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The Order Board-Supplemental

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2025 Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree



Division Two of NMRA's Mid-Central Region

This is a Special Edition of The Order Board highlighting the 2025 Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree.





The Editor's Column

Kurt Matthews, Publications Chair



This is a supplemental edition of The Order Board focused my recent trip to the 2025 Model Railroad Jamboree in Monroeville, PA outside Pittsburgh. The event was sponsored by NMRA Mid-Central Region, Keystone Division 2. The division covers Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia and portions of Eastern Ohio. <https://www.keystonedivision.org/>. There were roughly 93 attendees.

It was a two day event, with the first day consisting of clinics, items for sale, model contest, raffle, general displays and an evening banquet with speaker. Day two was self-guided layout tours of the Pittsburgh area. I have also included photos and information on other rail and model related activities of the area.



Sale Tables



S-Gauge Module



N-Gauge Module

West View & Santa Fe

www.westviewsantafe.com



N-Gauge Module



Clinics

There were twelve clinics presented. The clinics were well attended with about twenty folks in each.

1. **The PRR and Johnstown Flood** by Brandon Silko. A look into the PRR during the famous flood including movement on the day and rebuilding efforts.
2. **Update on the Huntington Northern** by Bob Prehoda. A description of the HO Scale freelanced coal and freight hauler in 1957 set in SW Pennsylvania. This layout was on the tour.
3. **Pittsburgh's Streetcar System-An Historical Overview** by George Gula. Covered the evolution from horse drawn cars to cable cars and finally electric trolleys.
4. **Developing a New Scale Model-A Manufacturers Perspective** by Ryan Kunkle of Lionel. An insider's look at the research, design and decisions that bring a model to market.
5. **My Bridge Obsession** by George Pandelios. A description of PRR's Panhandle bridge over the Ohio River at Wierton, WV and how he modeled it on his layout.
6. **Trackside with Dick Flock** by Mitch Dakelman. A presentation of late Div 2 member Dick Flock's unpublished railfan photos.
7. **Operations Options** by George Ken Hanawalt. Explanation of conducting operations on Ken's layout.
8. **Three Steps to Designing and 3D Printing an O-Scale Blast Furnace** by Bill Auman. A description of building an O-Scale blast furnace model with an FDM 3-D printer.
9. **Modeling a Shortline: How and Why I Model the Huntington and Broad Top Railroad** by Matthew Hurst. A look of the H&BT and the unique modeling opportunities it presented.
10. **Photography 101 for Railfans and Modelers (Parts 1 and 2)** by George Mike Hauk. Compresses a community college level introduction to photography course into a session geared toward railroad photography.
11. **Building Craftsman Structure Kits** by Bill Satore. This clinic showed a step-by-step process to build a kit as well as the tools needed to built it.

Layout Tours

There were 15 layouts open for tour on a single day. Time and distance prevented me from seeing all the layouts. I was able to tour six. The following pages give a brief description of each with photos. I was warmly welcomed to each layout and am grateful to those individuals who opened their homes and clubs that opened their buildings for this event.



Layout Tours

Plum Creek Railroad

Owner: Tom Gaus

Scale: HO

Type: Freelance

Location: Home basement

Description: The Plum Creek RR is an HO scale 12'x16' C-shaped fictional freelance short line model railroad set in 1968. A 2.8 scale mile single track mainline connects N. Bessemer, PA and Saltsburg, PA through Export, PA, and a branch line runs from Murrysville, PA though Export to Jeanette, PA. The layout is built and designed for the operation and running of trains and servicing industries located along the main and branch lines. Along with car cards and way bill, a block system using DC controllers power the trains. Scenery on the layout is 85% complete with operations for 1-5 operators. *(Editors note: This layout was personally interesting to me, as I grew up in Murrysville)*





Layout Tours

W&LE West End

Owner: Jimmy Braum

Scale: HO

Type: Prototype

Location: Home basement

Description: This layout models the Wheeling and Lake Erie east end between Rook Yard outside Pittsburgh to Connellsville, PA. Power is a mix of four axle GP units (including GP35 high hoods) and six axle SD40-2 units. Most of the layout is still under construction with plans for a second deck in the future. Separately, Jimmy saved a portion of his late father's HO_n3 narrow gauge layout.





Layout Tours

Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad

Owner: Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad Club

Scale: HO

Type: Freelance

Location: Second floor of museum building

Description: The Mid-Mon Valley is a double deck through the wall layout designed to evoke a sense of history of the Middle Monongahela River Valley. The time period is 1950-1960 era. Some of the industries have been frozen in time including a blast furnace, rolling mill, strip mine, coke ovens, railroad yard and trolley line. The layout is operated by DCC with a 5 ft diameter helix to carry the trains from one level to another. The scenery on the layout is 90% complete.





Layout Tours

Scotia Harbor and Moose Point Railroad

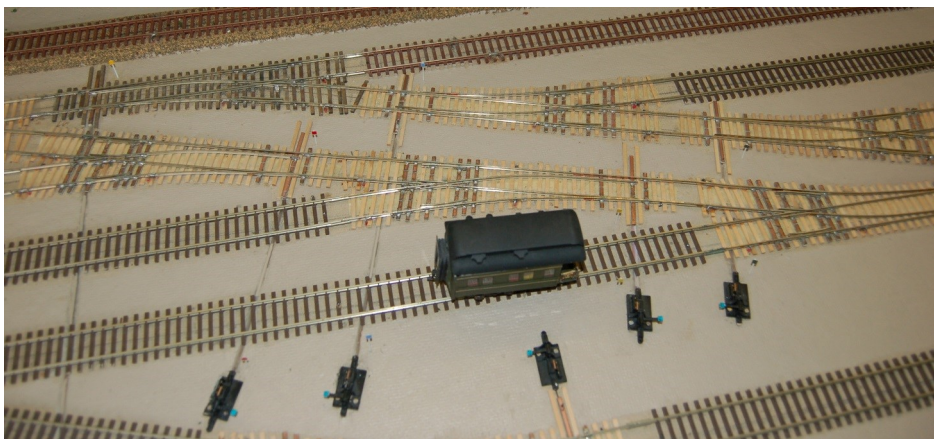
Owner: Susan Werner, MMR

Scale: HO

Type: Freelanced

Location: Home third story added specifically for the layout

Description: The Scotia Harbor and Moose Point Railroad is a fictitious small railroad set in Down East Maine around late summer 1918. The 14'x22' layout is free standing. The layout represents the coast fishing region and logging area of Maine as well as much in between. There is a large train yard along the back side of the layout. There is a switch back track leading up to the logging area. Over 50 hand laid switches adorn this DCC layout. Scenery is 40% complete. Susan constructs all her structures from scratch or no longer produced wood kits.





Layout Tours

Mon Yough Valley Railroad

Owner: McKeesport Model Railroad Club

Scale: HO & HO_n3

Type: Freelanced

Location: Club owned building

Description: Founded in 1950, the club's fictional Mon Yough Valley (MYV) railroad and its five connecting lines share the best of a fictional version of Western Pennsylvania's landscape of rural, urban, industrial and mountainous scenery. Alongside the MYV, the club operates a network of six other railroads including an HO_n3 narrow gauge line. The layout depicts the Keystone Div of the MYV in the late 1950's to early 1960's as the portion of a theoretical route from the Chesapeake Bay to Lake Erie Ports that crosses SW PA. The six railroads on the layout work together in their various duties to form a transportation network during the club's monthly operating sessions. The layout is approximately 2,200 sq ft with a double track mainline run of 13.5 scale miles. The club was featured in the Feb 2025 issue of MRR magazine.





Layout Tours

Huntingdon Northern Railway

Owner: Bob Prehoda

Scale: HO

Type: Freelance

Location: Home basement

Description: The Huntingdon Northern is a freelanced medium-sized layout (24ft x 26ft) with 100% of it's 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.





Niedzalkoski's Train Shop

Jeanette, PA

Niedzalkoski's Train Shop is located in Jeanette, PA about halfway between Pittsburgh and Greensburg along the ex-PRR (now NS) mainline from Pittsburgh to Altoona. Jeanette was known for its glass making industry in the past. The station sign above Mike's head in the photo is the actual sign from the PRR Station that has since been torn down. Mike's shop specializes in items with a Pittsburgh area theme such as locomotives, freight and passenger cars and books. All scales are represented.



Mike Niedzalkoski and his Train Shop



Downtown Jeanette, PA



Turtle Creek Railroad

Export, PA

The Turtle Creek Railroad took over the ex PRR/PC/CR branch line that ran from Trafford, PA and a connection with the PRR mainline from Altoona to Pittsburgh to Export, PA where Dura-Bond, Corp operated a pipe coating facility. Dura-Bond owned and operated the railroad as the pipe was too large to transport by truck. Eventually, washouts from Turtle Creek necessitated abandonment and conversion to a rail trail. Dura-Bond moved its pipe coating facility to McKeesport PA along the ex-P&LE/B&O (now CSX) line from Pittsburgh to Connellsville. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turtle_Creek_Industrial_Railroad



EMD SW-1200, Apr 2000



EMD SW-1, Apr 2000



Ex-Johnstown & Stony Creek, probably home built, Apr 2000

*All Photos This Page: Robert
Shook Collection
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Turtle Creek Railroad

Export, PA

Export was a small coal mining town east of Pittsburgh in Westmoreland County. Its name was derived from the fact that coal from its mine was exported outside the United States early in its operation.



*TCKR caboose on display May 2025
now in red paint*



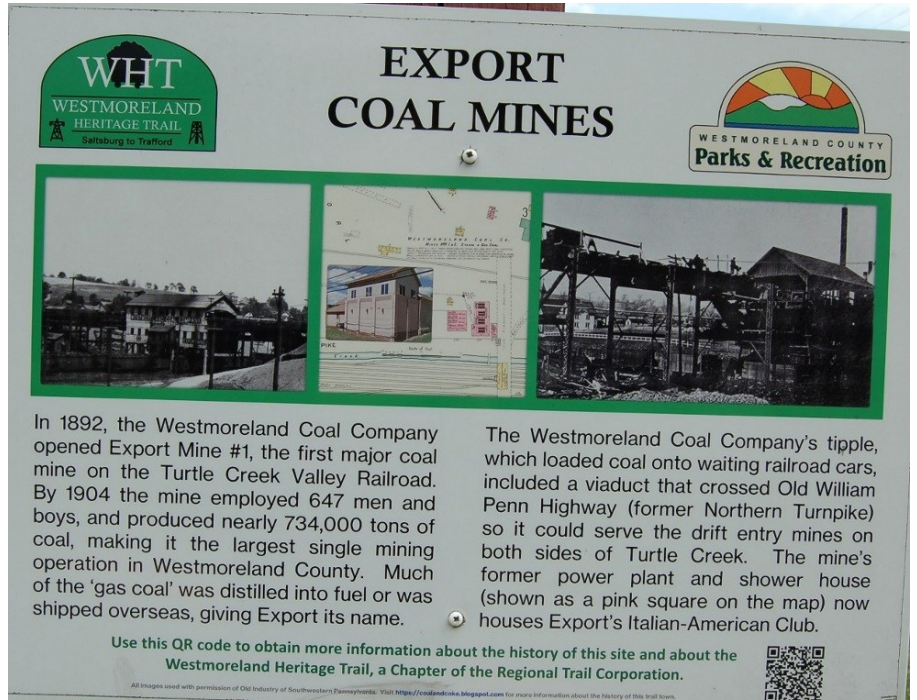
Downtown Export, PA



Turtle Creek Railroad

Export, PA

TCKR Rail Trail



Signage



Mural and Track Section



Trail