## May Program on Backdrops: page 7





## Editor's Model of the Month

Grier Kuehn shows us what can be done with a 30 year old kit collecting dust in the train room. He modified a Walthers kit of a BN 53'6" flatcar to create a bulkhead flatcar for transporting steel. The bulkheads and steel loads are scratch-built from styrene; he painted the bulkheads to match the BN livery, added scale stirrups, and patched out the reporting marks for use on his Penn Western Railroad layout. The steel plates were painted dark gray, and strip wood and chart tape were used to simulate load blocking and strapping. Finally, both car and load were weathered with powders, then combined to create this image for entry in the contest. As editor, I want to commend Grier for the care he took in composing this photograph — the car was photographed not just on his layout in a realistic setting, but there were no extraneous objects in the background to distract from the realism of the scene.

## **Meeting Schedule**

May 16, 2021 - Division 2 Meeting, 2:30pm Zoom Online Meeting & Program—Open to all Members Dave Ellis, "Expand your Horizons with Backdrops"

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

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	<b>Motive Power: Diesel, Electric</b>
	& 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 next Flyer: May 23, 2021

> Visit us online at keystonedivision.org

swerner48@yahoo.com



## From the Super's Desk

May and another milestone will be passed. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, in the midst of the pandemic, the reins of superintendent were handed over to me. Since that day we have done our meetings virtually. For the first 7 months the officers and chairs used GoToMeeting. During December, I

asked our Assistant Superintendent to check out other virtual platforms and he found that most Divisions and Regions used Zoom. We made the switch and now have the meetings open to the membership and have been enjoying social time and presentations. Jimmy Braum did a program about the East Broad Top. George Pandelios presented one about his layout and his Bridge. Charlie Blenko told us about using 3D printing to create vehicle underpasses as based on the PRR prototypes in Latrobe. Dave Ackmann gave the April presentation on how he got into 3D printing and, basically, what worked best for him. To be honest, these have been as close to having in-person meetings as we can be so far. Other Divisions in our Region are now exploring blended meetings with virtual participation for those staying home, and live participation at the same time. We are finding that the Division would need more equipment than we have right now. Stay tuned.

At the moment, the membership wishes to have an in-person meeting for our August picnic. I have contacted John Gallagher to see if we can have it at the Leetsdale Splash Park, as we have in the past. At this time, it seems feasible, without any unforeseen pandemic setbacks. So let's all keep our collective fingers crossed that we can be together again.

I look forward to seeing you on Zoom in May for our meeting and to enjoy the presentation by Dave Ellis: "Expand your Horizons with Backdrops."

# ... Frank Benders

## **Meeting Notes**

Our May 16 business meeting and program are virtual this month, and the entire membership is invited to attend using Zoom. If you have not yet done so, you will need to provide Susan Werner with your email address in order to receive participation credentials (i.e. the website login information). After the business meeting, Dave Ellis (of Division 12) will present a program on layout backdrops. More information on his program, and a preview of next month's program, can be found below on page 7.



The inspiration for Jim Ferguson's excellent kit-bashed entry for the April Bring'n'Brag contest. Photo by E.K. Muller, courtesy of the <u>Western Railway Museum Archives</u>, Suisun City, California. See Jim's model on page 3.

#### **Division Elected Officers**

SuperintendentAsst. Superintendent,Frank BendersMeetings & Programs

(304) 296-2318 Andy Blenko

fbenders@comcast.net awblenko@comcast.net

#### **Chief Clerk**

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

## **Division Appointed Officers**

<u>Treasurer</u> <u>Company Store</u> Jeff Gregg Susan Werner

(724) 348-5855 (724) 379-8584 jwg625@comcast.net swerner48@yahoo.com

**Achievement Program** 

Dennis Vaccaro T (724) 929-2190 (4 vaccaro dennis@yahoo.com

Tracy Boyd (410) 919-7115 Rick Bennet

Bring'n'Brag

sgt.rick326@gmail.com

Webmaster & Membership

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

**Keystone Flyer Editor** 

Patrick Altdorfer (412) 559-3079

patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com

#### Jamboree Committee

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

#### **Module Committees**

FreeMo (HO scale) group

Patrick Altdorfer patrick.altdorfer@gmail.com

T-Trak (N scale) group

Richie Jodon richjodon30@gmail.com Jim Braum jimmy\_braum@yahoo.com

The Keystone Flyer is published ten times a year by Division Two of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid-Central Region. Subscription to the Flver 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

## Arley Mitchell

# GIBSON WINE CO

## **April 2021**

Hello Everyone!

April and spring is here. The spring temperatures have brought out all the railroad cars. We had 8 entries!! Now, on with the countdown.



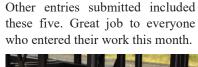
<u>First Place</u>: Jim Ferguson, Gibson Wine Company six dome tank car (above left). Being only(!) 62 I can never remember seeing anything more than three domes on a tank car. This one has six. James hit a home run with this car, it was the overwhelming favorite in the voting. He had an unusual set of decals and that's what started the project. He went into some detail about the parts and processes used to finish off the car. Great job, James!!

Second Place: Grier Kuehn, HO 53'6" Bulkhead Flatcar (above right & cover). Grier started off with an older Walther's BN Flatcar kit. He added the stirrups and scratch-built the bulkheads. He patched out the reporting marks and the number and replaced it with his own. The load was scratch-but as well. Nice job, Grier!!

<u>Third Place</u>: Jimmy Braum, D&RGW coal hopper car (right). Jimmy took a Roundhouse kit and turned it into a good looking model. He heavily weathered it and 3D printed a removable load for it. Super job, Jimmy!















## Changing Of The Guard

This will be my last report as Bring'n'Brag Chairman. It's been an interesting and educational experience for me. Please continue to support the new chairperson the same way you've supported me or better. All of the officers in our division are super to work with. Thank you to everyone who helped me get started and helped me along the way. Sincerely, Arley Mitchell



Name	pts
Grier Kuehn	10
Jim Ferguson	6
Neal Schorr	4
George Pandelio	s 3
Jimmy Braum	3
Arley Mitchell	2

The May contest is our second "Quarantine Special," category **Anything Goes** — show us what you have been working on while locked down! **Submit** your entry (photo & description) NOW through **Saturday, May 8 at 12 noon** to tom@tomgaus.com, then send your vote to tracybd8@gmail.com by **Saturday, May 15 at 12noon**.



Susan Werner, CEO 292 Salem Church Rd. Belle Vernon, PA 15012 swerner48@yahoo.com

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CONTACT JOEL EVERLY (740) 282-9854 NEW MEMBERS

OHIO RIVER NORTHERN RAILWAY CLUB

# **Minutes**

#### **April 18, 2021 Business Meeting**

Superintendent Frank Benders opened the April general division meeting at 2:33 PM. He thanked Dennis Coglianese for hosting the meeting via Zoom.

Pass the Hat: Jeff Gregg was not present so there was no report.

New members and/or guests: Frank recognized guests Dave Ackmann (our program clinician from St. Louis), Bob Prehoda, and Dave Ellis from Division 12.

Susan Werner proposed accepting the minutes of the March meeting as accepted as published in *Keystone Flyer* online. Keith DeVault seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by acclamation.

#### Committee Reports:

Flyer: Patrick Altdorfer noted that the submission deadline for next issue is April 25.

Treasurer: Jeff Gregg was not present, but Susan Werner reported that the division is solvent. Andy Blenko noted that there was no activity for the Convention account.

Programs: Andy Blenko announced that May's program will be a clinic on backdrops by Dave Ellis. June's program will be a clinic on structure lighting by Jim Sandmeyer.

Company Store: Susan Werner reported that she is taking orders for books. She is also in the process of distributing ordered books and collecting payments.

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

Free-Mo: Patrick reported the Greenberg Train shows are starting up again. The CEO of the organization, Randy Bachmann, has left. Patrick is gauging the interest and willingness of the membership to attend and will include a blurb in the *Flyer*. The next train show is planned for Monroeville on July 24 & 25. Dennis Vaccaro asked when the division needed to put their space requests into Greenberg. Patrick indicated that for exhibitors and layouts, the Greenberg organization will put up a form on their website in early May. Patrick will poll Free-Mo members this week to determine if there is interest in attending this show. If there is interest, Patrick will seek Free-Mo space for the Division. There was also discussion to the effect that the Division will have a table and will be promoting the 2023 convention. He expects that Jimmy Braum will also put in for a table(s) for T-Trak.

Bring-N-Brag: Arley Mitchell was not present. He is stepping down as BnB chairman this month. Frank thanked Arley for his service in this task and announced that Tracy Boyd will be taking over those duties. Her backup is Richard Terek. Neither were present for the meeting. Arley is willing to assist them in taking over this event.

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

Achievement Program: Dennis Vaccaro reported that a member

## had qualified for Chief Dispatcher Certificate.

T-Trak: Jimmy Braum indicated there was no T-Trak activity.

George Pandelios

MCR 2023 Convention: Keith DeVault reported that he had emailed the manager at the DoubleTree hotel in Cranberry. The dates of May 4, 5, 6 and 7 in 2023 are confirmed. The theme of the convention is "Rails to Pittsburgh." Jim Sacco is working on the logo. Dennis Vaccaro indicated that he has the old standup tri-fold board and materials for the never-held 2020 convention and inquired if it could be re-used. Keith indicated that it could not and that a new one with the new logo would be procured for the event.

#### Old Business:

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

#### New Business:

There was no new business. Neal Schorr asked how many members had been immunized. He asked if the National had guidelines. Frank indicated they do, but that states and county guidelines had priority. A vigorous discussion around the availability of vaccines, their effects on communicability of the disease, and relative ease or difficulty of scheduling vaccinations ensued.

Neal Schorr indicated that with more people being vaccinated public events should start to re-emerge. Mike Hohn inquired as to the status of the division picnic. Frank responded that John Gallagher is working on obtaining the permit from the township. A number of members expressed the hope that the picnic might prove to be the transition point to in-person meetings once more.

#### Concerns & Questions:

Susan reported that there were none.

#### For the Good of the Division:

George Pandelios announced that the Weirton Area Museum (he is a member of the Board of Directors) has re-opened to the public. Along with its physical artifacts, the Museum houses the complete, computerized and searchable set of issues of the *Weirton Steel Bulletin* (a monthly publication of Weirton Steel dating from the 1940s to 1990s). It is an excellent source of photographs and articles for steel-making and railroading in the Weirton area. Operating hours, events, and attractions can be found on the website WeirtonAreaMuseum.com.

The next meeting will be May 16 and is expected to be virtual again.

With business concluded, Frank entertained a motion to adjourn, which was proposed by Ken Hanawalt and seconded by Bob DiBenedetto. The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF TRAINS**

# Canadian Pacific and Canadian National duke it out over KCS merger

A follow-up to last month's news on the CP-KCS merger: Canadian National (CN) has upped the ante, offering to buy KCS for \$33.7m (\$3.8m more than the CP offer). But as *Trains* magazine reports, CP is not taking that lying down and almost immediately told the US Surface Transportation Board that if this alternative bid succeeds, there would be further consolidation of the rail sector in North America, because this deal would upset the balance among the 6 largest railroads, and it would force the CP into seeking another merger partner, since the deal would undermine CP's position in Kansas City. This may turn out to be an interesting summer!

**Amtrak turns 50** 

As the story goes, by the 1950s the large railroads had begun to reduce passenger service, as Americans increasingly took to the skies or the highways to travel for work or leisure. (It did not help matters that air travel and interstate highways were heavily subsidized, thereby promoting automobile ownership and suburbanization.)

In order to preserve passenger rail service, the US government stepped in to create the "National Railroad Passenger

Corporation" and alleviated the 20 participating major carriers of this burden, in exchange for access to their existing rail networks. It sounded like a real bargain for these railroads, many of which were also facing increased competition in freight transport (also a result of competition from truck and air freight). Shortly after midnight, on May 1, 1971, the first train of what soon came to be known as "Amtrak" left New York for Philadelphia.

Check out the Amtrak 50th Anniversary website for information about and a video of the event held outside Philadelphia's 30th Street Station to celebrate a half century of service. You can also find an interesting timeline of its 50 years, or check out the more detailed (2019) version here. And bookings by May 5 for travel between June 2 and November 13 can be made at a 50% discount (up to \$50) to mark the anniversary. One sad caveat for us: this sale does not apply to the Pennsylvanian or Keystone Service routes, which link Pittsburgh.

ACL-42 Charger #301 will debut this year on the Northeast Corridor wearing this "Day One Livery," echoing the paint scheme of the E8 locomotive that introduced the arrow logo in late 1971: ex-PC #4316. Source: Amtrak.



#### 3 Regional Conventions to combine in 2022

Three NMRA regions — the Midwest, North Central, and our own Mid-Central Region — will combine their regional conventions into a single joint convention, to be held 18-22 May 2022 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

While some details (such as price) are still being worked on, the experience should be familiar to you if you have attended a regional convention in the past. In this case, there are four full days of programming, ranging from the typical (Clinics, Layout Tours, Ops Sessions, Prototype Tours, and Non-Rail Clinics & Activities), to the less common (a Train Show will be held the same weekend).

The convention site is the Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21st St Indianapolis, IN 46219, and it features free parking.

Dates: Wednesday May 18 to Sunday May 22, 2022

Sponsors: Midwest, North Central and Mid Central Regions National Model Railroad Association

Layout tours will be during the day and they're ALL selfdriving so you can spend as much time as YOU want at each stop.

We are planning a two-day train show for Saturday and Sunday. But it won't be a flea market/buy/trade/sell event. You will not see the big name manufacturers who only bring displays to the show. Instead, we're looking at having smaller but well-known manufacturers who will sell direct to you as an attendee.

If you're going to go to just one convention in 2022, THIS is the ONE! Visit the Indy Junction 2022 website <a href="https://www.indyjunction2022.org/">https://www.indyjunction2022.org/</a> or follow us on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ indyjunction2022 to stay up to date on the latest info for INDY JUNCTION 2022.



Four Full Days
Three Regions
Two-Day Train Show
ONE CONVENTION

## THE MAY MEETING IS VIRTUAL!

Our May and June meetings will again be virtual, using Zoom, and 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.

## May 16 Program: "Expand your Horizons with Backdrops"

Joining us this month to present after the meeting is Dave Ellis, a member of Division 12, the <u>Alleghany Western Division</u> of northwestern PA and southwestern New York. The presentation is a guide to adding realism to a model railroad using backdrops. It starts with a rationale for using backdrops. It then goes through creating a plan including exploring different materials and applications. Most of the clinic then deals with tips and tricks for making backdrops more realistic and dealing with some of the inherent problems in using backdrops. You can contact Dave by email at daellisp4@gmail.com.

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

Remember that our June meeting is held on the 4th Sunday (to avoid a conflict with Father's Day). Joining us next month will be another Division 12 member, Doug Sandmeyer, who will present lighting tips for structures using NCE's lighting decoder to facilitate a variety of lighting effects. These decoders can be used as Mobile, Accessory, and signaling devices. This 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.

## **Zoom Meetings—Pass the Hat**

REMINDER: Members are encouraged to contribute \$10 this year as a way to virtually "pass the hat." As stated last month, a donation of this amount is equivalent to the typical \$1 donation at our 10 in-person meetings, and it will help to defray costs and keep members involved. If you can, please send a check made out to "NMRA MCR Keystone Division 2" to:

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

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

- Andy Blenko, Assistant Superintendent

# Train Shows to return: Greenberg in Monroeville July 24-25 \*\* Fremo eager to get back to work \*\*

After largely suspending operation this past year, Train Show, Inc., the parent company of "Greenberg's Great Toy and Train Show" — has closed and its CEO left to pursue another career, but David Swanson stepped up to form <u>Great American Train Show, Inc.</u>, to continue running large train shows such as "The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour" (returning January 2022). Our friend Frank Hicks is heading up the Greenberg "division" of this enterprise, so we may continue to hear his familiar voice at the shows.

The Greenberg show has been the primary venue for our Division 2 Fremo group, and on hearing this news our members expressed interest in participating in the upcoming Greenberg Show, scheduled for July 24-25, at Monroeville Convention Center. This will be the very first of the train shows reopening, and Frank expects that it should run pretty much as it has in the pre-Covid era, since most of us will have been vaccinated by then and the stricter lockdowns may be relaxed. Nonetheless, the CDC guidelines in effect at that time MUST BE OBSERVED at the show, so we assume this means masks will be mandatory indoors, as will social distancing and good hygiene practices.

The Keystone Flyer

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



**NEXT MEETING:** Virtual meeting, May 16



Mountaineer Mall 5000 Greenbag Road, Unit D-13 Morgantown, WV 26501

www.MVRRC.org Call Rich Henderson (304) 276-1046 for more info



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



Clinics Layout Tours Ops Sessions Prototype Tours



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



www.IndyJunction2022.org











