



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

August 2014



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn; Asst. Supt.

Gary, our superintendent, is vacationing in Michigan so this month I get to be first page, above the fold as they say in the newspaper business. I am still decompressing from the National Convention in Cleveland; some of my credit cards are still warm to the touch. The convention center was a really nice clean new facility once you found where it was hiding. One of the neat things was the big picture windows overlooking the NS and CSX lines along the lake shore. Attending from our division were Bob Weinheimer, Gary Burdette, Larry Richards, Paul Lapointe, Kellie and Debbie Massie and myself and Nina. Bob, Gary, Paul and myself presented clinics during the week. There were numerous very enlightening clinics including one by a professor of optometry on proper lighting for you work space, your train room, and how to take advantage of various vision aid devices to enhance your modeling. The contest room was jammed full of excellent models and models by Gary Burdette, Larry Richards and Bob Osborn took prizes. My photo of a conductor waving from a Santa Fe caboose in the Mojave Desert took third place in the judged photos contest. One big highlight for me was operating on the OpSig Road Show layout. I approached this with trepidation as full timetable and train order operation is not something I had ever tried. The lady who was chief dispatcher even talked Nina into being my engineer. They assigned her a road foreman and her first time with a throttle in her hand went well. I was handed a clearance form and a sheaf of orders and off we went. Out on the road we would encounter an order board set at stop and there would be additional orders hanging there for us. They tried not to make it too difficult and it was a great learning experience. We ran an eastbound end to end and almost got back with a westbound but a crew in front of us was having difficulty with their work and we "outlawed" out on the road. Of course the topper was the National Train Show with all the goodies and layouts you could take in.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our August meeting and barbecue at the St. Albans depot.

MEETING NOTICE

The August meeting will be held at the St. Albans Depot, Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue, St. Albans, WV. The doors will open at noon with burgers ready to eat around 1 PM. We will have our usual business meeting starting at 2 PM. The contest will be on line structures. We will also have the usual raffle but as Paul notes in his column the prize barrel is getting pretty bare.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Well, the big convention in Cleveland has come and gone. As Dan noted in his column, the Coal Division was well represented. In addition to just being there, four members won awards in the contests. More on that later.

I played hooky from the Division meeting July 12 so I could attend the NMRA BOD meeting. The goings on will be published in the minutes but what I can tell you is that the board members, officers, and department heads are a very dedicated group of people who work very hard for the success of the NMRA. This meeting was held in the Renaissance Hotel, I still had to find the convention center.

Before heading to Cleveland I had used Google Earth to find the Cleveland Convention Center. This is a brand new facility, it opened earlier this year. I could find nothing that really looked like a convention center or even one under construction. When I checked in at the Marriott I asked where it was. I was directed out the front door, to turn left and cross the street. Enter the building there and you will be on your way. Indeed, the biggest surprise was that the whole thing is underground! A beautiful grass mall was apparently preserved while building one of the best convention centers I have ever seen and I have seen a bunch of them.

The convention was very well run, I saw few if any glitches. Recall that Norfolk Southern had painted the convention logo onto the side of an ex Southern Railway SD-40-2. I had seen the photos but the railroad brought the locomotive to a point where there are windows so we could see it all day Tuesday. Those windows are at the north end of the center and overlook NS's very busy main line, it was very visible from the hallway and one of the ballrooms. See the photo on the next page.

I went to a number of clinics in addition to giving two. Dan described the eye doctor telling us all about lighting, that was probably the best clinic I saw all week. I learned the lighting over the peninsula on the Pennsylvania Southern was well chosen while the rest of those 30 LEDs are

sub optimal. Another good clinic was presented by Frank Bongiovani, an attorney who discussed how we might best prepare to make sure our families are not fleeced upon our demise. Make sure they all know what you have and have some idea of its value or lack thereof.

As one who likes operation, I operated. Monday and Tuesday evenings I went out on OPSIG (OPerations Special Interest Group) organized sessions. Both were lots of fun, one featured a hopper car loading facility (live loads) and a coal dumping facility where those loaded cars were emptied. Thursday morning I did the Operations Roa Show that Dan described. While he and Nina nearly ran the entire layout twice, I was on a local freight and saw only about one third of the layout. All that switching meant that I held up some of those through trains. These sessions are very well run with folks who offer just the right level of assistance to crews like us who are unfamiliar with the railroad. If you are into operations and ever get the chance, run on this railroad.

There were also lots of layout tours. I did not go on any of the bus tours but chose the LDSIG (Layout Design SIG) self guided tour on Wednesday. These layout have all been selected for design interest. Some are nearly complete while others are little more than benchwork. In every case there is much to learn. I saw a wonderful New York Central line running between Toledo and Cleveland. Another great one was a Pennsylvania Railroad layout representing the area from Johnstown to Altoona, both in Pennsylvania. This layout had a Horseshoe Curve but it was very subtle. The radii of the tracks was probably about 8 feet. The reservoirs and other things inside the horseshoe, often modeled, were not. In their place was an aisle with the line down from Gallitzin toward the curve. I saw yet another layout, a freelance, with exquisite lighting effects.

The contest was enormous with a record number of models entered in the contest to be judged. Mid-Central Region members were well represented, their efforts and successes will be documented in and

Continued next page

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.

September	September 1
October	September 29
November	October 29
December	December 1

Continued from previous page

upcoming issue of the King-Pin, the MCR newsletter.

Coal Division members did quite well. And are summarized here.

Gary Burdette:

Arts and Crafts Railroadiana

First Place: Big Creek Station Painting

Second Place: Locomotive Shops Drawing

Non-Revenue Kit

Third Place: Jordan Spreader C&O 914050

Gary also won a special award presented by Hunterline for their favorite wood model, his coke car was their choice.

Normally they choose a structure but couldn't pass up Gary's car.

Larry Richards:

Diorama Scratch Built

Second Place: Craigs Fork Lumber and Railway

Third Place: Fresh Eggs

Passenger Cars Scratch Built

Second Place: Craigs Fork Ry Combine (HOn3)

Robert Osburn

Structure Scratch Built

Third Place: N scale Chessie System Tugboat *J. Speed Gray*

Dan Mulhearn

Color Photo Prototype

Third Place: Desert Pete

It should be noted that these were all from the judged competition, not the People's Choice.

Some activities started winding down by Friday but the National Train Show was just getting started. We could watch the vendors setting up their displays all week and convention registrants were allowed into the show starting at 9 on Friday morning. The public could not enter until noon, it was nice to have the place to ourselves (all 1200 of us). I cruised a bit Friday then spent most of Saturday at the show. I did my share for the hobby's economy, it's a good thing I was not flying home.

While the National Train Show continued Sunday, the last convention event was the banquet. This was not an inexpensive event but at least the food was pretty good. After the meal the program began with the latest Master Model Railroaders being recognized. It continued with a number of awards to members for their dedication at the National level, it was nice to see these volunteers recognized for what is almost a full time job. The finale of the program was a wonderful presentation by Ted Goodman, the architect who designed the Age of Steam roundhouse. This is

the new one in Ohio that Dan told us about after he had a private tour. We got to see how the entire project was done from site selection to structure design to construction. Ted presented countless photographs of every phase of this process in great detail. If you weren't there you missed a very good presentation.

I should note that we all lost count of the number of trains that went by during dinner. While they were very close, the building has good sound insulation. We could hear them but they were not loud enough to interfere with the proceedings.

As you might expect, the organizers of the next several conventions had displays enticing us to register. Next year it will be in Portland, Oregon and I have already paid for my registration and a shirt. While that's pretty far away, in 2016 the convention will be in Indianapolis. In 2017 it will be in Orlando.

I think all of us who went to Cleveland had lots of fun. A National Convention is not inexpensive given its length and the need to eat and sleep as well as pay a higher registration fee. While Regional Conventions may give you a better bang for the buck, there is nothing like a National and the opportunity to meet fellow model railroaders from around the country and around the world.



This is not the greatest picture, it was taken with my iPhone then zoomed and cropped. The convention logo is to the right of the NS logo, the locomotive was spotted here just outside the convention center all day Tuesday. The two near tracks are the NS main, I was told it is ex Pennsy. The engine is on one of two CSX tracks that are ex New York Central. You can also see the platforms for Amtrak's Cleveland station. In the background, somewhat cropped, is the stadium where the Cleveland Browns play.

CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

June's contest category was off-line structures. We had several great models. Gary Burdette brought in a post office/commissary based on a Thurmond WV structure. Dale Osburn had a Bar Mills based barn diorama. Bob Osburn brought in his N scale Tugboat and Larry Richards had both a general store and a beer joint. First Place went to Bob's Tugboat Model. Second place was shared by Larry's store and Dale's barn.

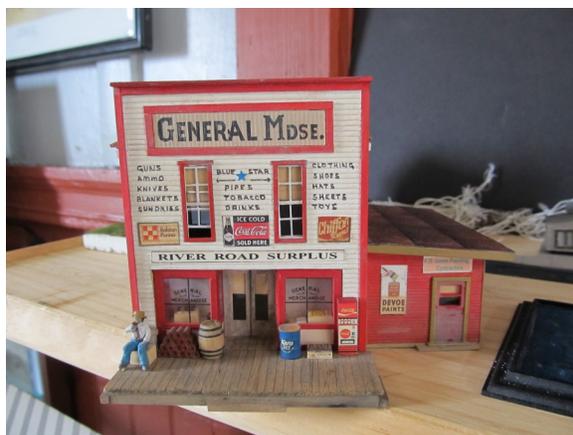
Next Month:

August's meeting is again in St. Albans at the C&O Depot. The contest category is on-line structures. The NMRA Achievement Program has a very general definition of a structure: it's man made and doesn't fit any other category. An online structure includes any structure directly connected to a railroad track.



Bob's tug boat; this model took third place in Structures at the NMRA National Convention in Cleveland in July. Congratulations to Bob!

Photos by Paul Lapointe.



Larry's general store and beer joint.



Dale's barn

611 REPAIRS UNDERWAY

Dan Mulhearn

Restoration work on N&W 4-8-4 611 is well underway according to the North Carolina Transportation Museum. The boiler has been bead blasted and ultrasonic tested. The stoker motor was found to be in working order and the tender has had its coal bunker and water tank cleaned. To date volunteers have put in more 1800 hours of service on the restoration. The museum has announced tours of

the engine as it is being restored will be conducted. Details on the tours are that they will be once a day on given days, will cost \$5.00 in addition to museum admission cost and will be limited to a maximum of thirty people. Further details on this exciting restoration may be found at www.fireup611.org.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
July 12, 2014

Meeting promptly called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$8,710.92
June minutes were approved.
Shirt revenues were \$6.
Raffle revenues \$41.

Superintendent Report

Gary introduced Woody Higginbotham, a new member from Helvetia, WV. Members introduced themselves. He thanked Dan Mulhearn for filling in at the June meeting. He discussed the NMRA president's comments on operations. Dan Mulhearn is recuperating from surgery today.

Assistant Superintendent Report

No report.

Achievement Program

Gary presented Bob Osburn a certificate for the judging of his Chessie System tug *J. Speed Gray*.

Newsletter Chair

No report.

Clinic Chair

No report. Gary discussed having several mini-clinics occasionally in place of the a single clinic.

Membership Chair

No Report

Raffle

The raffle netted \$41.

Old Business

Bill Wadsworth has drafted changes to the constitution concerning elections.

New Business

The annual depot cookout will be held in August. Matt Crouch suggested having displays as well.

Announcements

Whistles by the Depot at the St Albans depot on October 4 starting at 7 p.m.

Future Meetings

August 9 -- St Albans Depot
September 13 -- Portsmouth, OH Mark Maynard's home
October 11 -- St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

The raffle and a clinic by Gary Burdette on thoughts about the Depot followed the business meeting.



Photo by Paul Lapointe

RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

With the Division back in home territory at the Depot in July, the raffle took in a respectable \$41 with a mixed bag of donated items! Thanks again to our generous members; you're the ones that make this work!

August's meeting will also be in St. Albans, so what donated item I have left will be on the table. We'll be out after that, so take a look around for anything you can donate to the raffle.

Thousands of negatives still need



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*.



your positive support.

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*.

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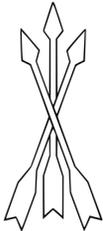


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

August 9

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

September 13

Portsmouth, OH

October 11

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

November 8

Bluefield, WV