



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Mid Central Region NMRA

April 2014



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

The first order of business is to congratulate Gary Burdette MMR for his election as the Coal Division's next Superintendent and to Dan Mulhearn for his election as Assistant Superintendent. Both will take office at the start of the May "Steel is King" meeting in Parkersburg, WV. Thanks are due to Bill Wadsworth and Dennis McGeeney for their hard work developing the list of nominees.

As we go to press with this issue of Up The Holler, the water has not yet returned to the St. Albans Depot so once again we will meet at the Charleston Amtrak station. It looks like there are more pictures of stations. Paul has a few and I know Jerry Doyle has some. If anyone else has station photos, please bring them and we'll see if we can get the computer to talk to the TV properly.

The NMRA National Convention is coming up sooner than you might imagine. As you should know by now it is in Cleveland, in our Mid-Central Region. It won't be this close again for several more years if then. Many Coal Division members are now hooked on attending Regional Conventions so the National is just a step up with more of the same activities you know so well: clinics, tours, raffles, silent auctions, contests, and more. Of course, the final weekend includes the National Train Show. Several Coal Division members are presenting clinics, this is a great way to share our interests and expertise with the entire NMRA. The Board of Directors and other officers will all be there and they are very willing to talk with you about any concerns or other issues you may have. There is no requirement to stay the whole week. You can find the entire program at www.2014cleveland.org. If you do not have internet access, let me know and I can work with you to get any information you may need.

Note that our May meeting is one week earlier than the usual second Saturday. The May newsletter will also come out a week earlier.

MEETING NOTICE

NOTE MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The next meeting will be April 12 at the Charleston Amtrak station, 350 MacCorkle Avenue in Charleston. The contest is freight cars. See Paul's Contest Report on page 3 for details. 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

Welcoming, inviting, casual, along with focused, business-like, and efficient, these terms sound much like the Boy Scouts of America Scout Law. While they describe very desirable attributes associated with any circumstance, they aptly apply to the tenure of Bob Weinheimer as Superintendent of the Coal Division of the Mid-Central Region, NMRA. Under Bob's leadership the job got done in a relaxed atmosphere where we all had fun and enjoyed the ride.

We first saw his leadership skills when he was the Assistant Superintendent of our group, though everything crystallized into a recognizable form as he led us into the planning and implementation of the 2010 Mid-Central Convention: *The Coalfield Express*. Bob organized committees, laid out some possibilities to consider, and then he turned us loose. As we worked, we would touch bases and refine things where appropriate. He encouraged and advised us as needed. Several of us went to the 2009 convention in Columbus to shadow and learn from our counterparts in the Buckeye Division as they went about their duties. Bob got us hooked on conventions and trained in the process. Once home, with both practice registration and packet organization sessions completed, every "t" was crossed and "i" dotted. The convention was a resounding success! For those "in the know," it is seen as the "boilerplate" for any operation.

As Bob took over the reins, he continued to grow the group as we transitioned from our humble beginnings. The monthly newsletter, *Up the Holler*, kept us informed. Editor Dan Mulhearn and Bob, as computer advisor, worked to improve the publication each month. The online version is received by division members and many outside the group who praise its content. Some may not know that Bob prints and mails the hard copy as a personal service to the guys without computers.

Many enjoyable activities have been formulated or encouraged over the last four years. Bob supported Dennis McGeeney as he developed his idea for some railroad excursions as "Travels with Dennis" was born. There were a couple of trips between monthly meetings, then we visited the Potomac Eagle and Hocking Valley at regularly scheduled times. Both formats provided an opportunity for enjoyment.

Working with Ed Keith, AP Chair, and using his "low hanging fruit" analogy, Bob has encouraged many to participate in the Achievement Program.

The Super and Clerk, Jerry Doyle, CPA, have set up a

requisition and record-keeping program which keeps the group informed of finances and monies properly documented.

Bill Wadsworth, Election Chair, has worked with the Super to address some constitutional concerns which are under review.

Bob appointed Paul Lapointe as raffle chair, and he really got the raffle going as he designed it into multi-choice affair. With the flea market at the Portsmouth meeting in the fall, we have two different and interesting fundraising projects. There is usually a buzz of activity as we participate in the fun.

Bob was instrumental in moving our meeting place to the old St Albans, W.Va. C&O Depot. Here we have a venue with a large meeting room, kitchen for snacks, museum items to enjoy studying, and CSX trains roaring by our door. This has sort of become our unofficial "home base."

We have ventured into the outside world by extending our meetings to Portsmouth, O., Parkersburg, W.Va., and Bluefield, W.Va. This procedure has allowed us to leave the central part of our region to venture into the outer reaches (of the 65,000 square miles) of Division 9 to embrace those who normally come so far to the depot, thank them for their loyalty, and visit them in their "neck of the woods."

The trip to Bluefield revolves around the yearly train show. Along with this, and an event at Dunbar, W.Va., Bob and, our membership officer, John Harris developed a backdrop display to use at a greeting table as we promote the NMRA.

Bob and Dan conspired to set up contest and clinic programs which are second-to-none. Many diverse and interesting presentations have taken place. As we had a basic list of contest categories, Dan altered them somewhat to spark more interest. The typical, winner-takes-all, theme has evolved into a format in which each place is awarded points for an over-all "Modeler of the Year." Since Paul has assumed the duties of contest chair, we had a double contest during one meeting and are considering a possible show-and-tell at Parkersburg.

This new wrinkle came about as Bob was "going with the flow" in scheduling an alternate site for the February meeting due to water problems at the depot. Matt Crouch offered space at the Amtrak Station in

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Charleston, and we accepted. (Some may remember that several of us took *The Cardinal* to the “C&O Heritage Center” and back, as one of our outings.) A slide show of depot photos for the impromptu clinic was suggested and members were encouraged to bring model stations. The rest is history, as they say, with the fun developing through Bob “adapting to the change.”

As all of this was transpiring, our Super was the Historian and Secretary of the region. For the past several months, the secretarial duties have changed to those of Region Vice-president and editor of *The Kingpin* has been added to

Bob’s responsibilities. Obviously, he Continued from page 2
continues to serve the NMRA.

I write this as a tribute to and a thank you for the work Bob has done for all of us in the Coal Division and beyond. And, it is a summary of what we have all done to help him as he led us, without our even realizing it, to do good things. The ultimate thank you would be for us to continue the journey.

So, thanks Bob, take a break. Don’t get too comfortable, however, for I’ll have a thousand questions for you.

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

It looks like soon I will be addressing you from the office down the hall; thank you for your vote of confidence in the recent election.

I would like to hear from you about your favorite memories, whether related to model or prototype railroads. Some of my favorite memories are of fleeting moments, not when I was ready with a camera. On September 15th, 1964, two days after my first wedding, I found myself and the bride in the parking lot below Pennsylvania Railroads Horseshoe Curve, west of Altoona PA. It was a tradition in the Long Island area to take a wedding trip to Niagara Falls. Well, I figured rather than take the NY Thruway we could just go west and make a right at Altoona. As we got out of the car the standard PRR freight consist of five GP9s was passing above. David P. Morgan described the sound of non turbocharged EMD 567s as a nasal chant; and they were living up to their billing. About ninety cars later came the “snappers”, two ALCO RSD12 pushers with their chop-chop exhaust echoing in the valley. I did not own a camera but the memory will never leave me.

Again, in September of 1968 I was wandering around La Grange, IL, hoping to get some pictures at the EMD loco plant. The sound of an approaching train on the CB&Q

racetrack drew me to the depot just as the train arrived. I did have a camera but there was no time to get ready, it was raining and almost dark. Oh my! Gyrating Mars light, five chime horns echoing off buildings, five silver painted E units westbound in run 8. Flying west on the center track was the seemingly endless combined Empire Builder and North Coast Limited.

Lying in bed late at night, as a young boy, the Valley Stream NY Fire Dept. would alert its volunteers of a call by sirens located all over town as well as horns on each firehouse blitting out the Gamewell box number. There was the patter of rain on the roof and the sound of distant thunder. Then the sirens and horns would echo through the night air. Now, in the mid 1950s Valley Stream was elevated but just to the west the track dropped to ground level and trains had to whistle for the crossings at Mill Rd and Terrace Place. The LIRR MU cars had an air whistle which sounded like a single chime steam whistle. Inevitably, as the fire sirens wailed there would be the whistle of a late night train blowing for the crossings. It was a chilling and haunting sound; though I have fond memories of those late night sounds. Tell us about your good memories.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

Charleston Amtrak Depot Charleston, WV
March 8, 2014

Called to order at 2:03 PM by Bob W.

Welcome and Introductions: Bob introduced guest David Oliverio and the members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report: Jerry unable to attend. On a motion by John Harris, seconded and approved; the minutes of the February meeting as published were accepted. Bob reports a checking balance of \$8675.25 with last months from raffle and shirt sales at \$67.06 and expenditures of \$41.22.

Superintendent Report: Bob thanked Matt Crouch for his hospitality in allowing us to meet at the Amtrak Station. Bob discussed items in the latest NMRA E bulletin, particularly the discussion over taping clinics at NMRA functions. It was announced that Kansas City would be the venue for the 2018 NMRA National. There was a discussion of the format for future EduTrain pre packaged clinics.

Nominating Committee; Bill Wadsworth announced that 66% of members had returned their ballots. Election results were; Gary J Burdette MMR, Superintendent and Dan Mulhearn, Asst. Superintendent.

Asst. Superintendent Report: Gary reported that the EduTrain discussion is coming together among those involved. Gary led a discussion on future monthly secondary theme based contests. There would be no points involved and it might become a sort of show and tell type event. Projects in progress would be welcome. Gary suggested designating the St. Albans Depot as our official home. Gary presented a mockup of a display promoting the Division and the hobby which could be placed in various public venues. The possibility of reproducible posters was suggested and will be looked into by the Education Committee.

Newsletter Chair: Dan reports always looking for input and feedback on our publication; including new products reviews.

Clinic Chair: Dan reports clinics are needed for upcoming meetings.

Membership Chair: John reports that he will be looking for volunteers to staff our table at the upcoming Dunbar Train show.

Raffle Chair: Paul reports he has six items for this months raffle. He is always looking for items from members.

Old Business: Bill Wadsworth reports work is ongoing on by law changes. These will be presented for approval in the future.

Announcements: The C&O Modelers Meet at Hawk's Nest will commence on March 28. Former member Joe Felice's layout can be found on You Tube by googling him. The classic streamliner locomotive exhibit will be at the North Carolina Transportation Museum from May 29 to June 1

Adjournment: On a motion by Nathan Robinette, seconded and approved the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.

Contest; Steam Locomotives: Gary Burdette submitted a super detailed C&O G-7 Consolidation and Larry Richards entered a super detailed Mehano 4-8-2 with a Riva-rossi tender. First prize went to Gary

Clinic: The clinic was members photos of depots and stations.

RAFFLE REPORT Paul Lapointe

The raffle at March's meeting took in an unexpected \$46 as we cleaned out the stock of raffle items.

April's meeting will feature another raffle. Fortunately a couple of members came in at the last minute to replenish

the "shelves", so look for a great assortment of items on the table!

Remember we're always looking for more donations!

CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

March's Contest was for Steam Locomotives. There were two entries: a C&O 4-8-2 Mountain #543 from Larry Richards and a C&O 4-8-0 Consolidation #915 from Gary Burdette. Both apparently are C&O fans.

First place went to Gary's Consolidation (upper photo below) and second place to Larry's Mountain (lower photo). Both photos by Paul Lapointe.

In addition, both men brought in railroad artifacts of the past. Larry brought in a large collection of railroad locks of all types that he has collected over the years and Gary brought in what everyone took to be an oil or kerosene can but he assured us was a water can.

This Month:

April's contest is Freight Cars. I'm trying to adhere to the

Achievement Program definitions for these contests, but this is a case where it is too broad since it includes several of our other monthly contests! I'm going to whittle it down for this month's event:

"A freight car is a revenue-generating vehicle used to transport a railroad customer's goods. It runs on rails and is not self-propelled. It does not carry people".

May's contest:

Here's a little advance notice on May's Contest. In the past it would have been Passenger Cars, instead we're going to have a special theme-based contest. Since it's "Steel is King" day, the contest will be any car found in a steel mill: ore cars, coke hoppers, hot metal cars, slag cars, scrap loaded cars etc.



Gary Burdette (left) and Larry Richards look over the contest entries at the March meeting. Photo by Paul Lapointe

NMRA INFONET

Tom Draper

Message from Joe Gelmini
Eastern District Director:

Why Buy A Ticket If You're Not Going To Go?

We hear a lot about the benefits of being an NMRA member. Most people want to know "what's in it for me"? Why should I shell out \$44.00 or \$66.00 they ask. I think we are all aware of most of the tangible benefits:

Access to the world-class Kalmbach Library
 Access to standards and recommended practices in all scales
 Ability to participate in the Achievement Program
 Ability to attend national and regional conventions
 Calendar and address labels
 Subscription to a fine hobby magazine focused on NMRA members and activities.

These are all great. But, to me, the biggest benefit by far has been the fellowship and knowledge I've gained from getting together with people from around the world, or from around the corner, that share my love of model trains. Granted, I am fortunate to live in an area that is rich with model railroaders and to be a part of a very active NMRA division. But whether you live in a hot bed of activity or one where only a few folks reside, the first steps are up to you. Steel City Superintendent John Stewart summed it up about as well as I've heard in a recent article he wrote for his division's newsletter. John offered the question "If you bought a ticket to a movie or play, would you decide not to attend the performance?" Of course you wouldn't. Why would you shell out your hard-earned money to buy a ticket to a show, movie, game, whatever, and then not attend? Makes no sense, does it? But in a way, that's exactly what folks are doing who pay for NMRA membership, and then don't attend or participate in any of the activities (the "show").

So go ahead and use the "ticket" you've paid for. Attend a convention, clinic, open house, op session or just a lunch with some like-minded modelers. I am confident you'll enjoy the show!

In Memoriam – William E. McKean II, 1944 – 2013

From April, 2014 issue of Model Railroader Magazine:

Model Railroad manufacturer and author Bill McKean died on December 30 in Sioux Falls, S.D. He was 69.

In addition to running his family's bus business and working in radio and advertising sales, Bill founded McKean Models, manufacturer of HO scale freight car kits

(Greenville 100-ton hopper and 40-foot PS-1 Boxcar, among others) and detail parts. He also wrote articles for *Mainline Modeler* and *Model Railroading* magazines.

Bill was a lifetime member of the National Model Railroad Association, founding member of the NMRA's Dakota Southeastern Division, and member of the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society. He actively participated in a Sioux Falls-area round-robin modeling group, helping build several model railroads, including his own HO scale Lakeland Western RR.

Notice of 2015 NMRA Elections:

The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2015:

President
 Vice President, Administration
 Vice President, Special Projects
 Eastern District Director
 Pacific District Director
 At-Large North America Director

Please check Article III, paragraph 12, of the NMRA Executive Handbook (EHB) located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected.

All submissions for candidate's names for consideration by the Nomination Committee for all offices except Pacific District Director shall be submitted to Stephen Priest, temporary Chairman of the Nominations Committee, nmra@pairedrail.com no later than June 15, 2014.

All submissions of candidate's names for consideration by the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Sam Mangion, Chairman of the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee, mangion2@bigpond.com, no later than June 15, 2014.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the appropriate nominations committees. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the EHB. All submissions by petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA no later than July 31, 2014.

Meetings & Train Show Personnel Change

From Charlie Getz, NMRA President:

For the past year, Jim "Lumpy" Lupfer has been Department head for M&TS and has done a Continued on page 7

great job in a very demanding role. At the mid-year BOD meeting we discussed that job and its unrelenting requirements and Lumpy advised he felt it was best to step down. I asked him to reconsider but respect his decision. Lumpy was a pleasure to work with and a consummate professional.

Bob Amsler has kindly agreed to step in as the new Department head of the M&TS, his former role. Because of my concern that no volunteer undertake two major roles and as Bob is our indispensable attorney, he has agreed to treat the position much as the Depart head of Publications does, overseeing the work of the managers, setting policy and acting as point person for the host committees.

Working for him will be Ray deBleck as Convention Manager and Ed Slintak as Ass't thereto, along with Mark "Fuzzy" Shafer as NTS Manager with Tom Draper helping. Tom will be winding down and he has been a tremendous asset to M&TS over literally decades.

This team brings years of experience and I will announce these changes in the May issue of the magazine as April is already being finalized. I sincerely thank Lumpy all he has done and than Bob, Ray, Ed, Fuzzy and Tom for all they are doing.

So in sum:

Bob Amsler – Department Manager
 Ray deBleck – Convention Manager
 Ed Slintak – Ass't Convention Manager
 Mark Shafer – NTS Manager
 Tom Draper – Floor Manager
 Frank Koch – Treasurer
 Jenny Hendricks – Admin Contact

"Thanks, everyone, and on to Cleveland."

Charlie

Highlights of the Winter 2014 Board Meeting

The NMRA Board of Directors held it Winter meeting in Las Vegas, NV on February 14, 15 and 16, 2014.

Here are some highlights from the board meeting. Please note that this is an informal recap and should not be assumed to be definitive. The official meeting minutes will be issued shortly by John Stevens, NMRA Secretary and published in the *NMRA Magazine* and on www.nmra.org.

New Europe Region approved – the BOD unanimously approved a contingency motion to accept a new Europe Region into the NMRA. Some of the names needed on a petition were not yet received and/or verified by headquarters at the time of the motion, hence the contingency. When it's official, the new region will have over 100 mem-

bers from the outset. Atlantic District (AD) Director Kathy Millat worked alongside former AD Director Nobby Clarke to bring this to fruition.

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Video recording/streaming policy – The issue of commercial companies recording and/or streaming clinics at NMRA National Conventions was discussed at the Atlanta Board meeting in 2013. At that time a special committee was appointed to investigate alternatives to a temporary policy that had been put into place for that convention. The committee could not agree on a new policy, so at this Winter meeting the Board agreed to adopt the temporary policy as permanent.

New Marketing Director – Marketing Director Page Martin was promoted to Vice President of Marketing, and introduced the new Marketing Director, John Parrish.

NMRA in the black for 2013 – Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch reported that the NMRA ended last year with a surplus of over \$240,000. He also reported that the NMRA headquarters building sold for almost \$900,000 – a sum that was higher than comparable properties in the area. The deal was a win/win for both the NMRA and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, who would have had to build a new building to accommodate their operations.

California State Railroad Museum Display – Paperwork is continuing on this initiative, which has raised over \$600,000 to date. Currently approvals are being slowed down by governmental entities within the CSRM. The board would like to remind members to please send in their pledges for contributions if they haven't done so.

Kansas City approved for the 2018 NMRA convention – Stephen Priest, *NMRA Magazine* editor and current RAC Director, gave the BOD an impressive presentation pitching Kansas City, MO as the location for the 2018 NMRA convention. The BOD approved the site.

Redesigned website nearing completion – IT director Ben Sevier reported that the completely revamped NMRA website is nearing completion and will hopefully be ready to go live sometime this summer.

L-Gauge standards not approved – The BOD did not approve proposed standards for L-Gauge (aka "Lego"). The BOD issued this statement regarding the decision: "The BOD agreed that L-Gauge, as it is called by its fans, is an exciting pathway to scale model railroading and a real asset at the NTS and other train shows. Youngsters especially are enthralled and the skill involved can be amazing. We hope to see an enhanced presence of L-Gauge in the NMRA as a SIG. As for adopting an L-Gauge standard, we could not because we do not con-

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trol the standard already established and patented by the major maker of L-Gauge trains. In other words, there was nothing to set. When we set a standard, it is available for any manufacturer to use but where the sole standard is someone else's and patented, it is not available for use without permission from the patent holder. We have not adopted a standard without the right for free use of it. So we could act on the request from the L-Gauge community.

Self-certification program ratified – The BOD ratified a self certification program for standards and conformance, as proposed by the S&C Department Di Voss.

Other Items

Clark Kooning, our Nominations Chair, cannot continue in the post as he is contemplating a run for office. Stephen Priest has graciously accepted temporary assignment of the post but a new volunteer is needed who can take over and has a good network of contacts. "Nominations" is an important job and encouraging that next generation of leadership is very important, though often sadly neglected. If you know of someone please contact Charlie

Getz, NMRA President.

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The RAC group elected Steve August as the new RAC Director.

Charlie Getz announced the appointment of Bob Ferguson of PCR to head up a new member initiative. Bob will be looking at creating and sharing a program of proven retention actions that can be undertaken by Divisions and Regions. We have good success in signing up new members – our RailPass conversion rate to regular membership is over 60%. But we lose far too many members at renewal.

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 or in the NMRA Magazine

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

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.



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.

May	April 21
June	June 2
July	June 30
August	July 28
September	September 1

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



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Bob Weinheimer, President
398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314
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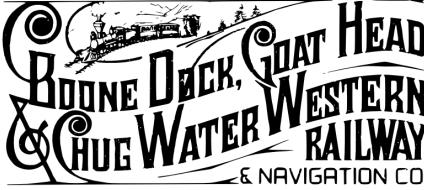
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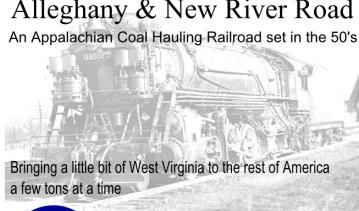


WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY
THOMAS SUBDIVISION
RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
Clint Foster Superintendent
Roncerville 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
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

April 12
Charleston Amtrak Station
350 MacCorkle Avenue SE
Charleston, WV

May 3
Steel is King
Parkersburg, WV

June 14
Marion, OH

July 21
Tentatively Elkins, WV

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