



## Editor's Model of the Month

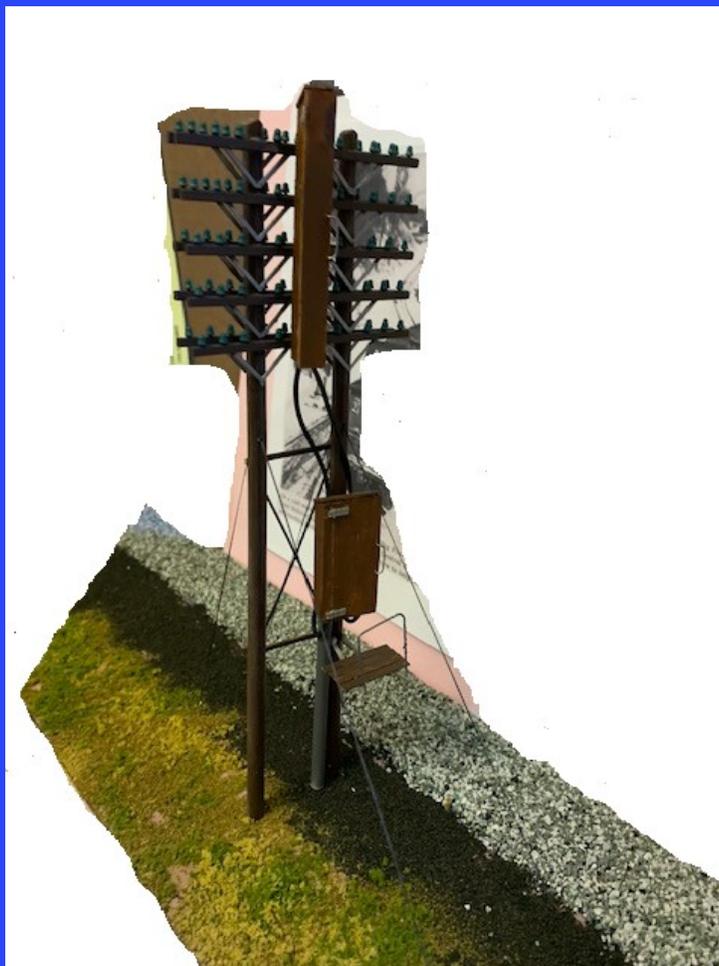
George Pandelios kitbashed this "H fixture" in O scale using components from Weaver Models, Keil-Line, and Midwest Products scale lumber, to create this line pole that served the Pennsylvania Railroad at the east end of the PRR's Panhandle Division Bridge over the Ohio River in Steubenville. Read his full description of the prototype and how he modeled it in the online *Flyer*, page 15.

## Meeting Schedule

**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** - Model RR Jamboree  
Robert Morris University, Moon Twp, PA  
[Details on pages 12-13](#) and [online here](#)

**May 15, 2022** - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm  
Ohio Valley Lines, Ambridge, PA  
Program TBA; Club opens 12 noon



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*:**  
**March 27, 2022**

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

## 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



## From the Super's Desk

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. As I age, I am really looking forward to the lamb-like better weather of Spring.

We will also be one month closer to the Division Jamboree, an event that is highly anticipated by our members and many others as well. In the past we have had attendees from as far as 3+ hours away. One in particular who told me he was planning on attending the Jamboree is our Mid Central Region President David Neff.

The Jamboree is literally a one day (mini) convention. It includes clinics, displays, modeling, and a speaker. The only difference: your Breakfast and Lunch made by the RMU culinary staff are complimentary. The Danishes are excellent!

The Reason the Division holds this mini-convention is to introduce the new model railroaders to the National Model Railroad Association: getting them familiar with what convention shows are about and future friends with similar interests.

Many people worked hard to help reinstate this most enjoyed event and I hope you plan to attend.

Please stay safe and take care of yourself. Looking forward to seeing you all! Thank you!

... *Frank Benders*

### IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we must report the passing of Jim Sacco, who died on Monday, March 7th. One of the luminaries of Division Two, Jim gave generously of his time over the years to help to make our annual Model Railroad Jamboree a resounding success. He also made outstanding contributions to the hobby at large, both through his model products company *City Classics*, as well as through service to the national organization, notably through his revamped design of the NMRA's updated logo (the stylized wheel and rail element), which has graced the masthead of this publication, the *NMRA Magazine*, and other NMRA publications since 2010.

At this writing, arrangements have not yet been made, but if you are on the email list, you will be notified if/when a memorial service is scheduled. We will pay tribute to his contributions at the upcoming meeting, and at that time share any further information that is known about a service. In the mean time, please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

### Division Elected Officers

#### Superintendent

Frank Benders  
(304) 296-2318  
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#### Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs

Andy Blenko  
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#### Chief Clerk

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### Division Appointed Officers

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Jim Sacco † ctyclsses@aol.com

#### Module Committees

FreeMo (HO scale) group  
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The *Keystone Flyer* is published ten times a year by Division Two of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid-Central Region. Subscription to the *Flyer* is included with your NMRA membership and sent via e-mail directly to each member who chooses to receive the newsletter in this format. Alternatively, you may also read the *Flyer* online, or download a copy onto your computer or mobile device by navigating to the link on the Division Two website [[www.keystonedivision.org](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.

## February 20, 2022 Business Meeting

Superintendent Frank Benders opened the February general division meeting at 2:30 PM. He thanked the DARE Model Railroad Club for hosting the meeting at their facility. There were about 50 attendees.

Pass the Hat: Last month, Frank had asked that last month's contribution be added to your February donation. Andy Blenko passed the hat.

New members and/or guests: We had a prospective member, Paul Egri. He is very interested in joining but needs transportation from Mt. Oliver to make the meetings. He asked that anyone willing to assist please contact him or Susan Werner.

Tom Frohmeyer moved and George Pandelios seconded a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the January *Keystone Flyer*. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

### Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer expects to get the *Flyer* out no later than March 10. The deadline for submissions is February 27. He feels that the new feature showing off members' layout work went well and thanked Bob Prehoda for submitting his write-up. He intends to focus on other layouts that will be on the tour in the March and April newsletters and is asking for others to submit descriptions. He noted that the on-line version of the *Flyer* has no page limit.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg reported that the division is solvent. Further, Jamboree registrations are beginning to come in. Andy Blenko reported that the Convention account is also solvent. Building kits for the convention have been ordered.

Programs: Andy Blenko reported that Keith DeVault is working on a program for next month's meeting at the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society in Morgantown, WV. The Morgantown, WV club is located at their new facility located in Mountaineer Mall & Professional Plaza, 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown, 26501. If you have a presentation for the meeting, please call Andy.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported delivering 3 books. She also reported that the Shay book will be reprinted. The price for division members is \$83; the public pays \$100 a copy. The company store has a few extra books on other subjects available; please come browse. Susan is also selling Sylvan models for \$5.

Membership/Website: Tom Gaus was not present, but Frank gave his reports. Division membership stands at 184, including a new member, Robbie Lynn Rayner. The Jamboree pages are up on the website, including information on the clinics, white elephant sale, and contests. The on-line registration page is also operational

Free-Mo: Patrick Altdorfer reported they are getting ready for the upcoming Greenberg Show next weekend (February 26-27). Free-Mo will again partner with the South Hills Model Railroad Club (SHMRRC). They will bring their 13' x 32' loop to help fill up the 40' x 45' space allocated to Free-Mo. He is always looking for more volunteers or participants; please contact him if you are interested in helping out or in adopting an existing module or a new one.

Bring-N-Brag: Richard Terek was present and reported both the January and February contest results.

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

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro presented Susan Werner with the following: Merit Award for Scenery, Merit Award for Civil Track Work, Achievement Certificates for Scenery, Engineer-Civil, Engineer-Electrical. He also presented Richard Turton with a Merit Award for Scenery, Merit Award for Civil Track Work, Merit Award for Structure – Bridge, and Achievement Certificates for Scenery, Engineer-Civil, and Engineer-Electrical.

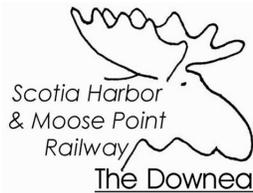
T-Trak: Richie Jodon was not present so the report was made by Jimmy Braum, who noted that layout will be at the Greenberg Train Show next weekend (February 26-27). Anyone wishing to be part of the T-Trak effort, please send Jimmy or Richie Jodon an email. Due to the success of the Division 2 MCR group, a second T-Trak Group has formed, called Iron City Rail T-Trak. It is Jimmy's hope that both groups can combine their modules for shows such as Greenberg, similar to what Free-Mo does.

Jamboree: Grier Kuehn noted that his report was much like a re-run of last month's. The Jamboree is on schedule. The website has the white elephant, clinics, registrations, and contest pages. If you need a registration form, please see him. At present there are 43 registered for the Jamboree. Since most registrations occur in March and April, this is thought to be a good sign and perhaps an indicator that attendance will be high. He would like to see 120+ attendees. Neal Schorr indicated that as a member of the TCA (Train Collectors Association), he was planning to man a table at the Fort Pitt TCA Division meet in Washington, PA on March 26. Neal will be joined by Grier and George Pandelios. George also reported posting the Jamboree announcement and registration links on the O-Gauge Railroading Forum. This is the most active O gauge website in the hobby, serving upwards of 12,000,000 pages/month.

As previously reported, 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*.

Grier once again asked that if you have anything you want to donate (new, unused), please bring it to the next meeting(s) or to the Jamboree itself. The

... Minutes cont'd on page 5



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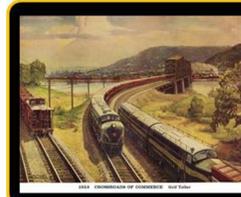
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### PRR Panhandle Division



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



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Keith and Janet DeVault  
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(304) 276-2509 devaultkj@comcast.net

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### Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern Railroad

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John W. Wesner  
Owner & Chief Engineer  
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Haulin' Black Diamonds

Fred Roney, President  
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### FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY



Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO  
Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey ... R.I.P.  
207 State Street  
Woodbury, PA 16695  
gpnastaseo2jzo@gmail.com

Route of the  
Whitetail

15  
LAYOUTS  
AND  
GROWING  
N-HO-O-G

### THE O.R.N. Ry BUNCH



PANHANDLE BRIDGE STEUBENVILLE, OHIO

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

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

# Minutes (cont'd from page 3)

raffle is a great money-raiser for the division and helps the Jamboree break even.

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault was not present so there was no report. Frank indicated that “save the date” cards and information will be available at the Greenberg Show in February.

Old Business: Frank asked the membership for a motion to accept the slate of officer nominations as whole. As previously reported the nominees are: Dennis Coglianese for Superintendent; George Pandelios for Assistant Superintendent; and Mike DiSensi for Chief Clerk. The motion was made by Dennis Vaccaro, seconded by Rob DiBenedetto, and accepted unanimously by acclamation.

New Business: Frank asked the membership for a motion to change the procedure for recognizing the Modeler of the Year (the cumulative winner of Bring-N-Brag awards) from the Jamboree to April or the Jamboree. The change would insure that the winner was recognized at some relatively recent time. Jimmy Braum noted that since the Jamboree has been cancelled for the past 2 years, he has not yet received his 2019 certificate. The motion was made by Jimmy Braum, seconded by George Pandelios, and accepted unanimously by acclamation.

Concerns & Questions: Susan asked if anyone had been in contact with Bud Brock. She is seeking a contact for Bud so that Bruce Butt could deliver a signaling kit that Bud ordered. Dennis Vaccaro posed a question from Bud Brock – does anyone have experience with dead-rail? He asked that responses be sent to either himself or Bud.

## For the Good of the Division

Jimmy Braum indicated that a roster book about the rolling stock of the current Wheeling & Lake Erie (1990-present) is being written and should be out this fall. The author is supposed to use several of Jimmy’s personal freight car photos as well. Jimmy was also present at the Winter Spectacular this past weekend at the East Broad Top Railroad and reported several notes of interest: EBT is close to steaming up locomotive No. 16 (per overheard conversations), and work on the Pogue bridge heading south of Orbisonia is to start very soon. He thinks it may be worth a drive for everyone in the division to visit this year.

Frank relayed that Mike Hohn had been shown a preview of the new digital NMRA magazine. It is due to be rolled out on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dave Kitch asked if there was a way to permit those under 18 years old to enter the event without cost. Grier responded that it was a good suggestion, but very late in the day to consider such a change. He further noted that the Jamboree does not have much financial leeway and while Robert Morris University has graciously kept our rental fee stable, due to the supply chain issues and the pandemic they have been forced to pass along the very steep increases in food costs. Dennis Coglianese inquired if there was a way to offer some sort of concession to parents of such attendees. A vigorous discussion erupted around what might be done to attract minors to the Jamboree. Unfortunately, the NMRA is constrained by legal liability and cannot permit unaccompanied minors to attend the event due to the threat of lawsuits. Any member bringing such an individual to the meet must have the notarized consent of a parent or guardian. Neal Schorr asserted that this was a theoretical discussion because the Jamboree has historically failed to draw many young people with the exception of members’ children. There was no further action on this topic.

Frank then re-introduced the topic of non-contested elections. The MCR guidelines allow for non-contested elections to be decided in a meeting by voice vote (acclamation). Frank invoked that ruling and called for such a motion. Joel Everly made the motion, which was seconded by Rob DiBenedetto. The motion carried unanimously by acclamation and Dennis Coglianese, George Pandelios, and Mike DeSensi were elected to the positions of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Clerk, respectively. Susan Werner volunteered to write up an article for the *Flyer* so that a change to the constitution can be considered at a future meeting.

**[Chief Clerk’s Note:** After the meeting, Susan Werner informed me that the election by acclamation is not actually legal. In order for this to happen, the division’s constitution must be amended to allow for this eventuality. Andy Blenko will write a petition to amend the constitution which will be published in the *Keystone Flyer*. The petition requires 30 signatures. Once signed, this amendment to the constitution can be voted on at the March meeting. If approved, then elections by acclamation can be conducted if all candidates are running unopposed. I urge you all to sign this petition because it saves the division time and money.]

Frank called for a motion to adjourn which was made by Joel Everly, seconded by Charlie Hallman, and passed by acclamation. The meeting adjourned at 3:21 PM.



## **Lost & Found**

A guest who attended our February meeting in Venetia, Paul Egri, left his model behind, and Susan Werner has it. Would the member who brought Paul to the meeting please contact Susan, or put Paul in touch with her, to arrange for its return?

## **TRIVIA CORNER**

*From the PRR archives, courtesy of Bud Brock:*

**MARCH 1, 1907: SOMETIME THIS MONTH (DATE UNDETERMINED) THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD WILL ISSUE A RULE THAT ALL PASSENGER STATIONS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH CATS FOR RODENT CONTROL.**

# Bring'n'Brag

January/February 2022

Because our January meeting was moved online, we held the contests for both January and February categories this month. There were five submissions for the January contest for "Anything Goes," including one for display only. For the February contest for "Motive Power: Diesel, Electric, and Traction," there were only two submissions. The winners were as follows:

For January 2022, "Anything Goes":

**First Place:** Joel Everly entered his Bar Mills craftsman kit of "Pinkham's Pallet and Keg Company" in HO scale (top right).

**Second Place:** George Pandelios brought an "H fixture" (used for telecommunications) that he kitbashed in O scale, using components from Weaver, Atlas K-Line, and Midwest Products scale lumber. The accompanying explanation of how this particular structure was used by the railroads was quite informative. (Photo on cover page, more on page 14).

**Third Place:** Mark Vinski brought a pair of Chessie GP-9 locomotives, which started as Athearn Blue Box models to which he made several modifications, including paint and decals (photos on page 14).

Also, Jim Braum submitted a 3D printed house, and Neal Schorr brought two layout photos. Paul Egri brought a paper model of a railway freight office for display.

## Tracy Boyd/Richard Terek



For February 2022, "Motive Power: Diesel, Electric, and Traction":

**First Place:** Joel Everly, modified HO scale diesel locomotive (photo on page 14).

**Second Place:** Jim Braum's H20-44 PWV Locomotive.

More photos online on pages 14-15.

### Combined Results: January + February 2022

Name	pts
Joel Everly	6
George Pandelios	2
Jimmy Braum	2
Mark Vinsky	1



The contest category for March is **Motive Power: Steam**. Bring your entry to the meeting **no later than 2pm** on **Sunday, March 20**.

## Amendment to the Constitution

Every other year, we elect three officers to lead Division Two. When positions are contested by more than one nominee, we hold an election; in contests for which only one nominee steps forward or is recruited, MCR-NMRA By-laws and practices permit election by acclamation. This year, three nominees were recruited to stand for election to the positions of the three officers. Their biographies were published in the February issue of the Flyer, as was the clarification that this being an uncontested election, we would dispense with the printing of ballots in the Flyer, following NMRA-MCR by-laws and practices. A vote was taken at the February membership meeting, and it was also then decided to take a vote to amend the Division Two constitution at our next (March) meeting, in order to, in Susan Werner's words, "make use of the internet part of the constitution and bring Division 2 into the 21st century." Herewith is the relevant text from the petition circulated among Division Two members, having received 30 valid signatures, elaborating the two changes we advocate and will vote on at the March meeting:

We, the undersigned, propose that in such situations, the slate of officers may be elected by acclamation. Specifically, we propose that Article VI, Section 5 be amended as follows (added language is in italics):

Article VI, Section 5: Election for Division elective offices or issues shall be conducted by mail ballots. On all ballots, space shall be provided for write-in votes for each office. *If, after a diligent effort/search, only one candidate is nominated for any Division Officer position, the sole nominee may be elected by a motion to have an Election by Acclamation. In instances where the entire slate of candidates for Division Officers are running unopposed, mailing of ballots will not be necessary if a motion to have an Election by Acclamation is proposed and passed.*

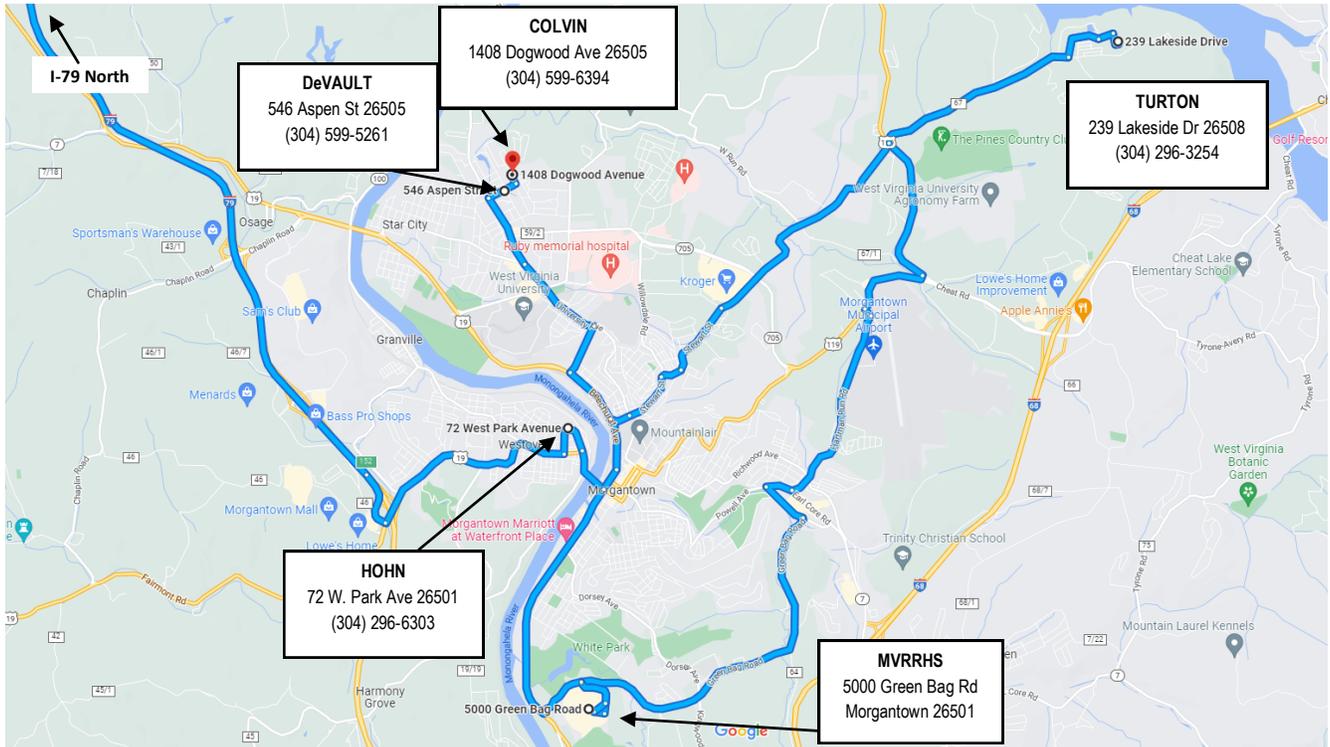
We also propose that Article VIII, Section 2 be amended as follows (added language in italics):

Article VIII, Section 2: A proposal to amend the Constitution may be initiated by petition to the Chief Clerk not less than thirty (30) days before a regular meeting signed by thirty (30) members. After publication of the proposal, a membership meeting motion requiring a two-thirds majority vote for approval may be made instructing the Chief Clerk to prepare a mail ballot for resolution of the issue. *Publication in the monthly newsletter shall be sufficient notice for the mail ballot.* The mail ballot shall be sent to all Division members in good standing. The Advisory Committee may authorize early balloting if the issue is urgent. A two-thirds majority of the mail ballots received is required for approval.

## March 20: Mon Valley Railroad 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 the meeting, four fine nearby home layouts are hosting open houses: Keith Devault & Mike Hohn open 10am-12:30pm; Richard Turton (239 Lakeside Drive, Morgantown 26508) opens from 12 Noon to 2pm; and Ken Colvin will be open 12:15pm - 1:30pm; Keith, Mike, and Ken will also be open after the meeting until 5pm.

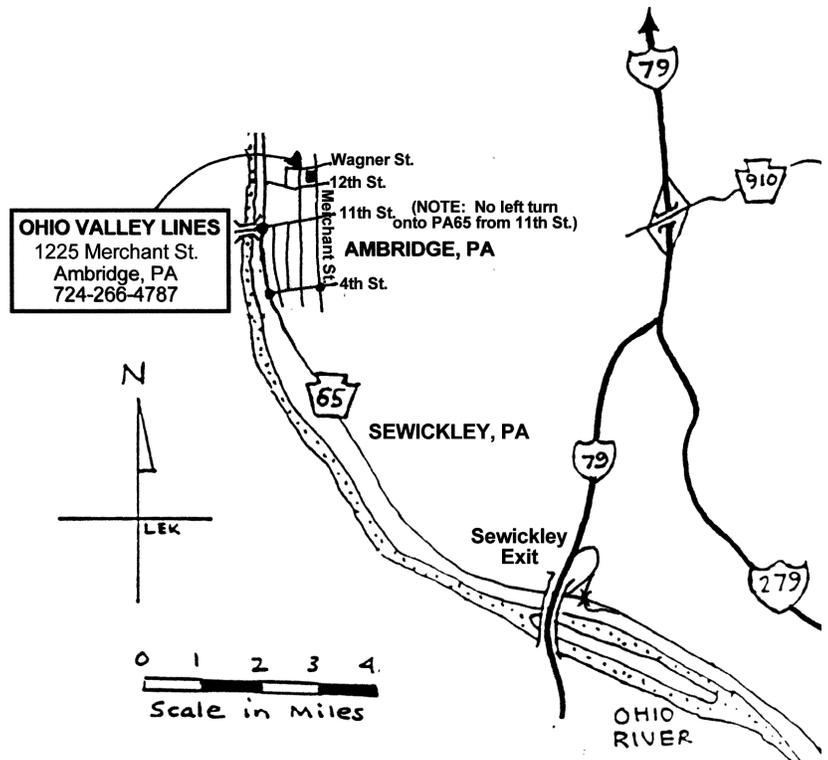


## April: Model RR Jamboree

In April we have an abbreviated business meeting at the Model Railroad Jamboree, on Saturday, April 23, at Robert Morris University's Sewell Center, Moon Twp, PA. Local layouts host open houses on Sunday. Details are on pages 12-13 and [online here](#).

## May 15: Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club, Ambridge, PA

Our May meeting will be held at the OVL Club, which had planned to host us in January, but the meeting was moved online due to the fast-spreading Omicron variant. The club will open at 12 noon, the meeting starts at 2:30pm.



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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
 Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society, Morgantown, WV, March 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</b>  <b>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>

## PITTSBURGH MAINLINE HO SCALE MODEL RAILROAD



by Andy Blenko

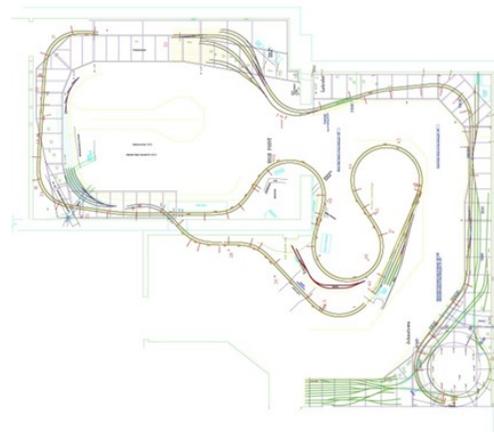
It had long been my desire to have a large model railroad, dating back to a 4' x 8' layout I had as a child. My love of prototype railroads was cemented when I was ten and my family took a cross country trip by rail. I wanted a layout where I could simply let trains run – perfect for an open house – but also a layout that supported operations. The final design, a collaboration with several other NMRA members, gives me both. It is a two-track mainline which runs into a lower level staging area at each end, connecting back on itself. There is both an eastbound and westbound staging yard on the lower level, each having 5 tracks.

I was a devoted fan of Conrail from its inception, so there was never any doubt this would be a Conrail layout. I have also been fascinated by the Turtle Creek valley since I was a youngster and my initial thought was to model it in detail, including the Edgar Thomson Works, Westinghouse East Pittsburgh Works, Westinghouse Air Brake and Pitcairn Yard. Fortunately, others convinced me that I needed to model a larger area to have shippers and receivers, so the layout was extended to cover from Pittsburgh to Johnstown. This also allowed for interchanges with the Union Railroad, Chessie System and Allegheny Valley Railroad. Our era is the early 80s, which allows for cabooses and is early enough that some of the Conrail predecessor road names still appear, making for a colorful locomotive fleet. I firmly believe that most model railroads are autobiographical, modeling what you remember from your early years. We are trying to capture “signature” scenes along the main line that will be instantly recognizable to visitors. In my mind, there is no greater compliment than to have a visitor exclaim “I know where that is!”

When he was old enough to help with construction, my son Charlie joined in, which has been one of my greatest joys and created a lifelong bond between us. He fully embraces the modeling era and geography and his dedication has moved the layout along and kept me motivated. When he was a toddler, his favorite VHS tape was “Pittsburgh Mainlines” by Pentrex, hence the name of the layout.

My allotted basement space was initially 13' x 25', but an addition to our home in 2005 added another 16' x 20' area, allowing an “L”-shaped layout. Construction began in 2006, although that included finishing the rooms with studs and a drop ceiling. A group of friends turned out to help with construction several nights each month. It took exactly ten years to complete the mainline, and a Golden Spike ceremony was held in November 2016, complete with a scale spike fashioned from gold.

A wise man once told me “Don’t make your final track connection until your scenery is done – otherwise you will be so into running trains, you’ll never finish your scenery.” Wise advice indeed, although operating the layout gave us reason to make some changes in track work, which would have been far more difficult had scenery been in place. We have been working on yards, sidings and electronics since the



Track plans for the upper level (*above*) and staging yard (*below*).



Ligonier Street underpass in Latrobe.

Golden Spike ceremony and scenery has been underway for the past 1-2 years.

We did not have sufficient room for two classification yards, so we have just one, Pitcairn Yard, which is located roughly in the middle of the visible (non-staging area) railroad, and includes an engine house, auto unloading ramps and a turntable. Our operating scheme involves trains from the east (Enola, Baltimore, Philadelphia) and west (Elkhart, Toledo, Chicago) coming onto the layout from staging and stopping at Pitcairn Yard, where freight cars are dropped off or picked up, usually with a crew change, then local trains run both east and west out of Pitcairn to serve local industries, bringing cars back to Pitcairn for routing back to staging. Cars are also interchanged with the other three railroads on the layout. Car cards are utilized. Given my love for passenger trains, we also have two Amtrak trains, the Broadway Limited and the Pennsylvanian, which serve five passenger stations along the main line – Pittsburgh, Wilkinsburg, Pitcairn, Latrobe and Johnstown.

The layout features a computer interface with block detection and more recently working signals. The dispatcher can see the location of each train, signal status and turnout positions. Operating sessions can accommodate 8-11 operators, including a yardmaster, signal setter/train master, and dispatcher in a small office beneath the stairs. Walkie-talkies are used for communications between the crews and the dispatcher. The layout is DCC with wired (yard master) and wireless (train crews) throttles.



Parkway East underpass in Edgewood.



Above: Conemaugh River crossing at Johnstown; Below: Conemaugh Generating Station cooling towers, New Florence; Right: the "Trench" in Pittsburgh's West Park (prototype top, model bottom).



Industries on the layout will include Heinz, a furniture warehouse, Nabisco, Union Switch & Signal, Kopp Glass, Edgar Thomson Steel Mill, Westinghouse East Pittsburgh Works, Westinghouse Air Brake, Rolling Rock Brewery, Stone and Company Building Materials, Conemaugh Generating Station, a feed mill, a coal mine, Cambria Iron Works, Acme Foods warehouse, two scrap yards, and Johnstown America. We still have to build a peninsula in the new room, which will cross the Monongahela River at Port Perry and include Clairton Coke Works and USS Irvin Works, along with a slag dump. Union Railroad will also include an extension to North Bessemer, where Taconite arrives from the Great Lakes, so that the entire steel making process can be modeled. Since we are modeling a real geographic area, we have often gone out to get photos and measurements of the prototype, which helps to make the layout authentic.



Bench work uses both dimensional lumber and plywood to build an “open grid” framework (butt-jointed 1x4s supported by 2x4 legs, then topped with both ½” and ¾” plywood sub-roadbed. There is a 4-1/2 revolution helix at Johnstown that connects staging with the visible layout. Track grades are 2-1/2% in the helix and maximum 2% on the visible layout. A reversing loop in staging allows trains to be turned. With the exception of downtown Pittsburgh, track radii are 28-32 inches.

Building a model railroad teaches many skills, including carpentry, electronics, and research. While I had already developed some of these skills over the years, building this railroad allowed me to bring these all together, and hone them, in one exciting project, and most important, to impart them to the next generation. Moreover, it has led to many friendships, both on the construction and operating side (some of whom were involved in both of these aspects of building this railroad).

If you will be attending the Jamboree on April 23rd, look for details on my layout, as it will be one of the Sunday Open Houses.



Right: Dispatch desk, with Bob Dengler on duty.

## **THE KEYSTONE DIVISION LAYOUT LANDSCAPE**

This feature is the second in a series that focuses on the layouts our members have built, either for display or for prototype operation, at their homes. Last month we featured Bob Prehoda’s Huntingdon Northern layout; this month Andy Blenko introduces us to his Conrail-themed layout, stretching from Pittsburgh to Johnstown. Like Bob’s layout, Andy’s will also be open to visitors on Sunday, April 24 (the day after the Jamboree).

If you are hosting an open house on April 24, I can still get your layout feature into the April issue of the Flyer, if you get me your article by the editorial deadline (March 27). But if your layout is not on the Jamboree layout tour in April, but will be open at some other point this year or next, please send me an article for publication, because this is a space for us to preview our layouts and give visitors a chance to preview what is in store when they do visit.

Once again, here are some guidelines for writing your article: 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, and in any order you choose to describe them:

- Theme (prototype 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, and scenery.

As you can see from Bob’s and Andy’s contributions, pictures complement the text and effectively illustrate key points and aspects of 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, and to give you an advance viewing of the copy as it would look in the publication, at which point you may suggest further edits.

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

*Cont'd from page 6*

Due to space limitations in the print issue, the other photos of entries are here. There were some very nice models this month, and I am looking forward to seeing what you've got in steam at the March meeting in Morgantown. Remember to get there by 2pm so your entry can be included in the contest. Thanks!

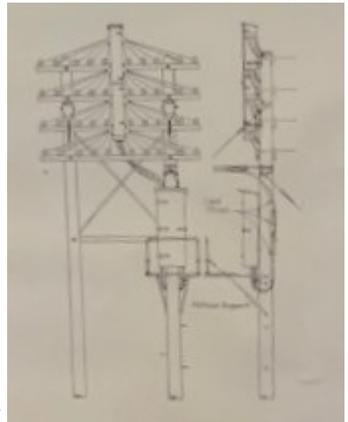
- Rick Terek



*Left:* Here is the "naked" (unedited) version of this month's cover photo, George Pandelios' model of the PRR "H" Fixture, which he entered in the January contest and also submitted for AP judging; that verdict will be announced at the March meeting. George included a lot of information about the prototype and the model, which we reprint here because it says it all:

I kit-bashed the model using O-scale utility pole components from Weaver Models (originally designed by Neal Schorr, then produced by Weaver, and now by Atlas LLC), Keil-Line (tooling now owned by Scale City), and Midwest Products scale lumber. The 10 crossarms were cut (in left-hand and right-hand configurations) and then glued together to mate with 2 parallel vertical poles. The upper terminal box and lower relay box were made from blocks of wood, painted, and aged. Handles and hinges were applied and 20 AWG black wires were run between them. The conduit is Plastruct tubing.

This model represents a kind of telecommunications line pole used by the PRR and other railroads in the early to mid-20th Century. The device, called an "H" fixture because of its shape, was located at the east end of the PRR's Panhandle Division bridge across the Ohio River between Steubenville, OH and Weirton, WV. Its purpose was to terminate and collect communications lines into a conduit that could be transferred from one side of a large geographical obstacle (river, chasm) to the other. The device can be seen in the 1953 GRif Teller painting "Crossroads of Commerce," a 1925 slide from the John Barriger collection (courtesy of the St. Louis Mercantile Museum), and in a photograph of a locomotive crossing the bridge in the fog (source unknown). There is also a photo from 1951 (NYC). The diagram (*right*) is from a website called [The Electric Orphanage](#).



*Right:* Neal Schorr entered two photos from his O-scale layout, which portray two iconic scenes on the Pennsy's Middle Division, the route operated by the Norfolk Southern today. As did George, Neal included so much information about his January contest entry that we will let him speak for himself:

My entry for this month consists of two photos since the modeling in the scenes cannot be removed from the layout for entry in the contest. The foreground of the scene of the Norfolk Southern engines crossing the bridge was just completed precisely two weeks ago. It is very representative of the Middle Division of the former PRR and contains the classic elements of that portion of the Pennsy...a stone arch bridge spanning the Juniata River with the mountains of central Pennsylvania in the distance.

The second image is of a model of the Port Royal station as it appeared in 1957. The station is framed by the arch of the concrete PA route 75 bridge which still stands today. By that year, it had been out of service for almost a decade, hence the weed covered brick passenger platform and the oil storage drums sitting on a pallet in front of the station. Even though not a train is in sight, the way in which the photo captures the mood of the railroad has made it my all time favorite photo of the layout.





Above: Mark Vinsky entered this pair of Chessie GP9 locomotives in the January contest for "Anything Goes," and took third place. In the editor's humble opinion, this entry could arguably have taken first or second place in the February contest, because of the amount of work he put into super-detailing the models and



"postdating" the original source material: which were actually Athearn "blue box" models of GP7 locomotives. For example, he added dynamic brakes, winterization hatches, and extra louvers, while removing other details to replicate the newer series. Among the 230+ pieces on each locomotive, Mark added roof top air tanks, cooling fan, hand brake, air hoses, poling pockets, M.U. plugs, drop steps, windshield wipers, and other parts, not to mention paint and decals. He also provided us with some history of the prototypes he modeled: "B&O 6600 and 6604 were used for a number of years on the PATrain during the week and on helpers and locals over the weekend. B&O 6605 was also used in this service" (left: prototype photo of PATrain at B&O Grant Street station).



Center: Jimmy Braum entered this N scale work-in-progress, which he created using a 3D printer. He started by finding the actual dimensions online, then drew it with Google Sketchup, an scaled it down to 1:160 to program the Ender 3 Pro printer, which took 4 hours to print.



Far right: For display only, Paul Egri brought this interesting paper model of a freight house / station for the Mount Allegheny Railway.

February 2022

Below: Joel Everly's entry won first place in the February contest on "Motive Power: Diesel, Electric, & Traction." Joel started with an Intermountain HO scale model of a GE ES44AC diesel locomotive in Heritage livery (Central of Georgia) and re-lettered it to match his own pike's moniker, the "Arel & Jolene Railroad."



Right: Jimmy Braum's N scale model of an H20-44, numbered PWV #59, took second place in the February contest. He painted, decaled, and weathered the locomotive to model its appearance in the 1960s. There was no third place winner because there were only two entrants in this category.

Photos by Rick Terek

