



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

March 2014



DIVISION OFFICERS

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

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

Clerk- Jerry Doyle
304 638-2826
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
Paul Lapointe
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

Just as most of the Charleston area had returned to using the tap water once again, the St. Albans depot found itself without water due to frozen pipe leaks. Alas, the repairs needed to have the water shut off to the entire structure so we moved the meeting to the Charleston Amtrak station at the suggestion of station master and Coal Division member Matt Crouch. While we had hoped to return to St. Albans in March, the repairs have not been completed so once again we will be at the Amtrak station.

Gary has a full description of the February meeting in his column but I think is fair to say we had a good time in Charleston. We really owe a big thank you to Matt for bailing us out and providing an excellent place to meet. We had a technical glitch that limited just what we could show but nobody threw anything bad at me after showing photos of numerous SEPTA stations. I hope to have the gremlins ousted so we can show more station photos at the March meeting.

For the first time in memory our election of a new Assistant Superintendent will have multiple candidates. All eligible voters should have received their ballots in early February, they are due back to Bill Wadsworth by the start of the March meeting. Please vote and return the ballot by mail or in person at the meeting.

Finally, keep in mind that our June meeting, on the 14th, will be joint with Division 6 at the depot in Marion, OH. In addition to that meeting, the Mid Central Board of Directors will hold its meeting as well as the MCR annual meeting, also in Marion. As there is no MCR convention this year that annual meeting, required by the regulations, will serve as the time when new superintendents join the MCR BOD. Please note that all members are welcome to attend the BOD meeting. I cannot promise that it will be exciting but we certainly have nothing to hide.

MEETING NOTICE

NOTE MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The next meeting will be March 8 at the Charleston Amtrak station, 350 MacCorkle Avenue in Charleston. The contest is Steam Locomotives. See Paul's Contest column for contest rules. We will continue with photos of train stations as the clinic so bring your digital photos and tell us about your favorite stations.

Directions: From I-64, use exit 58A, turn left at the light at the end of the ramp, go the bottom of the hill and turn right onto MacCorkle. The station is on the right just before the South Side Bridge.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

“Roll with the punches,” “go with the flow,” and “fish or cut bait” may all be expressions to describe the planning for our February division meeting. With the continuing water problem at the St Albans depot, the meeting looked to fall apart. Then, with Matt’s ideas and invitation to use the C&O Charleston Station, everything really came together. The result may have been one of our better meetings.

As we breathed a sigh of relief after realizing the meeting could go on, we noted how interesting it would be to see a functioning Amtrak station (especially since it is only a few more miles down the line). It might be appropriate to establish a “depot theme” around which activities could be centered.

Bob Weinheimer, Paul Lapointe, and Jerry Doyle brought station photos for the clinic. Bob’s slides were very enjoyable, and we saved the others for our next meeting. Along with several nice diesel models for the contest, several of the guys brought depot models for display. Paul worked his magic, and these structures became part of a second contest. Matt had some Amtrak calendars he gave out. Paul had another one of his popular raffles that had a wide variety of offerings from which to choose. Several sets of station blueprints were also on display. And, of course, the CSX main went right by the big picture window with several trains making an appearance.

The guys from Elkins came down, a couple of our younger members came for the first time, and much of the regular crew were there. Making new acquaintances and renewing or continuing friendships provided a neat addition to this meeting. With the other components mixed in, a really special gathering developed, almost by accident.

Larry Richards especially liked the double contest, as we might call it. He is one who really enjoys seeing the work of others and has been a big supporter of the monthly contest. He wondered if we might have a branch of the main contest or theme occasionally, if not each month. The structure contest might have a water tank subdivision. Maybe we could bring in steam locomotive coal docks or something related to the steel or chemical industry. These may not even be judged. And, some items could be placed in a large public display at the museum as we get the depot back on her feet.

A while back, we gathered along a center table and studied the servo animations built by Bob Osburn. We noted it might be fun to do similar things in the future including weathering, ballasting, soldering, scenery making, and other hands-on activities, along with our regular clinics. One project previously mentioned was the construction of a sceniced board developed by the Australian Region. Our own Bob Mershimer did just such a thing with his Cub Scouts. They placed two lengths of N Scale track on a pre-cut board and decorated it into a mini-module. He constructed the two end loops to which all the modules were connected making an instant mini railroad. Hands-on projects can really add interest!

There are a number of ideas we may use to entertain ourselves and educate others as we move to develop and implement them. When we get the west end set up as a work area, the sky is the limit for any hobby-related activities at the depot. Don’t be afraid to mention your ideas. The more variety the greater the level of participation and enjoyment.

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.

April	March 31
May	April 28
June	June 2
July	June 30
August	July 28
September	September 1
October	September 29
November	October 27

RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

The raffle at February's meeting took in \$31.

March's meeting will feature another raffle. Don't forget to donate something, as the raffle needs items. Look un-

der the layout table; check the closet, bring in that model that doesn't match your era, bring in something for the raffle.

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

What a month this has been. I had to work and missed the January meeting at the Charleston Amtrak station, as well as my monthly pilgrimage to Diehl's Restaurant and Chuck's hobby shop. Then Bob had to annul the Pennsylvania Southern op session due to weather and Tom Harris had to reschedule, then cancel a Lakeside Lines op session for the same reason. Then I went and completely forgot Clint Foster's New River Sub op session this past Saturday. My sincere apologies for that to Clint as he puts a lot of planning into his op sessions and a no show really messes up the plan.

I did take advantage of the snow days by getting the homasote subroadbed at the George mine painted flat stove black. The three tracks serving the tipple were put in and the very first cut of coal cars was shoved in to check the trackwork. Hey Dennis, I really do like the Woodland Scenics foam roadbed! I have the buildings from one of the mine scenes on Dan George's old layout and they are going to look great when finally installed.

The next project is to cobble up some sort of benchwork with a removable section in case, or should I say when, the hot water heater has to be replaced.

Remember last year's spectacular gathering of Norfolk Southern's heritage locomotives at the North Carolina Railroad Museum at Spencer Shops? This spring they are planning a bringing together of restored "streamliner" type locomotives at the museum. The event will take place from May 29 to June 1 and will feature about two dozen restored E and F type locomotives as well as a restored Canadian National ALCO FPA-4. The Norfolk Southern's set of executive F units will also be on display. There will be movement of locomotives on May 29, display of all locomotives on the roundhouse radial tracks and night photo sessions and the Amtrak exhibit train. Full details, pricing, and on line ticket purchases are available at the museum's web site www.nctrans.org.

CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

February's Contest was for Locomotives, Diesel and Traction. There were five entries: a GP-9 and a HOn30 switcher from Larry Richards, a Conrail switcher from Nathan Robinette, a pair of FP7's from Gary Burdette, and a Doodlebug from Paul Lapointe.

First place went to Larry's HOn30 (dummy) switcher and 2nd place to Paul's Doodlebug.

In honor of the theme of the meeting, a second contest was held for train stations. There were three entries: one from Nathan Robinette and two from Jim Porterfield.

Jim took 1st place and Nathan 2nd place.

March's contest category is Steam Locomotives. In order to encourage participation in the Achievement Program, starting in March, future contest entries will have to meet the basic definition of the category as defined by the NMRA: i.e. "Steam Locomotives – All types of locomotives powered by steam. The model must include an electric motor or other means of propulsion and be capable of operation to be eligible for the category".

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Charleston Amtrak Depot Charleston, WV

February 8, 2014

Meeting Called to order at 2:00

Superintendent Report

Bob welcomed several visitors and new members.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$8,649.57
The proceeds from the raffle were \$31.

Nominating Committee

The ballots have been mailed and members as of 12/31/13 should have received them. They are due. There was some question as to who was eligible to vote involving members whose membership lapsed in December or members who joined after this date.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary discussed some educational activities involving the website and depot. He also mentioned the St Albans depot repairs should be starting with better weather. We anticipate an estimate on what will be required for a more complete restoration. Gary shared that Division 9 is not expected to solely support the effort but be one of many stakeholders who use the depot.

Membership Chair

Orders for nametags are being submitted now. They are \$10 each but will be more costly for future orders.

Achievement Program

Bob had no news on member's progress. He mentioned his participation during December on the Model Railcast podcast. It is available on iTunes, Stitcher, and other sources.

Newsletter Chair

Dan was called away for ambulance duties today but Bob mentioned topics on many subjects would be welcome for future issues.

Raffle

Paul showed items for today's raffle.

Clinic Chair

No future clinics are on the slate as of now.

Old Business

As of meeting time we are not sure if the meeting place will be at the St Albans depot pending repairs to plumbing.

New Business

Bill Wadsworth is looking into potential changes to the constitution.

Announcements

The Kanawha Valley club is having a show this weekend.

Future Meetings

March 8 St. Albans Depot or Charleston Depot depending on status of plumbing
April 12 St. Albans Depot
May 3 Parkersburg, WV
June 14 Joint with Division 6, Marion, OH
July Date To Be Determined Elkins, WV

Meeting adjourned 2:34

Respectfully submitted,

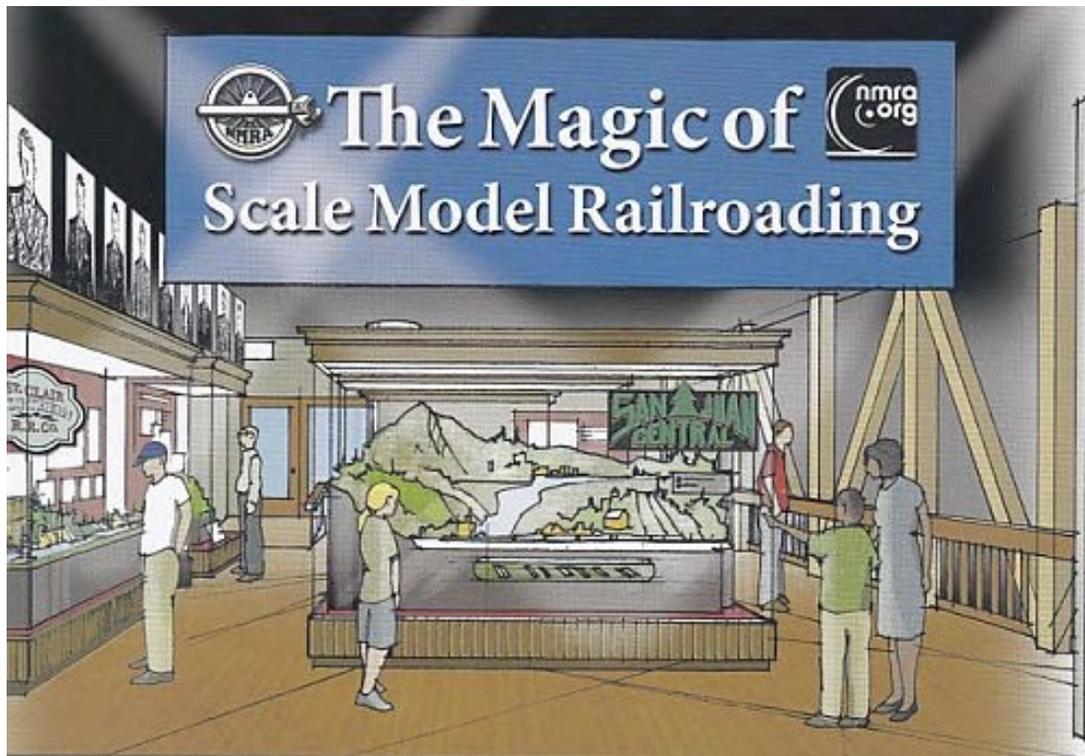
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

NMRA CLEVELAND 2014

Mark July 13 –20 on your calendar, the NMRA National convention is as close as it has been to the Coal Division in almost 10 years.

What is a National convention? Think of it as a week long Regional convention with five to ten times as many attendees. There will be more clinics than you can count, many presented by nationally known modelers who are just as anxious to meet other modelers as those other modelers are to meet them. There are numerous layout tours, operating sessions, and tours to such places as the Age of Steam Roundhouse. Check the latest issue of NMRA Magazine or go to www.2014cleveland.org for full details.

As if that is not enough, at the end of the week your convention registration gets you into the National Train Show for no extra cost. Act soon to get your preferred tours and hotel arrangements.



Please consider donating to the NMRA Gallery project. We all recently received another mailing requesting donations and while it may seem like HQ is always looking for money, if each NMRA member donated only \$10 the project would be fully funded.

NMRA INFONET Tom Draper

DCC Information Tidbit

To prevent your locomotive headlights from coming on when in consist (second, third, fourth locomotive, etc.) program CV22 to zero (0) before putting the locomotives in consist. It does not affect normal operation or as a lead unit in a consist.

In Memoriam – Jim Fitzgerald, 1923 – 2013

From March, 2014 issue of Model Railroader Magazine: Jim Fitzgerald, an early member of the Ntrak Modular Railroading Society, died on October 24 in Paso Robles, California. In addition to serving as Ntrak's president, he edited the group's newsletter and helped coordinate the Ntrak layout at the National Train Show each year. Jim and his wife, Lee, were also instrumental in the establishment of T-Trak. Editor's note: I had the pleasure of working with Jim for several years in conjunction with the Ntrak modular layout group being part of the National Train Show each year. He was a true gentleman and always a pleasure to work with.

Missing forms from the 2014 NMRA Convention insert in the NMRA Magazine

Three forms were missing from the 2014 NMRA Convention insert in the February issue of the NMRA Magazine. Because of a printing problem, three registration pages were not printed. These pages included the merchandise order forms for men's and ladies' shirts, convention cars and other items, and the Extra Fare order form for ordering banquet tickets and registering for Modeling With The Masters clinics.

You can register online and purchase any of the items mentioned through the NMRA Company Store without the missing forms. For those that want to print out the forms and mail them in with payment the three missing forms have been included as an attachment to this issue of InfoNet News. The 3 missing forms are

1. Merchandise Order Form 1;
2. Merchandise Order Form 2; and
3. ExtraFare Order Form.

Completed forms and payment should be sent to:

NMRA
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org on in the NMRA Magazine.

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA
Director – Support Services

Editor's note: The missing forms can be found by clicking the following links:

- [Merchandise Order Form 1](#)
- [Merchandise Order Form 2](#)
- [Extra Fare Order Form](#)

If you do not have internet access, let any of us know and we will print them out for you.

Now that Up The Holler is a monthly publication, your Pike Ad support is much more important. If you don't already have an ad, please consider buying one. We can help with the art work if necessary.



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV



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



Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
304-466-9188
danmulhearn@gmail.com



CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR
Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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



SHAMOKIN DIVISION
DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN
SUMMERSVILLE, WV
304-872-7262



HINTON DIVISION
Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV



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



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



John Harris, Chief Engineer
AandNRR@aol.com



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

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 to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

Upcoming Coal Division Events

March 8

**Charleston Amtrak Station
350 MacCorkle Avenue SE
Charleston, WV**

April 12

**St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV**

May 3

**Steel is King
Parkersburg, WV**

June 14

Marion, OH