

The Kingpin



A publication of the Mid-Central Region of The National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Winter 2012

From the President's desk...

Happy New Year! There are several items of importance we need to be reminded of with this printing of the *KingPin*. Included near the end of this issue, you will find request forms for the electronic and printed versions of the *KingPin*. You do not need to send these forms if you are now receiving your newsletter. If you have moved, changed internet providers, or want to start receiving a printed copy or electronic notice, you need to let us know. Also, if you have changed address recently, let the folks in Chattanooga in on the news so that they can update their data base.

This is the year for Divisions to hold officer elections. I encourage each of you to consider running for one of the offices in your Division. Our organization needs members to step up and help with the program. There are lots of opportunities for members to lend a hand so don't be a wallflower,

step up and lend a hand. I also encourage you to vote when you receive that ballot from your Division in the next month or so.

On the national front, The Board Of Directors has undertaken a task to modify the boundaries of the regions so they are defined by county lines instead of by Zip Codes. We will be watching the progress of this project as it moves forward. The first proposed change we saw was between the Midwest Region and ours. A few counties may change region affiliation but no current members are affected, which is good news.

Last on my list, Susan and the fine folks in Division 2 are busy putting together another great convention for us. Please consider joining us this spring.

Happy Modeling!

Dick Briggs, MMR,
Mid-Central Region President



Award Nominations

Early next year I will be seeking nominations for the "Director's Award" and "Wenderfer Award." These awards are presented annually at the MCR Convention Banquet for those Region members who have given outstanding service to the Region, their Division, and the hobby. Please encourage

your Superintendent to nominate someone for these awards. I'm sure that there is a worthy candidate in each Division. You can review the criteria and listing of past recipients on the MCR web site.

Dick Briggs, MMR,
Mid-Central Region President



Be sure to check the website
www.highlinetopittsburgh.org
for updates

Pittsburgh Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center
101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
1-866-486-4361
Mention NMRA Convention for the \$90 Rate

MCR Contacts

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 614-846-2558

See: www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/committees2.html

MCR Model Contest Judges

As the Pittsburgh Convention is just a few months away, it is time to again round up, corral, strong arm, plead, or beg to find a group of MCR members willing to serve as Model Contest Judges. The work is not hard and of course the pay is low (\$0.00) but it is rewarding in that you will earn AP "Volunteer" points and due a great service for your peers. As in the past a training session will be held prior to the beginning of

contest judging to refresh experience judges and to help new judges. So, if you are willing to serve as a Model Contest Judge please contact:

Howard Smith, MMR
 614-871-0500
howardsmithmmr@aol.com

Respectfully Submitted,
 Howard R. Smith, MMR
 MCR Contest Manager



HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012 Mid-Central Region Convention

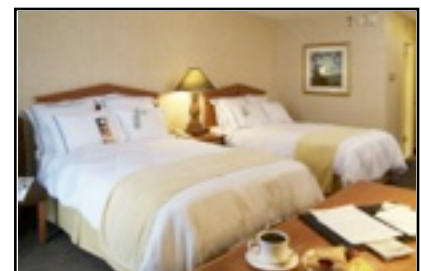
April 26 - 29, 2012
 Pittsburgh, PA



Join us for a full convention schedule at *The Doubletree Hotel*, a facility designed for both conventions and seminars. Located less than 4 miles outside of Pittsburgh, west on Interstate-376, the facility overlooks Rook Yard. This former home of the *Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway* is still active as part of the *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad*. *The Doubletree Hotel* has committed to a price of \$90.00 per night per room. Share the room with another model railroader and share the cost and the fun. Be sure when making reservations to note that you are part of the National Model Railroad Association Convention to get this special rate. Parking is free and on the same level as the entrances to the hotel. The hotel also has a swimming pool and



Doubletree Hotel Lobby.



Doubletree Hotel rooms.

HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh

Continued on page 3.

Continued:

HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh

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 exercise facilities. There is a restaurant in the hotel, but there are plenty of other dining possibilities within a short drive.

Pittsburgh Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center
 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
 1-866-486-4361
 Mention NMRA Convention for the \$90 Rate

There is also nearby shopping available. Hobby shops are also nearby.

Operating sessions will take place on Thursday evening. There are at least eight layouts open for these sessions and they will be able to accommodate about 40 guest operators. Register for operating sessions to save your space. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. to organize travel. Late arrivals will lose their slot to others on the waiting list. There may be sessions for those traveling from the east or south. They can stop on the way on Thursday evening. We don't have choices for specific operating sessions. Assignments will be made by convention staff.

Clinics will run from 8:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. in three clinic rooms. Quite a few clinicians have agreed to present their clinics twice. A listing of some of the clinics is included in these

pages.

There will also be all of the activities you have come to enjoy. There will be model contests, displays, Company



Fort Pitt Bridge and downtown Pittsburgh.

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HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh

Continued on page 4.

MCR Superintendents

Division 1: Randall Dettmer
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 330-592-1800

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Division11super@midcentral-region-nmra.org

The Kingpin

The opinions, techniques and materials recommended in *The Kingpin* are solely those of the authors as individuals. They do not reflect the approval, opinions or policies of the Mid-Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Many materials used in many model railroading projects need adequate ventilation and other safeguards. Be aware of these risks before attempting to duplicate the techniques described in these articles. The use of any or all materials and techniques is solely at the risk of the user and the Mid-Central Region has no liability for the use or misuse of any and all materials and techniques described in these articles.

Comments, concerns, compliments, and suggestions should be directed to either:

[Kingpin Editor](#): Dick Briggs, MMR

or

[Kingpin Publisher](#): Don Wilke

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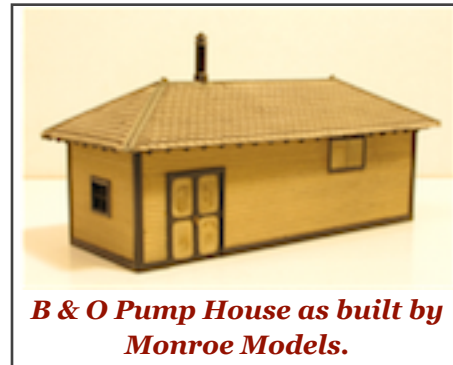
HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh

Store, raffles, a White Elephant Sale (rather than Silent Auction) and a banquet with Lee Rainey of the Friends of the *East Broad Top* speaking.

Be sure to check the website
www.highlinetopittsburgh.org
 for updates

The HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012 Convention kit is a laser-cut B & O style pump house being offered in N, HO, S and O scales. The kits are

intended to be pre-sold and there will be a very limited number of kits available at the convention. Please order yours early.



B & O Pump House as built by Monroe Models.



**A Sampling of Clinics
 HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012**

Scratchbuilding 98

Frank Bongiovanni

Basic scratchbuilding for those whose skills aren't ready for Scratchbuilding 101.

What we learned on the G&G

Jerry Doyle presenting for the late *Lin Young*

A summary of what the "G&G Crew" learned while building a very large home model railroad over the last 20 years.

The Other Steel Industry

John Gallagher

Many people say they would like to model the steel industry, but feel they don't have enough space for an integrated steel mill or they're intimidated by the thought of building a blast furnace. Well, there are many facets of the steel industry besides building an integrated mill that lend themselves to modeling. They range from plants with small furnaces to mere distribution of finished products. This clinic will

cover those facets and tips on modeling them.

Building the Pittsburgh and Western with Steel, Foam, and Doors

Paul Lapointe

Building the *Pittsburgh and Western*, a 24x28 foot walk-around style layout designed for one-man construction using lightweight materials and unconventional methods. Includes do-it-yourself box beams, self-supporting backdrops, and vinyl backdrop material.

The Appalachians in 8 inches of space

Paul Lapointe

Building a mountain range without plaster in only 8 inches of depth using rosin paper and glue. Speed up tree planting and increase apparent depth with simple techniques.

Diesel Detailing 101

Dennis Lippert

Overview of the products, tools,

and techniques used in the pursuit of better-detailed diesel loco models.

B&O cabooses in the transition era 1950 - 1955

Bruce Elliott

A summary of what cabooses were on the roster, what is or was available in HO scale and how to kitbash to achieve what isn't available, colors (painting) and the different lettering schemes.

Modeling Mount Union

Lee Rainey

"The Standard Railroad of the World" meets "The Most Modern Narrow Gauge"! Mount Union, Pennsylvania was the busiest shipping point on the *Pennsylvania Railroad's* fabled Middle Division, due in large part to the traffic generated by the narrow-gauge *East Broad Top Railroad*. This clinic showcases a remarkable prototype setting through period photos and the track plan for the Mount

Clinics

Continued on page 7.



HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh

Early Registration Form
April 26 - 29, 2012



NMRA, Mid-Central Region, Division 2
The Keystone Division

Primary registrant **MUST** be an NMRA member at the time of the Convention

Primary Registrant Badge Name _____

NMRA No. _____ Region _____ Division _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of persons attending _____ Names of Others _____

Item	Quantity	Price	Amount
Early Basic Registration (through Jan. 31, 2012)		\$45.00	
Regular Registration (after Jan. 31, 2012)		\$60.00	
One Year NMRA Membership (use current dues amount)		\$_____	
Family Members (same household)		\$15.00	
		Total	

Sign-up form for extra fare items will be sent out to all early registrants at a later date.

Activity assignment will be based on the order that the applications are received.

Make check payable to: **NMRA, Keystone Div 2, Mid-Central Region**

Mail to: **Convention Registrar, Tom Gaus**

3357 New Texas Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15239

412-731-8846

e-mail: tom@tomgaus.com

Room reservations should be made directly with the convention hotel

Pittsburgh Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center

101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 1-866-486-4361

Mention National Model Railroad Assn. when making reservations **Rate \$90.00/night + tax**

www.highlinetopittsburgh.org





HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012

Early Registration Form

April 26 - 29, 2012

NMRA, Mid-Central Region, Division 2
The Keystone Division



Primary registrant **MUST** be an NMRA member at the time of the Convention

Primary Registrant Badge Name _____

Item	Number of members	Price each	Amount
Tour 1 Friday AM - Pittsburgh Light Rail Shops & Excursion		25.00	
Tour 2 Friday PM - Hussey Copper		25.00	
Tour 3 Saturday AM - Bridges of Pittsburgh		25.00	
Tour 4 Saturday PM - Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area		50.00	
Tour NR1 - Pittsburgh Glass Center Flame shop, with Make & Take		35.00	
Tour NR 2 - Just Ducky Tour of Pittsburgh		30.00	
NR Clinic 1 - Muddy Rose Pottery		18.00	
NR Clinic 2 - Massages by Jana		10.00	
NR Clinic 3 - Wreath Making		20.00	
NR Clinic 4 - Stampin' Up		20.00	
Banquet - Saturday PM Chicken & Stuffing dinner		32.00	
Banquet - Saturday PM Roast Pork dinner		32.00	
Jim Elster's Scenic Express Make & Take Static Grass Clinic		0	
Operating Session		0	
Total			

Activity assignment will be based on the order that the applications are received.

Make check payable to: **NMRA, Keystone Div 2, Mid-Central Region**

Mail to: **Convention Registrar, Tom Gaus**

3357 New Texas Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15239



Continued: **Clinics**

Union S/Sn3 switching layout now under construction in the presenter's basement.

Hide Car Report

Mike Schleigh

A review of specific cars in this unglamorous service, how to model them, and some of the details and history related to the shipping of green hides and the cars that carried them. Time period covered is approximately 1951 up to 1972. Example cars from 30 railroads are listed, discussed and illustrated.

Modeling the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad

Neal A. Schorr

The Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad was the first section of the PRR to be constructed, and stretches from Harrisburg west to Altoona, Pennsylvania. This clinic first looks at the prototype by means of over 60 images created in the 1940's, 50's, and 60s. Attention will then turn to Neal's layout which portrays the Middle Division, and which has appeared in many publications, including *Model Railroad Planning* and Kalmbach Publishing's *How to Build Series*.

Pittsburgh Light Rail System.

Neal A. Schorr



Pittsburgh has one of the most interesting Light Rail systems in the country. Most of the system has been built in the last 30 years and features a downtown subway, street and private right of way operation, and a brand new tunnel under the Allegheny River. However, some portions retain their as built appearance from the early twentieth century. This clinic will look at the evolution of today's system from the remnants of Pittsburgh's once extensive trolley system. This clinic is highly recommended for those planning on attending Friday's Light Rail System tour.

Making Switches with the Fast Tracks Templates

Dennis Vaccaro

This demonstration clinic will explain use of the *Fast Tracks* switch making templates. A demonstration of switch making will be done and questions answered.

The Essentials of Time Table and Train Order Operations

E. Roy Ward

(Description not available yet)

Getting Started in Operations

Bob Weinheimer, MMR

Bob will discuss things to consider as you plan to implement operations on your layout including ideas on logical layout setting, era, dispatching systems, car routing systems, car and locomotive fleet suggestions, train scheduling, and staffing.

Hands-on Clinics

Resin Casting

Martin Brechbiel

Brick and Stone Buildings

Dave Emery

The New Static Grass Phenomenon

Jim Elster

The owner of Scenic Express will conduct a workshop for producing various static grass effects including Electrostatic Machine application, loose static blends and proper techniques for prepared static mats and static fibers. Clinic is free, but limited to 25 participants. See Extra Fare Registration.



**HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012
Banquet – Saturday 6:00 p.m.**

Menu: Garden green salad with ranch and Italian dressings chicken and stuffing or roast pork, buttermilk mashed potatoes, buttered green beans, assorted rolls and butter, chocolate or carrot cake, coffee, tea, decaffeinated coffee, iced tea.

Price: \$30.00 per person inclusive.

No reservations will be accepted after **April 19, 2012.** [See page 6.]



Prototype Tour Information HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012

Friday April 27

Tour 1 8:30 AM
Pittsburgh Light Rail Shops and Excursion

Price: \$25 per person

Pittsburgh boasts one of the most interesting light rail systems in the nation, including street and subway operation, an underwater tunnel, and a section still similar to its appearance in the early twentieth century. The tour will begin with a visit to the maintenance facility at the southern end of the system. It will also include a look at the operations center. We will then ride a light rail vehicle into downtown Pittsburgh on the Blue Line which was not yet open when this tour was last offered in 2004. The newest section of the system is the North Shore Connector which links Downtown Pittsburgh to the North Shore by means of a tunnel under the Allegheny River. It is scheduled to open in March 2012, just a month before the High-Line to Pittsburgh, and will be included in the tour if in operation at the time of the convention. A clinic dealing with light rail system is tentatively scheduled for the Thursday evening before the tour, and is highly recommend for those planning on participating in the Light Rail tour.

Tour 2 1:30 PM
Hussey Copper

Price: \$25 per person

Dr. Curtis G. Hussey, a physician from Pittsburgh, formed Hussey Copper in 1848. The plant was located in downtown Pittsburgh, PA. It established a reputation for producing quality copper products. Roofing copper was a major product, but an increasing share of the company's production went into the electrical equipment



Hussey Copper's Leetsdale Old Plant

manufacturing industry. It is the leading producer of copper bus bar in the world.

Hussey Copper continued to produce sheet, strip, plate and bar at its original Pittsburgh facility until 1963 when it moved to a larger, more modern site in Leetsdale, 14 miles west of Pittsburgh. In the Leetsdale facility, Hussey Copper continues to produce a variety of copper products including construction copper sheet, transformer winding, copper tape, copper nickel alloy sheet and plate, and

copper strip, sheet, and plate. During the tour, we will visit the Leetsdale plant while in operation. Long pants and closed toe shoes are required. Hard hats and safely glasses will be provided.

Saturday April 28

Tour 3 8:00 AM
The Bridges of Pittsburgh

Price: \$25 per person

Pittsburgh has long been known as the "City of Bridges." It owes this title to the fact that it has more bridges per square mile than any other city in the world. Beyond having many bridges, Pittsburgh has many different varieties of bridges, representing most of the common types, not to mention a few unusual ones as well. We will look at both rail and highway facilities. The tour covers the biggest concentration of bridges in the area which is located in downtown Pittsburgh, as well as a number of particularly interesting examples up and down river from the central business district.



U.S. Steel's Carrie Furnace.

Prototype Tours

Continued on page 10.

Supporting the NMRA Mid Central Region Convention in 2012 Pittsburgh, PA



Pump House Building

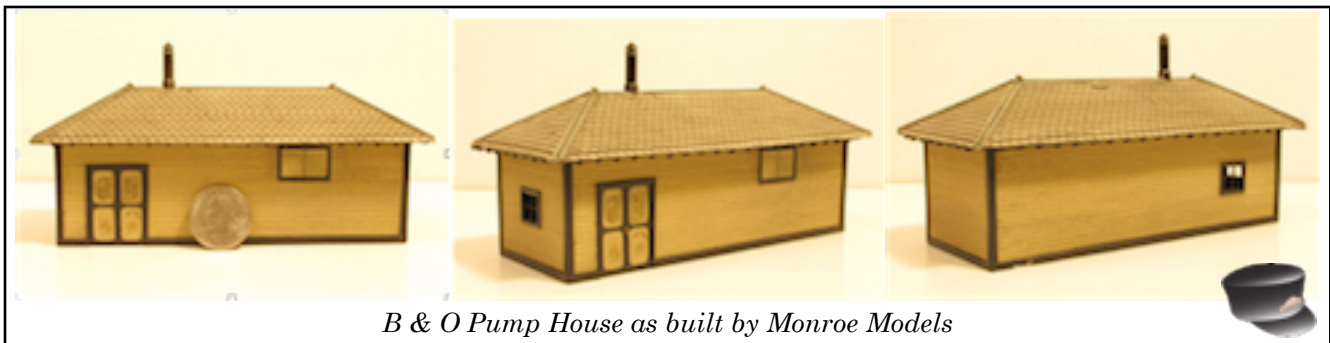
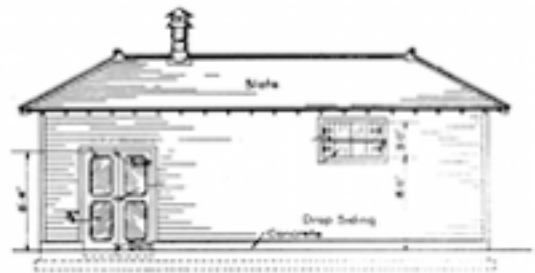
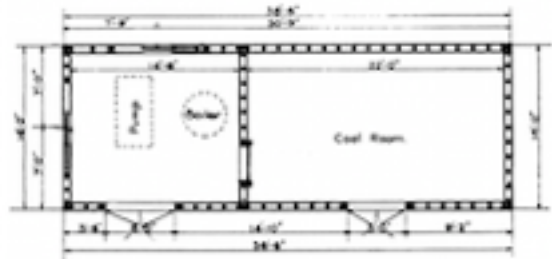
Available in O, S, HO, & N



Based on a B&O prototype, pump houses were a fixture in rail yards, industrial sites, and as town water supplies from the mid 1800's through today. Changing roof ridge detail and smoke stack style would allow the model to be used for many other railroads and scenery locations. Once the need for steam pumping was no longer required, many of these buildings were converted to electric drive pumps, or other uses including storage or offices.

This is a high quality laser cut building manufactured by Monroe Models exclusively for us featuring walls, roof, ridge, and stack details. Assembly instructions and drawing are included.

Prices for the model are: O \$23.00 S \$20.00 HO \$18.00 N \$14.00 each. If not picking up the model at the 2012 convention, please add \$4.00 each for shipping and handling. Expected initial order delivery is late Fall 2011.



B & O Pump House as built by Monroe Models

Scale	Price Each	Quantity	Totals
O	\$23.00	_____	\$_____
S	\$20.00	_____	\$_____
HO	\$18.00	_____	\$_____
N	\$14.00	_____	\$_____
S&H	\$4.00	_____	\$_____
Order Total			\$_____

Please send check or money order made to:

NMRA, Keystone Div. 2, MCR
 C/O Dennis Vaccaro
 830 Daugherty Ln.
 Rostraver, PA 15012

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip Code: _____

If you not picking up the model at the 2012 convention, please add \$4.00 **each** kit for shipping and handling. Expected initial order delivery is late Fall 2011.

Pick up at HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh [NO S&H]

Tour 4 1:30 PM**Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area**

Price: \$50 per person (includes \$25 admission fee)

Take a tour of the Carrie Furnaces of U.S. Steel's Homestead Works and experience the scale and majesty of the Mon Valley's last standing blast furnaces. Walk into the Ore Yards where hundreds of tons of raw materials were off loaded from rail cars and barges to feed the blast furnaces that smelted iron 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Travel

through the towering Hot Stoves, the "lungs of the blast furnace" that blew super-heated air into the furnaces to begin the smelting process. Step into the Cast House, where men and molten metal met every time the furnace was tapped. See where the flow of molten iron would fill waiting Torpedo Cars for the iron's trip across the Rankin Hot Metal Bridge to the Homestead Works where the steel making process was completed. Long pants and closed toe shoes recommended.



Non-Rail Tours and Clinics HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012

OUTSIDE TOURS:

Pittsburgh Glass Center Friday AM

Price: \$35.00, includes transportation.

Tour of the educational glass art center, flame shop and the opportunity to make a glass object to take home.

Just Ducky Tours Friday PM

Price: \$30.00, includes transportation to and from the launch point.

One hour tour of Pittsburgh by amphibious vehicle. Get a view of Pittsburgh few get a chance to see.

IN HOUSE CLINICS:

Muddy Rose Pottery Saturday 1 - 4 p.m.

Price: \$18.00

Portable pottery wheel and demonstration of making pottery on a wheel. Pre-made pottery pieces that can be painted with acrylic paints will be available to paint and take home.

**Massages
by Jana Friday 9 am - 12 noon**

Price: \$10.00

Experience the sheer pleasure of hand or foot massages given by an expert. Approximately 10 minutes each.

**Wreath Making
by Anita Bentz Friday 1 - 4 p.m.**

Price: \$20.00

Make a wreath for a holiday or for the summer and take it home to decorate your space. Learn a skill you can use all year long.

**Stampin' Up
with Nancy Kisow Saturday 9 am - 12 noon**

Price: \$20.00

Come and learn to make cards for different occasions. These are not your mother's stamps.

**Mary Kay mini make-over
with Barbara Lohnert Friday 9 - 11 a.m.**

Come and see all the new things Mary Kay has to make you look and feel like a new person. Barb will bring things to do a mini make-over for everyone. See all the new colors and scents that are coming out for 2012. She may have some cash and carry items also.



Kingpin Request Form

Check the box to the left if you wish to receive a paper copy of the MCR's *Kingpin*.

Cut out this form and send this form to:

MCR President Dick Briggs
4397 Hidden Street
Grove City, Ohio 43123

(Please print clearly!)

Name:

Address:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Check the box to the left if you wish to receive an E-Mail notice that *The Kingpin* is available on-line. EITHER send an E-Mail to Don Wilke at

webmaster@midcentral-region-nmra.org

Subject: Kingpin

OR mail this form to:

MCR President Dick Briggs
4397 Hidden Street
Grove City, Ohio 43123

Your E-Mail address:

(Please print clearly)

Please Reply by 1 March to receive the Spring *Kingpin*.

Above are the request forms for *The Kingpin* for your convenience. New members need to fill out and return the forms to insure that they will continue to receive the Mid-Central Region Newsletter - *The Kingpin* - by mail or a reminder via e-mail when it is posted on the web site. *The Kingpin* usually is posted to the MCR Archive WEB Site about 30 days after the May Mid-Central Regional Convention, about 30 days after the October Mid-Central Region Board of Directors meeting, and during the first month of the year.

HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh 2012 Sunday layout tours

At least 15 to 20 layouts will be open to registrants as they travel homeward on Sunday, Apr. 29. Here's a sampling of the layouts already committed:

Fred Abrew's On3 *Waynesburg & Washington*

Dave Baker's HO *Cumberland & Lake Erie*

Andy Blenko's HO *Pittsburgh Mainline*

Dick Flock's HO *Johnstown & Lake Erie*

Tom Gaus's HO *Plum Creek*

Vagel Keller's HO/HOn3 PRR and *Blacklog & Shade Gap Eastern*

Larry Kline's O-scale *Western Maryland, P&WV*, and PRR between Pittsburgh and Connellsville

Bob Prehoda's HO *Huntingdon & Northern*



Daniel Milling Co. on Dick Flock's Johnstown & Lake Erie.

MCR President Dick Briggs
 4397 Hidden Street
 Grove City, Ohio 43123



Mid-Central Region Calendar

23 – 25 March 2012

Railroad Prototype Modelers, Malvern, PA

26 – 29 April 2012

HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh, 2012 MCR Convention – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

27 April 2012

Mid-Central Region Board of Director's Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

October 2012

Mid-Central Region Board of Director's Meeting

Open House? Train Show? Contact The [MCR WEB Master](#) to add an event to *The Kingpin* and the MCR WEB Site calendar.



*Best of Show:
Model*



*Best of Show:
Photograph*

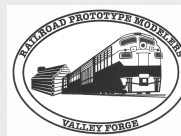
Rails of Ages Contest Winners are still available at:

http://archive.midcentral-region-nmra.org/conventionFold/2011_Contest/IIModelIndex.html

**Railroad Prototype Modelers
Valley Forge**

March 23-25, 2012

Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
Malvern, PA



**Clinics ▪ Model Displays ▪ Vendors' Room
Operating Sessions ▪ Sunday Home Layout Tour**

For information, updates, or to register, go to:
www.phillynmra.org

