

## **NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**

### ***The Coal Division***

#### **Meeting Minutes for Aug. 13, 2011**

**Welcome & Introduction;** The meeting was called to order at 1:57PM by Superintendent Bob Weinheimer in the meeting room at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts, Teay's Valley. Members and one guest introduced themselves.

**Division Clerk Report;** In the absence of Jerry Doyle, Bob W. requested a motion to approve the July minutes as printed in the newsletter. So moved by Charlie Venable, seconded and approved. Checks have been issued to Mark Maynard for picnic expenses re: our September meeting and to Bob W. for newsletter expenses.

**Superintendent's Report;** Bob advised that he has discontinued the practice of preparing a copy of the agenda for each attendee. He is open to resuming the practice if the members demand it. Bob has copies of the on line magazine ***Model Railroad Hobbyist*** on DVDs containing all issues to date. These are available to those on "dial up" internet for \$1.00. The new Division Boy Scout Merit Badge program was introduced by Bob, with details from Tony Puccini to follow. Bob reported that Dennis McGeeney is working on future outings. The next meeting at Mark Maynard's home in Portsmouth was discussed. Members were reminded to bring items to sell, marked with name clearly. Two members are needed to handle the money. Jim Heilman volunteered to be the "company photographer" at the meeting. The September meeting will be a joint meeting with Division 6. Bob requested clinicians for upcoming meetings. Dave Stout will do October and Lin Young, Greg McCartney and Dennis McGeeney also volunteered to provide clinics.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report;** Gary spoke on our mission of using our expertise and interest to educate people about railroading, both full size and model. He mentioned the new Boy Scout program as something which is a big step in this process. There was discussion of the ***NMRA Magazine*** request that Divisions and Regions submit "lesson plans" for their educational outreach programs. Gary spoke about prototype research and noted, for instance, how much is available on the internet regarding passenger operation. There are plans to place much of this educational material on our web site. Gary presented a card and gift certificate to Bob

W in recognition of Bob's efforts on behalf of the Division at last year's convention and since that time.

**Boy Scout Program;** Tony P introduced the Division's plans to work with the Boy Scouts to put scouts through the Railroading merit badge program. Tony and Gary will be coordinating this effort and other members were invited to volunteer their time and expertise. It was noted that working with the scouts requires a background check which can take some time. Therefore those interested in participating should get started with the necessary paperwork. This is a good way to introduce youngsters to the NMRA and there was a lively discussion on the hows and wheres of the program.

**Webmaster;** Bob W mentioned that it is difficult to decipher the web reports we are getting from our present server. However, "hits" remain heavy with 4730 in July. Most visitors look at our picture pages first and most. Perhaps one third of "hits" come off the link from the NMRA National web site.

**Achievement Program;** The AP will be the subject of today's clinic.

**Nominations Chair;** Bill W was not present but sends word that current officers expire (their terms that is) in April, 2012. Anyone interested in running for office should get in touch with Bill. Bill also is looking for a couple of volunteers to fill out his committee.

**Membership Chair;** John H not present and no report submitted

**Raffle;** Paul thanked Dennis for his assistance with the raffle. Paul mentions his "new method" where you can place your ticket on the item or items you wish to win. There was a request from the floor to have raffle info in the newsletter.

**UP THE HOLLER Editor;** Dan asked for both input and feedback as to what is published.

**Old Business;** None

**New Business;** None

**Announcements;** Dennis McGeeney spoke on two outings he is attempting to arrange for September. One would be a Wednesday trip to the Roanoke

Transportation Museum. The other would be Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and would be a ride on the Hocking Valley tourist line. Dennis mentioned several past trips and the camaraderie and fun that was enjoyed. He feels this is a good way to expand the Division's activities and develop interest. Bob W reminded that it would be much better to have a longer "lead time" on these outings so members would be able to plan ahead. Dennis will develop his plans as early as possible and submit information to the newsletter.

**Contest;** This month's contest subject is "traction". No models were submitted. There was a suggestion from the floor that we may want to consider some different categories in the future.

**Clinic;** Bob W presented his power point presentation on the Achievement Program.

Respectfully submitted;

Dan Mulhearn, substitute clerk