



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

November 2016



DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Dan Mulhearn
304-466-9188
asstsUPER@coaldivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle
304-638-2826
clerk@coaldivision.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Ed Keith MMR
740-867-5264
Bob Weinheimer MMR
304-343-1428
ap@coaldivision.org

Clinic
Robert Osburn
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest
Vacant

Education
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
asstsUPER@coaldivision.org

Election
Bill Wadsworth
304-768-3266
nominating@coaldivision.org

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle
Vacant

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR
webmaster@coaldivision.org

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

When is the last time you have been around a chicken coop and watched the birds wandering around gawking, clucking, and seeming to carry on some sort of conversation about who-knows-what? This scenario describes the overview of the last get-together of the Coal Division. From my vantage point, off to the side, I observed that same chicken-like behavior from my fellow modelers. People were talking, standing, then sitting, then observing, then touching, then listening, then talking, again. (During social time, prior to settling down for the official part of our meetings, I witness that same behavior.) Despite how this sounds, it is a high compliment for the group!

“How could the comparison between chickens and a group of modelers be considered a compliment?”, you ask. The movement, the sounds, the energy, and the overall feeling in the room denoted much excited activity: people becoming completely engaged in the moment as the birds seem to be. The moment was the completion of Phase III of our “Spray Day at the Station” painting, decaling, and weathering event series. Rounding off the three-part, hands-on activities included models for display and discussion and a question/answer and how-to session presented by Dale Osburn and Larry Richards. This prompted a great deal of enthusiasm and participation.

Both modelers brought along examples of completed models, brushes, paints, stains, chalks, and other items to spark interest and begin the conversation on weathering. As everyone gathered around, the “clucking, pecking, and clawing” began. As Dale and Larry explained some of their techniques, others added tips of their own, had questions, and examined some of the models sitting on the work table. One hint grew into further discussions and even more ideas. The gentlemen succeeded in involving everyone in the theme of the event. And, in this case the conversation wasn’t the who-knows-what of our chickens but a thoroughly covered aspect of model railroading.

Along with the main event were a couple of M.A.D.D. presentations including Bob Osburn’s examples of 3-D printing and several weathered models that were described by the members. Bob had door prizes (weathering items) for those who brought in a model and explained their weathering techniques. Combined with a well-rounded array of open loads contest models and a silent auction, the day was full of activity.

With our November Rail Fun Event (“Coal Division in the Coal Fields”) being the Bluefield Model Train Show, we may look to a different venue and another type of activity. The trip into NS (N&W) coal country offers the possibility of viewing both prototype and model trains and provides one with an opportunity to truly go “Up the Holler” in pursuit of trains.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

Did you know Uncle George? If you are lucky, you may have known an Uncle George. As a young person enamored with model trains, his name might not have been George, but he was the man behind the counter at your local hobby shop. My particular Uncle George was George Heinglein, a retired New York City firefighter. Uncle George worked at House of Mulraney Trainland which is now a part of the Trainland/Trainworld internet website. At the ripe old age of 10 or 11 I would hike the six miles from Valley Stream, NY to the Trainland store in Lynbrook, NY. It was always a great walk because it ran alongside the Long Island RRs combined Montauk and Atlantic branches forming a four track mainline. You were sure to see several MU trains during the walk, and if you were lucky, the diesel train out of Montauk. You might also see a string of B&O hoppers behind three or four RS1s with coal for the Long Island Lighting plant at Island Park. The hoppers were delivered by barge from the Central of New Jersey to the LIRR.

But, back to Trainland. Uncle George would always have something for a young model railroader, regardless of what was in his pocket. I remember before I switched to HO that George gave me a Lionel ERIE box car for the forty seven cents I had in my pocket. At 16 I switched

to HO and George always had something to fit whatever I had in my pocket.

Probably most important, Uncle George introduced me to the other modelers out there. In my early twenties I was working as a New York City police officer on a 6PM to 2AM shift. George introduced to Richie Toby who worked a midnight shift at NY Telephone as a vehicle mechanic. Richie, in turn, hooked me up with Andy Breyer who worked as a movie projectionist. This led to a life long friendship as we met in the afternoon to run Andy's Little Penn RR in his attic.

My point is we have been so blessed to have these local hobby shops to introduce me to the hobby. We have all had an Uncle George in our lives. Locally we have Chuck and Sherri, in my past has been many a local friendly hobby shop. I think of Gold Spikes Hobbies in Islip, NY where there was always a pot of coffee on. Dave at Willis Hobbies cast me an RS3 steam generator stack just because I wanted to have one for an Atlas RS3. The point is these folks are behind the counter at our hobby shops less out of profit than of love for the hobby.

As the local hobby shops fade away we remember fondly those "uncle Georges" behind the counter. Dealing with a computer screen can't compare

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth

In the past few months some new DVDs have been added to our library, in addition to the NMRA Clinics. We now have some layout tours and some prototype RR DVDs. If any of you have any DVDs to lend or donate to the Division 9 library please bring them to the next meeting so I can add them to our growing collection. If there is enough interest I will make a separate listing of these added DVDs in addition to the one already available for the Clinics. Any suggestions you might have to enhance our library would be appreciated.

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.

December	November 28
January	January 2
February	January 30
March	February 27





Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Coal Division in the Coal Fields”

28th Annual '16 Railfest Model Train Show

by the Pocahontas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society
 Bluefield Youth Center, 1780 Stadium Drive (next to Mitchell Stadium) Bluefield, W.Va.

Saturday November 12, 2016

- 9:00 Doors open-Come early or railfan the Bluefield area.**
- 12:00 Arrive for lunch – maybe a hot dog with chili. (Up here we call it sauce.)**
- 1:00 Standard Social Time – Mixing/Viewing**
- 2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing**
- 2:20 Contest Voting (Passenger Cars)**
- 2:30 Contest Results**

Enjoy the Show!

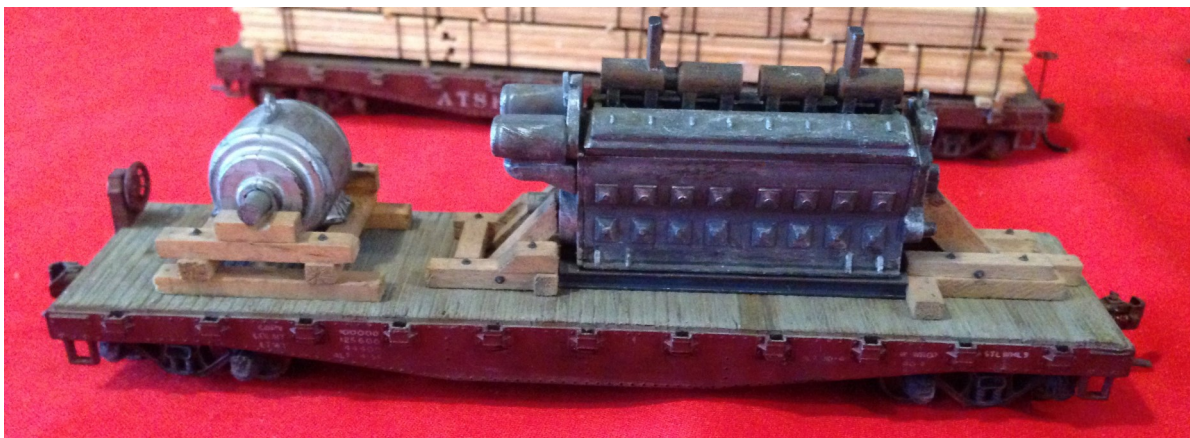
Probably the easiest access for most would be the WV Turnpike and I-77 to exit 1 just before the tunnel at Bluefield WV. Then follow John Nash Blvd to US 460 West. Take 460 west until you hit the WV/VA State line. At the first traffic signal after you enter the State of Virginia; make a right turn onto Leatherwood Lane. You will then come to another traffic signal at a “tee” intersection with College Ave. Make a left turn onto College Ave then immediately prepare to make a right turn onto Stadium Drive. You will see a used car dealership to your right and Bluefield (VA Baptist) College in front of you as you are turning onto Stadium Dr. Follow Stadium Drive to the show.

CONTEST

Photos by Paul Lapointe

The October contest was Open Loads. Paul Lapointe took first place with his EMD engine load. Mark Maynard took second place with his boiler load. Sam Delauter took third place with his N scale crate load.

The November contest is passenger cars so bring along anything that passengers ride, either revenue or perhaps the company office car.



Paul's first place model



Mark's second place model



Sam's third place model

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St. Albans, WV Depot
October 8, 2016
Minutes

Call to Order - Welcome by Superintendent Gary Burdette saw the presence of 13 members including our two friends from Virginia.

The minutes of the previous month were approved. There was no Treasurer's Report though it was noted that Mark received a check for the meat from the September picnic.

The Superintendent reported that other divisions were cited as groups that were thinking "outside the box" with examples of interesting activities like train shows, round-robin op sessions, and module building.

There were no reports from the Assistant Superintendent, Achievement Chair, Newsletter Chair, Raffle Chair, Contest Chair, Membership Chair or Webmaster's Report.

Clinic Chair noted that the November clinic would be seeing the trains at the train show, "Signals" by Jerry Doyle would be the clinic for December, and anyone interested in any kind of presentation could receive help in

preparation if needed.

The Library Chair reminded members that he would have the video collection at each meeting at the depot, he has a master list, has added a few new items, and would accept donations to add to the collection.

There was no Old Business. There was no New Business.

Announcements included reminders of the Bluefield Train Show and Huntington Train Show coming up in November. The M.A.D.D. presentation was examples of 3-D printing by Bob Osburn and examples of weathered models by several members.

The meeting was adjourned with Post Meeting Activities including the open loads model contest, silent auction, and weathering clinic.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Burdette, Acting Clerk

MY WORD
Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Up The Holler is a little bit thin this month. I suspect the train show season has kept some of our normal modeling contributors a bit busy. In addition the Info Blast has gotten a little off the cycle that had it appear just as this was going to press. If you have something to offer, please send it my way for publication. We can help get it ready if writing is not your strength.

Dan Mulhearn has another very thought provoking column about hobby shops and how the right person working there can be a tremendous inspiration to a young modeler. I suggested to Dan that he submit it, along with his October column on how he became a model railroader, to the NMRA Magazine. They have very broad appeal and should be shared.

The Mid Central Region KingPin was issued recently. Did you receive the notice in your email? Did you receive the NMRA eBulletin issued October 31? If not that means your email address is not on file with the NMRA. Just because you get this newsletter does not mean you have taken the extra step to include your email address with your membership

records. Go to www.nmra.org to update your records if you want to receive these items in the future.

I just finished a weekend of operation on the Pennsylvania Southern with some of my friends from Louisville. We ran trains for about 7.5 hours each day Friday and Saturday. Saturday we were joined by Tom Harris and Jeremy Fuller. I lost count of the number of trains run but I think it was close to 30. I think this was one of the best sessions I have had with these fellows. Don't underestimate the social aspects of the hobby!

As you can see on page 3, our November event is in Bluefield, WV. We have a number of members and friends from that area who regularly make it to St. Albans for most of the events there. The roads go both ways so I think we can head their way at least once this year. The event includes the excellent train show as well as our normal activities.

I've mentioned the MCR convention in previous issues, it will be in Louisville May 18 to 21. Their convention ad is on page 2. You can read more at div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/2017PanAmerican/



Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

November 2016 - December 2016
St. Albans, Bluefield, & St. Albans

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

TIMETABLE

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 - Christmas
 Decor

Contest: Modeler's Choice, Clinic: Signals by Jerry Doyle, Raffle

Remember:


- * 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.



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV



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**
304-466-9188
danmulhearn@gmail.com

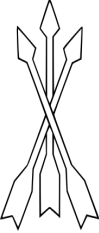


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Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR
Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



**THREE ARROWS
RAILROAD**

Tony Puccini, President
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705
puccinibaj@hotmail.com



SHAMOKIN DIVISION
DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN
SUMMERSVILLE, WV
304-872-7262



HINTON DIVISION
Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV



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a few tons at a time



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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

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**November 12
Bluefield, WV**

**December 10
St. Albans Depot**

**January 14, 2017
St. Albans Depot**

**February 11
St. Albans Depot**