# Meeting Schedule & Maps: pp. 6-7





# Editor's Model of the Month

Several of the contest models stood out as impressive this month, but Susan Werner's HO scale model of a quarry office was in my view the best one. She built this one from scratch based on her own plans; the detachable roof permitted us to better see both the interior of the building as well as the rafters. You can see more photos of this and other fine contest models on page 11 of this month's online edition.

## **Meeting Schedule**

November 21, 2021 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm VFD Social Hall, New Eagle, PA Program: Bruce Butt: "Introducing Custom Circuits, Inc." Layouts: Mid-Mon Valley Club, Jim Braum, Susan Werner (details page 7)

**January 16, 2022** - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm Ohio Valley Lines, Ambridge, PA Program: TBA

February 20, 2022 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm

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:

# 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 Jan. *Flyer*: December 1, 2021

Visit us online at keystonedivision.org



# From the Super's Desk

Our October gathering showed how the members of Division 2 really work together. When we had technical difficulties, people came forward to offer

their expertise. Members remained patient. Our guest from Norfolk Southern presented his program on Operation Lifesaver without his visual aids as others scurried to correct the problems in time for MCR Region President David Neff to make his presentation on the 2022 IndyJunction convention updates. We make a good team.

As I sit here looking out of the window and imagine the cold embracing me, I'm reminded of a previous Super's article on the end of Summer and the start of Fall. It's time to put away the mower and take in the garden tools until spring. We can now use that time to work on our hobby -- building models of structures, cars, and making changes to our layouts. It was good to be able to visit layouts of other modelers to get ideas for things we want to spend the Winter doing.

Best wishes for the upcoming holidays, with hopes that you can be with your families in person or virtually.

... Frank Benders

## **MEETING HOLIDAY**

November is the last meeting we hold each year. Again this year it will feature a swap meet, so bring your old items and trade for (or buy) some new (to you) items.

As winter approaches, so do the holidays, and it probably needs no mention here, at the end of Year 2 of this awful pandemic, but use your indoor time to spend with your loved ones — family members, good friends, and last but not least, with your favorite model trains! However you celebrate this season, do so in peace and love and safety, and let's root for a better year in 2022!

- the Editor

# UPCOMING TRAIN SHOW

The Greenberg Train Show is coming to our area this weekend, November 6-7, at the Monroeville Convention Center. Our HO and N scale modular groups will be exhibiting, as will our Division, so if you can, come on out to support us. If you can help to set up modules on Friday or Saturday, or strike them on Sunday at 4pm, please contact the Module Committees (see masthead) to see how you can help.

## **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

## **Division Appointed Officers**

#### <u>Treasurer</u>

Jeff Gregg (724) 348-5855 jwg625@comcast.net

### Achievement Program

Dennis Vaccaro (724) 929-2190 vaccaro dennis@yahoo.com

### Webmaster & Membership

Tom Gaus (412) 731-8846 webmaster@keystonedivision.org Company Store

Susan Werner (724) 379-8584 swerner48@yahoo.com

### Bring'n'Brag

Tracy Boyd (410) 919-7115 Richard Terek rjtgbg1@comcast.net

Keystone Flyer Editor Patrick Altdorfer

(412) 559-3079 patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com

### Jamboree Committee

Grier Kuehn Neal Schorr Jim Sacco gekuehn@comcast.net naskss@yahoo.com ctyclsscs@aol.com

### Module Committees

FreeMo (HO scale) group Patrick Altdorfer	patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com
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

ENTRY

#3

## October 2021

What a great turnout we had for the Bring 'N' Brag contest! This month's topic was Structures.

First Place was awarded to Joel Everly, who brought in a Bar Mills craftsman kit he built (right). But not only did he have one building, he had the entire Gritty McDuff's Lumber Yard. I wish I had spent more time looking over the 58 page instruction manual! I cannot even begin to do justice describing the fantastic structure!

Our Second Place went to Susan Werner with a scratch-built quarry office building (below and cover). Susan's building was



was complete with furnishings and tools in the tool shed section. The roof, which was made from Bar Mills slate shingles,

also came off so that we could further see her excellent detailing of the interior.

Third Place was shared between Grier Kuehn's HO Curtain Wall Warehouse and Jim Braum's HO Rook Yard Office. Jim-

my's structure (right) was scratch-built using 3D printing in PLA, with a few styrene detail parts. Jim used Google Earth to get the height



The November category is **Prototype Photos**. Please bring your photos to the meeting and see Rich Terek and/or Tracy Boyd to enter. Remember: the entry deadline is AT LEAST one HALF HOUR before the meeting starts, e.g. no later than 2pm!

dimensions of the building, then compressed the length of the building. Visually, the prototype building is in very rough condition, showing lots of rust.

Grier Kuehn, also taking Third Place, presented us with a photo of his structure, as it was too large to bring to the meeting (bottom right). Grier kit-bashed a nine-story warehouse using one City Classics #103 Smallman Street Warehouse kit and three #104 Add-On kits. Each orangish brick was carefully brush-painted so as not to disturb the mortar joints. He also added many details, including CC Window Dressings, a rooftop sign, and numerous roof details. He also has the structure lit with both LED's and grain-of-rice bulbs.

George Pandelios also entered a photo array of his very large Ohio River Bridge, with detailed explanations of how he represented the prototype structure in his O scale model. Photos of his entry are presented on page 11.

Once again it is a pleasure to put more faces to names!

Name	pts	Name	pts
Grier Kuehn	21	Joel Everly	3
Neal Schorr	10	Susan Werner	2
Jimmy Braum	8	Arley Mitchell	2
George Pandelios	7	Bill DeFoe	2
Jim Ferguson	6	Jim Sacco	1





# Tracy Boyd/Richard Terek



# **Minutes**

#### October 17, 2021 Business Meeting

Superintendent Frank Benders opened the October general division meeting at 2:30 PM.

He thanked Bob DiBenedetto, the O.R.N.Ry bunch, and Schiappa Library.

Pass the Hat: Jeff Gregg passed the hat.

New members and/or guests: David Grounds introduced himself as a new member. David models primarily HO in the 1950 to 60's timeframe. His railroad prototypes are the IC, Monon and Southern Pacific. Welcome!

Dennis Vaccaro moved to accept the minutes of the September meeting as published in Keystone Flyer online. Keith DeVault seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by acclamation.

#### Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer thanked George Pandelios for editing the Flyer in his absence. Patrick requested that all submissions be in to him by midnight October 24. He also asked if there were any other layouts that would be open for the meeting.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg reported that the division is solvent. Andy Blenko reported that he had moved a small amount of money out and back into the Convention account inorder to keep it active on the bank's books. Otherwise, there has been no change in that account. Keith DeVault indicated that convention spending will probably change shortly as the event draws nearer.

Programs: Andy Blenko reported that the November meeting will be hosted by the Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad Club at the VFD Social Hall in New Eagle, PA, courtesy of Susan Werner. The program will feature newer member Bruce Butt's efforts to develop and market electronic layout animations and controls. Jimmy Braum will have his layout, the Wheeling & Lake Erie in HO scale open for touring. Susan Werner will also have her layout, the Scotia Harbor and Moose Point Railway, open.

The November meeting will also host a swap meet. This was very successful last time. The fire hall is very spacious and has many tables for use. Bring your unwanted train items and trade for other's items. Dead Presidents may also be accepted. Tables are free.

Andy reminded us that January's meeting will be hosted by the Ohio Valley Lines at their club in Ambridge, PA. No further details are available at this time.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported that the Shay books have arrived and they are both huge and heavy. Dennis Vaccaro reported that the book is excellent and worth the money. Susan indicated that a second printing was uncertain and that if you want a copy, please see her immediately. The Division's price (including shipping) is \$84, which is a discount from MSRP.

Fall releases from Morning Sun and Double Take are now available for ordering.

Membership/Website: Tom Gaus was not present but but Frank reported on some of Tom's efforts to determine an accurate membership level. Tom has been attempting to square inactive life members against the Region's membership lists so as to verify the numbers; the numbers conflict. The effort is ongoing. There was no website report.

**George Pandelios** 

Free-Mo: Patrick Altdorfer reported that Free-Mo plans to attend the Greenberg Show on November 6 & 7 in Monroeville. They have acquired a 25' x 25' space next to T-Trak and the NMRA tables. Jeff Graybill of the South Hills Model Railroad Club is working on rebuilding a new wye module that will permit Free-Mo and SH modules to link up. He asked for volunteers to help set up - 1:00 PM on Friday, November 5.

Jeff Gregg indicated that T-Trak also has space for 16 modules and that the NMRA will have space for 2 tables at this show.

Bring-N-Brag: Tracy Boyd reported the results of the contest.

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

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro reported that he still has lots of people asking questions but nothing substantive yet to report.

T-Trak: Richie Jodon was not present, but Jimmy Braum presented Richie's report. If anyone is interested in attending the November Greenberg show, please let him know what module you are bringing. The Division's inventory of T-Trak modules (from members) has been turned in to the Regional head of T-Trak, Bruce DeMaeyer. Our division has only 2 interior corners and Bruce is concerned about the shortage of them. IndyJunction has issued a call for T-Trak modules. Richie requests that anyone planning on attending IndyJunction2022 for T-Trak should e-mail him.

Jimmy went on to report that CMR still does not have the lumber necessary to supply module kits, so you will need to build your own.

Jamboree: Grier Kuehn reported that Neal Schorr, Jim Sacco and he were making great progress towards organizing the Jamboree. Grier will bring copies of the event's color flyer to the November meeting for distribution to interested parties, hobby shops, businesses, and other public locations (e.g. libraries). Flyers will not be ready in time for the November Greenberg Show but will be distributed at the February Greenberg Show. Grier is seeking donations for the raffle from an ever-dwindling number of hobby shops; your assistance in this area is requested. George Pandelios asked about clinics and presenters for the Jamboree. Grier replied that the goal will be new faces or old faces with new topics; no repeated clinics.

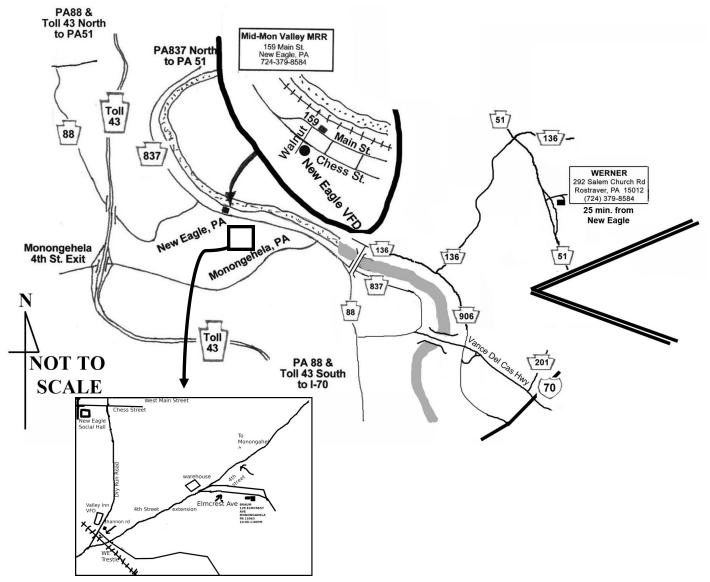
... continued on page 7

# **MEETING TIMETABLE**

# November 21: New Eagle, PA | "Introducing Custom Circuits, Inc."

This month, our business meeting will be held in New Eagle at the VFD Social Hall starting at 2:30pm. Arrive early if you plan to enter a model in the contest, and also, there will be a <u>mini swap meet</u> for members to buy and sell modeling items (tools, supplies, kits, rolling stock, etc.). Bring items you no longer need to barter for those that you do, or trade it for cash money, if you prefer! After the business meeting, Bruce Butt will present a program to "demonstrate and review the sensors, railroad crossing system, occupancy detector system and block detector system manufactured by new hobby vendor Custom Circuits, Inc."

Outside of the meeting, three layouts are open for members to visit: the <u>Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad Club</u> (159 Main Street, New Eagle) will host an open house. The club's HO scale layout depicts the rich industrial heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania along the Monongahela River Valley, particularly coal mining and steel mills, but the right-of-way is also dotted with rural and small-town communities. The club layout will be open before the meeting from 12 noon to 2pm. Two home layouts are also open: <u>Susan Werner's</u> Scotia Harbor & Moose Point Railway depicts rural rail-roading in New England. Her HO scale layout (292 Salem Church Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012, about 15 minutes drive from the meeting site) will be open before the meeting, from 11am to 1pm. And <u>Jimmy Braum</u> opens his HO scale Wheeling & Lake Erie layout for the first time this month (see his layout description on page 10); he will be open before the meeting from the meeting from 10am until 1pm. His home (128 Elmcrest Avenue, Monongahela, PA 15063) is located about 5 minutes drive from the meeting site.



# January 16, 2022: Ambridge, PA

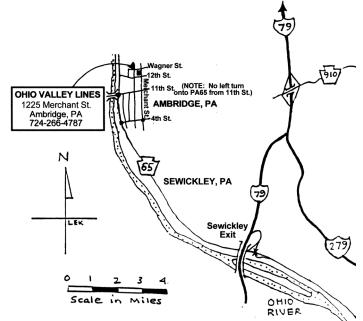
Our first meeting of 2022 will be hosted by the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club (1225 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA 15003), which John Gallagher has coordinated for us. The postmeeting program is yet to be determined. The two club layouts (HO scale on the main floor, N scale in the basement) will be open before and after the meeting for our viewing pleasure.

# February 20, 2022: TBA

Meeting site/program have not yet been finalized, but details will follow at this month's meeting and in the next *Flyer*.



You better watch out, you better not cry, Look both ways and I'll tell you why, Santa Fe is coming to town!



#### Mid-Central Region Awards:

MCR President David Neff recognized three Division Two members for service to the NMRA Mid-Central Region over the past years: Keith DeVault (left) was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his service on the MCR Board of Directors from 2016-2020; and two members who were not present at the meeting were recognized with Directors' Awards for their contributions to the hobby and to the MCR: Jim Sacco for 2020 (right), and Michael Hohn, MMR (center), for 2021.



# Minutes

... continued from page 5

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault indicated that all committee members had been selected and that everything was on track for the MCR Convention. It will be held May 5-7, 2023 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Cranberry Township, PA.

<u>Old Business</u>: Frank had planned to attend "The Great Berea Train Show", but was unable to make it. Grier indicated that he had attended and that it was marked by lots of missing people and empty spaces. Regional President David Neff (here to speak about IndyJunction 2022) noted that despite the lower turnout of vendors and attendees the show turned a profit; vendors were happy.

<u>New Business:</u> David Neff, Mid-Central Regional President, gave an update on the IndyJunction 2022 Convention.

For the Good of the Division: Jimmy Braum reported that the East Broad Top Railroad is hoping to have a steam locomotive in running condition in time for President's day weekend 2022, for a winter spectacular. They are going to start working on rebuilding the southern end of the line, and hope to make progress south within one to three years. They have rebuilt the entire tourist line portion within a year, as well as major improvements within the Orbisonia yard.

A motion to adjourn was made by Neal Schorr and seconded by Andy Blenko. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

After the meeting, Alan Stouder, a volunteer for "Operation Lifesaver," presented the program on railroad safety and the work of his organization. Alan retired from Norfolk Southern, having begun his career with the N&W.



Concerns & Questions: There were none.

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



NEXT MEETING: VFD Social Hall, New Eagle, PA, November 21





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





Clinics

Layout Tours

**Ops Sessions** 

**Prototype Tours** 

Four Full Days **Three NMRA Regions** And the RPM Conference Three Day Train Show **One Convention** May 18-22, 2022



www.IndyJunction2022.org



20210623





## Jim Braum layout

Hello everyone. By the time you are reading this, it will be time for the November Division meeting in New Eagle PA, Hosted by the Mid Mon Valley Model railroad Club. In the past, I have been part of the operating crew at the club layout. This year will be a little different for me; my home layout will be open. Those who visit will be among the first model railroaders to see it.

Before I go into the details, I must state the following about the location of my layout. It is in my basement, so it is <u>not handi-capped accessible</u>. I also will note that mask wearing is OPTIONAL. I will not have snacks, but water bottles will be available. Now on to the layout.

I model the modern era Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway (1990-present), between Rook yard in Green Tree, and eventually to Connellsville PA. The layout is in a specially built 22'x25' semi-finished room, and currently undergoing upgrades to the ceiling tile and lighting system. The layout is set in fall 2010s, since that replicates the time period when I discovered the WE- even though the mainline is three minutes from my house. I also chose fall, because the corporate colors "pop" during fall. I chose Rook to Connellsville because it is a nice rural stretch of the Wheeling, with the option to backdate industrial locations to allow switching jobs. I have a collection of custom Wheeling HO scale locomotives and rolling stock to compliment this, with certain regional railroads being represented at interchange points. You may catch them if you look closely enough.

I use an NCE Powercab system, and will be getting a booster when the need arises. As of this writing (10/5/21), Rook yard is the only area with scenic detail in place. The rest of the layout is still either a "plywood empire", or



waiting for the plywood to be installed. I also have street lights and interior lighting in the Rook yard section, using LEDs and a wall wart. The plan is to add additional yard lighting as time and funds permit, to make operating sessions easier.

This brings me to the fun part; operating the layout. The layout is self style point to point (24"inches deep), with eventually an operational turntable in Connelsville yard. The operational system will be track warrant, much like the prototype, although in



my world, the Wheeling has two dispatchers. The primary locomotive classes represented are: SD40-2s, and GP35 High hoods, although some oddballs have worked their way onto the roster as well. When it is ready for operation, I expect 3 crews would comfortably be able to run at once. A yard crew will work Rook, a road crew will take coke trains or other unit runs to Connellsville, and a local crew will switch out all the small industries along the line.

There is also a bittersweet part of this layout: My late father's layout is still in place. My father modeled the Rio Grande Southern in H0n3, But only finished a few portions of it before he passed away. The plan is to save as much of it as possible, to preserve in his memory.

If you visit, please remember it is my first open house, so I'll be asking for suggestions on how to improve the conditions for

any future visits. There are also a few prototype rail-fanning possibilities nearby. These are: The Norfolk Southern Mon Line, the Union Railroad in Clairton, the CSX Mon Sub, and the Wheeling mainline. I cannot estimate any traffic levels on these though, so your results may vary. I hope you all

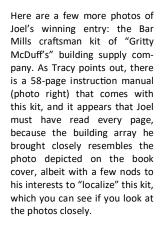
#### **Driving Directions:**

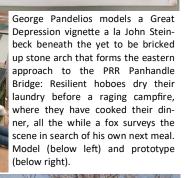
Chess Street to Dry Run Road intersection; Right onto Dry Run Road, until you reach the Valley Inn Fire Department; take next left onto "Shannon Road" (right before the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway viaduct crossing over Dry Run Road and 4th Street Extension). Turn left onto 4th Street Extension at the stop sign. Go up the hill, until you see a warehouse building on your left, then make a sharp right onto Elmcrest Avenue. The house is a single story brick ranch on the right, look for the red pickup truck and Railroad Derail sign. Please park in either the driveway or yard. and the part of the second sec



door (There is a knuckle coupler piece by it) and come out in my kitchen. PLEASE OPEN THE WOODEN DOORS SLOWLY! They may hit each other if opened at the same time.

# October B'n'B Contest—continued





Saco River Structures

By Bar Mills

Gritty McDuff's



Susan Werner detailed her scratch-built quarry office with a wood-burning stove, roll-top desk, and a clerk looking over a map on a table. She also modeled the rafters that support the slate roof, and an unpainted (as you would expect from a utilitarian structure) tool room, with a few hand tools. The only mystery: that lone cane on the floor of the tool side (right)... maybe there is a mechanic sleeping against that wall, just out of our line of vision?



Keystone Flyer

November 2021 | Volume 63, Issue 10