



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

September 2013



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

It's September and that means it is time to head to the western end of the Coal Division for our annual outing at Mark Maynard's home in West Portsmouth, OH. Check the details on page 3. Our August meeting brought a pleasant surprise. We had three visitors including two gentlemen who found our meeting announcement in the Charleston newspaper. Unfortunately, it still had West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts as our meeting site. I did not know this announcement was running, it seems it was the work of the late Shelby Young, the Membership Chair at the time of his passing. Shelby was a reporter for the newspaper and knew how to get things published. Current Membership Chair John Harris has made the necessary changes so any future readers should be able to find us more easily. I was also pleased at how well our members greeted these fellows, I hope we can be welcoming to all visitors. The third visitor was Bob Osburn's cousin Richard Osburn who has since joined the NMRA. Welcome!

Assistant Superintendent Gary Burdette's column on the next page raises some interesting points. A key issue is to remember that several Coal Division members including Gary and Clerk Jerry Doyle are also members of SACOMM, the keepers of the depot. It is essential that we keep this in mind and that those who belong to both groups do not confuse the roles of the respective groups.

As guests of SACOMM, we certainly have an obligation to clean up after ourselves at the end of meetings and to provide some resources toward the operating costs of the depot incurred for our use. We have no written agreement with SACOMM to use the depot but the idea of "adopting a wall" was mentioned without further clarification of what those three words mean. I certainly think we need to be cautious about how we use our financial resources toward depot maintenance. I suspect that our total treasury is but a drop in the ocean compared to what could be spent on various depot maintenance projects. Our human resources are a different issue, any interested Coal Division members are encouraged to contribute their efforts to various depot projects. For example, Gary notes that several members participated in a few projects recently. I was on the fence painting crew; the west end of the fence really looks nice after a little attention from paint brushes. Bob Osburn has used his carpentry skills in other areas. It is certain that this issue is worthy of further discussion, how about at the October meeting at the depot?

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The September meeting will be Saturday September 14 at Mark Maynard's home in West Portsmouth, OH. Full details can be found elsewhere in this issue but the word is that Mark and his crew have been working hard to implement DCC control of the staging yard switch machines. While this is mostly under the table stuff, the impact on operations can be interesting.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

I hope I have not discouraged anyone from attending Division 9 meetings due to my exuberance in suggesting participation in possible activities and projects at the depot.

When we first decided to meet at the St. Albans depot, I was excited for I saw this as an opportunity to have a nice “railroad” venue with plenty of room to congregate and many things to see and do. I knew it would be a place we could use as a base for our educational outreach, which was part of the tax exempt status we had discussed pursuing.

As we began to meet, it was mentioned we may wish to give a little money to the St. Albans C&O Modelers and Museum to help defray some of the cost of utilities. One suggestion was to “adopt a wall” and help paint and “spruce up” the structure. Another idea was to share some of the cost of replacing the three windows in the west end.

Other suggestions included developing displays, preparing presentations, and developing some educational activities to include the public in our train-related endeavors. Along with this would be devoting some time to help keep the doors open. (All of the education-related ideas may be reviewed in past issues of “Up the Holler.”)

Tony Puccini has prepared a report on our most recent education committee meeting, as well as a list of some projects we have determined to undertake, in another section of this issue. Matt Crouch, Bob Osburn, Bob Weinheimer, Scott Cyrus, Bill Bartley (from the C.P. Hun-

tington Society), and I met recently to work on a couple of these projects. Thanks to these gentlemen for their efforts.

We moved the baggage carts away from the damaged section of the depot, swept, painted about half the fence, sorted lumber, and took measurements to build bookshelves for the library in the office area and “skin” the freight deck at the end of the building. We accomplished a few tasks, enjoyed pizza and soft drinks, and had a good time. So, our group is doing some of the things we have discussed.

My concern is that I have fostered the idea that everyone is expected to paint or build something in order to be a part of Division 9. That is not the case. Your presence at the monthly meeting is our main objective. I have tried to promote that thought since my very first “From the Office Down the Hall” column. Our friendships are most important.

Maybe, our best meeting was the picnic in July where we ate, socialized, and watched trains. With that in mind, don’t forget our next “feed” and get-together at Mark Maynard’s in Portsmouth, Ohio this month. It is always great fun and an opportunity to show off your photography skills and participate in the flea market. Hopefully, our friends from Division 6 will make it down this year and add to the enjoyment.

Simply, come have fun and enjoy another branch of “The Coal Division.”

Are you a Coal Division member who received this newsletter by email but did not receive the NMRA eBulletin September 2? If so that likely means the NMRA Headquarters has a different email from the one you supplied us for Up The Holler. The blurb below is copied from that eBulletin, follow its instructions to update your email with the NMRA Headquarters.

Email address changes



Each time the eBulletin is mailed out, Page Martin, our Marketing Director, receives requests from dozens of members asking for an email address change. Page can’t do much about that - that job is done by our fine staff at Headquarters. **If you have a change of email address, please visit** <http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> and update your information. It will go straight to our HQ staff, who’ll make sure it gets updated before the next **NMRA eBulletin** gets sent.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting is once again a joint meeting with Division 6. As he has for the past several Septembers, Mark Maynard has graciously agreed to host us and to provide lunch and beverages.

Mark's layout will be on display, he tells us that he and his crew have been installing DCC controls on the turnouts in his staging yard. This will allow, for instance, the operator to select a track with a throttle. The changes may not be visible but they will sure be appreciated by operators.

A big part of the day is the flea market sale. Bring any of those things you thought you couldn't live without but now realize you don't need. Make sure your name is on it or the packaging, set a price, perhaps do some haggling, and be rid of it. We hope to have somebody to handle the money and bookkeeping but if you make a sale privately, please don't forget to pay the 10% fee due from the seller.

Since the meeting is a joint meeting, the business of both divisions will be discussed. The plan is to go through our typical agenda alternating between divisions; that seemed to work well last year. This should give Coal Division members an idea of how Division 6 does things

and it might even give us some ideas that we may wish to consider implementing. As this is a joint meeting, there will actually be two contests. Our normal photo contest (prototype or model) will be held while Division 6's normal contest will also be held. As I have entered models in the contests of other divisions, I can't imagine any Coal Division member bringing a stock car would be turned away.

The fun all starts around 11am, lunch will be available around noon or shortly thereafter. The business meeting will start at 2. While Portsmouth is a long distance for most of us to travel, car pooling can reduce costs and provide lots of good discussions en route. Now, all we need is a nice day.

Now, for some directions: If you are coming from anywhere but the west, find your way to Portsmouth, OH and leave town headed west on US 52. Look for Brouses Run Road about one half mile after the road narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Turn right onto Brouses Run Road, pass the first house on the right (Mark's) then turn right into the barn lot in about another 150 feet. The model railroad in upstairs in the barn, the meeting will be out behind the barn under the canopies.

RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

Last month I was in Kent Ohio for a Steel Mill Modelers Seminar giving a clinic during the time of our meeting and later at the end of August I was in Pittsburgh for another competing Steel Mill Modelers Meet! It's a good time to model steel mills!

This month, the raffle is off again because we are at Mark Maynard's house in Portsmouth. The next raffle will be at October 12th's meeting. Meanwhile, keep bring in your items!

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 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. Here are the deadlines for the next few issues.

October	September 30
November	October 28
December	December 2
January	December 30
February	January 27
March	February 24
April	March 31
May	April 28

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
The Coal Division
St Albans, WV C&O Depot
August 10, 2012**

Welcome & Introduction; Supt. Bob Weinheimer called the meeting to order at 2:02PM at the C&O Depot, St. Albans, WV. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report:

Minutes; On a motion by John Harris, seconded and approved the minutes of the business meeting of July 13, 2013 were accepted as printed in *UTH*.

Treasurer; in the absence of the Division Clerk no report was submitted

Superintendent Report:

Bob gave a recap of his experience at the recent NMRA National Convention at Atlanta. Everyone was urged to get on board with the 2014 Cleveland convention and encouraged to submit a model to the contest. Bob spoke about Dwight Sherman's upcoming model RR sale and encouraged participation. It was noted that the MCR Board of Directors will be meeting in Columbus, OH on Sunday, Oct. 6 and all members are welcome to attend. All those who stayed after last month's meeting to help clean up were thanked by Bob and Tony P.

Asst. Superintendent Report:

Gary reported that David Robinette is still struggling with his illness; but holding steady. An idea on "make and take" clinics for children presented at Atlanta was encouraged by Gary. Ideas for the depot were brought up including: adopt a wall, time and money considerations, priorities, storage room and bookshelves. Gary also discussed possible Christmas decorations and events as well as the possibility of an art show or play at the depot to get the community aware of what we are about.

Membership Chair:

John Harris reports we currently have 58 members. John is working on a smaller version of our Division banner for display at the depot and other venues.

Achievement Program:

Larry Richards earned 106 points for his scratch built bridge model.

Newsletter/Clinic Chair;

Dan reports input always welcome for the newsletter. Bob W. reported that due to printing problems with the few members who get a hard copy in the mail; he was reverting to printing it in black and white. He noted that those wishing to see the photos or other color features could access our website at a public library.

Dan noted that clinics are needed. We currently have clinics scheduled for October, November and December

Travels with Dennis:

Next June's big outing will be on the Western Maryland Scenic RR at Cumberland, MD. Dennis has already begun making arrangements.

Old/New Business: none

Announcements:

Bob W. showed a photo he took of the Amtrak Cardinal leaving Charleston e/b with vintage cars from the California Zephyr bringing up the rear.

Next Meetings:

September 14; Mark Maynard's Portsmouth OH
October 12; St. Albans C&O depot
November 9; Bluefield WV train show
December 14; St. Albans C&O depot

Adjourn business meeting:

On a motion by Dennis McGeeney, seconded and passed; meeting adjourned at 2:49PM

Contest: Dioramas

Larry Richardson took first and second place for his outstanding entries.

Clinic;

Dan M. gave a brief talk on his recent visit to the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Ohio.

Respectfully submitted;
Dan Mulhearn, acting clerk

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2013
TONY PUCCINI

The following were present at our August meeting:
 Gary Burdette our committee chairman

Tony Puccini
 Matt Crouch
 Robert Osburn
 Dennis McGeeney
 Ed Keith

Gary Burdette has been designated by all organizations that use St Albans as the person to make decisions regarding the upkeep of the terminal.

The portable N scale layout project has been put on hold pending completion of the repair to the automobile damaged part of the terminal.

People having valuable pieces of equipment at the terminal are encouraged to remove same until the above mentioned repairs are complete as we have no way to control access to the building at this time.

The O scale layout at the terminal will be dismantled and permanently removed. (In progress)

The lease is ready to be signed. No money will be expended nor major work started until we have a copy of the signed lease.

Gary Burdette is formulating a 'Mission Statement' for each room which will let everyone know what each room is to be used for. Rooms may have multiple uses.

The following is a Plan of Action and Milestones to effect repairs et al to the St Albans Passenger Station. This list will be added to, changed and prioritized as we go along. An updated copy is due to all other organizations who use the terminal in October 2013.

ST ALBANS PASSENGER STATION POA&M
 (PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES)

This list may be added to and reprioritized as work develops

- 1---Receive a copy of the signed lease. Without this no money will be spent nor major work started.
- 2---Complete repairs caused by the automobile accident on the east side of the station.
- 3---Remove jury-rigged electrical wires in west side baggage storage area.
- 4---Receive all work bids currently held by the C&O society. Review and Prioritize.
- 5---Have a repair person or company go over all of the station and submit all work projects needed (such as dry rot, window replacement etc.) for all areas not yet covered. Review and prioritize. This entity must be licensed and will present a written report. We will pay for this.
- 6—Remove scaffolding..
- 7---Put all large items such as 'Gilford sign', brake wheel, etc. in freight storage room to give us room to concentrate on the interior of the station.
- 8—Donate wooden chairs and other things such as the stove et al to habitat for Humanity.
- 9—Set up displays with the material on hand, even as repairs are ongoing, to have some quality things to show visitors.
- 10—clean and sort all rooms (especially the existing kitchen, both bathrooms, storerooms) so it doesn't look like a rat's nest and all tools and supplies have a place where they belong. We the users "must" put things away after we use them.
- 11—Paint fence on north side of the station silver.
- 12—Paint all the exterior of the station.
- 13—Build library shelves.
- 14—Transform existing kitchen into a 1950's style Hobby Shop. Gary has the equipment needed

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

As I mentioned briefly at our last meeting; through the good offices of my neighbor, the Rev. Mike Frank I was able to get a private tour of the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Sugar Creek, OH. The owner of this impressive collection of locomotives and shops, Jerry Joe Jacobson, is a childhood friend of my neighbor and knowing my love for trains he got us together. Nina and I and Mike's wife Ellen took a ride to the beautiful Amish countryside and Mr. Jacobson met us at our hotel that evening and next morning for breakfast. Then we headed for the roundhouse and shops and I was totally unprepared for what a magnificent facility it is! My photo below is the greater part of the roundhouse with the main shop building behind and attached to the two furthest left stall doors.

I guess I would not make it as an investigative reporter because several of the questions you asked me about the facility and its future plans, I could not answer. Mr. Jacobson, in addition to his locomotive collection, wanted to talk about his time in the 82nd Airborne, Amish building practices, the Bible, emergency medical care and a plethora of other things as well as reminiscing with his old

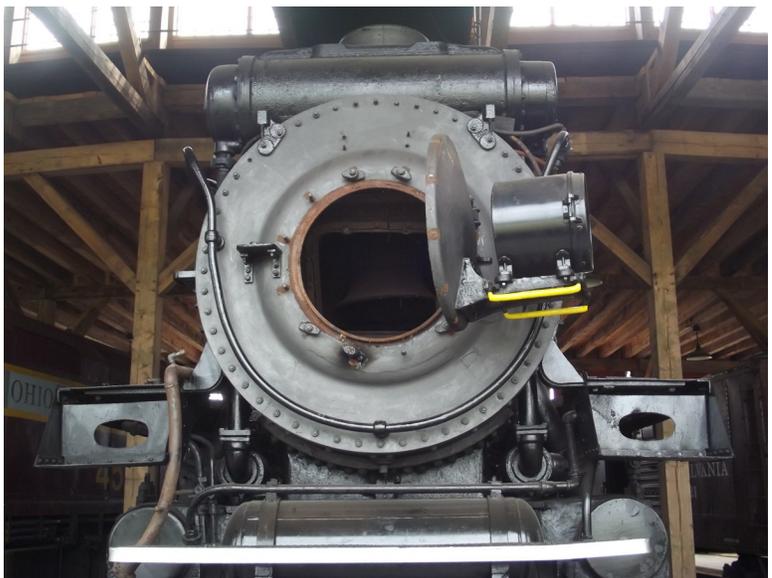
school friend. So I did not get to ask everything I might have liked to. One regret was that none of the operable steamers were under steam. If one had been available Mr. Jacobson assured me we could get it out on the turntable and then run it up and down the yard.

The facility is not open to the public and Mr. Jacobson is not computer literate; because he does not wish to be; his employees take care of the web site and will not respond to requests for tours. However, there will be ONE bus only visiting the Age of Steam as part of our NMRA National Convention in Cleveland in 2014. So, get your registration in early! As to what is planned for the facility and the status of each individual steam loco in the collection you may access the web site at www.ageofsteamroundhouse.com. Mr. Jacobson took a bunch of cast off branches from the Class 1 railroads and ended up with the 580 mile Ohio Central RR. He told me he did not make a lot of money from the railroad due to all the deferred maintenance. But, he said, he made a lot of money when he sold his railroad to RailAmerica.





Here and on the previous page are a few more of my photos from the Age of Steam Roundhouse. Note the 82 Airborne logo on the overhead crane. Mr. Jacobson is now installing a drop table which will enable him to drop the large drive wheels off his steamers. The drop table was built in Ohio and installed on the Polish Railroads by the US Government after the damage of World War II. It was subsequently bought by a man in England and then purchased and returned to it's home state by Mr. Jacobson.



The Reminiscences of David Robinette Common Church and Cemetery

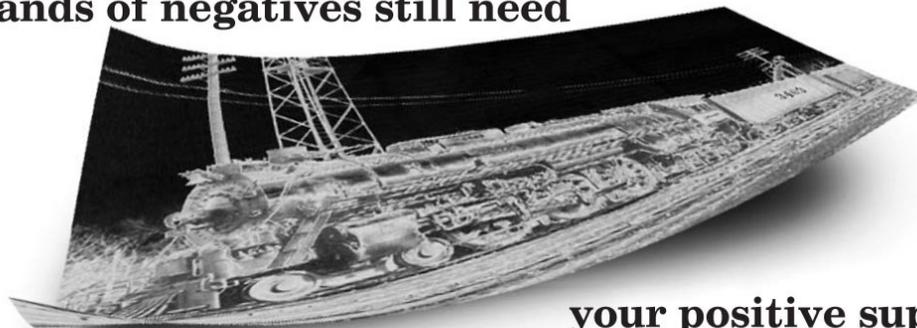
Well, I grew up in a small community where everyone knew everyone else. I was born in 1928 and today I am talking of fond memories of the 1930's in Pounding Mill, VA. We had a company store and three individual stores. Pounding Mill was unique in different ways; the church I went to was called Union Church and was used by both Methodists and Christians. Each denomination had its own minister to preach on alternating weeks. Then if one of them missed a Sunday he would make it up on the fifth Sunday. Regardless of which minister was preaching, both denominations would attend church and Sunday school together. Many times ministers would come in for revivals. The visiting minister would be invited out for supper and would have no idea whether he was in the home of a Methodist or a Christian as all ate and worshiped together. The vacant lot at the railroad station was used for parking for church services and funerals.

When there was a death in the community everyone came together. On occasions the river would be up and it was not possible to get vehicles across the river to the church. Graham Massie, the station agent, would be

aware of this problem and a unique solution was arrived at. Mr. Massie would advise all trains that a funeral was taking place. The pall bearers would carry the casket up the embankment from the church and place it on the section foreman's flat car which was set out on the siding at the station. The procession would then proceed out onto the main line with the section foreman's flat car, pass through 2 cuts and over a bridge. The cemetery was on Ron Pruet's farm, about 3/4 mile down the tracks. On arrival at the cemetery they would remove the flat car from the main to clear for trains and carry the casket up the hill to the gravesite. In this small town the railroad and everyone pulled together to get things handled in the proper manner. I have never heard of this happening anywhere else; but I saw it happen several times in Pounding Mill. The railroads were certainly different and closer to the community in those days.

We did have another church in town other than the Union Church. It was right next to where I lived and was a Holiness Church.

Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

Silver Level – Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.



Gold Level – Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Diamond Level – Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades. Visit www.nmra.org/diamondclub or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV

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



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

September 14
Mark Maynard's Home
Portsmouth, OH

October 12
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV

November 9
Bluefield, WV

December 14
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV