbing technique. When dry, the surface can be painted another color to match the look you want.

CONGRATULATIONS:

**GOLDEN SPIKE
TOM PICCIRILLO
WARREN, NJ**

MODELING TIPS CAN BE SENT TO
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR:
NORMAN FROWLEY, MMR
NORMANFROW@AOL.COM

🏆 **SPRING CLEAN UP**

by Norman Frowley, MMR



▲ Bruce De Young's model of Hap Hazard's Hardware, a kit by Rusty Stumps Scale Models

▼ Tom Piccirillo's scratchbuilt O Scale line car



◀ Chuck Diljak received his Volunteer AP Certificate

Tom Piccirillo received his Golden Spike Award from Norman Frowley ▶



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 O H I O T D D D F T Y M N M X
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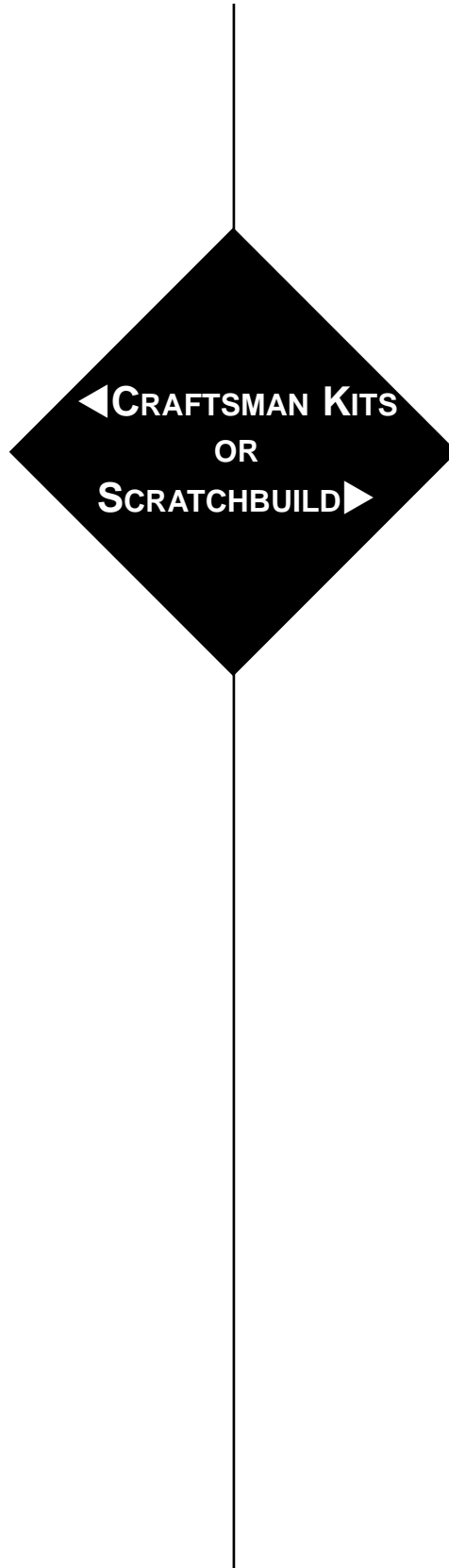
 Come to the GSD Barbeque on August 24 at:
The Garden State Model Railway Club in Haledon

Subscription Price Increase

Beginning with the 2009 calendar year, the subscription price for *The Whistle Post* will increase from \$7 to \$10. The increase in price is due to printing costs and postage. The price increase will only affect those members who prefer to receive a printed copy of *The Whistle Post*. All other members can continue to download *The Whistle Post* from the Garden State Division website for free. 

?????
By Norman Frowley

?????
By Ed Fraedrich



ABOUT THE WHISTLE POST

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR *THE WHISTLE POST*:

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JULY 10
OCTOBER 10

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

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ED FRAEDRICH
NORMAN FROWLEY
TOM PICCIRILLO
TOM WORTMANN

THANK YOU!

NEXT ISSUE'S PHOTO THEME:

MOTIVE POWER

MISSION STATEMENT:

THE WHISTLE POST, THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NMRA'S GARDEN STATE DIVISION, SEEKS TO SERVE AS A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNICATION AMONG THE DIVISION'S MEMBERSHIP, SHOWCASE ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AND PROMOTE THE HOBBY OF MODEL RAILROADING.

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Photo Theme for the Next Issue: *Motive Power*



◀ Number 98 on Tom Piccirillo's O scale Somerset Traction Company

Each issue of *The Whistle Post* will feature a page or two centered on a theme.

For the Fall 2008 issue, the theme will be "Motive Power." Send in photos of your diesel, steam, and traction models. They can be photographs of models or prototype motive power..

The photos can be e-mailed to gsdwhistlepost@yahoo.com. Include a description for each photo that is submitted that fits the theme. 

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Nella Country Store
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HO Scale
MSRP \$54.95



I bought this kit at the 2005 National NMRA convention in Cincinnati. The folks selling it were very nice and very proud of their products. And, since they offered a show discount, I bought it.

The kit is packaged in a blister pack and is considered a craftsman kit. Believe me, it is indeed a craftsman kit.

I no longer consider Bar Mills kits craftsman kits. Granted, they do look great with their fine

laser cut parts. But the newer ones are easy to assemble. I no longer hold my breath, hoping I build it right. If you follow the directions, which have improved a 1000%, you will build it correctly.

That's where the KingMill kit suffers: the directions. I am not a professional model builder, a Master Model Railroader, or a modeler that claims to be great at kit building. But, I have constructed my share of craftsman kits. And, while this looks like a straightforward kit, the lack of clear instructions makes this kit a challenge.

The directions are very basic. They exclude the details, measurements, scale drawings, and close-up views that would make the construction of this kit easier. Many times, I referred to the small color photos on the cover sheet to see how the model should look when completed. "Cut two pieces of the 1/16th stock and place here." How long? How far from the edge? At this point, I was

guessing. I even ran out of stripwood and had to buy more. This may be due to cutting pieces the wrong length. And, perhaps I did not use the provided stripwood efficiently. The end result was a collection of short stripwood pieces.

They give you very general instructions on how to assemble the windows along with one exploded view. But, there were three different types of windows, two types of doors, and only one master view. Many windows needed double side jams but nowhere did it say that. I figured that out by all the extra parts left over and again looking over the color photo



very carefully. No scale plans are included in the kit. With scale plans, one could lay down their pieces and see how much to cut and where it fit.

The side walls also needed a lot more bracing than the kit shows and there was heavier stock left over to do just that. The kit comes with many details: newspapers, signs and even an outhouse. Sadly this could be a much better kit if it came with better instructions.



FSM, Bar Mills, Sawgrass models and others are all far superior to this kit and maybe this company. Try them instead and save yourself a lot of praying and hoping that you did something right. 

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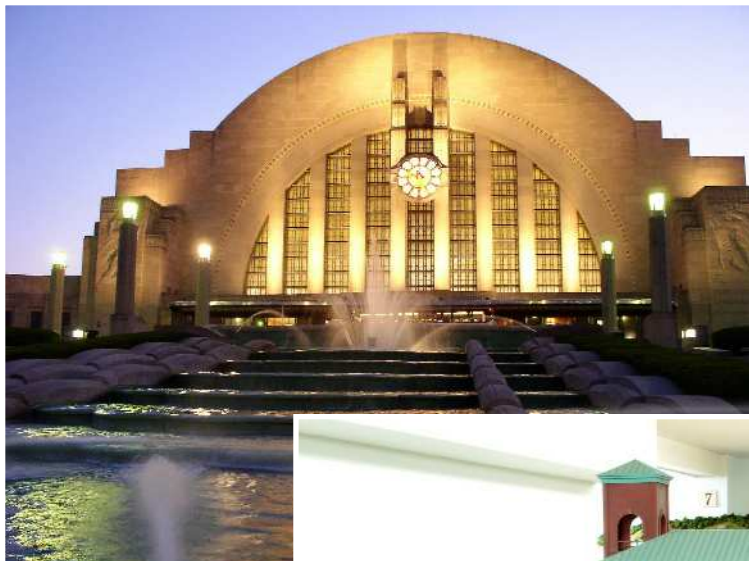
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Stations



◀ Union Terminal in Cincinnati, OH

A scene on the Pacific Southern Railroad club's HO layout in Rocky Hill, NJ ▶



◀ A scene on the New York Society of Model Engineers O scale layout in Carlstadt, NJ

The Reading Station in Belle Mead, NJ ▶





Chuck Diljak
31 Kuiken Court
Wayne, NJ 07470

**The date in the corner of the mailing label shows
when your subscription ends ⇒ 1/09**

All subscriptions run from January to January

THE TIMETABLE

Sunday, 8/3/08, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: www.dovertrainshow.com

Saturday-Sunday, 8/9-10/08, Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, 97 Sunfeld Ave, Edison, NJ, 10-4PM. Adults \$7, Children 12 and under, Free. For more information: www.GreenbergShows.com

Sunday, 08/10/08, Annual Railroad Day, Maywood Station Museum, 269 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, NJ. Noon-3PM. For more information: www.maywoodstation.com

Sunday, 8/24/08, NMRA Garden State Division Summer BBQ, Garden State Model Railway Club, 575 High Mountain Road North Haledon, NJ. 12 Noon. For directions: www.gsmrrclub.org

Thursday-Sunday, 9/11-14/08, NER Regional Convention: Empire Junction, Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY. For more information: www.empirejunction.org

Sunday, 10/5/08, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: www.dovertrainshow.com

Saturday-Sunday, 10/11-12/08, Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD. Saturday,

9AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. General admission \$7, children under 12 Free, family \$14. For more information: www.gsmts.com

Friday-Sunday, 10/17-19/08 and 10/24-26/08, Garden State Central Model Railroad Club Show, 607 8th Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ. For more information: www.gardenstatecentral.com

Saturday, 10/25/08, NMRA Garden State Division Fall Meet, in conjunction with the The New York Society of Model Engineers Fall Exhibition, 341 Hoboken Rd, Carlstadt, NJ. 10 AM. For more information: www.modelengineers.org

Thursday-Saturday, 11/13-15/08, Craftsman Structure Show 2008, Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA. For more information: www.css08.com

Sunday, 11/23/08, Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama, Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover NJ. 9AM-3PM. \$5 if preregistered or \$6 at the door. For more information: www.dovertrainshow.com

Friday-Sunday, 11/28-30/08, 12/5-7/08, 12/12-14/2/07, The Garden State Model Railway Club 51st Annual Model Railroad Show, 575 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. Friday evenings 7-10PM, Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1-5PM. For more information: www.gsmrrclub.org

Friday-Sunday, 11/28-30/08, 12/5-7/2/08, 12/12-14/08, The Model Railroad Club Annual Light and Sound Show, 295 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ. Friday 11/28 Noon-10PM, Friday 12/5 and 12/12 7-10PM, Saturdays 10AM-8PM, Sundays 11AM-6PM. Adults \$7, children \$5,

TO HAVE A SHOW OR MEET LISTED, PLEASE E-MAIL THE INFORMATION TO GSDWHISTLEPOST@YAHOO.COM