

Editor's Model of the Month

Susan Werner built this wedge snowplow car some years ago, starting with a Northeastern Scale Models rolling stock kit. This 1970s craftsman kit (aka "box of sticks") required assembly, sometimes of a very tedious nature (e.g. the bending of the wood to form the plow), the painting, and the addition of trucks and metal wheelsets, as well as a Kadee coupler in the back so that it could be used on her previous layout, the "Heimat and Southwestern Railroad." She recently upgraded the model with detail parts to submit it for a Merit Award. Her recent super-detailing (which you can see pictured inside, in the Bring'n'Brag article, page 5), included fabricating the coupler cut lever and adding undercarriage detail.

Meeting Schedule

Saturday, April 23, 2022 - Model RR Jamboree
RMU, Yorktown Hall, Moon Twp, PA
[Details inside](#) 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

Bring'n'Brag

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

Submission Deadline for next *Flyer*:
April 30, 2022

Visit us online at
keystonedivision.org



From the Super's Desk

Spring is officially here, regardless of the weather we may be having. Rail fan sites are opening up for visitors. Many local clubs are having open houses or putting on special displays in malls. It's time to start exploring again. Spring is also a great time to take photos of structures or cars that you wish to model.

.On Spring Break with family, I was able to visit a train park with full scale trains, a 5/12 scale train to ride, live steam, model trains, and museum collections. It was encouraging to see the crowds enjoying our hobby - future members of the NMRA being introduced to railroading. I hope you have an opportunity to experience something similar.

Stay Safe, and don't miss the Jamboree April 23. It will inspire you!

... *Frank Benders*

Jamboree Reminder

Sunday Layout Tours

Remember: the Jamboree is a two-day event with self-directed layout tours (this year all to the south and east of Pittsburgh) on Sunday. Your registration packet will contain descriptions of and directions to the layout open houses. Two of these layouts are featured on pages 9-14 below!

Clinics

Twelve diverse modeling and prototype presentations are lined-up. See the [website for clinic details](#).

Popular Vote Contests

These are great because popular vote means no paper-work to complete in advance and no judging (except by popular vote). With two years of serious model building happening while cooped up due to Covid, we are looking forward to lots of entries. Again, this year there is a fourth category in addition to the regulars of Motive Power, Rolling Stock, and Structures: **Plasticville Kits**. It's a fun category that drew many imaginative entries back in 2014 with lots of kit-bashing and alterations to the basic kits. Here's a small tower that was entered back then and has now found a permanent home on its owner's layout. See what a few modifications and added details can do.



A Fun Day

It's been three years since the last Jamboree. We really deserve to have a great day with friends enjoying our hobby. See you there!

Division Elected Officers

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T-Trak (N scale) group
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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]. 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.

March 20, 2022 Business Meeting

Superintendent Frank Benders opened the March general division meeting at 2:27 PM by asking for a moment of silence to honor the passing of Jim Sacco and other departed members of Division Two. Those members are: Kenneth E. Metzger, John J. Takoch, Carl P. Isso, Kenneth H. Deiss, Larry Caniff III, Alexis DePoutiloff, Henry J. Statkowski, Rev. Richard H. Flock, Earl Benteler, Phyllis Coulter, and Raymond Yurkowski.

He thanked the Mon Valley Railroad Club and Historical Society for hosting the meeting at their facility. The club president, Lou Lemelle, welcomed the division members to the facility.

Pass the Hat: Andy Blenko passed the hat.

New members and/or guests: We had new member Robbie Rayner present at the meeting. Her interest is in Free-Mo (HO).

Andy Blenko moved and Keith DeVault seconded a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the February *Keystone Flyer*. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer noted that the *Flyer* was out a bit late due to his being out of town. He thanked Andy Blenko for his contribution to last month's edition; Andy wrote about his layout, which will be on tour during the Jamboree. Patrick asked for additional contributions as the March edition does not, at present, feature a layout description. Any such submission should be about 2-3 pages in length and follow the format used by Andy and Bob Prehoda. Patrick noted that both Rob Enrico and Dave Garlick will also have layouts on the Jamboree tour. The deadline for submissions is March 27.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg reported that the division is solvent.

Programs: Andy Blenko reported that May's meeting will be at the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club in Ambridge, PA. Currently there is no program. If you have a presentation for the meeting, please call Andy. He is also looking for layouts to be open before or after the meeting.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported that she has few books left. The Shay book has proven extremely popular and she is waiting on additional deliveries from the publisher / distributor. A second run is anticipated. Susan noted that with the passing of Jim Sacco, City Classics products may become harder to obtain. The store has a limited number of these offerings. If you want any of them, now is the time to act.

Membership/Website: Tom Gaus was not present, but Frank gave his reports. Division membership stands at 186. As reported last month 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 plan to attend the upcoming Greenberg Show in July (date TBA); their application has been sent in. Free-Mo will again partner with the South Hills Model Railroad Club (SHMRR) in hopes of fielding a 45' x 40' display. Patrick is always looking for more volunteers; please contact him if you are interested in helping.

Bring-N-Brag: Neither Tracy Boyd nor Richard Terek was present so the contest was run by Susan Werner.

Video Library: Bud Brock was not present so there was no report. Frank questioned the utility of the video library but Susan indicated that she and others do use it.

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro presented George Pandelios with a Merit Award for Structures (PRR "H" fixture). He also reported that Susan Werner had qualified for a Merit Award for Cars (Russell snowplow). And Mike Hohn qualified for his Engineering-Civil Certificate.

T-Trak: Richie Jodon reported that T-Trak had a great outing at the Greenberg train show in February. They will be at the Jamboree next month and plan to attend the next Greenberg show in July. Please let Richie or Jimmy know if you wish to be part of the T-Trak effort.

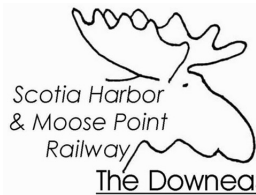
Jamboree: Once again, Grier Kuehn was happy to report that the Jamboree is on schedule. He thanked Neal Schorr and Tom Gaus for their assistance. With Tom's assistance, the website has the white elephant, clinics, registrations, and contest pages up and running. To date, most of the 71 registrations and payments have been completed on-line. If you need a registration form, please see him. There are 4 clinics that address the prototype; the remaining eight are modeling related. Neal Schorr reminded the group that all layouts open for touring are conveniently located southeast of Pittsburgh. Richie Jodon asked about T-Trak tables for the Jamboree. He and Grier will confer. Dave Kitch asked how a member might sell items at the Jamboree. He was informed of the White Elephant sales process on the website.

Grier once again asked that if you have anything you want to donate (new, unused), please bring it to the Jamboree itself. The raffle is a great money-raiser for the division and helps the Jamboree break-even.

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault was present, but asked to defer the topic to New Business.

Old Business: As reported in last month's meeting minutes, a petition to amend the Division's Constitution was created and published in the *Keystone Flyer*. The petition addressed two proposed amendments to the Division 2 Constitution. Specifically, Article VI Section 5 was to be amended to permit voice vote (by Acclamation) for officers when running unopposed for

... Minutes cont'd on page 5



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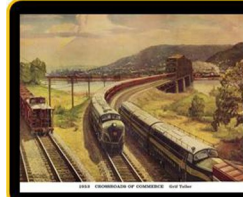
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George Pandelios Chief Engineer
Member: NMRA, TCA, PRRT&HS
717.503.3192 gpandelios@verizon.net



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from Morgantown to Keyser

Keith and Janet DeVault
546 Aspen Street, Morgantown, WV
(304) 276-2509 devaultkj@comcast.net

--- YOUR AD HERE ---

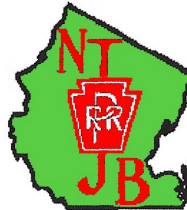
HO/HON3



Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern Railroad

Vagel Keller, Gen'l. Manager
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Follow our construction progress online at:
http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=22893



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD NORTH JERSEY BRANCH

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Fred Roney, President
fredron@zoominternet.net



FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY

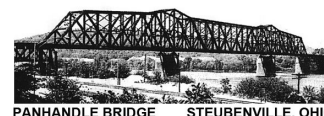


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NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

Minutes (cont'd from page 3)

their respective offices. Also up for amendment was Article VIII, Section 2 to permit publication of proposed changes to the Constitution in the *Keystone Flyer* in lieu of a mailed ballot. In order to be brought to a vote, the petition needed 30 signatures. It received 40 signatures and was certified as valid by the Chief Clerk on February 28.

Frank asked the membership for a motion to accept both amendments to the Constitution. This motion was made by Susan Werner and seconded by Keith DeVault. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Frank then asked the membership for a motion to elect the unopposed slate of division officers (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk). The motion was made by Susan Werner and seconded by Keith DeVault. The motion carried unanimously by acclamation, thus electing Dennis Coglianesi as Superintendent, George Pandelios as Assistant Superintendent, and Mike DiSensi as Chief Clerk.

New Business: Keith DeVault reported that preparations for the Mid-Central Region Convention are on track. The convention will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Cranberry Township May 3-7. He noted that Jim Sacco had been working on a logo for the convention and that it was complete. He described it as a CSX locomotive drawn against the backdrop of a bridge and the Golden Triangle. The tagline reads "Rails to Pittsburgh 2023". Keith then asked for a motion to accept the logo. The motion was made by Dennis Vaccaro and seconded by Susan Werner. It passed unanimously by voice vote.

Neal Schorr indicated that Jamboree brochure layout was on Jim Sacco's home computer and that he needed a way to share it with other division members. Dennis Vaccaro offered to act as the division's repository for such items. Mike DeSensi noted that

this might be an appropriate secondary (backup) duty for the Chief Clerk. Richard Turton suggested that Google or DropBox might be a good way to create a shared repository in the cloud. Dennis recommended against trusting the cloud as the only repository. Grier confirmed that the jamboree color brochure was created by Jim and could probably be obtained from the printer (Banksville Printing). He did not know what software had been used to create the very detailed brochure and expressed some concern about reproducing it. Mike DeSensi volunteered to recreate flyers and division wide printed materials as needed.

Concerns & Questions: Susan Werner had none to report. Frank asked if this category could be eliminated.

For the Good of the Division

Susan Werner reported that she had received a postcard announcing a train show would be held at the Allegany County Fairgrounds in Cumberland, MD on April 30 from 9-2.

Grier announced that the Beaver County Model Railroad & Historical Society will be holding their Annual Spring Train Show on Sunday April 3rd, 10AM-3PM. The address is Monaca Turners, 1700 Old Brodhead Rd, Monaca, PA 15061. Adult admission is \$5.00. Children under 12 are free.

Frank presented a plaque to Mike Hohn in appreciation of his years of service to the NMRA at the divisional, regional, and national levels. Mike is currently the manager of national education program for the NMRA. Well-deserved and congratulations!!!

Frank called for a motion to adjourn which was made by Dennis Vaccaro, seconded by Susan Werner, and passed by acclamation. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.



Railways in the News

The Times (UK) reported on April 4 that partisans in Belarus have been sabotaging the railways in order to hinder the delivery of Russian war materiel into Ukraine:

"Defectors from Belarus's armed forces and security apparatus are coordinating attacks on the country's railway lines, which have crippled Russian supply lines into Ukraine... Setting fire to electric relay cabinets, which control signal crossings and gates, has proved the most common method of disruption. The cabinets are often found on remote stretches of track making them an easy target. At least 52 people, including over 30 railway workers, have been detained on charges — including treason, terrorism and spying — according to Belarus investigators and Viasna, Belarus' major human rights group...."

TRIVIA CORNER

From the PRR Lines West IO group, courtesy of Mark Tomlison:

APRIL 3, 1924: PROHIBITION AGENTS FIND 22 CASES OF WINE, WHISKEY AND GIN IN THE PRIVATE RAILROAD CAR OF PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD VICE PRESIDENT. GEORGE LEBOUTILLIER. THE STEWARD IS ARRESTED AND THE CAR SEIZED.

APRIL 1, 1960: CLASS 1 RAILROADS REPORT A TOTAL OF ONLY 519 STEAM LOCOMOTIVES ON THEIR ROSTERS.

N Scale Enthusiasts

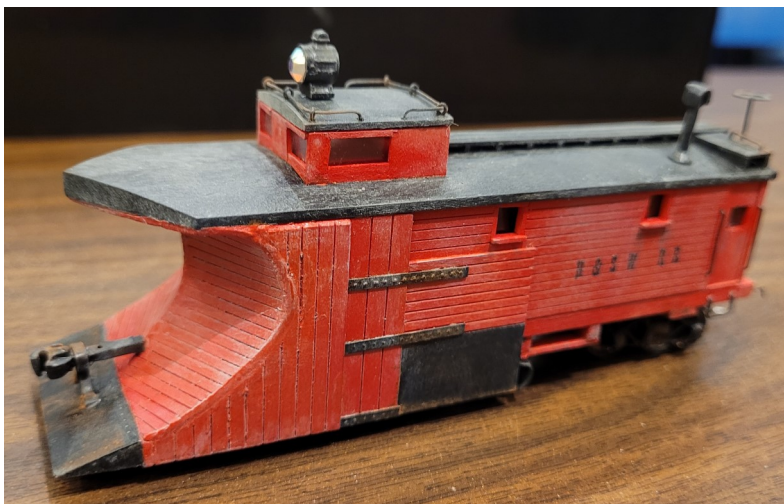
Dave Kitch is interested in exchanging ideas with other Division members who are modeling in N scale. Please contact him at dmkitch@comcast.net and 724-433-4151 if you are interested.



March 2022

Neither I nor Rick were in attendance at the meeting, but Susan stepped up in our absence to run the contest for March, in the category of "Motive Power: Steam."

There was one entry in this month's contest, from Jim Braum. He brought his Bachmann Spectrum P&WV Mikado, No. 928 (photo above). He modeled it after photos in the "High and Dry" book. He re-decaled a B&O locomotive to P&WV, individually applying each letter by hand. Jim then applied a light grime to the locomotive as well as installing DCC. Jim wins the first place in this month's contest.



For display only, Susan Werner brought her wedge snowplow to be judged for a Merit Award. Built from a Northeastern Scale Models kit and then super-detailed, she scratch-built all of the undercarriage detail (except k-brake casting, photo below), and fabricated the coupler cut lever as well (photo right).



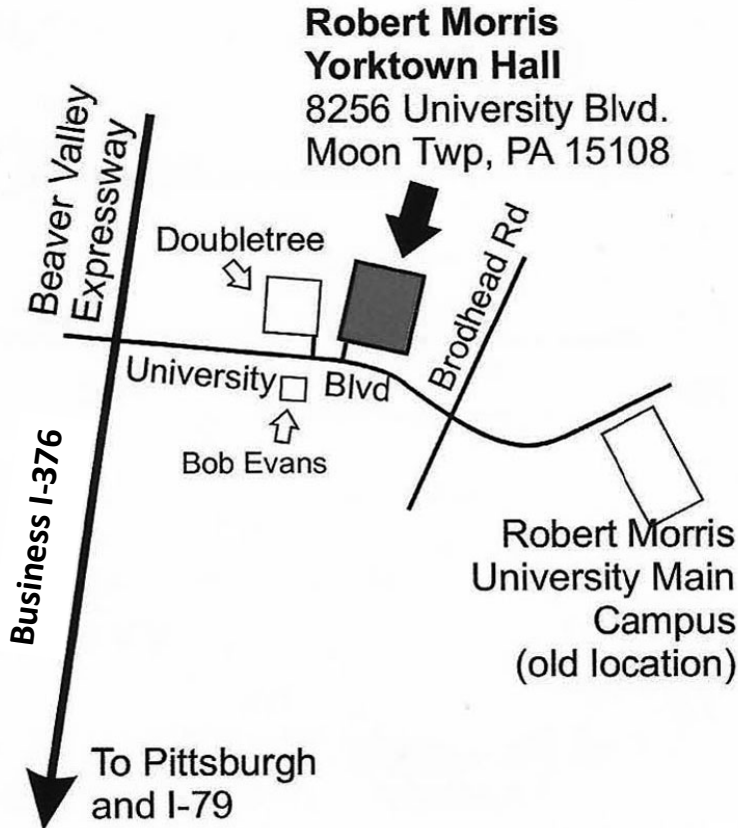
Name	pts
Joel Everly	6
Jimmy Braum	5
George Pandelios	2
Mark Vinsky	1



No contest in April (Jamboree); category for May is **Freight Cars**. Bring your entry to the meeting **no later than 2pm** on **Sunday, May 15**.

Saturday, April 23: Model Railroad Jamboree Returns!

In April we have an abbreviated business meeting at the Model Railroad Jamboree, on Saturday, April 23, at Robert Morris University's Yorktown Hall, Moon Twp, PA. Local layouts host open houses on Sunday. More details are on pages 15-16 below and on the [Division Two website here](#).

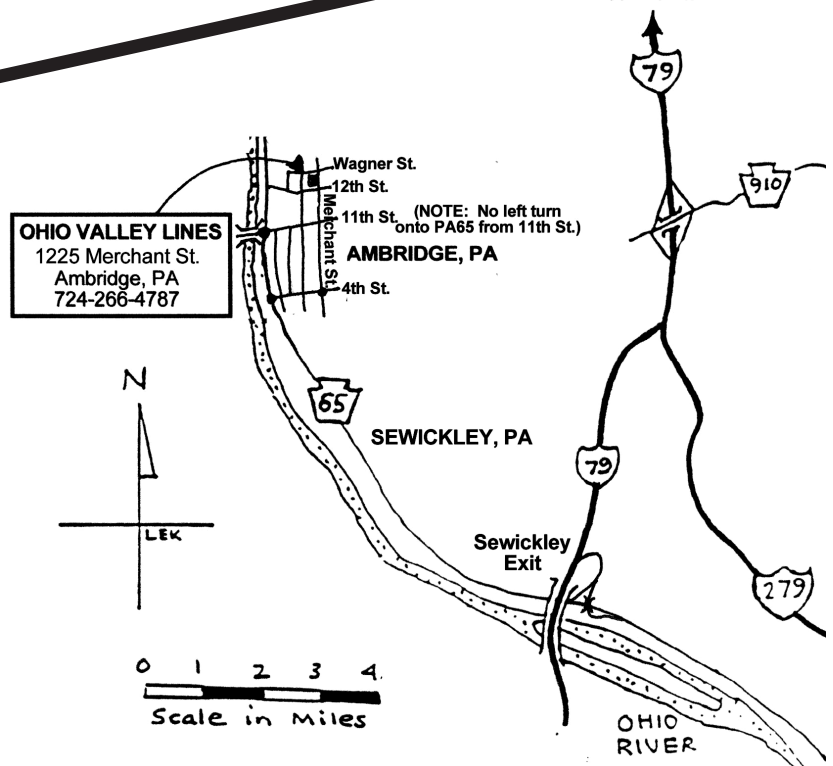


Jamboree Checklist:

- [Register online](#) at keystonedivision.org or by mail (print out & return the form on p.16 below)
- Bring a friend
- Enter the contests
- Sell at the White Elephant Sale
- Buy at the White Elephant Sale
- Donate new raffle items
- **Cash Only** for raffle tickets & WES purchases

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:
Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Model Railroad Jamboree
 Robert Morris University, Yorktown Hall, Moon Twp., PA

 <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>

The intent behind this slightly more complicated color identification scheme, as compared to the simpler “drop a car, pick a car” method a-la Ken Hanawalt’s Turtle Creek Railroad, is to instill a stronger sense of randomness in terms of siding congestion and train length.

Technological Complexity

Dave’s layout incorporates many of the features DCC has brought with it including automated signaling, digital turnout control, and even automated through trains!

Dave decided on Digitrax DCC with for his layout. Duplex and simplex radio control systems are integrated to allow operators freedom of movement. Along with operator controlled trains, Dave has a number of computer controlled trains running via Railroad & Co. Software on his computer, permanently linked to the railroad. This gives the illusion of traffic when physical crews are sparse.

The Railroad & Co. software requires a signal system to communicate with it, so Dave has implemented one using the current detection method with Digitrax BDL168 track detection units. Along with outputting their findings to the computer, the BDL168 units also control two signaling systems. The first is purely decorative and is displayed on the built-in aspects of pre-made signals sourced from China. The second purely shows whether a train is within the upcoming block, and this is used by crews to help keep them spaced appropriately from other trains.

Another digital control feature necessitated by the system is decoder controlled turnouts. While not all turnouts are DCC, those that are so equipped are done so with the intent to allow automated trains controlled by the Railroad & Co software to pass one another.

Construction Challenges

In the later years of his life, Dave has met adversity with his personal health, which required radical changes and inventiveness in owning and maintaining a model railroad. The biggest challenge is the “war against dust.”

The average model railroad attracts and creates many forms of dust. Conventional construction creates wood, homasote, and sometimes even foam particulate. Scenic material traps natural dust, which is released again when disturbed by passing operators. Because of this, Dave had to invent a new way to allow himself to continue construction, even with a slightly hindered cardiovascular system. His primary development was cardboard benchwork.



A base timber grid of 12” squares supported 36” off the floor was constructed from 3/4” marine plywood cut in 3.5” strips and laid vertically. Upon this, standard packaging cardboard (sourced from Menasha Packaging) and hot glue were used to construct all the sub-roadbed, uprights, and major scenic deviations for the railroad. T and H girders were constructed from the cardboard to give rigidity to those sections of layout requiring higher elevation or elevation changes. Often, up to three layers of cardboard were laminated together to give added strength.

Track is then secured either to cork or directly to the cardboard using the same hot glue in use for the rest of construction. This has the added benefit of completely re-useable track, as a heated knife scraped below the ties easily dislodges the track, with the glue then merely pulling away! Though not in use on the railroad itself, tests have been made with ballasted track, and the results are satisfactory.

Physical construction requires very few tools (some cheap snap blade knives, a hot glue gun, a lighter for heating the knives to un-glugue items, a straight edge, and a work



Top: Three bridges of different styles/eras/material carry the three levels of track age across the water. Dave scratch-built the wooden trestle out of pear wood that he carved himself. Center: Two tracks emerge from a tunnel portal to create a boundary for the downtown main street, which appropriately ends at the tracks, where a smattering of mobile homes are parked. A tony suburb almost hovers above this vignette. Below left: Detail photo of the coal mine.



surface) and material cost is quite minimal.

Scenery is constructed using older methods of butchers paper coated in patching plaster, then painted appropriately. Trees, rocks, and other scenic details are added on top in a sparse but suggestive manner. This is to, again, cut down on dust trapped by the layout. However, this suits the layout's aesthetic well.

Dave's Clear Intentions

Dave is quite upfront with the fact that, while a strive toward realism is made, the main goal of the Daeremyn & Menasha is enjoyment. He appreciates the hard work of and thoroughly enjoys the time spent with those who help to build and play with his railroad, such as myself, his daughter Tammy, and his friends Wilmer, Carver, & Dave Coles. He makes high claim of having a fun railroading experience without expensive, collectible, or super-detailed equipment and by running cars and locomotives that he remembers seeing as a kid or that he just likes the look of, several being of 1970s vintage and colorful decoration. Buildings are often made of paper using several of the well detailed downloadable kits now available.

This is not to say the layout lacks fine detailing. Dave has several craftsman structure kits incorporated on the layout and a wooden trestle scratch built from pear wood, which he sawed himself. But it is the bright and cheerful cars, pleasant scenery, models of prototypes seen in his youth, and friendly atmosphere surrounding the operating sessions he so very much enjoys that mean the most to him, as they harken back to where it all began many years ago around the Christmas tree. It's no wonder we operators often hear Dean Martin, Bing Crosby, or Burl Ives crooning out of the computer speakers at his dispatcher station, even in mid June!



Left: Detail of the wooden trestle Dave scratch-built using pear wood that he sawed himself.

THE KEYSTONE DIVISION LAYOUT LANDSCAPE

In the third iteration of this feature, we highlight two more layouts that are hosting an open house on Sunday, April 24, 2022, the day after the Model Railroad Jamboree. See the February and March issues this year to read about Bob Prehoda's *Huntingdon Northern Railway* and the Blenko family's *Pittsburgh Mainline*, respectively, which are also open to Jamboree attendees that day.

In future issues, this space will be used to feature other layouts in the area, so if you have built (or are in the process of building) your own pike and would like to have it featured in the *Keystone Flyer*, please submit your article and photos to me. You can submit text and photos simply by email if you like; there is no need to even write up a document, since I will need to edit it in any case for the newsletter.

The guidelines for the article are also simple: This is a shorter version of the layout features you see in the monthly model railroad press. The article need not be long; 1-2 pages of text suffices; write less if you have a lot of pictures; write more if you have just a few good pictures. 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.

It is more important to send high quality photos than text; I can edit your prose more easily than upgrading your photos, so do not worry about spelling, grammar, style, etc. I will follow up with you if there are any questions or clarifications needed before we go to print. And as noted before, 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).

RAILFANNING THE PENN CENTRAL IN O SCALE

Photography by Rob Enrico

Rob Enrico was born too late to realize his dream of standing trackside on the Penn Central Railroad, armed with a 35mm camera, to document that famous merger that wags contend combined the management savvy of the Pennsylvania Railroad with the technological prowess of the New York Central Railroad. That railroad entered bankruptcy only two years into the experiment, was re-formed as Conrail by the middle of the 1970s, and lives a shadow existence today on some of the older rolling stock railfans can occasionally glimpse. But that is a story for another day.



A baker by trade, Rob is also an accomplished photographer, and his fascination with the Penn Central Railroad did not end with its own demise. But as he developed his photography skills, and the railroad of his youth mutated into something different, he pined for a chance to document this railroad that no longer exists. Instead of simply chalking this up to a “pike” dream, he decided to re-create that railroad in his home, stand trackside, and photograph it anyway, the march of time and change be damned. This is how he became a model railroader. Or to paraphrase him, he modeled the PC so that he could photograph it.



His rendition is realized in O scale, and I won't say much more about it here, other than to say that you have to see it to believe it. Look at the photos he sent for this article, and you really cannot tell that these are NOT images of the prototype taken ca. 1970. Rob scratch-built most of the scenic elements you see here, including the super-detailed pole lines, hand-laid track, structures, signals, and equipment along the right-of-way. If you can, pay him a visit on Jamboree Sunday and see this for yourself.



- P.A.



THE KEYSTONE DIVISION LAYOUT LANDSCAPE

Rob's layout and photography have been featured widely in the hobby press. It was the cover story for the December 2008 issue of *Scale Rails* (the NMRA monthly magazine, before its name change); the Model Railroad Planning annual for 2006 featured the layout; and Paul Dolkos wrote a story about it for *Great Model Railroads*. In addition, his layout graced the pages of the NMRA calendar in the years 2004 to 2012.



After 2012, Rob's interests shifted back to the toy trains of his youth, and he has been since then amassing a collection of Lionel and other larger gauge toy trains, which he will also have on display, along with this O scale Penn Central layout, on Jamboree Sunday. If you can, pay him a visit and see this layout and his toy train collection for yourself.

- P.A.



Keystone Flyer



THE KEYSTONE DIVISION LAYOUT LANDSCAPE



Along with the Penn Central photos Rob sent were these two shots of historical interest. The black & white print (*below*) depicts Engine No. 1130 (an H-95), under full steam, pulling an empty gondola. While this does not depict the Penn Central Railroad, it too was taken by Rob on his O scale layout; and by the way, Rob did not retouch this photo with digital tools or even using traditional photo retouching techniques, like an airbrush—but you will need to go to his Open House to ask him how he achieved this!

Based on the station wagon and pickup trucks at the station where the F-units are leading a coal drag (*left*), this picture appears to have been taken in the late 1950s, as the transition from steam to diesel power enthralled the PRR (and indeed all Class 1 Railroads). In fact, this photo (like the one below) was taken in 2005, when you could still get and process Kodachrome (Rob's preferred medium for color photography). And why not? As Paul Simon sang in his eponymous hit from the Penn Central years: "They give us those nice bright colors, They give us the greens of summers, Makes you think all the world's a sunny day."





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)

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