

Should we revamp the Bring-n-Brag rules? (see p. 7)



Keystone Division members pose on OHIC 5032, one of the GPs that pulled us through the Ohi-Rail yard in Minerva, Ohio on September 16. Photo by Bob DiBenedetto.

Division Meeting Schedule

October 21, 2018 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Charlie Blenko: "Discovering the PRR Manor Branch"
Norwin Public Library
100 Caruthers Lane
Irwin, PA 15642
** 3 Layouts Open! See page 5 for details & maps **

November 18, 2018 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Program TBD
New Eagle VFD Social Hall
156 Chess Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

Get the Color Version of the Keystone Flyer as soon as it comes out and other Division 2 news flashes and announcements via email. Contact Susan Werner
swerner48@yahoo.com

Bring'n'Brag

Jan	Anything goes
Feb	Railroad stations
Mar	Paper industry
Apr	Jamboree
May	* no meeting *
Jun	Hopper bottom cars
Jul	Steam power
Aug	Structures
Sep	Lumber & Logging industry
Oct	Cabooses
Nov	Advertising & Signage

Submission Deadline for the next *Flyer*:

October 29, 2018

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



From the Super's Desk

We are approaching the time of the year that we, as model railroaders, I think get the most enjoyment. I am talking about November and National Model Railroad Month. Lots of open houses, the holiday season with train shows and little kids with their darling faces lighting up when they see a model railroad train. This is the time of the year that the yard work outside is done, and other outdoor activities are put on hold until next spring. This gives us the opportunity to spruce up our layouts, work on some things that we have put off during the summer, and then, speaking for myself, spend time with the grandkids in the holiday season.

I know that a new idea has been put before the membership on changing Bring-N-Brag. Please read this proposal (summarized on page 7 and discussed in full detail in the online edition, page 9) and try to attend the October meeting at the Norwin Public Library to learn about and vote on this change. We also will have 3 layouts open along with a program, so please plan on joining the group.

We are about six months away from our presentation to the Regional Convention in Youngstown, Ohio for our May 2020 "Steel City Express" Convention. So, I need all of you to put on your thinking caps and come up with some suggestions. It may be Non-Rail, Prototype Rail Events, layouts, or operating sessions that you think we should offer. We want to entice the membership that will be traveling to see the Pittsburgh area. The committee of 2012 did an outstanding job on that convention, and I would like to equal their accomplishment, so please share your ideas by emailing me at devaultkj@comcast.net.

... Keith DeVault

*** Please email all suggestions for our 2020 convention to Keith DeVault at devaultkj@comcast.net***

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES

McKeesport Model RR Club

Fridays: 12/07, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28 7-10pm
Saturdays: 12/08, 12/15, 12/22 1-7pm
Sundays: 12/09, 12/16, 12/23 2-6pm

Ohio Valley Lines (Ambridge, PA)

November 24-25 12-5pm
December 1-2/8-9/15-16/22-23/29-30 12-5pm
January 5-6 12-5pm

Mid-Mon Valley Model RR Club (New Eagle, PA)

November 24-25 12-5pm
December 1-2/8-9/15-16/22-23/29-30 12-5pm
January 5-6 12-5pm

Don't see your favorite club's holiday event here? Send me the details and I will publish them in the *Keystone Flyer*. Submissions should be sent by email to: patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com.

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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 and sent via e-mail directly to each member who chooses to receive the newsletter in this format. Alternatively, you may also read the *Flyer* online, or download a copy onto your computer or mobile device by navigating to the link on the Division Two website [<http://www.keystonedivision.org>]. Members without internet access or an e-mail address may request a printed copy from the Division; please send your 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 website.

Bring'N'Brag

Alden McBee



Mike Hohn won 1st place with his scratch built lumberyard (left). Dennis Vaccaro fashioned a logging Maintenance of Way train out of these a train show refugees to take 2nd place (below). , and Jim Braum won 3rd place for his abandoned Mack B logging tractor (above). Photos by Larry Willming.

The September 2018 Bring-n-Brag category was “logging and logging industry,” and there were six entries.

First place went to Mike Hohn for his HO scale scratch built lumberyard. The building is constructed from Mt. Albert sheet wood and with Bar Mills shingles, board on board platform, doors, and floor. The fencing, gate, flat car, and lumber piles were built from individual boards. Mike also entered a flatcar with lumber load, which was scratch built from 1892 car diagrams and photos.

In second place was Dennis Vaccaro’s HO logging maintenance train consisting of a filling car, a supply car, and a power car. Dennis noted that the models were rescued from a train show.



Neal Schorr entered an O scale PRR logging car, which was a stock Weaver wood side gondola and is still to be weathered. The log load was scratch-built from twigs from trees around his home and cut to length on a band saw. The logs were glued together with white glue in two layers but were assembled on a jig lined with wax paper so that once the glue dried, it could be dropped into the gondola and easily removed as desired.



Other entries included these logging flat cars in HO scale by Mike Hohn (above left) and Jim Braum (bottom left), and in O scale by Neal Schorr (right). Photos by Larry Willming.

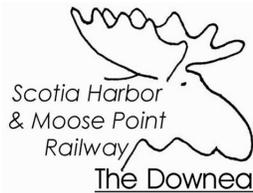


Thanks to all those who entered models. As always, a lot of thought, planning, and work went into these.

Third place was won by Jim Braum for his rusting Mack B series logging truck, which was abandoned in place following the death of its transmission. It is an HO scale metal and plastic kit from Wiseman Models complete with bullet holes in the glass. The hairspray method was used along with Badger paint and weathering powders. Scenic Express materials were used for the overtaking surrounding flora. Jim also entered a Tichy Trains flat car which he assembled, painted, decaled, and weathered. The load was hand-cut from scale lumber and has a hand-tied rope securing it.

Name	pts	Name	pts
Mike Hohn	47	Alden McBee	8
Neal Schorr	43	Margie Meehan	8
Jim Braum	42	George Pandelios	7
Dennis Vaccaro	29	Frank Benders	6
John Gallagher	12	Steve Ross	5
Joel Everly	8	Jim Whipple	4





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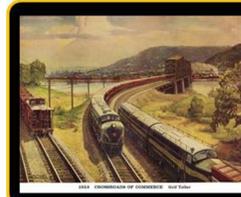
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PRR Panhandle Division



George Pandelios Chief Engineer
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HO/HON3

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http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=22893



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Route of the Whitetail



THE O.R.N. Ry BUNCH

15 LAYOUTS AND GROWING
N-HO-O-G



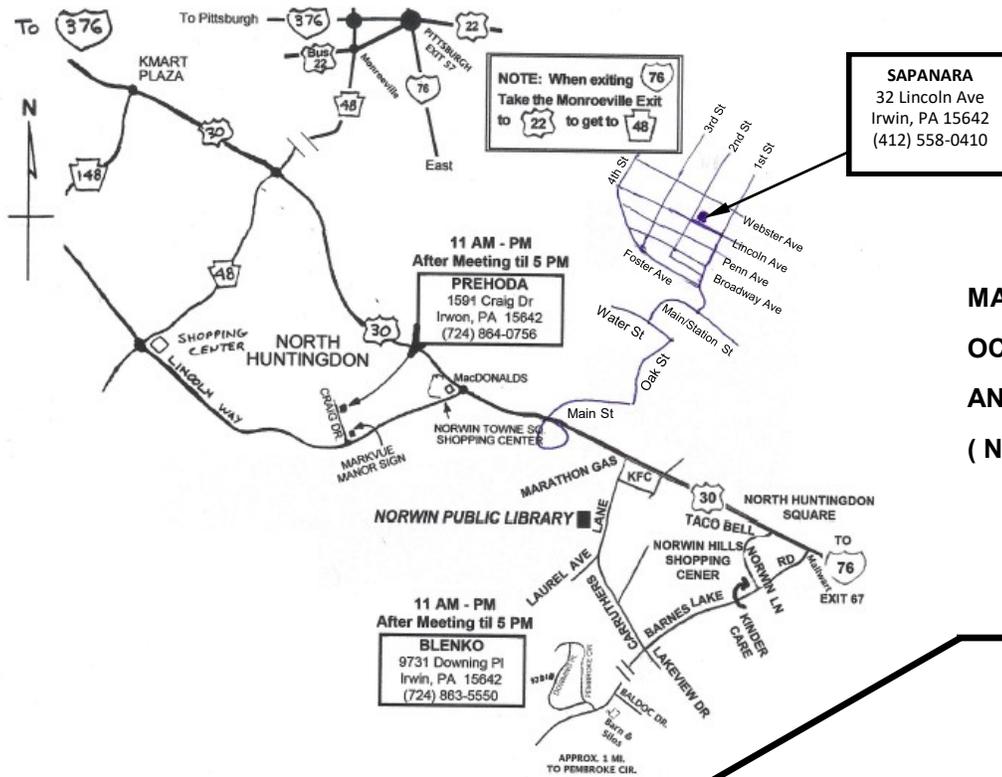
CONTACT
JOEL EVERLY
(740) 282-9854
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

October 21: Norwin Public Library / Tour 3 Layouts!

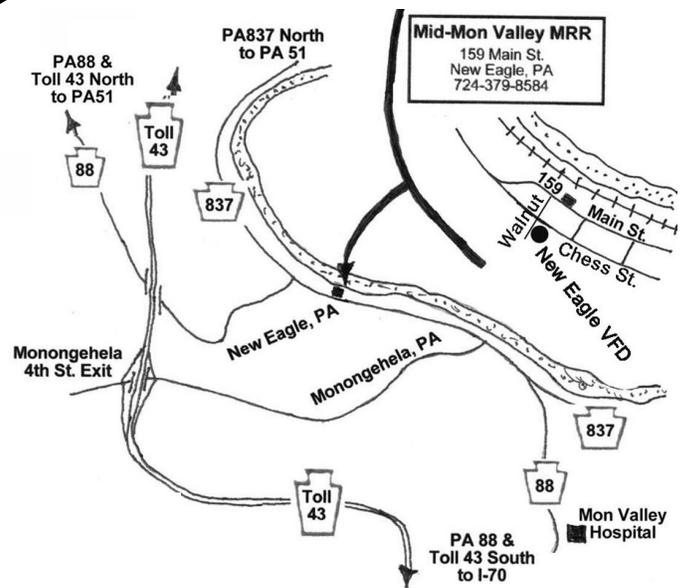
Get out to Irwin by 11am to get a look at three outstanding operations-oriented layouts before the meeting starts at 2:30pm. All three incorporate familiar regional themes, from Bob Prehoda's completely scenicked Huntingdon Northern, a coal-hauling and mixed freight bridge line connecting several larger Class I railroads in the Pittsburgh to Cumberland corridor in 1962; to Andy and Charlie Blenko's Pittsburgh Mainline, depicting Conrail (and Amtrak!) in the 1980s, with its intermodal traffic supported by some very solid benchwork, refined electronic controls, and scenery that is starting to take shape, and which employs some innovative techniques, such as DIY photo-backdrops and structure façades on outside walls to provide the depth the walls are denying them; to Kevin Sapanara's CP&D, the "youngest" of these pikes, whose two levels are inspired by (and depict) the Chessie System between Connellsville and Pittsburgh. All three layouts are HO scale, and they will be open from 11am to 2pm before the meeting, and possibly after the meeting pending interest.

After the meeting **Charlie Blenko** is presenting the PRR Manor Branch as a case study of how field trips and aerial mapping can be used to trace abandoned rail lines. His presentation will also touch on the modeling and operational potential of this particular branch line.



**MAP FOR THE
OCTOBER 21, 2018 MEETING
AND LOCAL LAYOUTS
(NOT TO SCALE)**

**MAP FOR THE
NOVEMBER 18, 2018 MEETING
IN NEW EAGLE, PA
(LOCAL LAYOUT MAPS TO BE PUBLISHED IN
THE NOVEMBER FLYER)
(NOT TO SCALE)**



September 16, 2018 Business Meeting

Filling in for Superintendent Keith DeVault, Assistant Superintendent Frank Benders gavelled the meeting open at 2:31 PM. He thanked Ohi-Rail Corporation for their hospitality, tour of facilities and locomotive ride. When he asked the membership about the ride, wild applause broke out.

There were two guests present. One was Ned Kluth's son. The other guest was Neal Schorr's daughter Caroline.

The minutes from last month's meeting as published in the Flyer were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Vagel Keller was not present, but Pat Altdorfer informed the membership that the deadline for the October Flyer will be September 19. Items for the November Flyer have a deadline of October 29.

Treasurer Jeff Gregg was not present, but Susan Werner reported that the division is solvent.

Programs: Assistant Superintendent Frank Benders reminded everyone that next month's meeting will be in Irwin, PA and will feature Andy Blenko's presentation. There will be 3 lay-outs, including Andy's to visit.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported that the store was in her car and open for business and that she had a number of Division 1 as well as laser-cut kits for sale in HO and N scale. Book orders are being taken; the Union Railroad book has gotten some good reports. Susan is taking calendar orders for next year.

Membership: Tom Gaus was not present. Frank noted that he believes the membership number is down to 200.

Website: Frank noted that Tom has had some success getting PayPal on the website, but it is not yet ready.

Free Mo: Pat Altdorfer reported that they are currently dismantling the loop and rebuilding it. The group is working towards preparing for the January show.

Bring-N-Brag: Alden McBee reported that there were 6 entries. Please vote.

Video Library: Bud Brock was not present so there was no report.

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro did not have anything to report for the AP, but urged the membership to get any of their paperwork in.

Old Business:

Dennis Vaccaro noted that he had all 4 building kits in all scales (N, HO, S, O) for the convention for sale. Please come buy them!

New Business:

Proposed changes to the Bring-N-Brag contest: Neal Schorr raised an issue with the current rules and organization of the Bring-N-Brag, involving possible changes to the scoring criteria and the categories. [*This discussion is summarized separately on page 7. -Editor*] Neal suggested that if these rule changes were adopted that they only take effect in 2019. Alden recommended that these rule changes appear in the Flyer and then be considered for a vote at next month's meeting. A voice vote to put these proposed changes in the Flyer passed unanimously.

Steel City Express Convention (May 2020): Frank reminded the membership that Keith DeVault is still in need of committee chairpersons to assist in preparations for the 2020 Convention. Please contact Keith for details and to volunteer. Susan Werner noted that accounts for the Convention remain in the black (solvent).

For the Good of the Division: None.

Bring-N-Brag: Please vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 PM.

The program on the predecessors and history of Ohi-Rail Corporation followed.



A few shots of Ohi-Rail's roster of motive power that we saw during our yard tour. Photos by Patrick Altdorfer.



Neal Schorr asked for the floor at the meeting and made a few suggestions regarding possible changes to the Bring-n-Brag rules. Vigorous discussion followed, after which the members present took a vote to publish Neal's suggestions in this issue of the *Flyer* (the **full text of Neal's proposal is on page 10 online**, the outline of his argument is presented here for the print edition), and then to take action on these rules at our next monthly membership meeting, on Sunday, October 21 at Norwin Public Library in Irwin. Here is a summary of Neal's proposal and our clerk's minutes of the discussion at the meeting that followed his suggestions.

I do not agree with the contest rules allowing a member to enter two models each month. I was not aware that this was permissible until I won first place in January, but ended up with a lower number of points than someone who entered two models that same month. The rules were changed before so that members could enter only one (as I recall) model per month. For the August contest, even though I submitted a model that came in third place, by entering a second model, I got more points for the month than the first place winner. This is the second time this year that I benefited from the current rules. Basically, this has parallels to winning by "stuffing the ballot box" by the entrant.

I also take issue with the idea of giving extra points for scratch building and kitbashing the model. This is a "People's Choice" sort of contest, not a judged one, and there are no rules governing what is truly scratch built or kitbashed, as there would be with a judged contest. The judging should simply award three points for first place, two for second, and one for third place. I think it is also fair to give an extra point if you match the category for the month, which has always been the case for the 35 years that I have been a member of Division 2. The provision to add a point for just entering ... rightly provides recognition for those who have entered the contest, [but] their participation is adequately acknowledged in the monthly Bring 'n Brag write up in

the *Flyer*. This extra point is just another needless complication, and should be eliminated as well.

Simplification of the scoring system would also make life much easier for those running the Bring 'n Brag at each meeting. **But of everything I have brought up, the most important change would be that starting with the 2019 Bring 'n Brag, we should allow just one entry per member so that the person awarded the most points is the member who received the most votes, NOT the one who entered the most models.**

A second unrelated issue deals with the category of the month. I think **we should stick with the NMRA categories which are broad and motivate people to enter.** This was obvious in August when the category was structures, and we got at least 8 entries, all of which were fine models. For those who disagree, I would suggest that we try using broad categories for a year, and if it doesn't improve participation, we can always go back to more narrow categories. Finally, including a photo contest category one month would also put us in line with National, and typically, since photos are pretty easy to print and mount, this should draw lots of entries.

In conclusion, although I have benefited from some of the current rules, I argue we should change them because I don't think they are fair.

PROPOSED BRING 'N BRAG RULES

Scoring:

- 1) First place entry: 3 points
 - 2) Second place entry: 2 points
 - 3) Third place entry: 1 point
 - 4) Category match: 1 point
- * Only ONE entry per member per month *

Categories:

- 1) Anything Goes (January)
- 2) Motive Power - Diesel and Traction
- 3) Motive Power - Steam
- 4) Freight Cars
- 5) Caboose
- 6) Passenger Cars
- 7) Non-Revenue Cars
- 8) Structures
- 9) Photos – prototype and model

Excerpted from the Clerk's Minutes:

Neal Schorr raised an issue with the current rules and organization of the Bring-N-Brag, involving possible changes to the scoring criteria and the categories. His understanding (as many members concurred) was that members were only permitted 1 entry. He was surprised to learn that the limit is actually 2. Alden McBee stated that individuals making multiple entries every month could, in theory, win Modeler of the Year without ever taking a monthly 1st place award. Alden also noted that there are currently points assigned for either kitbashing (1) or scratch building (2), 1 point for entering, and 1 point for a model meeting the month's category.

Neal suggested making revisions to the scoring criteria, and he also recommended revisiting the categories [see box at right—editor]. He stated that the current categories are too narrow, e.g. Drover's Caboose. He doubted that many members in the Eastern United States know what a Drover's caboose is. [Clerk's note: A drover's caboose is a combination caboose / passenger car used by cattlemen transporting their herds to market.]

Neal suggested that if these rule changes were adopted that they only take effect in 2019. Alden recommended that these rule changes appear in the *Flyer* and then be considered for a vote at next month's meeting. A voice vote to put these proposed changes in the *Flyer* passed unanimously.

The Keystone Flyer
 Division Two, NMRA, MCR
 P.O. Box 223
 Gastonville, PA 15336



NEXT MEETING - October 21, 2018
 Norwin Public Library
 100 Caruthers Lane
 Irwin, PA 15642

 <p>Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society 128 Pleasant Street Morgantown, WV 26505</p> <p>Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 PM</p> <p>www.MVRCC.org Call Rich Henderson (304) 276-1046 for more info</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</p> <p>Open Wednesday & Friday Evenings</p>	 <p><i>Model Railroad Museum Library</i></p> <p>A modeler's information resource! OPEN every Monday 7:30 - 10 PM</p> <p>www.ohiovalleylines.org • info@ohiovalleylines.org • 724-226-4787 Memberships Available!!</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</p> <p>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>

Herewith the full guest column by Neal Schorr discussing his suggestions for possible changes to the Bring-n-Brag rules, to take effect in calendar year 2019, if the Division adopts these changes at our regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, October 21 at Norwin Public Library in Irwin, PA. Please read this proposal and make time to attend the October meeting.

I'm writing this editorial at the request of the Division secretary and Flyer editor to summarize the comments I made regarding the Bring 'n Brag at the September Division meeting. As I expressed there, I do not agree with the contest rules allowing a member to enter two models each month. I was not aware that this was permissible until I won first place in January, but ended up with a lower number of points than someone who entered two models that same month. Years ago, members could enter an unlimited number of models, and individuals entering half a dozen or more shake the box kits were accumulating more points than those entering a single truly fine model. I brought this up at the time, and the rules were eventually changed so that members could enter only one (as I recall) model per month.

For the August contest, even though I submitted a model that came in third place, by entering a second model, I got more points for the month than the first place winner, which I do not think is fair. This is the second time this year that I have benefited from the current rules, and as I mentioned above, I got dinged back in January. Basically, this has parallels to winning by "stuffing the ballot box" by the entrant.

I also take issue with the idea of giving extra points for scratch building and kitbashing the model. This was never the case until a number of years ago, when someone suggested this modification of the scoring rules, and it was approved. This is a "People's Choice" sort of contest, not a judged one, and there are no rules governing what is truly scratch built or kitbashed, as there would be with a judged contest. Again, I have benefited from this rule, but I don't think it's fair.

The judging should simply award three points for first place, two for second, and one for third place. I think it is also fair to give an extra point if you match the category for the month, which has always been the case for the 35 years that I have been a member of Division 2. The provision to add a point for just entering doesn't harm anyone, but it doesn't help anyone either. While it rightly provides recognition for those who have entered the contest, their participation is adequately acknowledged in the monthly Bring 'n Brag write up in the Flyer. This extra point is just another needless complication, and should be eliminated as well.

Simplification of the scoring system would also make life much easier for those running the Bring 'n Brag at each meeting. They are entitled to enjoy the meeting just like the rest of us, and should not have to hover around the model table as entries come in, figuring out what is scratch built or kitbashed. Furthermore, it's already enough of a rush for them to hurry up and count the votes at the end of each business meeting and before the program begins. They should not have the added burden of an overly complex scoring system.

But of everything I have brought up, the most important change would be that starting with the 2019 Bring 'n Brag, we should allow just one entry per member so that the person awarded the most points is the member who received the most votes, NOT the one who entered the most models.

A second unrelated issue deals with the category of the month, which I have been bringing up for years. I think that since we have ten meetings a month, and National has roughly ten categories of contest entries, we should stick with those categories which are broad and motivate people to enter. This was obvious in August when the category was structures, and we got at least 8 entries, all of which were fine models. The most absurd example of doing the opposite was years ago when the category was "drover's caboose." I didn't have any idea what a drover's caboose was, and if my recollection is correct, we did not get a single entry that matched the category that month. For those who disagree, I

would suggest that we try using broad categories for a year, and if it doesn't improve participation, we can always go back to more narrow categories.

Finally, including a photo contest category one month would also put us in line with National, and typically, since photos are pretty easy to print and mount, this should draw lots of entries as it does at the National and Regional level.

I intentionally brought the scoring issue up at the September meeting since I had the highest Bring 'n Brag point total going into that meeting, and I did not want it to appear as though I was making a "sour grapes" sort of argument. I also entered an incomplete model in which the load was completely scratch built, but the model was right out of the box. The purpose was to demonstrate my point regarding what actually constitutes a scratch built model. Was my entry scratch built and qualify for an extra point? Who knows for sure since there are no rules governing this aspect of the Bring 'n Brag.

I believe in putting my money where my mouth is, so as such, I will not enter further models in the Bring 'n Brag for the balance of 2018. This should end any chance of me earning the "Modeler of the Year" award.

A summary of the rules that I have proposed follows. I look forward to your support on this matter. The opinions that I have expressed here are strictly my own. My ONLY goal is to make the rules fair for all entrants and to maximize participation in the Bring 'n Brag.

PROPOSED BRING 'N BRAG RULES

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- 6) Passenger Cars
- 7) Non-Revenue Cars
- 8) Structures
- 9) Photos – prototype and model



Thanks to Bob DiBenedetto, who arranged for our outing at the Ohi-Rail facility in Minerva, Ohio in September (and who submitted this group photo). This meeting was a bit of a hike for many of us, but it paid off handsomely in that we toured the yard not on foot (as many expected) but by rail! Our hosts lashed up a former CP or CN caboose to five of their diesel engines, including this GP 38-2 (that appears to be former NS 5325), which pulled us across the road, into and through the yard, and then across another road before pushing us back through the other side of the yard. Several of our members who arrived early were treated to this trip in the cabs of these locomotives!

Along this approximately 45 minute ride, we had a chance to see many car types. I did not count them, but my impression was that most of the cars spotted in the yard, waiting for work, were tank cars, but there was also a smattering of covered hoppers and boxcars too. A surprise lurked on the “far side” of the yard, which we saw up close on our return trip back to the engine shed: two heavyweight passenger cars and yet another diesel locomotive. The heavyweights had seen better days, but their former glory could still be felt peering out at us from under layers of crusty paint and faded wood. These particular prototypes looked like someone had “gone overboard” with the weathering!

After the business meeting, Chris Syme presented information about the NYC’s Piney Fork Division, which is the forerunner of the railroad we visited. After his program, he invited the remaining members to his home to see his layout, spectacularly decked out with scenery and a cache of interesting railroad artifacts, including an engineer’s seat and instrument panel, replete with throttle (that operates his model locomotives—this was a first in my experience!) His basement layout was completed in about 4 years after a devastating water pipe break ruined his previous layout, making the completeness of this layout all the more amazing. “Well done, Chris!”

Here are some more highlights of our visit to Ohi-Rail Corporation in Minerva, Ohio.



Yard views from the caboose (counterclockwise, from top right): torpedo box; tank cars; open hopper cars; several older diesel locomotives; a heavy-weight coach of the "Minerva Scenic RR."



Back at the engine house (a huge Quonset hut), we also saw #3960, a partially dismantled 0-6-0 switcher and tender, and a modern diesel engine, AOSX #460 (an F40M-2C, which started life in 1977 as Amtrak #269).



Keystone Flyer



Here are some of the highlights of Chris Syme's layout.



That throttle (top right) controls the locomotive cabs! Chris has modeled (continuing clockwise) a coal dock, an abandoned coal mine, a railyard, a town (with an operating gantry crane at the scrap yard in back), and an active coal mine. Photos by Patrick Altdorfer.

