

  
**THE *Keystone Flyer***  
 MCR  
 Div. 2

September 2020 Vol. 62, Issue 8



### Editor's Model of the Month

During this lockdown Fred Metting combined his (as yet undiagnosed) twin obsessions — pasta and trains — to produce this wacky (but probably tasty) rendition of an observation car for this month's Bring'n'Brag contest, category "passenger cars." Nice He notes that he created this model with 12 different types of pasta, including fusilli, fettucine, bowtie, lasagna, and Acini de Pepe on the roof! Nice job, Fred! Hope you can work up the rest of the train by next year's picnic! (But please do NOT paint that one, because we will want to use it for the pasta salad side dish! )

### Division Meeting Schedule

- September 20 - Online Meeting, 2:30pm
- October 18 - Online Meeting, 2:30pm
- November 15 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm  
 New Eagle VFD Social Hall  
 156 Chess Street  
 New Eagle, PA 15067  
 \*\* assuming improved virus situation \*\*

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 \*\* Quarantine Extra \*\*
- Jun Non-Revenue (incl. cabooses)
- Aug Passenger Cars
- Sep Vehicles
- Oct Structures
- Nov Prototype Photos

Submission Deadline for next *Flyer*:  
 September 27, 2020

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



## From the Super's Desk

In the August minutes, I mentioned that the NMRA and our MCR wished that the Divisions within the Mid Central Region adopt the NMRA "people(person) at Risk" policy into their Constitution. Susan informed me that that is rather a difficult task under the circumstanc-

es. So to make sure I had understood the directive correctly I wrote our Region President, and he said that was not the intent of the NMRA. What the NMRA is wishing is that those working with "People at Risk" (i.e. "Boy Scouts") for their merit badge please become very familiar with the NMRA Youth policy regarding working with under aged and handicapped children. The policy can be found on the [Keystone Division website](#). I'm sorry I misunderstood the directive. Our Region President just wanted to make sure everyone who works with "At Risk People" becomes familiar with the new NMRA Policy.

I would like to thank those who participated in our virtual Bring & Brag over these past few months in this testing time of the Covid 19 pandemic. Arley was a bit dismayed at the July and August participation. Four entries for July's "convention kits" B&B with only 5 or 7 members voting. In August there were only three entries for the "passenger car" B&B, and only 12 votes. It is through everyone's participation that we can enjoy, admire everyone's modeling and get spurred on to enter something in a Bring & Brag category. The feeling you get when you earn an award whether first or third or especially when someone comes up to you and asks "how did you do that???" and you can explain how. So I'm asking those of us who have not entered anything -- including me -- let's get involved, it helps to fight the cooped-up feeling from this pandemic.

During our August officer Division Meeting, Tom Gaus informed us that our membership has dropped down to 204. We all wondered if it was because it's summer, or due to all the confusion with COVID 19 and just forgot to fill out the registration from the NMRA that showed up a while back. So please check to see if you are up to date, and if not, please re-register.

Keith informed us at the meeting that the 2023 Convention venue will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Pittsburgh Cranberry. The rooms for clinics are larger and the hallway outside of the clinic rooms is 26 feet wide so no need to constantly guard from poking someone in the ribs. In total we will have more than 8000 more sq.ft. than at the GreenTree site. Stay safe!

... Frank Benders

### MEETINGS CANCELLED

Sadly we are forced to cancel our next few membership meetings (September and October), due to the virus. The executive board still meets online on the scheduled meeting dates to conduct organization business and to share information, but technological limitations of the meeting platform prevent us from opening these meetings to membership. We are hopeful that the virus numbers recede by November, such that our scheduled meeting for this year can be held as planned in New Eagle, our traditional meeting location. Stay informed by reading the *Keystone Flyer* and/or checking in frequently on the [Division website](#) (where such news would be posted first).

### Division Elected Officers

#### Superintendent

Frank Benders  
(304) 296-2318  
fbenders@comcast.net

#### Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs

Andy Blenko  
awblenko@comcast.net

#### Chief Clerk

George Pandelios  
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### Division Appointed Officers

#### Treasurer

Jeff Gregg  
(724) 348-5855  
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#### Company Store

Susan Werner  
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#### Achievement Program

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#### Bring'n'Brag

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#### Jamboree Committee

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Neal Schorr naskss@yahoo.com  
Jim Sacco ctyclsscs@aol.com

#### 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

# Arley Mitchell

August 2020

Hello everyone!!

For the month of August we had only three entries, so all of our entrants placed. The category was "Passenger Cars," and all of the models had a lot of work and thought put into them and it showed in the craftsmanship of the final product. The results and photos are as follows:

## First Place: PRR Business Car by Jim Ferguson

Jim did a really nice job on this car (pictured above right). Lots of detail! This had to take a lot of time and energy to assemble (more patience than I currently have) and a great model!! Fantastic job, Jim!



## Second place: Interpretation in Pasta by Fred Metting

Fred pulled out quite a few stops with this one (below). A foam-board or hardwood core and pasta exterior. At first glance I thought, eh? However the closer I looked the more I was intrigued by what I saw. It looks really good !! Great job, Fred!



I want to ask that all of you view the entries every month and please vote on them. All the models have a lot of work that was put into them. The owners are prided of their work. Plus the voting gives the builders an idea of what their models could do in a regional contest.

As always stay safe, well and God Bless!



Name	pts	Name	pts
Jim Ferguson	17	Julius Fair	03
Grier Kuehn	09	Neal Schorr	02
Fred Metting	09	Arley Mitchell	01
		Mike DeSensi	01

## Third place: Push-Pull Commuter Train by Grier Kuehn

Grier assembled this train (pictured at bottom right) out of some different cars and engines. The paint and details tied everything together. The train looks really good! Excellent job, Grier!



I know that there are a lot of items out there that haven't been built and detailed. Let's see them!! The September contest (Vehicles) will also take place online. Submit your entry (photo and description) to Tom Gaus (tom@tomgaus.com) by Saturday, September 12, at 8am, the entry deadline; voting will commence on September 14 at 8AM and conclude at 2 PM September 19. Please send your votes to me ([arleymitchell@frontier.com](mailto:arleymitchell@frontier.com)). Results will be reported in the October *Keystone Flyer*.



Susan Werner, CEO  
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swerner48@yahoo.com

## Cumberland and Lake Erie Railroad



"The Laurel Ridge Route"

D. E. Baker, V.P. of Operations  
118 Laurlis Lane, Johnstown, PA 15904 dbakerr@aol.com



## HUNTINGDON NORTHERN RAILWAY



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R.J. Prehoda, Operations Manager

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## Turtle Creek Railroad

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Snappy Service

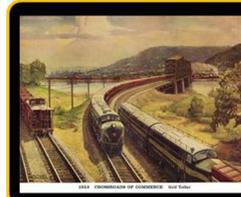
## FREEMPORT AND CONEMAUGH The Yellowjacket Line



## SALTSBURG AND SLICKVILLE

Serving PA Coal Country

Robert Livrone, Owner/Operator Lower Burrell, PA



## 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

Follow our construction progress online at:  
[http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=22893](http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=22893)



## 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

Hey kids, you too can be a fan of the  
great Standard Railroad of the World!

Neal A. Schorr - Owner & Chief Engineer



## LEBANON VALLEY RR

Serving Pittsburgh Suburbia and Beyond  
Phineas T. Foonman, Emperor and CEO

Jim Ferguson (412) 561-5203  
email: drfergie44@gmail.com

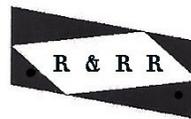


## BALTIMORE & OHIO WESTERN MARYLAND Consolidated Rail System



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Chief Engineer John Bennett  
Phone: (814) 241-5547  
Johnstown, PA



## Rutland & Rock Ridge

232 Old Farm Road  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066  
Haulin' Black Diamonds

Fred Roney, President  
fredron@zoominternet.net



## FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO  
Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey ... R.I.P.  
207 State Street  
Woodbury, PA 16695  
gpnastaseo2jo@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  
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WELCOME

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

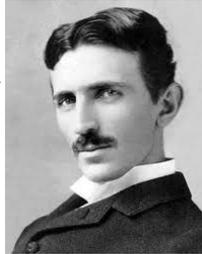
# THE RAILROADING NEWS

September 2, 1957

In Part 3, I.C. Dimmley presents developments on this regional coal and merchandise road through the late 1930s.

## Chapter Three: Technology Saves the Day

The year 1919 was a tough one for the railroad; the Baron and his brother-in-law, Henry Clay Frick, both passed away. Their funerals were attended by many people, including Nikola Tesla. Tesla and the Baron had become good friends and business partners over the years. They met at one of Frick's social events, were about the same age, were immigrants from Europe, and their last names ended with the letter "a." Nevertheless, the railroad continued to flourish under the able leadership of the Baron's eldest son, Edward.



Nikola Tesla

Improvements in communications became his highest priority. The Huntingdon Northern pioneered the use of telephones instead of telegraphs and installed train-order signals at six stations on their system. Management bemoaned the fact



Telephone central of the HN

that so much money was needed to upgrade communications, but the reality was that the railroad couldn't find enough intelligent workers who were capable of learning Railroad Morse Code among the local immigrant population. Night schools had to be established to teach the basics of reading and

writing so employees could write and read train orders! Edward lamented often, that ... "education creeps slowly through the Alleghenies..."

It was during the "Depression years" of the 1930's that the railroad continued to flourish while other railroads struggled to survive. Edward negotiated separate agreements with the N&W and PRR, which grant-



The coal dock at Port Allegheny

## Time Capsule

ed them trackage rights that took advantage of the HN's route over the mountains. In return, the HN received lucrative shipping contracts and access to their rails.

With these accomplishments, Edward decided to retire to his mansion and spend his twilight years building his "Lionel Empire." Edward then turned the railroad over to his eldest son, James, in 1937.



Freight house at Chestnut Ridge.

Like his father, James took advantage of the cheap labor in the dismal economy during the Depression to establish interchanges at Huntingdon, Chestnut Ridge, and at Spruce Creek. With these interchanges and overhead traffic from the N&W and PRR, the Huntingdon Northern paid handsome dividends to its shareholders when other railroads were failing during the Great Depression.



Yard at Huntingdon; interchange in background

To be continued ...

THE GREAT BEREA TRAIN SHOW

**SORRY - CANCELLED**

October 3-4, 2020

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

## August 16, 2020 Business Meeting

The special virtual executive meeting was gaveled open by Superintendent Frank Benders at 2:31 PM. He thanked Dennis Vaccaro for hosting the meeting via GoToMeeting.

Present: Frank Benders, Andy Blenko, Jimmy Braum, Keith DeVault, Tom Gaus, Mike Hohn, Grier Kuehn, Arley Mitchell, George Pandelios, Neal Schorr, Dennis Vaccaro, and Susan Werner.

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as published in Keystone Flyer online by acclamation.

Prior to the committee reports, Frank Benders reported that Division member Don Tomajko had passed away as a result of a heart attack.

### Committee Reports:

**Jamboree:** Grier Kuehn reported that Robert Morris University (RMU) has outsourced the handling of all outside events to the Parkhurst Company, which previously only did the catering. The Division has had successful dealings with them and our contact person remains unchanged. RMU is holding on-campus classes and outside events are welcome. In fact, RMU has changed its policy from one of giving preference to internal events to a first come, first served priority scheme. However, the COVID-19 policy mandated by the CDC and the Commonwealth of PA and now in place at RMU would significantly impact the Jamboree if it were held today. Under current conditions, the Sewall Center would restrict clinic rooms from 54 occupants to 10. The large banquet room would have a capacity of 70 vs. the 140 that are planned for. In addition, a larger deposit of either the entire catering budget (~\$1,300) or the facility rental fee (\$4,000) would be required. The cancellation policy has also changed; should cancellation become necessary due to COVID-19 related government directives, a refund would not be forthcoming. Instead, RMU would hold the monies until the event could be rescheduled.

Grier also expressed concern about attendance even if a vaccine becomes available. The Jamboree breaks even only because of the raffle. Our typical attendance is around 125, and we plan for 140. With only 70 attendees, the Jamboree is not financially viable. The Jamboree also faces possible competition in the form of a Narrow gauge show and the RPM meet (every other year, i.e. 2021). He also expressed concern as to the number of layout tours that could be held. It was the consensus of all that the virus isn't going to come to a swift or abrupt end; it is likely to be with us for a while. Neal Schorr reported that his medical news sources believe it will continue through the end of 2021. Grier indicated that writing a large check to RMU under these unpredictable conditions is a risky thing.

After some discussion regarding the state of donations towards the raffle (we are ahead of the pace thanks to the 2020 Convention donations), Frank called for a straw vote. Those present were in favor of cancelling the Jamboree. At that point, Andy Blenko formally moved to cancel the 2021 Jamboree. The motion was seconded by Tom Gaus and passed by majority voice vote.

**Flyer:** Patrick Altdorfer was not present – no report.

**Treasurer:** Jeff Gregg was not present, but Frank Benders reported that the division is solvent. Andy Blenko reported that the Convention account is solvent and nearly dormant.

**Programs:** Andy Blenko reported that the Division was hoping to meet at Venetia, but the landlord has prohibited all gatherings of more than 25 people. Therefore, that is cancelled. He will investigate the Norwin Public Library for October, but is unaware that it is even open.

**Company Store:** Susan reported that she has orders for four more books.

**Membership:** Tom Gaus reported the membership at 204; apparently membership drops off in the summer or members forget to renew. Tom will send a reminder e-mail to the membership to renew.

**Website:** Tom announced that the website is up to date.

**Free-Mo:** Patrick Altdorfer was not present so no report.

**Bring-N-Brag:** Arley Mitchell announced that there were just three entries. He is very concerned with the low number of votes – 12.

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

**Achievement Program:** Dennis announced that Susan Werner had earned a Merit Award for her engine house. A Golden Spike, Volunteer, and Scenery certificates have been applied for and are awaiting confirmation by the Region.

Regarding convention kits, Dennis reported that sales of HO & N buildings had abruptly ceased. There have been no inquiries for four weeks. An article reviewing the N scale signal tower kit is expected in the next three to four months in either the *NMRA Magazine* or *Railroad Model Craftsman*. The reviewer has been sent the kit for this purpose.

**T-Trak:** Jimmy Braum announced that there are 12 members in the Facebook T-Trak group. He has completed another module. When the COVID-19 situation permits another train show, he hopes everyone will be able to see it.

Jimmy raised the possibility of having a trip to the East Broad Top Railroad instead of the Division picnic (he is going to talk

... continued on page 7

# Minutes *(cont'd from page 6)*

to them in November or December). Neal Schorr recommended that Jimmy conduct a survey in the *Keystone Flyer* or on the website to gauge interest first – it's a long way to drive. Jimmy also announced that the EBT ran its first train in 9 years this weekend. Their season begins May 2021. Neal thought the excursion might be best done as an “extra fare” trip.

**MCR 2023 Convention:** Keith DeVault reported that Frank Benders and he recently visited the DoubleTree hotel in Cranberry. He very much likes the facility, which has 6,700 more square feet of convention space than the Greentree Double-Tree. Total space for the Cranberry site would be 18,000 sq. feet vs 8,838 sq. feet at Greentree. Frank, Susan, and Mike Hohn received an e-mail from Jim Sacco (who had been tasked to speak with his contacts at the Greentree Double Tree). The e-mail verified some of the hotel's issues, which caused difficulties with the convention. Grier indicated that other sources have independently confirmed problems with the running of the hotel.

The name of the 2023 Convention will be “Rails to Pittsburgh” and it will be held May 4, 5, 6, and 7. The contract is to be signed on Monday. “Rivers of Steel” is being pursued as one of the three tours during the Convention. Their private tours begin on May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The coal mine has not yet been contacted. The Trolley Museum conducts private tours beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April each year. Mike Hohn noted Keith's excellent work and the teamwork of the committee in making significant progress well ahead of schedule.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Frank reported that the NMRA National and Regional leadership have directed the Division to incorporate the NMRA ‘At Risk Policy’ into the Division's constitution. He asked for a volunteer to oversee that activity. Andy Blenko volunteered to investigate the necessary steps. A vigorous discussion ensued as to whether the policy belonged in the By-laws or the Constitution. Dennis indicated that the policy might be too variable for the Constitution and might be better suited for the Bylaws. Susan indicated that changes to the Constitution were difficult to make. Frank reiterated that National and Regional want the policy in the Constitution. We await the result of Andy's investigation.

**Concerns & Questions** – There were none from the membership.

For the Good of the Division:

Tom Gaus volunteered to give Susan an e-mail with photos of the Bring-N-Brag entries in advance of the next contest in an effort to stimulate voting. Susan noted that she will send out photos of the winners shortly after Arley provides the results.

With business concluded, Frank asked for a motion to adjourn. Dennis moved to adjourn with Susan seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.



## A Message From The Jamboree Committee

It was with great reluctance that we recommended to the Executive Committee that the April, 2021 Model Railroad Jamboree be cancelled. After a discussion it was voted to cancel.

As we began the preliminary planning several weeks ago, it quickly became apparent that government Covid-19 restrictions placed on Robert Morris University for events would be virtually impossible to overcome. Also, at this time the uncertainties of not knowing what restrictions will or will not be in place next spring made holding the event very suspect. We did not want a Jamboree that would not meet our normal high standards.

So let's hope the entire world can get back to “normal” soon and in 2022 the Jamboree will go on.

*Grier, Neal, and Jim*

### AP CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Jim Braum earned his Golden Spike and Volunteer certificates; Ray Helster earned his Scenery certificate. Jim and Ray are both members of the Mid Mon Valley Model Railroad Club in New Eagle, PA. Photos by Susan Werner.



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



NEXT IN PERSON MEETING: With luck November in New Eagle!  
 Until then, Online Executive Board meetings

 <p><b>Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society</b>        128 Pleasant Street        Morgantown, WV 26505</p> <p>Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 PM  <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><b>Visitors Welcome        MEMBERSHIP OPEN</b></p> <p>2209 Walnut Street        McKeesport, PA</p> <p><b>Open Wednesday &amp; Friday Evenings</b></p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HO &amp; N Scale Layouts</li> <li>• T-TRAK Modular Display Layout</li> <li>• Extensive Library &amp; Video Collection</li> </ul> <p><b>OHIO VALLEY LINES</b>        1225 MERCHANT ST AMBRIDGE PA 15003</p> <p><a href="http://www.ohiovalleylines.org">www.ohiovalleylines.org</a> info@ohiovalleylines.org        Open Every Monday 7:30PM – 10:00PM Memberships available!!</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>