



Mark Vinski won first place in the November Bring'n'Brag with a print processed by Kodak from the Ektachrome slide he took "at first light in late summer 1970 after spending the night at Amblersburg, West Virginia on the West End of the B&O's Cumberland Division." Mark scanned this image from his original slide for the enjoyment of our readers. Thank you, Mark!

## Division Meeting Schedule

**January 19, 2020** - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm

**MEETING LOCATION CHANGED:**

Ohio Valley Lines

1225 Merchant Street

Ambridge, PA 15003

Layouts open before meeting at 11:30am

Program: Steve Ross: 40 Years of Railfan Photography

**February 16, 2020** - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm

Rochester Area Heritage Society (open 12:30pm-4pm)

350 Adams Street, 2nd Floor, Rochester, PA 15074

Program: TBD

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](mailto:swerner48@yahoo.com)

## Bring'n'Brag

Jan	Anything goes
Feb	Motive Power: Diesel, Electric & Traction
Mar	Motive Power: Steam
Apr	Freight Cars
May	* MCR Regional Convention *
Jun	Non-Revenue (incl. cabooses)
Aug	Passenger Cars
Sep	Vehicles
Oct	Structures
Nov	Prototype Photos

**Submission Deadline for February Flyer:**  
January 26, 2020

Visit us online at  
[keystonedivision.org](http://keystonedivision.org)



## From the Super's Desk

By the time you read this article, the holidays will be over and we are starting a new year of 2020. I hope that each one of you and your family enjoyed the many blessings of Christmas and New Year's. With this new year, I hope many new things will be forthcoming to the Keystone Division. We will have new leadership in place in May, along with the regional convention to be held May 28-31, 2020 at the Doubletree by Hilton at Greentree.

On a more personal topic, I recently hosted an operating session on the Aspen Sub with four guests from the state of Pennsylvania and six local gentlemen from Morgantown and Fairmont. We ran over 20 trains without much difficulty, and a few of the visitors commented how well the layout ran. Much as I would like to take credit for being some kind of genius designer/builder, I am very far from being either. In fact, I would say that I am barely able to operate/repair the electronics involved in my DCC System.

It helps to have friends, especially the ones who know about what they are doing. This is why Model Railroading is fun! Being in such a fine Division, with the friendship, the knowledge and comradery that you acquire is priceless. I have learned from all of you about this hobby, and also the layouts I have visited over the years how well that they operate. A very dear friend of mine in model railroading circles told me years ago that you need to run your own railroad. Make up some trains and run them as you would for your operating session. Don't wait until a group of people visit the layout, some that may have traveled two hours to enjoy your layout, and have the railroad crash or become inoperative. No railroad is perfect, and all layout owners who have hosted either an operating session or open house will tell you of the so called "Murphy's Law." Something about the layout being open to the public: it will act up in front of a crowd. This is a friendly reminder that if you are planning to have an operating session or an open house during the upcoming Steel City Express Convention, now is the time to check out Murphy's Law on your layout.

As was mentioned and announced at our last meeting at New Eagle, Dennis Vaccaro has stepped down from the T-Trak Committee and now it has been turned over to Richie Jodon and Jim Braum. I would like to give a special thank you to Dennis for all his hard work in getting T-Trak in our division up and running and making it one of the best in the Region. I believe that Dennis has shown Richie and Jim the ins and outs of leadership for this committee, and I think this will show at the convention in May, where we expect to have up to 100 T-Trak Modules on display.

... Keith DeVault

### Division Elected Officers

#### Superintendent

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

#### Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs

Frank Benders  
fbenders@comcast.net

#### Chief Clerk

George Pandelios  
(717) 503-3192  
gpandelios@verizon.net

### Division Appointed Officers

#### Treasurer

Jeff Gregg  
(724) 348-5855  
jwg625@comcast.net

#### Company Store

Susan Werner  
(724) 379-8584  
swerner48@yahoo.com

#### Achievement Program

Dennis Vaccaro  
(724) 929-2190  
vaccaro\_dennis@yahoo.com

#### Bring'n'Brag

Arely Mitchell  
arlemitchell@frontier.net

#### Webmaster & Membership

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

#### Keystone Flyer Editor

Patrick Altdorfer  
(412) 559-3079  
patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com

#### Convention Committee

Jim Sacco                      ctyclsscs@aol.com  
Grier Kuehn                   gekuehn@comcast.net  
Gary Carmichael            prorr@aol.com  
Andy Blenko                   awblenko@comcast.net

#### Module Committees

FreeMo (HO scale) group  
Patrick Altdorfer            patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com  
  
T-Trak (N scale) group  
Richie Jodon                richjodon30@gmail.com  
Jim Braum                   jimmy\_braum@yahoo.com

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 [[www.keystonedivision.org](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: Patrick Altdorfer, Editor, 6333 Morrowfield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. 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 in full color on the Division website.

# Bring'N'Brag



This month's subject was "Prototype Photos." We had 6 entries. First Place -- Mark Vinski, B&O on Cranberry Grade (photo above). I've spent some time at this location, which is Amblersburg, WV. I'm not "seasoned" enough though to have seen any F units there though!

Second Place -- Alden McBee, Chessie Steam Special, at Squirrel Hill, PA, 1978 (photo below). Great Picture, Alden!



Third Place -- Neal Schorr, Rockville Bridge. Super job, Neal!!



Thank you to the contest participants, who provided me with high resolution images for publication in this issue of the Flyer!  
- the Editor

# Arley Mitchell

Other entries were also offered by our members:

Jim Braum -- WLE at Large, PA. I've liked this version of the WLE paint scheme from the start.



Bob DiBenedetto -- Division Picture at Ohi-Rail, Minerva, Ohio, September 2018. Do we all remember that day when we piled on the engines and cabooses for a quick ride to

their yard and back?

[Editor's Note: A similar picture was featured on the cover of the October 2018 issue of the Keystone Flyer.]

George Pandelios -- Hot Metal Car at Weirton Steel Blast Furnace #4. I liked this one as I have a blast furnace on my railroad and am interested in steel operations.



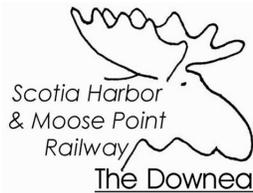
Excellent work by all entrants!!

Thank all of you for your participation this past year in the Bring and Brag. We've got a great group of people who regularly contribute. Participating in the Bring and Brag isn't that difficult and you learn a lot doing that. It broadens your modeling skills and gives you an idea of how well your models look in other's minds. There is plenty of room for new talent!! Let's see how we can all do in 2020.

## FINAL STANDINGS 2019

Name	pts	Name	pts
Jim Braum	16	Mark Vinski	3
Dennis Vaccaro	8	Neal Schorr	3
George Pandelios	6	Richie Jodon	2
Bob DiBenedetto	4	Alden McBee	2
Joel Everly	4	Arley Mitchell	2
		Susan Werner	2





Susan Werner, CEO  
292 Salem Church Rd.  
Belle Vernon, PA 15012  
swerner48@yahoo.com

## Cumberland and Lake Erie Railroad



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D. E. Baker, V.P. of Operations  
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## HUNTINGDON NORTHERN RAILWAY



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## PRR Panhandle Division



George Pandellos Chief Engineer  
Member: NMRA, TCA, PRRT&HS  
717.503.3192 gpandelios@verizon.net



The ASPEN SUB along the B&O  
from Morgantown to Keyser

Keith and Janet DeVault  
546 Aspen Street, Morgantown, WV  
(304) 276-2509 devaultkj@comcast.net



Richard H. Flock, CEO  
337 Elm Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-850-8882



## Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern Railroad

Vagel Keller, Gen'l. Manager  
vckeller@comcast.net

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## PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD NORTH JERSEY BRANCH

John W. Wesner  
Owner & Chief Engineer  
3844 Henley Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
412-731-7393 wesnerj@asme.org



## PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD MIDDLE DIVISION

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email: drfergie44@gmail.com

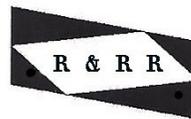


## BALTIMORE & OHIO WESTERN MARYLAND Consolidated Rail System



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## Rutland & Rock Ridge

232 Old Farm Road  
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Haulin' Black Diamonds

Fred Roney, President  
fredron@zoominternet.net



## FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO  
Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey  
207 State Street  
Woodbury, PA 16695  
gpnastase02j20@gmail.com

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

## Jan. 19: Ohio Valley Lines

Note that the **meeting location has been CHANGED** to the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club, at 1225 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA 15003, at 2:30pm. Before the meeting, you are invited to visit the club's HO and N scale layouts from 11:30am. Steve Ross will present "40 Years of Railfan Photography"—featuring vintage 35mm slides—and explain the difficulty of trying to decide what to model based on that railfanning.

## Feb. 16: Rochester Area Heritage Society

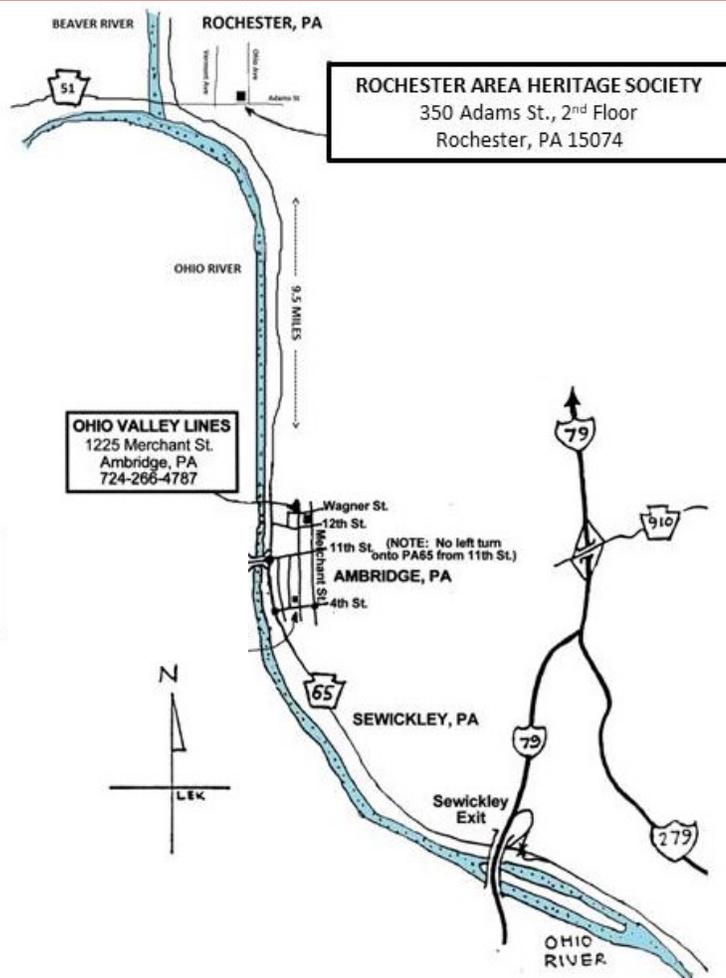
This is our second meeting at this historical society. It is located 9.5 miles north of Ambridge on PA-65, at 350 Adams Street, Rochester, PA 15074. The Society will open for us at 12:30pm; arrive early so you can see the detailed layout and museum displays upstairs. The museum will remain open for a short time after the meeting. The program is not yet finalized at this writing.

### MAP FOR THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS

#### Meeting sites

January 19, 2020:  
**OHIO VALLEY LINES**  
1225 Merchant Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003

February 16, 2020:  
**ROCHESTER AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
350 Adams Street, 2nd Floor  
Rochester, PA 15074



*Mark your Calendars!*



**STEEL CITY EXPRESS  
2020 Mid Central NMRA  
Region Convention!  
May 28-31, 2020**

## November 19, 2019 Business Meeting

Superintendent Keith DeVault gaveled the meeting open at 2:30 PM. He thanked Susan Werner, Dennis Vaccaro, and the members of the Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad Club for hosting the meeting.

The hat was passed. We had no guests or new members.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the last issue of the Keystone Flyer.

### Committee Reports:

**Flyer:** Pat Altdorfer reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions to the Keystone Flyer will be 1 week from today (November 25). He is shooting for publication just after Christmas. Keith reminded the membership that it is time to renew or add pike advertisements in the Flyer. If you want to place or renew an ad, please let him know.

**Treasurer:** Jeff Gregg reported that the division was solvent. Andy Blenko reported that the Convention account is solvent.

**Programs:** Frank Benders reminded everyone that there was no December meeting and that the next meeting would be in January. ~~Please note that it will not be at the traditional venue. Instead it will be held at the Eagles Club on 4<sup>th</sup> and Maple in Ambridge.~~ **[The January meeting site has since been changed to the Ohio Valley Lines, Ambridge. – ed.]** The program will be “40 Years of Railfanning” and will be shown on 35mm slides. Andy Blenko noted that the Norwin Library will not be available for next year’s October meeting. It was suggested that he look for a September date. Susan Werner indicated that this venue and the Norwin Library could be swapped for October and November, respectively.

**Company Store:** Susan Werner reported that the store was open and that she has NYC boxcars, a handcar shed that can be transformed into any number of useful structures, and is taking orders for books. She delivered all calendars ordered for 2020.

**Membership:** Tom Gaus reported that membership now stands at 228. We have two new members, Tracy Boyd and Allan Dietzen.

**Website:** Tom Gaus reported that the white elephant page is active. This will allow you to enter your items for sale. It will also retain it, allowing you to leave the site and return. When complete, please print out the form and bring it to the Convention.

**Free-Mo:** Pat Altdorfer reported that Free-Mo had a successful outing at the Greenberg show last weekend. They fielded a 20’x25’ layout, and the group donated \$60 from its participation honorarium to the Jerry Kyslinger estate.

**Bring-N-Brag:** Arley Mitchell reported that there were 6 entries.

**Video Library:** Bud Brock was not present, therefore there was no report.

**Achievement Program:** Dennis Vaccaro announced that Rich-

ard Turton (not present) had been awarded the Achievement Program Volunteer certificate. He noted that 2019 had been a very busy year with 6 Golden Spike awards, 4 Merit Certificates, and 6 Achievement Program certificates being given out.

Dennis indicated that the sales of items from Jerry Kyslinger’s estate had gone very well, raising over \$2,100 for the family. Many books and building kits were still left – please buy some. And he thanked all that had come by and purchased items.

Further, Dennis noted that 4 convention building kits had been sold today and that the project was nearly at the break-even point.

**T-Trak:** Dennis announced that certificates had been received from the Greenberg show. There was lots of interest. He estimates that the T-Trak modules were seen by hundreds of people. He also noted that it had been 1 year since he volunteered to lead this effort. The division T-Trak effort has exceeded that of the Region’s expectations because of our members. Dennis wants to see 100 modules at the Convention; about 1800 feet are available for this purpose. He also announced that he is retiring as Co-chairman and introduced his successor – Richie Jodon. Jim Braum will continue to be Co-chair handling social media site among other things. T-Trak = fun! They each spoke, encouraging the membership to get involved. They are available to help with module construction or advice. Modules can have many fun themes – Star Wars, Legos, prototype railroading, etc. Richie noted that some of these T-Trak modules have tunnels (very novel) which were made by his wife, Laura. If you are interested, please check out Facebook T-Trak or the Keystone Division website. They expect to do 4 or more shows a year. Participation in T-Trak can help members earn Engineer or Merit awards or the Volunteer AP certificate.

### Old Business:

The review of the Bring-N-Brag categories generated a great deal of discussion. Jim Braum requested that 1 point be given for all entries regardless of whether they won anything. Dennis Vaccaro asked for less restrictive categories. Keith DeVault instructed Arley Mitchell to take these requests under consideration and present a recommendation at the January meeting.

### New Business:

The slate of officers and nominations were the topic for this category. Mike Hohn indicated that the following individuals had decided to run for division offices: Frank Benders – Division Superintendent, Andy Blenko – Assistant Superintendent, and George Pandelios – Chief Clerk. He noted that the constitution requires nominations by January and that additional nominations were welcome until then. A protracted discussion ensued regarding the method of distributing and collecting ballots, especially since The Keystone Flyer is now primarily

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## To The Editor

At a recent train show, our FreeMo club set up our modular layout. One of the former leaders of the FreeMo group made disparaging comments about the train I was running, saying that it should not be allowed on the club setup. It is that attitude that has contributed to the decline of our group. As a group of model railroaders, we should be embracing and encouraging each other, not saying that certain members should not be allowed to participate.

Many times, at these shows, I am the only one running trains. If the members who feel that the equipment I run should not be allowed on the layout, then maybe they should get up off their chairs and participate, by operating equipment they feel is appropriate. Also, most times, when we are setting up the FreeMo modules, I am one of only 2 members who check and connect the electrical connections, the loco link, and cut and install the connecting rails. So as one of the more active members of the club, it really bothers me that a club member would make such negative comments about me and what I operate.

The train I was running was a DCC equipped Tyco 10 wheeler steam locomotive, with a string of Tyco passenger cars, equipped with metal wheels and X2F horn hook couplers. The X2F was the NMRA approved coupler of decades past. I admit that this train is not a scale model by any means. Every time I run my Tyco equipment, however, someone in the viewing public comments that they had that train when they were a kid. Many people smile and enjoy seeing a toy train, which they had played with as a child, still usable and running on someone's layout. Being that we, as a club, are doing our display for the enjoyment of the public, I don't see what is wrong with running something that brings enjoyment to the viewing public.

If the track-work on the modules was better, I could, and would, also operate several BLI steam locomotives that I have, with the "appropriate" rolling stock that I have for them. But I cannot run these locomotives on the poor track-work of the modules. I have been one of the group who has said for years that we need to address the track deficiencies of the modules, and I have even donated switches for the rebuild of one of the club's Wyes. In the other club that I belong to, we have had Saturday work sessions to repair members' modules, and I have suggested we do a repair work session in the NMRA group – a suggestion that was just dismissed out of hand by many members in the group.

I am one of the more active members of this group, and I am willing to help out other members when I can. So making comments about not allowing me to operate on the club set up is discouraging and upsetting. Attitudes like that need to change if our club is going to reverse its current decline and start growing again. I want the club to continue, and to grow. Despite certain members' negative attitudes and comments, I do have fun at the shows. We, as the NMRA, need to welcome new members, and not drive away current members, if we are going to grow and survive.

- Dave Maynard

*As the current chair of this group, I agree with Dave that such comments (made by a former member of the group) are unproductive, and I can affirm that Dave's contribution to Division Two FreeMo has been substantial: he has been involved with us for several years; in that time he has been on hand for each Friday evening setup for the thrice yearly Greenberg Train Show, at which he teams up—usually with Denny Lippert—to troubleshoot electrical gremlins and track connections; and further he acts as a link between us and the South Hills Model Railroad Club. However, my viewpoint diverges from Dave's on the matter of interest in holding work sessions to upgrade modules. When I first got involved in FreeMo in 2006, this was done on more than one occasion, as were meetings simply to operate our layout. Despite current interest in scheduling just such a work session, other considerations hinder this, particularly the lack of an appropriate venue and competing commitments of our members, rather than lack of interest or outright dismissal of the idea.*

- Patrick Altdorfer

## Minutes ... (cont'd)

electronically distributed. Susan Werner reported that there are 158 members that receive electronic versions of the Flyer, while 17 are mailed paper versions. She also recalled that when the decision was made to go electronic with the Flyer, it was always understood that a physical mailing would be required for voting purposes. In the past, a ballot page with the recipient (member's) address was always part of the document. Mike Hohn noted that either the constitution would have to be changed to permit electronic voting or a paper mailing would have to be done to be in compliance. Keith DeVault decided that a paper ballot to appear as the last page of a physical Flyer would be the best course of action. This could be done in the February/March timeframe. Members could fill out the ballot and bring it to the April meeting. New terms begin May 1.

Keith also indicated that anyone wishing to run for office needed to fill out a short biography and send them to Pat Altdorfer for publication in the February issue of the Keystone Flyer.

Steel City Express Convention: Convention dates are May 28-31. Keith reported that vendor letters had been sent. Grier Kuhn noted that Microtools wanted to become involved as a vendor at the Convention and expressed concern as to how BNB Tools (a long time sponsor of the division) would be affected. Several members expressed the opinion that both vendors should be permitted to attend; competition is their issue. Keith also reported that he had contacted 1 bus company for tours. He also reported that the convention facility has not been forthcoming with banquet pricing, and indeed has missed a meeting with him. That remains an open issue.

### For the Good of the Division:

Frank Benders reminded everyone that there was a train show in Monaca on November 24.

Jim Whipple announced that the annual Renaissance Strings Concert would be on November 30. This is a concert at Holmes Hall. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the venue are a standard gauge model train display / museum. The 4<sup>th</sup> floor features an operating layout.

Keith announced that he had copies of Terry Arbogast's book on the B&O Fairmont Terminal for sale at a discounted price.

Keith noted that the next meeting would be at the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club in Ambridge, PA on January 19. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM.

Susan Werner presented a program entitled "Recordkeeping for the Achievement Program."



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



NEXT MEETING - January 19, 2020  
 Ohio Valley Lines, Ambridge

 <p><b>Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society</b>        128 Pleasant Street        Morgantown, WV 26505</p> <p>Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 PM</p> <p><a href="http://www.MVRRC.org">www.MVRRC.org</a>        Call Rich Henderson (304) 276-1046 for more info</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</p> <p>Open Wednesday &amp; 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><a href="http://www.ohiovalleylines.org">www.ohiovalleylines.org</a> • <a href="mailto:info@ohiovalleylines.org">info@ohiovalleylines.org</a> • 724-226-4787  <b>Memberships Available!!</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>