



Editor's Model of the Month

This N5k transfer caboose is a real oddball, and the modeler who entered this one helps to show how you can learn from this hobby. The modeler provided a detailed history of this rare cabin car: in 1970 Penn Central bought seven offset cupola cabooses from the ATSF and modified them by, among other things, cutting down the cupola height and adding the bay windows. The modeler followed prototype photos to reproduce this car in N scale, starting with an Atlas model of an offset cupola in (fantasy) PRR livery.

Meeting Schedule

August 20, 2023 — Annual Picnic, 12:00 noon
Henle Park
Corner of Ferry & Beaver Streets
Leetsdale, PA 15046
Meeting to be held during the Picnic

September 17, 2023 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Schiappa Library
4141 Mall Drive
Steubenville, OH 43952

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*:
August 27, 2023

Visit us online at
keystonedivision.org



From the Super's Desk

In my last column, I discussed some ways to increase member engagement. As examples, I suggested several activities that we could organize to allow members to spend time with other members and build relationships.

In addition to operating sessions and layout tour, there is another opportunity for us to increase member engagement: Bring 'N Brag. This is a monthly contest that allows our members to bring models in a specific category and have the attending members vote for their favorite. This has been a staple event at our meetings, but the number of entries is declining. My suspicion is this is another by-product of the pandemic and not being able to hold in-person meetings. I'm sure that there are many projects sitting on workbenches across the division that could be entered. Bring in yours and then you can tell us about it when you win!

I also believe that we have the opportunity as an organization to increase our engagement with our communities. I believe we get a lot of satisfaction from our modeling projects. I suspect that many of us (me included) enjoy showing what we have done to people outside the hobby. It is so rewarding to have an outsider "get" what we are doing and trying to accomplish. This often leads to questions about the hobby and always gets more interesting when I add that I'm a member of the local NMRA division (which is a community of like-minded modelers). I'm sure many of us have had the opportunity to our love of the hobby with someone personally.

At the last meeting, I suggested that during the upcoming holiday season, we should look for opportunities to discuss our hobby at libraries and other community venues. I think these are opportunities for each of us to share our hobbies with others. Many (probably most) of us can trace the origins of our hobby interests to an encounter with someone in the hobby sharing with us. These events are an opportunity for each of us to potentially be that spark for someone out there. It's also a chance to let others see the enthusiasm we have for our modeling.

Not all of us are comfortable giving a presentation to a community group even though we may be completely comfortable sharing with friends. For that, I'd like to establish a Speakers Bureau within the division that can be a resource for these community events. If you are interested, please let me know. Additionally, if you have any ideas of an organization or event that might be interested in a program about the hobby, please let me know.

Lastly, I want to remind you that we are offering financial rewards to our members for bringing in new members. Details of this program are elsewhere in this month's Keystone Flyer.

... *Dennis Coglianesi*

Division Elected Officers

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The *Keystone Flyer* is published ten times a year by Division Two of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid-Central Region. Subscription to the *Flyer* is included with your NMRA membership and sent via e-mail directly to each member who chooses to receive the newsletter in this format. Alternatively, you may also read the *Flyer* online, or download a copy onto your computer or mobile device by navigating to the link on the Division Two website [www.keystonedivision.org]. Members without internet access or an e-mail address may request a printed copy from the Division; please send your name, address, and phone number to: Patrick Altdorfer, Editor, 6333 Morrowfield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Pike ads are available to publicize your home or club model rail empires for a \$15.00 yearly fee. You may supply artwork or have it produced by the editor for a nominal fee. Pike ads are also posted in full color on the Division website.

June 25, 2023 Business Meeting

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

He thanked the Greater Tri-Town Area Historical Society for hosting the meeting. On behalf of the Historical Society, Division Member Jim Whipple thanked everyone for coming and for the compliments regarding their S scale layout at the Museum.

Pass the Hat: Assistant Superintendent George Pandelios passed the hat.

New members and/or guests: Peter Clark, age 8, was the guest of Division Member Ken Hanawalt.

It was noted that a correction for the minutes for the May meeting was needed: Assistant Superintendent George Pandelios was present at the May Meeting and he gave the Programs report: Venues for the remainder of the year have been finalized but we are still looking for programs.

Dennis Vaccaro moved, and Susan Werner seconded a motion to accept the May meeting minutes as published in the Keystone Flyer with the above added correction. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Keystone Flyer – Patrick Altdorfer thanked Denny Lippert for filling in as editor of the Keystone Flyer for the May issue while he was away. The next issue will be the August issue with a July 25 deadline for submissions.

Treasurer – Division Member Susan Werner read the financial report from Treasurer Jeff Gregg (who was not in attendance) and noted that the division is solvent. The final reconciliation of the Regional Convention account is good.

Programs – George Pandelios announced that the next meeting will be the annual picnic on August 20 at Henle Park in Leetsdale. The deadline for emailing George with the number in your party who will be attending and what side dish you are bringing is August 13. The following dates are for the remainder of 2023: September 17, Schiappa Library, Steubenville, OH; October 15, Rochester Historical Society, Rochester, PA; and November 19, New Eagle VFD Hall, New Eagle, PA.

Website & Membership – Tom Gaus noted that 19 members have gone dormant in the last two months, bringing the membership total down to 193. There are numerous additions to the website, and it has been improved to make navigation easier on a mobile device.

Free-Mo – Patrick Altdorfer stated that the Free-Mo group has applied for space at the Greenberg Train Show to be held at the Monroeville Convention Centre, August 4 & 5, but no response from Greenberg has been received as of the meeting.

Bring & Brag – Rick Terek announced and congratulated the

following members for their Bring & Brag awards: 3rd Place – Ray Helster, NS ballast hopper; 2nd Place – Jimmy Braum, 3D printed Conrail transfer caboose; and 1st Place – Rick Montgomery, for his Elkhart Wrecker.

Achievement Program – Dennis Vaccaro recognized the following members and presented awards: Jimmy Braum – Merit Award for a scratch built 40' P & WV gondola; Kevin Squire – Golden Spike Award; and Mike DeSensi – Master Builder Scenery AP Certificate.

T-Trak – Richie Jodon noted that he has assumed the role of MCR Regional Chair for T-TRAK and will be coordinating the T-TRAK layout at the 2024 Convention in Cleveland, OH. Division 2 T-TRAK will not be in attendance for the August Greenberg Train Show; instead, the group will be setting up at August Funfest, held at Cedar Creek Park in Belle Vernon PA. Admission is free!

Jamboree – Grier Kuehn, Neal Schorr. It was noted that the RMU campus hall where the last few Jamborees have been held is not available due to a sink hole in the property and the situation will not be rectified before the April 2024 date. Instead, the 2024 Jamboree will be held at the Community College of Allegheny County's Boyce Campus in Monroeville, PA. The venue is more than adequate, the price was right, and they will provide catering for the banquet. The date is Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Company Store – Susan Werner. Lots of items, old convention pins, NMRA merchandise, flyers on what's new and upcoming, 2023 Convention shirts.

MCR Regional Convention – Keith DeVault. Keith once again thanked everyone for their hard work in bringing the convention together. Superintendent Coglianesi announced that the convention finances were favorable. He then asked all the Convention Contest Winners to stand up and be recognized. It was also noted that Susan Werner is now the MCR Regional Contest Chair.

Old Business - None.

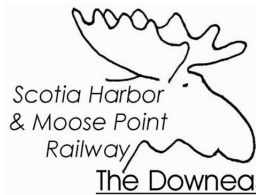
New Business

Susan Werner is looking for volunteers for the National Narrow Gauge Convention being held in Pittsburgh, September 11-14, 2024..

There was a protracted discussion regarding the Bring & Brag categories for 2024. The signal-to-noise ratio was a bit low, but here are a few highlights:

- Suggestion to randomize the B&B categories for the year;
- Suggestion to add additional categories into the mix;
- Neal Schorr: no "weird" categories; keep it simple; and he expressed a preference to model photos over prototype photos for the photography category;
- Superintendent Coglianesi asked that the 'Photos' category be open to both prototype and model photos.
- Ken Hanawalt: no categories at all.

... continued on page 7



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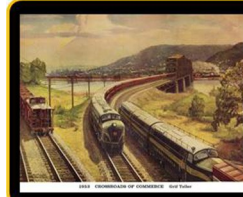
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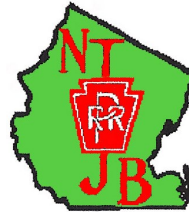
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FORKS RIDGE RAILWAY

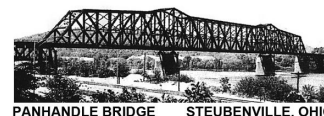


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Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey ... R.I.P.
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gpnastaseo2jzo@gmail.com

Route of the Whitetail

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

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB



Rick Montgomery won 1st place with his entry of a Conrail wrecker, including idler car. These were kits that he modified, wea-thered, and decal-led.

June 2023

The Bring'n'Brag category for June was "Non-Revenue Cars." There were eight (8) entries submitted for voting. The winners were:

1st Place went to Rick Montgomery for his entry of an HO scale Elkhart Wrecker (top), which he built by modifying an Athearn baggage car (cutting it down to match a prototype photo) into the MOW idler car and a PRR crane from Model Power into the Elkhart Wrecker.

Jimmy Braum took **2nd Place** for his 3-D printed Conrail transfer caboose, which he designed using Google Sketchup (right). He painted it Conrail Blue, printed interior parts, applied decals and detail parts. The model still needs a few finishing touches, such as weathering and the final detail parts.

And **3rd Place** went to Ray Helster for his entry of a Norfolk Southern ballast hopper with solar panels (below).

There were a total of 8 entries this month (more photos overleaf). Congratulations to all the winners!



- Rick Terek



Name	pts
Rick Montgomery	12
Jim Braum	3
Joel Everly	3
Bob DiBenedetto	2
Mike DeSensi	2
Terry Stuart	2
Richard Turton	2
Susan Werner	2
Rick Bennett	1
Ray Helster	1

The Bring'n'Brag contest category for August is "Passenger Cars."

Jimmy Braum's 3-D printed Conrail transfer caboose, with interior details (top and above).

Ray Helster's NS ballast cars outfitted with solar panels (below).



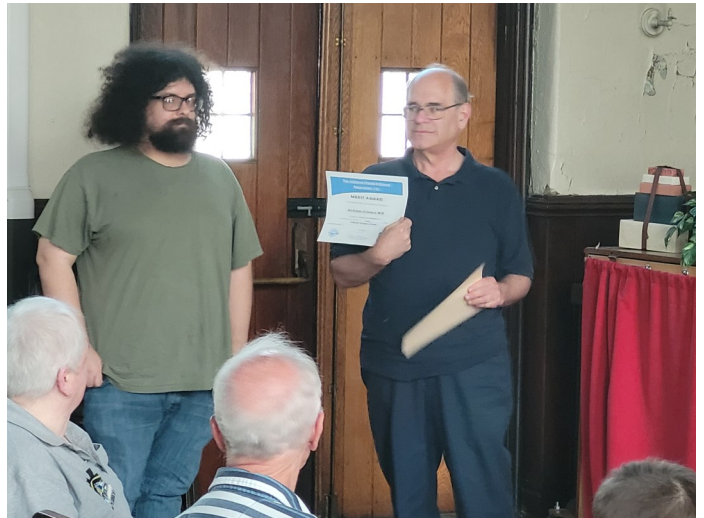
Achievement Program News

AP Program chair Dennis Vaccaro presented three members of Division Two with awards for their modeling skills.

Jimmy Braum (right) received a Merit Award for his scratch-built 40 foot P&WV gondola.

Kevin Squire (bottom left) received his Golden Spike Award, to recognize his demonstration of familiarity with important aspects of the hobby (rolling stock, structures & scenery, and civil and electrical engineering). Read more about this award on the [online on the NMRA site](#) and see if you also qualify — many of you will!

And Chief Clerk Mike DeSensi (bottom right) received his AP Certificate entitled “Master Builder — Scenery” for his N scale modeling. Mike is a member of the T-Trak group of Division Two, the Iron City N-Scalers (like Kevin Squire), and also the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad club.



Four additional entries were submitted to the BnB contest in June: the B&O caboose in Cheshire livery (above left, photo by Rick Terek); the Penn Central N5k cabin (top right and this month's cover photo); Dave Vilsack's MOW flatcar (right); and the two ATSF offset cupola caboose (below). Photos by Patrick Altdorfer except as noted.



Minutes (cont'd)

Superintendent Coglianesi asked for members to submit modeling categories to the Bring 'N Brag chair in September. The chair would make a decision on categories in October (using random picks for the category for each month for the following calendar year so that they aren't the same every year) and then publish them in November.

Superintendent Coglianesi announced a New Member Recruiting & Incentive Program. During the remainder of 2023 (and moving forward) the Division would like to encourage and incentivize current members to recruit new members. Current members are encouraged to seek out potential new members at train shows, hobby shops, clubs, or anywhere else such candidates might be found. The current member tells the candidate about the NMRA RailPass program. The Division will pay for the candidate's RailPass if the following conditions are met:

1. The new member must save their payment receipt.
2. The new member attends a Division 2 meeting in the next 3 months following purchase of the RailPass membership.
3. The new member is issued a check for the RailPass membership (\$19.99) when their membership is confirmed on the Division membership list provided by the Mid-Central Region on the first of each month.
4. The recruiting member is issued a check for \$10.00 when the new member fulfills the requirement to attend a Division2 meeting within 3 months of his/her application.

It was also suggested that the Division provide some beginner level clinics at shows, such as the Greenberg Train Show held several times a year. Some example clinics might include an introduction to DCC railroading, how to get started in T-TRAK, etc. The Division should also provide a staffed, multi-scale test track. This would allow members to interact with potential new candidates for membership.

The next meeting will be the annual picnic on August 20 at Henle Park in Leetsdale. The deadline for emailing Assistant Superintendent Pandelios with the number in your party that will be attending and what side dish you are bringing is August 13.

For the Good of the Division

July 26-30 the Steel Mill Modelers SIG is having their annual meeting at the Doubletree in Greentree, PA.

Superintendent Coglianesi brought up the "What's on your workbench?" topic. Mike DeSensi is working on two N scale steam locomotive projects, one of which he hopes will be enough for the scratch-built locomotive requirement for an AP certification. Susan Werner is working on a scratch-built, animated light house.

Mike DeSensi moved, and Ken Hanawalt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting; by unanimous vote the meeting ended at 3:45 PM.



Division Two Picnic — August 20

Where: Henle Park, Corner of Ferry and Beaver Streets, Leetsdale, PA 15046 -- Same place as in several previous years.

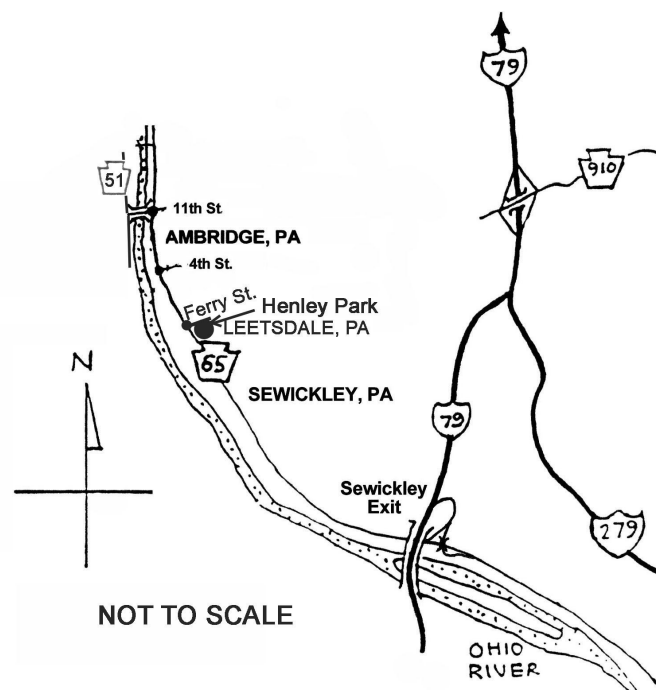
When: Sunday, August 20, 2023. We'll start gathering at 12:00 noon and aim to have food ready around 1:00pm. The business meeting will follow at around 2:30pm. The Bring-n-Brag category is Passenger Cars.

Food: The division will supply meat, bread, and sodas. **IMPORTANT:** please contact George Pandelios (contact info below) with the number of people in your party who are coming and the food that you will bring. [Bring 1 serving for every item you will put on your plate (usually 6) times the number in your party.]

Parking: Lots of parking on the street.

Seating: We will have a shelter with tables, but some space is needed for food and Bring 'n' Brag. Please bring your own folding chair if you plan to sit; there really is no seating available for all.

Contact: E-mail George (gpandelios@verizon.net) with the number in your party, what you will be bringing, and any questions, **by AUGUST 13.**



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



NEXT MEETING:
 At the Annual Picnic, Henle Park, August 20

 <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>

New Member Recruitment Program

During the remainder of the year (July to December 2023), we would like to encourage current members to seek out potential new members at train shows, hobby shops, clubs or anywhere such candidates might be found. Division 2 will reward members for any new members they recruit.

This is how the reward program will work:

- 1) The current member tells them about the NMRA's RailPass program and that the division will pay for that RailPass if the following takes place: saves his/her receipt.
- 2) The new member will complete an application on the NMRA website and purchase a RailPass membership.
- 3) The new member comes to a Division 2 meeting in one of the next 3 months that meetings are held.
- 4) The new member is issued a check for the RailPass membership (\$19.99) when their membership is confirmed on the Divisions Membership list provided by the Mid-Central Region on the first of each month and they fulfilled the requirement to attend a Division 2 meeting. Note that if the new member enrolls in any other membership level, we will award the cost of a RailPass membership.
- 5) The recruiting member is issued a check for \$10.00 when the new member fulfills the requirement to attend a Division 2 meeting.



Needed: Volunteers for
National Narrow Gauge
Convention
September 11 – 14, 2024
Greentree, PA

Contact: Susan Werner
Swerner48@yahoo.com



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.

Evaluation of Bring 'n Brag Participation 2014-2023, by Neal Schorr

In late 2018, I approached the members of Division 2 regarding Bring 'n Brag rules which I believed were both unfair and cumbersome. Please see the next section of this evaluation which is a reprint of an editorial I wrote for the Keystone Flyer which explained the issues and how I proposed to resolve them. A committee was created to evaluate my recommendations, and by a unanimous vote of the membership at the November 2018 Division meeting, all but one of my recommendations were accepted. Please see the January 2019 issue of the Keystone Flyer for all of the details.

Since that time, I have not personally heard any issues regarding the Bring 'n Brag. However, at the June meeting, a member stated that they felt participation in the Jamboree had dropped off, and they requested that the monthly categories be moved around in order to improve participation. I took issue with that as I have no idea how moving around the categories would improve participation. But the floodgates were opened, and all of a sudden all sorts of complaints and suggestions about the Bring 'n Brag that I had never heard previously were brought up.

My personal perception has been that the event has been operating smoothly since the rule changes were made, but that the number of entries had dropped off over the years. In my view, that was a result of declining membership. I shared my thoughts with a couple of other Division Two members, and one of them suggested that I try to dig up data about the event to confirm my suspicion. I felt that was an outstanding suggestion, and I took them up on it. The results of that search and my evaluation of the data is attached.

The source of the data were the back issues of the Keystone Flyer on the Division website and Division 2 membership numbers provided by National. The first table shows the number of entries per month. This is followed by two graphs, the first showing the average number of entries per month and second showing the number of Division two members, both over the ten year period of 2014 through June of 2023. As expected, it does show a decrease of 17.6% in entries, but an even bigger drop of over 21% in membership. This confirmed my belief that the underlying problem is decreasing membership, not lack of participation in the Bring 'n Brag.

The next section is more subjective. The first portion supports my observation that broader categories work better than narrowly focused ones. The second section merely lists Division members who actively participated in the contest in years past, but are either deceased or simply no longer are active in the division and/or the Bring 'n Brag. Clearly, that contributes to the problem of a decreasing number of entries.

However, it is the last table and graph that conclusively tell the story of what is really going on. The table shows the average number of entries per division member per year over the past decade. This is followed by a graph which visually displays the same data.

The graph and trend line show that the number of entries per member is virtually unchanged following the rule changes put into place in 2019. Furthermore, the number of entries per member per year over the entire 10 year time span has also remained stable. This was confirmed by subjecting the data to a statistical analysis, the result of which is shown on the final page of the report.

Commentary on Bring 'n' Brag

Conclusions:

The drop in the number of Bring 'n Brag is not a result of decreased participation, but rather the decrease in the membership of Division 2.

Recommendations:

My first recommendation would be to enact the one suggestion I made back in 2018 to include a photo contest which features not just prototype photos, but model images as well. These would be judged separately and in effect, it would be a two category contest. It would continue to be held at the November meeting, and would fully put the Bring 'n Brag in line with the contest categories held at both the national and regional levels. In the case of the 2018 changes, I do not believe or recall that this omission was intentional, but rather I think the model photo contest essentially "fell through the cracks." On a personal level, I support it as the owner of a large layout which obviously cannot be entered in a contest, but at least in this way, I would be able to do so at least to some extent by means of a photographic image. Until now, that has not been possible.

My second recommendation is much more important. That is to work to increase membership. Personally, I have encouraged my fellow hi-rail modelers to join the NMRA and the Division with some success. At our recent meeting in Weirton, we had an outstanding turnout due in part to eight hi-railers who were in attendance. Any other ideas to boost membership would be very much welcomed. Our hobby is not dying as some suggest. It is just that young people prefer to meet on line, not in person, which is not a method that I care for, but a reality that must be faced.

I would conclude by saying that given our decrease in membership, the Bring 'n Brag is holding its own. And as the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

Neal Schorr
June, 2023

Commentary on Bring 'n' Brag

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

- PART 2 -

Neal Schorr

Herewith the full guest column by Neal Schorr discussing his suggestions for possible changes to the Bring-n-Brag rules, to take effect in calendar year 2019, if the Division adopts these changes at our regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, October 21 at Norwin Public Library in Irwin, PA. Please read this proposal and make time to attend the October meeting.

I'm writing this editorial at the request of the Division secretary and Flyer editor to summarize the comments I made regarding the Bring 'n' Brag at the September Division meeting. As I expressed there, I do not agree with the contest rules allowing a member to enter two models each month. I was not aware that this was permissible until I won first place in January, but ended up with a lower number of points than someone who entered two models that same month. Years ago, members could enter an unlimited number of models, and individuals entering half a dozen or more shake the box kits were accumulating more points than those entering a single truly fine model. I brought this up at the time, and the rules were eventually changed so that members could enter only one (as I recall) model per month.

For the August contest, even though I submitted a model that came in third place, by entering a second model, I got more points for the month than the first place winner, which I do not think is fair. This is the second time this year that I have benefited from the current rules, and as I mentioned above, I got dinged back in January. Basically, this has parallels to winning by "stuffing the ballot box" by the entrant.

I also take issue with the idea of giving extra points for scratch building and kitbashing the model. This was never the case until a number of years ago, when someone suggested this modification of the scoring rules, and it was approved. This is a "People's Choice" sort of contest, not a judged one, and there are no rules governing what is truly scratch built or kitbashed, as there would be with a judged contest. Again, I have benefited from this rule, but I don't think it's fair.

The judging should simply award three points for first place, two for second, and one for third place. I think it is also fair to give an extra point if you match the category for the month, which has always been the case for the 35 years that I have been a member of Division 2. The provision to add a point for just entering doesn't harm anyone, but it doesn't help anyone either. While it rightly provides recognition for those who have entered the contest, their participation is adequately acknowledged in the monthly Bring 'n' Brag write up in the Flyer. This extra point is just another needless complication, and should be eliminated as well.

Simplification of the scoring system would also make life much easier for those running the Bring 'n' Brag at each meeting. They are entitled to enjoy the meeting just like the rest of us, and should not have to hover around the model table as entries come in, figuring out what is scratch built or kitbashed. Furthermore, it's already enough of a rush for them to hurry up and count the votes at the end of each business meeting and before the program begins. They should not have the added burden of an overly complex scoring system.

But of everything I have brought up, the most important change would be that starting with the 2019 Bring 'n' Brag, we should allow just one entry per member so that the person awarded the most points is the member who received the most votes, NOT the one who entered the most models.

A second unrelated issue deals with the category of the month, which I have been bringing up for years. I think that since we have ten meetings a month, and National has roughly ten categories of contest entries, we should stick with those categories which are broad and motivate people to enter. This was obvious in August when the category was structures, and we got at least 8 entries, all of which were fine models. The most absurd example of doing the opposite was years ago when the category was "drover's caboose." I didn't have any idea what a drover's caboose was, and if my recollection is correct, we did not get a single entry that matched the category that month. For those who disagree, I

would suggest that we try using broad categories for a year, and if it doesn't improve participation, we can always go back to more narrow categories.

Finally, including a photo contest category one month would also put us in line with National, and typically, since photos are pretty easy to print and mount, this should draw lots of entries as it does at the National and Regional level.

I intentionally brought the scoring issue up at the September meeting since I had the highest Bring 'n' Brag point total going into that meeting, and I did not want it to appear as though I was making a "sour grapes" sort of argument. I also entered an incomplete model in which the load was completely scratch built, but the model was right out of the box. The purpose was to demonstrate my point regarding what actually constitutes a scratch built model. Was my entry scratch built and qualify for an extra point? Who knows for sure since there are no rules governing this aspect of the Bring 'n' Brag.

I believe in putting my money where my mouth is, so as such, I will not enter further models in the Bring 'n' Brag for the balance of 2018. This should end any chance of me earning the "Modeler of the Year" award.

A summary of the rules that I have proposed follows. I look forward to your support on this matter. The opinions that I have expressed here are strictly my own. My ONLY goal is to make the rules fair for all entrants and to maximize participation in the Bring 'n' Brag.

PROPOSED BRING 'N BRAG RULES

Scoring:

- 1) First place entry: 3 points
 - 2) Second place entry: 2 points
 - 3) Third place entry: 1 point
 - 4) Category match: 1 point
- * Only ONE entry per member per month *

Categories:

- 1) Anything Goes (January)
- 2) Motive Power - Diesel and Traction
- 3) Motive Power - Steam
- 4) Freight Cars
- 5) Caboose
- 6) Passenger Cars
- 7) Non-Revenue Cars
- 8) Structures
- 9) Photos - prototype and model

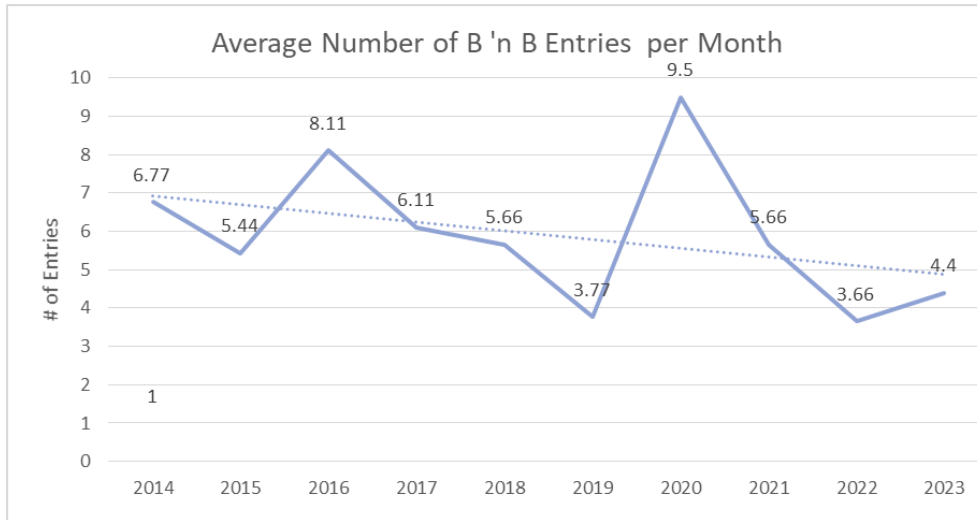
Bring and Brag Analysis 2014-2023

Number of Bring and Brag Entries (in person only, not online)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	8	7	14	12	7	4	12	0	6	5
Feb	10	4	9	4	5	4	7	0	2	1
March	6	8	6	5	7	2	0	0	1	1
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
May	6	10	10	2	4	2	0	0	8	0
June	5	8	8	8	3	6	0	0	3	8
July/Aug	10	8	8	7	8	4	0	0	3	
September	3	3	8	8	5	6	3	0	4	
October	4	5	5	8	6	3	0	5	4	
November	9	9	5	5	4	5	6	0	8	
AVERAGE PER MONTH	6.77	5.44	8.11	6.11	5.66	3.77	9.5	5.66	3.66	4.4

Commentary on Bring 'n' Brag

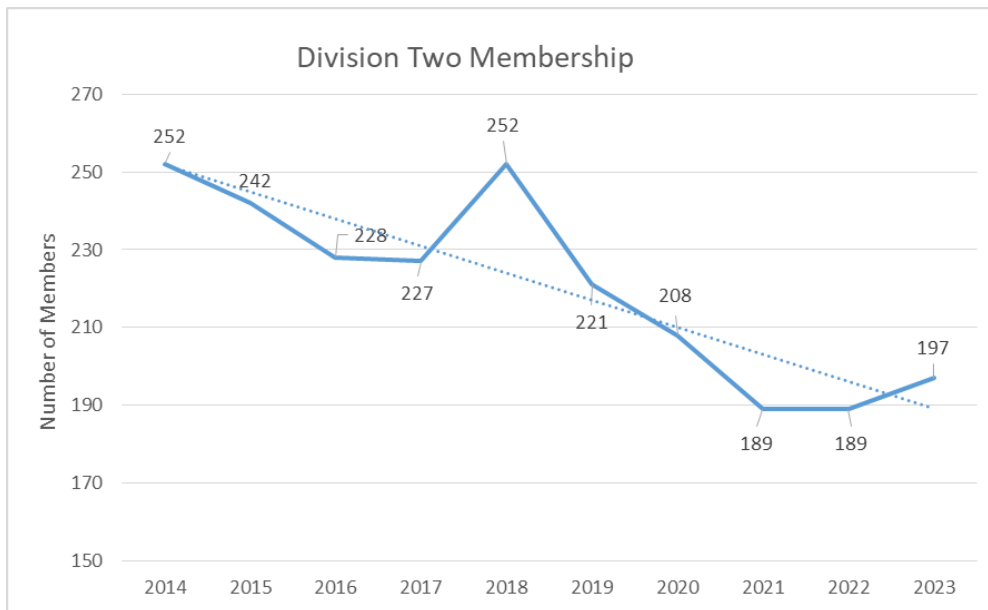
Graphic presentation of Data



Average number of B 'n B entries per month pre-January 2019 6.42

Average number of B 'n B entries per month post- January 2019 5.29

Net Decrease in B 'n B entries is 17.6%



Net Decrease in Division 2 membership 2014-2023 is 21.3%

Therefore, the decrease in membership has exceeded the decrease in B 'n B entries

Subjective Data

Pre -2019 B 'n B categories that attracted entries

Cabooses	6
Hoppers	9
Coal Industry	8
Scratchbuilt Models	10

Pre-2019 B 'n B categories that did not attract entries

Drovers Caboose	0
Cranes and Derricks	2
Advertising and Signs	4
Paper Industry	3

Conclusion – Broad categories encourage participation

Effects of declining membership and participation

Deceased Members who were frequent entrants:

Dick Flock
Bob Hickman
Hans Werner
Jerry Kysliger

Current members who frequently participated in the B 'n B in the past but no longer do so:

Bill Defoe
Marge Meehan
Frank Benders
Joel Everly
Mike Hohn
Bud Brock
Dennis Lippert
Alden McBee

Commentary on Bring 'n' Brag

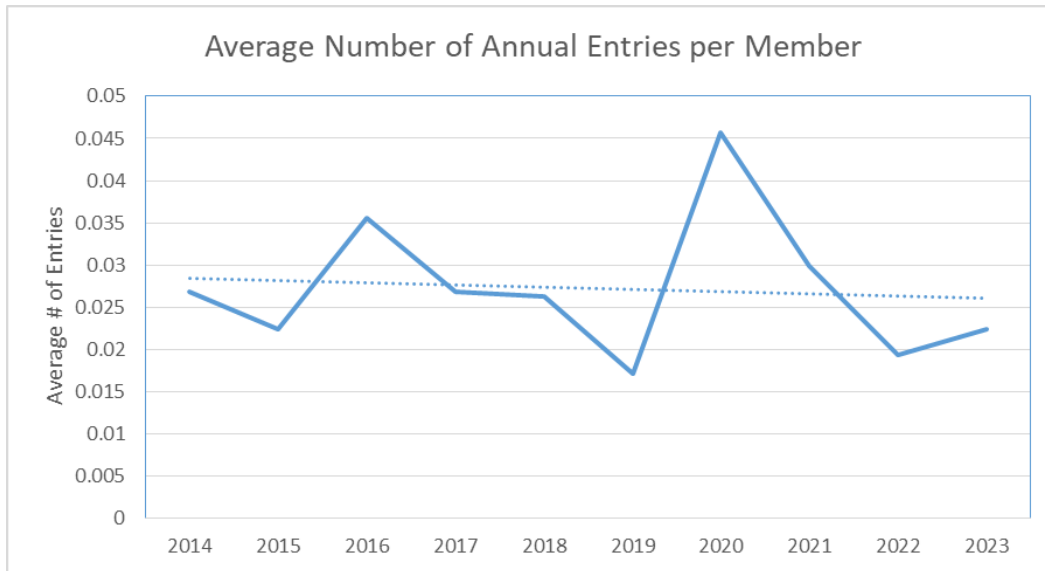
Calculation of Average number of B 'n B entries per Division 2 member:

Average number of Bring and Brag Entries per Member per Year*

Year	Div. 2 Membership	Average number of entries per month	Average number of entries per member
2014	252	6.77	0.0268
2015	242	5.44	0.0224
2016	228	8.11	0.0356
2017	227	6.11	0.0269
2018	252	5.66	0.0263
2019	221	3.77	0.0171
2020	208	9.5	0.0457
2021	189	5.66	0.0299
2022	189	3.66	0.0194
2023	197	4.4	0.0224

*no in person contest March 2020 - July 2021 due to pandemic

Graphic presentation of data:



Average number of entries per member per year 2014 - 2018 = 0.0276

Average number of entries per member per year 2019 - 2023* = 0.0269

Statistical analysis calculation of data: $y = -0.0003x + 0.0286$

Interpretation: There is no statistical difference between the number of member entries in the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 time periods or a statistically significant decrease in the average number of Bring 'n' Brag entries by Division 2 members over the period of 2014 – 2023.

*2023 year to date