



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Mid Central Region NMRA
January 2012



DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Bob Weinheimer MMR
304 343 1428
super@coaldivision.org

Asst Superintendent
Gary Burdette MMR
304 675 3909
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle
304 763 7169
clerk@coaldivision.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Ed Keith MMR
740 867 5264
Bob Weinheimer MMR
304 343 1428
super@coaldivision.org

Clinic
Dan Mulhearn
304 466 9188
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest
Dan Mulhearn
contest@coaldivision.org

Education
Gary Burdette MMR
304 675 3909
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Election
Bill Wadsworth
304 768 3266
nominating@coaldivision.org

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle
Paul Lapointe
raffle@coaldivision.org

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Dan Mulhearn
304 466 9188
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR
super@coaldivision.org

HEAD OF THE HOLLER Bob Weinheimer MMR

Let me start by wishing all a Happy New Year. I was about to write something about making resolutions but I realized I wrote at length about that last January, I'll spare you this time around. Nevertheless, do consider setting some goals for your modeling this year, maybe even commit to giving a clinic. Now let us turn to other things.

Last month I hastily wrote a tribute to Lin Young that mentioned some of our division's history. Alas, as soon as it went out I realized it did not do justice to Lin's predecessor, Jim Heilmann. In the article it sounded like Jim started quarterly meetings and that when Lin took office we dumped them in favor of monthly meetings. In reality, Jim led a couple of meetings in the first half of 2003 after which his health kept him sidelined for many months. This activity took place under the tenure of one region president. A new region president took office in mid 2003 and eventually named Lin the Superintendent in early 2004. It was at that time, under Lin's leadership, that quarterly meetings began, they switched to monthly meetings in mid 2006. I humbly apologize to Jim for my lack of clarity.

On a more positive note, I trust you read Dave Johnson's article about the NMRA Data Sheets in the January *NMRA Magazine*. As Dave noted, the Data Sheets are available to members only and are one of the great benefits of NMRA membership. Unfortunately, many have become outdated and the entire program is in need of revitalization. Dave is looking for potential authors and reviewers for new Data Sheets as well as to review and upgrade existing Data Sheets. These cover an incredibly broad range of prototype and modeling subjects; surely some of our members are sufficiently knowledgeable of one or more subjects and can play a role in this process. Indeed, I would be very pleased if even one of our members could take on a role in this effort.

At the last membership meeting we saw many hands go up when I asked who planned to go to the MCR convention in Pittsburgh in April. If you have not done so already, register and reserve a hotel room. The *MCR Kingpin* should be out shortly with full convention details, also check www.highlinetopittsburgh.org.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Sooner or later a project must come to fruition so, the planners must “put up or shut up,” “fish or cut bait,” or “get it in gear!” In other words, the time, eventually, comes when a plan must be put into action. Such is the case with our educational program we have been discussing for about a year.

I noted this during our last meeting as I displayed my “pretend” computer and sample program. Several of you laughed (you know who you are) as I scrolled (slid) the program down from page-to-page (paper sheet-to-paper sheet) on my computer (cardboard box) showing you the vision I had for a possible caboose How-To construction article. Also, I had some shots of FD Cabin on the Logan Subdivision of the C&O showing the operator handing up orders on the fly, taken by a COHS friend of mine. These went with some examples and write up of train orders (flimsies) from the C&O and Hocking Valley I had shown earlier. Remember, also, the Steel Mills sample and the Company Store idea. The main thrust of our notions centered around our presenting prototype and model themes via displays/talks at train shows, libraries, school and social groups, and the internet. Clinics, lesson plans, and interviews were all considered. I had hoped an on-line museum could be our initial endeavor with a basic beginning including the things mentioned above, with new topics added as we develop them. Hopefully, our superintendent and I can begin this process soon.

Recently we received some information from the Michiana Division which has been newly formed over in farm country of the Michigan – Indiana border. These guys are about as sparse as we are but were separated into different divisions. Thus, they were allowed to regroup and centralize their numbers into the new division. One positive result has been helping in the development of the School of Model Railroading (SMRR), an educational program which looks to become an NMRA-wide program. This plan will exist along with and compliment the

Achievement Program. The former will be informal while the latter is, as we know, a formal list of requirements and qualifications with the achievement of completing these items for a certificate as the focus. The school will promote the learning while the AP accentuates translating what we have learned into recognizable skills which may be judged. The school will be open to all members of the NMRA. Here, they note, is a good way to get new members through the Rail Pass, six-month membership. Credit is awarded through simple participation (informal). (Check out the group on the NMRA web site.)

I will bring the document I have to the next meeting. Briefly, they note that the AP is limited in scope and the “school” offers a wider range of studies. They suggest clinics, hands-on workshops, prototype tours, and layout ops as four key elements of the plan. They have designated five levels of achievement available: Brakeman, Engineer, Conductor, Yardmaster, and Trainmaster. (They call the AP the “graduate school.”) Numerous clinics on both prototype (41) and model (43) are listed. We have many on our list and Merlyn’s MCR master list. While offering the traditional clinics at division meets, conventions, and train shows are mentioned, they are looking at internet presentations. (This aligns well with our on-line museum, interviews, how-to ideas, etc.) There are some great ideas here, and we will continue to follow their progress.

In the meantime, I think our initial observations and discussions are similar but different. If we set things up as we have discussed, we can add new topics and procedures (such as the School of Model Railroading) as we go along. Perhaps, some of the things we do may be picked up by others and adapted to their plan. My main concern is having something available to everyone, not just NMRA members, as our primary thrust. If we can throw out the bait and hook them, then we can reel them in.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the Coal Division Regulations, the election of officers will take place this winter. The offices up for election are Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Note that the Clerk is an appointed position. The Nominating Committee will accept nominations from the floor at the January membership meeting, the nominations will close after that step. Later in January

ballots will be mailed to all members of record as of December 31, 2011 (the last membership list we will have prior to the election). Please return your ballots to the address on the ballot by the date indicated. Results of the election will be announced at the March, 2012 meeting. Per the regulations, the election winners will take office at the May, 2012 meeting.

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

I did not get an opportunity to do this column for last month's UTH due to time constraints. During the weekend of our Pocahontas Chapter NRHS Bluefield train show I found a message from Dennis McGeeney on my phone informing me of Lin Young's passing. To say I was shocked was putting it very mildly. Truth be told, I could just not believe the news. It certainly took a lot of the joy out of the Bluefield show for me. Because of my work schedule I was not able to attend Lin's funeral. I did go on line and read the obituary posted by the funeral home. Lin certainly lived life well, with generosity, humor and ability. Model railroading is certainly not the most important thing in our lives in today's world. Lin, as all of us, found it an enjoyable hobby and was an important part of all of our hobby activities. That is not to say we did

not know or admire him in his life outside the hobby.

If you will indulge me; I would like to report on a sort of private farewell I held for Lin. One night recently I went on line and listened to Lin dispatching an op session of the G&G. The session was from the spring of 2007 and I listened to Lin's humor and his occasional putting of roadblocks in his operators paths to make the session more fun. At the end of the recording I shut the computer off with a big smile on my face. Rest well, Lin

NOTE: These recordings can be found at www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com/listen. Check the recordings from both the Grafton and Greenbrier and the Pennsylvania Southern.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be January 14 at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley, WV. As usual, some of us will gather around noon for lunch. The social hour starts around 1 with the business meeting at 2. The clinic will be presented by Gary Burdette and is titled "Prototype Modeling", . There will be a model contest with the theme being caboose (cabeese?) models. Please

bring submissions and get in the spirit of the modeling contest. There will also be a raffle, look for more goodies from Paul.

If you have any models to be judged for the Achievement Program, please bring them and they will be judged during the social hour.

TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

Dennis McGeeney is working out the logistics of a Division trip to ride the **POTOMAC EAGLE** tourist train. The group picked a date at the last meeting but we quickly discovered that it conflicted with some other activities. Dennis has wisely chosen to move the trip to Saturday June 23. The cost will be \$42 and the event is

open to members and their guests. Dennis will be providing further details as the plans progress. This should be a wonderful outing and Dennis will have further information at our January meeting. In the meantime, put June 23 on your calendar!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

We have received notice that John Harris has been named an Association Volunteer, congratulations to John. John earned this certificate by serving as our Membership Manager, arranging the layout tours at the Coalfield Express, and by repeating clinics he has presented to the Coal Division at MCR and MER conventions.

There are a couple of other certificates in the works but I do not have any update from Frank Koch at this

time. As always, work on that modeling and bring it, if it can travel, to the meetings for judging. Also, we will come to you for scenery and other things that may not be portable. Finally, don't let the paperwork stand in the way. We will gladly help you with that!

Now, get busy and earn some certificates. One of my favorite things to do is to hand out those certificates so give me something to do.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9, The Coal Division
Teays Valley, West Virginia
December 10, 2011**

The December 10, 2011 meeting of Division 9 was called to order at 2:02 PM by Division Superintendent Bob Weinheimer. The meeting location was West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts at Teays Valley. The meeting was begun with a welcome to all and attendees introducing themselves.

Division Clerk Report: The minutes of the November meeting of the Division, as published in this newsletter, were accepted on a motion by Charlie Venable, seconded and passed. There was no treasurer's report in the absence of Jerry Doyle. Bob Weinheimer did mention that we have had very little Division expenses in the past month.

Superintendent's Report: Bob discussed the passing of Lin Young and thanked all those who were able to travel to Gallipolis for the viewing or funeral. It was mentioned that the National dues are going up in 2012 and it would behoove those who expire next year to save a few bucks by renewing before the end of the current year. Bob also filled us in on the fact that NMRA Board meetings are held at NMRA expense and while some meeting locations may seem exotic; they are chosen because good group rates are obtainable. The North Carolina narrow gauge convention was discussed and those attending had nothing but good things to say about it. Finally, Bob reminded all members that the MCR convention was coming up in April. Several members expressed interest in attending.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: Gary discussed his philosophy that he never met a train he didn't like. He urged all members to expand their interests through research, doing and sharing. Gary made the announcement that, thanks to the generosity of Beverly Young, the G&G will continue to have monthly op sessions for the foreseeable future. Beverly feels that Lin would have wanted it that way after all the work he and his "employees" put in to the railroad. Gary discussed the educational opportunities we have to learn from one another and to share knowledge on railroading, real and model, with the many tools available to us. Last but certainly not least; Gary introduced us to the latest step in technology. He presented a demonstration of a how to web article on A C&O caboose project in order to illustrate how we might utilize our web site for education. Gary's computer was the latest disposable cardboard model and we think the manufacturer was WESTVACO.

Boy Scout Program: Tony reported that we are waiting for the Boy Scouts to complete background checks and issue certification to our participating members.

Achievement Program: Bob W reported that Dennis McGeeney had his scenery judged and qualified for the Scenery Certificate. The paperwork has been submitted for John Harris' Volunteer Certificate.

Nominations Chair: Bill Wadsworth mentioned that nominations would be made from the floor at the January Division meeting for Division Officers. Persons interested in running for office should make this known to Bill or any other member of the Nominating Committee.

Travels With Dennis: Dennis reports he has begun making arrangements for a Division trip to the Potomac Eagle tourist train out of Romney WV. This trip will be on a Saturday in June at a cost of approximately \$42.00 per passenger. Further details will be provided as the trip firms up.

UP THE HOLLER Editor Report: Dan reports always looking for short how-to type articles or other input for the newsletter. Also, clinicians are needed for upcoming meetings. Lastly Dan is looking for members thoughts on contest categories, perhaps combining some categories and eliminating others.

Old Business: none

New Business: Motion by Larry Richards seconded by Tony Puccini and passed to reimburse Dennis McGeeney for the flowers sent for Lin Young's family. Motion by Dan Mulhearn seconded by Tony Puccini and passed to name Lin Young as Superintendent Emeritus of Division 9.

Contest, Modelers Choice: There was a tie for first place between Larry Richard's motorcycle dealership and Kenny Day's gas station. Second place went to Dan Kennedy's coke plant charging larry. Third place was Dan Mulhearn's photo of UTAH and UP locomotives in the yard at Provo, UT.

Clinic: Dave Stout presented a clinic titled *Quick, cheap and in a hurry:* which was also useful and amusing. Dave scrounges various items from car dealerships, packing materials, plastic pipe, old computer and disposal camera parts along with a plethora of other items. He then converts these items to loads for his cars, machinery, oil refinery pipe, and a number of other parts and pieces; limited only by his fertile imagination. I particularly liked the very inexpensive retaining wall made from a length of reversed plastic floor molding!

Submitted by Dan Mulhearn, Acting Clerk

NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into *NMRA Magazine*, the full package can be downloaded from www.gr2012.org. Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of *NMRA Magazine*.

Speaking of the convention, even though Grand Rails 2012 has over 200 clinic slots filled, they're still looking for more. If one of your members is interested in presenting, go to www.gr2012.org and click on the clinic application page. In addition, there's still some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show. If some of your members would like to participate, have them visit the convention's website and click on the "Contact us" link and tell the Convention Committee what you'd like to bring.

Cruise Convention news: Some of our members think the NMRA "invented" the idea of a cruise convention. The fact is, we're just catching up! Hobby and professional groups have been doing it for quite a while, so if your members are interested in seeing the great time others are having, check out these links:

Adobe Photoshop Cruise:

http://www.insightcruises.com/top_b/pf05_top.html

Harley Davidson Cruise:

<https://www.highseasrally.com/>

American Medical Association Cruise:

<http://www.continuingeducation.net/pastprograms.php>

Scrapbooking Cruise:

http://www.cruiseandcrop.com/SB_Cruise.htm

Genealogy Cruise:

<http://www.whollygenes.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?screen=CRUISE>

NMRA elections are coming up soon. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at www.nmra.org). It will appear as an insert in the center of the February issue of *NMRA Magazine*, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012.

Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot:

President:

Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM

Vice President - Administration:

Howard Goodwin

Clark Kooning, MMR

Dave Thornton

Vice President - Special Projects:

Bill Kaufman

James "Lump" Lupfer

At-Large North American Director

Mike Brestel

Miles Hale, MMR

Eastern District Director

John Roberts, MMR, HLM

Pacific District Director

Mike Bartlett

Kelly Loyd

Rob Peterson

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The goal of the newsletter team is to have this document reach you by email or snail mail at least one week prior to our meetings. We typically do the layout work the Wednesday 10 days before the meeting with distribution Thursday or Friday. For example, this issue was prepared November 2. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by the Monday 12 days prior to the meeting. If we don't get it on time we can't print it.

Please help us give you the most up to date information possible.

February	January 30
March	February 27
April	April 2
May	April 30
June	June 4

PIKE AD RENEWAL TIME

Do you see those pike ads on the next page? Yes, it's the time of year again for pike ad renewal. If you want to keep your ad, please submit \$10 to Clerk Jerry Doyle. If your ad needs any changes such as email or telephone

number, let Jerry know and he'll get the right person to make the change. I feel sure we can forget to bill the Grafton and Greenbrier and let Lin's railroad stay on the ad page as a reminder of all he did for the Coal Division.



Take the HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh for the 2012 Mid-Central Region Convention!

April 26-29, 2012

EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A GREAT CONVENTION AND MORE!

**Clinics - Tours - Contests - Non-Rail Activities - Layout Tours
Banquet - Raffle Door Prizes Galore - Railfanning - Great Location**

Our convention hotel, the Pittsburgh Radisson, is just minutes from downtown Pittsburgh, so you'll have the opportunity to see the city, visit Station Square Shops, ride our two historic inclines, railfan and enjoy the sights. Not only that, but right across the road from the hotel is Rook Yard, the former home of the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad, now a part of the W&LE Railroad. You can practically railfan from your hotel room!

Just some of the potential activities you'll find at the HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh Convention!

A Variety of Rail Tours
Steel Industry History
Hussey Copper
The Bridges of Pittsburgh
Port Authority Light Rail Shops and Ride

Great Clinics
Hands-on clinics
Western Pennsylvania Railroads
Steel and Other Prototype Industries
Operations: Real and Simulated
Modern Railroad Equipment and Practices
Narrow Gauge Railroads, Model and Prototype
Modeling Structures, Rolling Stock & Scenery

Non-Rail Tours
Pittsburgh Glass Factory Make & Take
Just Ducky Tour of Pittsburgh
In-House Clinics for Non-Rails.

Local Attractions
Carnegie Science Center
Station Square Shops

Railfanning
NS & CSX Mainline Action
W&LE Across From the Hotel
Variety of Local Shortlines



For more information as it becomes available, see our convention home page:
www.highlinetopittsburgh.org

MCR CONVENTION

To the left you see the ad for the upcoming MCR convention. This promises to be a great one, to start with the hotel is across the street from an active rail yard, how long has it been since that has happened?

Pittsburgh is a city with a wonderful steel industry and railroad heritage. The Pittsburgh area also has one of the largest concentrations of highway and railroad bridges you will find, check them out at pghbridges.com.

Pittsburgh is home to more than its share of outstanding museums featuring everything from submarines to dinosaurs. You will also find a wide variety of restaurants featuring cuisines from all over the world. Bring the family, there will be lots of activities for those who are less interested in trains than us.

Mark your calendar for April 26 through 29. You can get registration forms on line or in the soon to arrive *King-pin*. Fill them out, send them in, and have a good time in a fun city.



SHAMOKIN DIVISION
DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN
SUMMERSVILLE, WV
DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET
304-872-7262



CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.
Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com

Grafton and Greenbrier
Lin Young, President
Debbie Drive
Gallipolis, OH 45631
www.graftonandgreenbrier.com

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN
Bob Weinheimer, President
398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314
www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com

Alleghany & New River Road
An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America a few tons at a time



John Harris, Chief Engineer
AandNRR@aol.com



HINTON DIVISION
Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
304-466-9188
danninal@earthlink.net



Ed Keith, MMR
President
Chesapeake, OH



Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD
Tony Puccini, President
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705
puccinibaj@hotmail.com

WME
WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY
THOMAS SUBDIVISION
RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
398 MOUNT VIEW DR
CHARLESTON WV
25314-1041

If you received this news-
letter via the US Postal
Service and have an email
address, please let us
know so we can save
printing and postage
costs. Send a note to
editor@coaldivision.org
to get onto the email dis-
tribution list for Up The
Holler.

Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

January 14

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV**

February 11

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV**

March 10

Location to be Determined

April 14

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV**