



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

December 2019

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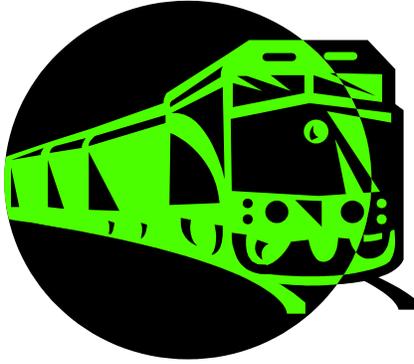
FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

Welcome to December, the weather is changing and the Holidays are upon us. First off a great big thank you to all the members who joined us at the Bluefield Train Show. The new venue is somewhat tighter than the Youth Center, which is no longer available. On the bright side, the hotel manager opened the bar area for us creating a comfortable and private area for us to hold our meeting and contest. The program was of course shopping the many vendors and displays at the show. I picked up an R J Corman Railway SD40-2 #7117 with DCC and sound. This unit is former Burlington Northern 7117. I frequently listen on a scanner app to the NS Pittsburgh line with it's very busy action. I suspect the scanner being streamed is at the Station Inn at Cresson. In addition to the NS Allegheny dispatcher, the CSX Sand Patch line and the R J Corman operations on the Cresson Secondary out to the coalfields are streamed. Two nights in a row, recently, I heard the RJC dispatcher and an RJC crew getting verbal orders to run in the vicinity of Clearfield, PA yard. Both nights the lead unit was 7117!

Our December event will be on the 14th at Diehl's Family Restaurant in Nitro, WV. It should be a great time with good food, fellowship, and our annual Gary J Burdette square foot challenge. We will have a private area to gather and I certainly look forward to our gathering. As I write this we are fast approaching Thanksgiving Day and it is hoped everyone has an enjoyable holiday with family and friends. I announced at the November event that although I am eligible for another term, I will not be running for Superintendent again. This is due to continuing health and personal issues which have distracted me. I feel we have an excellent and an enthusiastic Assistant Superintendent in Bob Osburn and I hope he chooses to run for superintendent. Bill Wadsworth is head of the nominating committee and if you have an interest in running for Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent please see Bill. Finally, please keep the Achievement Program in mind. A lot of members have low hanging fruit to harvest. You have done the work, all you need is the paperwork and we stand ready to help with that. Items you would like to have judged can be brought to any meeting event. Larger items such as layouts, scenery, etc.; the judges are willing to come to you. The Division is poised to roll into 2020 for another productive and enjoyable year. Model railroading is fun!

Cover: Group shot of those helping with the T-TRAK display at the Huntington Train Show. From left to right: Herb Parsons, John Shuman, Robert Osburn, Craig Laing, Bob Weinheimer, Sam Delauter, and Dale Osburn. Photo by Sherry Osburn



Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

*Third Annual
Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge*

***Saturday December 14, 2019
Diehl's Restaurant, Nitro, WV***

- 12:00 Set up and view the Challenge entries
Buy raffle tickets, etc.
Socialize
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Superintendent's Briefing
- 2:30 Raffle Results

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS Bill Wadsworth

It is time to prepare for the 2020 elections. According to our Constitution we need at least one candidate each for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. The slate of candidates will be reported at the January meeting at which time nominations can be made from the floor. The ballots are then prepared and mailed out to the members in early February, and must be returned by the March meeting. (For 2020 this is March 14.)

If you know of someone who is willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact me at nominating@coaldivision.org, preferably before or at the January meeting. Bill Wadsworth, Nominations Committee.

CLINICS Sam Delauter

There will be no clinic at the December meeting as we will have the results of the third annual Gary Burdette square foot challenge. I am working on the clinics for next year. If you are interested in giving a clinic or have any ideas for clinics, please let me know.

December Meeting Directions

The December event will be a luncheon at Diehl's Restaurant, 125 Main Avenue, Nitro, WV. Main Avenue runs along the railroad on the opposite side of the tracks from WV 25 (First Avenue). Main Avenue intersects the approach to the Nitro St. Albans bridge, a turn onto Main from either direction is one easy way to get to the restaurant.



FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bob Osburn, Assistant Superintendent

The day after Thanksgiving found the Division 9 T-TRAK group busily setting up their modular railroad at the 63rd Annual Model Railroad Show sponsored by the Appalachian Model Railroad Society in Huntington, WV. Bob Weinheimer, Herb Parsons, John Shuman, Craig Laing, Sam Delauter, Dale Osburn, Carson Shoen, and myself contributed a total of 20 modules that came together to make a large L-shaped display. Our group is growing with each show making set-up, takedown, and operations very manageable. Trains were run for three days during the show with little difficulty using multiple operators. A constant stream of questions was asked by interested model railroaders wanting to understand the T-TRAK concept and construction techniques. All of our handouts explaining T-TRAK were gone by the end of the show. The contacts we made during the show may result in a few more members to the NMRA and Division 9. A

special thanks is due to Craig Laing from Athens, TN who brought his module of Prince, WV. This module won several awards at the NMRA National Convention in Salt Lake City and drew a lot of attention from members of the C&O Historical Society attending the Huntington show. Again, thanks for all your help and efforts in making this a very successful and enjoyable event.

Next up is the December 14th meeting; a luncheon at Diehl's Restaurant in Nitro, WV at 12:00 noon. We will be able to order from a large selection of items on their menu. There will be an area reserved for us where we will have our meal and a brief business meeting. An area for the Square Foot Challenge will be provided where participants will have an opportunity to display and talk about their project. Directions and further information will be provided in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Manager

As we near the end of the year, membership for Division 9 has remained relatively constant in the 49 to 50 range. As we look toward the New Year I challenge us to try and expand these numbers. While we have constantly attempted to engage new members at local train shows, it appears that very few have joined the ranks as a direct result of this outreach. We will continue, however, to attend these events and support the local shows.

I believe, however, that activities such as the T-TRAK modules and the Gary Burdette Challenge may be one of the best opportunities to reach new people. I look forward to the St. Albans show in February. This show again will give us the opportunity to showcase the T-TRAK modules. These displays were well received last year and promise to be an excellent opportunity to interact with potential new members. Likewise, we look forward to expanding the clinic offerings and, perhaps with a better intercom system, be able to encourage public attendance for these "how to clinics". I encourage all members

to be thinking about possible topics for presentation as this is an excellent opportunity for those who have not yet done a clinic to get their feet wet with a short presentation on how they might go about modeling.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help man the booth so as to not place too much burden on just a few that typically do this. To help break up the time, I also plan on bringing a small project or two to work on while I man the display. I have found that while giving me something to do, this also creates an opportunity for dialogue with attendees curious as to how or why I am doing something in a particular way. These discussions always lead to an invitation to attend one of our meetings at the Depot and open the door for potential RailPass membership.

It is certainly my goal as we look ahead to 2020 to increase our membership and expand interest in the hobby. It will require a joint effort.

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST

2019 SCHEDULE

January	Modeler's Choice	August	Freight Cars
February	Steam Locomotives	September	Photo, Model or Prototype
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam	October	Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hoppers)
April	Cabooses	November	Passenger Cars
May	Anything Steel Related	December	Third Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge. Details and kick off in October
June	Non Revenue Except Cabooses		
July	Structures		

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2019

Bluefield, WV

Meeting called to order at 12:55pm by the Superintendent.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – No report as clerk was absent.

Superintendent's Report – Dan Mulhearn stated he was not running for Superintendent in 2020, even though he is eligible, as his first term was the remainder of Gary Burdette's term. At that time Robert Osburn was nominated, and he accepted. We still need a nominee for Assistant Superintendent.

Assistant Superintendent's Report – Robert Osburn believed that our clerk was to meet with the St. Albans mayor about our use of the depot but did not know if that had happened. Hopefully, this will be resolved soon.

Newsletter Chair – Bob Weinheimer noted he needed some pictures in portrait style (as opposed to landscape) for the front page of the newsletter.

Achievement Program Chair – Bob Weinheimer said that Tom Harris is almost due for the Dispatcher certificate and Dan Mulhearn will be eligible for Association Official next March. He also noted that many things can be judged at our meetings and our members should take advantage of that.

Library Chair – Bill Wadsworth reported that the library was not at today's meeting and won't be available in December but will return at the January meeting. If any member has a request for a particular subject please let him know.

Contest Chair – This month's presentations were discussed. Also materials were made available for the Gary Burdette challenge.

Clinic Chair – There will be no more clinics for this year, but we need to line up topics for 2020.

Membership Chair – No report

Old Business – None

New Business – Sam reported that T-TRAK will be at the Huntington train show. Also a new group is forming at Clifton Forge.

Announcements – Bob Mershimer has invited the members to visit the SACOM layout after the January meeting. The members should carpool as parking is limited.

Next Meeting – December 14 – Diehl's Restaurant – Nitro, WV at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23pm

Respectfully submitted by Bill Wadsworth, Acting Clerk

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	December 30
February	January 27
March	March 2
April	March 30
May	April 27
June	June 1
July	June 29

CONTEST Dale Osburn

Photos by Dale Osburn except as noted

First place at the November contest went to Sam Delauter for his Erie C9 Baggage #367. Second place was Bob Weinheimer for his Pennsylvania Southern Business car. Third Place was Tom Harris for his Lakeside Line Observation 6001 car.

In December we will be honoring Gary Burdette with the square foot challenge. This will be the third year for the memorial modeling challenge. Please remember no documentation will be needed to enter and time will be allotted to speak about your project.

January will be Modeler's Choice. This category can be anything railroad related. Please provide a written description about your model.

Note:

There is still time to add new projects for the 2020 Monthly Model Schedule. Please email your ideas to me by the end of December.



Erie C9 Baggage #367

This Erie C9 baggage car is built from a Bethlehem Car Works kit. The kit is prototypically accurate for the C9 class. Since the kit was already accurate, the only change Sam made was to use Walthers Proto trucks instead of the Bethlehem trucks. The car is built from laser cut wood with some plastic parts including the roof and underframe parts. All of the grab irons are hand bent from brass. Although the cars were off the roster by the 1950s, there is photographic evidence of some of them in revenue service well into the late 1950s. A coat of pullman green and a fairly light coat of weathering finished the car.



Pennsylvania Southern Business Car

This is a Walthers model originally painted for another railroad. The model was disassembled so the railroad painted parts could be stripped of paint, the parts were then painted and the model was reassembled. The car received a very light weathering as railroad management keeps it pretty clean.

Continues next page

CONTEST, continued



Photo by Tom Harris

Lakeside Lines Observation Car 6001

Lakeside Lines Observation Car 6001 began life as a Kato product. It was produced about 20 years back at a time when Kato was testing the possibilities of the HO scale passenger car market. It is a nice car, unfortunately, Kato never produced any further such models. Tom made no changes to the basic model but performed the following steps to prepare it for the road.

The car was disassembled and the body finished with the Alclad 2 metalizer paint system. This is a two-step process. The car was first air brushed glossy black then painted with the Alclad 2 chrome paint. The window band and drumhead were air brushed with Floquil dark blue paint. The car was lettered with dry transfers. The interior furnishing casting was hand painted to bring out the details included. The car was then reassembled. A Walthers diaphragm was added between the car and the included striker plate. Kadee number 5 couplers were added.

SACOM OPEN HOUSE

Bob Mershimer

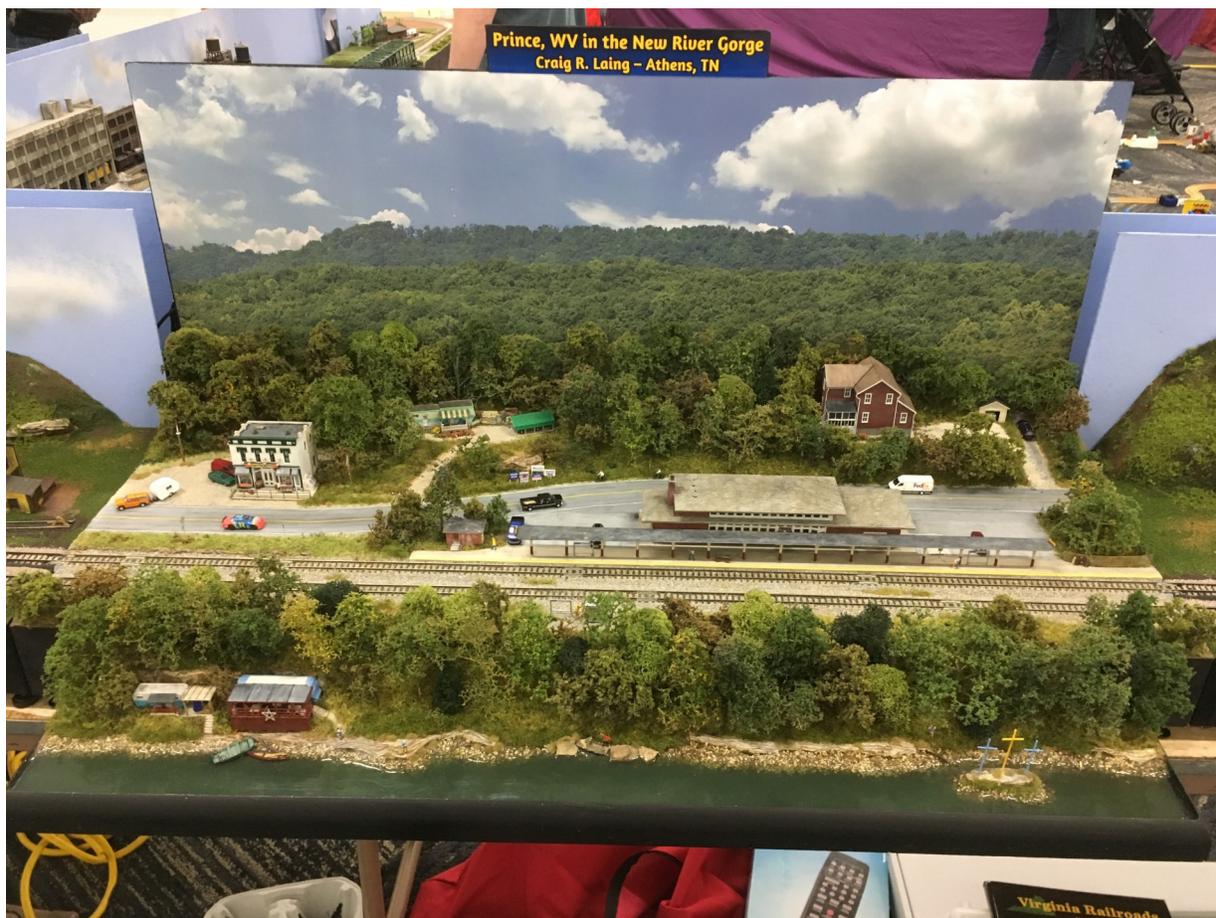
St. Albans C&O Modelers would like to invite Coal Division members to an open house at our layout after the January 11 meeting at the St. Albans Depot. We will have the clubhouse on 10th Street next to old St. Albans High School open from about 2:30 to 4:30 to show off the lay-

out. See the photo below of some of the current layout. We would also be glad to accept any volunteer work in future on layout at times to be determined or structures to build for display.



HUNTINGTON TRAIN SHOW

Photos by Robert Osburn



The highlight of the display this year was from a visiting modeler from Athens, TN, Craig Laing. His model of the Prince, WV area including the depot was greatly admired by many visitors including members of the C&O Historical Society. The Prince station model even has interior detail with the Chessie logo in the floor.



On the left we see Santa's Helper, Sam Delauter, and Santa Claus admiring the modules.

On the right John Shuman is making an adjustment on one of his modules.



MORE FROM THE TRAIN SHOW



Here we have Craig Laing on the left with Sam Delauter watching a train snake its way around the end of the display.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR®

There was a discussion of the Achievement Program at the November meeting and members were reminded that any portable item such as a car, locomotive, or structure could be brought to a meeting for evaluation.

I would like to add a couple of comments to that. If at all possible, please let me know in advance that you plan to bring something. I can't be at every meeting and I would not like to see a member disappointed if I could not be there.

Please look at the requirements and the Statement of Qualifications forms for each category. You will see what is needed in your description of the model, please have that completed and bring it with the model. Also bring a judging sheet. I also suggest you read the judging guidelines.

The Achievement Program can be seen by clicking [here](#) and the judging guidelines are [here](#).

MY WORD Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Thanksgiving travel plans kept me from attending the train show until Sunday. I was quite impressed by the growing number of T-TRAK modules that our Division is producing and displaying. We were fortunate to have a visitor who offered to bring a module and that module was great. Robert Osburn recaps the weekend so I won't bother repeating his description here.

I do want to recognize Sam Delauter for his leadership in this effort. He has spent many hours behind the scenes working on the various electronic items that actually make the layout run. Little if any of that is visible but without it the display would be static.

On another front, Bruce DeMaeyer, MCR T-TRAK guru, is working diligently with the MCR convention planners in Pittsburgh for a large T-TRAK display there. We had about 60 modules at the 2019 convention and Bruce hopes for even more at the 2020 convention.

Speaking of conventions, you should be getting a Kingpin later this month with more details on that convention. The venue is the same Doubletree hotel as in 2012 with an active rail yard across the street. It can't get much better than that.

Our Third Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge will be combined with a holiday gathering for lunch a new activity for us. I hope to see many of you and many square foot scenes December 14. See page 3 for more details.

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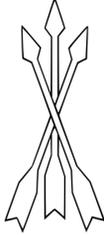
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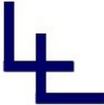


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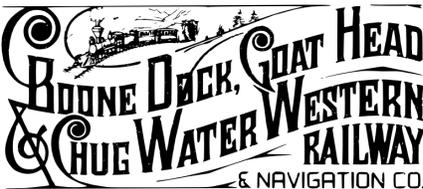
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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
 Clint Foster Superintendant
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Alleghany & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's

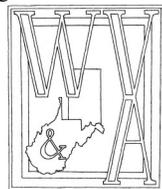


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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 14
Diehl's Restaurant
Nitro, WV

January 11, 2020
St. Albans Depot

February 8
St. Albans Depot

March 14
St. Albans Depot