


THE *Keystone Flyer*
 MCR Div. 2
 February 2021 Vol. 63, Issue 02

Our foreign correspondent John Polyak captured this photo of CSX 9022 pulling a freight train through McKees Rocks on May 8, 2014. He noted the interesting “dip” in the tracks that was engineered to permit taller trains to clear that bridge. See a few more of his photos on page 10 (online edition) this month.



Meeting Schedule

February 21, 2021 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
 Zoom Online Meeting—Open to all Members
 Program: George Pandelios’ PRR Panhandle Division
 (details on page 2)

March 21, 2021 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
 Zoom Online Meeting—Open to all Members
 Program: TBA

Get the Color Version of the Keystone Flyer — as well as Online Extras — 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 | Motive Power: Diesel, Electric & Traction |
| Mar | Motive Power: Steam |
| Apr | Freight Cars |
| May | MCR Convention *Cancelled* |
| Jun | Non-Revenue (incl. cabooses) |
| Aug | Passenger Cars |
| Sep | Vehicles |
| Oct | Structures |
| Nov | Prototype Photos |

Submission Deadline for next *Flyer*:
 February 28, 2021

Visit us online at
keystonedivision.org



From the Super's Desk

The January 17th meeting was our first meeting of the pandemic that was open to the general membership and it included our first program held virtually on the Zoom format. It all went very well and we enjoyed having a program again. I'd like to thank Dennis Coglianesse for being our Production Engineer and Jimmy Braum for his presentation on the East Broad Top.

We look forward to seeing more members at our next meeting on February 21st. We will have a program presented by our scribe, George Pandelios.

Susan Werner will send out a link a few days before the meeting. You can attend on a computer, tablet or I-pad, or smart phone, and there is no cost to participants to use Zoom. When you are ready to join in, click on the link and our meeting host will let you in.

Till then,

Please Stay Safe.

... *Frank Benders*

Meeting Notes

Our February 21 business meeting, and the program that follows it (to be presented by our Chief Clerk George Pandelios), will again be virtual this month, using the Zoom online meeting platform.

The entire membership is invited to attend, but you will need to provide Susan Werner with your email address (if you have not already done so) in order to receive participation credentials (i.e. the website login information).

Full meeting and program details are given on page 7, including an innovative idea explained by Assistant Superintendent Andy Blenko on how we can "pass the hat" even though we cannot be physically together for our meetings.



This Alco FA-FB pair replaces the more streamlined E4 locomotives that usually pull the SAL *Silver Meteor* to the Sunshine State.

Division Elected Officers

Superintendent

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

Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs

Andy Blenko
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Chief Clerk

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Division Appointed Officers

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Company Store

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Bring'n'Brag

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Module Committees

FreeMo (HO scale) group
Patrick Altdorfer patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com

T-Trak (N scale) group
Richie Jodon richjodon30@gmail.com
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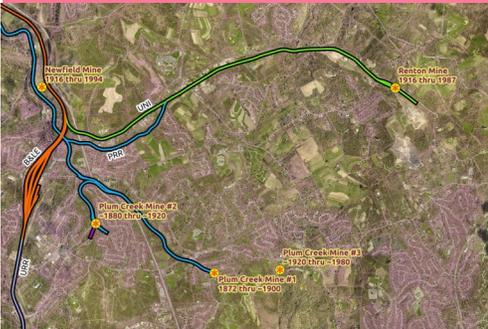
The *Keystone Flyer* is published ten times a year by Division Two of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid-Central Region. Subscription to the *Flyer* is included with your NMRA membership and sent via e-mail directly to each member who chooses to receive the newsletter in this format. Alternatively, 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 [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

January 2020

Hello everyone! It's time to send in your votes for the January Bring and Brag. My eyesight has returned to the point where I can now tabulate the results. Deadline for JANUARY voting (category: "Anything Goes") is this SATURDAY FEB. 6 at 12pm. Send votes to: arleymitchell@frontier.com. Thanks everyone and I look forward to (seeing) the results!!

Arley Mitchell



February's contest is **Motive Power: Diesel, Electric, & Traction**. **Submit** your entry (photo and description) NOW through **Saturday, February 13 at 12 noon** to tom@tomgaus.com, then send your vote to arleymitchell@frontier.com by **Saturday, February 20 at 12noon**. Good luck!



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

The Downeast Route

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

Serving Southwestern Pennsylvania with connections to:
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Ken Hanawalt (724) 941-3186
email: TurtleCreekRailroad@verizon.net

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 Pandelios 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

** Rest in Peace **



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



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

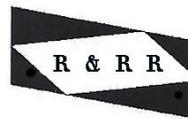


BALTIMORE & OHIO WESTERN MARYLAND Consolidated Rail System



with connections to P&LE, PRR, C&O, EL, NYC

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
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FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO
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207 State Street
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Route of the
Whitetail

THE O.R.N. Ry BUNCH

15
LAYOUTS
AND
GROWING
N-HO-O-G



PANHANDLE BRIDGE STEUBENVILLE, OHIO

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

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

January 17, 2020 Business Meeting

This general division meeting was gavelled open by Superintendent Frank Benders at 2:38 PM. He thanked Dennis Coglianese for hosting the meeting via Zoom.

Pass the Hat: The topic of using PayPal to make pass-the-hat donations was raised by Andy Blenko. He indicated that the associated transaction fees required for \$1.00 pass-the-hat donations would make them impractical. Instead, he proposed each member make a one-time \$10 PayPal donation (\$1 / meeting) to help defray the annual costs of Zoom. Dennis Coglianese reported that the Division is paying a very special once-in-a-lifetime annual rate of \$128 (regularly \$149). Mark Vinski noted that the division wasn't poor and wasn't spending funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frank Benders announced that the Division had received \$250 as a donation from Abbie Liebowitz.

A vigorous discussion ensued over the subject of using PayPal and their fee structure. A PayPal donation mechanism would require the division to have its own PayPal account, which might be subject to the 3% transaction fee. Opinions differed as to whether or not the "Friends & Family (no fee)" option in PayPal would apply to the division. Joe Birsa indicated that making the \$10 amount a suggestion rather than a fixed amount might yield better results. Andy volunteered to research and write up a notice for the Flyer. The notice would ask for a \$10 donation in lieu of pass the hat that could be done by PayPal or by writing a check and sending it to Jeff Gregg. The plan is to have the notice appear in the next issue of the *Keystone Flyer*.

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as published in *Keystone Flyer* online by acclamation with Keith DeVault proposing the motion and Grier Kuhn seconding it.

Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer indicated that the new Flyer came out in early January. The submission deadline for next issue is January 24. He indicated that the March print edition may be significantly longer than its normal length (8 pages max) due to the combining of January and February Bring-N-Brag photos.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg was not in attendance but Frank Benders reported that the division is solvent. Susan reiterated that a generous donation had been made to the division by Abbie Liebowitz through the Schwab Charitable fund.

Programs: Andy Blenko indicated that the February program will feature George Pandelios presenting an update on his PRR Panhandle Division layout. Andy asked the attendees if there would be any interest in a presentation on 3D-printing he viewed recently. Significant interest was expressed and Andy will pursue obtaining the speaker for a future meeting.

Company Store: Susan reported that there is interest in one book. She is reluctant to place an order due to the high costs of shipping falling solely on either the purchaser or the division. She is waiting for some more orders. She will send out the list of available titles via e-mail.

Membership/Website: Tom Gaus was not present so there were no reports.

Free-Mo: Patrick Altdorfer reported Free-Mo remains dormant. The Greenberg show for February was cancelled and none are anticipated any time soon. Greenberg suggests that people check their website in May for an update .

Bring-N-Brag: Arley Mitchell had eye surgery and requested that January's B-N-B vote be conducted in early February. He was not present so there was no report.

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

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro was not present so there was no report.

T-Trak: Jimmy Braum indicated that there was nothing going on.

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault was present but there was nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Keith indicated that there was nothing to report regarding the NMRA legal representative and the applicability of "At Risk Policy" to family members bringing their grandchildren to NMRA meetings.

Classified Ads: Patrick indicated that he had received none, although he had reserved space in the Flyer for them.

New Business:

Neal Schorr expressed some disappointment at the poor turnout for this meeting and suggested that we all pick the phone and call a few of our NMRA buddies to remind them of the upcoming meetings. Mark Vinski suggested that e-mails be sent a bit closer to the meetings themselves instead of so far in advance as to get lost. Thomas Frommeyer suggested reminder emails be sent on the Friday or Saturday prior to the meeting. Joe Birsa recommended a meeting notice 2 weeks in advance along with reminder e-mails and the meeting link on the preceding Friday or Saturday. Susan indicated that she would send reminder e-mails with the link on the Thursday prior to the meeting. Dennis stated that all future Zoom meeting notices could be accompanied by Gmail and Outlook calendar notifications; Susan will work on figuring out how to accomplish that.

Minutes *(cont'd from page 6)*

Also, on this subject, Andy recommended that Dennis Coglianesi give the Zoom login credentials to several other officers in case he cannot attend. Dennis will do so as well as distribute his phone number to these other members. Susan took the opportunity to ask if meeting notices re-used links or were distinct for each meeting. Dennis replied that each meeting link is specific to the occasion.

Concerns & Questions: Susan reported that nothing had come in to her.

For the Good of the Division:

Keith indicated that the Mon Valley Model Railroad Club is moving out of its downtown Morgantown location to the Mountaineer Mall (the old Lums Restaurant). Patrick inquired as to

the general economic viability of the mall and was informed that despite the lack of anchor stores it remains in business with a number of “mom and pop” stores.

Frank noted that the next Division meeting will be February 21, 2021.

With business concluded, Frank adjourned the meeting at 3:14 PM.

After the meeting, Jimmy Braum presented a program on current developments at the East Broad Top Railroad.



BNSF and WABTEC begin testing battery-electric locomotive

This interesting tidbit caught your editor's eye in a recent article in [Progressive Railroading](#): WABTEC is testing its new battery-electric locomotive in revenue service on the Barstow — Stockton route of BNSF Railway. The article quotes VP of Engineering Alan Hamilton: "The FLXdrive is the world's first 100% heavy-haul battery-electric locomotive that optimizes the total energy utilization of the entire locomotive consist.... This technology works in a manner very similar to how electric vehicles use regenerative braking. It's a significant step forward for the rail industry and will change the course for even cleaner, more energy-efficient transportation."

Interestingly, it was also [recently reported in Railway Gazette International](#) that the Russian state railway RZD will no longer purchase diesel-only locomotives after 2025, in an effort to operate with a reduced environmental impact. Rather, new locomotive units they add to their fleet will be powered by what their Chief Engineer describes as “other alternative energy sources,” including rechargeable batteries.

With all of this battery innovation in [prototype railroading](#), it must mean that **battery operated model locomotives** are not far behind. I know that some of you (and/or friends in the hobby) have been experimenting with this, and I would think that many of us would be interested in hearing more about the progress you have been making (successes as well as failures, we learn from it all!) in this. After all, what is more prototypical than energizing the locomotive INSTEAD of the track? (Besides, doing this could eliminate so many of the electronic gremlins caused by complicated wiring of reversing loops, turnouts, blocks, etc.). So if you are working on converting your track-powered model locomotives to battery-powered units, consider this an invitation to contribute an article to the Keystone Flyer to share your travails with the rest of us.

Restoration News: B&O EA #51; “Mark Twain” Zephyr Car #573

Your editor is a fan of mid-century modern design and passenger trains, so it won't surprise you that two other articles caught his eye recently. First, [Trains Magazine reports](#) that the [B&O Museum in Baltimore](#) has completed its restoration of #51, the first Electro-Motive Corporation streamlined diesel engine, which was delivered in 1937 as the first of six A-unit locomotives to the railroad “Linking 13 Great States with the Nation.” This locomotive stuns in its original royal blue/pale yellow gold/medium gray livery, and it was just installed in the museum roundhouse, where it will stay until the end of this month before it moves to a more permanent location in the north car shop.

The [other story, also from Trains Magazine](#), involves a gleaming stainless steel Budd Company observation-lounge-parlor car #573, the “Tom Sawyer,” which graced the back end of the CB&Q “Mark Twain Zephyr” as it followed the Mississippi River from Burlington to St. Louis from 1935. This [streamlined boat-tail car](#), along with the rest of the original consist, is now [undergoing restoration](#) for tourist train service on the [Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad](#).

THE FEBRUARY MEETING IS VIRTUAL!

Our February 21 meeting will again be virtual, using the Zoom online meeting platform. and the entire membership is invited to attend. Susan will send out a link by email on/around Thursday, February 18; please be sure to check your “spam” folder in your email program, because sometimes mass mailings wind up there instead of the inbox. You may need to define “swerner48@yahoo.com” as a “trusted sender” if your email client allows this, which would ensure that you do not miss this or other email from Susan.

Program: the PRR Panhandle

This month after the meeting, Chief Clerk George Pandelios will present an update on his O-scale layout. Says George: “Since my last update on the Panhandle at the April 2019 Jamboree, much has been happening on the layout. COVID-19 and a race to be tour-ready for the May 2020 Convention sparked a marathon of progress. And although the Convention was cancelled, there are lots of photographs (and perhaps a video) to show you as part of the presentation.” The program runs about 30 minutes, and George will share his screen with you after the meeting right inside the Zoom portal.

Zoom Meetings—Pass the Hat

We are pleased to be bringing you our monthly meetings via Zoom, with which we hope to include a monthly clinic, layout tour or presentation. These meetings are without cost to the membership and an email will be sent out to everyone who has registered their email address with Susan Werner with the log-in information for each meeting. Who can say when we will be able to safely meet in person again, but this will help to fill the gap and keep the membership involved.

The Division purchased a Zoom software license at an annual cost of \$140 so we could include the entire membership in the meetings. With no Jamboree or MCR Convention, we have no revenue stream to fund this purchase.

If you are so inclined, I ask each member to consider a \$10 contribution to the Division in lieu of our traditional “pass the hat” at our in-person meetings. With ten meetings each year, this works out to \$1 per meeting. If you are willing to do this, please send a check made out to “NMRA MCR Keystone Division 2” to:

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

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

- Andy Blenko, Assistant Superintendent

Classified Advertisements

As we go to press (3 February), the *Keystone Flyer* has not yet received any classified advertisements. Here again are the guidelines for submitting your listings for items or services:

- (1) ads may be placed by Division 2 members in good standing;
- (2) each listing can be ca. 25-30 words (about 1-1/4 column inches), including your contact info;
- (3) up to 2 photos (jpg format only) may be included, but they will be sized to fit;
- (4) maximum of 3 ads per member per issue;
- (5) submission deadline: 28th day of each month. Submit your complete listing (including your phone number) via e-mail to the Editor (patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com).

Santa Clara 2021 NMRA National Convention and Train Show cancelled

Santa Clara, California—The host committee of the 2021 national convention of National Model Railroad Association, Inc., **NMRA 2021 Rails By The Bay**, announced [January 24] that it has canceled its convention that had been scheduled for the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel & Conference Center on July 4-11, 2021. A [multi-day video virtual event](#)—which will retain the name **NMRA 2021 Rails By The Bay**—is under development.

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



NEXT MEETING:
 Virtual meeting, February 21

 <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>

LATEST COMPANY STORE BOOK OFFERINGS

Garbely Publishing: Their next title will be **Conrail Rainbow Years Vol. 3: ex CNJ Commuter Operations**. Delivery is expected in middle of February. Similar in format and size to Vol. 1 and 2, the retail price is \$45.00.

Morning Sun: It looks like they have decided to start releasing books a week earlier than normal. The February books will see the light of day on January 18th, the March titles on February 15th and the April ones on March 18th. For now the February titles are:

Canadian National Power in Color Vol. 2: 1st Generation MLW / CLC Roadswitchers - #1717

New Haven Power in Color Vol. 3: Self-Propelled Passenger Equipment - #1718

Soft Cover

Peoria Rails 1980-2012 - #7537

Silverlake Images: The next two books in the Manufacturers' Archive series are now in stock and are **Book 9 – Trolley Coaches Vol. 1: Westinghouse** and **Book 10 – Gregg Railway Cars**. A brief description of each follows:

Book 9—Trolley Coaches (Electric Buses), 90 pages, softcover. This volume reproduces 3 Westinghouse publications on Trolley Coaches:

- Westinghouse-Equipped Trolley Coaches: This is a look at the benefits and features of trolley coaches and includes specifications for trolley coaches that had been purchased by transit systems across the country
- Trolley Coaches Why People Like Them: Looks at the benefits of the Trolley Coach over other transit methods
- Trolley Coaches 1, 2, 3: This brochure examines where the Trolley Coach should be applied and its advantages, how it will perform and why its use is economically sound

Book 10—Gregg Railway Cars (Domestic and Exported freight cars). This is a reproduction of a Gregg catalog of their freight car equipment. The catalog is undated but appears to be from the early 1950s. The catalog looks at the Boxcars, Gondolas, Flat Cars, Tank Cars, Hoppers, Stock Cars, Gable Bottom Cars, Dump Cars, Cane Cars, Sisal Cars, Granby Cars, Mine Cars and passenger cars built by the company. This includes equipment used by a variety of railroads around the world. Also included is a look at the various types of freight & passenger car trucks used by the company and the different types of couplers that can be fitted to the cars.

Advertising and reviews for this series are starting to appear in various hobby publications and with it, hopefully, an even greater interest and demand. And in the continuing count down, about 50 copies of **RPC Vol. 35** remain.

Withers Publishing: While cleaning out some paperwork recently, a flyer from the Weekend Chief dated in 1995 was uncovered and read. In it John spoke of a new book from Withers being worked on about EMD's GP30. I am happy to report that it recently went to the printer!! Books will be 208 packed pages of B&W and color images, text and roster info. Priced at \$59.95, it will be produced in a modest press run (the days of 1000+ copies being produced are long gone, 500-750 is the new norm). Delivery is expected in the middle of February. The Withers line continues to be a good seller from the loco directories all the way down to the titles that have been around for a few years. Good photos, good information and good reproduction / print quality.

As always, let me know which books you wish to order (and remember the 20% discount).

- Susan Werner (swerner48@yahoo.com)

This boat-tail observation-lounge car, SAL 6604, resembles the "Tom Sawyer" car of the Mark Twain Zephyr (described on page 6), which is undergoing the restoration in Wisconsin. It "rounds out" the editor's *Silver Meteor* consist, pulled now and then by the Alco FA-FB pair (page 2) when the E4s break down.



Polyak pictures Pittsburgh



John Polyak may have moved on, but occasionally he shares photos of his new home with us. Past issues of the *Flyer* have featured some of the exotic photos of Thailand's railways and stations (most recently June 2020), and future issues will likely do so as well.

But recently John was kind enough to share a few of his local rail & traction photos, one of which graces our cover this month. Here are a few more images he captured before he left Pittsburgh.

At left, PAT #4208, an inbound Red Line T from South Hills Village, arrives in Station Square on June 21, 2014, as pedestrians cross the tracks, perhaps to catch the outbound T.

John points out that trains are not the sole subject of his photography. In fact, he says "the trains are secondary to the environment." At right, PAT #4254 heads up the Blue Line T to Library, crossing the elevated roadbed in North Shore on July 31, 2014. As John says, "the train wouldn't be there without the infrastructure."

Pittsburgh truly is a city of bridges; look closely: how many bridges — or other structures that function as bridges — can you identify in this photo? I count at least four.



All four of John's photos published this month highlight the physical infrastructure through which trains and trolleys roll, as well as the people who pilot them or the people they serve.

He says: "I didn't just photograph trains. They travel through a fixed environment that's important for me to include when I take the photo. The trains are secondary to the environment."

John sent this photo as an example of his perspective. Here he captured Norfolk Southern locomotive #7629 pulling a mixed freight train along the Ohio River past Station Square on June 21, 2014.