

August 2012

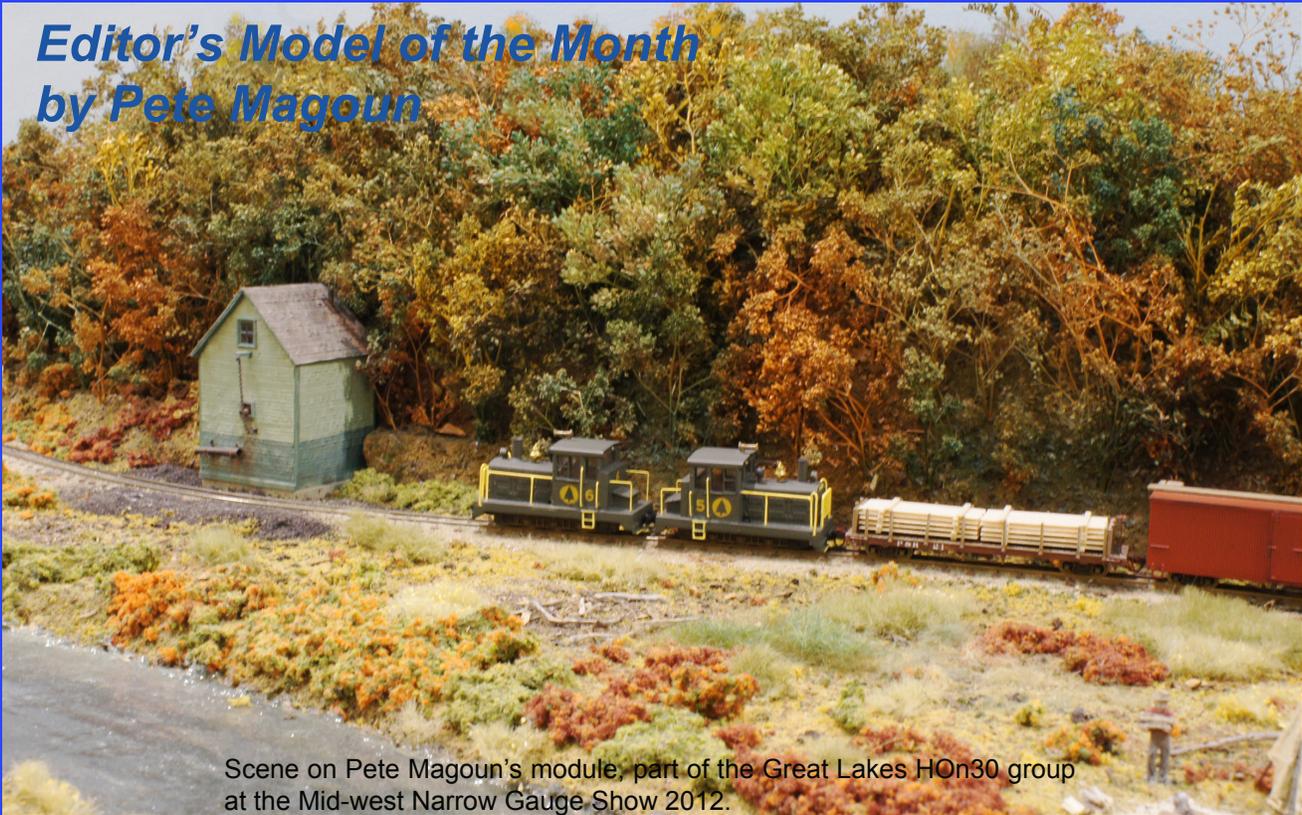
Vol. 54, Issue 7



THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR
Div. 2

Editor's Model of the Month by Pete Magoun



Scene on Pete Magoun's module, part of the Great Lakes HOn30 group at the Mid-west Narrow Gauge Show 2012.

Division Meeting Schedule

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

September 16 - To Be Determined. We regret that plans for the location of this meeting were not confirmed in time to meet the printing deadline for the August *Flyer*.

Bring'n'Brag

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

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From the Super's Desk

A QUESTION OF SCALE

What scale do you model? There are two ways you can read this question, the most obvious: are you an N, HO, S, O, or large-scale modeler? We often confuse “scale” with “gauge” and neither is what I intend here.

One online dictionary (www.thefreedictionary.com) lists many definitions for the word “scale.” I’m looking at the one several down on the list:

1. A system of ordered marks at fixed intervals used as a reference standard in measurement
2. A proportion used in determining the dimensional relationship of a representation to that which it represents
3. A progressive classification, as of size, amount, importance, or rank . . .
4. *A relative level or degree*

We’ve all seen small layouts where every square inch is detailed. Buildings are built board-by-board; people are everywhere; locomotives have lots of rivets; everything is weathered. Lots of trees, constructed individually. Hand-laid track with scratch built turnouts. Scene after scene, separated by a high trestle with all the necessary nut-bolt-washer castings. Narrow-gauge payouts often fit this mold, portraying logging lines through eastern forests or 3-foot gold- and silver-hauling trains struggling through deep Colorado canyons and across sun-scorched wastelands . . . sort of how my lawn and garden look these days. The degree of detail within a single square foot is very high.

At the other end, modelers with a lot of space and a vision of a busy major road build large layouts with long trains, staging yards that rival the narrow-gauge layouts in sheer feet of sectional track, and several to many towns. Although some of these rail empires sport hand-laid track and turnouts, most must depend on already-built turnouts—or a crew of talented friends—to complete the layout in a reasonable time. To see the same level of detail as the first type, you have to consider several square feet of layout.

I’ve seen O-scale layouts only a couple of feet deep and perhaps twenty feet in length, but they are packed with detail. The scale of construction is very small dimensionally, measured better in inches than feet. Individual cars and structures make up the basic unit of measure on such a layout. Look for removable roofs and interior details, although you might do best to stay out of the privy, or at least don’t look through the half-open door.

At the opposite end, the basic unit is a city block or strings of ready-to-roll cars. You might stop and look at details every foot along the front of the first kind of layout, while you tend to keep walking along the the second type to see around the loop at the far end of a peninsula. One modeler buys rolling stock by the half-dozen while another laborious builds, paints, letters, and weathers a single car every six months. Both can construct a jaw-dropping

SEE “Super,” p. 6

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>

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Minutes

DENNIS LIPPERT

The meeting June 2012 was called to order by Superintendent, Michael Hohn, at 2:31 PM.

A round of thanks was given to our host, Vagel Keller, and the Point Breeze North Development Corporation, who operates the facility.

Mike asked if there were any new members or guests in attendance. New member Ed Banks, a G-scaler from Murrysville was welcomed aboard.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published, after allowing for one correction – the dates of the upcoming Greenberg Show are July 21/22. Please make note!

Treasurer's Report: Carl Volkwein's written reports for April and May were read by Mike, and filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Membership: Tom Gaus reported that we dropped by several members this month, and reminded everyone to help out at the upcoming Greenberg Show, which is our largest recruiting presence.

Web: Tom reported the web activity.

Freemo: Bob Meier's reported that we have a 25x35-foot space at the July 21/22 Greenberg Show in Monroeville. As always, contact Bob to volunteer time for setup/teardown, or simply to run some trains during the weekend. His contact info is in the Flyer. A work session is planned at Don Reed's in Lawrenceville on the weekend prior. Contact him for details. Plans are also afoot to attend the Cleveland 2014 NMRA National Convention... perhaps as a joint effort with another group. More details will be forthcoming.

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

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

Programs: Keith DeVault reported that there is no July meeting, and that the August meeting is the annual Picnic in Leetsdale. It has been a popular venue, we we'll keep going there! Bring young'uns to the Picnic! There will be TWO TRAIN SETS raffled off to the under-16 crowd at the Picnic! One was donated by Galen Tonell of Division 11... the other is a "leftover" from the Convention raffles. The schedule for fall meetings is being formulated at this time.

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro reported that there was a model in attendance that was to be judged, and that merit awards earned at the Convention should be in the mail shortly.

Dennis also reported that he had the stock of Convention shirts and pumphouse kits with him... if you ordered any of these items and said that you'd pick them up at a meeting, please do so. If you requested shipping, those items have been shipped at this time.

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

Highline to Pittsburgh Convention: Susan Werner was no in attendance. The full final report is still being worked on. John Polyak questioned that there was little or no formal recognition given for the clinicians who volunteered for the event. He was assured that the Committee was still working on those final details.

OLD BUSINESS – None Presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike reported that Jim Sacco has again volunteered to spearhead the Jamboree, to be held in the spring. Grier Kuehn and Gary Carmichael are also assisting with the event's planning. They're looking for new ideas to freshen up the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Hickman announced that the November Greenberg Show dates have been set as the 10th and 11th.

Andy Lorince announced that his home was nearby, and that he'd be open after the meeting for visitors. See him for details.

Vagel Keller gave a short update on the current status of the East Broad Top railroad. At the moment, it looks like it will not be operating for the 2012 season at all (for the first time in 52 years)... and after that, the future is uncertain. The organization which has been operating the railroad was unable to come to an agreement with the owners of the railroad. Keep an eye on ebtrr.com and febt.org for news.

The next Division Two meeting is scheduled as the Picnic on August 19th, at the community park in Leetsdale, PA.

With no other business to transact, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bob Meier, seconded by Tom Gaus at 3:03PM.



Bring'n'Brag

June's Bring 'n' Brag contest was held at the Westinghouse Park Shelter in Point Breeze, Pittsburgh, PA. "Gondolas" was the contest category this month, and there were six entries.

Steve Ross won first place with his two HO scale 52' Gondolas by receiving 11 of the 22 votes cast. His first model of B&O gondola 350235 was built from a MDC kit. He added jacking pads out of styrene, applied COTS stencil decals over the factory painted lettering, replaced the wheel sets with P2K metal wheels, added KD couplers and weathered the car with Bragdon's powder. His second car painted and lettered for Conrail was built from a Proto 2000 kit. He reworked the factory painted reweigh data with a Sharpie marker and added U-1 wheel stencil decals. He also replaced the wheel sets, added KD couplers and weathered the car with Bragdon's powders. Finally he roughed up the wooden floor and added artist oil highlights to the flat gray base coat.

Second place went to Joel Eberly for a set of three HO scale gondolas lettered for his home road, the A&J Railroad. Joel's models received 5 votes. His first car was built from an Ambroid kit and included LCL containers. His second car was a composite side model built from an AHM kit and painted and lettered for his home road. His third car was built from an Athearn kit and included canisters made from old Flash Cubes.

Third place voting ended in a tie between Andy Lorince and Dennis Williams with two votes received by each entrant. Andy entered a set of S-scale BNSF bathtub gons made by S-Scale America along with a depressed center flat and two other gondola cars. Dennis entered a pair of HO scale gondolas made from Resin kits, one by Sunshine and one by Westerfield.

PAUL GALLICK

Other entries for June's contest included:

Bill DeFoe entered a pair of HO scale gondolas made from old Mantua models. He replaced the stirrup steps with brass, repainted them with Scalecoat paints, and lettered them with dry transfers and decals.

Dennis Vaccaro entered a scratchbuilt HOn30 20 ton MOW gondola. He built it from styrene and self made urethane castings.

Thanks to everyone who brought in models and voted. The next contest will be in August at the annual summer picnic at Henley Park located in Leetsdale, PA where the modeling category will be "Diesel Power."

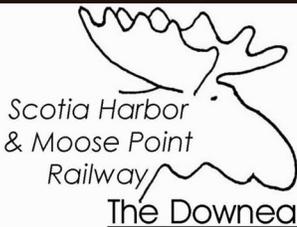


Bring'n'Brag Standings:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Steve Ross	20	Jim Whipple	4
Marge Meehan	17	Dennis Williams	4
John Ainsworth	16	Patrick Altdorfer	2
Bill DeFoe	8	Paul Boget	2
Andy Lorince	7	Jim Dodds	2
Gary Carmichael	6	Paul Gallick	2
Dick Flock	6	Charlie Hallman	2
Joe Lofland	6	Howard Heltman	2
Joel Everly	5	Larry Kline	2
Hans Werner	5	Dennis Vaccaro	2
Robert Hickman	4	Robbie Whipple	2



Scene on the Southbound Model RR Club in Durham, NC.



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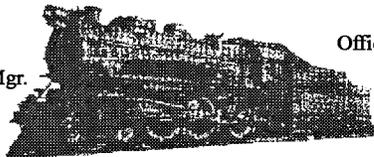
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HO Scale

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PENN WEST STREETCAR LINE Under Construction

Owner
&
Chief Engineer



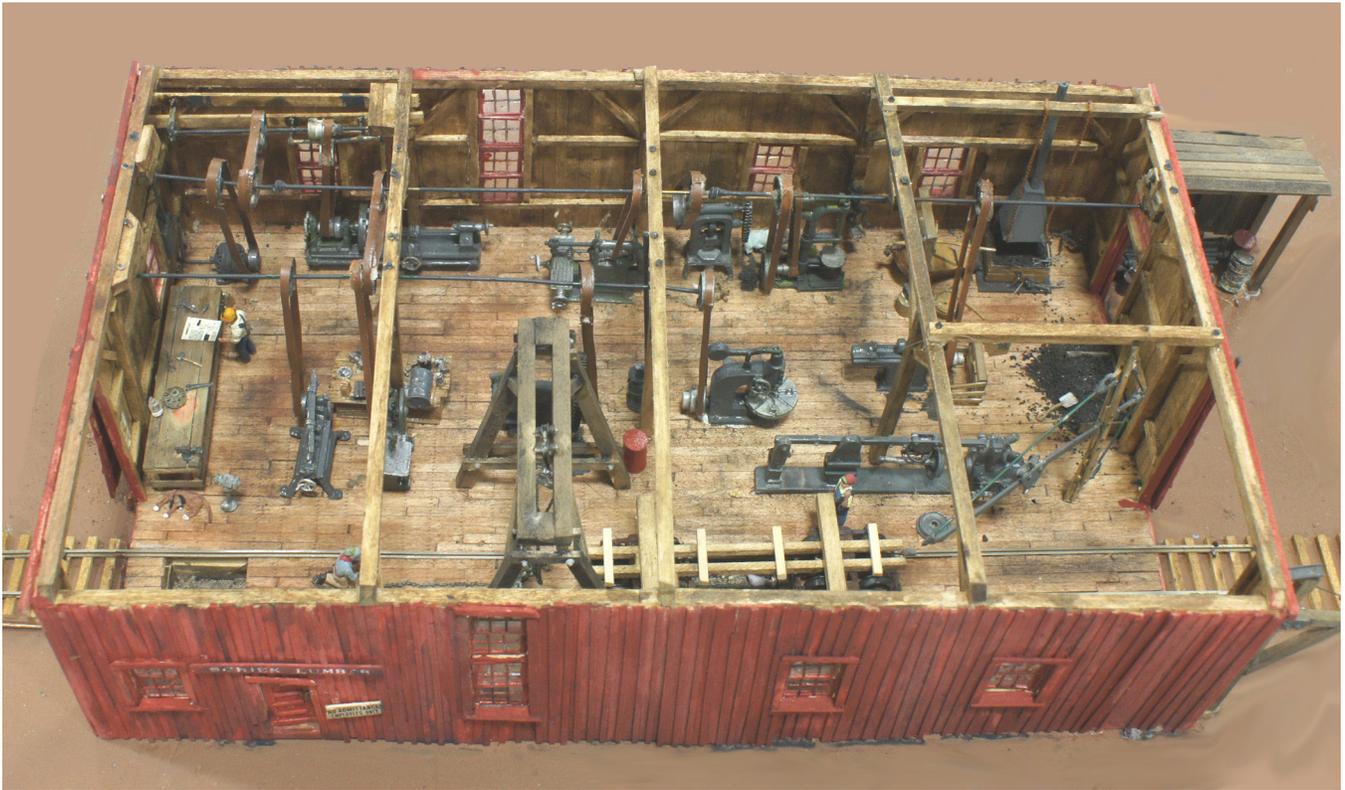
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More narrow gauge model pictures, these from the 2011 National Narrow Gauge Convention at opposite ends of the scale spectrum. Above, a beautifully done HO scale machine shop, and, at left, a 1:22.5 F-Scale model of the East Broad Top RR's work caboose.

Division 2 at Boy Scout Advancement Camp

On July 10 and 12, 2012, Susan Werner and Vagel Keller conducted Railroading Merit Badge classes for the Advancement Camp of the Laurel Highlands Council BSA at Camp Twin Echo, near Ligonier, PA. It was a return engagement; Div. 2 last performed the service in 2009. About 30 boys received the Merit Badge. A good time was had by all, except for Susan's Timesaver layout, which, as is usually the case when it is left to the "tender mercies" of pre-teen boys, came out of the week a little worse for wear.

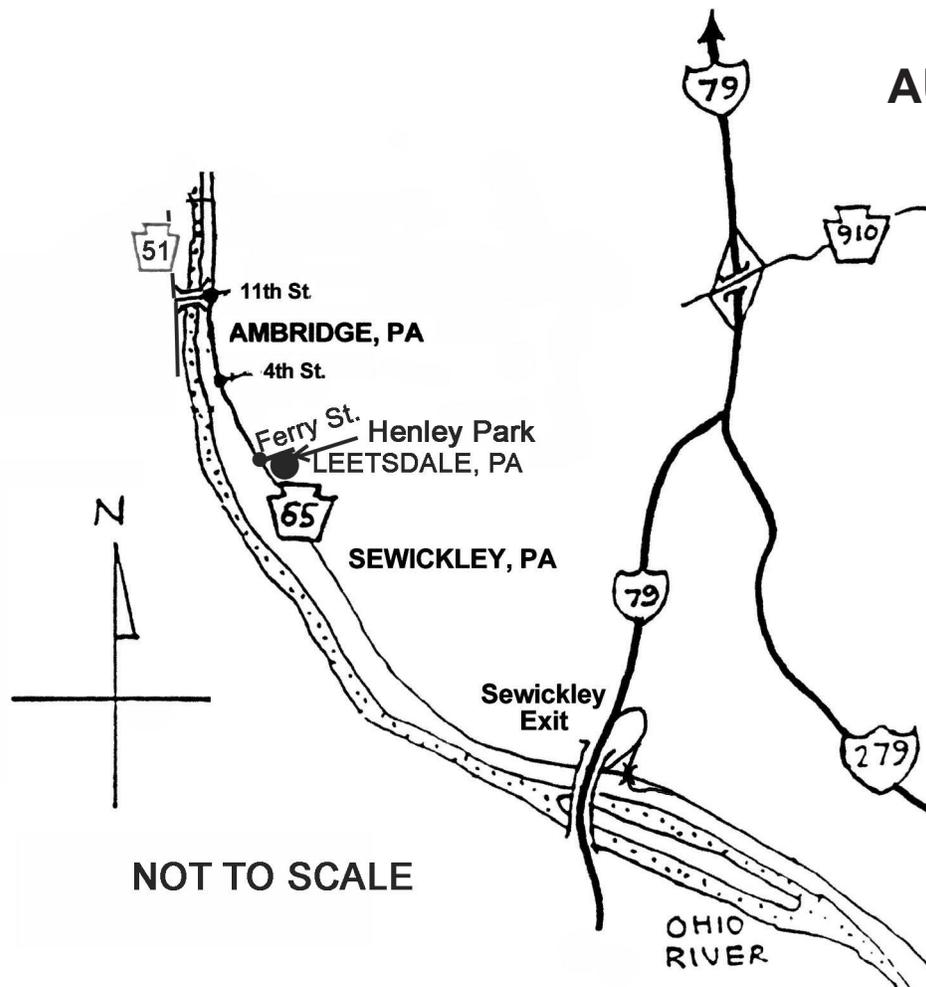
"Super," cont'd ...

layout if they have a vision of what they want to achieve.

Most of us have something between these two extremes, limited by time, space, or money. Among the members of our NMRA division are examples of the two extremes of scale, as well as most of the available scales.

... Mike Hohn

MAP TO THE AUGUST 19, 2012 PICNIC



Division 2 Picnic

Where: Henley Park, Leetsdale, PA -- Same place as last year.

When: Sunday August 19, 2012. We'll start gathering at 12:30 and aim to have food ready around 1:00. The business meeting will follow, while everyone is napping from all the good food.

Food: The division will supply meat, bread, and sodas. **IMPORTANT: please contact Keith DeVault with the number of people in your party and the covered dish you will be bringing.** Contact information is below. Bring 1 serving for every item you will put on your plate (usually 6) times the number in your party.

Parking: Lots of parking on the street.

Seating: We do have a shelter with tables, but some space is needed for food and Bring n Brag. You might want to bring a folding chair for long-term comfort. It's up to you.

Contact Information: Keith DeVault, 304-276-2509 (cell); 304-599-5261 (home)
e-mail: devaultkj@comcast.net. Call or email with the number in your party, what covered dish you will be bringing, and any questions.

The Keystone Flyer
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NEXT MEETING:
 Division 2 Picnic
 August 19, 2012
 Leetsdale Park
 Leetsdale, PA

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