



*Editor's Model
of the Month*

Rick Montgomery captured this nice close-up view of the cab on his Chessie Heritage unit, CSX 7765, a GE Dash 8-40C, passing the P&G Tide factory. He won first place in the February Bring'n'Brag contest with this model, which he heavily weathered with paints and pastels; read all about it on page 5.

Meeting Schedule

March 19, 2023 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society
5000 Green Bag Road, Unit D-13
Morgantown, WV 26501
Program: Neal Schorr, Backdrop Painting I (theory)

April 16, 2023 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Ohio Valley Lines Model RR Club
1225 Merchant Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
Program: N. Schorr, Backdrop Painting II (praxis, p. 10)

Get the Color Version of the Keystone Flyer — as well as Online Extras — as soon as it comes out and other Division 2 news flashes and announcements via email. Contact Susan Werner:

swerner48@yahoo.com

Bring'n'Brag

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

Submission Deadline for next *Flyer*:
March 26, 2023

Visit us online at
keystonedivision.org



From the Super's Desk

In several past columns in this space, I've discussed the upcoming NMRA Interchange platform as a tremendous resource for our members. The roll-out was delayed, but IT IS HERE NOW! All NMRA members should have received an e-mail on or around January 23, 2023 (**NMRA Dispatch 2023 #01 NMRA Interchange**) that provides information about the features as well as instructions for creating your account and getting access.

When I asked the members attending our February meeting how many of the them had signed in, the response was very low. Some members I've discussed this with said they didn't receive the e-mail and others noted that the sign-in process was complicated.

If you don't think you received the e-mail, please review your e-mail to search for the subject **NMRA Dispatch 2023 #01 NMRA Interchange** and you should find it. If you don't, you can get a copy of it at <https://www.nmra.org/members/dispatch>.

There are very detailed instructions in the article complete the registration. All that process is necessary so that only current NMRA members get access. Additionally, on February 25, one of the NMRA-X clinics will be on creating your account. Since you will probably be reading this after February 25, don't worry. The clinic will be on the NMRA -X YouTube channel so you can watch and let it guide you while you step through the process.

This is an exciting resource for us as members. There are channels on pretty much every model railroading topic as well as channels for each division. You will find lots of great information as well as be able to share news about projects you're working on or even your railroad (you can request a channel for your railroad). There are channels for many prototype railroads. Unlike public social media, the NMRA Interchange is open only NMRA members.

I encourage you all to activate your accounts! When you do, step into the Keystone Division channel and say hello!

... Dennis Coglianese

CONVENTION: REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 15!

Remember that basic registration for the MCR Regional Convention (Cranberry, PA, May 4-7) bumps up another \$10 on March 15, so if you plan to attend, or bring a family member (jumps another \$5), be sure to register today to save a little extra scratch that you can use at the White Elephant sale!

Division Elected Officers

Superintendent

Dennis Coglianese
(412) 418-9150
DJCoglianese@comcast.net

Asst. Superintendent

George Pandelios
(717) 503-3192
gpandelios@verizon.net

Chief Clerk

Mike DeSensi
(412) 613-4383
chiefclerk.div2@gmail.com

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
rjtgbg1@comcast.net

Webmaster & Membership

Tom Gaus
(412) 731-8846
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

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]. 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 19, 2023 Business Meeting

Superintendent Dennis Coglianese opened the February general division meeting at 2:30 PM.

He thanked the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center for hosting the meeting and asked Museum President Pam Makricosta to say a few words. Ms. Makricosta thanked everyone for visiting and invited everyone to check out their website and come back for programs of historical interest.

Pass the Hat: Jeff Gregg passed the hat.

New members and/or guests: We had two guests in attendance. Bill Aumon, he models O scale 3-rail & the steel mill industry and Ron Bowen, also a 3-railer, he models a generic Western PA railroad.

Susan Werner made the following correction to the January Minutes: I have not received the honor of MMR. The recognition awarded me at the January meeting was a Merit Award for the box car that I scratch built. This work was toward my Master Builder - Cars certificate, but that award has not yet been received.

Dennis Vaccaro moved, and Ken Hanawalt seconded, a motion to accept the January meeting minutes with Susan's correction. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Keystone Flyer – Patrick Altdorfer. Patrick was not in attendance but provided the following report: “The feature article next month will be Richie Jodon's presentation on air brushing, which was informative, and I thought it would be helpful to publish this for anyone who missed the meeting. In the same vein, I am looking for more DIY features of that I'd like to run in the newsletter; I hope that everyone saw Ken Hanawalt's 3d printing pieces in the past two issues; share what you know and have learned in the hobby with the rest of us! We have one PIKE AD still available: \$15/year -- if you want to advertise your pike, please contact me ASAP.”

Treasurer – Jeff Gregg reported that the division is solvent.

Programs – Assistant Superintendent George Pandelios reported the following: The next business meeting is March 19 at the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society in Morgantown, WV. The program will be the first of two parts presented by Neal Schorr, Theory of Backdrop Painting. The April meeting is April 16 at Ohio Valley Lines in Ambridge, PA. The program will be the second part of Neal's Backdrop Painting program. The May meeting will be held at the MCR Convention, time to be announced.

Company Store – Susan Werner. New 3d printed track cleaning cars are available for sale. The cars were designed and printed by Ken Hanawalt and are designed to utilize the Woodland Scenics cleaning pads. Tom Gaus also noted that the files (for printing

your own) are available on the website.

Website & Membership – Tom Gaus noted that the Division membership is currently 204 with 6 new members added. He has renewed our SSL Certificate for website security.

Free-Mo – Patrick Altdorfer. There are no dates available yet for the July Greenberg Show in Monroeville, PA. The group plans to have a display at the MCR Convention and the MER Convention in Altoona in October. Dave Martinelli stated that he has a 16' x 35' Free-Mo modular layout as his home layout.

Bring & Brag – Rich Terek / Tracy Boyd. Only one entry this month. The winner was Rick Montgomery with a CSX Heritage unit from Atlas. Rick added lots of details and weathered with pastels and pens. Next month: Steam locomotives.

Video Library – Bud Brock is working on redoing the library, see the information in next month's Flyer.

Achievement Program – Dennis Vaccaro noted that this is the 13th or 14th consecutive meeting where he has presented awards. Receiving awards today were Ray Helster – Structures and Susan Werner – Cars.

T-Trak – Richie Jodon stated announced that T-TRAK will attend the RPM Meet in late March.

MCR Regional Convention – Keith DeVault was not present but Superintendent Coglianese gave the following report:

“Everything is moving along, registration price increase March 15, 144 registrations, 2 more Make & Take sign-ups. In light of the pricing of bus rentals and in speaking to other regional convention coordinators, the decision has been made to forgo charters and make all events happening outside the convention hotel be of the 'self-driving' or 'on-your-own' variety. The NMRA cannot organize carpools because of liability concerns.”

Dennis Vaccaro brought up that there is still a need for contest judges. Mike Hohn, MMR, reiterated that experience was not necessary, as there are always 2 judges per category. Frank Benders stated that there will be an instructional meeting for contest judges offered at the convention, probably early Saturday morning. Susan Werner said that learning the contest judging rules is invaluable in helping you with your own modeling.

Old Business - None.

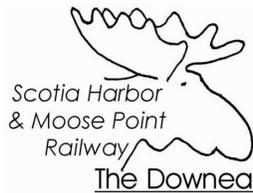
New Business - None.

For the Good of the Division

Patrick Altdorfer noted that the 90th anniversary issue of Railroad Model Craftsman is available, with a nice review of the magazine's history, plus a retrospective on how the hobby has changed in that time.

Dennis Lippert shared the story of his first RMC issue featured the Virginian & Ohio layout of the

... continued on page 6



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& Moose Point
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Susan Werner, CEO
292 Salem Church Rd.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
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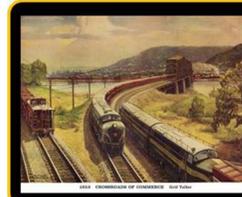
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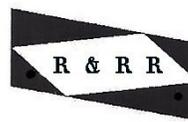


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JOEL EVERLY
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NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB



February 2023

February's Bring'n'Brag subject was "Motive Power: Diesel, Electric and Traction." We had only one entry for this month: Rick Montgomery submitted his HO scale CSX #7765, a Dash 8-40.

Rick's starting point for this project was an Atlas Master HO scale model of the GE Dash 8-40 CW, painted in CSX Heritage livery (Chessie System). He weathered the locomotive using Floquil Paint Markers (earth, rail brown, and black) and the Pan Pastels weathering system (powders in raw umber and red iron oxide). Rick sent a close-up view of the cab, which is on the cover of this issue. Above is the locomotive and caboose, as it was entered in the contest, but photographed by Rick on his layout outside of the Proctor & Gamble Tide brand detergent factory in Lima, Ohio. Ironic, since that is one dirty engine!

Rick's entry placed first, so it earned three points.

- Tracy Boyd



Name	pts
Joel Everly	3
Rick Montgomery	3
Susan Werner	2
Rick Bennett	1

The March contest category is **Motive Power: Steam**. Bring your entry to the meeting **no later than 2pm** on **Sunday, March 19** in order for your entry to be considered in the contest.

Midwest Narrow Gauge Show

March 16-18, Salem, OH

Info/Registration

Gary Kohler

P.O. Box 133

Washingtonville, OH 44490

(330) 713-0264

www.portlandlocomotiveworks.com

RPM Seminar - East

March 24-25, Youngwood, PA

More Info

Steve Ross

1808 Ridge Road

Jeannette, PA 15644

(724) 527-7727

www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to two Keystone Division members who recently published articles in the model railroad press, which should be noted. Neal Schorr and George Pandelios have distinguished themselves as Pennsy scale modelers in 3-Rail O Gauge, and attendees of our January meeting in Wexford had the chance to check in on the progress they have made on their home layouts located nearby.

George, who presented the February program on building Weirton Steel, just had his article "Handling Big Smoke" (on train room ventilation) published in the January/February issue of **O Scale Trains**. The photo at right depicts the 1:48 telegraph wire poles, for which George won an AP merit award last year, installed on his layout near the massive Ohio River bridge.

Neal Schorr's article entitled "Pennsylvania Glass Sand Plant in O Scale" appears in the February/March issue of **O Gauge Railroad-ing**, and I managed to snap the photo below of that industry on his Middle Division layout in January. Neal will present a clinic in April on back-drop painting (see page 12).



Minutes

... cont'd from page 3

late Allen McClelland.

Mike Hohn, MMR, stated that as the NMRA National Director of Education he has appointed Chief Clerk Mike DeSensi to chair the revamp of the Data Sheets portion of the NMRA website.

Neal Schorr said that he recently attended the IMAX film *Train Time* at the Carnegie Science Center. The photography is excellent and the film is well worth a trip.

Ray Helster mentioned that he recently saw a video on YouTube about Todd Treaster. Todd is east of the Altoona area, and he has amassed a HUGE collection of N scale, well over 30,000 pieces. Follow the link for more. <https://youtu.be/LmYIVUoYqfs>

Superintendent Coglianesi mentioned that the NMRA Interchange is live and available to all members. See more information on the NMRA page here: <https://www.nmra.org/nmra-interchange>

Rich Terek stated that he was having issues with creating his account for the Interchange. Mike DeSensi stated that the NMRAX Live Clinics was having a feature on creating your ac-

count. The NMRAX Live is Saturday, February 25, starting at 10AM.

Ken Hanawalt indicated that 2 completed samples of his track cleaning car were on display at the Bring & Brag table.

What's on your workbench?

Arley Mitchell – two new GP35s being redone for the N&W; Alden McBee – D Tower is almost finished; Tracy Boyd – Completed a workbench for her small home; Rick Montgomery – Total revamp of his layout & workbenches; Susan Werner – Scratch built a wharf scene; Rich Terek recommended Boomer Dioramas on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@boomerdioramas>; Dennis Coglianesi recommended Solo Contracting on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@SoloContracting>; and Mike DeSensi is building a folding 10" x 72" N scale switching layout.

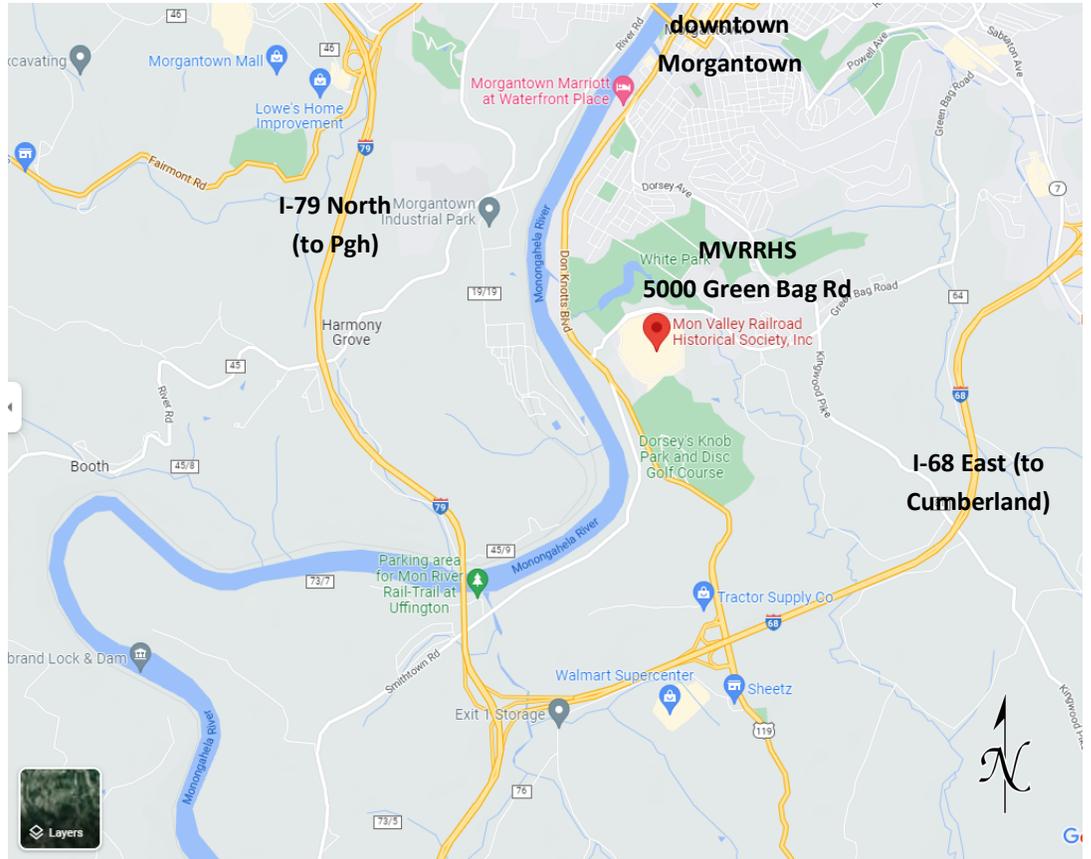
Motion to adjourn meeting by Mike DeSensi, seconded by George Pandelios. Unanimously approved at 3:29PM.



MEETING TIMETABLE

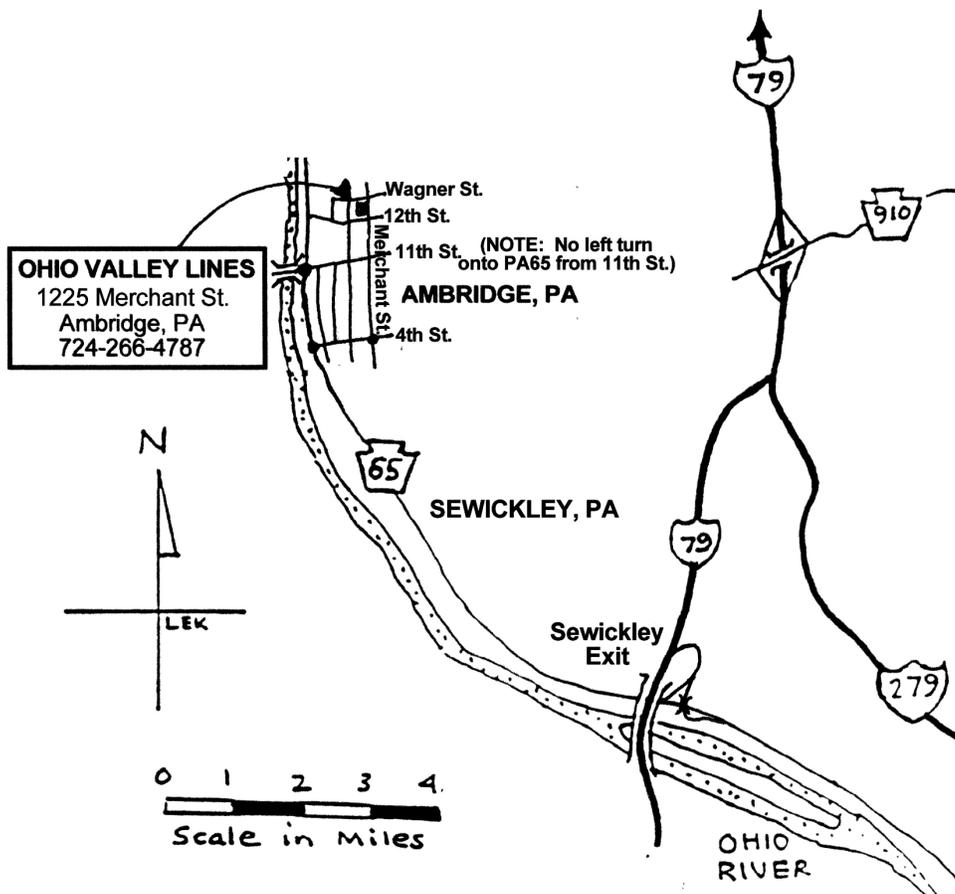
March 19: Morgantown, WV

For our March meeting, we return to the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society (5000 Green Bag Road, Unit D-13, Morgantown, WV 26501). This venue is hosting us for the second occasion; it is located inside the Mountaineer Mall. At publication deadline, there was not yet a program scheduled.



April 16: Ambridge, PA

Our April meeting will be held at the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club (1225 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA 15003). After the meeting, Neal Schorr will present a clinic on background painting, a preview of which you can find on page 12.



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



NEXT MEETING:
March 19, 2023, Morgantown (WV): Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society

 <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>

Program Review: Airbrushing Tips & Tricks



Richie Jodon presented the program after our January business meeting, on airbrush painting. He was kind enough to share his notes for publication in the Flyer for the benefit of all attendees who did not take notes & for everyone who missed the meeting!

Other Supplies you'll need (cheap)

- paper towels
- newspaper, drop cloth, or plastic
- spray bottle (old Windex bottle is best)
- cardboard box (or spray booth)
- empty prescription/aspirin bottles with cap
- micro brushes
- airbrush cleaner and brushes

Essential Tools & Materials (that will cost you some bucks)

available from MicroMark (e.g.)	MM item no.	List	Current
MicroLux air compressor*	86108	120.00	99.95
MicroLux Air Brush kit	86116	120.00	89.95
* Moisture trap / regulator / gauge combo	86113	35.00	29.95
22cc glass paint jars (12-pack)	87693	20.95	20.95
cloth braided air hose (extra hose a must have!)	86115	19.00	14.95
airbrush holder (clamps to workbench, holds 4)	83408	30.00	23.95
cordless mixer (battery operated)	80975	15.00	12.95

HINT: Harbor Freight Tools offers a complete starter airbrush kit that includes a 1/5hp oilless air compressor, an airbrush, air hose, moisture bubble, paint jar, paint cup, and airbrush holder (item no. 95630) for \$ 89.99.

* For best results you need to install a moisture bubble (aka "moisture trap"), and possibly also a pressure regulator, on your compressor, to prevent blobs in the paint. Basic "oilless" compressors like this one usually do not include this; MicroMark offers a combo (see above).

Preparing your Airbrush

Find your airbrush needle and take it out of the unit, and rub some glycerin on your hands and needle. This makes it easier to clean.

Reassemble the airbrush and make sure everything is hand tightened.

Fill your reservoir (about 3/4 full) with airbrush cleaner (see recipe at right).

Turn on the compressor, squeeze the trigger to see if you have a flow/fan spray. If you don't, no sweat! Adjust the thumb screw below the reservoir a little until you get a steady flow.

Preparing Paint

I use craft paints, such as Apple Barrel brand, an acrylic latex paint, it's very easy to work with and odorless.

I always shake and mix my paint first: In a paint jar, pour enough paint to coat the bottom of the paint jar. I fill up an old spray bottle (from a glass cleaner like Windex) with airbrush cleaner (following the recipe).

Spray about eight (8) times into the paint jar and mix to a milky mixture.

If mixture is too thick, spray more cleaner into the paint jar; if mixture is too thin, like water, add a drop of paint.

When you complete your project, empty the leftover paint into a prescription bottle. Wipe out the airbrush reservoir with some paper towels, fill the reservoir with cleaner, and spray into a garbage can until you are spraying clear fluid.

Airbrush Cleaner and Thinner Recipe

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup windshield washer fluid (the cheap stuff)
- 1/4 cup isopropyl alcohol (70%)
- 1 tsp. glycerin (drug store skin care aisle)

Mix all ingredients in an empty milk jug with a cap, shake it up real good!

More Hints & Tips ➡

More Hints & Tips

- Rub some Vaseline on your hands to ease paint clean up.
- Rub some Vaseline on all of your paint cap threads; whether they are plastic or metal, this will keep the caps easy to open.
- Spray only one (1) color per day; you are not in a marathon, so take your time. My Dad always told me this. Painting other colors right afterward makes your model look like goop.
- Get yourself a table or station for your paint and airbrush. I paint all my stuff in one area and there are no toxic smelling odors.
- Lighting is important: I made a spray booth out of scrap wood from work, and I mounted some cool white LED lights inside.
- Lighting is very important for this project: Provide yourself with adequate lighting, just don't overdo it (to where you need sun-glasses).
- Exhaust: I use a Broan 696 bathroom fan, with a charcoal air filter and 3 inch flex pipe through a glass block window, vented to the outside. This is powerful enough for my purposes.
- Safety protection: Always. Safety glasses wouldn't hurt to use, and disposable gloves can be very helpful for keeping your hands clean. I don't like using gloves because my hands sweat a whole lot, but I use them if I need them.
- I always clean my airbrush before and after each use with airbrush cleaner.
- I clean my brushes, paint jars, and hands with airbrush cleaner.
- A 100% clean air brush is a must at all times. Tools are too expensive, you can't be lazy.
- Make sure your airbrush is turned off when you are done for the day (I forget this sometimes).
- For touch up, I always recommend using a micro brush, it is less noticeable.
- Before you plan to relax for the evening, wash your hands with some shampoo. It does wonders on getting rid of paint stains.
- My airbrush projects are a couple hours in an evening, from start to finish.
- You can go on YouTube.com and search for airplane painting, car modeling, and world war dioramas. The videos posted by these modelers will give you great pointers for painting and weathering with airbrushes, which you can apply in our hobby.

Mar/Apr Program Preview: Backdrop Painting

One of Neal's Schorr's favorite aspects of the hobby is backdrop painting, which he has been doing for many years. He will share his techniques for backdrop painting in two parts after the next business meetings: in March with an introduction, and in April with a live demonstration, in which he will paint a 2' x 4' backdrop in front of the audience while explaining his techniques and answering questions, all the while demonstrating how you can use as few as four colors of paint to achieve a realistic result.



The clinic is part of an expansive and more detailed clinic on the subject that he will be giving at the "Rails to Pittsburgh" regional convention in May.



Company Store News

At the February meeting, Susan Werner noted that a quantity of track cleaning cars — which Ken Hanawalt designed and produced using 3D printing — are available for purchase at the Company Store. These cars use the Woodland Scenics track cleaning pads, and as Tom Gaus noted, Ken has generously made the digital files available for everyone and they can be found on the Division Two website. Also, Susan sent an email regarding upcoming book releases we can expect this year, which I am reprinting here for those who may have missed it.

Please read the report below and let me know (by email: swerner48@yahoo.com) if you wish to order any of the books mentioned. The Company Store orders books from [Double Take Productions](#) to get you a 20% discount. You may also look at their website to find more available books.

Garbely Publishing: The year 2023 should be a very busy one for this publisher. Announced for this year are:

New York Susquehanna & Western, Volume 2: Elmwood Park to Butler – 80 pages, soft cover, \$45.00, due early March 2023

Conrail Rainbow Years, Volume 5: Northeastern Ohio – 80 pages, soft cover, \$45.00, due early April 2023

Oh, What a Magnificent New Dawn on the East Broad Top Railroad! – 110 pages, soft cover, \$50.00, due early May 2023

The Railroads of Port Jervis, Volume 2: The Erie Lackawanna – 80 pages, soft cover, \$45.00, due late May 2023

Delaware & Hudson Cabooses – 132 pages, hard cover, \$60.00*, due late July 2023

First of its Kind – The Buffalo Creek Railroad Volume 1: 1868-1950 – 90 pages, soft cover, \$50.00*, due late July 2023

Just a Shortline – The Story of the Rahway Valley Railroad, Volume III: Facilities, Industries and Operations – 400+ pages, spiral bound, \$80.00*, due early September 2023

New York Susquehanna & Western, Volume 3: Smiths Mills to Hainesburg Junction – 80 pages, soft cover, \$45.00, due mid-October 2023

*Tentative price which may be subjected to material and other manufacturing pricing increases.

Morning Sun Books: The two January books (**Just Geeps in Color Vol.1: GP7's 1949 – 1954** and **Railroad Signs Vol. 1**) have arrived and back orders have been filled. Next up for February 1, 2023 will be:

Hard Cover: **Canadian National Power Vol.3: Modern Road Power**

Soft Cover: **Railroad Signs Vol. 2**

Silverlake Images: The next two books in their Manufacturers Catalog Archive series have been received and back orders shipped. They are: **Book 47 – General Motors Diesel Locomotives Vol. 2** and **Book 48 – Railway Electrification Vol. 3 Great Northern & Milwaukee Road**. Price remains at \$35.00 each.

White River Publications: Two new books are expected in late January which will shine a light on a popular upper mid-west / western railroad. **Northern Pacific Diesel Power Vol. 1 – Switchers to 2nd Generation Road Power** and **Northern Pacific Diesel Power Vol. 2 – “F” units** will cover their topics in White River’s typical larger format, all color book. The price is \$89.95 each and the author is Dale Sanders, beyond that there are not many other details yet to be provided. White River themselves are offering the two items in a special edition slip case format [direct to consumers only](#), the promotion is not available to dealers at any level. Both Volume 1 and Volume 2 should be available at the same time. Also announced is a new book titled **Rio Grande’s Narrow Gauge K-28 Locomotives**. This book will include 200+ pages filled with text, drawings, track charts and 300+ images documenting the history of this class of locomotives. List price will be \$79.95 and delivery, while not specified, is expected towards the middle of the year. And in the “thought it was over category”, another reprint of the **The Shay** book has taken place. Price for the reprint remains at \$99.95. Conversation has again hinted at additional new and reprinted titles to be announced in 2023. Details to follow.

Division 2 Needs You !



Unlike Uncle Sam, who required a 6 year obligation, the Division only needs you for a handful of hours over the course of 3 days at the Rails to Pittsburgh MCR Convention in May! Help us make this convention a huge success by lending a hand. We plan to have enough volunteers to share duties so no one will miss out on a clinic or other activity they want to attend. Besides the satisfaction of being part of this great event, you will earn "volunteer" hours toward your NMRA Association Volunteer Certificate. Please email me at: volunteer@RailsToPittsburgh.com for more details.

- Grier Kuehn



Round the Curve to Altoona

October 19-22, 2023

<http://mer2023.org/index.html>

The Mid-Eastern Region's annual conventions rotate throughout the MER so that each geographic area will have a nearby convention on a regular basis. The host areas are North Carolina or Southern Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Eastern New Jersey. Pennsylvania is the selected area for our 2023 convention with the Susquehanna Division 11 as host.

The previous two conventions held in Pennsylvania were in King of Prussia and in Harrisburg. We wanted to find a host city that was farther to the west, and it was not difficult to identify Altoona as an ideal place to hold this convention. A very successful MER convention was held there in 2000. In 2000, the host hotel was the Altoona Sheridan which is now called the Altoona Grand Hotel under its new management. It was again selected as the host hotel for our 2023 convention.

Jerry Lauchle, MMR was appointed chairman of the Local Convention Committee (LCC) in February 2022. Jerry plans to attend the MCR Convention we are hosting in Cranberry this May, on Friday and Saturday, to present information about their plans for Altoona 2023. Watch the Keystone Flyer throughout this year for more information about this convention, and other exciting upcoming prototype and model railroad events.