June Program on Lighting: page 7





Editor's Photo of the Month

Mark Vinski has a good eye for composition; you may recall that in January this newsletter featured his image of an Amtrak train leaving Pittsburgh at dusk in 1974. He shot this photograph a year before that one, on Penn Central trackage in Cresson, PA. The PRR/PC signals are reflected on the glassy surface of the wet steel rails. He must have taken this picture AFTER the train had passed that wintry day.

Meeting Schedule

June 27, 2021 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm Zoom Online Meeting & Program—Open to all Members Doug Sandmeyer, "Structure Lighting with NCE Light-Its"

July - No Meeting, Summer Vacation

August 2021 - Division 2 Picnic and Meeting Details still TBD — Watch your e-mail!

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	Quarantine Special: *Anything Goes*
Jun	Non-Revenue (incl. cabooses)
Aug	Passenger Cars
Sep	Vehicles
Oct	Structures
Nov	Prototype Photos

Submission Deadline for August *Flyer*: July 11, 2021

Visit us online at keystonedivision.org



From the Super's Desk

During the May 21, 2021 meeting, one of our Region President Bob Weinheimer's last acts was to announce this year's winner of MCR Directors Award, ...and it is... our past Superintendent Mike Hohn. Congratulations, Mike! Our next Region President is Dave Neff; he

had a positive outlook and I'm sure he will take good care of our Region. We, the Superintendents, also learned that the Berea Train Show is a go, so stay tuned for further notices. There was also plenty of talk about the upcoming Convention in Indianapolis, so please look up <u>indyjunction2022</u> — it will be a three Region convention, plus an RPM convention at the same place and time. Two different conventions for the price of one, and yes, you can attend clinics from EI-THER convention.

At this semi-annual BOD meeting, everyone was looking forward to being able to have in-person meetings. Some have done so already, and others are thinking of maybe having a "Hybrid" (both virtual and in-person) meetings. Others are having their annual in-person picnic next month and July.

At this point we have not heard back from the folks at Leetsdale's Henle Park. So my biggest joy, since I'm a consummate pessimist, would be to prove me wrong. So let's all cross our fingers and follow safe hygiene practices, so that your Pennsylvania governor will loosen outdoor restrictions and the park will open up in time for our picnic.

Stay safe,

... Frank Benders

Meeting Notes

Our June 27 business meeting and program are virtual—with any luck the last time we are required to meet in this fashion (though there has been consideration of a hybrid format, whereby members who are not yet comfortable to meet in person may still participate). Doug Sandmeyer will treat us to a program on lighting effects after the business meeting. Remember, in July we are off for summer vacation (no meeting, no Flyer), but we return from hiatus for a picnic (with a little meeting snuck in) in August—assuming we get a space....

HAPPY SUMMER !

This is our last issue until August, when details about the picnic should be known and will be published here. If you are already on the email list, you will be informed of this as soon as the decision is made. If you are not on this list, then get on it! Contact Susan at swerner48@yahoo.com. In the mean time, if it gets too hot to work outside this summer, you know what you might do instead....

Division Elected Officers

Superintendent

Frank Benders (304) 296-2318 fbenders@comcast.net Asst. Superintendent, Meetings & Programs Andy Blenko awblenko@comcast.net

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

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T-Trak (N scale) group Richie Jodon Jim Braum	richjodon30@gmail.com 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.

Bring'n'Brag

May 2021

Well, with the changing of the guard for the Bring'n'Brag we got off to a little bit of a rocky start; I've been out criss-crossing the country and keeping up with all my flight attendant duties. I'm just getting up to speed familiarizing myself with all the duties that come with this job and am very excited about getting to know everyone better. My co-chair Richard Terek and I look forward to attending future meets, to rub elbows and swap modeling stories! Now for the fun stuff: May's Results!

First Place: Neal Schorr, Port Royal, PA (top right). This was definitely a favorite. Neal's entry was a photograph of a portion of his layout which depicts Port Royal, Pennsylvania. The scene contains a multitude of scratch-built, kit-bashed, and weathered commercial structures. The model photograph shows the area as it looked in the early 1960s and the inset shows the prototype scene as it appeared a few years earlier in 1959. The signature



Tracy Boyd/Richard Terek

structure of both the prototype and the model is the concrete arch bridge built in 1910, which spans the four track mainline of the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The bridge is entirely scratch built, primarily out of styrene, and it shows the modifications made in 1937 to allow it to tie into a truss bridge carrying PA Route 75 over the Juniata River. If you refer back to Neal's entry, he does an excellent job of describing what each structure in the photo is and where it came from.

Second Place: Grier Kuehn, HO Rolling Stock Storage Cabinet (right). A fantastic job of Upcycling or Repurposing! Grier took an old wall cabinet that was in excellent condition,

some homasote, and some left over flex track and built a storage unit that is not only attractive, it makes cars easily accessible.

Third Place: George Pandelios, Superior and Highland, Steubenville, Ohio (bottom right). George submitted his 3D backdrop of HO houses along Highland Avenue in Steubenville, Ohio. When completed it will be a forced perspective for his O scale layout.

Two other entries were also submitted to the free-form "Anything Goes" May contest: a photograph of PRR signals reflected in the tracks along the Penn Central in Cresson, PA in 1973 (cover photo), submitted by Mark

Vinsky; and a scene set in Rook Yard (right), by Jimmy Braum, showing freight trains preparing for departure.





I'm really excited to be helping out with the Bring'n'Brag and look forward to seeing what you've been working on! Once again, thanks for your patience; Richard Terek and I are anxious to meet everyone when the time is right!

The June contest category is **Non-Revenue** (including cabooses) — Please e-mail your entry (photo & description) to Tom Gaus (tom@tomgaus.com) NOW through Saturday, June 19 at 12 noon. This is the entry deadline for consideration and the start of voting. Please send your votes to Tracy Boyd (tracybd8@gmail.com) by Saturday, June 26 at 12noon.

Name pts Grier Kuehn 12 Neal Schorr 7 Jim Ferguson 6 George Pandelios 4 Jimmy Braum 3 Arley Mitchell 2



Minutes

George Pandelios

May 16, 2021 Business Meeting

Due to some issues with Zoom login credentials, Superintendent Frank Benders opened the May general division meeting late at 2:40 PM. He thanked George Pandelios for sorting out the credential issue and hosting the meeting via Zoom.

Pass the Hat: There was no report.

New members and/or guests: There were no new members or guests other than our presenter, Dave Ellis from Division 12.

Dennis Vaccaro proposed accepting the minutes of the April meeting as accepted as published in *Keystone Flyer* online. Tom Frohmeyer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by acclamation.

Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer was absent, but his report was given by Jim Whipple. He reminded members that the submission deadline for next issue is May 23.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg reported that the division is solvent. Andy Blenko noted that there was no activity for the Convention account.

Programs: Andy Blenko announced that the June meeting will feature a clinic on structure lighting. He is hoping that the September meeting will be in-person. Neal Schorr has volunteered to obtain the Marshall Township Municipal Building as a meeting site. Jeff Gregg inquired as to the status of the August meeting (picnic) at Henley Splash Park in Leetsdale. Frank indicated that he had e-mailed John Gallagher but had not heard back. Susan Werner reported that John's last e-mail indicated that the Borough had penciled us in for the date / time slot, but had not decided if they were going to open the park. Frank brought up the related question of what Bring-N-Brag category would be used for August. There was some discussion of what had been done in the past, but the issue was settled when Grier Kuhn, Jeff Gregg, and others noted that the B-N-B category had already been previously set. It is Passenger Cars. It was also reported the Division is awaiting status of the park reservation (for the August picnic) from John Gallagher.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported that she has distributed 3 of the 4 books that were ordered. She is waiting for one person. A number of really good books are coming; the list is posted on the website. She is having trouble reaching 10% of the e-mail list because their providers have over-active spam filters. As a result, she has asked Tom Gaus to put the list on the division website.

Membership & Website: Tom Gaus was absent so no reports.

Free-Mo: Patrick Altdorfer was not present but Jim Whipple reported for Patrick that the Free-Mo group has agreed to do the next Greenberg show. Registration for the show has not been completed because Greenberg has not yet provided the sign-up form on their website. Bring-N-Brag: Frank welcomed Tracy Boyd as the new chairperson of Bring-N-Brag. Tracy told us that she got into model railroading by playing with her father's trains. She is in the process of setting up those trains in her house. Tracy also has an N scale modular layout. Her back up is Richard Terek.

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

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro reported that he is waiting for the paperwork, but a member has qualified for the Chief Dispatcher Certificate.

T-Trak: Richie Jodon reported on a great deal of T-Trak activity. There is an NMRA Joint Regional meet proposed for Indianapolis, IN that will involve 3 Regions – Mid-Central, North Central, and Midwest Regions. The meet is called Indy Junction 2022. Dennis Vaccaro chimed in that the 2 other regions (other than ours) do not have a lot of T-Trak activity, so Mid-Central will be depended upon to carry the ball.

Bruce DeMaeyer contacted Richie and indicated that he will set up the T-Trak layout in Indianapolis but will need Mid-Central our Division's assistance. He will also help us in our 2023 MCR Convention. We will be doing the first T-Trak clinic at our convention.

Richie reported that displaying/running a T-Trak layout at Indy Junction 2022 is still up for discussion among the meet's planning group and that no final decision has been made. Initially, it was believed there would be room for the T-Trak layout, but with limited space it was decided not to include it. Now however, the RPM Conference group is being included and several "new" conference rooms are being added, so there may be room. The Indy Junction 2022 planning meeting is June 5 in Indianapolis. Bruce DeMaeyer plans to attend that meeting as the registration manager for the event. Richie indicated that the T-Trak layout will be a topic of discussion.

Richie also attended Ohio Central – Ohio N-Scale Weekend. There were more layouts than vendors (3 private vendors and CMR). The T-Trak layouts were the only ones running well.

Richie noted that there are a lot of moving parts to the effort and although the modules are relatively small, a T-Trak layout can be quite large. There's only so much room available for everything we want/need to do and we may need to limit the size of the T-Trak group's involvement with modules. Bottom line - stay tuned for more information.

Frank indicated surprise that the T-Trak layout was going to be at the Indy Junction 2022 Convention as that contradicted all previous communications and the whole room was being reserved for vendors.

Jimmy Braum reported that he is going to contact the DARE group in Venetia, PA to gauge their interest in hearing about T-

.... continued on page 6

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF TRAINS

Canadian National appears to have won the Upcoming Train Shows & Events battle to merge with KCS

A follow-up to last month's follow-up: it appears that the CP-KCS merger will not occur, as the CN counter-offer has been accepted by KCS management. Barring any regulatory hurdles, it looks like the "first USMCA Railroad" will speak with a French accent.

MTH will live on after all ...

Mike Wolf is retiring, but MTH Electric Trains will be <u>spun off</u> <u>into three businesses</u>: MTH Parts & Sales LLC (Elkridge, MD); MTH R&D Division (western Michigan); and a third company, to be called "M.T.H. Electric Trains" and housed with Parts & Sales in the Elkridge location. Reading between the lines, it appears that this third spin-off is as much a function of entrepreneurship as it is disappointment that the company was only able to sell about 20% of its O gauge tooling (with Atlas picking up a good chunk of this). This entity will focus on offering new products, including RailKing and Premier O offerings, and One Gauge (G Scale) models. Read more at the <u>MTH website</u>.

NMRA National Convention, Santa Clara, CA (online), 6-10 July.

"Greenberg's Great Toy and Train Show," 24-25 July, Monroeville Convention Center, 10am-4pm each day. Division Two will be represented with membership tables, our N scale T-Trak layout, and our HO scale Fremo layout (possibly combining the latter with that of the South Hills Model Railroad Club to present a dynamic point-to-point layout atypical of train show displays. See show details at <u>trainshow.com</u>.

The <u>Steel City Chapter</u> of the <u>Railway & Locomotive Historical</u> <u>Society</u> is again welcoming interested individuals to attend monthly meetings, on the first Tuesday of each month, in North Huntingdon. A work session (sorting and categorizing railroadiana in its collection) is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, from 6pm-9pm. If interested in taking part, or inquiring about membership, please contact Kevin Varrato at 412-969-1620 or kgvarrato@gmail.com.

<u>Riverside Railroad Club</u>, Warren, OH. Large scale train show. 10 July, 10am-4pm.

Minutes (cont'd)

Trak. He expects that to happen in September shortly after the beginning of school. The August Fun-Fest at Cedar Creek will be taking place. Jimmy will speak to the rest of the T-Trak group and Mid-MonValley to see if there is interest in setting up the entire T-Trak layout at this event.

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault reported that he is working on rooms for various events at the convention. He asked Dennis to estimate the amount of room required for 90 T-Trak modules. Dennis indicated that would consume a bit more than half of the small ballroom (Cedar). Keith noted that Cedar is 60' x 64' or 3,840 square feet. He also needs to put vendors in that space. The banquet room will have to be vacated by 2:00 PM that Saturday. Richie indicated that the 2:00 PM deadline would not work. He prefers noon because of people's tendency to procrastinate. Dennis indicated that this was also an issue at Boardman. Keith noted these issues and announced that the first clinics will be on Thursday at 7:00 PM. Clinics will run all day Friday and on Saturday until 4:00 PM. In response to a question from Susan Werner, Keith indicated that Steve Ross was in charge of clinics for the 2023 MCR Convention.

Old Business:

The old business was the Bring-n-Brag changeover and was dealt with earlier.

New Business:

Rob DiBenedetto pointed out that in the normal cycle of meetings, Steubenville (the ORNY bunch) would be hosting the September meeting. But since Neal Schorr has made arrangements for that month, he offered to pick up the October meeting. Rob indicated he will also have a program for that meeting. Frank asked Rob and Neal to inform Andy Blenko of these program and meeting changes.

Concerns & Questions:

Susan reported that there were none.

For the Good of the Division:

The next meeting will be June 27. It will be on the 4th Sunday instead of the 3rd because of Father's Day. It is expected to be virtual again. Susan proposed a motion (apparently it requires a formal vote) to move the meeting from the 3rd Sunday to the 4th for June. It was so moved by Richie Jodon, seconded by Neal Schorr and passed by voice vote with a single Nay.

With business concluded Frank entertained a motion to adjourn, which was proposed by Jeff Gregg and seconded by Tom Frohmeyer. The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM..



THE JUNE MEETING IS VIRTUAL!

Our sixth meeting this year, and the last before the summer vacation (in July we do not meet) will be virtual, and with luck it will be the last meeting we need to do using Zoom, before we reconvene in person in August for the picnic. As always, the entire membership is invited to attend. Susan will send out a link by email on/about the Thursday prior to the meeting; please be sure to check your "spam" folder in your email program, because sometimes mass mailings wind up there instead of the inbox. You may need to define "swerner48@yahoo.com" as a "trusted sender" if your email client allows this, which would ensure that you do not miss this or other email from Susan.

June 27 Program: "Structure Lighting with NCE Light-Its"

Even though Father's Day should by rights be associated with trains and model railroads, we move our June meeting to the 4th Sunday so that we can celebrate, remember, or otherwise honor Dad without the burden of a midafternoon meeting! Therefore the Sunday after Father's Day, join us online for the meeting, to be followed by a program by Division 12 member Doug Sandmeyer, who will give us structure lighting tips and how to use NCE's lighting decoder to achieve different effects. These decoders can be used as Mobile, Accessory, and signaling devices, but Doug's clinic will focus on using them as mobile decoders. Using the decoder in its DC mode will also be discussed for those interested in lighting their structures at shows. You can also contact Doug by email, at dsandme@stny.rr.com.



MODEL RR CLINICIANS

Are you a skilled modeler with information to impart, or have you been experimenting with techniques or new products that make your layout more realistic, or your rolling stock or motive power run smoother, or just make the hobby more fun? We have had interesting and informative clinics over these past few months on Zoom, presented by modelers outside of our division, but I suspect there is a wealth of information within our own division, and I would like to keep the programs coming as we transition back to in person meetings this fall. If you have skills to share, please <u>contact me by email</u> to let me know what you might like to present at a future meeting, especially now that it appears we will be getting back to live meetings, and you will not need to be quite as computer savvy!

- by order of Andy Blenko, Assistant Superintendent

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



NEXT MEETING: Virtual meeting, June 27





Marriott East, 7202 E 21st St Indianapolis, IN 46219





Four Full Days Three Regions Two Day Train Show One Convention May 18-22, 2022

Clinics Layout Tours Ops Sessions Prototype Tours



www.IndyJunction2022.org

