



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

July 2016



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

Shakespeare once said something about a rose smelling good no matter what you call it. Well, it was something like that as he was referring to the substance of the object rather than the name. Our change from meeting to event may carry similar ramifications in that the title is less important than the components. Yet, in our fast-paced "hip" world a theme, logo, or label can promote interest by stimulating our imaginations and enticing us to visualize what might actually transpire. A fancy moniker must be supported by a solid vision of its vivid portrayal. The "show" must be interesting.

In recent months we have read about a number of events, activities, or experiences that have been designed to promote an interest in model railroading as well as some excitement. In our Coal Division we have had several mini-clinics, M.A.D.D. displays, museum and rail visits, interesting and informative clinics, picnics, train shows, layout tours, and other activities designed to spice up our events. More recently we have enjoyed demonstration and/or hands-on presentations that included ballasting, mountain building, freight car tweaking, animations, tools, and spray painting. In keeping with the monthly themes (like Steel is King) and more free thinking contest subjects (like Photos, Fine Art, and Fantastic Finishes), the substance of the typical clinic has expanded into a more all-inclusive production with photos, plans, how-to, and "stuff" you can actually see and touch (with more-and-more actual manipulation of objects planned).

In June we launched a three-part Event Series titled "Spray Day at the Station." Phase I was "Airbrush Painting" with Bob Weinheimer and Jerry Doyle handling solvent-based paints and Anthony Parrish specializing in water based acrylics. Cardboard paint booths were set up on the old baggage carts outside on the platform. After a primer on airbrushes was held in the waiting room, the group went outside and began painting the MDC box car shells donated by the NMRA to the divisions for just such purposes. Under the guidance of the gentlemen listed above, many nice paint jobs resulted from their efforts. This was a real hands-on learning experience.

Bob had an idea that, since there was no under frame with the shell, an aside could be a scratch-building contest in which the modeler would construct his own floor and bracing. That might be just the spark needed to get the guys to attempt to learn a new skill. No commercial swapping, but sheet, bar, and angled stock. Cut and fit the pieces to make the floor, bracing, levers, and brake rigging. Cast brake parts will be allowed to complete the details. The car will be judged on the under frame only, not the paint job. The contest will be due at the October get-together.

The August Event will be "Picnic on the Platform," and several have volunteered food items. I'll bring burgers along with Bob. Tom signed up for burger buns. Dan will round things out (literally) with hot dogs and buns. Bill will handle the potato salad, with Tony bringing four cases of soda pop. Max (and Rosa) will bring chips and refreshing bottled water. Dave will add some chips, and Larry will bring cookies and water melon. Charles L. promises cookies and Nathan has the cheese and extra-juicy tomatoes from the Racine, Ohio fields. If you have any other ideas or items, let me know.

The "Spray Day" activity will continue with Phase II: Decal Application. Bring the shells you painted in June. If you don't have one, you can still bring an undecorated car either painted or gloss-coated. Tom told us of a screen printing possibility done at a local shop in his home town. Much more will be in the offing with hands-on attempts at lettering your own car. So, show up, eat, letter, and

Continued page 2

Continued from page 1 enjoy the day. "Spray Day" Phase III: Weathering will conclude the series as part of the October Event.

Jerry and I went to Marion, Ohio to participate in the Buckeye Division's day-long event at their depot. Old friends, fast trains, and a good time offered another way to enjoy the hobby. The June issue of the *NMRA Magazine* describes the activities and benefits of conventions (and small mini-meets) as an enhancement of your pursuit of model railroading.

Due to the NMRA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in July we will skip our division event. The convention and National Train Show are in our own back yard so this would be a great opportunity to attend. Check out the nmra.org web site for complete details.

Speaking of web sites: the use of emails, Facebook,

web sites and other digital media was discussed in a number of different articles in the July issue of "The Magazine." Our own Coal Division has a web site and Facebook account. Bob will be posting some of the candid shots of some of our hands-on events and will be looking at prototype photos and modeling information on our web site. Look at coal.division.org/education to see a couple of things already displayed and the overall outline. See if there is anything you'd like to add as we get more substance into the framework. This could be a great reference for the Scout Merit Badge, interested modelers, and the general public.

Add many experiences to your model railroading toolbox by participating on various levels.

FROM THE OFFICEDOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

Welcome to summer. I really enjoyed our June meeting at the depot as well as welcoming Tom and Jeremy as guests from across the Virginia line.. Thanks to everyone for their participation.

Probably the biggest thing on everyone's mind is the catastrophic flooding in parts of our State. We had no problems up here in Pipestem but the damage close by, along the Greenbrier is simply unbelievable. I have not had any word, at this point, about how the old C&O main was affected but have seen some pictures of the railroad in the midst of a flooded countryside. We need to keep folks who have lost everything in our thoughts and prayers. I

had to miss this year's get together at Marion; but Jerry Doyle and Gary Burdette made it and reported the walleye entrée at the Shovel is still worth having.

I really love the rugged country of southwestern Virginia. Just naming the railroads that served the area; N&W, L&N, Clinchfield, Interstate, and Southern evokes fond memories. Thankfully the area was well covered by great photographers such as Ron Flanary and Everett Young. There was a great singer/musician who epitomized the good people of that area. RIP Dr. Ralph Stanley.

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 start the layout work the Monday 12 days before the meeting. This allows a day of review by the officers and a proofreader before the electronic version is issued, usually on Wednesday. The paper version is mailed Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by that 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.

August	August 1
September	August 29
October	September 26
November	October 31

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth

The Coal Division has recently received a set of DVDs from the NMRA that have clinics taken from various convention presentations. I will bring them to our meetings so that if any of you are interested they can be borrowed for a while. I'm thinking you could pick them up at one meeting and return them the next. I have made a list of them with their topics and hope to have copies at our next meeting so you will know what's available. Also, Bob Weinheimer will be posting this list on our website in case you don't have a handout.

In addition to the NMRA clinic DVDs, I have some of my own that will be available to be borrowed. Based on our discussions at the last meeting others may also have some they would be willing to lend as well. I don't yet have a listing for these but hope to put one together for you in the future. Your comments and suggestions on this "library" would be appreciated.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Summertime at the Station

St Albans Depot

St Albans, WV

June 11, 2016

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:55 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,081.17.

May minutes were approved.

Pike Ads \$0.

Raffle revenues \$88.

Superintendent Report

Gary Burdette talked about some Division activities such as the incomplete N Scale layout and a display for the baggage cart in the baggage room. The possibility of Division 9 hosting the 2020 convention was mentioned. There was an "Make and Take" article about scenery in the Division 11 newsletter, Gary printed a copy for members read. He showed a card-stock C&O structure. He also showed a sample clinic handout that could be on the Division website. Bob Weinheimer pointed out that a handout was required to qualify a clinic for author points. Gary distributed a "Yellow Pages" data sheet member can fill out to become a resource for answering questions for other members. Out educational section is available at www.coaldivision.org/education.

A sign-up sheet was distributed for the cookout in August.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Dan thanked Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe for hosting last month's meeting. He introduced guests Tom Harris and Jeremy Fuller.

Achievement Program

David Oliverio received his Scenery AP certificate.

The paperwork has been submitted for Jerry Doyle to earn Association Official AP certificate.

Newsletter Chair

Bob Weinheimer is always looking for articles. We will have a newsletter for July even though there will be no meeting.

Clinic Chair

We will be having hands-on clinics for the next several months.

Librarian

Bill brought a listing of our current library collection. The listing will be available on the Division website as well. In addition to the NMRA clinics there are other videos available. Members can temporarily loan videos to the library as well as donate them.

Contest Chair

The position of Contest Chair is currently open.

Membership Chair

No report.

Raffle

The position of Raffle Chair is currently open.

Old Business

None

New Business

Gary Burdette mentioned that a grant was received to pay for part of roof repairs. We have also had discussions about applying for a WV Transportation grant.

Announcements

National Train Show Indianapolis, Indiana July 8-10.

Future Meetings

June 18 – Marion, Ohio

July – No meeting NMRA National in Indianapolis and National Train Show.

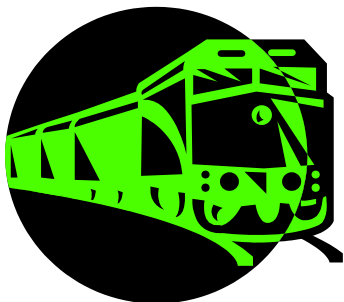
August 13 – St Albans, Depot Picnic on the Platform

September 10 – Portsmouth, Ohio, Mark Maynard's.

Meeting adjourned 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk



MCR Coal Division Upcoming Railfun Events

July 2016 - December 2016 *Indy, Portsmouth, Bluefield, & St. Albans*

Featuring: "Spray Day at the Depot" Clinics, /Challenging Contests/ Running Trains, /Friendship, /Picnics/ Raffles

TIMETABLE

JULY: NMRA National Convention in Indianapolis
Check nmra.org for details & National Train Show

AUGUST: "Picnic on the Platform" - ST. ALBANS Depot - Picnic
Contest: Freight Cars, Clinic: Decaling, Raffle: Silent Auction

SEPTEMBER: "Ride the Crusty" - Portsmouth, Ohio - Picnic
Contest: Civil, Elect., Mech. Engineer, Clinic: Run Trains, Raffle: Flea Mkt.

OCTOBER: "Fall Photo Special" - ST. ALBANS Depot - Photo Ops
Contest: Open Load, Clinic: Weathering Frt. Cars, Raffle: 1/\$1.00 or 6/\$5.00
*Judging of special Freight Car Floor scratch-building challenge!

NOVEMBER: "Coal Division in the Coal Fields" - Bluefield Train Show
Contest: Passenger Cars, Clinic: None, Raffle: None - Enjoy the Show

DECEMBER: "Santa at the Station" - ST. ALBANS Depot - X-mas Decour
Contest: Modeler's Choice, Clinic: Fill-a-Foot-of-Foam- w-Scenery, Raffle

Remember:

- * The New River Train - 3rd & 4th weekend in Oct.
- * The Appalachian Model Railroad Club Annual Train Show - Thanksgiving
- * Other summer and fall activities may be seen in the MCR "Kingpin"

CONTEST

Dan Mulhearn

Photos by Paul Lapointe

The June contest category was non revenue equipment. Larry Richards took first place with his HOn30 gondola and caboos. Second was Gary Burdette's Jordan

spreader. Third place was a tie between Dave Stout's MW gondola and Nathan Robinette's transfer caboos.



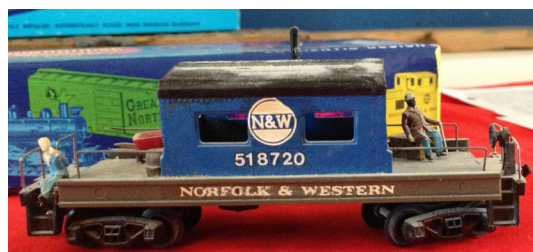
Left: Larry's first place gondola and caboose



Right: Gary's Jordan spreader



Left: Dave's maintenance of way gondola



Right: Nathan's transfer caboose

RAFFLE

Dan Mulhearn

The raffle at the June meeting took in \$68.00. Thanks so much to all who participated and especially to those who contributed items for the raffle. As you are aware, this money goes to assist with the maintenance and

operating costs of the depot. Please continue to contribute your no longer needed items. We are considering in the future having a silent auction type sale for more valuable items.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Photo by Jerry Doyle

The photo shows me presenting David Oliverio with his Scenery certificate. Congratulations to David! David is now looking at the requirements for the Electrical certificate, he is just one wye or turntable away from that one. He is also an avid structure builder so we will be looking carefully at his work in that area. I have suggested he write some articles about his layout and structures that can be used toward the Author certificate. David is working on an operating scheme for his layout and is a regular operator on the Pennsylvania Southern. If we can get him to do some dispatching he will be on his way to Chief Dispatcher. If he does all of that he will be getting very close to being yet another Master Model Railroader.

Jerry Doyle's Association Official Statement of Qualifications has been submitted, we hope

to hear of its approval any day now. This certificate now gives Jerry five certificates. I have publicly challenged him to work on the last two so he can be presented with his plaque at the next Mid Central Region convention.

Remember that any time you have a model you need evaluated for Achievement Program purposes please bring it to any of our events and we will gladly look it over. If it is something like David's scenery we can certainly make a house call.



MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Let's start this column off on a happy note. Coal Division member Patrick Miller and his wife Heather welcomed their second child, daughter Gemma Catherine Miller, to the world June 24. Congratulations to the Miller family!

In his column Dan discusses the floods here in West Virginia and wondered about the C&O mainline. All I know is that Amtrak did not run Friday June 24 or Sunday June 26. Given the devastation in the White Sulfur Springs area I cannot imagine the railroad came out unscathed.

I am striving to get this issue of Up The Holler out a day or two early so it's off my desk before I head to the national convention in Indianapolis. I


hope to see some of you at the convention and more at the National Train Show. Both events will not be so close again in the foreseeable future.

I sure enjoyed Spray Day in June. It was a real pleasure to help several members overcome their awe of the airbrush. Thanks to Jerry Doyle and Anthony Parrish for helping in this effort.

I hope to get back to track renewal on the Pennsylvania Southern. Next up is the area south of Washington toward West Union and Waynesburg. I need to build only a few turnouts then I can start tearing up track.

The next operating session is July 14, Coal Division members are welcome.

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.



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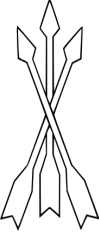


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John Harris, Chief Engineer
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Western West Virginian



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

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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