



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

July 2021

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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The June meeting finally found us back at our home base in St. Albans, not at the Depot but next door at the St. Albans Historical Society building. This was the first in-person meeting since March of 2020 and was unique because we also had the opportunity to include members virtually. Jerry Doyle and Bob Weinheimer have been working hard to make a combination in-person and virtual meeting successful for our group. There are still some kinks and problems to solve but this is the future that COVID has bestowed upon us. We will continue to learn how to navigate through both a virtual and in-person meeting and continually improve the process affording all members easy inclusion to the meetings.

We are still unsure of the conditions at the Depot and also need to reestablish our relationship with the City prior to once again meeting there. The pandemic has reprioritized City plans and little has been accomplished over the past year for improvements to the depot. This being the case, our July 10th and the August 14th meeting will again take place at the St. Albans Historical Society building adjacent to the Depot. The Historical Society maintains their facility very well, affording us with a clean and comfortable place to meet. It also offers us a building that is handicapped accessible, accommodating several of our member's needs.

The comradery, smiles, fist bumps, and pats on the back at the June meeting highlighted how much we have missed being together as a physical group. It's really great seeing a new normal emerge; we have a lot to look forward to. Plans are already under way for the August *Picnic on the Platform*; maybe we can even assemble a T-Trak layout for members to run trains on as we did in 2019. Mark Maynard is looking forward to hosting our group in September to "Run the Crusty" and eat barbecues at his home in Portsmouth, OH.

The Company Store will be open during the July meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring it and add to the collection. Remember to mark each item with asking price and your name. Remember also, 10% of the sale goes into the Division Treasury.

Tom Harris will once again conduct a raffle at the meeting and Bill Wadsworth will have videos available from the Division library. Tom is always glad to receive donated items for the raffle and Bill is always looking for new videos. If you have anything to donate for the raffle or library please bring them along.

The Contest for July is Structures. This category is always very popular with lots of member participation and the clinic titled "Iron Ore Railroads" will be presented by Jerry Doyle.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has stuck with us during these difficult times. Meeting virtually has helped keep us together to a certain degree but it sure is great to be physically together again. We are a very small group and every member is important and an asset to the Division. If you haven't been able to join us monthly, now more than ever your presence would be appreciated. Hope to see you Saturday, July 10th!!!

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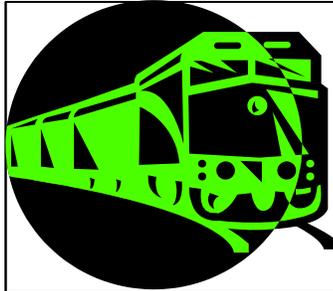
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Upcoming Coal Division Monthly Railfun Events

Saturday July 10

1 PM

Hybrid Division Membership Meeting
St. Albans Historical Society
404 Fourth Avenue, St. Albans, WV
(next door to the depot)
Also available via Zoom

- Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)
- Approval of Minutes from the last meeting
- Treasurers Report
- Superintendents Report
- Assistant Superintendent Report
- Committee Chairs Reports
- Bring and Brag: Structures
- Open Discussion/Questions (One at a time please)
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Clinic: Iron Ore Railroads by Jerry Doyle

Next Event

Saturday August 14, 2021

Picnic on the Platform

JULY **HYBRID** DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jerry Doyle

We've all been doing our part for COVID-19 isolation measures. The end, however, is in sight and our June meeting will be in person as well as via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Our July meeting will be held at the St. Albans Historical Society (next door to the depot) in person and remotely using Zoom. Zoom is very easy to use. You can use a laptop (provided it has a webcam), tablet, or smart phone. Just use the link provided below. You'll be prompted on how to connect with your particular device.

You can also join with a voice-only connection by calling one of the numbers listed.

We are planning to conduct a short business meeting followed by show-and-tell where you can show everyone what you've been working on. There will also be a railroad related clinic and possibly more.

Our meeting will be Saturday July 10 at our regular time of 1 p.m.

Please bear with us as we learn our way around producing a hybrid meeting.

Topic: July Meeting Division 9 MCR NMRA
Time: Jul 10, 2021 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99808506567>

Meeting ID: 998 0850 6567

First Time Users

- On a computer: The **FIRST TIME** you open a Zoom meeting link you will be asked to download a small Zoom application file. Follow all the typical steps and allow anything requested by the app as it installs.
- On a smart phone or tablet: **BEFORE** you open the Zoom link, go to the app store and download the Zoom Cloud Meetings app from Meet Happy (the app publisher).

To join a Zoom meeting:

- See the meeting invitation above
- Open that link 10 minutes prior to the meeting
- Accept any requests for video and/or microphone
- MUTE your microphone

Other pointers

- Make sure your connection is strong
- If you have a weak connection, disconnect other devices from your home network
- For your first time, don't wait until the last minute to join
- Use the **Chat** button to view and make comments or post questions
- Click the **Invite** button to send meeting information to others
- If everything freezes, click **Leave Meeting** and rejoin using the original invitation
- You do not need to create a Zoom account to participate in a Zoom meeting

Thanks to Paul Downs of MCR Division 8 for these tips.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

It sure was great to see everyone at the June meeting, it had been too long since we were able to get together. While we weren't in the depot, the St. Albans Historical Society was a great place to meet. For the foreseeable future it would appear that we will be meeting there. I'm happy that we will be able to meet in a clean, convenient, accessible and air conditioned location. For those that were unable to attend, the SAHS is next door to the depot.

At the June meeting, we tried the first hybrid meeting with a couple of members joining us via Zoom. While this will be a learning experience much like the Zoom meetings were, I think that we had a good first hybrid meeting. At the July meeting, I will bring a Blue Yeti microphone. For those unfamiliar with these mics, I have done several recording sessions and recorded several live performances with them. They produce a very good product and are hard to beat for the cost due to the quality and the versatility of the mic. While they are great for recording music, there are many people using them to record and produce their podcasts. The Yeti will not only

give us a better quality product but it will also help the meeting go smoother. It is a bidirectional mic so the speaker shouldn't have to be on top of the mic to be heard by those of us out there in internet land.

As we get more technically advanced and go into uncharted territory with the hybrid meetings, we should keep in mind that we are basically in a recording studio. When you are in the recording studio, there is always a few seconds of silence before and at the end of the recording. This is to let everyone in the room know that there needs to be complete silence because any sounds will be picked up by the mic. While we don't need to be as stringent as if we were actually in the studio, we should always remember that when the mic is live it will pick up the person speaking as well as the background noise. We should keep talking to a minimum during the meeting to help the people that are out of town or unable to attend the meeting to be able to be a part of the meeting.

And as always: be kind to yourself and even better to others.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The clinic at the June meeting was given by Robert Osburn. The clinic was Adding Interiors to DPM Buildings. The clinic not only covered DPM building in n scale but fitting the interiors to other brands and other scales of buildings. This was a great example of a clinic done in one scale but easily applicable to other scales. I got a lot from this clinic and I'm sure that others did too.

The July clinic will be Iron Ore Railroads by Jerry Doyle. Upcoming clinics include:

August	Enjoy the picnic
September	Run the Crusty
October	Bob Frankrone - Open Loads
November	Greg McCarty - JMRI
December	Square Foot Challenge

SPAM BUTTON MISUSE

It has come to the attention of the NMRA's IT department that many NMRA members do not receive NMRA email publications (*Turntable*, *eBulletin*, *Dispatch*) because **other** members use the Spam button.

If the publication is not of interest, simply delete it. If you no longer want to receive **any** NMRA email publication, please use the Unsubscribe link which is safe and secure. Never use the Spam or Junk button. If too many people do this, service providers such as Yahoo will block all people from ever seeing the emails. Most NMRA members want to keep in touch. Don't ruin it for them.

Please note that Unsubscribe will apply to all NMRA email publications, including the *Turntable*, *eBulletin*, special *eBulletins*, and *Dispatch*. Note that it does *not* apply to Up The Holler.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

**Hybrid Meeting
In Person and Zoom
June 12, 2021
Minutes**

Many members attended today's meeting in person and there was a lot of catching up with others given our last in-person meeting was over a year ago. Several members and guests also attended virtually using Zoom.

Members introduced themselves.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Robert Osburn at 1:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

May minutes approved.
Treasury Balance is \$8,420.35.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$42.
Pike Ads \$0.

We had a service charge for the month of May. This should be the last charge for the account. We have made the required annual IRS filing for our 501 (c)(3) status.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn expressed gratitude for everyone attending today.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter talked about his last column and dealing with difficulties in their modeling projects.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer thanked everyone who contributed to the last newsletter and reminded everyone about the deadline for June.

Achievement Program

Nothing new to report.

Library

Bill Wadsworth had the library available today. He reminded members about the content available on the NMRA website www.nmra.org.

Contest

Dale Osburn today's contest was non-revenue, there were several entries.

Clinic

The clinic for today is Building Interior by Robert Osburn. July will be Iron Ore Railroads by Jerry Doyle. Robert Osburn asked Sam to compile a list of Division 9 clinicians who are available to put on their clinics virtually. Robert Osburn will check with Mark Maynard about our September meeting. Dale Osburn and Greg McCartney volunteered to do clinics in the future.

Membership

John Harris reported on contacting lapsed members. There was

only one response. The high cost of annual membership was cited as a reason for non-renewal. About one third of the non-renewals were from Rail Pass trial memberships. There was discussion about ways to involve the public in model railroading at various events in the area.

Raffle

Tom Harris was thrilled to be holding the raffle for the first time in 14 months.

T-TRAK

Sam suggested we have others run trains on our T-TRAK layout at public shows. He also suggested we have a "Build the Module" day where we teach beginners how to do scenery and structures.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Robert Osburn noted that the status of the depot is unclear at the moment. He proposed that we meet at the Historical Society again in July and August. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. He also brought up having a picnic in August. He proposed each member donate \$5 to cover the cost of food and supplies and the Division provide \$50 for meat. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Sam Delauter mentioned a note from James Knabb. He has been putting on multi-division Zoom meetings. The meetings have multiple presentations and clinics. Bob Weinheimer will forward the link to all members.

Certificates were handed out to participants of the 2020 Gary Burdette Square Foot Modeling Challenge.

Announcements

None.

Future Meetings:

July 10 – St Albans Historical Society (next to the depot) and also via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The June meeting was a great fellowship event with our group. We had several entries for the June contest. We also had a good turnout for the December 2020 Gary Burdette Modeling Challenge. A big "thank you" to John Harris for getting pictures of the Modeling Challenge. Several members received a Certificate of Participation for their December 2019 and 2020 Gary Burdette Modeling Challenge (see pictures below).

First Place went to Larry Richards with his HO_n30 converted car into a truck (cutting the model in half). Speed wheels were then added to the scratch-built chassis. The bed of the model was also scratch-built with welded oil bucket and other details.

Second Place went to Jerry Doyle with his HO scale Jordan Spreader. Jerry told the group that he started the project and couldn't quit until the model was completed (many hours that turned into a long day of modeling).

Next month will be one of my favorite contest months which will be structures. The July contest always brings out some really interesting models.

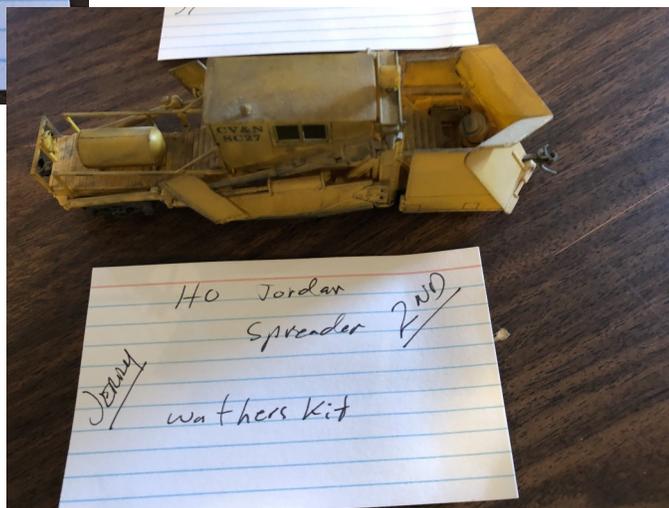
Please keep in mind we need to approve the December 2021 Gary Burdette Modeling Challenge project.

2021	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotive Other Than Steam
April	Kitbashing/Scratch Built (Anything Railroad Related)
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue
July	Structures
August	Electronics of a Railroad
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads
November	Passenger Cars
December	Fifth Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge



To the left: Larry's entry

Below: Jerry's entry



PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

It was great to be back! Glad to see all those who were able to attend our first hybrid Division 9 meeting. Attendance was respectable and it was good to hear what each member had been doing during the past 14 months. Many had taken this time to make real progress on their home layouts or just build things for the sake of building. Unfortunately, I was not one of those to take full advantage of the opportunity. That four letter word called "work" kept getting in the way. While I did make some progress, my fellow modelers put me to shame.

My membership report at the June meeting was disappointing. Membership is back down to 42 which is where we have been through most of the pandemic. The real disappointment, however was in the limited response to the survey I reported had gone out in the last "Up the Holler" While I did not use Survey Monkey or other internet survey tools, I did send out a direct email to those whose membership had lapsed within the last 6 years. As reported, I only received one response. Yes, disappointed in the number of responses, but I was not surprised with the information received. Feedback on the reason for not renewing boiled down to a matter of cost. The respondent indicated that cost for full membership with the magazine had gotten to the point that he could not justify the expense. He noted that membership in St. Albans C&O Modelers, SACOM, was considerably less and you get to run trains. While he liked the activities of the Coal Divi-

sion and the fellowship with local members, the benefit did not outweigh the cost. When asked what we could do to make membership more attractive, nothing short of major cost reduction would be an enticement.

Like several others of the members that had failed to renew, he had joined under the Rail Pass offer. It is hard to pass up this heavily discounted membership opportunity. Even though Rail Pass has increased in cost recently, it has also been extended to 9 months. It is still a bargain when you consider the subscription to NMRA Magazine is included. Rail Pass continues to be our best tool in recruitment, now to work on retention.

The lack of opportunities to reach out to the public during the pandemic cannot be overlooked. At the June meeting we agreed that the upcoming Huntington Thanksgiving show might be a great opportunity to expand this outreach. Setting up the T TRAK modules for this show is a popular way to attract attention and perhaps offering some of our clinics and hands on demonstrations may peak interest. Showing that model railroading can be fun is our best advertising. Combined with have plenty of Rail Pass applications available may be our best approach. Plans for the Huntington show will continue to be refined and discussed at the July meeting.

Keep modeling and be safe. I hope to see you at the next meeting!

May 18-22, 2022

Four Full Days
Three Regions
Two Day Train Show
One Convention
and the RPM Conference

facebook.com/IndyJunction2022



www.IndyJunction2022.org

We used the opportunity to gather in person to present Certificates of Participation to members who took up the Fourth Annual Gary Burdette Model Challenge in December 2020. Additional photos of the models were published in the [January 2021](#) issue of Up the Holler. Photos of the awards are by John Harris, models were photographed by the modeler.



Contest Manager Dale Osburn presents Larry Richards with his certificate.



Dale presents Jerry Doyle with his certificate.



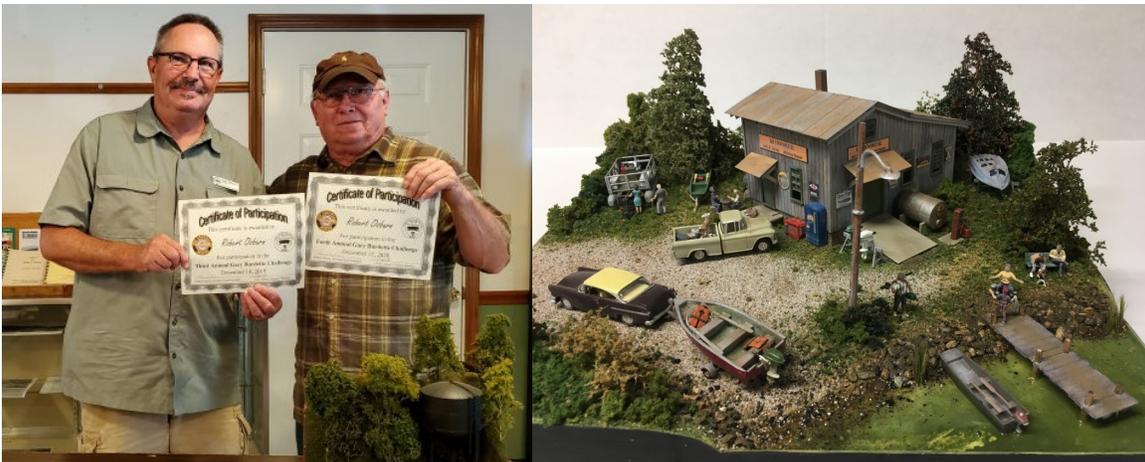
Dale presents Tom Harris with his certificate.



Dale presents Sam Delauter with his certificate.



Dale presents Herb Parsons with his certificate.



Dale presents Superintendent Robert Osburn with his certificate.



Dale presents Bob Weinheimer with his certificate.



Robert presents Dale with his certificate.

MY WORD Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Well, as others have said in their columns, it was great to get back together again with an in-person event. We did have a little bump or two with the Zoom session. One of the viewers was the Superintendent of another Division, I hope he learned something from the things that didn't go well.

From having been on numerous virtual meetings, it has become very clear that background noise can be a real nuisance so I echo Sam's comment about keeping chatter to a bare minimum.

It was also nice to see some of the Square Foot mod-

els in person. Photos are one thing but they don't show everything. Since more photos were published in the January issue, I chose a hybrid way of recognizing the modelers without using up too much space with model photos.

As we get out and about, keep in mind the Indy Junction 2022 convention next May. We lost two Mid Central Region conventions to the pandemic and this upcoming conventions should help make up for that. Also, if you give a clinic, your registration is free. Keep that in mind, it could reduce the cost of the convention if you are willing to stand up and talk about your work!



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

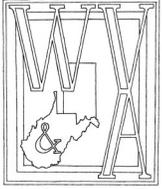


Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America a few tons at a time



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www.dewv.edu/center-railway-tourism
Davis & Elkins College
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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.

July 10
In Person and Virtual

August 14
Picnic on the Platform

September 11
Portsmouth, OH