



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

September 2014



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From the Head the Holler By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

The members of The Coal Division have been busy the last few months. From our meetings away from the depot in May (Steel is King in Parkersburg) and in June (the joint meeting with The Buckeye Division in Marion, Ohio) to our return home in July and August (with preparations being made for the NMRA National Convention during the former, and the annual cookout at the latter), we saw much activity. Hopefully, that inspired interest and enjoyment.

September takes us to the Western edge of our division at Portsmouth, Ohio. A joint meeting with Division 6, a cookout, clinics, flea market, contests (Division 9 is passenger cars and Division 6 is photos of diesels- prototype and model, and model diesel/electric), and Mark's train layout should combine to make for another great outing and get-together. This should be penciled in now!

Thanks to Dan for writing this column last month with some good information and to Bob for adding some tidbits of his own. Both guys always do well with their writing, and we appreciate their efforts. The awards our guys received in Cleveland spoke well for our division.

I'm MADD. I've been MADD for a while and some of you have gotten MADD, too. Larry was MADD when he brought in some locks a while back. Dennis was MADD when he showed us some diagrams he developed to help show how to throw the turnouts for some complicated switching. Bob Osburn got MADD twice when he showed us some examples of LED lighting for his N Scale structures, including a "working" television set. I hope, sooner or later, you all get MADD.

Ok, it stands for Modeling, Artifacts, Discussions, and Displays- MADD. Really, this is just a version of show-n-tell or bring-n-brag with some possibilities incorporated in the title. We've done this on a number of occasions over the last few years. As a couple of you have brought things in recently (like the depot models when we met in Charleston) and we've talked about expanding the activity as interest dictates. We can have a couple of items each meeting, or if there are several available, these could be presented in place of the standard clinic. Let Dan know if you have something and he can schedule a couple or several. If you have several hints and want to put them back-to-back into a half-hour or so clinic with handouts, your "How I Improved My Layout," etc. could be used for AP Author credit.

I have prepared a list of a bunch of things which may be displayed (you've seen a few already) to add a little spice and railroad history to our meetings. Dale said he "really enjoys meeting at the depot," so anything we can add to the mix should be a plus. As we look to attracting and keeping members, these ideas may help here, too.

So, I'll see you in Portsmouth and remember to get MADD.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Asst. Supt.

Well, here we are getting ready for our annual pilgrimage to Portsmouth and the hospitality of Mark Maynard and the rest of our far west end cohorts along with the guys from adjoining Divisions. It is an event I always look forward to. Good food, good friends and Mark's railroad. It foreshadows the advent of fall with its warm days, cool nights and beautiful colors in the trees. We will have our annual white elephant sale and the contest will be passenger cars and equipment. Sure do hope to see you there.

I have been working on a couple of Civil War era steam locos for Walt Mycoff. There is no room in the loco or tender for a decoder, much less a speaker. The solution was to put the decoder and speaker in a boxcar and wire them to the loco and tender. The entire boiler space in the loco is a weight, which is energized. The tender contains the flat motor which is connected to the loco via a plastic driveshaft. The first one I did was returned by Walt when it quit running. After tearing it down and checking all the wiring there was no reason it would not run, or not! The nine pin connector to the decoder had the red wire, which picks one side of the rail power, crimped in the connector just fine. But, the red wire was broken by the crimping tool. It now runs; but have to

rewire and put it back together. Electronics is such fun!

My favorite model railroad magazine has always been *Railroad Model Craftsmen* but prior to the NMRA National the June issue had not arrived. Rumors were rife at the convention that RMC (Carstens Publications) was on the ropes. My June issue finally arrived in mid August; however shortly thereafter Carstens announced they were shutting down. The latest development is that the titles *RMC* and *Railfan&Railroad* had been purchased by *White River Productions* owned by Kevin EuDaly and that our subscriptions would be honored.

I would like to extend to Jerry Doyle the most sincere condolences from myself and Nina on the loss of his mother. I am sure all members join me in that sentiment.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Bob Osburn for assuming the duties of chef at our recent barbecue at the St. Albans depot. I was not feeling well that day and went out resigned to doing the cooking; only to find Bob had assumed the apron! Thanks so much Bob.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

In this issue we catch up with the InfoNet news from NMRA's National Office. That note comes out right about the time this newsletter is being prepared but the July issue was a bit late due to the convention. This month we have both the July and August issues.

Please note the absence of the August meeting minutes. As this issue is being prepared we learned of the death of Jerry Doyle's mother. Normally I send a quick text to Jerry to remind him of the deadline but this month that seems totally inappropriate. Look for the August minutes next month along with the September minutes.

As most of you know, I also edit the Mid-Central Region's newsletter, the KingPin. The latest issue was available August 22 to all MCR members with email addresses on file with the National Office. If you did not receive the notice, it could be that your email address is not on file or that your membership has lapsed. Of course, if you are not a member and reading this you would not have received it. The link is http://archive.midcentral-region-nmra.org/NewsLetterFold/MCRNLFold/14B_Kingpin_201408.pdf The file is large

and the server can be a bit slow so please be patient. There are lots of photos of MCR winners at the National Convention Contest including Coal Division members Gary Burdette MMR, Larry Richards, Bob Osburn, and Dan Mulhearn.

The InfoNet mentions the election candidates. Some of you recall I was running for VP-Administration but withdrew due to lack of name recognition compared to the other candidates when another position became available. The At Large North American Director (ALNAD) is up for election this time and the one candidate withdrew right after the convention. I was urged to run for that position and will be on the ballot. There were also, at last count, five other candidates and there may be more. The late Lin Young had urged me to run for the NMRA Board. It took a while to work up the nerve to do so but the time has come. All members will receive ballots and candidate information in the NMRA Magazine (yes, even non subscribers) early in 2015.

MEETING NOTICE

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, the editor hasn't heard of the layout upgrades but surely they are numerous and welcome by the operating crew.

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. In particular, consider items that you might think too valuable for the raffle. 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 contest will be passenger cars and Division 6's normal contest will also be held. See Gary's column on page 1 for a full description of the Division 6 contest.

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. If you want to use GPS, the house number is 42.

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*.

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.



CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

August's contest category was on-line structures. We had four great models. Nathan Robinette brought in a model of the Boody Station. Gary Burdette had his beehive coke battery. Larry Richards had a model of the St. Albans Depot and a Section Forman's house. First place went to Gary's coke ovens and second place was taken by Larry's station.

Next Month:

September's meeting is at Mark Maynard's home in Portsmouth OH. Last year the contest was photography, which proved to be a problem whenever the wind blew. The entries all had to be weighed down to keep them from flying away! This year we're switching to Passenger Cars, which should do better in the prevailing breezes!

The NMRA Achievement Program defines "Passenger cars" as including anything that would normally be found in a regular scheduled passenger train including baggage cars, express reefers, business cars, or other passenger carrying cars like drover's cabooses.



RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

With the Division back in home territory at the Depot in July, the raffle took in a respectable \$48 with several items donated at the last minute. Thanks again to our generous members!

September's meeting is at Mark Maynard's in Portsmouth so there will be no raffle that month. We're back at the Depot in October with what is left at the bottom of the raffle box. We're getting low again, mostly a few books, so take a look around for anything you can donate and bring it to Portsmouth or to the Depot.

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 29
November	October 29
December	December 1
January	December 22
February	February 2

WELCOME TO THE InfoNet NEWS FOR JULY 2014

A message from Allen Pollock Interim At Large North American Director -

I have just returned from the Board of Directors meeting held in Cleveland on July 11th and 12th. There were many topics discussed and acted upon, most of which will be covered in other venues, such as President Getz's column, board meeting reports on the web page and in the magazine. But one topic that deserves attention here, and in the other media mentioned above is the declining membership.

Programs and activities are in the works to address this problem. However, I believe that it is not solely the job of the membership promotional volunteers at the national level, as well as the regional and divisional folks. The most immediate attack on the membership decline lies with you and with me. We all know fellow model railroaders locally who for whatever reason don't belong to the NMRA. In many cases there is a confrontation or situation of long ago that happened to cause the member to not renew the membership, or deter this potential member from joining. Ironically, it was not a confrontation with the NMRA itself, but rather a situation involving another volunteer representing the NMRA which turned negative. I think we would do a great service to the Association to talk with these folks, try to determine their resistance to renew or join, and explain that most likely the original offending parties are no longer involved or the situations have now been corrected.

Another avenue to offer these folks is to simply enroll them as a member. That can be as inexpensive as the \$9.95 Rail Pass membership, or as elaborate as a full one year membership with the NMRA Magazine. There are some divisions already enrolling and paying for the Rail Pass for visitors to their meetings. Internal studies have proven that the retention rate for renewal of these memberships is surprisingly high. This is a great gift to offer to a potential member, and should get their attention that you are serious about the NMRA, and want to share that with them. If each of us reading this InfoNet News would commit to signing up one new member, regardless of who actually paid the membership rate, this situation would be turned around in very short order.

The demographic data available has told us that almost all membership organizations have a problem with memberships declining. This is related to the fact that young people prefer not to join groups, spend more time than previous generations on electronic media, and are seeking instant gratification. While we may be able to convince these folks to join our NMRA at some point in the future with programs underway and directed at them, I think we

should immediately address the potential members who form the group of age 45 on thru retirement. We meet these folks at divisional activities, conventions and train shows all the time.

I have signed up my new members, will you commit to sign up yours?

Allen Pollock
Interim At Large North American Director

2019 NMRA Convention & Train Show Location

The NMRA Board of Directors, at their annual meeting in Cleveland, unanimously selected Salt Lake City as the location for the 2019 NMRA Convention and Train Show. The convention dates are 07-07-19 to 07-13-19 and the train show dates are 07-12-19 to 07-14-19.

NMRA awards presented at the Cleveland NMRA convention

The following NMRA awards were presented at the Cleveland NMRA Convention:

Honorary Life Membership (HLM)

Clark Kooning
Eric Schneblen

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

William Bowser
Lewis English

NMRA Fellow Award (FA)

Martin Boyask

President's Award

Jim Lupfer
Stephen Priest
Bob Blake
Howard Prunty
Tom Draper
Debbie Draper
Monroe Stewart
Daisy Stewart
Frank Koch
Bob Amsler

Meritorious Service Award

Ray deBlicke
Ed Slintak

Newly revised NMRA Web Page

Ben Sevier, NMRA Information Technology Manager, has announced the release of a new and improved version of the NMRA web page at www.nmra.org. Please visit this new web site and experience the many new features, functions and format of this important communication tool. You will be impressed with the new site.

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

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Regards,

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

WELCOME TO THE InfoNet NEWS FOR JULY 2014

A message from Didrik Voss Manager – Standards and Conformance Department

During the last NMRA convention in Cleveland I had a chance to talk to several advocates of competing Layout Command Control methods. As you may not know, Layout Command Control, LCC for short, describes a method of communicating with accessories on the layout such as turnouts, signals, lights, pushbuttons, panel lights on a separate bus from the DCC bus. By having a separate bus, the DCC bus is able to control locomotives much quicker. Let's face it, the DCC bus was designed in the 1990's. It has great capacity to control locomotive decoders, but when accessories are also controlled through the DCC bus, the locomotive will not be as responsive. The burden of running a CTC board or any of the other train control method through the DCC bus can further slow the responsiveness of locomotive.

Many of you are aware of Dr. Bruce Chubb's C/MRI system or Dr. Gerry Albers' Signals by Spreadsheet approach. NMRA wants to recognize the contribution of these two approaches, as well as others, in the Standards.

As a result, we are working on having these approaches, as well as OpenLCB®, fully described in the NMRA standards. In other words, NMRA will be a repository of different methods to accomplish the same goals. We hope to provide a clear and brief description of each approach, so that you may select the approach that best matches your needs and capabilities.

In order for an LCC method to be approved, NMRA will use the following criteria.

1. The method has been developed to the point where it is working on several layouts not owned by the developers of the method.
2. Devices and programs used to operate the method may be manufactured or written by competing manufacturers for no compensation to the original developers of the method.
3. All patents or copyrights associated with the method will be signed over to NMRA at no cost and NMRA will have the authority to sub-license competing manufacturers in their use.

4. The original developers of the method agree to continue their support in updating and improving the NMRA standards used to describe the method.

Additional requirements may be added as this new approach to publishing standards as the program develops.
Didrik A. Voss, MMR
Manager, S&C Dept
NMRA

Additional Awards -

In addition to the awards presented at the 2014 NMRA Convention in Cleveland that were mentioned in last month's InfoNet News, the Pioneer Award was also presented to Dave Osment and Harold Rosenlund.

2015 Election Update

Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester's report was presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual BOD Meeting in Cleveland. Unfortunately, about a week after the Convention Banquet, the only candidate for At-Large-North American Director (ALNAD) withdrew his name from consideration. There is no procedure in the Executive Handbook to cover such an occurrence. With input from Nominations Committee Chair Tony Koester and the approval of NMRA Counsel Bob Amsler and the Board of Directors, we will be following the schedule shown below *for this election only*. These are the current proposed slate of candidates and procedures:

Proposed Slate of Candidates

President

Charlie Getz

Vice President / Administration

Clark Kooning

Dave Thornton

Vice President / Special Projects

Gerry Leone

Continued page 7

At-Large North American Director (ALNAD)

(name withdrawn by request)

Editor's Note: There are now several candidates for this position including your Editor.

Eastern District Director (EDD)

Joe Gelmini

Pacific District Director (PDD)

Mike Bartlett

Kelly Loyd

All positions except for ALNAD

The five positions except for ALNAD are now in the By-Petition phase. The By-Petition Process is explained under Article X Nominations, Ballots, and Voting paragraph #3. Your petition needs to be presented to the Secretary *no later than September 15, 2014*.

The ALNAD position

The ALNAD position is still in the normal Nominating Committee Process. There are currently two candidates that have already gone through the Nominating Committee Process. If you are interested in being a candidate for the ALNAD position, contact Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester at nkpfan@prtd.net. The deadline for this phase of the process is August 31, 2014.

Once the Nominating Committee Chair has made his report, the ALNAD position will then go into the By-petition Process.

All future updates to the 2015 election process will only be found on the NMRA website.

John Stevens

NMRA Secretary

snevets4@bellsouth.net

Plans to reincorporate cancelled.

The NMRA has cancelled plans to reincorporate in the State of Missouri because recent changes to Ohio non-profit law have made remaining an Ohio corporation much more favorable to us.

Vertical integration of the NMRA

Work on vertically integrating the NMRA is continuing. This vertical integration will give every Region and Divi-

sion 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status with a minimal hassle to all parties. In addition, Charlie Getz stressed that each Division and Region will continue to control its own programs and finances - NMRA National will not get involved in the day-to-day business of Divisions and Regions. Currently two Regions and one Division will be used as a test case to see if or where problems develop. Those problems will be worked out before the plan is introduced to the entire NMRA system.

NMRA Marketing Director resigns

John Parrish, NMRA Marketing Director, resigned his position because of time commitments. President Charlie Getz is currently **looking for a replacement**

FULL TRANSCRIPT OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING AVAILABLE ONLINE

On Wednesday, July 16, the NMRA held its Annual General Membership Meeting, which was combined with a "Meet the President" session. This meeting was packed with facts about the NMRA, its current state and its future as well as its programs, plans, and finances.

A full transcript of this meeting is available on the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/general-membership-meeting-july-2014> and includes member comments and questions, along with Board and Officer answers. We urge every NMRA member who is interested in the governance and future of the NMRA to read though this highly informative document.

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

COAL DIVISION CONTEST WINNERS

The Coal Division was well represented at the recent NMRA Convention, here are some photos of models that won awards in Cleveland. Except where noted photos by Paul Voelker. No photo of the photo but Dan Mulhearn took third place in prototype color photos.



Larry Richards took second place in scratch built dioramas with “Craigs Fork Lumber and Railway”.



Larry also took third place in the same category with “Craigs Fork Lumber and Railway”.



Larry also took second place in scratch built passenger cars with “Craigs Fork Railway”.



Robert Osburn took third place in scratch built structures with his N scale “Chessie System Tugboat J. Speed Gray”.



Gary Burdette MMR took third place in kit built non-revenue equipment with “Jordan Spreader C&E 914050”.



Last but not least, Gary won first and second place in the Railroadiana section of the Arts and Crafts contest, his entries are shown above and to the left. Photos by Gary.

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



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

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



Midland Atlantic

Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com



NORFOLK AND WESTERN

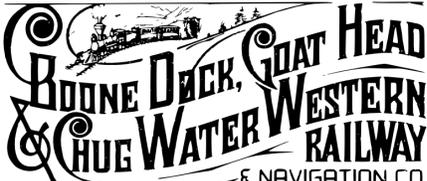
PIPESTEM BASEMENT DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
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danmulhearn@gmail.com



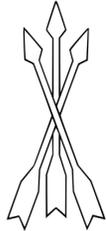
THE CRUSTY ROAD

CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR
Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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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

Western West Virginian



With Connections to the
B&O, C&O, Western Maryland,
West Virginia Northern

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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

Upcoming Coal Division Events

September 13
Portsmouth, OH

October 11
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV

November 8
Bluefield, WV

December 13
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV

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letter via the US Postal
Service and have an email
address, please let us
know so we can save
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to get onto the email dis-
tribution list for Up The
Holler.