

January 2015



Vol. 57, Issue 1

# THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR  
Div. 2

## ***This Year's Jamboree Modeling Contest: What Can You Do With A Trainset-style Plastic Freight Car?***

### What Can You Do With a Trainset Style Freight Car?

In other words, what can you do to improve the looks of an inexpensive toylike freight car? Now, we're not talking about an Athearn blue box kit or anything remotely resembling one (Roundhouse, Accurail, Front Range, C&BT, Train Miniatures, etc.) We're talking about the older ready-to-run trainset type cars often sold by Tyco, AHM, Life-Like, Bachmann, Model Power and others. The kind you see dealers selling in cardboard trays at shows for a dollar or two. What can you do to improve the looks of one?

Just to be clear, you don't need to work for months kitbashing and detailing the car into a 100% prototypically accurate model. Rather, what can you do to make the rest of us THINK it's a more expensive, realistic model?

And for those of you in larger or smaller scales, it's the same principle - start with any simple plastic freight car, not a new state-of-the-art car by Lionel, MTH, Micro-Trains, Atlas, etc.

It's been said that "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." That saying dates back to a book from 1579 so it clearly doesn't apply to model railroading since you CAN turn a simple plastic model into something realistic looking. That was proven during last year's "What Can You Do With a Plasticville Kit?" contest. Now you get to do it again this year with a simple inexpensive freight car!

### **Division Meeting Schedule**

**January 18, 2015** - Old Economy Village Visitors Center, 270 16th St, Ambridge, PA 15003  
Layout: Ohio Valley Lines, 1231 Merchant St, Ambridge, PA 15003, open at 1:30 PM  
Meeting at 2:30 PM

**February 15, 2015** - Western PA Model RR Museum, 5507 Lakeside Dr, Gibsonia, PA 15044  
Layout open at 1:30 PM, Meeting at 2:30 PM

**March 15, 2015** - TBD

**April 26, 2015** - Division 2 Jamboree

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

<b>Jan</b>	Anything Goes
<b>Feb</b>	Homes & Residential Structures
<b>Mar</b>	Built Resin Kits
<b>May</b>	Diesel Locomotives
<b>Jun</b>	Diners & Lounges
<b>Aug</b>	Commercial Structures
<b>Sep</b>	Paper Industry
<b>Oct</b>	Refrigerated Cars
<b>Nov</b>	Open Hopper Cars

**Submission Deadline for the February Flyer:**

**January 23, 2015**

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



# From the Super's Desk

## Collections

Home projects over the past year meant the need to move stuff out of the way and then back. Searching for sheet music passed down to us by an honored relative led to emptying a large cupboard. Both good opportunities for us to

reduce clutter.

We all seem to own lots of stuff. If challenged to explain, we can call them "collections."

Collections can form by accident. You come home with some hand lotion because it's the season when the simplest job around the house leaves your hands with crevices like the Grand Canyon. You move those bottles of hand soap over--clearing a place on your shelf--and behold! A lifetime's supply of lotion. One in back has even started to separate into its component oils and mystery chemicals.

You might say: not really a collection because it was unintentional. But are all of our collections meant to happen?

Let's explore this question with a few examples. First, magazines. When I re-entered the hobby in the late 1980's, I hadn't read a hobby magazine for twenty years. I had a lot of catching up to do and I did so with a vengeance, buying back issues of MR and RMC at every opportunity. Flea markets offered some real windfalls, enabling me to pick up a decade at a time. I discovered the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette and started accumulating back issues. I now have most Model Railroaders since 1950, Railroad Model Craftsman since about 1970, and almost all the Gazettes except for the first few which cost upward of \$100 per issue; they've become truly collectable.

Once in a while I would flip through a back issue, more rarely these days. In the past couple of weeks I've had to move them to remodel our laundry area. Where will I put them? Do I really need this collection?

Today a member of our club told me he owns about a thousand pieces of rolling stock and is looking to donate a good number. Sounds excessive but we know how it happens. In my case, I started modeling late 1800's and settled on the Lehigh Valley Railroad for a prototype. As I build a complete representative roster of 1880's LV cars, I have also been collecting later cars right up to the end in the 1970's. My excuse: I can run the more recent cars on the club layout. Because the LV had some 50' external post cars, I started learning about the per diem car boom and--using a series in Railmodel Journal as reference--began collecting representative examples of the types and variants. Several collections, all interesting, requiring space.

I started building resin kits a few years ago and have even experimented with building my own masters, pouring molds and casting my own. In recent years a two-man company has been offering limited-run models from my period. I bought a couple and had a lot of fun building them. Before I knew what was happening, I ended up corresponding with them on details and lettering and being placed on their advanced-notice e-mail list. I'll likely buy more than I need and some will be later than my period. It's

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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# Minutes

**Susan Werner**

The meeting was convened by Superintendent Mike Hohn at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the New Eagle Volunteer Fire Department social hall and was hosted by the Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad Club.

Any new members who did not receive the blue clinic book as a new member gift were invited to get one from Dick Flock (he now has them in stock). No new members stood to be recognized nor were there any visitors.

The minutes from the previous meeting, as published in the Keystone Flyer, were approved by acclamation.

The editor of the Keystone Flyer was not present, so there was no report.

The Treasurer reported that the bank balances had not changed much since last month because of relatively little activity other than the routine expenses. The Division is still quite solvent.

Programs - The report was given in the absence of the Assistant Superintendent. The January meeting will be hosted by the Ohio Valley Lines at Old Economy's meeting room, as usual. The Ohio Valley Lines model railroads will be open before and after the meeting as well. We will visit the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum in Gibsonsia in February as we have in past years.

Company Store - Dick Flock will take calendar orders through today (November 16, 2014) for delivery before December 25, 2014. He also noted the numerous items he has for sale from the estate sales as well as books from the Company Store. Everything we purchase from him here at the meeting is less that he has to carry around and lug in and out of the meeting spaces.

Membership/Website - Tom Gaus reported that our membership stands at 261 currently. He and all the other volunteers at the Greenberg Show were able to "re-rail" one member and get another person to sign up for a Rail Pass membership. All in all, the show was considered a success. The website is up to date and has all the listings of club Open Houses on the site.

Free-Mo Modules - Bob Meier was not present to offer his report in person. The next Greenberg Show will be February 14 & 15, 2015 and he is asking for space for the modules. Bob is retiring and will move to the Gettysburg area. He is looking for someone to head up the Free-Mo group.

Bring & Brag - There were 10 entries this month in the "unfinished projects" category. It seems that we all have unfinished projects on our worktables. Please take time to vote for your favorite. The model category for January is "anything goes". We also need a new B & B coordinator since Paul is retired and moving to Somerset.

Video Library - The donated laptop is running one of the DVD's from the library allowing members to view the subject matter before committing to the rental. Bud Brock

is still running the "rent on and get one free" promotion.

Achievement Program - Dennis Vaccaro reported that there was no new activity on the Achievement Certificate front. He is always available by e-mail to advise members as needed. Models may be judged at Division meetings or at the Jamboree. There is no need to wait until a convention to have them judged.

Welcoming Committee - there were no new faces to be welcomed so Susan Werner was none too active.

Jamboree - the new Jamboree flyers are available. Members were encouraged to take flyers to the upcoming events such as train shows, Open Houses, and to the few hobby shops that remain. We need to really promote this event to increase attendance. The committee is still looking for clinics for the Jamboree; they currently have about half of the slots filled.

Vagel Keller, editor of the Keystone Flyer, finally arrived after driving around the long way and said that he is looking for article submissions for about 1/2 page size. He suggested articles about our own model railroads, layout plans, or whatever. Send your submissions to Vagel directly.

Old business - Ken Hanawalt reported that he still has a few hats and shirts for sale. He will not take any more orders until after the New Year.

New business - none

For the good of the Division - Pete Jurofcik offered butternut squashes to anyone who wanted them.

Program - Dennis Vaccaro will share "Trains I Have Seen Around the World".

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.



**THE KEystone DIVISION**

... "Super"

purely altruistic: they deserve my support.

Wood laser kits are fun and suck a person in. And we all know what happens when you start buying those limited-run craftsman kits: they become collectible, but only if they remain unbuilt.

Finally, who can resist the latest product?

... *Mike Hohn*

# Bring'n'Brag

**Paul Gallick**

November's contest was hosted by the Mid Mon Valley Model RR Club and held at The New Eagle VFD Social Hall in New Eagle, Pennsylvania. 2014's last contest category was "Work's in Progress" and there were ten entries.

Bill DeFoe won first place, receiving 7 of the 28 votes cast, for his scratchbuilt HO scale coaling tower. He is building the tower from basswood and styrene based on a series of articles from "Model Railroader" magazine dated October, 1951 through January, 1952. Bill still needs to add the coal chutes, sand pipes, and other rigging.

Second place was won by Bob DiBenedetto for his HO scale Atlas U23B painted and lettered for SCX. Bob's model received 5 votes. He has added a decoder and handrails. He still needs to add couplers and weathering.

Marge Meehan's N Scale highway bridge won Third place after receiving 4 votes. Her bridge was built from a Faller kit and still needs railings and overhead light poles.

Other entries to this month's contest included:

Hans Warner entered a model of a 1919 C.L. Best 60 Bulldozer built from a white metal kit.

Susan Werner entered a partially completed Tichy HO Scale 120 ton Steam Wrecking Crane. Assembly was halted at this point so she could paint interior details before they became inaccessible.

Dick Flock entered a collection of Sylvan tractors and trailers in various stages of completion.

Jim Braum entered a pair of HO Scale cars lettered for the W&LE including a caboose and a business car.

Joel Eberly entered an HO Scale curved Trestle that is designed to replace a curve on a peninsula on his layout. The girders are glued to an aluminum extrusion for added strength.

Mike Hohn entered a set of parts he scratch built for a 28 foot resin boxcar based on a Lehigh Valley prototype from the 1880's. He included the styrene masters, RTV molds, and final resin castings for the car body.

The new categories for 2015 are listed on the cover so get your models and ideas ready.

## Bring'n'Brag Standings:



<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Bill DeFoe	38	Dom Candelore	7
Marge Meehan	31	Charlie Hallman	7
Bob DiBenedetto	24	Mike Hohn	8
Dennis Vaccaro	17	Less Lemley	6
Steve Ross	15	Harold Roth	6
Hans Werner	15	Keith Berkebile	5
Frank Benders	12	Neal Schorr	4
Dick Flock	10	Jim Braum	2
Susan Werner	10	Bryce Walat	2
Bob Hickman	8	Jerry Hallman	1
Joel Everly	8		

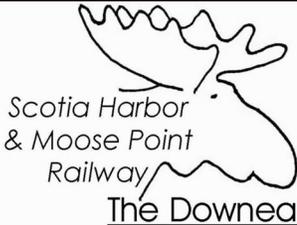
## THE KEYSTONE DIVISION

### **New Book on Historic Waynesburg & Washington No. 4**

A new book by Div. 2 member and W&W Historian Jim Weinschenker will soon be off the presses. The softcover, 80-page landscape format includes over 125 photographs in both black & white and color. The text gives a full historical account of the existing narrow gauge locomotive, including builder's specifications, in-service and post-abandonment photographs, detailed drawings, and historical background. The book will be available directly from the author for \$32.95 postage paid. Order forms are available from:

Jim Weinschenker  
775 Race Street  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
wandwrr@windstream.net  
(412) 916-4260





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## Mon Valley Railroad Club

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Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 pm

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[http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=22893](http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=22893)



## Richard H. Flock, CEO

337 Elm Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-850-8882

## PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

MIDDLE DIVISION

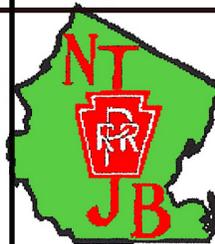
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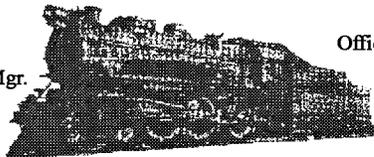
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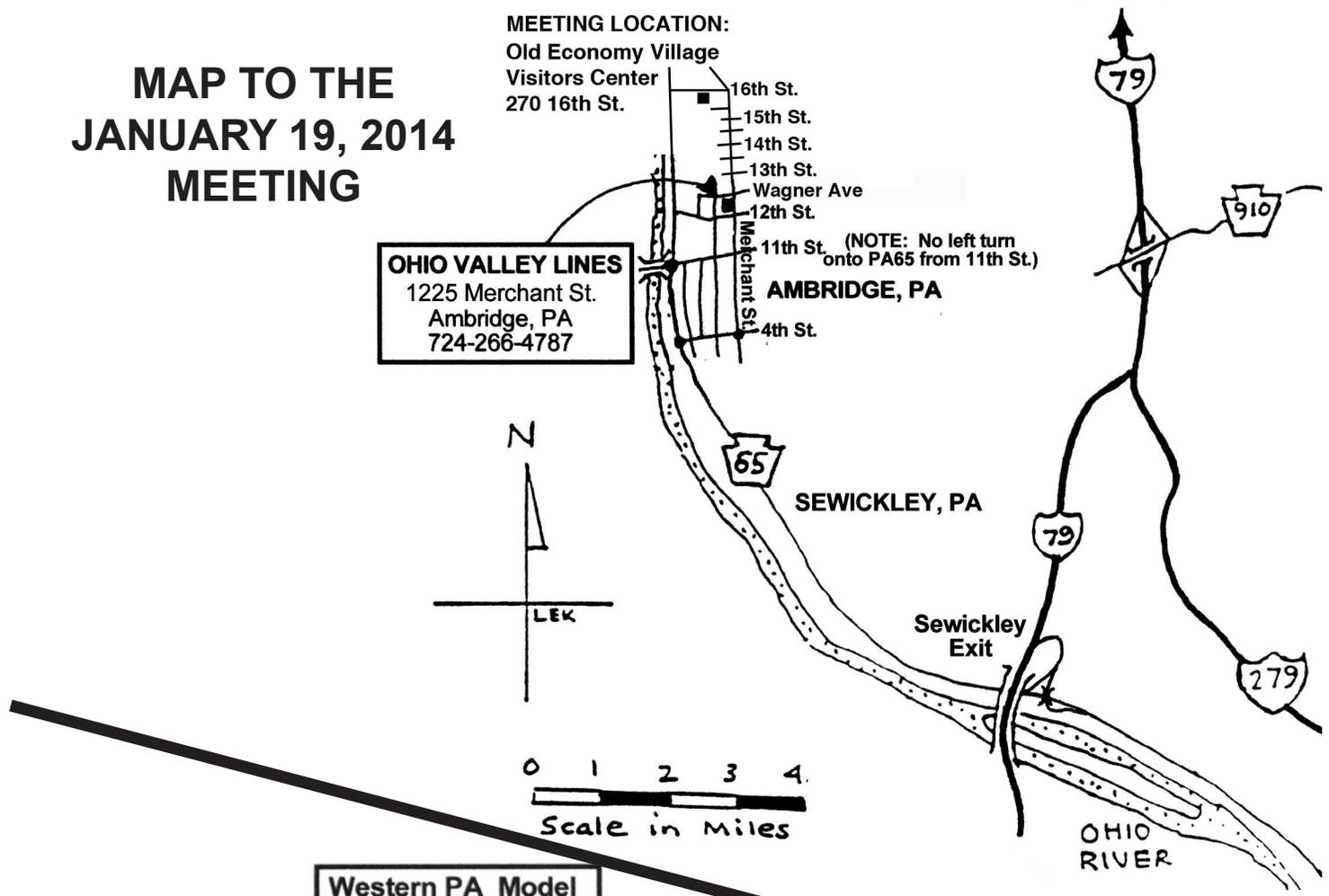
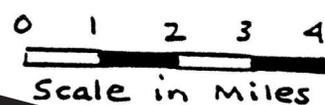
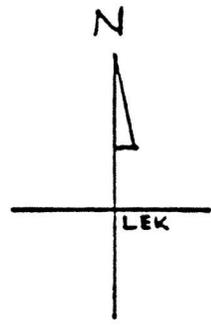


# MAP TO THE JANUARY 19, 2014 MEETING

MEETING LOCATION:  
Old Economy Village  
Visitors Center  
270 16th St.

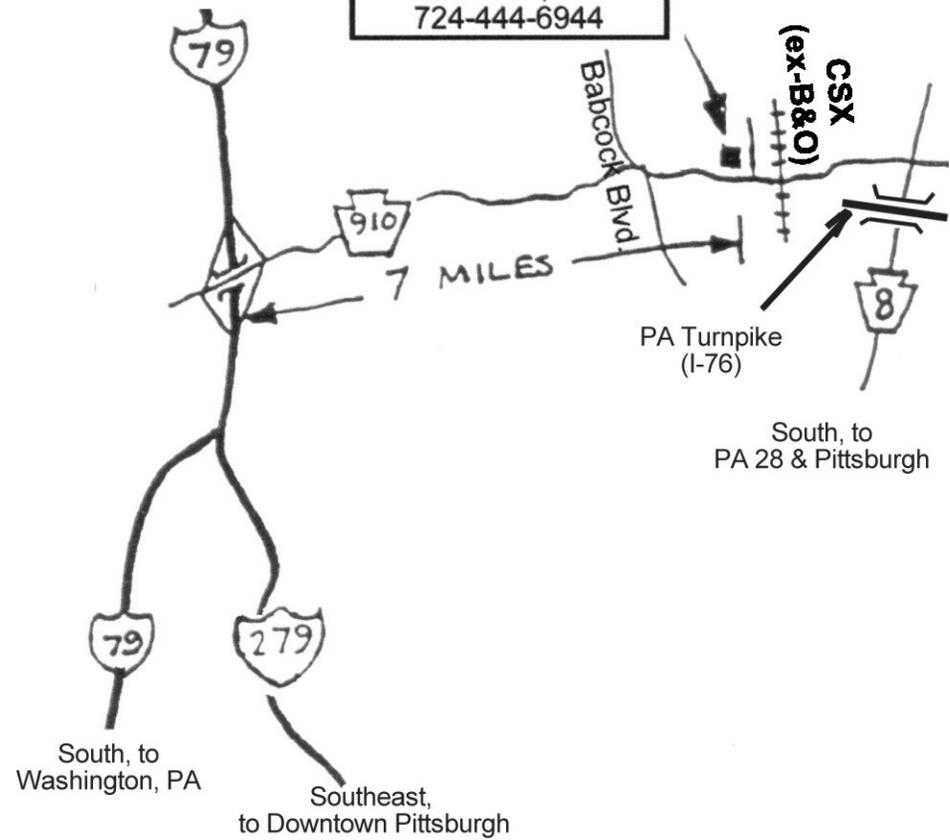
**OHIO VALLEY LINES**  
1225 Merchant St.  
Ambridge, PA  
724-266-4787

16th St.  
15th St.  
14th St.  
13th St.  
Wagner Ave  
12th St.  
11th St. (NOTE: No left turn onto PA65 from 11th St.)  
Merchant St.  
4th St.  
**AMBRIDGE, PA**



**Western PA Model  
Railroad Museum**  
PA 910 & Hardt Rd.  
Gibsonia, PA  
724-444-6944

# MAP TO THE FEBRUARY 16, 2014 MEETING





# 2015 PITTSBURGH MODEL RAILROAD JAMBOREE

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

**Saturday April 25, 2015  
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: ctyclsscs@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 20th!

Registration information will be distributed upon arrival April 25th.  
**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.

Full refunds given two weeks prior to event. No refunds for no-shows.

**Registration includes buffet lunch & continental breakfast!**

**Modeling Clinics  
Model Contests  
Door Prizes & Raffles  
Modular Layouts  
White Elephant Tables  
Sunday Layout Tours**

**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.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Scale \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
NMRA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

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

NMRA Members <b>BEFORE APRIL 11th</b>	\$24.00 x _____ = _____
Non-NMRA Member <b>BEFORE APRIL 11th</b>	\$34.00 x _____ = _____
Children under 12	\$11.00 x _____ = _____
Banquet (not included with registration)	\$25.00 x _____ = _____
<b>Add \$5 after April 11th</b>	\$5.00 x _____ = _____

**Mail to:** **TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Jamboree, c/o Tom Gaus  
3357 New Texas Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15239  
Email: [webmaster@keystonedivision.org](mailto:webmaster@keystonedivision.org)  
Ph (412) 731-8846

**Make checks payable to: Division Two, MCR, NMRA**

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**The Keystone Flyer**

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NEXT MEETING:  
January 18, 2015  
Old Economy Village Visitors Center  
Ambridge, PA

<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> <p>2209 Walnut Street McKeesport, PA Open Wednesday &amp; Friday Evenings</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><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> 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>