

June 2014



Vol. 56, Issue 6

# THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR  
Div. 2



## *Editor's Model of the Month by Jerry Hallman*

### **Division Meeting Schedule**

**June 22, 2014** - Holy Spirit Church, 608 Farragut St, Millvale, PA 15209; coordinated by Esther's Hobby Shop, 219 North Ave., Millvale, PA 15209  
Esther's Hobby Shop open at 10:00 AM & after meeting  
Meeting at 2:30 PM

**August 17, 2014** - Annual Picnic, Henley Park, Ferry Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056  
Gathering starts at 12:30; food ready by 1:00 PM  
Meeting following the food.

**Submission Deadline for the August Flyer:**

**July 11, 2014**

### **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

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# From the Super's Desk

## Running 'em Slow

The following link was posted recently on an Rmweb on-line discussion forum:

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=BlqD2SxjMOc&feature=em-upload\\_owner](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=BlqD2SxjMOc&feature=em-upload_owner)

The video shows a couple of simple switching moves, basically picking up two boxcars, and dropping off two. The basic moves are:

1. Locomotive enters scene from the right, pulling two boxcars, stops, uncouples from cars, and moves forward past a turnout.
2. Turnout is thrown, locomotive backs up on a parallel track beyond a second turnout.
3. After turnout is thrown, locomotive moves forward on industry track, couples to two boxcars parked alongside building, and backs up beyond turnout.

Action continues as the two pickups are parked temporarily, the locomotive couples behind the cars to be spotted, pushes them onto the industry track, first spotting one car in front of a loading door and then spotting the second. Finally, we see the locomotive backing, picking up the cars pulled from the industry track and pulling them off scene

The video is almost eight minutes in length, but some was edited out; the full set of moves took about twenty minutes. That much time on a layout with two industries, a mere handful of spotting locations, and four turnouts.

Why so long for a simple job? First, the engineer ran the locomotive at a slow speed, probably no more than 5 to 10 scale mph. Second, coupling and uncoupling were not instantaneous; pauses allowed time for these operations to be performed like in the real world. In other words, an attempt was made to simulate the time required to do the work. Definitely not timesaver speed.

I have tried running this slowly on my own, fairly small layout, and found several advantages. For one, waiting for the locomotive to make a single move, to pause as the crew walks from the train to a turnout, or to couple-up, provides opportunity to look ahead and think about the next move. It gives me time to relax, think things out, enjoy what I am doing, rather than compete with the clock, transforming recreation into a stressful experience.

Slow running expands the layout. We no longer need track to be as long as can possibly fit into the space available, or to add that one siding too many just to keep the operator busy. It's no coincidence that proponents of prototype running speed also advocate spacing out structures and scenes more like the real world, rather than cramming in as many spurs as possible.

Operating at prototype speed offers a chance to observe the action, how well our locomotive runs, what a good job we did weathering our rolling stock, perhaps admire the scenery and structures. Maybe make plans for upgrading our layout.

(Strangely enough, I have also found myself slowing down on my drive to work, which someday was going to result in a ticket or accident.)

See "Super," p. 3

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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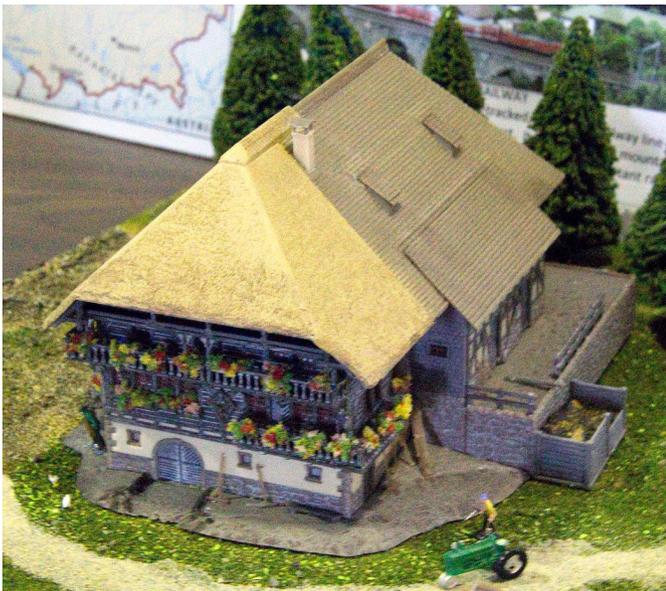
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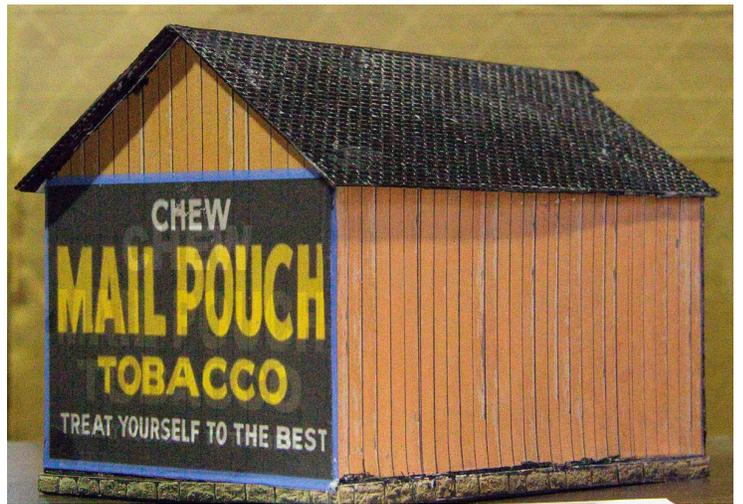
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Jim Elster presented a great clinic on new scenery materials that are available from Scenic Express. Here he demonstrates how new foliage material can make the “supertree” armatures look even more realistic than in the past. John Polyak photo.



Marge Meehan’s plastic kit barn, above, took 2d Place in the B’n’B contest, while Frank Benders’ entry, despite custom graphics of his own making and significant scratchbuilt components, only mustered enough votes for 3d Place. John Polyak photos.



### THE KEYSTONE DIVISION

I suggest you try a changeup and run your layout more slowly and see if it makes a difference.

For those interested in the layout where the video was filmed, check out the following link: [www.rmweb.co.uk/community/index.php?/topic/81192-westbrook/](http://www.rmweb.co.uk/community/index.php?/topic/81192-westbrook/)

... *Mike Hohn*

# Bring'n'Brag

## PAUL GALLICK

May's Bring 'n' Brag contest was held at Scenic Express in Delmont, PA. The theme for this month's contest was 'Farm Structures' and there were six entries.

Bill DeFoe won First Place for his HO-Scale scratch-built Arkansas Barn which received 14 of the 29 votes cast. His barn was built board by board from stripwood, pre-stained with an alcohol India ink wash. The roof was covered in 'tarpaper' made from blue painters tape painted grimy black.

Marge Meehan won Second Place with her N-Scale Black Forest Barn. Her model received 6 votes.

Third Place was won by Frank Benders with 5 votes for his HO Scale Mail Pouch Barn. He got the 'Mail Pouch' image from the computer, scaled it to size and printed it on cardstock. He used Plastruct roofing and scratch built the doors, hangers and track.

Other entries for this month's contest included:

Dennis Vacarro entered a Bulk Milk Tank which he had scratch built.

Susan Werner entered a barn built from a Mountaineer Precision Products laser kit.

Jerry Hallman entered a 2 1/2 scale 7 1/2" gauge train.

John Polyak brought in a pair of HO Scale Athearn Genesis F7A & B locomotives painted for the PRR for display only.

Thanks to everyone who brought in models and voted. Next month's contest category is "Passenger Head End Equipment."

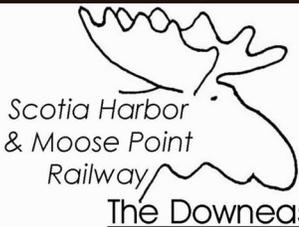


### Bring'n'Brag Standings:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Bill DeFoe	18	Frank Benders	6
Marge Meehan	16	Joel Everly	6
Dennis Vaccaro	11	Bob Hickman	6
Hans Werner	11	Susan Werner	6
Bob DiBenedetto	10	Steve Ross	4
Dom Candelore	7	Neal Schorr	4
Dick Flock	7	Jerry Hallman	1
Charlie Hallman	7		



Bill DeFoe's excellent scratchbuilt Arkansas Barn, which one a much-deserved 1st place in the B'n'B voting. John Polyak photo.



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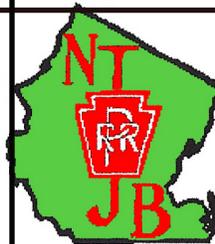
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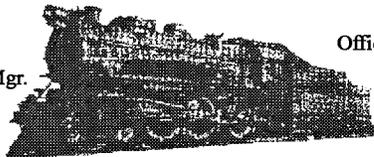
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Pittsburgh, PA

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# MAP TO THE JUNE 22, 2014 MEETING AT ESTHER'S HOBBY SHOP

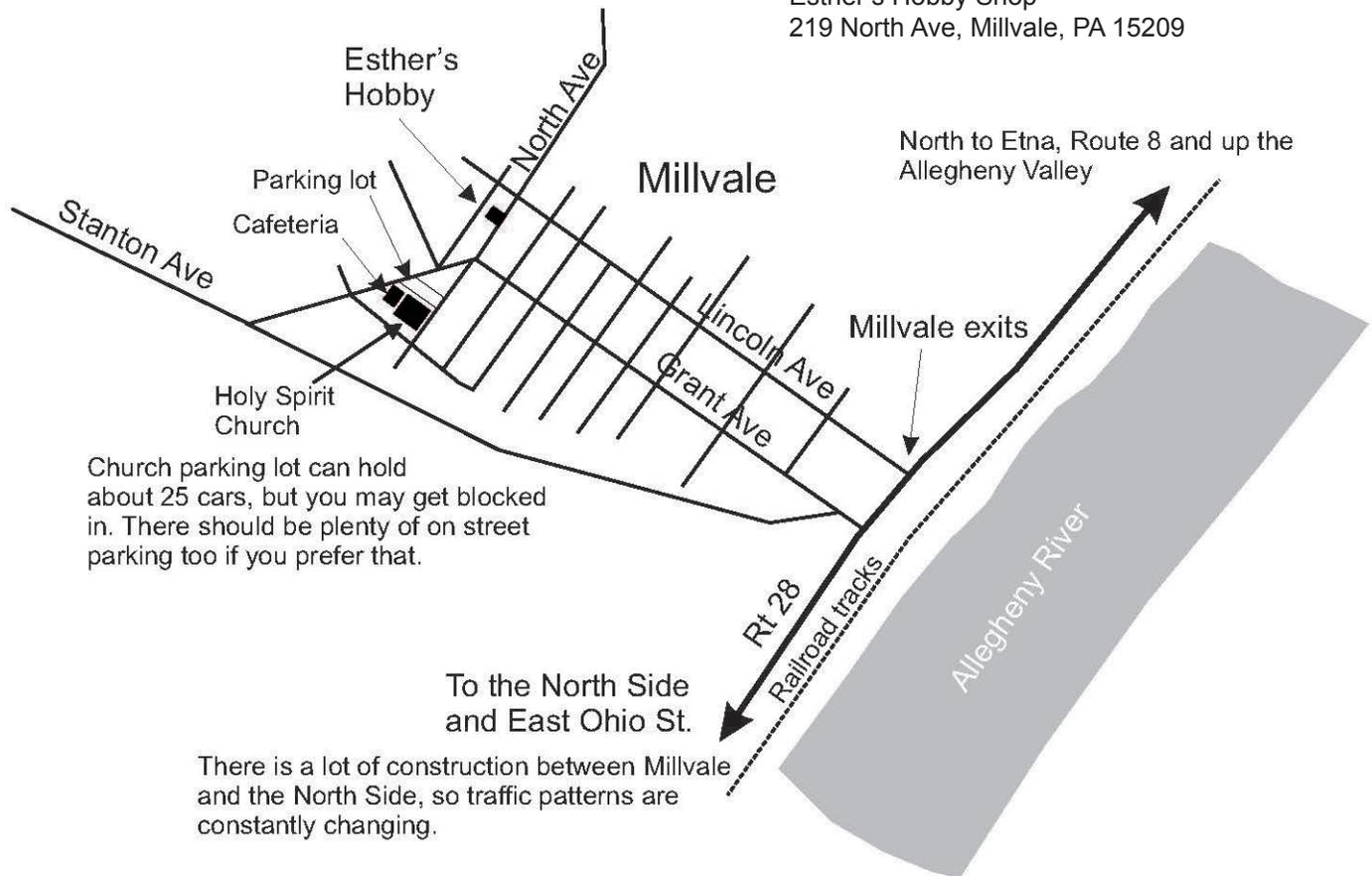
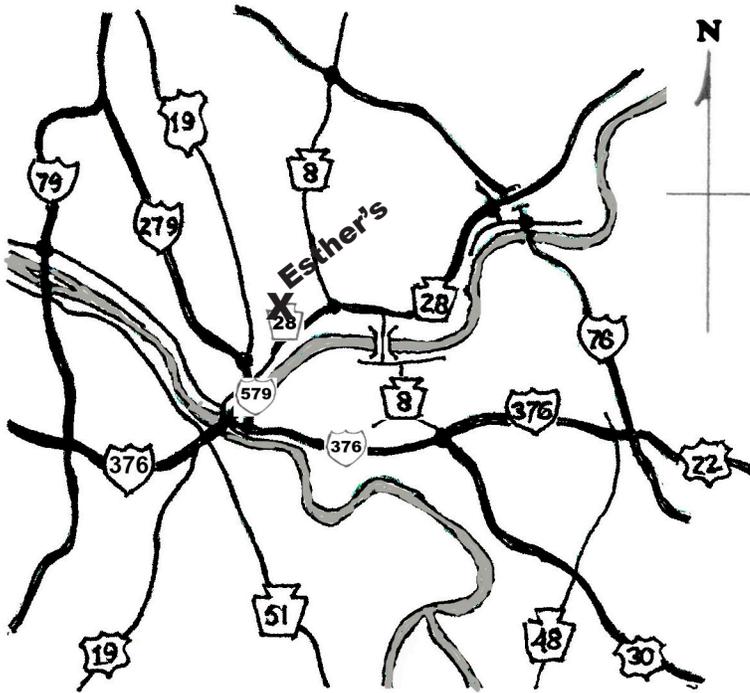
Information from Jim Sacco:

The meeting will be in the cafeteria of the Holy Spirit Church school building which is next door to the church. There is a parking lot in front that will hold about twenty five cars, but folks could get blocked in. To prevent that, some folks may want to use the on street parking around the church.

I believe the cafeteria will be available from 10:00 to 4:00

Esthers will be open at 10:00 a.m. for folks who want to stop by. Bob will also open after the meeting if anyone wants to stop in.

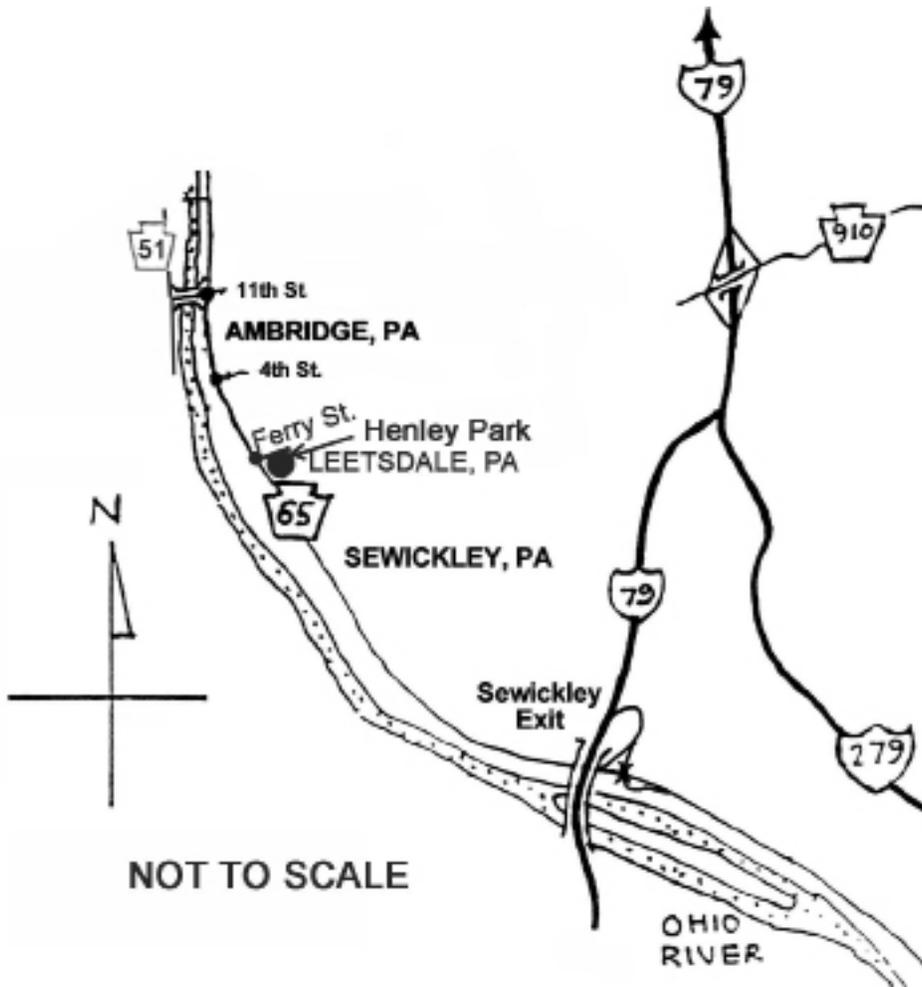
Holy Spirit Church  
608 Farragut St, Millvale, PA 15209  
Esther's Hobby Shop  
219 North Ave, Millvale, PA 15209



Church parking lot can hold about 25 cars, but you may get blocked in. There should be plenty of on street parking too if you prefer that.

There is a lot of construction between Millvale and the North Side, so traffic patterns are constantly changing.

## MAP TO THE AUGUST 17, 2014 PICNIC



### Division 2 Picnic

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

**When:** Sunday August 17, 2013. 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 will 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:

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Holy Spirit Church

Millvale, PA

coordinated by Esther's Hobby Shop

<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>
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<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  Visitors Welcome</p> <p>Worknights: Tuesdays 7:30 <a href="http://www.bcmrr.railfan.net">www.bcmrr.railfan.net</a></p>