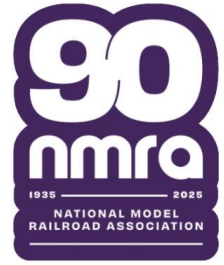


Summer Picnic info: see page 4



Editor's Model of the Month

How often have you heard the refrain that the hobby is dying out because young people are not getting involved? Vinny Kaplack offers counter-evidence to this worn-out old saw: In the May Bring 'n' Brag contest, he entered this HO scale CSX cushion coil flatcar, which he modified from a vintage (early Oughts) Walthers kit by adding metal wheelsets, Kadee couplers, a coil load, and then weathered the model with an airbrush, powders, and chalks. The editor often sees cars that look just like this parked in the NS mini-yard between Homestead and the Rankin bridge, so for all this verisimilitude it earns this month's featured position in *TKF*.

Meeting Schedule

June 22, 2025 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm
Marshall Township Municipal Building
525 Pleasant Hill Road, Suite 100
Wexford, PA 15090
Program: Neal Schorr, "50+ Years in the Making"
Layout: Neal opens before the meeting, from
11:30am to 1:30pm

July 14-19, 2025 - NMRA 90th Convention, Novi,
Michigan

August 17, 2025 - Picnic & Division Meeting, 12noon
Henle Park
Ferry & Broad Streets
Leetsdale, PA 15056
Details: See page 4 inside

Bring'n'Brag

Jan 19	Anything Goes
Feb 16	Motive Power: Diesel / Electric / Traction
Mar 16	Motive Power: Steam
Apr 27	RR Company Structures (incl. Bridges/Trestles)
May 3	*** Model Railroad Jamboree ***
May 18	Freight Cars
Jun 22	Non-Revenue Cars (incl. Cabooses)
Aug 17	Vehicles
Sep 21	Passenger Cars
Oct 19	Non-Railroad Structures
Nov 16	Prototype Photos

**Submission Deadline for
next *Flyer*:
July 13, 2025**

**Visit us online at
keystonedivision.org**

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:

CompanyStore@keystonedivision.org



From the Super's Desk

I attended the annual Mid-Central Region convention (Buckeye Express) on May 15 through May 18. There were over 100 model railroaders

from all the divisions in the regions. This is my third MCR convention and I've developed relationships with members from other divisions as well as some of the region's leadership.

The clinics at these conventions provide a unique opportunity to learn about something you didn't know you wanted to learn. I attended a couple of clinics that were about topics that I had some familiarity with but covered some points I hadn't thought of before.

I also had the opportunity to visit several area layouts. They ranged from layouts that were in the early stages of development, to some truly amazing, finished layouts – all of which let me see how other modelers do this model railroad thing.

Some of the best times were the evenings when attendees gathered in the common area. I reconnected with people I met at earlier conventions and met many new modelers.

This is not something I would have done years ago. While I really enjoy people, I tend to be very shy and quiet (really!). While I've been in multiple model railroad clubs, none of them got me to connect the way attending NMRA events has. It's not just the convention; it's the monthly membership meetings and the connections that I've developed as a result that has provided me with a more complete model railroading experience.

We are working on creating additional opportunities for our members to engage with each other. Our hope is that by having more small gatherings, a larger number of our members will find a topic and time that will allow them to engage. It really is fun!

... *Dennis Coglianese*

Errata

An attribution error crept into the minutes last month: Under "For the Good of the Division," the New Member Ambassador Program was introduced and discussed by Superintendent Dennis Coglianese, not by Ken Hanawalt.

Also, Neal Schorr's open house this month was incorrectly listed in last month's issue as "after" the meeting; to clarify, it is before the meeting only, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

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T-Trak (N scale)
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S-Mod (S scale)

Jim Whipple
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Kevin Squire, Reg. Coord.

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.

May 18, 2025 Business Meeting

The May Business Meeting was called to order by Assistant Superintendent George Pandelios at 2:30PM at the Ohio Valley Lines Model Railroad Club in Ambridge, PA.

New member Curt Stetzer and Ohio Valley Lines member Susan Kronenwall, and her son Jimmy, were in attendance.

A motion to accept the Minutes of last month's meeting as published in the Keystone Flyer Online was made by Dennis Vacarro and seconded by Tom Frommeyer. There was a minor correction requested by Ken Hanawalt, to whom a quote was misattributed (it was actually by Superintendent Dennis Coglianese). The motion to accept the minutes was passed unanimously with the previously mentioned correction.

Committee Reports

Keystone Flyer – *Pat Altdorfer* The deadline for the May Keystone Flyer is May 25, 2025. He also mentioned that submissions of pictures of Bring 'n' Brag should be in JPEG format and sent to the editor's email.

Programs – *George Pandelios* The next meeting will be Sunday, June 22, 2025, 2:30PM at the Marshall Township Municipal Building, 525 Pleasant Hill Road, Suite 100 Wexford, PA, 15090. The Bring 'n' Brag category is Non-Revenue Cars (incl. Cabooses). Program: Neal Schorr, "50 Years in the Making". Layout: Neal will host an open house from 11:30AM – 1:30PM before the meeting at his home at 115 Hilltop Lane, Wexford, PA 15090.

Company Store – *Susan Werner* No report.

Membership – *Ken Hanawalt* No new members to report. He did mention that the email reminders he sends to members whose membership has lapsed was successful with one member renewing membership.

Website – *Tom Gaus* No report.

Free Mo – *Rick Montgomery* The application to have a display at the August Greenberg Train Show has been submitted.

Bring 'N' Brag – *Dominic Martinelli* Dominic thanked the members for the submissions, there were 7 entries this month. Next month's category is Non-Revenue Cars (incl. Cabooses). First Place in the May contest went to Mike DeSensi for his N scale ice reefer; Second place to Denny Lippert for a collection of miscellaneous freight cars; and third place to Rob DiBenedetto for a couple of RailGons.

Video Library -- *Bud Brock* No report.

Achievement Program – *Dennis Vaccaro* While attending the MCR convention in Columbus, OH, it was announced that there will be upcoming changes to Certificate requirements and that evaluations will become more consistent and better defined. Dennis presented Ken Hanawalt with his official Master Model Railroader plaque. Congratulations Ken!

T-Trak – *Richie Jodon/Jimmy Braum* No report.

Jamboree – *Grier Kuehn, Neal Schorr* Grier thanked everyone who attended. He also stated that he was disappointed in the overall attendance. Member Tom Catalano asked about the financial report and Grier noted that it was not yet available pending final accounting but noted that the basket raffle was a success. He also stated that the committee is still waiting for a check to cover the RailPass memberships.

Old Business - None .

New Business - None.

What's on Your Workbench? Dave Martinelli is working on another 4 foot Free-Mo module.

For the Good of the Division:

George Pandelios noted that he attended the PRR Technical & Historical Society Convention and they were having difficulties finding an affordable venue with appropriate amenities for their events. He also mentioned that the Steel Mill Modelers SIG is having the same difficulties. Grier Kuehn stated that the CCAC Boyce Campus is very reasonable. Mike DeSensi informed everyone of the passing of Division 2 member John Gallagher; he had been in declining health. Denny Lippert brought up the issue that all money brought in from the Membership dues goes to the National organization. Grier Kuehn also added that mandatory insurance for the Jamboree (and other events) is paid at the local level, i.e., at our own expense.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.



A program entitled "History's Lost Streamliner" was presented by Dave Martinelli.

Editor's Note: In Keith DeVault's absence in May, the minutes were taken and transcribed by Mike DeSensi.

John Gallagher, Jr., 76

We note with sadness the passing of our friend John Gallagher, on April 29th, at age 76. Lifelong model railroader with a keen interest in modeling the steel industry, John was a longtime member of both Division Two and the Ohio Valley Lines model railroad club. John served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War, retired after 30 years, and he also served in many roles at St. Luke the Evangelist/Good Samaritan Church in Ambridge. Survived by his wife, son, and two sisters, his family kindly requests in lieu of flowers that memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Call For Picnic Volunteers

Our annual picnic meeting is **Sunday, August 17** at our usual location, Henle Park in Leetsdale. In order to make the picnic a more enjoyable event for everyone (including those helping), I am asking for volunteers to assist in these areas (so far):

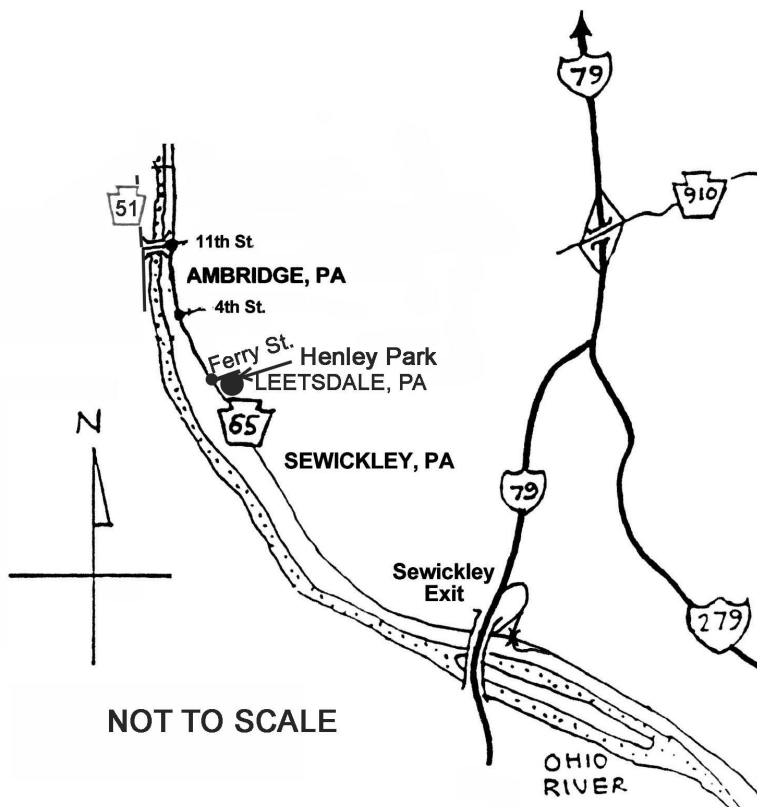
- 1) **Set-up Crew:** 3-4 folks to handle table set-up, garbage bags, utensils, prepare the grill, and basically get the party started.
- 2) **Coolers & Ice:** We need 4 people to sign up to bring a good-sized cooler with ice.
- 3) **Cooks:** We will need 4 folks who will rotate in this duty. Burgers and dogs are on the menu.
- 4) **Tear-down Crew:** 3-4 folks to handle clearing up the tables, putting out the cooking fire and disposing of the ashes, picking up any stray trash, etc.

And as is standard procedure, the Division will supply the meat, bread, sodas, and water.

Please let me know (via e-mail), how many people will be in your party and what food (side-dish or dessert) you will bring. *[Bring 1 serving for every item you will put on your plate (usually 6) times the number in your party.]*

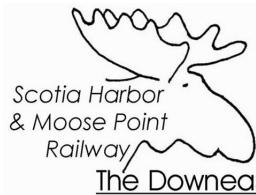
Please don't hesitate to contact me with suggestions or questions.

George Pandelios
Assistant Superintendent



August 17: Henle Park Leetsdale, PA

Division Two takes a holiday in July (but the NMRA does not: the [national convention is in Novi, Michigan](#) from July 14-19). Our next Division Two meeting takes place during our Annual Picnic in August. Thank you to George Pandelios for organizing this event; please see his notice on page 4 for how you can help to make this a fun event. Come out to enjoy the warm weather and some train-spotting along the NS tracks parallel to PA Route 65.



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Belle Vernon, PA 15012
swerner48@yahoo.com

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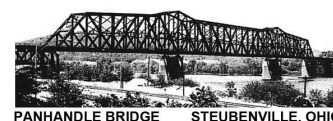
Gary P. Nastase - President & CEO
Kathleen A. Nastase - Train Wifey ... R.I.P.
207 State Street
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Robert DeBenedetto
rdemdsd40@yahoo.com
(740) 381-4585

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Bring'n'Brag

Dominic Martinelli

The May Bring 'n' Brag category was **Freight Cars** and this brought out seven(!) entries.

First place went to **Mike DeSensi** for his N scale Santa Fe reefer car. He models the year 1945 in N scale, and his starting point for this model was an Intermountain SFRD model, from which he removed the molded doors and replaced them with doors he scratch-built from styrene. He also added a floor and walls, weathered metal wheelsets, and Z scale couplers, then weathered the model with Pan Pastels.



Photos by Patrick Altdorfer



Second place went to **Denny Lippert** for his collection of five diverse freight cars, which he described as having just "popped from the shop," including a Rapido SP waffle boxcar, an Athearn WM centerflow hopper, a Proto-2000 PC flatcar (which he custom-painted), a Branchline 50ft PRR boxcar (which he painted after modifying the sills), and a new Walthers P2K 40ft boxcar.

Third place went to **Bob DiBenedetto** for his collection of three loaded RailGons in various levels of weathering. Two of them featured scrap metal cubes, and one featured banded steel plates.

Four additional models were entered into the contest this month; two of which comprised steel coil cars.



Rick Montgomery entered a pair of coil cars (left), one depicting the car after it had just been re-shopped, and the other soon after it was put back into service (he added State tool and die coil cradles and US Steel coils), heavily weathered the car with Pan Pastels and Testors paint markers, and added graffiti (Blair Line decals) to give it the modern touch.

Vinny Kaplack entered a CSX Cushion Coil Car (cover photo), which was a Walthers HO scale kit from the early 2000s, to which he added metal wheels, Kadee couplers, and the steel coil load. He finished the model by weathering it using three different techniques: airbrush, powders, and chalks.

Richard Reichenbach brought an Erie TOFC



with trailer advertising the "Piggy-Back Service," weathered to resemble a proto-type photo he also displayed with the car.

Name	pts	Name	pts
Rick Montgomery	7	Bill Auman	2
Dennis Lippert	6	Kevin Squire	2
Tom Catalano	4	Jimmy Braum	1
Mike DeSensi	4	Bob DiBenedetto	1
Neal Schorr	3	Steve Ross	1

And not pictured, Tom Catalano brought several flatcars with armor loads, appropriate for the month during which we honor our veterans.



The Bring'n'Brag contest this month is in the category **Non-Revenue Cars (incl. Cabooses)**. All entries must be presented to the Bring'n'Brag chair no later than 2pm in order to be considered.

MEETING TIMETABLE

June 22: Wexford, PA



Our June meeting will be held on the 4th Sunday of June — that is the Sunday after Father's Day — at the Marshall Township Municipal Building (525 Pleasant Hill Road, Wexford, PA 15090). After the business meeting, Neal Schorr will present a program entitled “50+ Years in the Making,” about which you can read a more detailed preview on page 9 (online edition).

In addition to his clinic, Neal will have his layout open for us to visit before the meeting, **from 11:30am to 1:30pm**. Neal's home is located five minutes from the meeting site (115 Hilltop Lane, Wexford, PA 15090). Parking is available only on Vander Road, because Hilltop Lane is private and no parking is available there or in Neal's driveway. He will post signs that direct visitors to the walk down to his house.

Fall Meeting Schedule

*The maps provided are for general orientation; as always, **please use a real map (or GPS) to plan your trip.***

September 21

PA Trolley Museum
1 Electric Way
Washington, PA 15301
web: pa-trolley.org

October 19

Rochester Area Heritage Society
350 Adams Street
Rochester, PA 15074

 [rochestermuseum](https://www.facebook.com/rochestermuseum)

November 16

N.E. VFD Social Hall and Mid-Mon Valley Model RR Club
156 Chess Street 159 Main Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

web: mmvmrrc.org

Ken Hanawalt earns MMR #792










Ken Hanawalt earned Master Model Railroader #792 earlier this year, and he spoke about it during the Jamboree. Now that his plaque arrived, Dennis Vaccaro, Chair of the Achievement Program, formally presented him with the award at our May meeting at Ohio Valley Lines. Ken said a few words encouraging other members to participate in the Achievement Program.



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



NEXT MEETING:
 Marshall Twp. Municipal Building, Wexford, PA, June 22

<p>Montour Railroad</p> <p>FAST FREIGHT SERVICE EMPLOYEE OWNED SINCE 1985 JEFF GREGG - PRESIDENT Phone 724-348-5855 Finleyville, PA</p> 	<p>ERIE Connecting Railroad Company</p>  <p>Richard Reichenbach - Operations Manager 162 Clearwater Drive, Ellwood City, PA 16117 Ricky759@outlook.com</p>
 <p>Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society 5000 Greenbag Road, Unit D-13 Morgantown, WV 26501</p> <p>Meeting Thursdays at 7:00 PM</p> <p>www.MVRRHS.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>FRIDAYS 7pm-2am SUNDAYS 1pm-7pm</p> <p>2209 Walnut St. McKeesport. PA mckeesportmodelrr.com</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</p> <p>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>

LINKS AND PINS

Some readers may recall that a few years back, during the darkest days of the Covid-19 pandemic, when many of us were stuck at home with not much to do but reflect on the sorry state of the world, we found a bright spot in the prose of the intrepid mid-century railroad reporter I.C. Dimmley and his history of the Huntingdon Northern Railway, and his now well-known expose of the infamous management tactics for which its Director of Operations, Bob Prehoda, is known across the model railroading branch! That five-part series ran in *The Keystone Flyer* from July to November 2020, and it was a great diversion for this editor and for the contributor (Bob), and I hope it was also for the readers.

Last week, I had occasion to speak by phone with Bud Brock, O scale modeler and Video Library chair, who regularly shares by email with me and with others tidbits of railroad prototype and modeling interest he has culled during years of scouring the internet. At his request — and in line with my own solicitation of content for this newsletter — going forward I am dedicating space in the *Keystone Flyer* for this new column as a place for members to share what they have learned from the increasingly wide variety of internet and/or social media sources we are using now — be it Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest, Reddit, or plain old websites you have stumbled upon on your digital discovery.

How often this column appears will depend on your participation and sharing of information. But to kick off the current column, these are some of the links that Bud asked to be shared with the readers as a way to learn more about the railroad industry and the model railroading hobby. One caveat, or word of caution (from the Editor): Enjoy these in moderation, because getting sucked into the rabbit hole will keep you from getting back to modeling and railfanning!

- [Why do Railroads not need expansion joints?](#) A video explainer about Continuous Welded Rail
- A video [Exploring Pittsburgh's ABANDONED Light Rail Stations](#)
- Videos from the YouTube page of "Movie Miniatures Effects," a group that uses scale models to recreate famous movie scenes, including the train crashes as seen in [Mission Impossible 7](#) or [Under Siege 2](#)
- "This Week/Weekend in PRR History" is an online forum (subscribe here: prrlineswest@groups.io) for Pennsy fans that provides interesting information from PRR history, such as the suggestion that the word "caboose" was originally a nautical term defined as "a house on deck where cooking is done..." which may be why they are known as "Crummies;" or that on June 9, 1927, the PRR announces it will rename its passenger train "The St. Louisian/New Yorker" to "The Spirit of St. Louis" in honor of Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic. One of the observation cars will be named "Colonel Lindbergh."

Coda: As we talked, Bud also suggested that we institute a printed column that complements the discussion topic that Superintendent Coglianese instigated as an agenda item at our regular meetings: "What's on your Workbench?" I found this to be a good idea, and that is another column that you may see here in the future, pending reader contributions. Bud submitted an idea for the first installment of this column as well, and I look forward to seeing his contribution on On30 trucks fleshed out for presentation in a future issue!

COMPANY STORE

Susan Werner reports that the following books are available for purchase through the Company Store. Please contact her directly by email (CompanyStore@keystonedivision.org) or at the June meeting to place your order; Division Two members in good standing enjoy a discounted price on these publications.

Garbely Publishing:

One of Six – Lehigh Valley Railroad Case Study for Conrail has arrived. This is a 120-page book which offers a study of the Lehigh Valley for its inclusion into Conrail. Originally published many years ago, this version is a text only edition which includes updated and revised data. Presented in 6 X 9 format, it carries a \$30.00 list price.

Next up will be their new title **Last Three Decades of the Chicago & Northwestern, 1971 – 1995**. It will be an 80 page book by noted authors Jeremy F. Plant and Jeffrey G. Plant. Visually provided will be an all color look at the Chicago & North Western Railway during its last 25 years of operation. Price will be \$50.00 with delivery expected in May. To ensure an ample number are printed to meet demand, a back order is recommended.

Following a month later will be **Dining Aboard the Route of the Merchants Limited – New Haven Dining Car Recipes, Circa 1940**. This one will be a 300 page reprint of the NH's recipe book which instructed the preparation of the foods provided in road's café and dining cars. List price will be \$50.00. Their entire collection of PRR, SP, UP and NYC cookbooks has done well for those who have taken a moment and offered them to their customers.

And don't forget **Capitol Region Rails Vol.1: North and East of Albany, 1960 – 1990s**. There are some very interesting and off the beaten path images provided in its 80 pages. This all color book is offered at a \$50.00 list price.

Silverlake Images:

On track for a late May release is **Unique Views of Northeast Railroading, Vol. 1 - From Canada to NYC**. As mention in the last BOOK REPORT this 80 pages, all color offering will provide images taken from various unique and different perspectives. This product will carry a list price of \$50.00.

White River Productions:

With an expected delivery of early May 2025 their latest offering is titled **The Century Series**. This 256 page book will cover the entire ALCO "Century" series of locomotives produced from 1963 through 1969. The work will feature color images, descriptive text, detailed drawings and an original owner roster. Price will be \$89.95.

The end of May should see the delivery of **Baltimore & Ohio, Volume 4 – Off the Beaten Track: Secondary Main Lines**. The areas covered include the Buffalo Division (BR&P), Newark Division and the Toledo – Indianapolis Division's Western Extension. It will be a 232 page, hardcover book containing 290 photos and 11 maps. Photo coverage will extend beyond just trains and will include facilities of all sorts. Noted authors Oroszi, Salamon and Ori have collaborated to produce this fourth book in the series. It will carry a list price of \$74.95.

Don't forget their other notable titles including: **Amtrak By the Numbers: 2** (\$89.95), **A Railroad Life: On the Road with Mike Bednar, Vol. 3** (\$69.95) and **Scenic and Weathering Techniques** (\$34.95). Check out our website for even more titles.

And don't forget **Capitol Region Rails, Vol. 1: North and East of Albany 1960 – 1990's**. There are some very interesting and off the beaten path images provided in its 80 pages. This all color book is offered at a \$50.00 list price.

Withers Publishing:

Speaking of ALCO Centuries, Withers two volume set is still available and continues to be a popular seller. **ALCO Century Series, Vol. 1 4-Axle Models** (\$35.00) and **ALCO Century Series, Vol. 2 6-Axle Models** (\$40.00).

Silverlake Images:

The following, in their series of Manufacturers' Catalog Archive titles, are in low supply. Once gone they will not be reprinted. The actual quantities vary but all are below 25. Titles include:

- Book 12 Western Wheeled Scraper Co - Western Dump Cars (<10)
- Book 13 Plymouth Locomotives, Vol 1 (<25)
- Book 14 Beyer-Garratt Articulated Locomotives (<5)
- Book 16 Lima Locomotive Works, Vol 1: Super-Power Steam Locos (<13)
- Book 17 Ingersoll-Rand Locomotives (<12)
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