

May 2015



Vol. 57, Issue 5

THE *Keystone Flyer*

MCR
Div. 2



*Editor's Model of the Month
from the PRRT&HS Annual Meeting*

Division Meeting Schedule

May 17, 2015 - McKeesport Model RR Club, 2209 Walnut St, McKeesport, PA 15132
Layout open 12:30 - 5 PM
Meeting at 2:30 PM

June 28, 2015 - Youngstown Model RR Club, 751 North 4 Mile Run Rd, Youngstown, OH 44515
Layout open at 1:00 PM; Meeting at 2:30 PM

August 18, 2015 - **Annual Picnic**, Henley Park, Ferry Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056
Gathering starts at 12:30; food ready by 1:00 PM
Meeting following the food.

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

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 May Flyer:

June 5, 2015



From the Super's Desk

The Progression of Life

It's 1964, I'm taking ninth grade earth science, and our class goes on a field trip. Earth science was not my science class of choice but that was the next course in the sequence set out for me. I was more interested in biology or chemistry.

But what fun I have collecting 350 year old fossils from Devonian shales and limestones along a railroad track. That day I collect solitary corals so well preserved that authors of a popular book on fossils started their chapter on fossil corals with a description of the outcropping of rock over which we scrambled. A classic locality.

Not long after this I convinced my dad to take me back to the same spot. We had some trouble finding it but I recognized the locality by the small wooden bridge carrying the rural road over the track. This was the first of many times dad would take me and my friends fossil collecting across upstate New York and I eventually studied to be a geologist in college.

Meanwhile, ten years go by and my father has changed jobs, has more free time, and a new hobby: collecting glass and porcelain insulators. The most collectable were used on telegraph lines found along railroad tracks. One day we are back to that fossil collecting spot with the rural bridge over the railroad track, but now we are looking in the weeds and ditches for aqua-colored chunks of glass to set on the shelf or trade. Although we keep an eye out for trains they were rare as the birth of CONRAIL approaches. The rule is that insulators on poles are off-limits unless clearly abandoned and not attached to wires.

Twenty years go by, I have a family and the four of us are scrambling over shales and limestone at that outcropping south of Batavia. Having kids of my own I now understand my dad's patience while carting me and friends to prime fossil collecting sites thirty years earlier. To the joy of my kids, the gray shales yield a few specimens, but as I walk down the path of long-gone track I cannot find the outcropping of limestone that held the corals. This once-classic fossil collecting spot is now lost to me and probably to most of the world. That's not the only change. With the track gone, the bridge has been removed, the cut filled, and the road goes up and over the former mainline of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The LV was a late-comer to this part of New York State so its path did not even appeal as a rail trail.

But, maybe I should go back and check.

... Mike Hohn



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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 12:55 p.m. This month, the meeting was conducted as part of the 2015 Jamboree at the Sewell Center at Robert Morris University. Approximately 135 people attended the Jamboree including 20 non-NMRA guests. Susan explained to the guests how part of their entry fee could be used toward a 6 month trial membership.

The minutes from the previous meeting, as published in the Keystone Flyer, were approved as printed. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

It was pointed out that Don Cassler's layout will be open for tours tomorrow even though it's not in the handout.

The Superintendent thanked all who helped organize the Jamboree, including the Company Store and many others. We will probably be back at the Sewell Center next year, as it suits our needs well.

Reports

Editor of the Keystone Flyer: No report

Treasurer: There will be no report until after all the bills and receipts for the Jamboree are settled.

Programs: Keith stated that our May meeting will be at the McKeesport Club. The June meeting may be at the Youngstown club. If so, it will be on the last Sunday.

of the month to avoid conflict with Father's Day. It was moved and seconded to have the annual picnic on the 3rd Sunday of August as is traditional, despite a conflict with the NMRA National Convention. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The September meeting will be in Steubenville; the October meeting will be in Norwin and the November meeting will be in New Eagle.

There were no other committee reports except the achievement program.

Achievement Program: Dennis presented a certificate for Model Railroad Engineer - Electronics.

Old Business

The only Old Business was the presentation of the Modeler of the Year Award to Bill Defoe. The Superintendent had Bob Gallic present the award in recognition of his years of service running the Bring N' Brag competition.

New Business

There was no New Business. The clinics will resume at 2:00 p.m.

There was nothing for the Good of the Order.



Memories of Steam, Pt. 2: A Close Encounter for the "Cabot Kid" by Bill DeFoe

In the early 50's Missouri Pacific freight service through Cabot, Arkansas was handled by an almost endless parade of Mikados, with an occasional 4-8-4 thrown in. The Mikados were used for everything, from short peddler freights, to long tonnage trains. The heaviest of the Mikados, the 1401 class, could run with any train that they could start moving, and it was very common to see one of these heavy Mikes leading 100 or more cars. When necessary, they were double headed, and I once witnessed a triple header of Mikados in mid-winter with three pillars of white steam. Labor was cheap in those days.

The Mikados were so common that I began to take them for granted and only became excited when I saw a 4-8-4 Northern. Compared to more than 300 Mikados, the MoPac only had two classes of 4-8-4s with a grand total of 35 locomotives, so I didn't get to see one very often.

One day, I really lucked out. A southbound freight behind a big 4-8-4 paused at Cabot to pick up orders and I was on the station platform when she did. I stood as close as I dared, feeling her heat and listening to her breathing. This huge, monstrous machine must surely be alive.

Receiving his orders, the engineer cracked the throttle and the whole world exploded as the locomotive slipped

her drivers only inches away from my toes. I thought I was dead. The engineer backed up to take slack and tried again, with me at a much safer distance. For many years I believed that the engineer did that on purpose, but I have since changed my opinion. I was standing on the fireman's side of the loco so he couldn't have seen me, unless the fireman told him I was there.

Whether by intent or not, a huge steam locomotive with spinning drivers is something best witnessed at a distance.

of the Rockies RVN08619



MoPac 4-8-4 No. 2204 was photographed on the shop tracks in Jefferson City, MO on July 25, 1940.

Bring'n'Brag



FROM THE MODEL ROOM
at the Annual Meeting of the
Pennsylvania RR Technical & Historical Society

These pictures are from a module of Port Royal, PA ca. 1920 in HO scale by your editor's good friend and fellow-narrow gauge historian and modeler, George Pierson. At right, 3-foot gauge Tuscarora Valley 4-4-0 No. 3 is ready to depart for the southern end of the line at Blairs Mills. The locomotive is heavily kit-bashed to represent the prototype locomotive, and the passenger cars are either scratch built or also heavily kit-bashed to represent original prototypes. Below, there's heavy east-bound traffic but little going west at the moment on the Pennsy Middle Division under the old semaphore signals at Port Royal.

Donald Austel

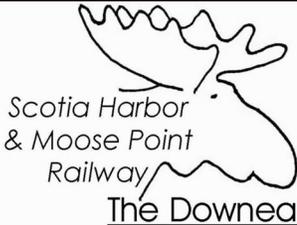


Bring'n'Brag Standings:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Marge Meehan	19	Steve Ross	5
Neal Schorr	12	Steven Schorr	4
Dick Flock	9	Dennis Vaccaro	4
Bryce Walat	8	Mark Vinsh	3
Marty Kraus	7	Hans Werner	3
Jim Kubanic	6	Mike Hohn	2
Bob DiBenedetto	5	John Polyak	1

Thanks to Keith DeVault for sending this photo of Bill DeFoe (left) receiving his Modeler of the Year plaque from recently retired B'n'B coordinator Paul Gallick.





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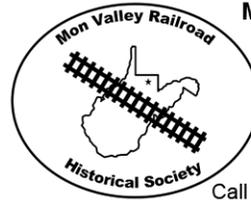
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NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

More from the model room at the PRRT&HS Annual Mtg...

This year's meeting was Apr. 30 - May 2 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA, and "a good time was had by all." There were lots of great models of PRR prototypes on display, including the fabulous model, below -- *in N-scale!!!* -- of MG (Midgrade) Tower between THE Curve and Gallitzen. Wow!



Fall Model Train Show and Sale

sponsored by
Beaver County Model Railroad & Historical Society

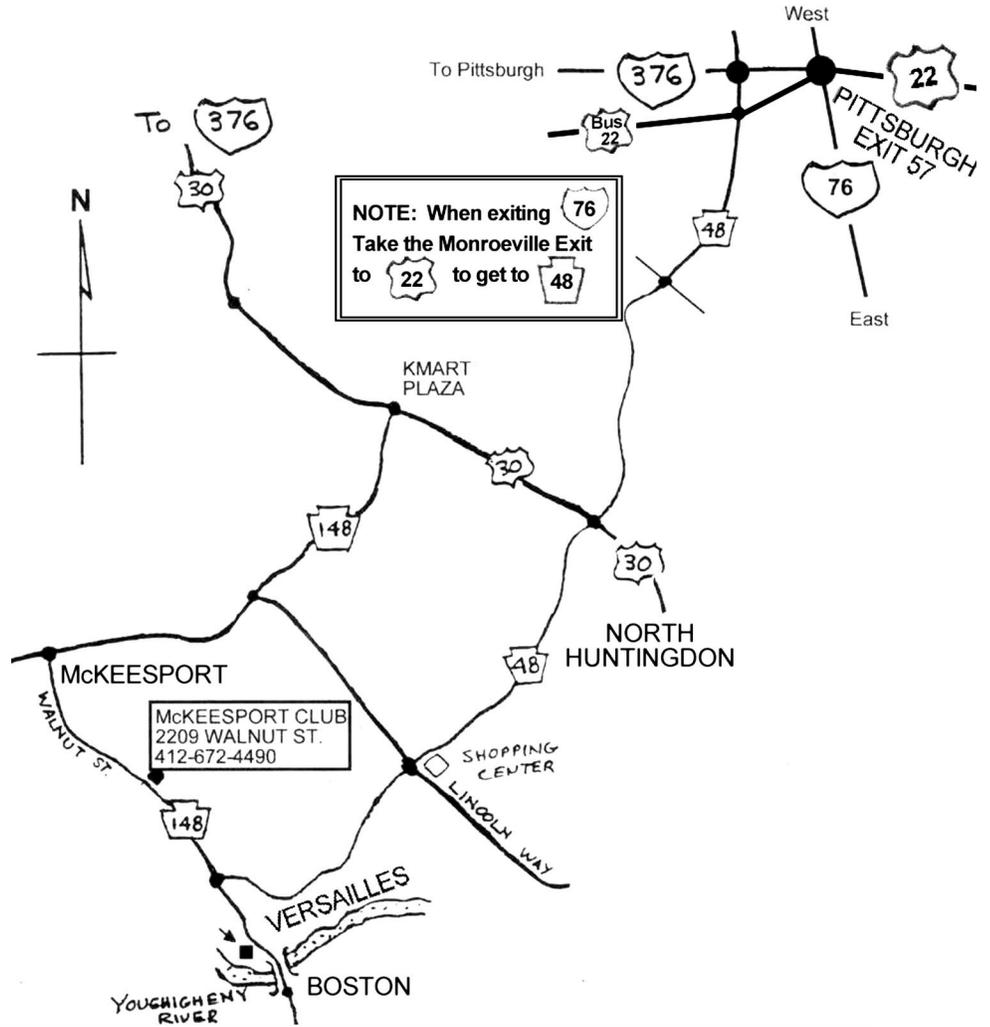
November 22, 2015, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Center Stage
1495 Old Brodhead Road
Monaca, Pa 15061
\$5.00 admission

Your editor really likes towers ... this HO model of WAWA Tower, below, in Chester, PA has a fully detailed interior, including model board.

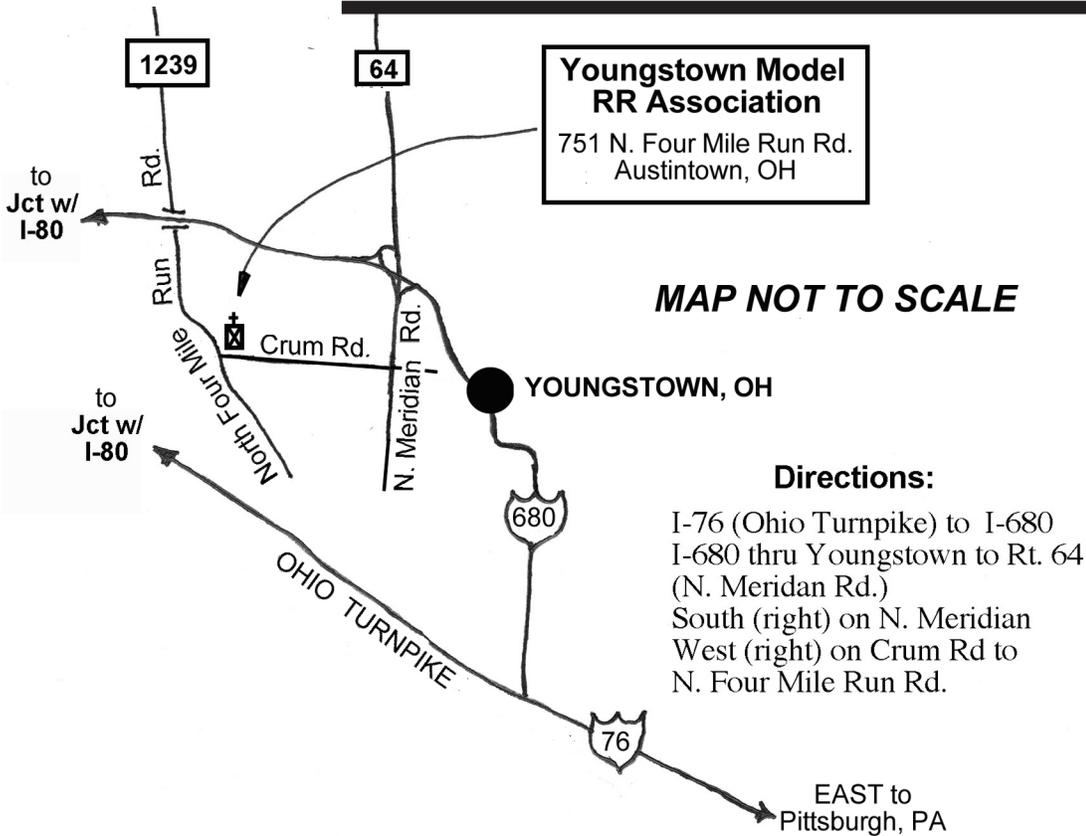


Closing out the PRR model-fest is this huge (by HO standards, at least) girder load. By the way, that was George Pierson's scratchbuilt model of the PRR passenger station at Port Royal pictured under Supt. Hohn's signature on Page 2.

MAP TO THE MAY 17, 2015 MEETING



MAP TO THE JUNE 28, 2015 MEETING



The Keystone Flyer

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NEXT MEETING:

May 17 2015

McKeesport Model Railroad Club
McKeesport, 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><i>Model Railroad, Museum, and Library</i></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>