



# UP THE HOLLER

## Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

### Mid Central Region NMRA

May 2012



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#### HEAD OF THE HOLLER

**Bob Weinheimer MMR**

We have just returned from the Mid Central Region convention in Pittsburgh. I say "we" as the Coal Division was very well represented. Members attending included, in addition to me, John Harris, Ed Keith, Dan Kennedy, Paul Lapointe, Bob Mersheimer, Patrick Miller, Woody Mitchell, Dan Mulhearn, Anthony Parrish, Dave Stout, and Bill Wadsworth. I think I got everybody, please accept my apology if I missed someone. Alas, events conspired to keep Gary Burdette and Jerry Doyle from attending at the last minute. Our members were among the nearly 300 attendees at this convention.

While our members did not dominate the model contest as in past years, there were still some big winners. Dan Kennedy's sintering mill won Best of Show in the judged contest. While Larry Richards could not attend, he nevertheless sent along another of his wonderful displays. His model won first place in its category in both the judged contest and popular vote. Congratulations to Dan and Larry!

While Gary and Jerry had to withdraw their planned clinics, Paul Lapointe, Dave Stout, and I went on with ours. Dave's clinic was a real hit, I heard folks talking about it the next day. I had wanted to attend but I had to be at the Board of Directors meeting at the same time. Paul presented two different clinics that were well received. My clinic was presented twice with a full room both times.

The Board of Directors meeting gave us the opportunity to hear what all is going on in the region. The highlight for us is that our level of Achievement Program activity was noted for all present. While there was no urgent business to be transacted, shifting member population as well as some political issues relating to regions that straddle the border between the United States and Canada may at some point in the future require the NMRA to implement some minor changes in region boundaries. These changes, when and if they are to be put into place, must be approved by the boards of the respective regions as well as the members affected. I don't expect these changes to affect the Coal Division.

This year's Directors Award went to Paul Novak. Paul has served for many years as the MCR Membership Manager. He is our interface with the National Office for all things membership related. He also generates the monthly reports that are distributed to Division officers. Congratulations to Paul!

The convention next year will be in Dayton. The organizers promise a very strong, but not exclusive, focus on operations. They plan to start Wednesday instead of the traditional Thursday in order to offer additional operating sessions. In addition to the normal rail related activities, it looks like Dayton has plenty of things to do away from the convention site; perhaps the best known is the National Museum of the US Air Force. I was going to tell you to mark your calendars but I found my notes fail to mention the convention date. Since it's a year away, there is plenty of time to get that date properly noted.

#### NEXT MEETING

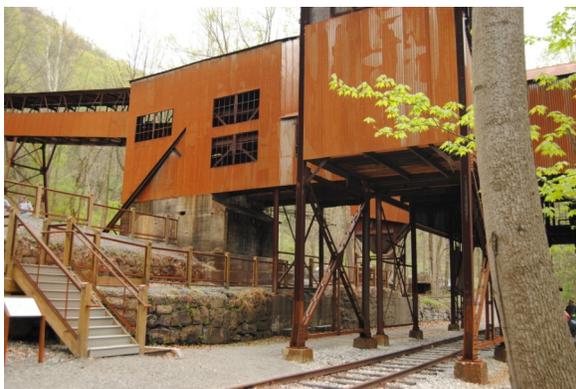
The May meeting of Division 9 will be held at the home of Dave Stout in Parkesburg, WV. The date is Saturday May 12, see Page 4 for details and directions.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Our March division meeting was notable for a couple of reasons. First, we met at the Saint Albans C&O depot, one of my favorite places on Earth. Second, a connection with other groups and ourselves (The Saint Albans C and O Modelers and Museum –SACOMM, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society –COHS) was subtly present during the proceedings. Matt Crouch told us a little about SACOMM and invited us to return whenever we wanted. The old station and the influence from other organizations (many of our group are members of the aforementioned clubs) served to enhance our own meeting, in my opinion. The melding of various approaches and different views of railroading into a special afternoon of activities is “just the ticket!”

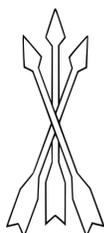
Prior to our meeting, Matt and I had discussed trying to work with various railroad groups to better coordinate and focus our efforts. For example, he is working on becoming a Boy Scouts of America merit badge counselor. Perhaps, we could offer a course or school for scouts (or anyone interested) at the depot, similar to what the Reading Railroad Museum does on a regular basis. Wow, what a powerful educational tool that would be, along with merging our two groups. He noted that the Dunbar Show (Collis P. Huntington Historical Society) was the same weekend as the SACOMM Modeler’s Weekend at Hawk’s Nest. This was a sort of conflict as a couple of our members missed Hawk’s Nest to man our Division 9 booth. I was able to fill in Sunday and do both, but the Friday and Saturday slots prevented this.



Since a number of our members are associated with numerous railroad organizations, it is important, I think, to address the need to communicate, work together, and coordinate activities whenever possible. It is, also, imperative to remind everyone that you are all welcome to participate in all the activities, and maybe you should to increase your hobby fun. One outing providing particular enjoyment was our SACOMM trip to Nuttall, down in the bowels of the New River Gorge. The National Park Service has refurbished the rusty tippie and cleaned around the old foundations of the company town and banks of coke ovens. You can get an idea of what life was like in a coal camp and get a little fodder on which your modeling juices may ruminate from such a visit.

A couple of weeks later, many were treated to slide shows from eight different presenters both local and out-of-state at a special gathering at the depot. From the B&O at Parkersburg, West Virginia to the New England roads, there was a wide variety of topics. Our own Jerry Doyle was a presenter, and many of our division members were in attendance. To say this experience was enjoyable as well as enlightening is an understatement.

Each of the subjects I have mentioned is an adventure, there for the taking. See you at “Steel is King,” at the May Division 9 meeting in Parkersburg for even more fun!



### THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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# WME

WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY

THOMAS SUBDIVISION

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**TRAVELS WITH DENNIS  
THE POTOMAC EAGLE EXCURSION  
Dennis McGeeney**

Time is growing short to get in on the June 23rd Potomac Eagle excursion. Payments are due no later than the May 12th Division meeting in order to give the operator a firm number of passengers to expect. Many phone calls have been made and the folks in Romney, both at the railroad and in the Chamber of Commerce, are working to make this a memorable day for us. Again, we will meet at Mario's Restaurant in Romney for refreshments and fellowship at 11 AM. The train leaves Romney at 1 PM and we should be back around 4 PM. There is a possibility they operators will run a photo runby for us.

There is still time to get aboard so please see me at the meeting in Parkersburg and get your reservation. If you cannot make the meeting you can mail me a check at 509B Water St Summersville, WV 26651. For further details see me at the meeting or call anytime at 304 872-7262. Prices are \$42.00 for adults, six to sixteen are \$20.00 and less than six ride free. Please see my articles and accompanying photos in the past two issues of **Up The Holler** for a lot more information about the area, available places to stay and the railroad itself. I really hope to see you there for a great outing.



Passengers enjoy the view of The Trough  
Photo courtesy Potomac Eagle



Passing a Farm south of Springfield, WV  
Photo courtesy Potomac Eagle

**DAVID ROBINETTE  
David and Nathan Robinette**

The year 2012 has not been kind to NMRA and Coal Division member David Robinette. In January David was taken to the hospital with a severe urinary tract infection complicated by an enlarged prostate. It was necessary to perform prostate surgery in February but no cancer was found. Unfortunately, it was discovered in March that there was cancer present in David's prostate which had metastasized into the bone. On April 4 treatment for the cancer was begun; then on April 5 David fell and broke his hip. This resulted in a right hip replacement and a 220 mm rod down the leg. David is currently undergoing physical therapy at the Pleasant Valley Nursing & Rehab

Center. He has been walking and exercising daily and is gaining strength.

David and Nathan both took their Hocking Valley RR book of rules class just prior to David's fall. While David is in the Center he is still talking and reading about trains. He has been handing out Hocking Valley RR brochures. David is also writing stories in a notebook remembering his early days in Pounding Mill, VA and the old N&W Clinch Valley Subdivision which ran through town. David's cancer treatments will resume May 2 and be ongoing.



**SHAMOKIN DIVISION**

DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN  
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**CRUSTY  
MOUNTAIN  
AND  
WILOBY  
SPRINGS R.R.**

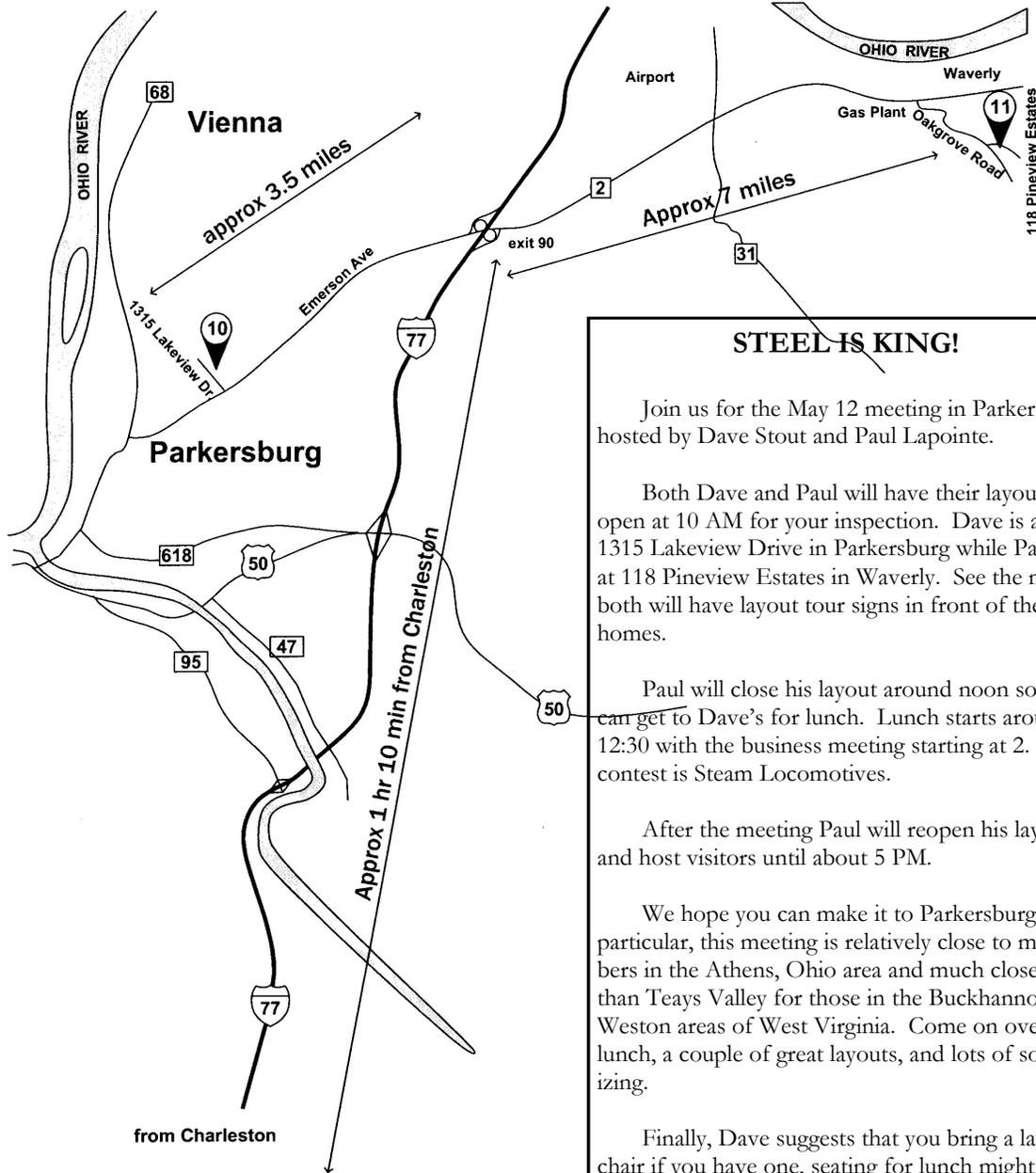
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# Parkersburg Area



## STEEL IS KING!

Join us for the May 12 meeting in Parkersburg hosted by Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe.

Both Dave and Paul will have their layouts open at 10 AM for your inspection. Dave is at 1315 Lakeview Drive in Parkersburg while Paul is at 118 Pineview Estates in Waverly. See the map, both will have layout tour signs in front of their homes.

Paul will close his layout around noon so he can get to Dave's for lunch. Lunch starts around 12:30 with the business meeting starting at 2. The contest is Steam Locomotives.

After the meeting Paul will reopen his layout and host visitors until about 5 PM.

We hope you can make it to Parkersburg. In particular, this meeting is relatively close to members in the Athens, Ohio area and much closer than Teays Valley for those in the Buckhannon and Weston areas of West Virginia. Come on over for lunch, a couple of great layouts, and lots of socializing.

Finally, Dave suggests that you bring a lawn chair if you have one, seating for lunch might be tight.

**BOONE DOCK, GOAT HEAD & CHUG WATER WESTERN RAILWAY & NAVIGATION CO.**  
Ed Keith, MMR  
Assistant Superintendent  
Chesapeake, OH

**CRESCENT VALLEY**  
Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
**The Coal Division**  
**Teays Valley, West Virginia**  
**April 14, 2012**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00PM by superintendent Bob Weinheimer. Bob welcomed the attendees and greeted a visitor to the meeting.

**DIVISION CLERK REPORT:** In the absence of the Division Clerk there was no treasurer's report. On a motion by John Harris, seconded and passed the minutes of the February and March 2012 business meetings as published in **Up The Holler** were approved.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Bob updated the members on the illnesses of Gary Burdette and David Robinette and provided a recap of our activities at the recent Dunbar Train Show. Bob discussed the upcoming June combined meeting to be held at Marion, OH. He expressed the hope that as many members as possible would make the trip. Marion Union Station with its busy mainlines will be the venue and the host Division is providing lunch. Mention was also made of the upcoming MCR Convention at Pittsburgh and Bob was gratified to see a number of members are planning to attend. A discussion regarding the purchase of a computer projector was initiated by Bob.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Due to Gary's illness he was unable to attend.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:** Bob Weinheimer reported on the considerable recent AP activity. David Robinette's structures and electrical certificates have been approved. Dan Kennedy has submitted his scenery certificate, completed the work for his structures certificate and is getting close to finished on his car certificate work. Charlie Venable had the scenery on his HO modules judged at a merit level at the Dunbar Train Show and will be submitting the paperwork for his scenery certificate. Bob pointed out that his modules have almost everything needed for an electrical certificate. Dan Mulhearn's author and Clint Foster's scenery certificates have been approved at the National level.

**NEWSLETTER CHAIR:** Always looking for input and feedback.

**CLINIC CHAIR:** Dan M pointed out that clinicians are needed for the Division meetings. Paul LaPointe offered to provide a clinic for our August meeting.

**NOMINATIONS CHAIR:** Bill Wadsworth had nothing to report and thanked everyone for their participation in the recent Division election.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** John Harris gave a brief report on the Dunbar show and thanked the members who assisted in staffing our Division table. John then discussed how to better inform the public about what it is we as the NMRA do. He brought up the idea of a professional grade display backdrop for our use at shows. In line with that John is requesting photos from members of equipment, scenery and layouts.

**MINI-CLINIC:** Tony Puccini was going to display to the members some of the fleas he had used to create N gauge mountain goats; as discussed in his article in the April **UTH**. However, someone had removed the lid from the medicine bottle which he was using as a flea carrying case. Tony asked that if anyone found any of his fleas they please return them.

**TRAVELS WITH DENNIS:** In the absence of Dennis McGeeney, Bob W discussed the upcoming Potomac Eagle excursion. Members were reminded that the last day to sign up and pay would be May 12.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:** None brought up

**CONTEST:** Larry Richard's 1922 Mack railbus built from a styrene kit won

**CLINIC:** Dan Mulhearn presented a photo show on the former Denver & Rio Grande Western RR.

**RAFFLE:** Paul LaPointe conducted another successful raffle just prior to the clinic.

Respectfully submitted; Dan Mulhearn, Acting Division Clerk

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## MY WORD

### Dan Mulhearn, Editor

As this is written I am eagerly anticipating leaving for the MCR Convention in Pittsburgh. I am signed up for an op session Thursday to start things off right. My wife and I just had to write a big check to Uncle Sam and then the next day found our heat pump was kaput. A little decompression and hobby time in Pittsburgh are going to be just the ticket! I have been enjoying the flurry of photos on the internet showing the Norfolk Southern Heritage Units celebrating their thirtieth anniversary. The units which have been released so far are CONRAIL, N&W, SOUTHERN, NKP, CENTRAL OF GEORGIA, INTERSTATE and PENNSYLVANIA .

There will be a total of nineteen different units when the program is finished. All of the heritage painted units are brand new GE or EMD locomotives. I can't wait to see the ERIE unit in two tone green passenger colors! Meanwhile, my vote for the best looking so far is a split between the Cof G and INTERSTATE units. It was dis-

appointing that the N&W unit came out in blue rather than reviving the "redbird" scheme. Operation Lifesaver presenter Quincy Adams had the CONRAIL unit on a coal train into Bluefield ten days after it was released from Altoona. Meanwhile, the N&W unit has been seen several times running in to Bluefield. The SOUTHERN unit was in and out of Bluefield several times over the past week or so as it was assigned to a Pocahontas Subdivision helper job.

A word of caution: a friend who works at the service building in Bluefield was moving a locomotive at 3:00 AM and nearly hit a trespasser. This knucklehead had sneaked on to the property and was looking over the SOUTHERN unit. That kind of thing ruins things for all of us. There are plenty of places to observe and get pictures legally, and more importantly, safely. I will be reporting on the MCR Convention in the next issue. Should be another great NMRA event.



Pictures shot in May of 1972 along the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie when Pittsburgh was still the "Steel City". Shown are Union RR and Monongahela Connecting RR ALCOs near the Jones & Laughlin steel mill. The mill is now long gone. Also we see a P&LE Burro crane in the same area. Photos by D J Mulhearn

Below are a few photos of the Norfolk Southern Heritage Units which have been released to this point. Those with the NS logo on them are courtesy of NS and are available on their web site. The other photos are courtesy of railphotos.net



## NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

Fundraising has begun for the "**Magic of Scale Model Railroading**" gallery at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA. As your members will probably recall, this gallery will introduce the Museum's 600,000 annual visitors to the hobby, as well as give them a sense of its history. One of the highlights of the gallery will be actual portions of the finest model railroads ever built. The Museum has donated the space rent-free to the NMRA for the purpose of promoting the hobby. It's estimated that the cost to build the exhibit will be approximately \$750,000, and no NMRA dues or monies will be used; instead, it will be entirely funded by donations. To date, over \$100,000 has been raised, and an anonymous donor has agreed to match donations, up to \$250,000. Any NMRA member (or non-member, for that matter) who would like to donate to the funding of the gallery should send his or her tax-deductible donation to NMRA Headquarters at 4121 Cromwell Road., Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119, and mark it "Gallery donation."

In the February edition of the *InfoNet News* we reported the **agreement of cooperation between the NMRA and the Hasea.com Model Railroad Association of China**. This July we'll be seeing the first fruits of that "Hands Across The Ocean" agreement as a group of teenage Chinese modelers and railfans visits California with the purpose of seeing layouts, prototype trains, and the California State Railway Museum. Several Pacific

Coast Region members are helping to organize this 2-week event.

Grand Rails 2012, the upcoming NMRA national convention, has announced their **commemorative convention car**. Grand Rapids, Michigan, was once known as The Furniture Capital of the World, and appropriately the model was inspired by a postcard photograph of a turn-of-the-last-century furniture manufacturer's wood-sided boxcar. This replica, produced by Accurail, comes complete with a Grand Rails 2012 logo "poster" which can be applied by the modeler. Visit [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) to see a shot of the prototype.

The folks at Grand Rails 2012 have posted a **preliminary clinic schedule** for the convention in PDF format, downloadable at their website. Among the clinicians are NMRA Worldwide Director Tony Koester, Jim Six, Jim Sacco, and a group of clinics by the Layout Design Sig.

**Grand Rails 2012 is looking for volunteers** who'd be willing to donate an hour or two of their time at the convention doing things like contest room security, helping with registration check-in, silent auction set-up and tear-down, and bus loading. If you're interested and have an hour or two you'd like to donate, contact Mark Baldwin, Vice Chair of Volunteers. Just use the "Contact Us" link on the Grand Rails 2012 website at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org).

## INTERESTING OBSERVATION

Dave Stout

We were up at Paul Lapointe's Tuesday April 17. We did not operate the railroad as we had a work session to get ready for the Coal Division May 12 meeting. I worked a little, but since I had worked 10 hours that day I sat down and started to look through Paul's Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman magazines. Then it hit me! Do you know what the most modeled state in the United States is? I started going thru magazine after magazine after magazine!!! It's good old WEST VIRGINIA, hands down and the Coal Division is in the middle of it all! So

be proud we have one of the finest Divisions in the NMRA.

Paul and I look forward to seeing you at Steel is King day. We would also welcome any members we have not met, we hope this meeting may be closer to home and that you will be able to join us, it would be so nice to meet you. We really are a friendly bunch so come on over to Parkersburg and we will have a rail good time. Directions and times are on page 4.

### 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

### NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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**HINTON DIVISION**  
Gary Burdette - Superintendent  
Point Pleasant WV



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## Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this newsletter 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](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org) to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

**May 12**  
**Parkersburg, WV**

**June 16**  
**Marion, OH**

**June 23**  
**Potomac Eagle Trip**

**July 14**  
**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts**  
**Teays Valley, WV**