



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

December 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

Well, a couple of turkeys were pardoned and lived to see another day. Most were not. I hope all of you enjoyed your doomed bird with all the trimmings, friends, and family for a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving! Maybe you were able to take in a holiday train show, like the ones at Bluefield and Huntington, to pick up some needed items or start your Christmas list. With Christmas and New Year's Day rapidly approaching, fond wishes go out, too, as we model railroaders combine the memories of our youth through the trains and holiday celebrations of adulthood. Hopefully, some member of the family will always receive a train for Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I wish the best for you.

As I look at this time of year, I note a number of interesting things that build our hobby. One way, of course, are the trips to the shows, hobby shops, and on line to procure more items for our model railroads. We continue to be involved in the building and growth of our pikes, enjoying new products, reading newsletters and magazines, and studying facts about our favorite road. Maybe this time of year we increase our contacts with fellow modelers through visiting at the shows, attending the December events or parties, sending a card, or making that once-a-year call. We touch bases with friends who inspire us. We may make new acquaintances. We may feel both nostalgic for past memories and rejuvenated through the associations we have with our hobby and modeling friends. Two of our group mentioned the time it took getting around the show at Huntington due to the numerous conversations they had with friends with whom they had reconnected. This can be an extra-special time of year.

It is possible to keep this same type of activity going throughout the year through a concerted effort to be involved in the hobby. I have written about that before and have some more thoughts. I know that many of you work on your own layouts but don't have the opportunity to work or operate on another's. Maybe we can set up some round-robin activities as some of the divisions do. I have worked on the B&R and the G&G (lines of friends) in the past with much enjoyment. Talking with other members, I learned that, over the years, there have been many small sessions being conducted throughout the division. Since many of the modelers were not in the NMRA, this fact remained relatively obscure. There are displays only open at certain times of the year like the Fossil Rock Model Railroad in Shade, Ohio. They will be open December 3rd and 4th, so this announcement may not reach you in time. They have a Facebook page and more opportunities may be available later. I would like to set up a couple of visitations at some of the layouts in the Kanawha Valley area for our clinic sessions. Maybe we could divide the trip between the Charleston and St. Albans area and around Hurricane. Can you think of anything else?

Recently, I attended a bring-and-brag modeler liars group get together. The rules are to show up at a fellow's house with some item to talk about. We check out the models, talk about them, share ideas and techniques, have a snack, and have a great deal of model railroading fun. This informal setting is a catch-as-catch-can situation without much structure. Those who can make it will stop by. Some others may come next time. Here is, again, just another way of enjoying the hobby.

The December event for the Coal Division will be "Santa at the Station" at the St. Albans depot. I hope you will all be able to come and participate in this festive time of year, enjoy the trains, and have a great time.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

My first thought to start my column is to express that I was more than a little disappointed at the attendance at our Bluefield meeting. It is understood that it is a trek for many members but that's a two way street for us east enders. My hope is we do better next year.

It was sad to hear that Clint Foster has packed up his trains and dumped his benchwork. Clint has decided to move back to Ohio to be nearer his family. I will sure miss working the New River Division; especially the Long Horn job.

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is past and Christmas is around the corner. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Assistant Superintendent and I look forward to helping our Division have a New Year filled with the fun and fellowship of our hobby. Thanks to everyone

for your continued contributions to the Division.

The 2017 MCR Regional will be at Louisville, KY and it is not too late to start planning for attending. Regional conventions are a much less expensive proposition than the National convention and just as much enjoyable. I will be looking forward to doing some train watching in an area where I have not had a chance to explore too deeply. Hope we get a good Division 9 turnout.

The Division 9 December meeting will be at our base station, the St. Albans depot. Please come and share some Holiday cheer. I will not be sending Christmas and Holiday cards this year due to Nina's continued health issues. So, we wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas, Chanukah and New Year.

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.

RAFFLE REPORT

Dan Mulhearn, Chairman

The raffle will be back for our December meeting! We have some goodies to raffle off and are hoping to gather more good stuff. Please feel free to contribute your gently used model equipment or railroadiana; the proceeds go to help us support 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 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.

January	January 2
February	January 30
March	February 27





Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Santa at the Station”

Saturday December 10, 2016

- 12:30 Depot Open**
- 1:00 Standard Social Time – Mixing/
Viewing**
- 2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing**
- 2:30 Louisville Convention by Fred and
Barbara Soward**
- 2:45 Contest Voting (Modeler’s Choice)**
- 3:00 Contest Results**
- Raffle**
- 3:15 Clinic: Signaling by Jerry Doyle**

CONTEST

Photos by Bob Weinheimer

The limited attendance at the November event meant that there was only one contest entry: Bob Weinheimer's Office Car Special. Bob noted that these are stock Walthers heavyweight cars and that the biggest challenge was disassembling them so they could be stripped and painted. The result was two all room sleepers, a dining car, and an observation lounge with several sleeping rooms. All are named for states served by the Pennsylvania Southern: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee. The diner and observation car are shown below.

Larry Richards will be taking over the management of the contest with the December gathering, the contest in December will be Modeler's Choice so bring anything that you wish!



More From Spray Day: Decals

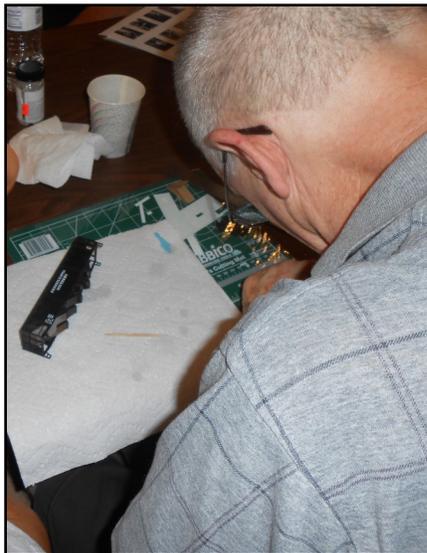
Photos by Gary Burdette



Bob Osburn shows us his vacuum forming tool



Bob Weinheimer leads the decal clinic, Herb Parsons and Tom Harris have jumped in to letter cars.



To the left we see Tom Harris working on a Pennsylvania Southern hopper car, to the right Herb Parsons is lettering a Pennsylvania Southern boxcar.



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Bluefield, WV
November 12, 2016
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:03PM by Assistant Superintendent Dan Mulhearn.
 The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.
 In the absence of the Superintendent and the Clerk there was no report from either.
 Newsletter: need articles
 Facebook: over 1,000 likes, postings are made when new newsletter is available.
 Membership: we have three new members.
 Contest: Larry Richards is new chair
 Raffle: resumes in December at the depot

Mid Eastern Region is taking the first steps in the possible move of several Virginia counties to the Mid Central Region. This will take a while if it ever happens.
 There was no old or new business.
 The meeting was adjourned at 2:14PM.

Respectfully submitted by
 Bob Weinheimer MMR
 Acting Clerk

Post meeting activities:
 There was no raffle due to the train show
 The contest was passenger cars
 There was no clinic due to the train show

MY WORD
Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As Dan mentioned in his column the turnout for the Bluefield event was modest at best. I think there were four Coal Division members plus Tom and Jeremy from across the border.

Dan also mentioned the upcoming Mid Central Region convention in Louisville. Fred and Barbara Soward from the host Division will join us at the December event to give us a full rundown on what to expect at the convention and in the Louisville area. As soon as this issue of Up The Holler goes out I will be turning my attention to the convention issue of the MCR newsletter the Kingpin. Fred has already provided nearly all we need for the convention article and I hope to get that out of here and on its way to the printer for snail mail distribution by the middle of December. It will also be distributed electronically to those with email addresses on file with the NMRA.

As some of you know, I lived in the Louisville area in the early 1980s and joined the NMRA during that time. Louisville has a rich railroad history and today is served mainly by CSX (former L&N) and NS (former Southern and Kentucky and Indiana Terminal). Traffic patterns have changed significantly since I left the area in 1985 with increased activity on the former Southern and lots of trains on the L&N Short Line to Cincinnati. Some things are

gone. I remember going to the 75th anniversary celebration of the L&N's South Louisville Shops and the big open house in 1980. A big sports stadium now occupies that site. There are still many safe and legal spots from which to see the action.

On a modeling note, the next phase of the Pennsylvania Southern's track replacement program is now done. The mainline from the south switch at Washington through the south switch at West Union have been replaced with code 83 flex track and Fast Tracks switches. The next phase of the project is Waynesburg. The industrial area there was one of the first projects but now it's time to work on the mainline, passing siding and team track. This has been a bit of work but I think the operating crew has seen a big improvement in reliability.

On page 8 is the notice of elections at the National level. The only item that affects Coal Division members is the election of a Central District Director. Only those members residing in Kentucky and Ohio will be voting. Note that one of the two candidates is current MCR President Steve Kaplan.

As Dan notes, it is now the holiday season and I, too, wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and seasonal greetings to those who celebrate a different faith.

Layout Expansion on the Pittsburgh & Western RR Part 7 by Paul Lapointe

More on wiring:

I use 12 gauge electrical wires, the kind they use inside commercial conduit, as my main feeders for the DCC signals. I use a large wire to minimize voltage drop of the signal due to the wire length. 16 gauge wire connects to the main and serves as the intermediate bus, with 22 gauge wire then providing the feeder directly to the track (in wire sizes, the bigger the gauge, the smaller the wire). My wire colors are white and red to keep them separate. Unlike DC wiring, there is no ground or hot wire, so as long as you don't cross them, you're Ok, but you want to be consistent.

Photo 1 shows the main feeder wires passing through the benchwork frame. The yellow collars are plastic grommets that prevent electrical wiring from getting nicked when passing through steel studs. The wires follow the tracks main line as it travels along the walls and through the peninsula. Photo 2 shows the bus connectors that distribute the main to the areas of the benchwork. One set of main wires come in and then several branch out to needed areas.

My wire connections are done using Insulation Displacement Connectors, nicknamed suitcase connectors, developed by the 3M Corporation for ease in tapping wires. They allow you to make connections to insulated wires without cutting or stripping off the cover or needing to solder. They come in different sizes depending on wires used. Photo 3 shows the two sizes I use. The brown one (3M Scotchlok #567) handles 10 to 16 gauge wire and the



Photo 1: Main wires

red (3M #558), 16 to 22 gauge. The open end clips over the wire you want to tap, while the other wire is slipped into the other opening. Squeeze the metal tab with a pair of pliers as shown in the photo, and the insulation of both wires is pierced, safely and reliably making the electrical connection. Photo 4 shows suitcase connectors in use. The two brown ones are tapping into the 12 gauge mains to spin off a 16 gauge intermediate bus for this area. The red suitcases connect feeders (22 gauge) that are soldered to the track, directly to the intermediate bus wire. In areas where a lot of track feeders are required in a short distance and so a lot of suitcases would be used (such as a complex yard ladder), I revert to soldering feeder wires together to reduce the number needed (photo 5).

Benchwork Status

The upper and lower levels of the peninsula have been covered with thin plywood (Photo 6). The lower level requires a backdrop to isolate the two sides. The backdrop, in this case is 14" vinyl flashing. To support it, three strips of wood, one at the top and bottom and one in the middle are attached to the center support for the upper level (photo 7). The one inch wide strips were ripped from a full size sheet of 3/4 inch plywood. In the photo you can see a rounded "nose" piece provided to give the backdrop a smooth curve as it rounds the corner to the other side. The upper level of the peninsula will not have a backdrop, but will use large industrial buildings as view blocks.



Photo 2: Distribution bus



Photo 3: Suitcase connectors and pliers



Photo 4: Suitcase connector usage



Photo 5: Exception wiring



Photo 6: Peninsula status



Photo 7: Backdrop support

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For November 2016

Notice of Winter BOD meeting in Atlanta

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will once again be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 18, and 19, 2017 at the Drury Inn & Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 17, and the Board will be in caucus that evening. Both of those meetings are only open to invited guests.

The regular, open session of the BOD meeting begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 18. Because the agenda is not yet finalized, there's no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are invited to attend the open sessions. Watch www.nmra.org for details.

News about the 2017 NMRA Elections By John Stevens, NMRA Secretary

We are fast approaching the 2017 election. This election is different than the elections of the last two years. Those elections included worldwide positions that required ballots distributed though *NMRA Magazine*. The 2017 election has no worldwide positions and therefore there will be no ballot distributed in the magazine.

This election cycle has five positions under consideration. One of them is the Region Advisory Council Director, or RACD position. Each Region has a representative on the RAC and they are the only ones that are eligible to vote. There are three candidates for the RACD position. This election should be completed by Christmas.

Three of the positions in 2017 are the Canadian Director, NMRA Canada President, and NMRA Canada Vice-President. This election will be run by NMRA Canada. Those of you who are members of NMRA Canada should be receiving your ballots sometime around February 1st.

The last position up for election is the Central District Director, or CDD. The Central District includes the

states of Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Only those members living within those states are eligible to vote for the CDD. In years past, the members have received a ballot in the mail. They then filled out the ballot and mailed it back to Headquarters.

This election cycle, we will be mailing ballots to the membership, but we are going to be offering the option of returning your ballot by voting electronically. We will be using a service called Election Buddy. This service has been used successfully by a couple of Regions. The service generates voting codes for each individual eligible to vote. The individual goes online and enters the voting code. They then view the ballot and vote. Once they complete the process, they can't use the voting code again.

At the end of the voting window, we receive two reports. One report is the results of the election. The second report tells us who voted electronically. Using the two reports there is no way to know how a member has voted. In the meantime, some of you will have filled out your paper ballots and mailed them to headquarters. The second report will be checked against the paper ballots. If HQ receives a ballot from you and you have also voted electronically, the paper ballot will be declared invalid and your vote will be the electronic one.

The current plan is to mail the ballots in mid-January. The election window should be February 1 through February 28. Since we will still have to process some paper ballots, the election results will not be known until the end of March.

Regards,

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

Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

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*.



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.



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
304-466-9188
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

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



WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY THOMAS SUBDIVISION

RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



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



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

If you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and have an email address, please let us know so we can save printing and postage costs. Send a note to editor@coaldivision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

December 10
St. Albans Depot

January 14, 2017
St. Albans Depot

February 11
St. Albans Depot

March 11
St. Albans Depot