

Up Coming Events:

- January 13th, 2007— General Meeting 2pm WV Hobby and Craft- Air Brushing Clinic
- February 10th, 2007— General Meeting 2pm WV Hobby and Craft— Decaling Clinic
- March 10th, 2007— General Meeting 2pm WV Hobby and Craft— Weathering

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Comments from the Head of the Holler

By Lin Young, Superintendent

I am excited about the interest we have had over the last few months from our membership. Bob Weinheimer, our Assistant Division Superintendent, calls nearly every day with a new exciting project he is working on. He has our website www.coaldivision.org up and running. He and Greg McCartney are working on “Pike Ads” for our newsletter. Greg graciously volunteered to be the editor of our newsletter titled “Up the Holler.”

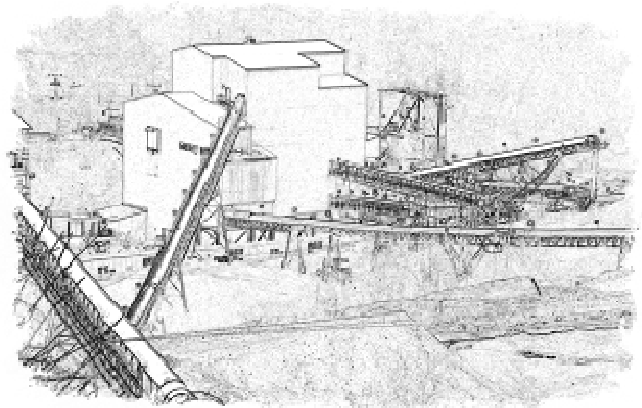
Bob, Greg, Russ Miller, Jerry Doyle, Jim Trivett, Dave Brandaberry and I are working on the Achievement Award for Chief Dispatcher. Bob has already submitted his paperwork and has been approved in addition to receiving his Golden Spike Award. The rest of us have

plenty of hours but have yet to completed the paperwork.

The point is that the NMRA has an Achievement Award Program for members to be recognized for their modeling and involvement in the organization. The Achievement Awards lead to becoming a Master Model

Railroader. While working on an award, you interact with other modelers who will become good friends. All this is just part of “The Worlds Greatest Hobby”.

Lin Young,
Division 9 Superintendent



Sketch of Green Valley Tipple on the NF&G. This sketch is an example of a possible division logo. If you have any ideas for a logo for our division, please pass them along.

Our New Division Website

By Bob Weinheimer

Our division web site, www.coaldivision.org, went active October 6. Since that time, there have been 472 visitors who have looked collectively at 958 pages as of December 13. Some of those visits have been by the webmaster checking to see that updates were successfully posted but the remainder are other folks stopping in to take a look. Most of our hits come from visitors to the NMRA and

Mid-Central Region pages. Our site can also be found by putting “coal division” into the Google search engine.

Feedback has been limited but whenever anyone does take the time to send a note, it is positive. For example, Division 10’s webmaster likes the way we display the Achievement Program status of the members.

Any suggestions for improvement or expansion are welcome.

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SD35s B&O 7418 and WM 7434 pause from their duties in front of SS Tower, Smith Summit WV, on the Grafton and Greenbrier RR. Photo by Jerry Doyle

Operations on the Grafton & Greenbrier and Pennsylvania Southern

By Bob Weinheimer

In spite of its relatively small membership and large territory, Division 9 is fortunate to have at least two members with layouts offering prototype operation.

Lin Young's Grafton and Greenbrier in Gallipolis, OH is a mid 1980s era model running through the heart of mountainous and forested West Virginia. Coal trains abound with a good dose of general

freight and even a scheduled Amtrak train. All trains except for Amtrak are run as extras.

Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern in Charleston is a 1980 era layout that features the heavy industry of southwestern Pennsylvania. You will see fewer coal trains here than on the G&G but you will see a fair bit more local industry switching action. Most trains run on a schedule but are dispatched as

extras. The schedule is often changed on the fly to deal with circumstances as they develop.

Both layouts feature a modified train order operation and are dispatched with FRS radios. Neither uses a fast clock so the pace is not too frantic. The latest innovation on both layouts has been the feed of all radio traffic over the internet to listeners everywhere. In addition, the G&G has used internet technology to facilitate remote dispatching. To listen to our radio traffic, go to www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com, click on the Listen! button, then read the instructions there. We have plenty of capacity to spare; if you know of other railroads that would like to share their radio traffic, please let me know.

The G&G operates most Wednesday evenings while the PS runs the second Thursday of each month. If this sort of operation is of interest to you, please come join us!

"To listen to our radio traffic, go to www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com"



Left: The Old and the New. One of Pennsylvania Southern's newest GP38-2s, 2095 rests along side tired GP7 2120 on the pit tracks at Washington PA.

Photo by Jerry Doyle.

Introduction to the Achievement Program

By Greg McCartney

One of the benefits of being a member of the NMRA is the ability to participate in the Achievement Program. The purpose of this program is to entice modelers to become involved with the many facets of the hobby and improve modeling skills in the process. The achievement program consists of a structured set of benchmarks that once completed, grants the modeler the title of Master Model Railroader. At first glance, many may consider it a contest in which you compete against other modelers. In truth, the only person you compete against is yourself.

To earn the degree of Master Model Railroader, one must earn certificates in seven of eleven



NMRA Master Model Railroader Logo

categories spanning four areas of our hobby. Areas are broken down as follows: Model Railroad Equipment, Settings, Engineering and Operation, and Service to the Hobby. At least one certificate must come from each of the four areas.

To complete the requirements of a given category, members

must complete a Statement of Qualification form. These forms can be found on the NMRA web site or from the division AP chair person. Some categories require an NMRA Judge's signature. This can be either a NMRA appointed judge or a member who has earned a certificate in that category.

If you are interested in the Achievement Program and have questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Our Division AP Chairman is Ed Keats, MMR. Ed is Division 9's only Master Model Railroader, something we hope to change soon.

We are looking for articles for the next newsletter. Please submit to Greg McCartney at editor@coaldivision.org

Join Our Monthly Contests

By Greg McCartney

Part of our monthly meeting involves a contest of sorts where members bring items for judging by the general membership. During our August meeting, we approved a list of topics our contests will cover so members know in advance what to bring. Topics range from motive power and rolling stock to structures and photography. At this time, our contests are purely for fun. No awards are given for winning, other than a pat on the back and a "Good job!"

Our New Contest Rotation

January, Caboose
February, Diesel Locomotives
March, Freight Cars
April, Passenger Cars
May, Steam Locomotives
June, Online Structures
July, Offline Structures
August, Traction
September, Photographs
October, Open Loads
November, Non-revenue
December, Modeler's Choice

Our Previous Winners to Date

Mark Rooney, November 2005
Contest: Caboose

Mark Maynard, January 2006
Contest: MOW Equipment

Mark Maynard, February 2006
Contest: Diesel Switchers

Jerry Doyle, April 2006
Contest: Wreck Photo

Bob Weinheimer, May 2006
Contest: Timed Switching Puzzle

Dan Gross, September 2006
Contest: Photography

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We are looking for articles for our newsletter. If you have a model railroad or modeling project you would like featured in our newsletter, please contact Greg McCartney at editor@coaldivision.org.

Please help keep our newsletter costs down and elect to receive your newsletter electronically. Benefits include all pictures in color. Please see our web site at www.coaldivision.org for details.

Register Your Pike Today!

By Bob Weinheimer

As Division 9 moves toward the publication of a newsletter, the issue of finances arises. For example, it looks like it could take about \$0.70 to print and mail a copy of this newsletter. We would hope that most members would be willing to receive their copy via email but we recognize that that is not practical for some.

While the annual dues bring membership at the National,

Regional, and Divisional levels, none of those dues trickle down to the Division. One way to help fund the newsletter is taken from Division 2's Keystone Flyer. Prior to the rebirth of Division 9, many of us were members of Division 2 centered in Pittsburgh. The Flyer has for some time offered Pike Ads for \$10 per year. A recent issue contained 17 such ads for local layouts. These ads are about a half page wide and

an inch or so tall. Think of them as a small ad for your layout.

To get things started, take a look at this issue for a couple examples of Pike Ads. A few members have taken the plunge and bought space in the hope that others will be inspired to do the same. If you would like to advertise your layout, see the editor for details.

**PENNSYLVANIA
SOUTHERN**

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