



Photo by Bob Prehoda

Railfanning on an unseasonably warm January morning, Bob Prehoda managed to snap this image of the Huntingdon Transfer meeting the Laurel Turn at Coal Valley on the Huntingdon Northern Railway. Note the eerie figures loitering around the entrance to the old mine, visible above the cab of HN 1523. They appear to be staring across the rail traffic at the photographer, perhaps hoping that his camera is “trained” on another subject, and that he is not a coal company Pinkerton. Read all about Bob’s layout, which occupies a good chunk of his basement, in the new feature, which starts on page 9 of the online edition.

## Meeting Schedule

**February 20, 2022** - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm  
DARE Model RR Club, Venetia, PA  
Program: Bryan Seip, History of the Montour RR

**March 20, 2022** - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm  
Mon Valley RR Hist. Society, Morgantown, WV  
Program TBA; Society opens 12 noon

**Saturday April 23, 2022** - Jamboree  
Robert Morris University, Moon Twp, PA  
Details on pages 12-13 and [online here](#)

## Bring’n’Brag

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

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](mailto:swerner48@yahoo.com)

Submission Deadline for next *Flyer*:  
February 23, 2022

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



## From the Super's Desk

Old Man Winter made our decision to have the January meeting virtual a doubly wise choice. In spite of the weather, we were able to meet. Jimmy Braum provided a nice program sharing the ways he kept track of his dispatch times and duties as he worked toward his A.P. Dispatch certificate. Hopefully, the weather and COVID will allow us to be together again in February.

As we move into 2022, we are looking forward to attending train shows and conventions in person. The Greenberg Train Show will be in Monroeville February 26 and 27. The show at Timonium, Maryland, will be Feb 5 and 6 and again April 30 and May 1.

Our Division 2 Jamboree will be at Robert Morris University April 23. We are excited about the return of this popular gathering. This one-day event is a great way to experience the types of activities that are at longer conventions – clinics, competitions, camaraderie. Layouts in the area will be open on April 24.

Indy Junction, a convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, jointly hosted by the NMRA Mid-Western Region, Mid-Central Region, and North Central Region, is May 18-22. We have lots of great activities ahead of us.

Stay Safe. I hope to see you all soon.

... *Frank Benders*

### **New in '22: Local Layout Landscape**

*This issue introduces a new feature that I hope we can continue through the year, and beyond, until we run out of home layouts with which to highlight some of the interesting modeling that has been done, and is currently under way, by members of Division Two of the NMRA, Mid-Central Region. After begging several members who advertise their pikes in these pages, I found my first victim in Bob Prehoda, who submitted an outstanding piece to kick off the series. His article on the Huntingdon Northern Railway starts on page 9 of the online issue and details his inspiration, planning, and construction of his layout. If you have not seen it, make a point to get to his Open House on Sunday of Jamboree weekend (April 24). (Read the reprint of Jamboree Info on page 12, registration form on page 13.)*

*Next month and April, these pages will be reserved for articles that feature other layouts that members will open that weekend. If you are hosting an open house Jamboree weekend, please submit text and photos to be published in this space, to whet the appetite of attendees to come to your Open House and see some of the great work and effort you have put into your model railroad.*

*My hope is that other members will follow Bob's lead and submit information and pictures about their layouts as well. Don't sweat the small stuff (like spelling or prose, I will clean that up if necessary!) The main goal is to share ideas about layout theme, design, planning, construction, and operation with the rest of us who have not gotten as far. And by all means, members whose layouts are still under construction are also welcomed to share—successes as well as stumbling blocks—to help us all to enjoy the hobby.*

### **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  
(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**

Tracy Boyd  
(410) 919-7115  
Richard Terek  
rjtgbl@comcast.net

#### **Webmaster & Membership**

Tom Gaus  
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webmaster@keystonedivision.org

#### **Keystone Flyer Editor**

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

#### **Jamboree Committee**

Grier Kuehn gekuehn@comcast.net  
Neal Schorr naskss@yahoo.com  
Jim Sacco ctyclsses@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.

# Minutes

**George Pandelios**

## January 16, 2022 Business Meeting

Superintendent Frank Benders opened the virtual (Zoom) January general division meeting at 2:32 PM. He thanked Dennis Coglianesse for hosting the meeting via Zoom. This was a last-minute decision because of the spiking Omicron variant numbers. Frank remarked that the weather forecast would have probably impacted physical attendance. As it was, there were about 20 meeting attendees.

Pass the Hat: Frank asked that this month's contribution be added to your February donation.

New members and / or guests: There were no new members or guests.

Andy Blenko moved and Patrick Altdorfer seconded a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the November *Keystone Flyer*. The motion passed unanimously by acclimation.

### Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer reported that the *Flyer* went out last week. He wants to start a new feature showing off members' layout work. He wants to focus on layouts that will be on the tour for Jamboree weekend. Bob Prehoda was the first volunteer. Everyone who renewed their Pike ads was contacted and asked to supply information: layout concept, theme, design, problems in construction. It doesn't matter if your layout is 100% scenicked or not. Bob's is. There are a number of well-built layouts that are not 100% scenicked, e.g., the Blenko's. He's looking for ideas that will help motivate people to work on their own layouts. The February issue will feature Bob Prehoda's layout which will be open for the Jamboree layout tour. Patrick is looking for another layout to feature as well, so there is space. He would like to feature these layouts on tour in the March and April issues. Andy Blenko volunteered to have his layout in the March edition. Patrick noted that Bob's layout information was awaiting some editing work and that Bob would receive a proof. He offered to send Andy a copy of that proof so that he could see what Bob supplied. Patrick also suggested that Andy could try submitting his layout information for February if he wished. He concluded by reminding everyone that the deadline for the next Flyer is January 23, although a few days later would be accepted.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg was not present, but did give his report to Frank. He reported that the division is solvent.

Programs: that next month at the DARE Model Railroad Club, the program will be on the history of the Montour Railroad. The club seems to be a museum of the line. Keith DeVault has volunteered the Morgantown club location for the March meeting; the program is still TBD. The Morgantown, WV club is located at their new facility located in Mountaineer Mall & Professional Plaza, 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown, 26501. April is the Jamboree. Andy is still looking for May and June venues. Neal Schorr suggested that the division try to reschedule the Ohio Valley Lines (Ambridge) into one of those slots. Andy agreed that was a good idea and will look into this. May isn't a fixed or repeating meeting venue. Frank indicated that this is because May is usually reserved for regional conventions. This year's event is the Tri-Regional IndyJunction2022 convention in Indianapolis, IN – May 18-22. A discussion ensued regarding the timing and potential conflict of Division meeting with the Convention. It turns out that there is no conflict as the Division's regularly scheduled meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month). Pat Sullivan indicated that he would check with Ambridge about rescheduling the May meeting at the OVL club.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported that she had a few orders for books arrived in November. She is having some difficulty getting 2 of the books paid for and delivered. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is coming out this month. She noted that the publisher's supply of the Shay book is being rapidly depleted. She does not keep books on hand. If the publisher is willing to run another printing, then there will be more available. Susan doesn't believe the publisher anticipated the high demand for this book.

Membership/Website: Tom Gaus reported that that the Division has 186 active members. He has been busy getting the Jamboree page updated with the clinic information and has the on-line registration page operational. He posted the White Elephant form this morning.

Free-Mo: Patrick Altdorfer reported that the dates for the Greenberg Show February 26 and 27. Free-Mo will attend and Patrick will talk to Jeff from the South Hills Model Railroad Club (SHMRR) about once again collaborating at the show.

... Minutes cont'd on page 5

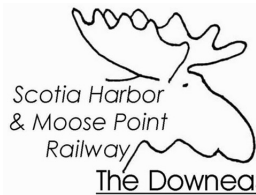
## Bring'n'Brag

January 2022

As we moved the January meeting online, the January contest was deferred to the February meeting. Tracy and/or Richard will preside over both contests at that time.

**Tracy Boyd/Richard Terek**

The contest categories are **Anything Goes** (for January) and **Motive Power: Diesel, Electric, & Traction** (for February). Bring your entry/entries to the meeting **no later than 2pm on Sunday, February 20**.



Susan Werner, CEO  
292 Salem Church Rd.  
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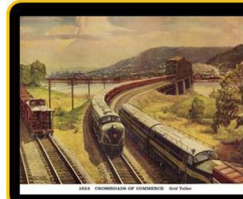
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George Pandellos Chief Engineer  
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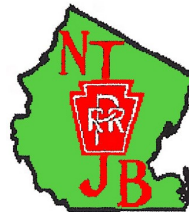
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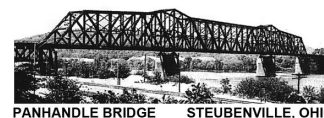


Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO  
Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey ... R.I.P.  
207 State Street  
Woodbury, PA 16695  
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CONTACT  
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(740) 282-9854  
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OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

## Minutes (cont'd from page 3)

Division 2 dominated the show with their large number of modules. Patrick indicated that David Brown wants to bring his large (11' x 11') corner module; we may have to ask for more space. David has been involved with Free-Mo for a while and we want to encourage his and others' participation.

Bring-N-Brag: Neither Tracy Boyd nor Richard Terek were present and as the January contest was deferred to the February meeting, there was no report.

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

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro was not present but submitted his report to Frank. Frank announced that Susan Werner had received the following certificates: Engineering – Civil, Engineering – Electrical, Scenery, as well as Merit Award for Trackwork and Scenery. Dennis also submitted 3 certificate applications, 2 merit award applications, and a Golden Spike application to Region.

T-Trak: Richie Jodon was not present so the report was made by Jimmy Braum. There is still no update from CMR from their modules. He's heard good things about Masterpiece Models. Jeff Gregg sent in the T-Trak application for the February Greenberg Show. T-Trak will be sharing space with the NMRA recruitment table. The T-Trak module is scheduled for the Mid-Mon Valley Railroad Club's show in New Eagle; participants are being sought. That show will be 10-4 on Sunday, January 30 with set up on the previous Saturday night. The address is 157 Chess Street, New Eagle, PA.

Jamboree: Grier Kuehn reported that the Jamboree is on schedule, mostly as result of the efforts of Neal Schorr, Jim Sacco, and himself. Grier especially thanked Tom Gaus for functioning as registrar as well as updating the jamboree pages on the website as quickly as new information became available. Grier indicated that there will be 4 prototype clinics as well as 8 modeling clinics scheduled. A lunch program has also been planned, but specifics are yet to be determined. Grier also thanked Andy Blenko for taking charge of the donation solicitation effort. Andy has been in contact with national distributors, on-line companies, and manufacturers. Right now we have over \$2,400 in model railroad donations. Rob Twigger and Grier will be soliciting on the Sunday of the Greenberg Show for one last time. Grier noted that the COVID-19 virus had done a number on the division; the low active membership number remains a concern. He believes that the Jamboree is a great way to recruit and encourages fellow members and non-members to attend. He will put something to this effect in the *Flyer*. The potential for a poorly attended Jamboree remains a concern and if that occurs could impact the Jamboree's bottom line. Frank indicated that David Neff, MCR president, is planning to attend. Grier hopes he will bring a few people with him. Event notices have appeared in *NMRA Magazine* and will appear for the next 2 months. The event has also been publicized in *Model Railroad News*. He was unsuccessful getting the Jamboree notice into *Model Railroader*.

If you have anything you want to donate (new, unused), please bring it to the next meeting(s) or to the Jamboree itself. Grier reported that he and Andy had discussed non-rail items for the raffle. As reported previously, Grier has a personally autographed T.J. Watt Steeler's helmet. Andy is struggling as to how to attract other non-rail items. George Pandelios suggested selling the helmet on eBay so as to bring in the maximum amount of money and reach non-model railroaders. If you know someone who wants to donate something like this, please let him know. In the past, Marge Meehan assisted in this, but is unable to help.

Susan reported that a new division member is at the Locomotion Days exhibit at the Carnegie Science Center and took a number of Jamboree flyers with him to distribute. Grier indicated that he has a surplus of color flyers – contact him and he will mail them to you. Neal reported that he has been trying to work with neighboring divisions to boost attendance. He has been speaking to Division 12 in Erie and would like to speak with Division 1 (Youngstown) but doesn't have a contact there. He asked if anyone had a contact name or e-mail for Division 1; Frank provided an e-mail address. Neal has offered to conduct a clinic for Division 12 in return for their enhanced promotion of the Jamboree. He has also been promoting the event to his 3-rail friends.

Finally, Grier noted that Janet DeVault prefers members fill-in the White Elephant form on the website. He asked Tom Gaus how Janet might receive that information. A discussion on the merits and availability of a printer and Wi-Fi at the Jamboree ensued. Eventually it was determined that each member bringing items for the White Elephant sale should print a copy of the form for themselves and for Janet.

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault reported that cards and information will be available at the Greenberg Show in February.

Old Business: Frank asked Susan to report on nomination. She began by thanking Don Coulter and Arley Mitchell for assisting her. Susan reported the nominees as follows: Dennis Coglianesi for Superintendent; George Pandelios for Assistant Superintendent; Mike DiSensi for Chief Clerk. Frank then asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Susan reminded George and Dennis to submit short biographies for the Keystone Flyer. Patrick offered to send all nominees an e-mail solicitation for biographies. Susan accepted his offer.

Grier asked if because there were no competing candidates for the 3 division posts if it was necessary to send out ballots. He noted that it would be a waste of money and that a vote by acclamation would be most efficient and cost-effective. Susan noted that write-in votes were possible, but probably not practical. Frank asked what was required by the division's constitution. Susan indicated that the constitution required ballots and they were normally part of the Keystone Flyer. The Flyer is now primarily electronic so it might be reasonable to permit voting via e-mail. Voting can occur in February and March, but votes must be counted at the end of the March meeting. Andy consulted the constitution and by-laws and reported (Article 6.5)

... Minutes cont'd on page 6

# Division Two Officer Election

Every other year, we elect three officers to lead Division Two. When positions are contested by more than one nominee, we hold an election; when only one nominee per office steps forward, the MCR-NMRA Regulations permit us to elect officers by acclamation. As the nominations committee that formed last fall to solicit candidates to run was able to recruit only three members who were willing to run for these positions, we have an uncontested election this year, which will take place by acclamation at the March meeting. Therefore we may dispense with printed ballots in the *Flyer*, but in order that members become acquainted with our leaders for the next two years, we present their short biographies here:

## for Superintendent - Dennis Coglianesse ([djcoiglianesse@comcast.net](mailto:djcoiglianesse@comcast.net))

Dennis Coglianesse is a native of Long Island, New York and grew up in the original Levittown. He moved to Pittsburgh in 1991, has been married to Debbie for almost 44 years, and has 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren. He has been in the IT field for 49 years and has done everything from programming to operations to IT Management to consulting. He currently works for one of the largest Managed Services Providers in Pittsburgh and is looking forward to retirement on the close horizon. By age 4, his interest in trains was spurred by his grandfather's Lionel layout in Brooklyn, but because his family's Levitt house had no basement, he convinced friends with garages to build their own layouts. He joined several clubs on Long Island before moving to Pittsburgh, where he joined the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum (and is now a life member). He is currently building a free-lanced model railroad set in the San Joaquin Valley during the 1950s, for which he has recruited a great crew of guys for construction and operating. Dennis has been a member of the Keystone Division since 2009, and he likes the sense of community that brings us together and hopes to find new ways for us to share and learn from each other.

## for Assistant Superintendent - George Pandelios ([gpandelios@verizon.net](mailto:gpandelios@verizon.net))

George Pandelios is a retired software executive, consultant, programmer, and project manager whose career has spanned 41 years. Most recently he taught software engineering and other computer-related courses at La Roche University, but also worked at Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute and was a significant contributor to the implementation of E-Zpass on the Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia Turnpikes. He has been a member of Division 2 since 1998 and is currently serving as Chief Clerk. George is a member of the Board of Directors of the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center and has also been active in the Steel Mill Modelers SIG. He models the Pennsylvania Railroad's Panhandle Division in 3-rail O scale. Recently, his articles have been featured in *O Scale Trains* magazine. George resides with his wife Judy in Cranberry Township.

## for Chief Clerk - Mike DeSensi ([trains.ovlrr@gmail.com](mailto:trains.ovlrr@gmail.com))

Mike DeSensi has been a member of the NMRA since 2017, and he is also a full-time member of the Ohio Valley Lines club in Ambridge. For the past 3 years, he served as the club's Secretary. In addition, he rebuilt and now maintains the club's website and Facebook page. During his tenure, the Facebook page has grown from 200 to over 1200 followers. He is involved in T-TRAK, both within Division 2 and at the Ohio Valley Lines, which has used their modular layout to promote N scale railroading at numerous shows and conventions in the Pittsburgh, Altoona, Youngstown, and Erie areas. In 2022, I will have several modules included in the National N Scale Convention being held in Nashville, TN. He models at home in N scale, with his 24" x 48" West View & Santa Fe, based on a fictional branch of the Santa Fe Railroad set in the summer of 1945. The layout won Third Place in the Walther's 2021 National Model Railroad Build-Off Open Category.

## Minutes (cont'd from page 5)

that elections for division officers or issues shall be conducted via mail ballots. And that all ballots must contain space for write-in votes for each office. He noted that while mailing ballots might be costly, it is required by the constitution. Neal suggested e-mailing a ballot to everyone (the print subscribers would receive hardcopy) who would then print it out, mark it accordingly, and then mail it back. Susan volunteered to count the ballots. Keith and Grier both indicated that ballots would have to appear in the *Flyer* and be mailed back to Susan by the end of March. Susan stipulated that each ballot should have the person's name and NMRA member number on it. Patrick will prepare the ballot for the *Flyer* and write-up the process.

New Business: Frank reported that David Neff, MCR president, is looking for 2 volunteers to help with the Railyard Sale at In-

dyJunction. Times are negotiable. Frank asked how many members were going. Frank, Keith, Neal, and Andy responded affirmatively.

Concerns & Questions – Susan reported that Dave Kitch wanted to know if there were any people in the division skilled in repairing N scale diesel locomotives. He has since had some success and is OK for the moment.

### For the Good of the Division

Susan is still seeking volunteers for the National Narrow-Gauge Convention in 2024 (early Fall). It does not require registration. You will be given a t-shirt and free access to the event for the time you are there.

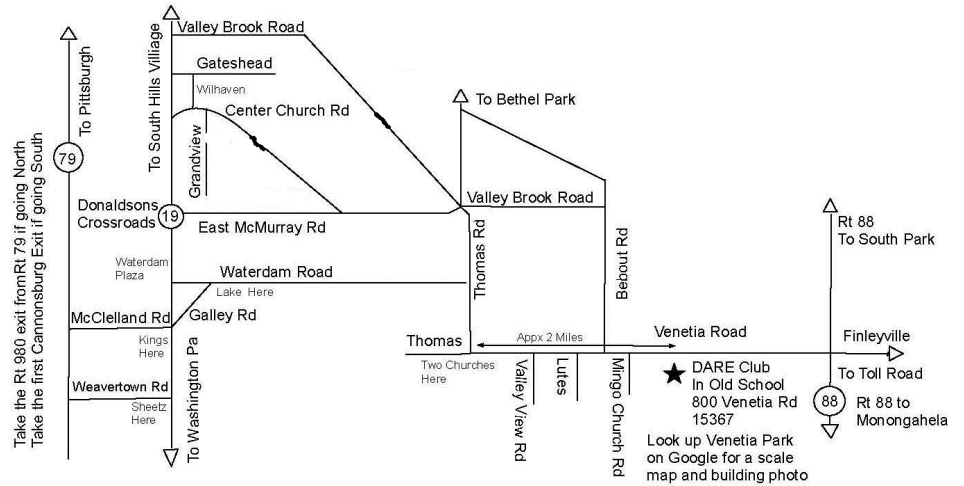
The meeting adjourned at 3:24 PM.



## February 20:

### DARE Club, Venetia

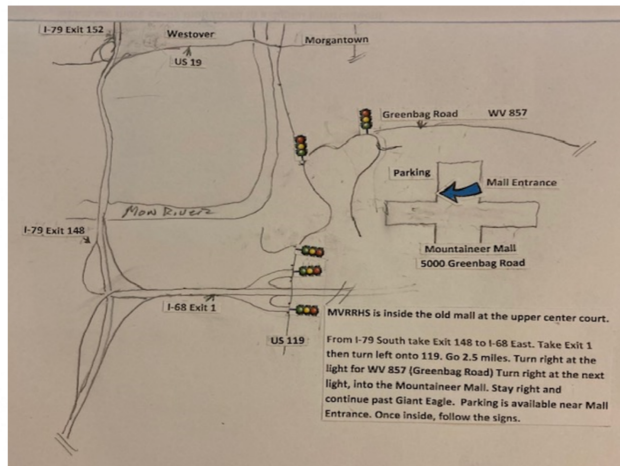
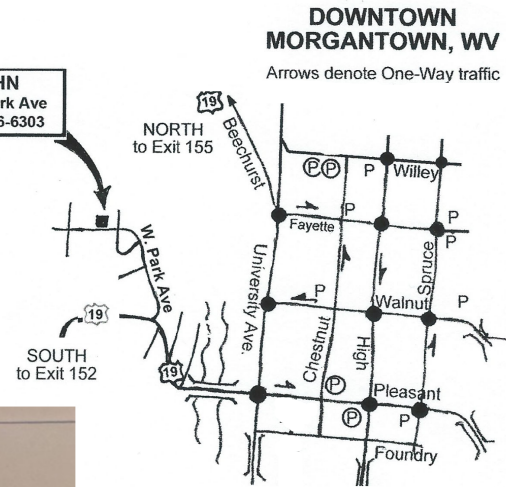
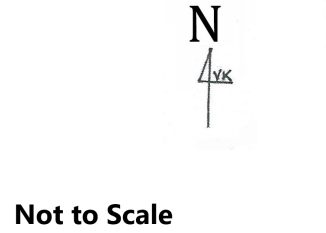
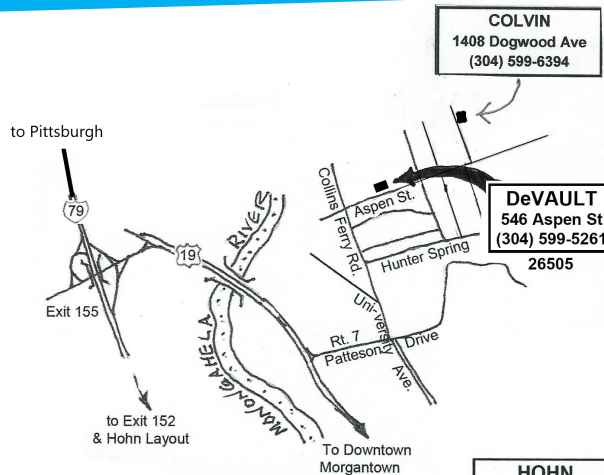
Our February meeting will be held at the DARE Model Railroad Club inside the Venetia Historical Society, located at 800 Venetia Road, Venetia, PA 15367, at 2:30pm. The club's many layouts in different scales will be open from noon, as will the railroad museum, a new feature since our last meeting here. After the meeting, Bryan Seip, President of the Montour Railroad Historical Society, will present a program on the history of that road.



## March 20: Mon Valley RR Historical Society, Morgantown, WV

Our March meeting will be held in the new space of the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society at the Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown, WV 26501. From the north, take I-79 South to I-68 East, then Exit One (to US-119), turn left (north) at the light and drive 2.5 miles to 3rd stop light, then turn right up the hill and into the mall. The Society will open at 12 noon (same as the mall), and the meeting starts at 2:30pm in the classroom across the hall. Program details are TBA.

Before and after the meeting, you can visit a few of the fine nearby home layouts: Keith Devault & Mike Hohn open 10am-12:30pm, and Ken Colvin 12:15-1:30pm; all three will be open after the meeting until 5pm.



US 119 South to MVRHRS

**MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
5000 Green Bag Road  
Morgantown, WV 26501

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



NEXT MEETING:  
 DARE Model Railroad Club, Venetia, PA, February 20

 <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>



## **CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DESIGNING A MODEL RAILROAD**

The Huntington Northern Railway  
by Bob Prehoda



### **The Concept:**

After reading numerous articles in *Model Railroader* magazine in the 1980s, written by my favorite authors Allen McClelland and Tony Koester, I decided that I wanted to build a free-lanced, coal-hauling railroad set in Southwestern Pennsylvania. It was to be a bridge route between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, MD and serve various industries, mines, and interchanges along the mainline. It would also be a mountain railroad, requiring helpers to push the tonnage over the Alleghenies, similar to Allen's Virginian & Ohio and Tony's Allegheny Midland!

Originally, the era was set in 1964, but I have gradually backdated to 1957, as I began to acquire more reliable and smooth running steam locomotives. Most of the engines and half the cars have been re-lettered to represent the Huntington Northern Railway.



Above: Passenger Extra PRR 1453 pulls into Huntington Station to disembark and pick up tourists and business travelers. Center: Yardgoat PRR 9915 pulls a cut of loaded hoppers off the P&WV interchange track to build a coal train for the HN to pull over the summit. Below left: The yard in Huntington is the first scene you see on Bob's HN layout as you enter from the garage; the door in the back leads to the (un-scenicked) termination points of Bob's point-to-point layout: the staging tracks of Pittsburgh and Cumberland, MD.



### **Initial Design:**

After making many sketches to determine what shape would fit into my 24'x26' basement, I chose a design that used the main entry aisle to serve multiple purposes. It had to give me access to the stairs, garage, and especially the laundry room, because the furnace, water heater, refrigerator, and laundry facilities were there. It would also serve as an operating aisle for a major yard that was planned there. I determined that a width of 3 feet would be sufficient.

I also wanted a walk-around design that allowed my future crews and me to follow their trains and perform switching tasks. As mentioned above, my hobby heroes were Allen McClelland with his Virginian & Ohio and Tony Koester's Allegheny Midland. I used (copied) some of



their designs on my Huntington Northern. Although the railroad would be operated point to point, I also wanted to have a continuous loop for display running during open houses, breaking in locomotives, and for track cleaning purposes.



The Huntington Northern Railway is a bridge route that handles a lot of the coal traffic between the PRR and B&O, as well as between the mines and prep plants of the region. *Left:* Hoppers at Friendship Mine in Coal Valley are waiting for the Laurel Turn to return and finish switching the mtys and pulling the loads. *Above:* Loaded hoppers at Crescent Mine in Port Allegheny are ready for pickup by the Laurel Turn. *Below:* Besides coal, the HN also handles a decent amount of mixed freight traffic to the small towns along the right-of-way; here a boxcar is spotted at the team track at Meadow Run, waiting to be retrieved by the Meadow Run Local.

## Track Design:

Since this wasn't my first rodeo, being thrifty (poor), I started reusing the track that I used on previous model railroads, which was Atlas code 100 brass flexible track. However, I purchased and used Atlas code 100 nickel silver flexible track on all mainline and passing sidings. The Atlas brass was used on industrial spurs, yards, and engine servicing facilities.

Another consideration about track planning was to determine the minimum radius that would be used. The minimum radius was set at 24", but I used easement templates to disguise the sharpness of the curves. The added benefit was that I could fit (cram) more peninsulas and aisle ways in my moderate space.



Although not originally included in the initial track design, I would be remiss in not mentioning the importance of including a branch line to enhance railroad operations, even if it's rather short like mine. I was able to lengthen one of my peninsulas over an existing wet bar that was used as part of a crew lounge. The peninsula had to be narrowed down to about 4' in width. The backdrop was extended down the middle and by having the branch line split and go through the backdrop to the other side, I was able to have two more towns with their coal mines on different sides of the same backdrop!! The opening through the backdrop was disguised with a canopy of trees.

## Esthetics:

Not only did I want a model railroad to operate in a prototypical manner, but I wanted it to be pleasing to gaze upon. To get the free-flowing, walk-around design that I wanted, it required using L-girder construction for the

benchwork. This would also allow scenery to be above and below the roadbed. I used 1/2" plywood for the sub-roadbed with another layer of 1/2" homasote on top of that. On all visible trackage, the homasote was cut in 4' or 8' lengths with a width that matched the width of the track ties, except in yard areas. I used a papier mache material to form the shoulders of the roadbed that would eventually form the ballast profile. All classification tracks in the yards were sloped downward with a slight grade. Not only did this avoid the completely flat look, but it allowed me to pull long strings of cars out of my classification tracks without uncoupling over the track magnets.

Also, I tried to use gentle curves on much of the visible trackage, even through many of the smaller towns. I do have straight track, but I avoided running it parallel to the edge of the layout. Before ballasting the track, I spray painted the rails; but please use a respirator while doing it!!

Using backdrops down the middle of peninsulas helps to make my layout seem larger than it really is. This makes it difficult to see the whole railroad at once, and forces visitors/crews to view more scenes as they follow the aisle ways around the layout.

Hopefully, this might give you something to think about as you design your own model railroad. The Huntingdon Northern will be open for visitation (inspection) as part of this year's Jamboree in April.



*Left:* Local west at work in Port Allegheny. *Right:* Hickory Shifter at work on the Laurel Springs branch, an additional small town Bob was able to create by eliminating a wet bar and making creative use of a backdrop.



## **THE KEYSTONE DIVISION LAYOUT LANDSCAPE**

This feature is the first in a series of articles that focus on the layouts our members have built, either for display or for prototype operation, at their homes. Many readers have seen the pike ads over the years but may not yet have visited these layouts. Some of these layouts are completed (essentially, is a model railroad ever really "done"?), while others are in varied states of completion, from "benchwork plus" to "50% scenicked" to "almost there" — whatever, it does not matter, since many of our readers want to build a layout at home and would love to hear about the experiences — both positive and negative — of those who have already made significant progress on a home layout.

With any luck, those of you who are hosting an open house on April 24 after the Jamboree to present your layouts will step up and submit something for me to showcase in this space in the March and April issues; this will give members and Jamboree attendees an opportunity to preview the layouts they may be able to see that weekend. Layouts that are not open after the Jamboree can be covered in later issues this year, as they will hopefully also be open to us, either after meetings that we hold nearby, or at future jamboree or convention hosted by Division Two.

Think of this article as a shorter version of the layout features you see in the monthly model railroad press. The article need not be long; Bob's text covered just 1.5 typed pages. Your contribution should cover the following topics, at a minimum:

- Theme (proto vs. freelance, urban vs. rural, industries on the line, etc.); Era; and Scale;
- Room considerations, layout dimensions, track grades and radii; and
- Techniques used for benchwork, subroadbed, scenery.

As you can see from Bob's contribution, pictures complement the text and effectively illustrate key points you make about your layout. Do not fret about your prose: I will edit for spelling, grammar, style, etc. to ensure your points come across well, and I will touch base with you before we go to press if there is anything that is unclear.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that a contribution like this may be used to earn points toward your [Model Railroad Author](#) AP certificate; for details about this, you should contact AP Chair Dennis Vaccaro (724-929-2190, or [vaccaro\\_dennis@yahoo.com](mailto:vaccaro_dennis@yahoo.com)).



April 23rd seems a long way off as this is being written, but it's not too soon for the committee to have shifted Jamboree preparations into high gear. Actually, we are right on schedule. The twelve clinicians and after-dinner speaker have been lined-up, the Sunday self-directed layout tour is completed, and the [color promotional flyer](#) is printed and circulating. We passed out flyers at the November division meeting to be distributed to local hobby shops, open houses and train shows. The [Jamboree page](#) on our division website have been reactivated and are updated on everything: clinic descriptions, contests, White Elephant details, banquet speaker, raffles, company store, displays and more. Be sure to check periodically as the updates continue.

So, all you have to do is mark your calendar and work on models to enter in the popular vote contests (Motive Power, Rolling Stock, Structures and the special 4th category - "What Can You Do With A Plasticville Kit?"). If that fourth one sounds familiar, it is: it was so successful back in 2014 that we decided to have a do-over. Check the [contest page](#) on the Jamboree website for complete explanation and rules (they're actually very simple).

Oh, and you might start deciding what you want to sell at the [White Elephant Sale](#) as well as what you want to donate for the [Raffle](#). We all have items we will never use and if they are brand new, please consider donating by bringing to an upcoming monthly division meeting or to the Jamboree.

Covid-19 has done a job on our lives for almost two years. By April let's hope it has finally calmed down to the point we can go back to all the things we enjoy and have missed. Attending the annual Jamboree will be a big step in that direction. Please talk to your NMRA and non-NMRA friends about attending this traditionally great two day Mini-Con. Print out the registration form on page 12 below (online edition), or [register online here](#) at the [Jamboree homepage](#).

Your Jamboree Committee

# 2022 Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree

Saturday April 23, 2022

Robert Morris University Yorktown Conference Center

8256 University Boulevard, Moon Twp, PA 15108

## Mail-In Registration

(On-Line Registration at [www.keystonedivision.org](http://www.keystonedivision.org))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

**Jamboree Registration Fee Per Person** – Includes continental breakfast & lunch

**NMRA Members** \$45.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Non- NMRA Members** (\$10 fee applicable to a trial membership- see website) \$55.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Children under 18** (with parent or guardian) \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet** (not include with registration) \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner is Crusted Chicken-Parmesan

\_\_\_\_ Check here for vegetarian option **TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to :**

**Division Two, MCR, NMRA and mail to:**

NMRA Jamboree, c/o Tom Gaus  
3357 New Texas Road,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239