

June 2012

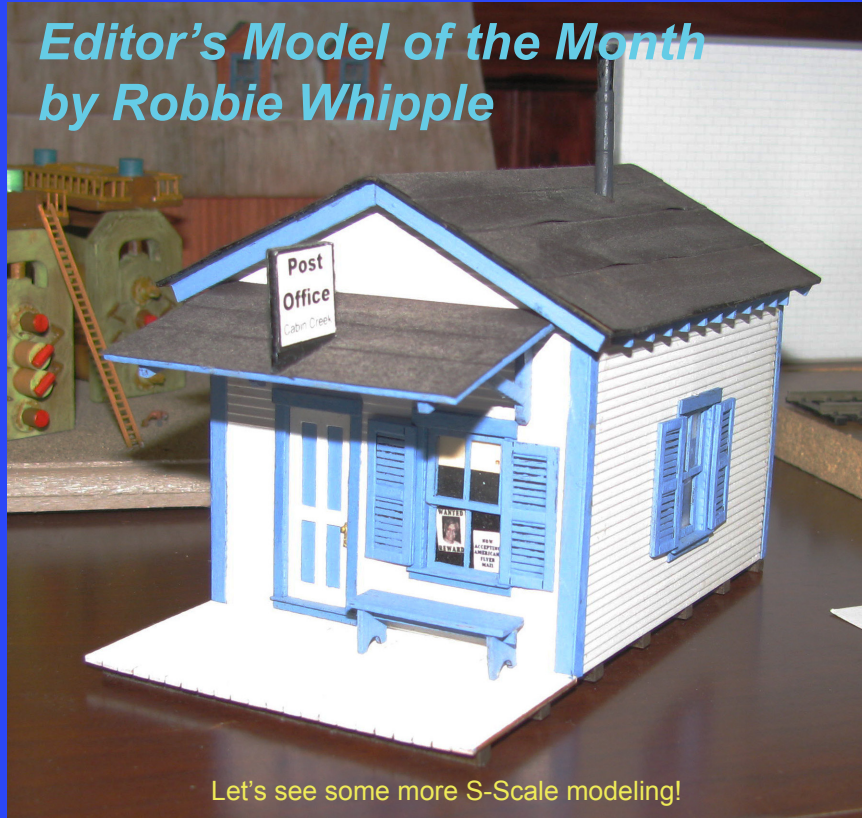
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Vol. 54, Issue 6

# THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR  
Div. 2

## *Editor's Model of the Month* by Robbie Whipple



Let's see some more S-Scale modeling!

### ***Division Meeting Schedule***

**June 24** - Westinghouse Park Shelter, Thomas Blvd at  
Lang Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
Layouts open before and after meeting (see map)  
Meeting at 2:30

**July** - No Meeting

**August 19** - Annual Picnic, Leetsdale Park,  
Leetsdale, PA 15056

### ***Bring'n'Brag***

<b>Jan</b>	Anything Goes
<b>Feb</b>	Railroad Stations
<b>Mar</b>	Trucks, Tractors & Trailers
<b>May</b>	Factories and Industries
<b>Jun</b>	Gondolas
<b>Aug</b>	Diesel Power
<b>Sep</b>	Built Laser Kits
<b>Oct</b>	Traction
<b>Nov</b>	Open Loads

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# From the Super's Desk

It sounds like a contradiction: the less I build the more I have.

I'm talking about my layout of course, which is always changing because I almost never glue anything down. I move the structures around constantly as I experiment with scenes and

look at the results with the eye of a wanna-be artist. I'm no artist, but I find myself arranging structures—and even track if it's not ballasted yet—with one eye on a prototype photo or map, and the other eye on the layout like a canvas.

Last fall I was planning a major rebuild of one end of my layout. Since constructing it six years earlier I had settled more on a particular prototype for my railroad and a setting for the scene in question. In addition, I wanted to add more staging at that end; with less use of my layout room for music practice and other activities, I could move a ten-foot section away from the wall, add an aisle, and build new staging tracks along the wall. To prepare for track changes

I removed every structure on the layout.

On a layout tour about seven years ago, I visited a modular S-scale layout that consisted of a large oval, a small yard, a spur or two, one locomotive, and a box car. Although part of an organization, the operator was alone, having trouble with getting the layout running properly because the electronics person was not present. Sort of lonely, both operator and layout.

About fifteen years ago I helped with a major realignment of track in one town on our club layout; the result was a passing siding, a couple of spurs, and a small interchange yard. Not too much different from what we started with, but now the total scene was about 50% longer.

When I finished with my home layout expansion for the regional convention, the track arrangement was not changed very much. The big change was a large-radius curve replacing one of 20", therefore taking up more real estate. The whole scene took up more space with about the same—maybe even fewer—switching locations.

In all these stories, the density of structures, spurs, yards, and details went down. Yet the scenes looked more realistic both as static models and as scenes for running trains through. Even my layout without structures mirrored a type of reality in the real world, where there's a lot of empty space between objects, whether they are industries, railroad structures, houses, or rolling stock. The key was to spread everything out without adding new structures.

I enjoy looking at my layout more and I enjoy running it more. In fact I run it more often. There seems to be more operations potential even though the number of switching points is the same or less. The trains certainly look more realistic going around that broad curve. And without all those unneeded structures the progress of the train seems more realistic as it progresses through the featureless landscape.

Our tendency is to fill in all those empty spaces with another spur, another industry, another switching location. It is hard to do nothing.

*... Mike Hohn*

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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>

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# Minutes

**DENNIS LIPPERT**

The meeting was called to order by our new Superintendent, Michael Hohn, as he received the gavel from outgoing Super Susan Werner, at 2:31 PM.

Mike asked if there were any new members or guests in attendance. None came forward.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published. The motion for approval was made by Jeff Gregg, and seconded by Dennis Vaccaro.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

First, Superintendent Hohn made a statement that, for the time being, we (the officers) will assume that all committees and chairmen shall continue as they were prior to the new officers. However, if any chairmen would prefer to step down, or make other changes, we are open to such changes.

Treasurer's Report: Carl Volkwein had no report, other than to say that there was minimal activity in the general fund due to the convention last month.

Company Store: Dick Flock was not in attendance. No report

Membership: Tom Gaus reported that we picked up four new members via the convention registration, bringing the current total to 246.

Web: Tom stated that the Division's website had a huge volume in the past couple of months, mainly due to the convention activity.

Freemo: Chairman Bob Meier's report was read in his absence. We have a 25x35-foot space confirmed for the July 14/15 Greenberg's Show in Monroeville. As always, contact Bob to volunteer time for setup/teardown, or simply to run some trains during the weekend. We've also been approached by the Cleveland 2014 NMRA National Convention committee about participating in a large multi-group Freemo setup at this event. More details will be forthcoming.

Bring N Brag: Paul Gallick reported four models on display, and reminded us to vote after the meeting.

Video Library: Bud Brock not in attendance. No report.

Programs: Keith DeVault reported that the June meeting will feature two layouts open for tour, there is no July meeting, and August is the picnic. Programs will resume in the fall.

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro reported that it's been a busy quarter for the Division in terms of AP activity... with four certificates being earned by members, and the news that Larry Kline has achieved Master Model Railroader status. Congrats to Larry!

Education: Jack Pscherer was not in attendance. No report.

Highline to Pittsburgh Convention: Susan Werner reported that attendance at the convention was 280 members, which is believed to be a RECORD for an MCR Regional. The full financial report is forthcoming... shirt sales and pumphouse sales are still outstanding, and will affect the final totals. Shirts are \$25 for sizes up to XL... see the website for details. They MUST be ordered by 5/31/12. Dennis V. also reported that several un-reserved pumphouse kits are still available (at least a couple in each scale). Contact him to reserve one before they're gone.

OLD BUSINESS – None Presented.

## NEW BUSINESS

Susan Werner made motion to move the June meeting's date from June 17th to June 24th, to avoid the usual conflict with Father's Day. Fred Abrew seconded the motion. There was discussion about ways we could make this change "permanent"... but it was decided not to do so at this time. Motion to move the meeting was approved.

Bob Twigger reported that a number of door prizes went unclaimed. A few items that were "time sensitive" (such as gift certificates with expiration dates) were distributed to members at the meeting. The other unclaimed items will be given as prizes at next year's Jamboree.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Division Two meeting is scheduled for June 24 at Westinghouse Park in the City's eastern neighborhoods. Vagel Keller and Dennis Williams will have their layouts open for visits.

There is no July meeting. August 16th will be the annual PICNIC, again to be held at the community park in Leetsdale, in full view of the Norfolk Southern mainline. Watch the Keystone Flyer for more details on all the upcoming meetings.

John Polyak spoke on behalf of the Trolley Museum, as an NMRA member also, asking our members to consider volunteering and becoming a member of the museum.

With no other business to transact, the meeting was adjourned by the Superintendent at 2:54PM.



# Bring'n'Brag

May's Bring 'n' Brag contest was held at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Washington, PA. The theme for this month's contest was 'Factories and Industries' and there were four entries.

First place voting resulted in a tie between Marge Meehan and John Ainsworth who both received 8 of the 23 votes cast. Marge entered several pieces of N-Scale steel mill equipment including a basic oxygen furnace, some rolling mill rollers, and a coal transfer station. John entered a scratchbuilt HO scale Firebrick Plant. He used an article from the February 1982 issue of "Model Railroader" magazine as the basis of his structure which he repurposed for his layout. John scratchbuilt all 45 windows that are part of the structure.

With 5 votes received, Steve Ross won third place with his HO scale Frito-Lay Factory from Binghamton, NY. He used photos and plans from the June, 1988 issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman* along with his own photographs to build what will be a background building along the back wall of his layout. The structure was build from parts of the Walters' Magic Pan Bakery, silos from the Walters' Interstate Fuel and Oil, and Evergreen siding and strips for the remainder of the structure.

Winning entries by John Ainsworth and Marge Meehan



Paul Gallick photo

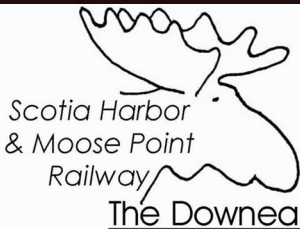
## PAUL GALLICK

Other entries for this month's contest included:

Robbie Whipple entered an S scale Post Office built from a BTS laser cut kit including a custom printed wanted poster for the front window.

Thanks to everyone who brought in models and voted. Next month's contest category is "Gondolas."

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Marge Meehan	17	Andy Lorince	3
John Ainsworth	16	Patrick Altdorfer	2
Steve Ross	14	Paul Boget	2
Gary Carmichael	6	Jim Dodds	2
Bill DeFoe	6	Paul Gallick	2
Dick Flock	6	Charlie Hallman	2
Joe Lofland	6	Howard Heltman	2
Hans Werner	5	Larry Kline	2
Robert Hickman	4	Robbie Whipple	2
Jim Wipple	4	Andy Lorince	1



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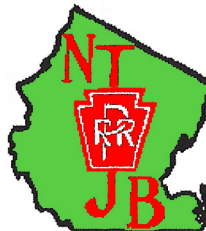
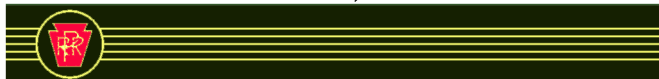
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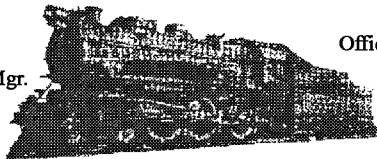


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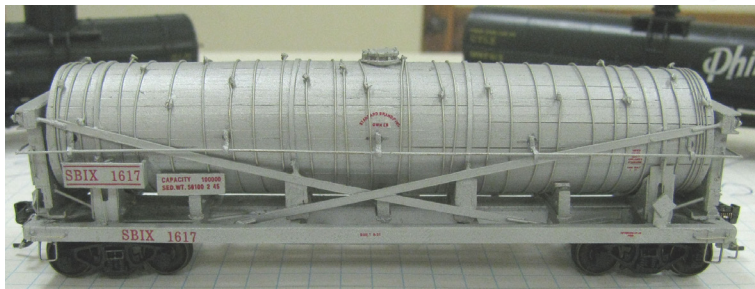
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# MAP TO THE JUNE 24, 2012 MEETING

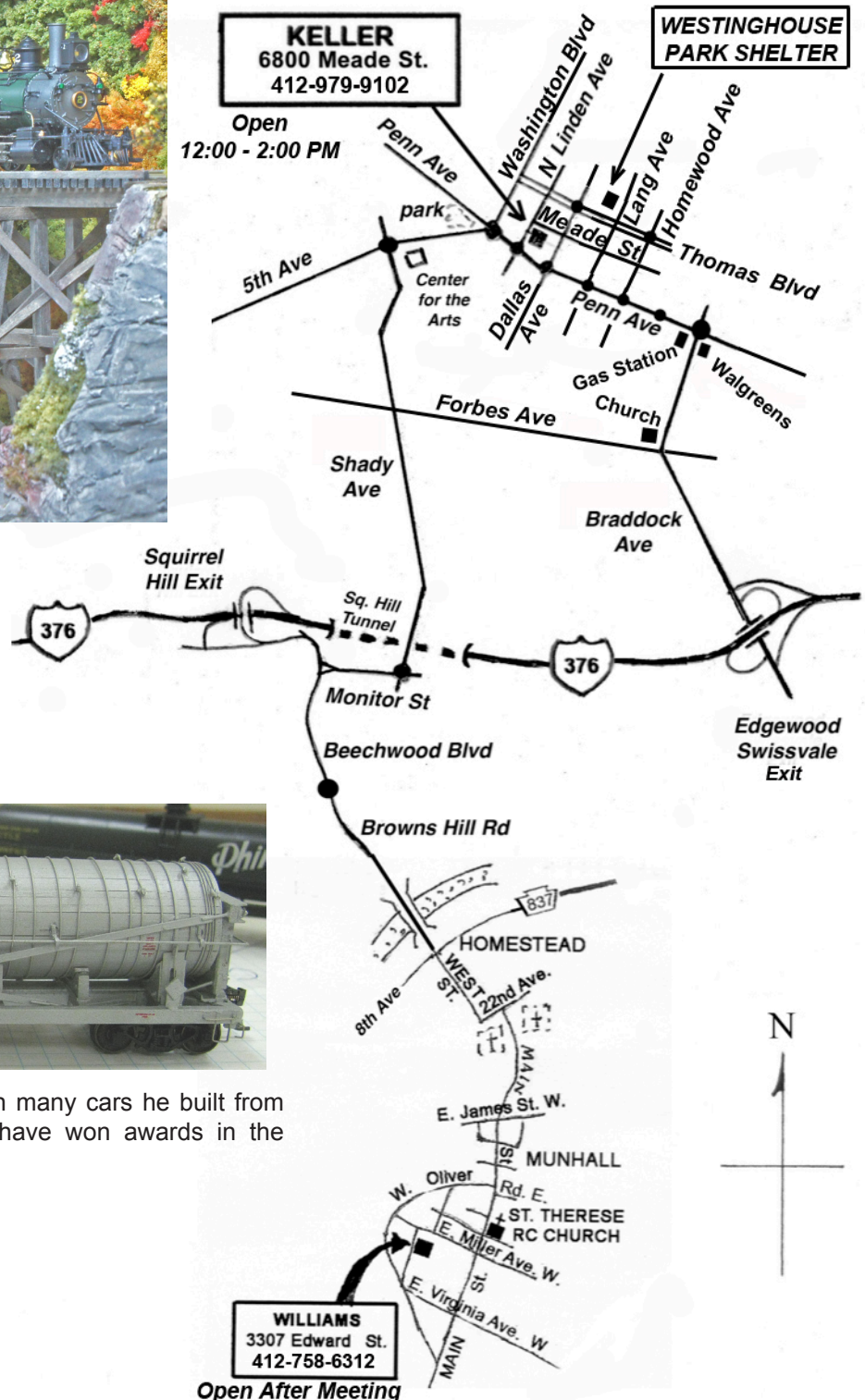
As of May, the trackwork is complete and scenery is underway on your editor's joint PRR/Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern. Below, Consolidation No. 2, a Blackstone product, pauses on Reed Trestle on the Buchanan Branch of the HOn3 B&SGE.



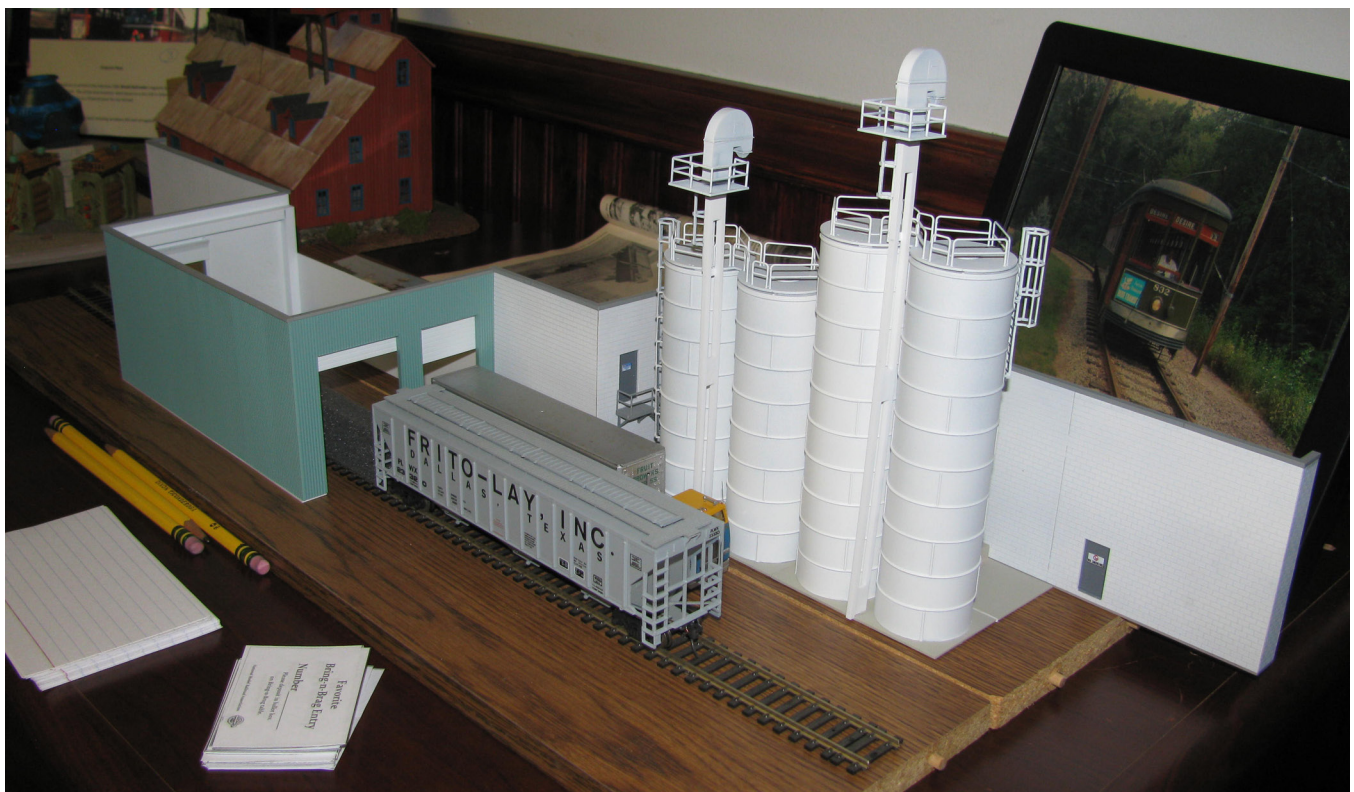
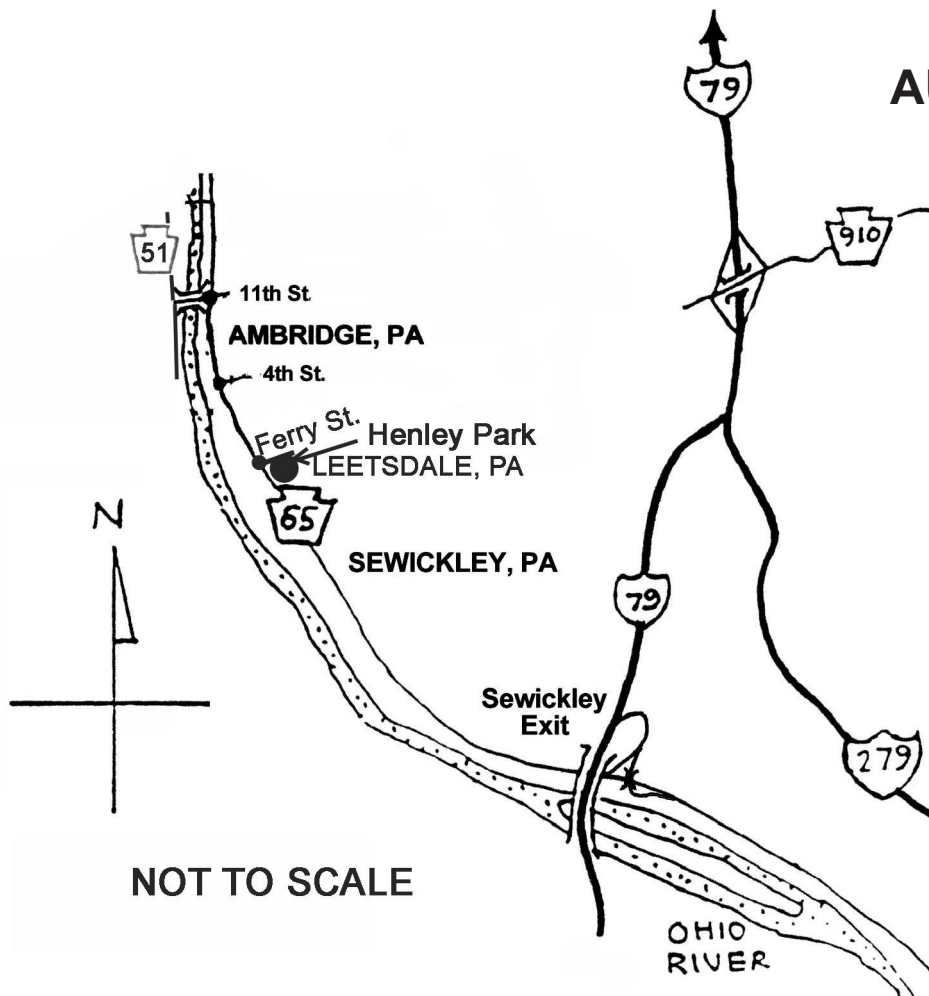
to downtown Pittsburgh



Dennis Williams' layout is populated with many cars he built from craftsman resin kits, several of which have won awards in the Bring'n'Brag contest.



# MAP TO THE AUGUST 19, 2012 PICNIC



Steve Ross's background lineside industry based on a prototype facility is an excellent example of kit-bashing and scratch building from published plans and on-site research, yet it garnered only five votes in the B'n'B. Paul Gallick photo

**The Keystone Flyer**  
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NEXT MEETING:  
 June 24, 2012  
 Westinghouse Park  
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<p><b>Western Pennsylvania</b> Est. 1938  <b>Model Railroad Museum</b></p> <p>(724) 444-6944 5507 Lakeside Drive, Gibsonia, Pa. 15044      Formerly the Pittsburgh Model Railroad Historical Society</p>	 <p><b>MID-MON VALLEY      MODEL RAILROAD      CLUB</b></p> <p><b>159 Main Street, New Eagle, PA</b>  <b>Meetings: Fridays 7:30 pm</b></p> 
 <p>Visitors Welcome  <b>MEMBERSHIP OPEN</b></p> <hr/> <p>2209 Walnut Street      McKeesport, PA      Open Wednesday &amp; Friday Evenings</p>	 <p><b>Model Railroad, Museum, and Library</b></p> <p>A modeler's information resource!      OPEN Every Monday: 7:30 - 10 PM</p> <p><b>PHONE (724) 266-4787</b>      E-Mail: ohiovalleylines@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>INC.</b></p>
<p><b>All aspects of "S":</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale • Narrow Gauge</li> <li>• Hirail • American Flyer</li> </ul> <p>Monthly meetings      Two portable layouts  <b>Membership open</b></p> <p>Contact: Jon Knox (724) 287-6829</p> 	<p><b>BEAVER COUNTY      MODEL RAILROAD and HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b></p> <p>416 6th St.      Monaca, PA 15061</p>  <p>Visitors Welcome</p> <p>Worknights: Tuesdays 7:30  <a href="http://www.bcmrr.railfan.net">www.bcmrr.railfan.net</a></p>