



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

August 2016



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

They say, "No good deed goes unpunished." This is the tongue-in-cheek statement that indicates someone will complain, something will go wrong, or nobody will notice when we do something good. This is not the case in the following example.

With the clinics, tours, contests, and other activities of the 2016 NMRA National Convention behind, all that was left was the closing banquet, speeches, and special awards. From the podium Charlie Getz, our president, stated, "By the authority granted me by the Board of Directors of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. I hereby present to Robert Weinheimer, MMR the President's Award in recognition of and appreciation for Outstanding Service with the Discount Program". Bob was surprised, flattered, and pleased with the recognition. I know we are proud of his efforts.

For quite a while Bob has been laying the groundwork and then the framework for a plan in which various prototype and model train businesses and organizations offer a percentage off admission or other fees to card-carrying NMRA members. He has made arrangements with several museums and tourist railroads and is working on obtaining agreements with many hobby shops around the country. As more and more groups get on board, the list of participants continues to grow. Once launched, the savings an active member may save could easily pay his yearly dues. Thus, here is another plus for being an NMRA member. Congratulations Bob. Thanks for your hard work.

As August is approaching, members of the Coal Division are preparing for our monthly event: *Picnic on the Platform*. Last month we indicated some of the food items promised, but there is always room for others. We will have a silent auction instead of the raffle, so bring your items and wallets. Also, don't forget that the decaling phase of "Spray Day at the Station" will be the clinic for the event. Bring the box car you painted last time or a shiny undecorated car to work on refining your skills. The contest is freight cars.

Remember, the separate judged contest for October is a scratch-built under frame for your box car project that will complement the clinic areas (Phase I-Painting, Phase II-Decaling, Phase III-Weathering). Only the frame will be judged. This overall theme will help you with your modeling skills and give you a taste of judging for contests and the Achievement Program. Challenge yourself and get involved.

I am working on the "Fill-a-Foot-of Foam" with scenery project by collecting foam, rocks, sticks, and such for a real hands-on, down-and-dirty clinic. Plans from the Australian bunch will be available but we'll focus on an American scene (except Charlie) for Phase I. Phase II of the project will be building a paper kit I am preparing from Gene Jones' color rendering of a C&O two-room section house. The kit also includes card stock and scale lumber. We may lay down some dirt and a foundation with rocks, weeds, and trees for the scenery phase then add the structure to the board for part two. The idea is to work on some skill-building activities and have something (completed model) to add to your railroad. We may even judge these models for fun. Get involved and invite your friends. This could be an attendance booster, membership drive, or grow into a community outreach.

Good deeds do get rewarded as we have seen through Bob's efforts. Your good times may be rewarded as you participate in the picnic, activities, and the hands-on modeling projects in the upcoming Coal Division Events Series.

FROM THE OFFICEDOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

What a week! Of course I am talking about the Holiday week of July 4th and the NMRA National Convention at Indianapolis. To start, we were so impressed with the City of Indianapolis itself. I don't think we have ever seen a cleaner city. The convention itself was just wonderful. We met and dined with friends, both old and new. Among these was Bruce Knapp, who we met enroute to the Sacramento Convention in 2011 and with whom we have kept in touch since. Our new friends include Steve and Bernadine Zapytowski who we met at the 2016 MCR convention at Columbus. We had some meals with Bob Weinheimer and shared several clinics. Kelley and Debbie Massie from our Division were also there and we shared some time with them.

Due to the logistics of dealing with Nina and her health issues I didn't get to go to any op sessions but the clinics during the week were wonderful.

The highlight of the trip, for me, was the tour of Amtrak's Beech Grove shops. It is an incredible complex of older buildings repurposed to serve the current needs of Amtrak. Our trip was on Saturday so there was no activity in the shops. We did not have to wear ear protection and the tour guides were pretty laid back. I think we were able to get a lot closer to some of the locos and cars being worked on because of that.

The National Train Show was fabulous. It is always

great to see the manufacturers' booths and what they are cooking up for us. I picked up a couple of bargains at the show. Jim Rollwage asked us to pick up anything Union Pacific for him and I showed him a couple of UP SD70aces. Whoa, not his era! At the show we also bumped into Jerry Doyle and Greg McCartney who had driven over just for the show.

The convention closed with the traditional banquet which was held at Indianapolis Union Station. Our Bob Weinheimer received a President's Award for his work on the member discount program. The speaker was the CEO of ScaleTrains.com who spoke of his groups breakaway from Athearn in a new venture. It was interesting to hear of the problems of launching a new company including dealing with the Chinese factories and correcting problems involved when things don't go right.

All in all, the week was well worth the time and expense. You should consider trying at least one National Convention. The 2017 convention is slated for Orlando, FL, not so far away to make it overly expensive, and well worth the commitment.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our cookout at the August meeting. Hope to see you there.

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.

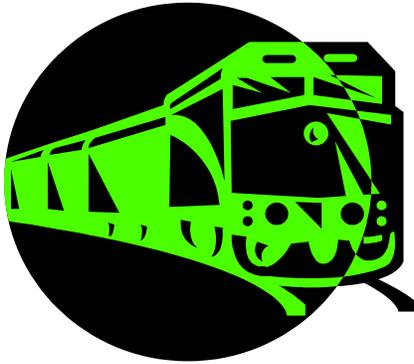
September	August 29
October	September 26
November	October 31
December	November 28
January	January 2

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth

The collection of NMRA Clinic DVDs now available for loan to the members has not been very popular so far. There's a lot of helpful information which I'm sure would be useful to many of you and it's there for the asking. Now that a list of the topics has been put together be sure to check it out and see what might be helpful to you.

As explained at the June meeting, I have some DVDs that I'm willing to loan out, and I believe some of you also have DVDs that you're willing to share with others. These DVDs aren't the property of Div. 9 and are loaned to me as I loan them to the members. After a period of time – 1 year, 6 months, whatever – you decide when – the DVDs are returned to the owner. This way we can all share the information, and no one has to give away anything. If you're willing to share your DVDs with others, bring them to the next meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions/suggestions.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Picnic on the Platform”

The ST. ALBANS Depot
August 13, 2016

11:00 - Depot open (set up sales, cook food)
Gather on platform, socialize, etc.

12:30 - Lunch

1:00 - Social time, view M.A.D.D. display w/ decal info and sample scratched car frames. Contest is Freight Cars.

2:00 - Superintendent's Briefing

2:40 - Contest, Silent Auction Results

3:00 - Phase II of “Spray Day at the Depot”
DECALING: Bring the car you painted last time and we can do some lettering on it. This is a hands on event!

Reminder: Phase III Weathering and undercarriage construction contest in October

Indianapolis National Train Show Report

Jerry Doyle

Although I didn't attend the national convention in Indianapolis, I did make it to the National Train Show where many manufacturers had displays of upcoming products. Here are some I found interesting:



Scalettrains.com had their HO UP turbine on display. It comes with two powered units along with sound. It is available as a super-detailed "Museum Quality" version and a well-detailed "Rivet Counter" version. There were 30 prototype units powered by a General Electric gas-turbine engine producing 8,500 horsepower. Even today, almost 50 years after their retirement, they still dwarf the power of the most modern diesels.



They also had samples of their new HO 40' Airslide covered hopper in a variety of paint schemes. The models are designed to be affordable and allow modelers to add extra details if desired.



Atrearn had the first test shots of their HO Genesis series Amtrak SDP40F locomotive. This model has been a top request for many years among modelers. The prototypes were built in 1973 and 1974 for Amtrak as their first new units. They had a short career due to a series of derailments for which they were blamed. They were retired in the late 1970's and a few were traded to Santa Fe.



Fox Valley Models had new HO versions of the Southern Silver Sides coal gondola on display. Unlike many models produced these days, these models are designed to be affordable and rugged for operations. They also will be available in 14 separate numbers. They will also be available in N Scale.



Atlas had their HO late-phase GP40-2 on display. It is correct for the final deliveries received by Chessie in 1980 and 1981.

Atlas also had pre-production samples of their reworked GP7 in HO. The unit now has a plastic underframe and fuel tank.



InterMountain Railway Company had pre-production samples of their HO Paducah-rebuilt Geep. There were hundreds of these units rebuilt at the Illinois Central shops in Paducah, Kentucky for the IC and dozens of other railroads and many are still in operation today.

MY WORD Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As you can see, this issue is a full 12 pages and has lots of interesting stuff. Jerry Doyle has documented some of the new items introduced at the National Train Show. A number of photos by Gary Burdette of our June Spray Day event are scattered throughout the issue. There is also a nice overview of the NMRA Education Department by its manager in the Info Blast column.

As Gary Burdette noted in his column, the Indianapolis convention ended with a big surprise to me. I should note that Charlie didn't really say all those words from the podium, that quote is from the text on the plaque. I must say I was truly surprised to hear my name called. Coal Division members Dan and Nina Mulhearn as well as MCR President Steve Kaplan were at the same table and can attest to my surprise. It is very nice to be recognized for the work on this new NMRA member benefit. There were several others given similar awards including Mike Brestel, former NMRA President and Jerry Leone, current NMRA Vice President for Special Projects. I can't say I know any of the other recipients, I hope there will be something in the *NMRA Magazine* that makes note of their accomplishment and the reasons behind the award.

The most prestigious award, Honorary Life Membership, was awarded to Tony Koester for his long history of service to the NMRA. Congratulations to Tony!

The convention was lots of fun. Coal Division members Dan and Nina Mulhearn, Kelley and Debbie Massie, and Jim Moon were also at the convention. My three clinics were well received. There

were a dozen or so folks who stayed through all three of them, they even stayed awake! I heard nothing but good reports about the Amtrak Beech Grove shop tours, apparently the red carpet was rolled out. The one tour I took was the LDSIG self guided layout tour on Wednesday. A car load of us saw great layouts in the Lafayette and Indianapolis areas. I have always found the layouts on this tour to be well chosen and carefully vetted before being included. The themes are interesting. Here in West Virginia we often see Chesapeake and Ohio layouts. In Portland it was Southern Pacific. In Lafayette it was Monnon.

The National Train Show was great, the number of exhibitors and sellers was up from last year in Portland. There were also lots of beautiful layouts. I ran into Jerry Doyle and Greg McCartney but didn't see anybody else from this area. A group from the Kanawha Valley Railroad Club had intended to ride Amtrak from Charleston to Indianapolis Friday night, attend the show, then return Saturday evening to Charleston. Alas, a storm damaged some of the railroad and Amtrak was going to be so late it was not going to work so they didn't go.

The 2017 convention will be in Orlando. With all the attractions in that area it might be a good opportunity to make a family vacation as well as to attend the convention.

Shortly after the convention we had an operating session on the Pennsylvania Southern. David Oliverio had spotted the empty ore cars at the steel mill yard and wondered if they ever moved. Well, that was all it took to get the northbound coal train mov-

ing. That train would pick up the ore cars and take them to North Yard after spotting the coal loads in their place in the steel mill yard. This is all facing point for a northbound train and just how to do it can be a puzzle. Without fouling the Pittsburgh yard limits, one way is to put the coal train into the passing siding at Bridgeville. The power can then run around, grab the caboose, tack it on the ore cars, and then the ore cars can be pulled out. Unfortunately, there is no place to put them so the train doubles onto the coal loads and pulls south to clear the south switch so the cars can be pushed onto the main and into the steel mill yard.

After clearing the south switch, engineer Dan Mulhearn expressed misgiving about having done things this way. Shoving 37 empty ore cars against 19 loaded coal hoppers going uphill and around a curve made him most uneasy. As the photo shows, bad things happened. Seldom in derailments of this sort do we see model cars form an accordion, they usually just fall over and would have fallen to the tracks below. But they did for an accordion as captured in the photo by David Oliverio, the guy who wanted to see this train run! This is really what happened, they ended up this way without any human intervention.

Track renovation on the layout got put on the back burner this month as I bought a structure kit of

a power plant that will replace the stand-in in Pittsburgh. This is a very detailed Custom Model Railroads kit that is all acrylic and has about 400 parts. Some of it is now assembled and painted but it still has a way to go. Of course, this will lead to more work as the track in the power plant area will have to be rebuilt to match the spacing for the dump house. This will also give me the opportunity to fix a chronic derailment spot on the yard lead.

The next operating session is scheduled for August 11 and all Coal Division members are welcome. Please send me a note if you need directions.



Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For July, 2016

Education Services at the Division Level **By Bruce De Young, MMR** **Education Department Manager**

As you probably know, the NMRA is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit educational organization. Clearly the various programs and services that fall under the Education Department are essential to earning and keeping this designation. Let me quickly summarize those programs and services that fall under the umbrella of the Education Department. In no particular order they are: the Contest Program; the Achievement Program, the Modeling with the Masters Program; the EduTRAIN® Clinic Program; the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program; the SIG Program; the Data Sheet Program and finally, the beginners section of the NMRA website. That is a rather large umbrella!

The actual implementation of these Educational Programs occurs in various ways at the National, Regional, and Divisional levels of our three-tiered organization. But the focus of this particular column is what these educational services might actually look like at the Division level. As you look around at all the Divisions, you will see a lot of variability. Some Divisions have an active Boy Scout Program while others do not. Many incorporate one or more clinics into every event they schedule, while others might only do that at what they call "Mini-Conventions". The Achievement Program certainly depends heavily on active promotion at the Division level and most Divisions make provisions at their event to both evaluate models and publicly present earned certificates within the AP Program. Although most Divisions do not regularly schedule formal Model Contests, many do incorporate Popular Vote Contests as a regular feature of their events. And on it goes.

Up until now, the only way one Division might learn what other Divisions are doing was by perusing the on-line newsletters of other Divisions, most of which are available through links under the Regions & Divisions tab on the NMRA's website, or by actually attending the events of neighboring Divisions. Now there is another way. The Officers and Board of Directors asked for the development of a Division Superintendents' Handbook. This Handbook was presented to them in February at their Mid-Year Meeting in Atlanta.

This new Handbook contains a wealth of information useful to Division Superintendents/ Presidents and others in leadership positions at the Division level. Included in that information is a collection of "best practices" from Divisions around the NMRA and many of those best practices focus on the delivery of the educational services and programs mentioned above.

The Handbook will soon be emailed to all Region Superintendents by Steve August, our RAC Director. He will ask that the Regions forward the Handbook to all their Division Superintendents.

The Handbook will also be available on the NMRA website in the Member's Only side of the site.

Hopefully this Handbook will prove helpful to Divisions as they help the NMRA deliver its educational programs at the local level.

Two exciting new NMRA t-shirts available! **By Jenny Hendricks** **Chief Administrative Officer**

We're pleased to announce two new NMRA t-shirts will be available at the Indianapolis convention, and following that, in the NMRA Company Store.

The t-shirts come in S, M, L, XL, and XXL and are gray with "NMRA blue" printing.

The first design features the phrase, "Ask me about model railroading!" on the front, with the NMRA logo and "We make it more fun" slogan on the back.

The second shirt features the NMRA logo and "National Model Railroad Association" type on the front, and, on the back, the NMRA logo and the words, "It's where real model railroaders belong."

The shirts are priced at \$12 each or two for \$20 (one of each or two of the same). Shipping from headquarters will be an additional \$6.

Show the world you're an NMRA member with one of these brand new shirts!

Editor's note: The photos of these shirts did not come through with the email from Tom Draper. They do not appear to be in the company store so I can't refer you to photos of them.

NMRA Awards Presented at the 2016 Convention in Indianapolis

The following NMRA Awards were presented at the 2016 NMRA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Honorary Life Member (HLM)

Tony Koester

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

Andy Sperandeo

President's Award (PA)

Mike Brestel
Chuck Diljak
Gary Hoover

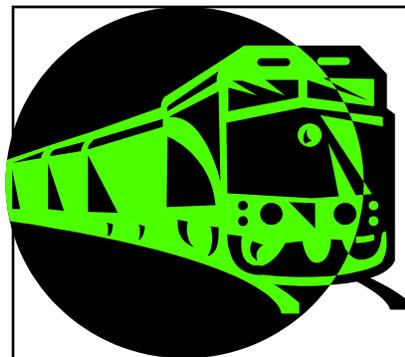
Gerry Leone, MMR
Ed Molenkamp
John Schindler
Mark Shafer
Larry Swigert
Robert Weinheimer, MMR

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

Regards,

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





Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

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

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

TIMETABLE

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"

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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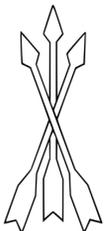
THE CRUSTY ROAD

CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV

Allegheny & 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



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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to get onto the email dis-
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Holler.

August 13
St. Albans Depot

September 10
Portsmouth, OH

October 8
St. Albans Depot