

March 2014



Vol. 56, Issue 3

# THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR  
Div. 2

## IT'S JAMBOREE TIME!!!

I know, "Jamboree" sounds like we're going to be sitting around a campfire eating baked beans from a can. Maybe it isn't the best name for a gathering of model railroaders, but whatever you call it, the Jamboree is fun! How often do you get to spend a full day talking trains, listening to great clinics, looking at neat models, eating with friends and making new ones? Not to mention that you may take home a bunch of prizes!

This year's clinic lineup is worth the price alone. We have well known modelers like Tony Koester, Mont Switzer and Sam Swanson just to name a few. Most of the clinics have never been given before here. The whole list should be posted on the division website by the time you read this. In addition, Tony Koester will be our after dinner speaker.

Don't forget about our special contest this year "What Can You Do With a Plasticville Kit?" The rules

were printed in the Flyer and can also be found on our website. This is designed to be a fun and easy contest to enter. Have you started your entry yet? As always we'll have our regular contest categories - motive power, rolling stock and structures/dioramas. They're popular vote, so anyone can win!

We'll also have our White Elephant Room for selling member's items. Rumage through your closet or under your layout and bring something to sell. Then you can use the money to buy more stuff!

There will be displays including Dennis Vaccaro's 3D printing demonstration during the day followed by layout tours on Sunday. Maps will be available at the Jamboree.

If you haven't yet registered, why not do it now? You'll have a blast and be helping to support Division Two at the same time!

### Division Meeting Schedule

**March 16** - Mon Valley RR Historical Society, 128 Pleasant St, Morgantown, WV 26505

Layouts: Mike Hohn and Keith DeVault open 11:00 - 1:30 & after meeting; club layout open 10:30.

Meeting: 2:30 PM

**Saturday, April 26 - JAMBOREE**

SEE FLYER IN THIS ISSUE!

### Bring'n'Brag

<b>Jan</b>	Anything Goes
<b>Feb</b>	Covered Hopper Cars
<b>Mar</b>	Switchers & Critters
<b>May</b>	Farm Structures
<b>Jun</b>	Passenger Head End Equip.
<b>Aug</b>	Cabooses
<b>Sep</b>	Lumber & Logging Ind.
<b>Oct</b>	Advertising & Signs
<b>Nov</b>	Works-in-Progress

**Mark your calendars now  
for the 2014 Jamboree!  
Saturday April 26th  
(or go out and buy a new calendar  
so that you can mark it)**

**Submission Deadline for the April Flyer:**

**March 28, 2014**

Visit us on the World Wide Web at  
<http://www.keystonedivision.org>



# From the Super's Desk

## Slow Going: Proceed with Caution

One of the greatest virtues for the model railroader is patience. I usually want to complete major projects or accomplish goals yesterday. Sometimes reality steps in and straightens me out. Other times I learn to go slow and reap the dividends.

My practice for years has been to take a kit or scratchbuilding project with me when spending overnights on the road. I've gotten rather good in remembering all the tools I will need, although one time I arrived at my hotel with tools but no model. Last week in Charleston, WV I was working on a resin kit of an 1890's Reading boxcar, nearing completion. I was doing a little kitbashing; to model the as-built version of the car, I needed to change the spacing of the grabirons, as there were only four rather than five. Previous to the evening in question, I had carefully scraped off the molded-on nut-bolt-washers, drilled holes for the grabs, and glued them in.

Now my task was to add a nbw casting above each end of the grabs. The sequence of operations was:

1. Drill hole with a no. 79 bit.
2. The Tichy nbw's must be cut from a sprue; so I carefully hold the free end of a nbw down on a cutting surface (the little cardboard for my room 'key') and cut it off. Uh-oh, where did it do? Stuck to my finger? no. Stuck to the knife? no. Somewhere on the desk? Nope. Cut another.
3. Carefully pick it up with tweezers. Zing! Where did it go? Oh, there it is; it bounced off the wall.
4. Pick it up again, dip end in the little pool of acc I made on a piece of paper I tore off the pad that is always next to the phone.
5. Try to find the hole I made, and stick the casting in. Won't go. Hole too shallow. Set casting down—the glue has dried anyway—and drill hole deeper. Pick up casting and . . . where did it fly this time? Completely disappeared.
6. Cut new casting from sprue and repeat.

You get the picture. I started off with a whole sprue of nbw's, and although I had eight grabs to do that evening, I had many more than the 16 castings needed. Lose a few, no problem. Except, when I got down to the last grabiron, all the castings were gone. So there I was running my hand across the desk, hoping to find at least two of the nbw's that had propelled themselves from my tweezers. Amongst the detritus I collected, sitting amidst little shreds of resin and unidentifiable little bits of who-knows-what, were two nbw's, exactly what I needed. I was going to have to be extra careful now. And in fact, those last two were no problem at all.

I recall when young this whole comedy of errors would have been so frustrating; likely as not I would have lost my temper. Instead, I inwardly laughed at myself, wondering what the hotel cleaning staff would think about all these little bits of plastic surrounding my chair, if they could have even seen them.

See "Super," 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>

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# Minutes

**John Gallagher**

The meeting was convened by Superintendent Hohn at 2:31 p.m. at the Western Pa Model RR Museum.

The Superintendent thanked the Western Pa Model RR Museum for hosting the meeting. He recognized Bob Meir as representing the host. Bob welcomed the members and gave a short update on the organization's plans for expanding the building. They are looking for new members and donations.

One new member was introduced: Rich Shank from Monroeville, who had joined in January.

There was one guest: Butch Stepnick.

The minutes of the previous business meeting were discussed. It was noted that the delivery of the Flyer in time for this month's meeting was not a problem. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as published in the Flyer. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Reports:

The Keystone Flyer Editor was not present. However, as noted above, there didn't seem to be any delivery problems this month. Members were reminded that if they do not receive the printed version in time, they can view the electronic version on our website.

Carl Volkwein, the Treasurer, was not able to attend the meeting. However, he assures the membership that we remain solvent.

Assistant Superintendent Devault discussed next month's meeting in Morgantown and the local layouts that will be open for visiting. There is no change to the rest of the schedule. There are three possibilities for June.

Dick Flock spoke about the Company Store. He brought items from the Temple estate to sell, plus the usual complement of books and trucks. He urged the membership to buy the estate items because he's getting tired of hauling the items around. It still takes three vehicles to transport all the stuff. We will not do any more estate sales. If you've ordered a book, they've arrived. There are a few calendars left for sale.

There was no report for either the Website or Membership Committees as Tom Gaus was unable to attend.

Bob Meir, representing the Free-Mo Committee pointed out that the next Greenberg Show in July will conflict with the National Convention in Cleveland.

The Free-Mo people hope to attend the National Convention, so other plans will have to be made for Greenberg. We can't just skip the show, because we may lose our space.

Bring N' Brag. There are 10 entries. Please vote.

Bud Brock spoke for the Video Library. They are running another special this month. There is no interest for six months Bud announced with tongue firmly in cheek.

Dennis Vaccaro reported the Achievement Committee had awarded one Golden Spike

Award. He also reminded those in attendance that we will conduct elections next month. Please vote even though there is only one candidate per office.

The Welcoming Committee had no report other than they were still welcoming.

Grier Kuehn reported on progress for the Jamboree. The slate of clinicians has been firmed up. He also wished to squelch the rumor that the same clinics were repeated every year. He pointed out that everyone of this year's clinic's is brand new, including Tony Koester, a nationally known author and speaker. The Jamboree Committee will email confirmation of receipt of your registration, which is new this year.

Old Business:

Superintendent Hohn reminded the members to vote in the upcoming elections.

He also thanked those who helped with the IPAY show at the Convention Center. He noted that the Australians were very nice and the modular display was a great success!!

He also pointed out that the National HQ, as well as the Regional need our emails, if they don't already have them. If you don't get any emails from them, they don't have your email address. They need your email to reduce conventional mail and costs. They assure you they will not give, sell, raffle, donate or otherwise distribute your address with anyone outside the organization.

For the Good of the Order:

Bud Brock promoted the upcoming IPMS (International Plastic Modelers Society) gathering at the A.W. Beatty Technical Center on March 22nd. There is even a category for best Model Railroad item. He passed out flyers and urged everyone to attend.

See "Minutes," p. 4

# Bring'n'Brag

February's Bring 'n' Brag contest was held at the monthly meeting held at the Western PA Model Railroad Museum in Gibsonia, PA. The theme of this month's contest was "Covered Hopper Cars" and 10 entries were submitted.

Dom Candelore's entry of two O Scale PRR H-34 covered hoppers won First Place, after receiving 5 of the 29 votes cast. Dom started with Quality Craft Model Kits with a few changes. He replaced the wooded end pieces with brass strips and angles, and he included all the brake piping and brass wire grabirons. The first car was painted and decaled using the lettering that came with the kit, while the second car was left unpainted to show all the replaced parts.

Second place was won by Bill DeFoe with 4 votes for his HO scale ACF two bay covered hopper. Bill started with an E&B Valley kit which he assembled, painted and weathered. The car was filled with wet hydrocal to increase the weight.

Third place ended as a four way tie between Joel Everly, Marge Meehan, Bob DiBenedetto, and Hans Warner with each contestant's entry receiving 3 votes. Joel scratchbuilt an ACL Phosphate car in HO scale using plans from a 1 in 5000 Ambroid kit. Bob DiBenedetto entered an Accuready 3-bay covered hopper lettered for the B&O which he weathered with powders and also replaced the couplers with Kadees. Marge entered three HO scale covered hoppers, the first two built from Bowser kits of the ACF 70 ton 2-bay car, and the third made from an Accurail 2000 series 3-bay covered hopper. Marge covered this last car with Woodland Scenics 'Water Effects' to simulate ice from a winter storm. Hans Werner built an HO scale covered hopper from an E&B kit, weathered it and installed Kadee couplers.

Other entries for this month's contest included:

Dick Flock entered six assorted HO scale covered hoppers built and weathered from Bowser and Easter Car Works kits.

Steve Ross entered an HO scale ACF 4-bay center flow covered hopper built from an Athearn blue box kit. The car was factory painted and lettered for Dow, to which Steve added some light weathering, and new Front Range semi-scale wheels.

Bob Hickman entered a set of HO scale ACF 3-bay covered hoppers built from Accurail kits lettered for UP fallen flags, Cotton Belt, C&NW, Missouri Pacific, and D&RGW.

Dennis Vaccaro entered an early experimental covered hopper in Hon30 which he had scratch built from resin cast parts.

## PAUL GALLICK

Bud Brock brought a set of small O-scale buildings in 1/48 scale for display only.

Thanks to everyone who brought in models and voted. The next contest will be at the March Meeting in Morgantown, WV. Next month's contest category is 'Switchers & Critters.'



<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Marge Meehan	11	Steve Ross	4
Bill DeFoe	10	Neal Schorr	4
Hans Werner	9	Dennis Vaccaro	4
Dom Candelore	7	Susan Werner	4
Joel Everly	6	Dick Flock	2
Bob DiBenedetto	4	Charlie Hallman	2
Bob Hickman	4		

"Minutes," cont'd ...

Dick Flock urged people to attend the upcoming Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Convention the last weekend in March at Malvern, Pa. near Philadelphia.

Bob Meir asked for help in putting the chairs away.

People were reminded to vote for the Brig N' Brag.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Today's program was about Live Steam railways.



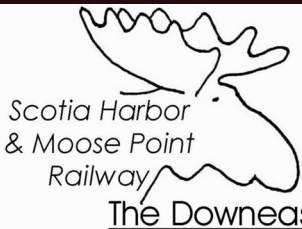
"Super," cont'd ...

My success with the last couple of nbw's suggests that if I had taken more time to drill holes a little deeper, been more careful in picking up castings with my tweezers, and making sure I could see the hole clearly, I would have lost few if any castings. Still, my fumbling got the job done, perhaps in about the same length of time. In either case, patience was required.

Of course, working on a model in the evening of a day that started at 4:30 AM might have been a mistake.

... Mike Hohn





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Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 pm

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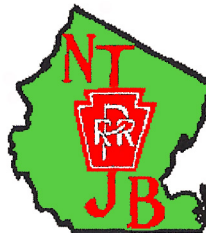
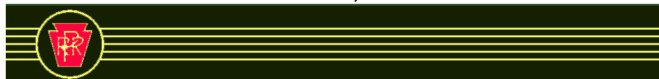
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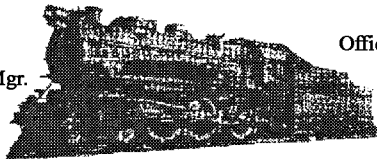
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# 2014 PITTSBURGH MODEL RAILROAD JAMBOREE

**ENJOY A FULL DAY OF MODEL RAILROAD ACTIVITIES!**

**Saturday April 26, 2014  
Sewall Center  
Robert Morris University  
Moon Campus**

**OPEN TO EVERYONE!**  
Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.  
Activities run all day!

Clinics run all day on a variety of topics - model railroading, scenery building, detailing rolling stock, prototype railroading and local history!

**REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!**

General information and questions: 412-276-6006 or e-mail: [clycscs@aol.com](mailto:clycscs@aol.com). Registration questions should be directed to registrar shown below.

Register early to guarantee meal availability. Very limited space is available at the door. NO banquet reservations will be taken after April 19th!

Registration information will be distributed upon arrival April 26th. **No confirmations will be mailed.**

Payment by mail MUST be by check. Please check our website for other payment options.

Program subject to change without notice.

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**Check our website for list of clinics, program schedule, contest rules and latest information!**  
[www.keystonedivision.org](http://www.keystonedivision.org)

**Please note: This is not a model train sale or show. More details can be found on the back of this flyer.**

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Jamboree Registration Fee Per Person - Includes lunch & continental breakfast.

NMRA Members <b>BEFORE APRIL 12th</b>	\$22.00 x _____ = _____
Non-NMRA Member <b>BEFORE APRIL 12th</b>	\$32.00 x _____ = _____
Children under 12	\$11.00 x _____ = _____
Banquet (not included with registration)	\$25.00 x _____ = _____
<b>Add \$5 after April 12th</b>	\$5.00 x _____ = _____

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NEXT MEETING:  
 March 16, 2014  
 Mon Valley RR Historical Society  
 Morgantown, WV

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