



The Kingpin



Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
February 2020

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This issue is mailed to all MCR members.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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STEEL CITY EXPRESS in PITTSBURGH

Mid Central Regional Convention

May 28-31, 2020



Division 2, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association cordially invites you to the Steel City Express in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The convention will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Greentree at 500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa. The newly renovated hotel is where you are welcome to spend four great days in

western Pennsylvania. The hotel staff and management are eager to host our convention with a nightly room charge of \$129.00. All convention activities within the hotel will be conveniently located on the same floor and all parking is free. You must call the hotel directly at 412-922-8400 and tell them you are booking a room under the NMRA.

Registration and check-in will open at 10:00 a.m. Thursday thru Saturday afternoon May 30, 2020. The convention runs from Thursday May 28, 2020 through Sunday morning May 31, 2020. This convention promises you a full range of model railroading activities, including clinics, contests, white elephant, prototype, raffles, door prizes and non-rail tours. We have planned at least 7 layouts for operating sessions on Thursday evening for your enjoyment, and over two dozen self-guided layouts for you to visit on Sunday. We have planned a great banquet and reception for all of you to attend, along with our guest speaker, Mr. Peter Magoun NMRA National President. We will have a large room for the new T-Trak Modules, along with some very nice vendors for you to shop, while attending the convention.

Take a look at the following pages to see what the committee of the Steel City Express Convention has prepared for your enjoyment. Division Two knows that you will have an enjoyable and rewarding trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This convention will provide you the opportunity to renew old friendships and make some new ones, as we model railroaders are known to have fun. We have a railyard just across the street for all of you railfans.

We took our convention name from the steel industries that were common in and around the Pittsburgh area during the 20th century. Please take a look at the following pages and I hope you will join us for the Steel City Express in May, 2020.

Keith DeVault, Superintendent and General Convention Chairman

CONVENTION HOTEL



The Doubletree by Hilton in Greentree has recently undergone a 23-million-dollar full hotel renovation. The hotel, located at 500 Mansfield Ave, has 460 new renovated guest rooms and free parking, state of the art fitness Center, along with indoor and outdoor swimming pools with whirlpool. Onsite food outlets are Season's restaurant, Champions Club Lounge, and the Bistro Market Place, which is open from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. The Hotel has over 35,000 square feet of event space and all are located on the main level of the hotel. The hotel is conveniently located just minutes from downtown Pittsburgh and two minutes off Interstate 376 at Greentree Exit. For your reservation, call the hotel: (412) 922-8400 and mention National Model Railroad Association.

Registration and Website Information

Extra Fare Tours and Fee Clinics costs along with the Plated Banquet Menu and Cost are included in the Kingpin and on the website. Check out the website at keystonedivision.org for all the information. The web site will provide you with all the up-to-date scheduling and expanded details of convention activities. All registrants will receive a confirmation by email after your registration is processed. Funds for sold out or canceled events will be refunded. A registration form is at the end of the electronic version of the Kingpin.

Statement of Policy Regarding Refunds or Cancellations

The Steel City Express Convention will generally not make refunds, other than as explained below. Individual requests will be considered on their merits, after the convention's finances have been settled. Any refund granted will be paid by check by the convention treasurer, mailed to the registrant's home address after the convention is over. No immediate refunds will be made at the convention. No refund will be granted if the registrant misses a bus for an extra fare event. If an extra fare event is cancelled, then a refund will be issued as explained above. Any tour is subject to cancellation if there is a lack of participation.

If an extra fare tour is already filled to capacity when your registration is processed, then there will be a numbered ticket stapled to a refund request enclosed with your packet at the time of check-in.

Clinics

A detailed list of clinics (rail and non-rail) will be included in the timetable at the convention. Also, we will add the clinicians and topics on the website as they are finalized. We will have three clinics rooms in use from Thursday Evening until Saturday afternoon.

Among the clinic presenters confirmed at this time for the convention are:

Steve Zapytowski	Hosting the regional contests
Steve Zapytowski	Myths and legends of the Tillamook and Astoria
Steve Zapytowski	Judging the Mid-Central Region Model Contest
Neal Schorr	The Pittsburgh Light Rail System
Neal Schorr	Capturing the Commonwealth scenery of the PRR Middle Division
Neal Schorr	Line Poles and Pole Lines
Andy Blenko	The World's Fastest Diesel Train
Charlie Blenko	Paper Signals for Prototype Operations
Rob Bennett	Transformer Modeling for Flatcars
Dennis Vaccaro	Laser cut building construction techniques
Dennis Vaccaro	Build your own T-Trak module
Bruce DeMaeyer	Scratch Building the Montana flour mill at Harlowton
John Gallagher	How to Model the Steel Industry without Model the Steel Industry
George Pandelios	Update on PRR Panhandle Layout
Keith DeVault	Pittsburgh Division Sand Patch Grade
Patrick Altdorfer	Model Railroading in Germany
Rich Mahaney	Second Lives of Cabooses
Rich Mahaney	Storage Tanks 101 for Model Railroaders
Rich Mahaney	Junctions, Interchanges and Diamonds
Eric Hansmann	The B & O Allegheny Yard Branch, circa 1926
Gary Carmichael	Doing a Bucket List Layout
Steve Ross	Tank Cars for the Natural Gas Industry
Steve Ross	Five Great Years and 100 Yellow Boxes
Steve Ross	Classic Farm Tractors and Models 1917-1970
Bob Weinheimer	Evolution of an Operating Scheme
Mike Hohn	Modeling the Lehigh Valley in NY and PA before 1905
Jim Weinschenker	Waynesburg and Washington Railroad
Matt Hurst	the Supplee-Wills-Jones Milk Tank Cars along the PRR
Ken Kobus	Evolution of PRR's Pitcairn Yard
Mike Crosby	Tracking the PRR T1 Locomotive
Jerry Doyle	Geep with a Capital G
Robert Belt	Surface Mount Devices
Robert Belt	RTV Molds and Resin Casting
Frank Bongiovanni	Estate Planning for Model Railroaders

THE STEEL CITY EXPRESS CONVENTION SHIRT



The official Steel City Express convention shirts are available in men's short sleeve versions. These K500 shirts come in your choice of burgundy or gray.

See Extra Fare Registration form for pricing and sizes.



EXTRA FARE TOURS

Tour 1: Pittsburgh Light Rail Shops and Excursion

Friday 9 am to 1 pm

Pittsburgh boasts one of the most interesting light rail systems in the nation, including street and subway operations, 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 board the light rail vehicle into downtown Pittsburgh on the Blue Line. A clinic by Neal Schorr is tentatively scheduled for Thursday Evening before the tour on Friday Morning. This clinic is highly recommended for those participating on the Light Rail Tour. We will have a chartered Bus for 55 participants at the cost of \$30.

Tour 2: Bridges of Pittsburgh

Saturday 9 am to 12:30 pm

Pittsburgh has long been known as the "City of Bridges". It owes the 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 take a look on your tour at both rail and highway facilities. The tour covers the biggest concentration of bridges in the area which are located in downtown Pittsburgh. So, bring your camera and you will see the many sights and attractions of bridges in the area. We will have a chartered bus for your travels for the 55 participants at the cost of \$ 30.

Tours continued on next page

Tour 3: Western Pennsylvania Railroad Museum Saturday 1 pm to 5 pm

This 40' by 100' HO Scale Layout representing the summer of 1952. The Railroad Tracks and Scenery will showcase the railroad from Pittsburgh, Pa. to Cumberland, Md. The layout is completely scenicked and features steam and diesel locomotives, in addition to the display, the museum also maintains a collection of Historical Model Train Sets and Authentic Railroad Related Items Dating as Far Back to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century. A clinic will be held on Friday Evening to show the different locomotives and structures that you will see at the museum. This is a one of a kind layout and the group has been very gracious to open up the museum to the 55 participants on a chartered bus with the cost of \$35. The museum will not be open at any other time during the convention.

Non-Rail Tour-Pittsburgh Glass Center Saturday 11:15 am to 1 pm

This is an educational glass art center and flame shop. Whether you are an artist, a collector, or just someone fascinated by glass, this tour is for you. The Price of \$ 20 includes transportation and admission to this non-profit studio.

NON-RAIL CLINICS

Card Making \$25 This class is a lot of fun. Come and see how easy it is to make personalized greeting cards. All materials are included in price, just show up and enjoy! Eight cards, two each of four designs. Friday 9 am to 11 am

Wine glass painting \$25 Come and put your creativity to work. We will be painting two wine glasses. Keep the pair for yourself or share with a friend. All materials are provided. Friday 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

PLEASE NOTE: All tours and "fee" clinics are tentative pending sufficient registrations

ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS

T-Trak Modules and Vendor Room Our goal is to have 100 t-trak modules on display all at once. So, get ready to display your fine T-Trak Modules

Contest Room (staffed), so please get your models, structures, photos ready for the convention!

White Elephant Room Lots of space, staffed room-Complete forms before arriving (website only)
NO MAGAZINES will be accepted
Raffle and Door Prizes

SELF GUIDED TOURS ALSO FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Carnegie Science Center, Heinz History Museum, Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, Pennsylvania Trolley Museum and the Inclines.

SELF GUIDED TOURS OF LAYOUTS

The Steel City Express 2020 is pleased to have numerous layouts around Pittsburgh that will be open for Operating Sessions and display on the Self-Guided Tour. The map for all the layouts will be available in your convention packet at the Registration Desk.

Layouts Participating in Sunday Layout Tour

Alden McBee – This HO layout models the B&O between Grafton and Terra Alta, WV, 1977-1978. It has 4 scale miles of double track main line with three grades, the steepest being Cranberry grade at 2.5% and requiring helpers. The towns of Grafton, Irontown, Hardman, Independence, Newburg, West End, Tunnelton, Rowlesburg and Terra Alta are currently or will be modeled. The layout is double decked and point to point with a staging yard at each end. Trackwork is a combination of hand laid, Central Valley, and Micro Engineering track laid on Homabed and composite roadbed.

Anthony Kulfan - Anthony's O scale layout is intended as a depiction of Conrail in the Western Pennsylvania-Eastern Ohio region. Motive power is mainly Conrail diesel power, with incursions of Pittsburgh & Lake Erie, Buffalo & Pittsburgh, and CSX locomotives. The track design is a folded dog bone including a seven-track yard on the main level, and a hidden staging yard. The layout features a realistic signal system with PRR-style position light signals governing the double-track mainline and interlockings. The layout is designed for operation using command control.

Andy & Charlie Blenko - The "Pittsburgh Mainline" is a HO scale layout representing Conrail's Pittsburgh Division between Pittsburgh and Johnstown and is set in the early 1980's. It features a 160-foot-long two tracks mainline with two hidden "through" staging yards to allow continuous loop operation. It interchanges with the Chessie System, Union Railroad, and the Allegheny Valley Railroad. Major industries include the USS Edgar Thompson Works, Clairton Coke Works, the USS Irvin Works, Pennelec's Conemaugh generation station, and Westinghouse Electric's East Pittsburgh plant. The layout occupies two rooms; one is 13' X 25' and the other is 16' X 20'.

Bob Prehoda - The freelanced HO "Pittsburgh & Cumberland" depicts a railroad connecting those two cities in the year 1962. This 24' X 26" layout depicts prototypical operations, and is typically run by 8 to 11 operators. Scenery is fully completed.

Brian Budeit - Brian's HO_{N3} layout depicts a mythical connection between the East Broad Top and Tuscarora Valley Railroads. The layout is set near the town of East Waterford in the heart of Pennsylvania's Appalachian Mountains. This 15' X 20' layout is set in the early 1900's.

Dave Garlik - Dave's HO layout is a freelanced 1950's era railroad. The layout is 80% scenicked and uses Digitrax command control. Although the benchwork is constructed of plywood, most scenic elements and track bed are constructed with cardboard structural beams. Trackwork is code 100 glued to the roadbed.

Dennis Coglianese - The Pacific Central is a HO proto-freelanced railroad located in Northern California during the 1950's. The concept is an SP/ATSF jointly owned subsidiary and features many SP trains interchanging with Pacific Central traffic. There is significant passenger traffic to keep the operators on their toes. The layout was started just over 3 years ago and we celebrated our Golden Spike in November 2019. The layout uses Digitrax DCC for control and RR Circuits products for block detection, signals and switch controls.

Gary Deavers - The HO scale Glyndale & Davidton is a short line set in the late spring of 1978. It interchanges with B&O, WM, and the West Virginia and Lake Erie, a paper road that follows the old Coal and Coke from Charleston up through West Virginia. Traffic is mostly coal with some traffic for local manufacturing. First generation Geeps and F units share the rails with the latest "Dash Two" models from LaGrange. A special point of interest is the HA Tower scene from the late Don Cassler's M&K Division of the B&O.

George Pandelios - This O scale layout depicts the Pennsylvania Railroad's Panhandle Division circa 1952. The centerpiece is the 12' double track cantilever through truss bridge across the Ohio River between Steubenville, OH and Weirton, WV. Although under construction, the bridge, backdrop, 40% of the benchwork, and some scenery have been installed. The track plan is a folded dog bone that features the cities of Steubenville and Weirton as well as a staging yard. Additional features planned are Weirton Steel, Weirton Junction, and Standard Slag. Motive power is mainly Pennsy steam (M1a, I1s, K4s, L1s). Signals are PRR style position lights. The layout is designed for operations using Trainmaster Command Control (TMCC).

Greater Tri-Town Area Historical Society - Curated by the Pittsburgh S Gaugers, the Penn Creek Valley is a large freelanced layout designed to suggest the landscapes and industries of southwestern Pennsylvania in the approximate era of 1950-1962. Built by the late Sam Powell of Gaithersburg, Maryland, the layout was disassembled and moved to Dawson in 2016 after Mr. Powell's premature death. This is a fully scale (not HI rail) layout in S scale and features a variety of commercial, kit, and scratchbuilt locomotives, rolling stock, and structures. It operates on a Lenz DCC system. The layout has been featured in **Model Railroader and Classic Toy Trains**.

Jack Keen - Jack is modeling the mythical R S & G branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in HO scale. The line serves downstate West Virginia. It is an L shaped layout with many detailed scenes and structures. Jack is well known locally for custom molding HO scale figures and detail parts.

Jeff Wires - This HO layout is a model of Conrail's Bayard Branch, which connects Cleveland to Mingo Junction Ohio. It is a medium to large sized layout and it features a helped district. Although it has minimal scenery at present, the layout will include the towns of Alliance, Mingo Junction, and Steubenville.

Jim Ferguson - Jim's freelanced HO Lebanon Valley Railroad is based on the Pennsylvania Railroad. The mythical owner of the Lebanon Valley owns over half of the PRR and as such borrows and runs PRR equipment on the railroad. The layout measures 25' X 28' including extensions and is set in the early to mid-1950's.

Joel Everly - Joel's HO Arel and Jolene Railroad is a large, double decked, point to point layout. A helix connects the two decks. The mainline is 300 feet long and 85% of the scenery is completed.

Ken Hanawalt - Ken's Turtle Creek Railroad is a freelanced HO layout with three branch lines and features lots of local switching on an incredible 189 industrial spurs in 950 sq. feet. Train control is by DCC.

Larry Brown - The HO Woodlawn Southern is 13' x 19' DCC layout which is a single-track dog bone with a switchback branch line servicing a truck tipple. The layout is set in the 1950's in southwest PA/northwest West Virginia. The branch line power consists of Shays and Climaxes with a small servicing facility. The mainline power is late steam and first-generation diesels with some early second-generation diesels. Larry models railroads that he saw growing up, (PRR, B&O, N&W, P&WV, W&LE & B&LE) along with the privately owned branch line, the CCL&L. Larry likes to stick with prototype models, and enjoys kit bashing and adding details to motive power and rolling stock. The kit bashing and details roll over into the structures on the layout. Construction has been underway for 15 years.

Larry Willming - Larry's O-Scale shelf layout runs through two rooms of his house, with 2 main lines of track, 3 bridges, 2 tunnels, and a trestle. There is also a bump and go trolley running through the town of Helen's Kitchen.

His HO scale layout is currently a work in process and is a freelance layout, not modelling any particular railroad or time period. This layout is 8' x 16' and passes through the dining room wall into the living room. The basic track plan is a folded figure 8 with passing sidings and a classification yard with a turntable. An off the layout staging yard uses cassettes for train storage. Both layouts can be viewed from living and dining rooms.

Larry Caniff - This spectacular and highly unusual indoor G scale layout portrays the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and highlights the steel industry. The railroad is 55' X 75' and has 1400 feet of track and roughly 45 switches. The layout is fully scenicked and features many scratch-built structures.

McKeesport Model Railroad Club-This Club was formed in 1950 and is now celebrating 70 years of HO Scale Railroading. This layout encapsulates southwestern Pennsylvania life in the 1950's. It is home to the Mon Yough Valley Railroad a fictional bridge route from Cumberland, MD to Erie, PA. There are branch lines, a steel mill rr, narrow gauge rr and a street car line. Scenery is over 75% complete in 2,200 square feet, with almost 1,000 feet of track for your enjoyment.

Neal Schorr - Neal's O scale layout portrays the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad and its successor railroads between Harrisburg and Altoona as it appeared between the 1930's through today. The layout "ages" as it progresses from east to west allowing for the depiction of many eras. The highpoints of the layout are the highly realistic scenery and backdrop, signal system, and close adherence to civil engineering practices. The layout has frequently appeared in the model railroad press, including *Model Road Planning*, Kalmbach's "How To" series, and *Classic Toy Trains*.

Ohio Valley Lines - The Ohio Valley Lines is located in Ambridge, a few short blocks from Old Economy Village in the Ambridge Historic District. The organization has two scale model railroads, a library of railroad materials (by appointment only) and a museum of prototype railroad items. The HO and N Scale model railroads depict industry and life in the upper Ohio River Valley in a period from 1940 to 1965. The members provide most of the motive power and rolling stock, hence the broad era. The HO scale railroad has been

under construction since 2000 and is virtually complete. The N scale railroad has been under construction for approximately 8 years and is also essentially finished.

Rob Enrico – Rob’s magnificent O scale layout portrays the Monongahela Division of the Penn Central (ex-PRR) as it appeared in 1970. The layout is approximately 600 sq. feet and most of the scenery is completed. The track is hand laid and many of the structures are scratchbuilt. A notable feature is the assemblage of fully wired telegraph poles along the right of way. The layout has been featured in *Great Model Railroads*, *Model Railroad Planning*, and *O Scale Trains*. An adjacent room features Rob’s collection of postwar Lionel trains (1946 - mid-1960’s) and Plasticville structures. The collection is beautifully displayed and trains operate on a classic tinsplate layout featuring Lionel Super-O track.

Rochester Area Heritage Society Museum and Model Railroad – The museum and model railroad features four different displays in four different scales (N, HO, O, and G). The main display is a HO scale layout set in the early 1900’s. It depicts the busy waterfront industries, hotels, and houses that lined the banks of the Ohio and Beaver Rivers near Rochester, PA. The layout features steam era locomotives of the Pennsylvania Railroad and many structures representative of the prototype including a highly detailed model of the H. C. Fry Glass Company. The model actually features authentic 110-year-old glass produced by the company.

CONTESTS

The Mid Central Region Contest is a judged contest that offers placed awards for entries in the following categories: model, photo, arts and crafts, and modules.

The model contest accepts the following types of entries: Steam Locomotive*, Diesel and Other Locomotive*, Traction*, Passenger Car*, Freight Car*, Caboose*, Non-Revenue Car*, Structure*, and Display. (* - These entry types are eligible for Merit Awards.)

We don’t have separate classes for kit-built and scratch-built models as does the national contest. Our photo contest has four classifications of entry: Model - Black and White Print, Model - Color Print, Prototype - Black and White Print, and Prototype - Color Print. The Arts and Crafts entries are divided into: General, Needlework, and Railroadiana. Our most recent judged category, Modules, is divided into T-TRAK and Other Modules. Lego models are considered Arts and Crafts and are not eligible for the model contest.

First, second, and third place awards are given by a team of contest judges for each type (classification) of entry. Additionally, a Best of Show award is given in each major category as are People’s Choice Awards. More importantly, those eligible entries that garner more than 87 ½ points, as determined by the judges, are given Merit Awards. These may be applied toward the NMRA’s Achievement Program Certificates which, in turn, can be used towards becoming a Master Model Railroader.

Mid Central Region contest forms and guidelines are found here:

<http://archive.midcentral-region-nmra.org/ContestForm.html>.

We encourage all interested people to enter the contest, and likewise invite everyone to come to the Contest Room and view the many fine entries on display.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

This year's convention will again offer attendees the opportunity to dispose of surplus model railroading items (NO MAGAZINES) and to acquire some new treasures from other attendees. The rules are simple. Forms need to be filled out prior to bringing your items to the sales room due to time and space constraints.

Prepare an inventory on our website (keystonedivision.org), preferred for legibility. Handwritten forms printed from the website will be accepted as long as information is printed legibly, in all capital letters, showing your full name including middle initial and brief item description (please include the item's main color in the description). The online form has multiple pages, so be sure your numbers are consecutive.

List each individual item with your FIRM price in whole dollar amounts. We will only sell at the marked price and will not negotiate pricing on your behalf.

Each individual item must be clearly marked and priced. The price on the item's sticker and the inventory must match. If there is more than one of an item, please list, tag and number them separately. If you are selling a group of items, they must be securely attached or bagged together. If you have more than 25 items, just add another sheet and continue as per the instructions on the website. All items must have a price sticker showing your 3 initials and the item number from your list. The example for how to mark your item is shown below.

KSD-15 \$10

Bring all your items to the Westinghouse Room at any time it is open. A copy of the inventory sheets must accompany your items.

We will log your items in, sell them, reconcile sales and calculate how much you have earned. Division Two will keep 10% of actual sales (whole dollar fee) and we will pay you.

You must pick up your unsold material and money on Saturday afternoon by 4:00 before we shut down. If you do not claim your unsold material or money, it will be considered a donation to Division Two.

BANQUET WITH RECEPTION

The convention banquet will be held Saturday evening in the Convention Banquet Hall. Cash Bar will be open at 6:00 p.m., with the plated dinner starting at 7:00 p.m. Please indicate on the Registration Form your choice of the 4 entrees. Honey Cured Pork Loin, Top Sirloin, Forest Chicken and Herb Seared Tilapia. As noted before our guest speaker will be Peter Magoun. Peter is the National Model Railroad Association President.

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES

There will be a sizeable raffle with lots of nice donated prizes in the Westinghouse Room, along with White Elephant. These articles have been donated by national and local manufacturers, hobby shops, vendors and individuals. Tickets will be on sale throughout the convention up to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The door prize winners will be by your convention registration number and those winners will be posted at the Conference Center Registration Desk.

OPERATING SESSIONS FOR THURSDAY

The Steel City Express Committee has lined up 7 great operating layouts for your enjoyment for the opening night of the Convention. Please indicate on the registration sheet which layout you would like to operate. It will be a first come first operator assignment. The committee will have a waiting list, just in case something happens.

Andy and Charlie Blenko's Conrail Pittsburgh Mainline – 40 minutes from Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 5

Parking: On Street

Layout Scale: HO

Layout description: 600 square foot HO Scale layout set in the early 1980s depicting Conrail's double-track Pittsburgh Line from Johnstown to Pittsburgh with a lower deck for staging. This layout features a 280 foot two-track mainline as well as interchanges with Chessie, Union Railroad, and AVR. Scenery has just been started, but track on Conrail is 100% complete to the point that operations are well-developed.



Layout control: NCE DCC provides layout control. A central dispatcher directs operations through JMRI block detection and remote turnout control.

Physical Requirements: Stairs to reach basement, standing on concrete floor, no duck-unders.

Handicap Accessibility: No

Operations: Moderate (car card and waybill system, train orders, paper signaling, two-way radios for communication)

Dan Coulter's Norfolk Southern Pittsburgh Southern – 18 minutes from Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 6

Parking: On Street

Layout Scale: HO

Layout description: The Pittsburgh Southern is a modern, freelanced route for the Norfolk Southern, running south out of Pittsburgh towards the mid-Atlantic. Traffic consists of a mix of locals, transfers and mainline through trains. Most of the trackwork completed to allow for operation sessions, however there are plans to extend the second deck in the future. The 240-foot mainline runs point-to-point with a couple of branches for switching. There is plenty of both mainline running and local switching during ops sessions. There is a minimal amount of scenery completed at this time, however the layout is now fully signaled.



Layout Control: DCC with NCE

Physical Requirements: Stairs, concrete floor, no duck-unders, walk-around operation

Handicap Accessibility: No

Operations: Moderate, fully signaled, dispatcher, yard limits



Joel Everly's Arel & Jolene – 41 minutes from Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 8

Parking: On Street

Layout Scale: H0

Layout description: The Arel & Jolene is a prototype-based freelanced bridge line with PRR and NKP influences and includes some interchanges. Traffic consists of a mix of through freights, locals and some passenger trains. The layout is a double deck, point-to-point design with approximately 300 feet of mainline track. The majority of the scenery is completed.

Layout Control: DCC with NCE

Physical Requirements: walk-around operation, basement entrance is at ground level through the garage with no stairs.

Handicap Accessibility: No

Special Requests: No smoking please

Operations: Moderate, track warrants, train sequence is dispatcher controlled

Ken Hanawalt's Turtle Creek Railroad – 30 minutes from

Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 6

Parking: Parking on street - take care not to park directly across from driveways.

Layout Scale: H0

Layout description: The Turtle Creek Railroad is a two-level layout in a room about 34 feet by 27 feet. There are 30 towns, about 300 turnouts, and 900 freight cars. The scenery is mostly complete. We are just starting to install signals. The Turtle Creek Railroad is a free-lance switching layout, representing local freight traffic running from McKees Rocks, PA south to Brownsville, PA. There are no through freight or passenger trains. The motive power is a mix of steam and diesel with sound. Staging is distributed around the layout so that several trains can start at once.

Layout Control: DCC using NCE radio throttles

Physical Requirements: Standing to operate is required due to the layout height. There is a level entry to the layout from behind the house, but the driveway is sloped down from the street. A drop-down bridge provides access to the layout, but no duck under is necessary during operations. Stairs are required to reach the rest room.

Handicap Accessibility: No

Operations: Moderate – The operation is moderately complex but easy to learn, low pressure and not sensitive to errors. Two person crews are used for each train. New operators have an experienced partner. Operation is based on intensive switching using car cards. There are a few signals, but not dispatcher. Crews must negotiate meets and passes. A key objective is to minimize waiting on the layout. Most crews will be busy during the entire session. We are easy going and friendly.



Arley Mitchell's CL&W – 55 minutes from Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 6

Parking: Parking on street

Layout Scale: H0

Layout description: The CL&W is a 576 square foot freelanced layout based on the Chessie System. Scenery is about 15% complete.

Layout Control: DCC using NCE

Physical Requirements: Standing with one duck under

Handicap Accessibility: No

Operations: Moderate with track warrants



Bob Prehoda's Huntingdon Northern Railroad – 37 minutes from Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 6

Parking: Driveway (4 cars) and street parking

Layout Scale: H0

Layout description: The Huntingdon Northern is a freelanced medium-sized layout (24ft x 26ft) with 100% of its scenery finished. The railroad is operated as a bridge route, set in Southwestern Pennsylvania between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, MD in 1957. The railroad uses a centralized Dispatcher that controls train movements by issuing train orders to crews and also used the train order signals as manual block signals. The Huntingdon Northern was featured in the November 1998 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman.

Layout Control: DCC with NCE and radio throttles

Physical Requirements: No stairs to reach basement, standing with aisle ways narrowing to 2 feet in width, no duck-under. Not handicap accessible.

Operations: Moderate (car card and waybill system, train orders with manual block and telephones)



Jim Whipple's Penn Creek Valley – 1 hour 4 minutes from Convention Hotel

Operator Slots Available: 6

Parking: Street parking

Layout Scale: S

Layout description: Built by the late Sam Powell, this S SCALE (not American Flyer) layout depicts a fictional line running through the South Hills of Pittsburgh set between 1950 and 1953. The 27x26' layout has complete scenery and features several impressive scratch-built & kit-bashed structures as well as having all turnouts and much of the track hand laid. Equipment is a mix of Steam & Early Diesel and 40' cars and heavyweight coaches are still the order of the day. The railroad was gifted to the Dawson Historical Society upon Sam's passing, and has been graciously re-assembled by the Pittsburgh S Gauger's and some friends of the Society.

Layout Control: DCC with Lenz

Physical Requirements: Standing required for operations and a duck under used for quick access.

Handicap Accessibility: Layout is wheelchair accessible, however bathrooms are not.

Operations: Moderate, Single track, Train order and switch lists. Operators will be paired and all will start as road crews with the possibility of advancement to yardmaster later in the session.

CONVENTION KITS

This convention the Steel City Express Committee decided to do something different. We are selling at the company store which will be located in the Westinghouse Room, 4 different yard building kits. They are Oil/Coal Shed, Fire Hose Shed, Telegraph Office, and Signal Tower. These kits are based on the B & O Prototypes and are available in 4 scales, O, HO, N, and S. Please stop by the company store and pick these up for your own layout.



PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION:
www.keystonedivision.org



STEEL CITY EXPRESS

Registration Form
May 28-31, 2020



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

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Primary Registrant Name* _____
 NMRA No.* _____ Region _____ Division _____

Please use a separate form for each NMRA attendee

Item	Quantity	Price	Amount
Basic Registration*		\$60.00	\$
Additional Family Members		\$25.00	\$
One Year NMRA Membership** (without magazine subscription)		\$50.00	\$
One Year Full NMRA Membership (with magazine subscription) **		\$78.00	\$
NMRA Rail Pass Membership*** (9 months with NMRA Magazine)		\$20.00	\$
*Primary Registrant must be an NMRA member at time of convention (yourself or a friend)		Convention Registration	\$
**See www.NMRA.org website for membership details		Convention Extra Fares	\$
***Eligible if never used Rail Pass before and not a member for last 2 years-see www.NMRA.org		Convention Merchandise	\$
	TOTAL PAID		\$

Sign-up form for extra fare items on next page along with banquet information
 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**
PO Box 223
Gastonsville, PA 15336

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

Room reservations are made directly with the convention hotel
Doubletree by Hilton at Greentree, 500 Mansfield Ave. Pittsburgh, Pa., 412-922-8400

*****Mention National Model Railroad Association when making reservations*****

www.keystonedivision2.org

EXTRA FARE EVENTS

TOUR				
DATE	TOUR	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
MAY 29, 2020 9:00am-1:00pm	PAT TRANSIT SHOPS AND RIDE TO STATION SQUARE		\$30.00	
MAY 30, 2020 9:00am-12:30 pm	BRIDGE TOUR		\$30.00	
MAY 30, 2020 1:00pm-5:00 pm	WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD MUSEUM		\$35.00	

NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES				
DATE	ACTIVITY	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
MAY 29, 2020 9:00-11:00 am	CARD MAKING, 8 CARDS, 4 DESIGNS		\$25.00	
MAY 29, 2020 1:30-3:30 pm	GLASS PAINTING		\$25.00	
MAY 30, 2020 11:15-1:00 pm	PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER, TOUR AND DEMONSTRATION		\$20.00	

EXTRA FARE CLINICS				
DATE	CLINIC	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
MAY 28, 7:00 pm	LASER CUT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES		\$20.00	
MAY 28, 7:00 pm	BUILD YOUR OWN T-TRAK MODULES		\$40.00	

OPERATING LAYOUTS

Layout #1: BLENKO _____ Layout #2: COULTER _____ Layout #3: EVERLY _____ Layout #4: HANAWALT _____
 Layout #5: MITCHELL _____ Layout #6: PREHODA _____ Layout #7: WHIPPLE _____

CONVENTION SHIRTS						
	Small	Med	Lg	XL	XXL	
MEN'S-SHORT SLEEVE GRAY	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$32	
MEN'S SHORT SLEEVE BURGUNDY	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$32	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CONVENTION SHIRTS: To pick up shirts at the Company Store during Convention, order must be received by 5/1/2020. **AFTER MAY 1, PLEASE ADD \$ 8.00 for shipping after event**

BANQUET				
DATE	MEAL	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
MAY 30, 6:00 P.M.	CONVENTION MEAL (CHOOSE ONE per attendee)			
Chicken _____	Steak _____	Fish _____	Pork _____	\$55.00
				TOTAL

Vegetarian, gluten free and vegan options available upon request
 Please note any **dietary restrictions** for the banquet staff _____
 enter on Registration page

MCR President

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Upcoming Events

Once again we point you in the direction of Division 11's listing:

www.div11-mcr-nmra.info/events.htm

Thanks to Division 11 Webmaster Bob Netzlof.

T-TRAK Layout again planned for Pittsburgh

This is to alert all members of the Mid Central Region of the NMRA that there will be a Region Sponsored Layout comprised of member built T-TRAK Modules at the 2020 Region Convention in Pittsburgh.

The layout will be built in the hotel ballroom and will follow the simple rules of interconnecting modules. The plan will be to have somewhere near 100 modules in the layout.

Members that have built, or who are considering building a module are encouraged to respond to the "Call for Modules" that will be sent by email to all members of the region who have email address on file with National NMRA. Keep your eyes open for this email.

Each Division has a T-TRAK Coordinator and their job is to help you get your module ready for the layout. A listing of those coordinators is shown below

Your module can be for display only or can be entered in the Convention Contest and can qualify for awards.

Enjoy the fun of building modules and displaying them in a layout with your friends from the region.

2020 MCR T-TRAK Regional Modules Committee

MCR T-TRAK Regional Coordinator
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2020 Convention Trainmaster
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