

February 2015



Vol. 57, Issue 2

THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR
Div. 2



Editor's Model of the Month by Neal Schorr

Division Meeting Schedule

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 - Mon Valley RR Historical Society.,
128 Pleasant St, Morgantown, WV 26505

Saturday, April 25, 2015 - **Division 2 Jamboree** -
Sewall Center, Robert Morris University, 6001 Univer-
sity Blvd, Moon, PA 15108

May 17, 2015 - McKeesport Model RR Club, 2209 Wal-
nut St, McKeesport, PA 15132

June 2015 - **Date TBD**. Youngstown Model RR Club,
751 North 4 Mile Run Rd, Youngstown, OH 44515

Bring'n'Brag

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

Submission Deadline for the March Flyer:

February 20, 2015

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



From the Super's Desk

Not For Everyone

Our NMRA President created quite a stir a few months ago, announcing in one of his columns that he did not see what all the excitement is with operations. One month and a flurry of letters later, he backed off a little, writing

that he had operated on layouts and sometimes had a good time. But you could still see, operating is really not for him.

“Operating session” is one of those concept phrases that tells people you have achieved a higher state of model railroading consciousness. Dropped in a model railroading conversation, it causes looks of awe in one person and facial tics in another. Other examples are “prototype modeling” and “layout design elements.”

A now-departed member of our club did not hesitate to question those of us who looked to the real world for our modeling ideas. He felt frustrated after voicing a new plan, when we would almost invariably shoot it down with “it’s not prototypical.” To his credit, this member was always

willing to pitch in and help. Like most of us, he wanted to accomplish things in life and was always ready to get his hands covered in plaster. Still, prototype modeling was not for him.

Giving credit where it is due, Tony Koester came up with the practical concept of the layout design element, really quite useful in my view. It brings together the planning of a particular track arrangement, structures and scenery, and the potential for specific car movements. Take for example a small town depot with passing siding, team track, and a spur for the feed store. You can start your design with a real-world location, or once you have an idea for what you want—say, a rural station--you can look at photos or maps for inspiration. Layout design becomes an exercise in joining multiple elements with a mainline.

On the other hand, I know people who build benchwork in the space available, lay out some track, move it around, get a coffee or take an overseas trip, return, move track around some more, then tack it down. Layout planning is not for them.

The Model Railroading Jamboree is coming up in a couple of months. A list of activities appears elsewhere in this newsletter so I won’t go through the lineup. The organizers are looking to fill a couple of spots left for clinicians. If you have not given a clinic for a while and have a new topic or know somebody with something to say, pass this information along. Volunteers welcome. Clinics always excite me, and on the rare occasion when one does not pique my interest, it’s an opportunity to fall into conversation with other attendees, examine contest models, or buy some more raffle tickets. People who can’t find anything of interest are probably not railroad fans, so the Jamboree is not for them. It’s for the rest of us.

... *Mike Hohn*

Keystone Division Officials

Superintendent

Michael Hohn
(304) 296-6303
mehohn@frontier.com

Clerk

Dennis Lippert
724-601-1417
denlippert@comcast.net

Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs

Keith DeVault
(304) 599-5261
devaultkj@comcast.net

Treasurer

Carl Volkwein
(724) 941-6954

Achievement Program

Dennis Vaccaro
(724) 929-2190
vaccaro_dennis@yahoo.com

Company Store

Dick Flock
(724) 850-8882
jlerr337@verizon.net

Loren McCullough
(724) 379-8596
lorenmcc@verizon.net

Bring’n’Brag

Paul Gallick
p.gallick@gmail.com

Webmaster & Membership

Tom Gaus
(412) 731-8846
webmaster@keystonedivision.org

Module Committee

Bob Meier
SD45Bob@aol.com

Education Chair

Jack Pscherer
(412) 731-6795
JE1work@aol.com

Editor

Vagel Keller
(412) 441-7881
vckeller@comcast.net

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>

Minutes

John Gallagher

The meeting was convened by Superintendent Hohn at 2:33 p.m. This month, we met at the Old Economy Visitors Center. He thanked the Ohio Valley Lines for hosting the meeting. Chief Clerk Gallagher spoke for the Ohio Valley Lines. Besides the Welcome Center, he reminded the members to check out the remodeled front of the OVL building.

The following new members attended: Kevin Gerein; Larry Wilming; Al Renko and Dave Vallen. Daryl Swift from Division 4 also attended.

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

Reports

The Editor of the Keystone Flyer was not present, as he was involved with the Boy Scouts.

The Treasurer reported that we spent more than we took in. This is due to some initial expenditures for the Jamboree. We'll make this up after the Jamboree.

The pass the hat netted \$85.00

Programs - Keith Devault reminded members that the February meeting is in Gibsonia. Two potential groups for March, so it's back to Morgantown. The Jamboree is in April. We will visit the McKeesport Club in May for the first time in several years. The June meeting will be at the Youngstown Club.

Company Store. There was no report. Dick Flock was attending his grandson's hockey game in Pittsburgh.

Membership/Website - Tom Gaus reported our membership is 260 people. We've added several new members. We will be recruiting new members, as usual, at the Greenberg Show. there are new pictures on the web site.

Free-Mo Modules - Bob Meier reported that over the last several years, the February meeting seems to conflict with the Greenberg Show, limiting our participation. The South Hills Module Group will be filling in for those who cannot attend the Greenberg Show to make a decent sized layout.

He reminded the members that he will be moving out of the division and needs someone to replace him as Chairman of the Modular Group as well as take possession of the pieces of the layout. Jerry Kyslinger will serve as temporary Chairman.

Superintendent Hahn briefly explained about the Company Store for the benefit of the new members.

Bring N' Brag - Paul Gallick will be stepping down as head of the Bring N' Brag program after 10 years. The Superintendent thanked Paul.

Bill Defoe won Modeler of the Year foe 2014. Congratulations.

This month's category is anything goes. Remember to vote.

Video Library - Bud Brock reminded the membership that we are a lending library. The materials are not for sale.

This month's special is "The Train" starring Burt Lancaster.

Achievement Program - Dennis Vacarro reported that one person has been submitted for their Electrical Certificate.

The Welcoming Committee welcomed five people today.

Old Business

Grier Kuehn reported on the progress for the Jamboree. Their theme has been "New ideas and new faces". There are 260 people in the Division, so we should be able to generate some variety in who presents clinics on what topics. If you haven't presented a clinic in the past, please think about doing so. In addition to the clinics, there will be contests for locomotives, rolling stock and structures. Ken Kobus will be our after dinner speaker, as well as give a clinic. There will be the usual raffles and White Elephant Sale. You don't have to be an MMRA member to attend. Sign up soon.

New Business

Bob Evans reported that he has now given 525 train sets over the last five years in his Trains for Tots program.

For the Good of the Order

Members were reminded about the New Eagle Train Show on 25 January at the New Eagle Fire Hall.

See the flyer about the upcoming Narrow Gauge Convention in Ohio.

The program at the February meeting will be on using the Fastrack System for hand laying turnouts.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.



A Note From the Editor ...

An apology is due to Div. 2 members and subscribers for the erroneous dates accompanying the maps to the January and February 2015 meetings in last month's *Flyer*. As I was unable to attend the January meeting, for the reason stated in the Minutes, to say so in person, I'll print it here.



Bring'n'Brag

January's contest was hosted by the Ohio Valley Lines and held at The Old Economy Village Center in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. 2015's first contest category was "Anything Goes" and there were seven Entries. The winner of the 2014 "Bring'n'Brag was Bill DeFoe with a total of 38 points, congratulations Bill and thank you.

Neal Schorr won first place, receiving 9 of 32 votes cast, for his O scale pieces of weathered rolling stock using primarily chalks and spray paint.

Second place was won by Marjorie Meehan for her N-scale Kibri Westerheversand Light House which she painted and weathered, received 6 votes. There was a large puzzle and history of the light house as well.

Third place was a tie won by Steve Ross with his "tractor pit stop" Woodland Scenic's mini scene kit and Bob Di Benedetto for his cloth banner of Railroad Logos each receiving 5 votes for their entries.



Steve Ross took 3d place in the January B'n'B with his Woodland Scenics diorama kit. What's that guy doing to the tree?! John Polyak photo



This is one of Steve Schorr's nifty scratch-built O-Scale coal loads. It's encouraging to see quality modeling by our youth members. John Polyak photo

Donald Austel

Hans Werner entered a model of a 1919 C.L. Best 60 Bulldozer build from a white metal kit pushing coal.

Bryce Walat entered a model of an Atlas HO scale Gate Tower

Steve Schorr entered scratch-built coal loads for a Weaver 2-bay hopper.



Bring'n'Brag Standings:

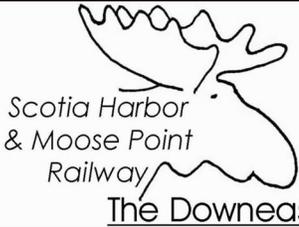
<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Neal Schorr	7	Steven Schorr	4
Marge Meehan	6	Bryce Walat	2
Bob DiBenedetto	5	Hans Werner	2
Steve Ross	5		



Marge Meehan's Kibri N-Scale light house kit earned 2d Place in the January B'n'B contest. John Polyak photo



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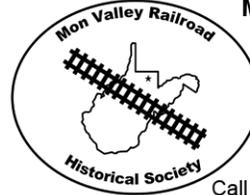
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Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 PM

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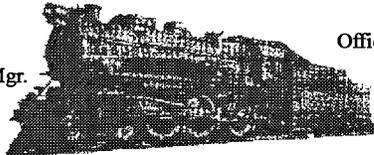
John W. Wesner

Owner & Chief Engineer

3844 Henley Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-731-7393 wesnerj@asme.org

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Here are two more of Neal Schorr's nicely done O-Scale models from his 1st Place winning group of weathered freight cars in the January B'n'B contest. John Polyak photos



Another Note From the Editor ...

Sup't Hohn's column this month leads me to add my two cents. I'm a cheapskate, so I don't subscribe to the NMRA magazine and, therefore, wasn't aware that our President is not enamored with operations. Not that I care, one way or the other, but I'm glad that he came to that realization after at least giving operations a try.

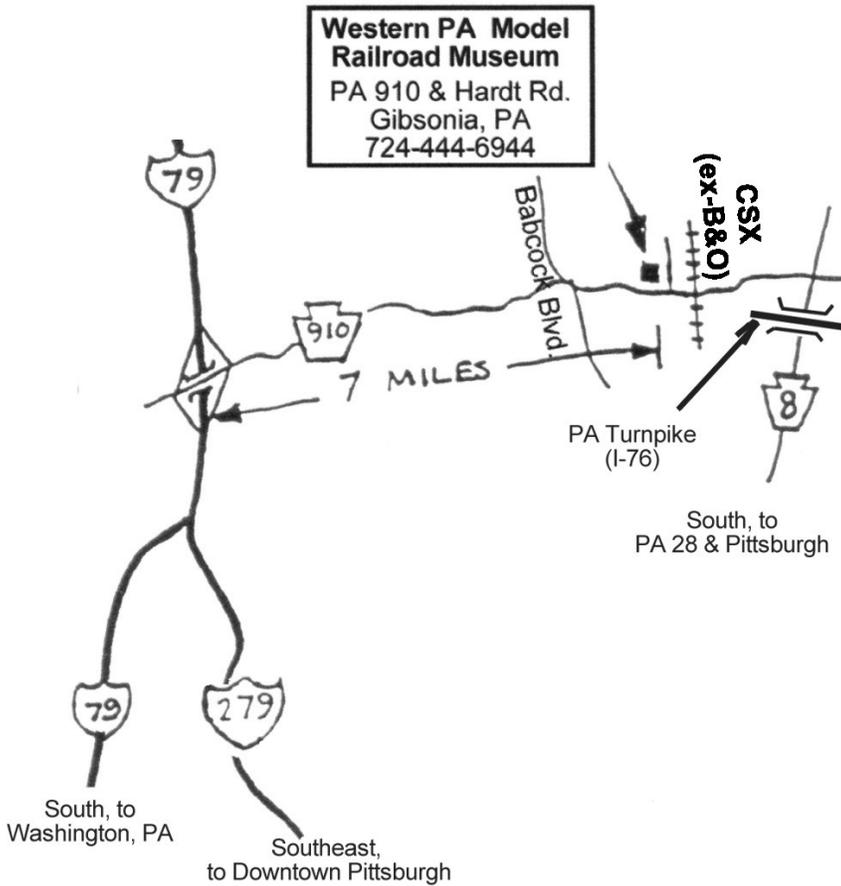
Many of you know Don Reed, who has been, and continues to be, a huge part of the development of my operations-oriented layout since literally the first 2x3 was cut over six years ago. Don is also "Ops Averse," but at least he, too, discovered his malady by experience.

Keystone Flyer

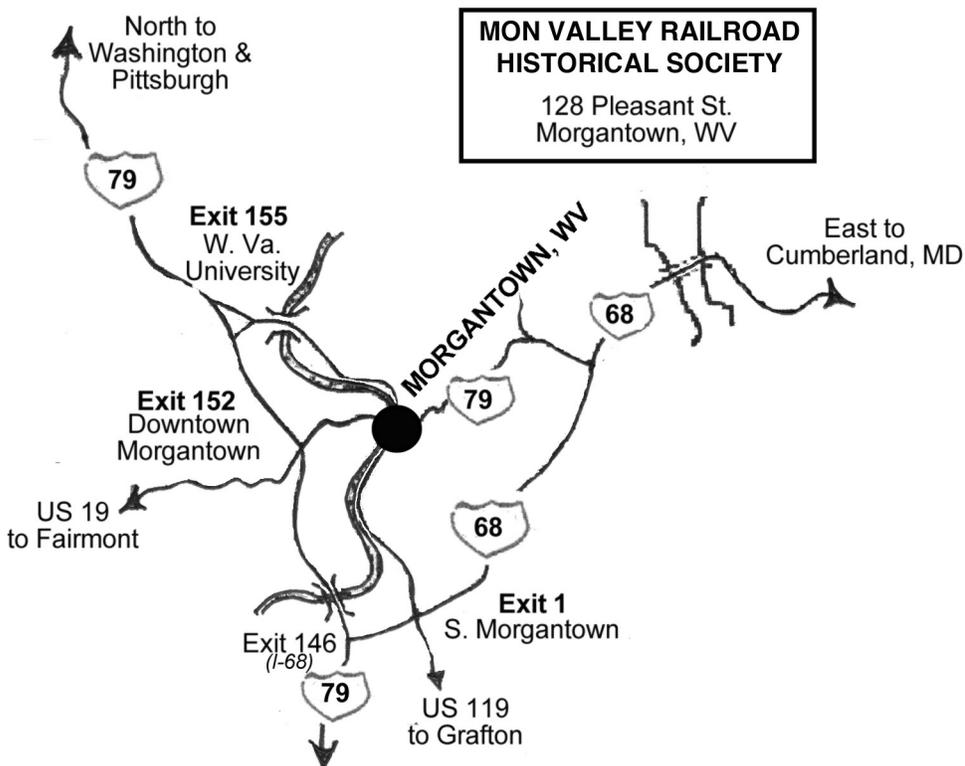
Don prefers watching trains run. I like to "scale rail-fan," too, which is why the trackplan is a continuous loop and why we included "railfanning sites" in the layout design as it evolved. Another familiar Div. 2 face, Jerry Kyslinger, who is at the throttle of the Tascott Shifter in the photos below, is standing in front of one of those scenes at lower-left ... that's "Reed Trestle" at center, by the way. Now, unlike me, Jerry isn't an ops evangelist, but he *does* like to "switch around" once in a while - sort of like having an occasional social drink. I hope others will at least give operations a try before becoming "Ops Averse." It's not habit forming, but it *can* expand your horizons in this wonderfully multi-faceted hobby of ours.



MAP TO THE FEBRUARY 15, 2015 MEETING

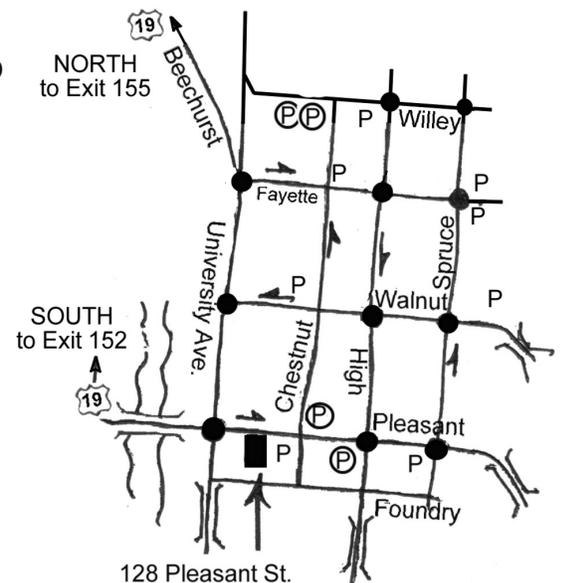


MAP TO THE MARCH 15, 2015 MEETING



DOWNTOWN MORGANTOWN, WV

Arrows denote One-Way traffic.
"P" is for parking; circle "P" are free lots.



The Keystone Flyer

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NEXT MEETING:
February 15, 2015
Western PA Model RR Museum
Gibsonia, PA

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