



THE *Keystone Flyer*
MCR Div. 2
May 2020 Vol. 62, Issue 5



*** PANDEMIC NOTICE ***

Unfortunately, we had to take the extraordinary step of cancelling Steel City Express 2020, the MCR Regional Convention we were to host this year, in order to continue the mitigation measures we need to take in order to stop the spread of coronavirus. There is more information on this inside this issue (pages 2 and 5). We hope that we turn the corner by summer, such that we can meet again in person for the picnic in August and then resume our regularly scheduled monthly meetings thereafter. If you sign up for the email distribution list, you can be informed of changes and updates much sooner (and you can receive this Flyer in your inbox as soon as it is published). Therefore, since many of you have already blocked off May 28-31 to attend the convention, think how much more time you can now devote to your hobby this month! As an example, inside this issue you can read how Bob Prehoda is dealing with the quarantine (pp. 6 & 7). And as I did last month, I am publishing a trackside photo I shot, this one of the "Gallopig Goose" we rode in June 2018 at the Colorado Railroad Museum.

Division Meeting Schedule

**May 28-31 - STEEL CITY EXPRESS 2020
MCR CONVENTION CANCELLED**

May 17 - Div. 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Executive Board (online) meeting

June 28 - Div. 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Site or Platform as yet TBD

Bring'n'Brag

Jan	Anything goes
Feb	Motive Power: Diesel, Electric & Traction
Mar	Motive Power: Steam
Apr	Freight Cars
May	** Quarantine Extra (details p. 3) **
Jun	Non-Revenue (incl. cabooses)
Aug	Passenger Cars
Sep	Vehicles
Oct	Structures
Nov	Prototype Photos

Submission Deadline for June Flyer:

May 24, 2020

Visit us online at
keystonedivision.org

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



From the Super's Desk

Wow! I and everyone else never expected a Pandemic when I agreed to be Superintendent. I know I said that I would not be writing a monthly column but this one is special since I feel everyone should know how we are handling things in the Division.

In order to maintain social distancing for our Division meetings, Jimmy Braum, Dennis Vaccaro and Dennis Lippert volunteered technical advice on which social media would fit our purpose. After looking at our choices, we decided to use GoToMeeting, following the example of the NMRA. Dennis Vaccaro, Susan Werner and I tried it in mid April and agreed that it would work.

On April 26, Keith led his last meeting as Superintendent with the executive officers in virtual attendance. We are planning to hold future meetings this way to ensure everyone's health until this crisis is over. Susan Werner has graciously volunteered to be the contact for members who have items to bring to the attention of the executive committee. She will make sure these items are considered and they will appear in the minutes.

In place of programs that are usually presented at Division meetings, we encourage you to submit photos and articles to Patrick Altdorfer for publication in the newsletter. Susan Werner will continue to send out email concerning items available at the Company Store.

For Bring and Brag, Arley Mitchell will continue to handle the competition virtually with members sending pictures and descriptions to Tom Gaus. He will post them in the Keystone Flyer for voting. Susan sent out an e-mail address where you can send your selection. The certificates will be photographed and emailed to the winners. When we can all get together again, hopefully in August, Arley will bring the actual certificates for Keith to sign for March and April, and for me to sign the others. At that point, I will present the Modeler of the Year awards also.

Please, play it safe and stay home as much as possible. It's a good time to work on our hobby. I look forward to seeing you all in the future.

... *Frank Benders*

TAKE A RIDE ON THE "QUARANTINE EXTRA"

What modeling activities are you pursuing during this time? In lieu of the convention contests, BnB chair Arley Mitchell invites you to take part in an ad hoc model contest for the month of May. Show us what you have been up to during this time (details on page 3).

If you would rather not enter this contest but would still like to share your modeling or railfanning exploits, please e-mail me (patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com) and I will write up a feature for a future issue of the *Flyer*.

Division Elected Officers

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Module Committees

FreeMo (HO scale) group
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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 [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

Hello everyone!! I hope that all of you are staying safe and well. The March and April Bring and Brag has been somewhat ... different. Smaller pictures of this work is shown here, but you can see larger and higher resolution photos of this work and more of the details about what went into them on the Keystone Division website, navigate to the [contests page](#).

Be assured that if you sent your email to the correct address (arleymitchell@frontier.com) then it was counted. Since there were a good many emails associated with the voting this time, I didn't send ANY confirmations. However, for May I'm planning to do that. Well, enough of the chitchat, and on with the entries and results!

March: Steam Locomotives

We had three entries this month. Coming in at First Place is Jim Ferguson with his PRR H1 2-8-0.



Second Place is awarded to Fred Metting for his Texas Company "Fireless Cooker," scratch-built in O gauge.



Third Place was snagged by Mike DeSensi for his 2-6-0 to 0-6-0 conversion in N scale.



May: Quarantine Extra

The convention cancellation has left us without a category for this month's Bring and Brag contest. Since we also have less time before the **ENTRY DEADLINE (May 17 at 2 PM)** let's do something different. We've all been cooped up and some of us have had a chance to get a lot more modeling time in, so let's see what everyone has been up to! Have you built any new kits, weathered any locomotives, cars, built any buildings, or added scenery? We can't bring any of this stuff in for close inspection, but most of us have access to a digital camera and can share what we've been up to. Bring it on!! Let's see what you've done!!

Send your **PHOTO ENTRY** (one picture per entry) to Tom Gaus (tom@tomgaus.com) by the entry deadline for consideration. The **VOTING DEADLINE will be noon on Saturday, May 23**. Send your VOTE to Arley (arleymitchell@frontier.com) by May 23. Results will be reported in the June Keystone Flyer. We are all looking forward to seeing your work!!

Arley Mitchell

April: Freight Cars

We had four entries for April. First Place was awarded to Jim Ferguson for his Mathieson Dry Ice Refrigerator car.



Second Place was awarded to Grier Kuehn for his Penn Central G43 Gondola.



Coming in at Third Place was Fred Metting for his Heinz Vinegar and Wood Pickle Tank Cars.



Mike DeSensi also entered a WLE 3 Bay 100 ton hopper, which came in at 4th place.



Name	pts	Name	pts
Jim Ferguson	9	Neal Schorr	2
Fred Metting	5	Grier Kuehn	2
Julius Fair	3	Arley Mitchell	1
		Mike DeSensi	1





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Cumberland and Lake Erie Railroad



"The Laurel Ridge Route"

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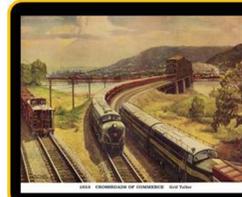
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PRR Panhandle Division



George Pandellos Chief Engineer
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The ASPEN SUB along the B&O
from Morgantown to Keyser

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Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern Railroad

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Follow our construction progress online at:
http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=22893



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD NORTH JERSEY BRANCH

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email: drfergie44@gmail.com

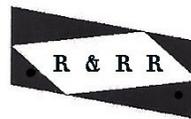


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FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



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

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

April 26, 2020 Business Meeting

Superintendent Keith DeVault gaveled the special virtual executive meeting open at 2:30 PM. He thanked Dennis Vaccaro for hosting the meeting via GoToMeeting.

Present: Patrick Altdorfer, Frank Benders, Andy Blenko, Jimmy Braum, Keith DeVault, Tom Gaus, Jeff Gregg, Richie Jodon, Grier Kuhn, Arley Mitchell, George Pandelios, Steve Ross, Neal Schorr, Dennis Vaccaro, and Susan Werner.

Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick reported that the deadline for submissions will be moved back 1 week and that the flyer itself will be delayed at 1-2 weeks, probably appearing in early May. He is expecting an expanded copy as people are contributing additional material. In particular, Bob Prohoda has some content regarding operations during COVID-19 shutdown.

Treasurer: Jeff reported that the division is solvent. Andy Blenko reported that the convention accounts, despite the cancellation, are solvent. Initially he feared that all convention refunds would have to be done through checks, but if these occur no later than 180 days after the transaction PayPal will fully refund the monies without service charge. All credit card charges done this way will also go back to the card accounts. Tom Gaus and Andy Blenko agreed to discuss a method of allowing those members who wanted to donate money to the convention via a partial PayPal refund. And any who registered by check will get a full refund in the same manner. Tom Gaus indicated that he has received \$250 in refunds.

Programs: Andy reported that as yet there is no program in place for the next meeting.

Company Store: Susan reported that books already ordered are expected in late July. She asked that anyone who wants to order a book should get that in to her so that shipping costs can be spread out.

Membership/Website: No report.

Free-Mo: No report.

Bring-N-Brag: Arley reported that he has a number of entries but only 1 vote. Susan may need to send out a reminder e-mail.

Video Library: No report.

Achievement Program: Dennis Dennis suspects that a lot of work is going on during the quarantine, but he hasn't heard anything officially.

T-Trak: Richie Jimmy Braum has posted on the T-Trak Facebook page that there are 41 modules in existence among the 3 members. He has 7 of them. Susan Werner noted that Ray Helster has a large number as well. Jeff Gregg is in the pro-

cess of getting a table at the Greenberg show on July 25 & 26. Richie Jodon noted that the 2021 Regional Convention will be hosted by Erie (Division 12) and will take place in about a year. He would like to meet with the 10 people planning to attend and coordinate a method of hauling the modules to it. Show details are still TBD.

Old Business: Frank Benders indicated that the division had purchased a new laptop.

New Business: Keith DeVault noted that this was his last meeting as division superintendent and thanked everyone for their help and support. Frank Benders thanked Keith for his service.

Frank indicated that the May meeting would take place via video (Go To Meeting). It will be an executive meeting like this one. The June meeting will also be an on-line executive session. Some discussion followed as to whether or not the June meeting should be for the entire membership or just the executive committee. It was noted that an online meeting of 100 would be very cumbersome. He hoped that perhaps the June meeting might take place in person. He asked Andy Blenko to pursue a program for that meeting.

Steel City Express Convention: Keith noted that the convention's hotel and meeting arrangements were cancelled through the NMRA's legal counsel (same as was done for the St. Louis National convention). He noted that the Glass Center tour, bus arrangements, and the Western PA Trolley Museum tour arrangements had all been cancelled without financial loss. No money had been spent on t-shirts or plaques prior to the cancellation. Keith thanked everyone who had worked on the convention. The division has volunteered to host the 2023 regional convention.

Neal Schorr indicated that funds had been spent on the tour signs. He showed one. They are generic and multi-purpose in nature and can be easily used for future events. They will be kept for that purpose.

Steve Ross reported that he had sent e-mail notices of the cancellation to all clinicians.

Grier Kuhn reported that he had received a number of product donations for the raffle. These will be kept for use at next April's Jamboree. Neal Schorr donated his convention registration fee to the Division.

Dennis Vaccaro noted that the O and S gauge kits for the convention were not selling well. He indicated that other divisions had been approached regarding these kits when they were first introduced. He will approach them again about buying some. The HO kits are doing very well with the N-scale ones just behind in sales.

... continued on page 6

May 28-31: STEEL CITY EXPRESS 2020 CANCELLED

We held off making this decision as long as we could; by early April it appeared questionable, as the pandemic's toll in the United States started to rise dramatically, and a few of the outside venues had begun to cancel the extra-curricular tours we had planned for the convention, while layout and op session hosts began to express concerns about inviting people into their basements to see or operate their layouts — not at all conducive to social distancing. As the US death toll approached 20,000, we all knew where this was heading. On April 14, the hotel informed us that it was cancelling our convention for this year.

As our executive board had already been in some discussion with the NMRA and MCR regarding options, the MCR offered Division Two the chance to host the **2023 Regional Convention** (the next year for which a host city had not yet been chosen). Therefore the hotel has placed our convention on their schedule for May 18-21, so we have just about exactly three (extra!) years to prepare.

With any luck, we will be on the other side of this pandemic by that time. As always, watch your e-mail (if you are on the mailing list) and the Keystone Division website [keystonedivision.org] for up-to-the minute news about this convention and all of our meetings and events. And as we approach 80,000 dead at this writing, please play it safe, mask up indoors when you are out and about, and keep washing your hands!

Killing Time during the Pandemic

If you are not working on your railroad during this time, you should consider indulging your hobby when you are wasting time on the internet! Here are some Youtube links to a few modeling and prototype videos suggested by our friends in Division 4 (via Superintendent Frank Benders), and to a funny silent film that Gary Rauch shared (courtesy of Bob Prehoda). Enjoy!

The Great Model Railway Challenge - Series 2 ~ Episode 2 [<https://youtu.be/ez08sq89nyw>] — Some UK fun!

HO Scale: Kansas City Eastern's "Foreigners" [<https://youtu.be/ke2QHFMmCt8>]

Trestle Bridge Build, Part 1 of 7: "Building the Top & Bents" [<https://youtu.be/axGg7ToVLcs>]; total runtime ca. 120 mins.

Canada's Canyons - Trains through the Thompson River Canyon [<https://youtu.be/bOxxsi1WLQw>]

Loaded Conrail ore train roars past with the brakes smoking 8-1989 [<https://youtu.be/nACvV8jX7-o>] — Lots of Smoke!

"The Wrong Train Order" (B/W, 1915, ca. 15mins.) [<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=l267EluGL3I>]

Huntingdon Northern Railway, Operations Manager Report of 21

Thirty trains were run over a 22 day period including the through freights. No passenger trains were run because of social distancing guidelines. The WM Turn, using engine #1791 2-8-8-2; Huntingdon Transfer, using engine #458 2-10-0; and N&W #164 Coal East using Trainmasters had to double the hill since we had only one crew available. In all, the trains moved 239 loads and 101 Mtys, for a total of 340 cars moved!

The branch hosted three trains: the Hickory Shifter, engine W&LE #8003 2-6-6-2; the Prep Plant Turn, engine #453 2-10-0; and the Meadow Run Local, engine #153 2-8-0. These trains moved 44 loads and 22 Mtys for a total of 66 cars on and off the branch!

Over the 22 day period, I had to change roles by being a Yardmaster to make up trains; Dispatcher to record trains and their Loads/Mtys and times of departure and arrivals; and Road Crew to run the trains and do their work. Working 1 to 2 hours per day spread the enjoyment over many days, but I much prefer my crews to help me make the Huntingdon Northern really to come alive!

I plan to begin my 2nd private operating session very soon. I'll record everything again and submit the next report for your review/comments. Stay safe until we meet again!

- Bob Prehoda

Minutes *(cont'd from page 5)*

For the Good of the Division:

Richie Jodon showed the attendees a very nice NMRA Division 2 sticker that he suggested could be sold for \$10 to raise money for the division. They cost \$5 to make.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 PM.



After spending the winter in Florida, my thoughts turn to operating my Huntingdon Northern Railway when I return home in late March. Sadly, I had the unpleasant task of notifying my crews that they were being furloughed indefinitely. I did mention that when operations resume, everyone would get a 10% raise in pay!

What was a layout owner to do? Fortunately, I designed a layout that has work to do. I don't mean work on scenery, wiring, etc. This railroad was built to move freight and black diamonds! With 340 railroad cars and 30 plus steam and diesel engines (with sound), there's plenty of power to get the job done.

I start by running the trains that weren't run back in December's op session. The times and dates of departing and arriving trains are recorded on the dispatcher's sheet along with the loads / Mtys. When the trains have completed their work, I move to the yards and pull cars from the interchanges and industries to generate the next trains. All of the cars have car cards to generate traffic. There are a variety of trains to run, from mine runs, locals, transfers, and through freights.



When enough cars are available to make up a train, I change roles from a yard master to a road engineer. I'll have several trains out on the mainline and I'll jump from one train to the other and do a little work with each one to prolong the enjoyment! I'll spend an hour or two in the morning and continue later in the

day where I left off or resume the next day. It takes me several days to get a train over the mainline. What's the hurry? I have plenty of time. Like I said, it makes the enjoyment last longer!

When these trains finally arrive at their destination yards, they provide more work for the yard master to



Above: Bob spotting MTYS at Hickory Mine; below left: Bob classifying coal in Huntingdon Yard; below right: scale house on the branchline. Photos by RJ Prehoda.

do! These cars will need to be spotted at their destination, whether it's an interchange or a specific industry. The fun just continues until all the 340 cars reach their destinations. Then it's time to re-stage by turning the waybills to the next position and removing the coal loads from the delivered hoppers and reload the MTYS at the coal mines. Now the fun can continue again!

These private op sessions have uncovered a few glitches. For instance, one very old Atlas turnout on my branch didn't conduct electricity properly, but a few drops of Conducta Lube on the rivets restored everything.

Even though I'm having a good time on my own, I really can't wait to resume normal operations



with my crews. Isn't model railroading great!! Stay safe and don't mingle!

Read Bob's updated final report for April on page 6!

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



May 28-31: 2020 MCR CONVENTION **CANCELLED**

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2020
 Online Executive Board meeting

 <p>Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society 128 Pleasant Street Morgantown, WV 26505</p> <p>Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 PM www.MVRRC.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>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HO & N Scale Layouts • T-TRAK Modular Display Layout • Extensive Library & Video Collection <p>OHIO VALLEY LINES 1225 MERCHANT ST AMBRIDGE PA 15003</p> <p>www.ohiovalleylines.org info@ohiovalleylines.org Open Every Monday 7:30PM – 10:00PM 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 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>