



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC
November 2017



DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Dan Mulhearn
304-466-9188
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Robert Osburn
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
Larry Richards

Education
Vacant

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

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle
Tom Harris
raffle@coaldivision.org

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR
webmaster@coaldivision.org

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

We are in the countdown for our annual meeting at the Bluefield, WV train show. Bring your holiday shopping list, there will be plenty of goodies. I really hope to see everyone there as I was unable to be at the October meeting. The Coal Division will be rolling into 2018 with a full head of steam, so to speak. That happens because of everyone's participation.

There is a light coating of snow on the deck this morning. The season for working a little more on the layout is rapidly approaching. In my case I have to do a general clean up of the basement and replace some of the ceiling tiles that were ruined when the house was flooded last year. There will be more benchwork done soon and I am planning on doing some preliminary wiring to facilitate the eventual inclusion of a signal system on the N&W Clinch Valley subdivision.

Tom Harris and I journeyed to Bob Weinheimer's home for his op til you drop weekend. The crew from Louisville showed up Friday and the fun began. Tom Harris became a dispatcher, sending Form 19 train orders with great aplomb. We ran dozens of trains all day Saturday. Tom and I had to leave prior to virtue's reward which was a big plate of Bob's beef stew. I have been thinking about beef stew ever since. This fellowship is one of the big rewards of NMRA membership. I wouldn't know most of my fellow modelers in the area if I had not joined the NMRA. On top of that there are the standards and recommended practices put forth. They enables my Acme model equipment to run with my Zebra electronics stuff. I would urge everyone to support the Division, the Region and the National in order to grow our hobby. Tell a friend about model railroading, invite people to see you layout. Again, hope to see you all in Bluefield and again at St. Albans in December.

From the Office Down the Hall

Bob Osburn

Post-meeting activities at the October Meeting included the distribution of the Square Foot Diorama Challenge Packets, Contest results, Company Store, and MADD Program.

Sam Delauter was the contest winner for October (open loads). Sam; one of our younger members, is a very talented modeler and has consistently participated in the monthly contest. His participation is appreciated.

The Square foot Diorama Challenge Packets were distributed by Larry Richards and Dale Osburn. The packets included a copy of a building printed on card stock and a square foot of Styrofoam for a base. Packets were available in HO, N, or Z scale. After passing out the packets Larry and Dale gave a very interesting and informative clinic on how to add realism to a diorama and building. The finished dioramas are to be displayed at the December meeting and the participants will have an opportunity to talk about their creations during the MADD portion of the program. If you did not receive a packet at the October meeting, the packets will be available at the November meeting in Bluefield. Remember this is not a contest but a challenge in honor of Gary Burdette.

The MADD Program included a very lively discussion on track and wheel cleaning. Several members shared their views on their favorite methods with a few horror stories on what not to do. Thanks to everyone for their input.

The Company Store is gaining popularity with \$100.00 of merchandise being bought at the October meeting. Remember, the Company Store will be open at the St Albans Depot meetings and sellers need to place a tag that includes on each the asking price and their name.

My acquisition of David Oliverio's N-Scale B&O Railroad is going quite well. I had enough time prior to removal of his layout to get most of my railroad room finished. Basically, my attic is 800 sq. ft. divided into two areas. The west end includes a hallway, walk-in closet, 2 small closets, bathroom, and a 12 1/2' X 20' train room. The east end will be crew's lounge, reading/library area, office area, and TV room. I have finished sheetrock, painting, electrical, and plumbing in the west end. I am in the process of installing vinyl planks on the floor; next will be trim/doors, installing plumbing fixtures, and tile in the bathroom. This will allow me to have the west end completely finished so I can have it separate from the east end's future construction.

The layout was removed in 6 major sections. The sections have been reinstalled in the train room along with a sky board. I had to add 3" of fill in each side of the layout so it would fit the width of the room. The helix has been removed and filled in (my attic did not allow for a second level). The helix area will become a coal mining facility along with the company town and store. David's original staging area will be reconfigured to become an industrial area capable of having lots of opportunity for switching. Bench work for a new 10 track (5 eastbound and 5 westbound) staging area is in the works.

The layout will change from a 50's B&O layout (Clarksburg, WV area) to a freelance C&O layout in West Virginia. Time period modeled will remain the early 50's. I hope to have the west end construction completed by the last of November so I can repair the tracks and get trains running before the 1st of the year.

Library Corner

Bill Wadsworth

Our Division library was increased by quite a few DVDs at our October meeting by the contribution from Gary Burdette's estate. Most of the DVDs are from the Model Railroader's "Dream - Plan - Build" series, containing a wide range of subjects. I plan to have a listing available at the December meeting along with all the DVDs we now have. If you're having any problems or need advice on a particular aspect of our hobby I'm sure you can find help in our library.

As always, any suggestions or donations are welcome.

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

29th Annual '17 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 11, 2017

- 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.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St. Albans, WV Depot

October 14, 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bob Osburn at 2:35 p.m. There were 16 members and 1 guest present.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$8,894.97. Jerry stated the bank is still charging Division 9 \$3.00 per month service charge. Note: Because of a prior commitment Jerry had to leave the meeting early, Company Store Revenue (\$10.00) and Raffle Revenue will be turned in at the November meeting.

Superintendent Report

No Report—Dan Mulhearn was not present because of a prior commitment.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn started the meeting by welcoming everyone and then members introduced themselves to our guest Ron Rogillio. Next on a somber note, Bob mentioned that Ed Keith's wife was in the hospital and wanted members to include her in their prayers. September minutes were then approved.

Newsletter-Up the Holler and Achievement Program

No report—Bob Weinheimer was attending a meeting at a train show in Cincinnati, OH.

Membership

John Harris informed us that he has not gotten an updated roster lately and plans to discuss with Dan Mulhearn and Bob Weinheimer how to solve the problem. John also mentioned that name tags are available if any members would want one. Members questioned John on how to obtain a shirt with the Division 9 logo on it. John believes Jerry Doyle has that information and will contact him later.

Contest

The contest was Open Loads, the contest for November will be Passenger Cars.

Clinic Chair

The clinic scheduled for October was cancelled for a

later date. No clinic is scheduled for the November meeting at Bluefield, WV.

Raffle and Company Store

Several nice items were available at the October raffle. Sales at the Company Store contributed \$10.00. The proceeds from the raffle and company store will be given to the Treasurer at the November meeting.

Library Report

Bill Wadsworth reported he had obtained several videos from Gary Burdette's collection to include into the Division's Library.

Old Business

None

New Business

It was brought to the member's attention that we should be in the process of nominating candidates for Division officers. Per the constitution the nominating committee must present its slate at the January meeting with nominations from the floor at that time. Bill Wadsworth has led this process for the past couple of cycles and said he would welcome the task with approval from the Superintendent.

Announcements

The season for Model Railroad Shows is beginning, several future ventures were discussed and once dates are confirmed the dates will be posted in the Newsletter.

Future Meetings

November 11—Bluefield, WV Railroad Show
December 9—St Albans Depot
January 13—St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Osburn, Assistant Superintendent

CONTEST

Photo by Sam Delauter

The October contest drew only one entry but that lone entry was still a good one by Sam Delauter. Sam provided this description of the model and its load: The flat car is a Kadee from the 1970s modified with a wooden deck and then weathered with powders. The load was a kit which I believe was made by American Model

Builders. I bought the kit for the load after seeing a picture of a Southern Pacific manifest freight with a pair of flat cars with loads very close to my Erie 7200.

The November contest will be passenger cars, bring your varnish to Bluefield!



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 27
January	January 1
February	January 29

Mid Central Region Facebook Page

With the help of Matt Goodman of the Buckeye Division and Christina Ganzer Zambri, NMRA Marketing Consultant, the Mid Central Region launched a Facebook page in early August. The goal is to share with the rest of the Region the activities of the various Divisions. Newsletter availability will be posted as well as promotion for train shows sponsored by the Divisions. Click [here](#) to see the page if you are already a Facebook member.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

The newsletter is a little thin this month but I guess everybody is busy at the various train shows. I was in Cincinnati at their 50th annual show. As always, I spent more than I had anticipated but it all has a good use. It was also great to catch up with friends. The Dayton show is another great one. With luck you will see this a day or two before it opens on November 3 at the Upper Valley Mall in Springfield, OH.

Dan mentioned the op til you drop weekend with some friends from Louisville as well as some from a bit closer. The guys arrived around lunch time Friday and we ran trains from about 1 until 11 with a short break for dinner. We resumed about 8:30 Saturday morning and ran until 6 when we paused for the beef stew that Dan Mulhearn mentioned. The gang must have liked it, they went back for seconds. At least there was a little left for some lunches. After supper we resumed running trains. We ran them all, nothing was left in staging by about 10:00 so we went back upstairs to watch the World Series. Dan Mulhearn and Tom Harris joined from the start on Saturday

until late afternoon. Jerry Doyle, Greg McCartney, and Anthony Parrish were also part of the crew for a while.

My regular October session had started at the top of the schedule, November will do so marking the first time we have started at the top in two consecutive months. Normally it takes 4 months to run all the trains. All of this train running is enhanced, as Dan pointed out, by the standards developed by the NMRA.

The Mid Central Region Board of Directors met October 22. The members who moved to MCR from the Niagara Frontier Region a couple of years back are now in a position to start their own Division. David Neff, Superintendent of Division 5, has been working with them to make sure the Division will be viable. Division 5 members have to approve the move of the counties from that Division to the new one then the MCR Board has to approve the move. That should all be wrapped up by Thanksgiving meaning we will have 12 Divisions. I wonder when we will have a Region convention in Erie, PA...

NMRA MODEL RAILROAD DIRECTORY

The new NMRA Model Railroad Directory is now online and ready to use!

Now whether you are at home or traveling, you can contact other NMRA members for a layout tour, to talk trains, or even to join in an op session! There are maps, descriptions, photos, videos, and more. And it's only available to NMRA members.

Visit www.nmra.org then click on "Member Home" then "Model RR Directory" to see layouts in your area or to list your own layout (as long as it's an operating home or garden railroad. Join in the fun!)



Editor's note: The Pennsylvania Southern is listed in this directory. Please remember that you must be an NMRA member to use the Directory and that you need to register to use the site if you have not done so already. Here's the link: www.nmra.org/members/layout-directory I tried to copy part of the site but the nice map with all the layout locations doesn't copy at all, you have to go there yourself to see it.



Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT
 DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
 304-466-9188
 danmulhearn@gmail.com



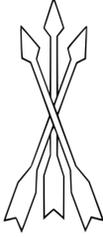
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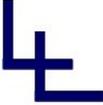


THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

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




LAKESIDE LINES RAILROAD
Thomas K. Harris, President and CEO

274 S. Wye Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382 (276)620-3493
 tharris@va.net www.lakesidelines.com



Ed Keith, MMR
 Assistant Superintendent
 Chesapeake, OH



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



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John Harris, Chief Engineer
 AandNRR@aol.com

Western West Virginian



With Connections to the
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 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.

**November 11
Bluefield, WV**

**December 9
St. Albans Depot**

**January 13, 2018
St. Albans Depot**

**February 10
St. Albans Depot**