

Division Meeting Schedule

December 6, 2009 - First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greensburg, PA

Layouts: SEE MAP

Meeting: 2:30 PM

Program: Dick Flock, "Easy Prototype Structures You Can Build"

January 17, 2010 - New Eagle VFD, New Eagle, PA

Layout: Mid-Mon Valley Model RR Club open at 1:00 PM

Meeting: 2:30 PM

Program: Bob Weinheimer will give a presentation on the 2010 MCR Convention, "Coalfield Express," as well as operations on his Pennsylvania Southern layout.

February 21, 2010 - Western PA Model RR Museum, Gibsonia, PA

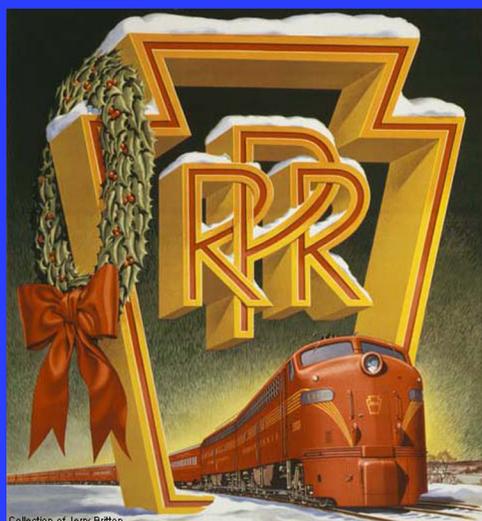
Layout: open at 1:30 PM

Meeting: 2:30 PM

Program: TBD

Bring'n'Brag

Nov Steam Power



Collection of Jerry Britton



From the Super's Desk

November is National Model Railroading Month. We should all do our best to share our hobby with others and perhaps encourage them to become members of the NMRA. What do you plan to do? Our usual meeting date coincides with Greenberg's Train Show at the new Monroeville Convention Center, Nov. 14 & 15 this year. We have, therefore, postponed our monthly meeting until Dec. 6th. All that being said, come out to the Greenberg Show and help with the FreeMo modules or at the recruitment table. This will be an excellent opportunity to share our hobby with others and explain the value of joining the NMRA. Do you have other ideas we can use to promote our hobby? Be sure to list your club's open house with Tom Gaus to put on the Division 2 web site. It would also be a good idea to have membership applications available for your visitors.

Recent medical issues have brought life into sharper focus for me. I recently experienced a potentially disastrous detachment inside my eye. I delayed seeking medical attention because I was "too busy" with the demands of work and family. Fortunately, all of the major problems have been avoided. My retina did not tear or detach, but a moderate sized cataract was discovered in that eye. I will need surgery sometime in the future. But for now, I will no longer ignore symptoms and will take care of myself. I realized that I had been putting off my modeling work until all else was done. That is not ever going to happen, so I will put my hobby on the front burner now. I'm sure that will help my mental health. Other members of our group have been suffering cardiac problems as well as other medical issues. While now on the mend, they could have benefited from earlier intervention. I bring all this up, not to evoke sympathy, but as a wake up call to all of us: take care of yourself and start enjoying life while you can. You cannot enjoy model railroading without your health. Do not delay your medical care.

Have fun and have some happy holidays!

... *Susan Werner*

The members of Div. 2, NMRA MCR, "the Keystone Division," wish to express their hearty thanks to Neal Schorr and Stephen Hertzler for welcoming us into their home layouts during the October meeting.

Minutes

KEITH DeVAULT

Superintendent Susan Werner called the October meeting to order at 2:20 PM at the Marshall Township Community Building in Warrendale, Pa. There were 42 members present at the meeting.

Susan had our Guest Speaker Mr. John Musser Manager of Sales and Service for Portec Rails speak first. His company is over 100 years old, traded on the NY Stock Exchange since 1906 and 90 per cent of his companies business is with the railroad. More information can be found at www.portecrail.com.

The business meeting of the division was called to order at 3:40 p.m. Susan thanked Neil Schorr for setting up the meeting place and our guest speaker.

Pass the hat netted \$ 52.00

We had a new member who attended his first meeting Mr. James Martin of Wheeling, WV, welcome aboard.

Minutes that were published in the Keystone Flyer were approved with no corrections or deletions.

Our Treasurer sent his report in and we show a balance in checking account of \$ 2,910.40 with balances in the CD and Savings Accounts.

Jerry Kyslinger presented a report on the company store in the absence of Dick Flock with a new book called N/W Connellsville Pictorial, if you would like to purchase, please contact Dick.

Tom Gaus, Membership Chair and Webmaster was not present and his report was presented by Susan showing 252 members as of September 30, with 15, 378 hits on the web page and 999 sessions in September. Average session lasted 2 minutes 53 seconds. All clubs are encouraged to email holiday open house information schedules to the webmaster.

Bob Meier gave the Free Mo report for the Greenburg Show in November. The show will run the 14th and 15th, and Bob will need help in set up and tear down on Sunday. If you are interested in helping with the group, please contact Bob.

Paul Gallick announced that 9 entries for the bring'n brag on the subject of "Scratchbuilding" were submitted and he asked that you please vote after the meeting.

Bud Brock was not present for the Video Library and if you need any videos, please contact him.

Susan reported on the that the first scheduled meeting for the 2012 Regional Convention will be held following the January 17th meeting at the New Eagle Meeting Hall.

Mike Hohn was not present but his report that was presented that the November meeting will be held on December 6th at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Greensburg, Pa, and Dick Flock is setting up the program. The January meeting will be at the New Eagle Club in Monongahela on January 17th with our speaker Bob Weinheimer from Charleston, West Virginia, speaking on his layout the Pennsylvania Southern. The February meeting will again be at the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Building in Gibsonia, Pa.

Dennis Vaccaro of The Achievement Program presented David Wilson his certificate for Master Modeler for Motive Power, and William DeFoe his Model Railroad Author Certificate. Well done by these two model railroaders.

Jim Sacco spoke on the Jamboree scheduled for April 17, 2010 at Robert Morris University and also has the date for the following year at Robert Morris on April 16, 2011. Don Reed who is in charge of clinics told everyone that he will have a program in another room called Modeling with the Masters and an additional charge to cover the materials will be applied. He will have a sign up sheet and cost later on after the first of the year.

No Old Business - remember the Greenberg Show in Monroeville on November 14 and 15 and the November meeting moved to December 6 in Greensburg at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In New Business Susan has appointed a nominating committee with Carl Volkvien Chairman, Jerry Kyslinger and Tom Gaus, if you are interested in running please contact any committee member and have your BIO to the Flyer Editor no later than December 15th. More information on the election will be forthcoming.

For the Good of the Division, Susan stated that the new membership directory should be available for the membership at the January 2010 meeting with a cost of \$.50. Tom Gaus is in charge of getting the directory printed off for everyone.

See Minutes, p. 4 ...

The Keystone Flyer is published ten times a year by Division Two of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid-Central Region.

Subscription to the Flyer is included with your NMRA membership if you reside within the geographical boundaries of Division Two. Additional, or non-member, yearly subscriptions are available for \$5.00. Make checks payable to: Division Two, NMRA-MCR and send with name, address, and phone number to Vagel Keller, Editor, P. O. Box 5130, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

Pike ads are available to publicize your home or club model rail empires for a \$15.00 yearly fee. You may supply artwork or have it produced by the editor for a nominal fee. Pike ads are also posted on the Division's website: <http://www.keystonedivision.org>

Bring'n'Brag

PAUL GALLICK

October's contest was held at The Marshall Township Municipal Building in Warrendale, PA. This month's contest subject was "Scratch-built Models," and nine entries were received.

First place was won by Jim Kubanick for his HO scale SP Tarpey, CA Depot. Jim scratchbuilt the structure based on plans from 'Mainline Modeler' November/December 1992 issue. It was entirely made from styrene sheets and shapes augmented with Grandt Line castings and Holgate & Reynolds roof shingle materials. The finial at the peak of the tower was made from a craft bead threaded over a sewing needle. Jim finish painted the Model Flex SP Lettering Grey and Engine Black.

Second place went to Neal Schorr for his O Scale highway bridge that crossed the PRR mainline at the western exit of Enola Yard. Neal scratchbuilt the structure using Central Valley HO scale girders and gusset plates along with Plastruct® structural shapes. They were then painted with Rustoleum® dark grey primer. The abutments and pier were built from ½ inch MDF which were weathered using diluted washed of latex house paint.

Third place was won by Grier Kuehn for a scratchbuilt HO scale two story brick warehouse. Grier patterned his warehouse after an article in the April 1989 'Model Railroader' magazine. Some of the scratchbuilt details included are the complete freight dock, downspouts, boarded-up windows, and roof details.

Other entries for this month's contest included:

Andy Lorince entered a group of S-Scale rolling stock including several flat cars with military loads.

Bill DeFoe entered an HO scale scratchbuilt water tower. The tank consisted of a Pringles can wrapped with scribed wood siding.

Dave Wilson entered a series of Union Railroad and Aliquippa and Southern switchers built on Life-Like Proto 2000 chassis detailed to match specific prototype photographs. Dave also entered a series of HO scale Slag cars to which he added clear cast resin loads. He drilled the loads to accept Minitronics yellow light bulbs and added batteries to power them.

Grier Kuehn also entered two scratchbuilt scrap loads in two Proto 2000 mill gondolas.

Marge Meehan entered two N scale scratchbuilt structures. They included a vacation A-Frame cabin and a log barn, both built from wood.

Thanks to everyone who brought in models and voted. November's Bring n' Brag contest category is "Steam Power," and will be held at the next meeting in Greensburg, PA.

Standings are as follows:

Keystone Division Officials	
<u>Superintendent</u> Susan Werner (724) 379-8584 swerner48@yahoo.com	<u>Clerk</u> Keith DeVault (304) 599-5261 devaultkj@verizon.net
<u>Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs</u> Michael Hohn (304) 296-6303 mehohn@verizon.net	<u>Treasurer</u> Carl Volkwein (724) 941-6954
<u>Achievement Program</u> Dennis Vaccaro vaccarodj@yahoo.com (724) 929-2190	<u>Company Store</u> Dick Flock (724) 850-8882 jlerr337@verizon.net
Loren McCullough lorenmcc@verizon.net (724) 379-8596	<u>Bring'n'Brag</u> Paul Gallick p.gallick@gmail.com
<u>Webmaster & Membership</u> Tom Gaus (412) 731-8846 webmaster@keystonedivision.org	<u>Module Committee</u> Bob Meier SD45Bob@aol.com
	<u>Editor</u> Vagel Keller (412) 441-7881 vckeller@comcast.net



Bring'n'Brag Standings:

Name	Points	Name	Points
Dave Wilson	25	Dick Flock	4
Grier Kuehn	23	John Gallagher	4
Steve Hertzner	19	Charles Scheider	4
Jim Kubanick	14	Jim Whipple	4
Bill DeFoe	13	Andy Lorraine	3
Don Reed	13	Charlie Blenko	2
Steve Ross	12	Paul Gallick	2
Robert Hickman	11	Larry Kline	2
Keith DeVault	10	Dennis Lippert	2
Marge Meeham	8	George Pandelios	2
Neal Schorr	8	Steve Raque	2
C. J. Riley	5	Steven Schorr	2

... Minutes (cont'd)

Susan asked everyone to wish John Gallagher a fast recovery from heart surgery, Cindie Wilson also has some health problems, and Lou Dalton, former Superintendent of the Division, passed away the first of October and was laid to rest in the new cemetery by South Pointe.

Dennis Vaccaro announced that 2 photos of members layouts made the NMRA's 2010 Calendar, Rob Enrico and Kevin Kuzman, and also Kevin and Vagel Keller had articles written in Carstens *HOn3 Annual*, the premier issue. Good job by all three division members.

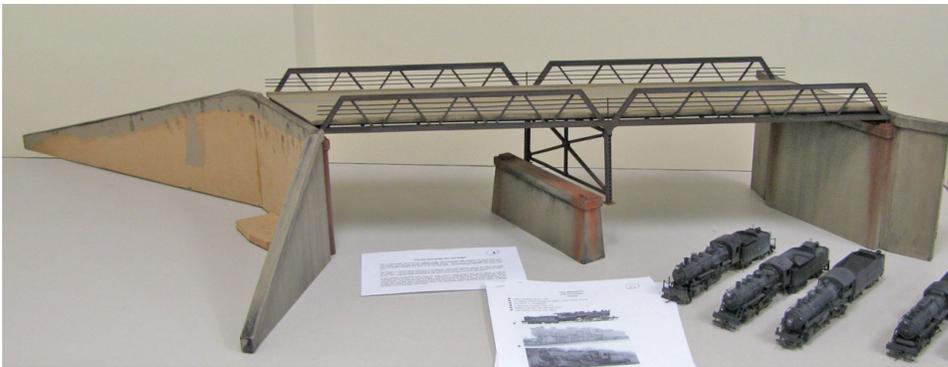
It was also announced that a new book from Morning Sun Books on the Bessemer and Lake Erie will be available soon, and the Trolley Museum in Washington has restored # 4398 Pittsburgh Railway Car from 1915 and it is running on its own power.



THE KEYSTONE DIVISION



Jim Kubanick's HO model of Southern Pacific's depot at Tarpey, CA (above) won first place in the October B'n'B voting.



Neal Schorr's O-scale model of the overpass at the west end of PRR's Enola Yard (left) came in second, while Greir Kuehn's HO brick warehouse (below) took third place. All are scratchbuilt.

Photos by Paul Gallick.



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of West Virginia
128 Pleasant St.

Downtown Morgantown, WV

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Call (304) 284-9567 for more details

HO/HOn3



Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern Railroad

Vagel Keller, Gen'l. Manager
vckeller@comcast.net

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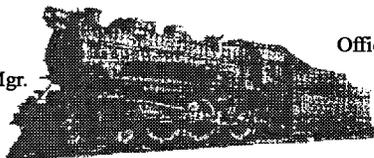
Neal A. Schorr NMRA #69443
Owner & Chief Engineer
Wexford, PA



Richard H. Flock, CEO
337 Elm Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-850-8882

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Office: 236 Alice St.
Pittsburgh, PA
15210



HO Scale

Robert F. Hickman
Pittsburgh, PA
EMAIL: wvhu@aol.com

PENN WEST
STREETCAR LINE
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&
Chief Engineer

Athearn Pulls the Plug on “Blue Box” Kits

On October 16 Athearn published this news release:

“Effective immediately, we here at Athearn have made the difficult decision to discontinue the production of our Blue Box line of kits. There were several factors that contributed to this extremely challenging decision however, the primary issue revolved around affordability and ensuring that our Blue Box kit pricing remain aligned with what the market can bear. Unfortunately, due to increased manufacturing and labor costs it has been determined that we are no longer able to continue offering kits at competitive price points as compared to our already assembled products.

“For over 50 years the Athearn Blue Box kits have been sold worldwide, bringing happiness, joy and excitement to thousands of model railroad enthusiasts. Your passion for these products has allowed us to thrive and grow into the industry leader you still support today, and for that we are eternally grateful. Moving forward this will allow us to dedicate more resources to new and exciting projects in our Ready To Roll, Genesis and Roundhouse lines for another 50 years, or more.

“We will continue to support all service and warranty needs on Blue Box kits from our headquarters in Long Beach, California.”

This news has led to much discussion in various Internet-based model railroading forums, most of which focuses on oft-repeated observations about an aging, more affluent population of model railroaders and the lack of interest by both new and experienced model railroaders in building kits, in general, or at least of the shake-the-box entry level nature characterized by the Blue Box kits. But it has also led some to ask critical questions, best summarized by Tony’s Train Exchange:

“... is it that folks do not want to work with their hands anymore ... or is Horizon Hobbies, a distributor that owns Athearn, and has little knowledge of model railroading, increasing their revenues by forcing model railroaders to buy more expensive items?”

At any rate, the loss of this massive line of inexpensive, entry-level rolling stock kits will certainly not help our efforts to attract adherents to this hobby.



Book Review by DON REED

*How to Build Realistic Reliable Track:
Number 6 in the How to Build Realistic Layouts series*

\$7.95 at hobby shops or directly from Kalmbach.

Although this book is 82 pages long and has a square-back binding, it is technically a “special issue” of *Model Railroader* magazine, which I assume is why the price is so reasonable. At \$7.95, this is a terrific bargain. I read it in the MR club library and bought my own copy.

Subjects include:

How to super-detail a turnout.

Maintain standards for zero derailments - using the NMRA standards gauge, setting up a regular maintenance program, etc.

Super-elevated curves, easements, roadbed cross sections, etc., all using flextrack.

How to mass-produce hand-built turnouts. Excellent!

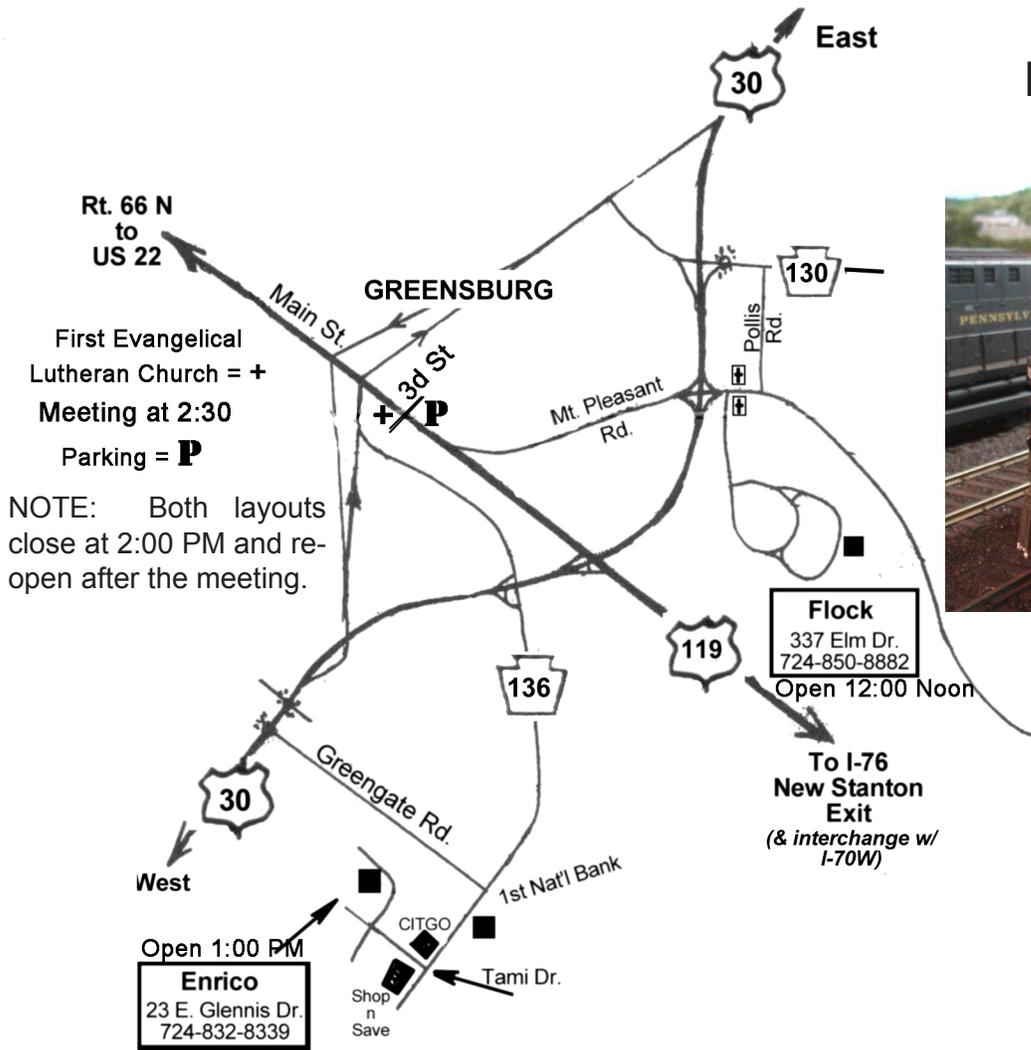
Bullet proof track wiring. Also excellent.

Plus 13 more articles, all by people we know and respect.

If you’re building a layout or a module, this is money well spent.

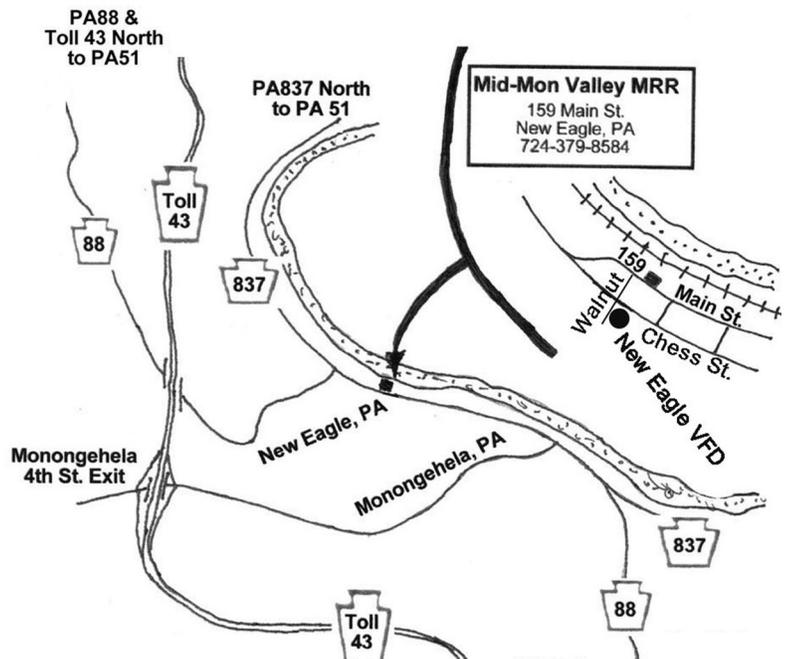


MAP TO THE DECEMBER 6, 2009 MEETING



This scene was staged on Rob Enrico's O-Scale PRR Mongahela Branch, one of two layouts open before the up-coming Division meeting.

MAP TO THE JANUARY 17, 2010 MEETING



The steel mill at left is one of many features on our sponsoring club's layout open before the January meeting.

The Keystone Flyer
 Division Two, NMRA, MCR
 266 Gateshead Drive
 McMurray, PA 15317

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NEXT MEETING:
 December 6, 2009
 First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Greensburg, PA

<p>Western Pennsylvania Est. 1938 Model Railroad Museum</p> <p>(724) 444-6944 5507 Lakeside Drive, Gibsonia, Pa. 15044 Formerly the Pittsburgh Model Railroad Historical Society</p>	<p> MID-MON VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB </p> <p>159 Main Street, New Eagle, PA Meetings: Fridays 7:30 pm</p>
<p> McKEESPORT™ MON-YOUGH VALLEY R.R. MODEL R.R. CLUB</p> <p>Visitors Welcome MEMBERSHIP OPEN</p> <hr/> <p>2209 Walnut Street McKeesport, PA Open Tuesday and Friday Evenings</p>	<p> OHIO VALLEY LINES INC.</p> <p><i>Model Railroad, Museum, and Library</i></p> <p>A modeler's information resource! OPEN Every Monday: 7:30 - 10 PM</p> <p>PHONE (724) 266-4787 E-Mail: ohiovalleylines@yahoo.com</p>
<p>All aspects of "S": • Scale • Narrow Gauge • Hirail • American Flyer Monthly meetings Two portable layouts Membership open Contact: Jon Knox 412-761-6920</p> <p></p>	<p> BEAVER COUNTY MODEL RAILROAD and HISTORICAL SOCIETY </p> <p>416 6th St. Monaca, PA 15061  Visitors Welcome</p> <p>Worknights: Tuesdays 7:30 www.bcmrr.railfan.net</p>