



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

August 2021

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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The August meeting will feature our *Picnic on the Platform*. Some changes for this event are in order because of the surge of COVID-19 issues. We will be having our picnic outdoors under the St Albans Historical Society shelter. This is located next to the Depot and Historical Society buildings. The Historical Society building will be open for use in case of foul weather and for restroom use. We are not going to conduct our regular business session, contest, clinic, and virtual link as we usually do but Tom Harris will still conduct a raffle. These changes will afford us a time to get together safely and enjoy a great meal and comradery.

We will start cooking around 12:30 and hope everything will be ready to eat around 1:00. The meal will feature hamburgers and hotdogs (with all the trimmings), potato salad, macaroni salad, chips, dessert, and an assortment of drinks. You will need to bring a lawn chair and we asked for each attending member to donate \$5.00 to help cover the cost of a wonderful meal. We will have tables set-up under the shelter and a few chairs will be available if you can't bring one. It would be appreciated if you could arrive a little early and help with setup.

A lot of thought, discussions, and planning have gone into the preparation for this meeting with other Division officials and members with the safety of our members foremost. We will pre-package the hamburgers and hotdogs as cooked; servers will help with salads, silverware, desserts, and drinks. Condiments such as mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, and relish will be provided in packets. Serving tongs will be provided to load those burgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings you prefer. Chips and silverware will be provided in individual packets and canned drinks will eliminate the need for cups, ice distribution, and large drink containers. These efforts should minimize contact with food surfaces and make for a safe environment.

Our picnics are always enjoyed by the members and a large turnout is normal, I hope to see you at the August 14th Picnic on the Platform. Please, do the necessary things you feel comfortable doing to protect yourself and others: We Are All in This Together

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who attended the July meeting. We had a very good turn-out with lots of good discussions about the future of our Division, the programs we offer, and ideas on how to improve the meetings. Continuing in-person meetings are something we will have to address as COVID conditions change and CDC guidelines dictate what we can do safely. Mark Maynard is still a go for a joint meeting with Division 6, a barbecue lunch, and *Running the Crusty* for the September 11th meeting in Portsmouth.

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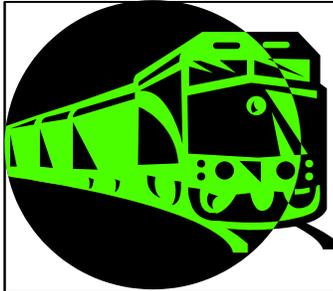
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday August 14

Picnic On The Platform
St. Albans Historical Society
404 Fourth Avenue, St. Albans, WV
(next door to the depot)

- Doors open at Noon
- Meat hits the grill at 12:30
- Eat at 1:00
- **No business meeting**
- **No zoom**
- **No contest**
- There will be a raffle

Next Meeting
September 11
West Portsmouth, Ohio

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

As you may remember, a couple of months ago nothing went right for me. While it was a tough month, I hope that the readers of this column were able to learn something from my woes. The following month, I was still nursing my wounds and didn't do much modeling. I am happy to report that it looks like things have started to turn around and I am making progress with my modeling. This month I am well on my way to completing projects. As projects have been coming together, many of my models have made it to paint stage.

To follow my column a couple of months ago, I thought I would take some time to talk about how frustrating learning to airbrush was. When I first got my airbrush, I had major issues with performance. Maybe there was something that I missed but I had a lot of trouble getting it to spray more or less evenly. To be fair, my first airbrush was junk and my first air compressor came broken from the factory. I had no experience with compressors and assumed it worked right. Looking back, it simply didn't work at all. I figured it was an issue with the paint I was using. I was trying many different brands of paints and different ways to thin and mix the paint. Most of these attempts did not go well.

After I upgraded to a Paasche dual action airbrush and a better compressor, I was still having trouble. Learning to thin the paint and to keep my airbrush clean and functional was quite the experience. While there is much talk online about thinning of paints, something not often

talked about is that each person's equipment setup can vary. The pressure that your compressor will produce and the environment in which you spray can change the mix of paint and pressure that you need. Also of note is the type of paint and thinner that you use.

A great example of that is that I paint mostly with Tru-Color Paint. I have some old Floquil and other older paints but I personally really like the Tru-Color paints. Although they are listed as airbrush ready, I find that I need to thin them a bit to work with my personal setup. I don't think that my compressor will give the pressure that other brands and models will, I have found what works for me. Once I found what works for my setup, I have been very happy with the results. My compressor has recently been showing signs of wearing out, I foresee a new compressor at some point in the near future.

In the near future I plan to make or buy a paint booth. Currently, I setup a box over the trash can in the garage as a make shift paint booth. While it does a good job of keeping paint off of things that don't need paint, I feel that I am at the point where I can justify something a little nicer and a little more permanent for painting needs. If anyone is interested in learning more about airbrushing, let me know. Hopefully my troubles can help someone along the way.

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

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The clinic at the July meeting was cabooses and was given by Jerry Doyle. As always, Jerry gives a great clinic. I hope everyone got something from his clinic. It looks like we have the clinics lined up from now until the end of the

year. It's never too early to start scheduling for 2022. Let me know if you have any ideas for clinics or would like to give a clinic.

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
July 10, 2021
Minutes

Members introduced themselves.

reminded members about the content available on the NMRA website www.nmra.org.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Robert Osburn at 1:15 p.m.

Contest

Division Clerk Report

June minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$8,437.35.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$47.
 Pike Ads \$20.

Dale Osburn reported that today's contest was Structures and there was excellent participation. The August contest will be Model Railroad Electronics which is a new category. September will be Photography. Dale encouraged members to bring up ideas for new categories for future contests. Some categories suggested were Weathering, Depots, Open Loads and Railroad Vehicles.

We paid \$25 in June to the WV Secretary of State for our annual incorporation fee. Other upcoming expenses will be a fee for the meeting space and supplies for our August picnic.

Clinic

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn was grateful for everyone's attendance today. He also brought up continuing to meet at the St Albans Historical building for the foreseeable future.

The clinic for today is *Cabooses: A Short History* by Jerry Doyle. Dale Osburn suggested that we continue to encourage short video tours of member's layouts when possible. Clinics will resume with the October meeting. Bob Frankrone will present a clinic on open loads. Greg McCartney will present on JMRI and Decoder Pro in November. December will be the Gary Burdette Square Foot Challenge.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter discussed some feedback about our last meeting and the experience for online attendees. He brought a microphone that is better suited for capturing sound in a larger space.

Membership

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer reminded everyone the deadline for the next newsletter will be August 2. He appreciates everyone getting their materials in on time.

John Harris reported that total membership had grown slightly in the last period.

Raffle

Achievement Program

Nothing new to report for the AP program. While he had the floor, Bob Weinheimer reported on the recent NMRA National BOD meeting. Some new DCC and LCC standards were approved. The topic of publishing the magazine digitally and the issues involved were discussed. Hopefully a test run will be available in the next few weeks with a recent back issue.

Tom Harris offered that we consider someone located closer to St Albans as a backup as he will likely not attend meetings during inclement weather. Several members brought up that we probably wouldn't hold a meeting in those circumstances anyway. Robert Osburn stated that since technology is now a viable option we will likely opt for a remote meeting in bad weather. Several ideas were discussed.

A separate discussion ensued on how and when a decision regarding canceling in-person meetings and how members would be notified. The consensus was that email using the Division email list was best.

Library

Bill Wadsworth had the library available today. He

T-TRAK

No Report.

Continued next page

Minutes continued

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob Weinheimer presented Jerry Doyle with a certificate of appreciation for serving as the Mid-Central Region Secretary for the past four years.

Robert Osburn reported on developments with the Appalachian Model Railroad Society. They would like Division 9 to have a T-TRAK display. Robert would also like to have our booth display and a running video of past clinics. He asked Sam Delauter to handle the T-TRAK layout. There was some discussion about allowing members of the public to operate on the layout as a recruiting tool.

Robert Osburn brought up the location of future meetings. There was discussion of the pros and cons of using the St Albans Historical Society building for the near future. Also, there was some discussion of holding a luncheon meeting at Diehl's in December.

August will be the Picnic on the Platform at St Albans Historical Society. Food will be supplied, a donation of \$5 per person is requested.

Announcements

None.

Future Meetings:

August 14 – St Albans Historical Society (next to the depot) and also via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The contest for July was structures. We had six entries for the contest. Below are the top three entries. Photos are on the next page.

Booty Corner by Dale Osburn was first place.

C&O Depot by Herbert Parsons was second place.

Chemical Company by Larry Richards was third place.

The previously planned August contest has been canceled due to the lack of a formal business meeting.

Looking ahead to September will be Photo, Model or Prototype. This will be an outside event at Mark Maynard's house so please remember to secure all photos from the wind.

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

Contest Photos
John Harris



Booty Corner by Dale Osburn

- Bar Mills kit
- One scratch-built building Ralph A. Guiner
- LED lighting was added to the buildings
- Woodland Scenics Accents

C&O Depot by Herbert Parsons

- Building was scratch-built.
- Building was built from pictures of the original building at Firecreek, WV.
- Over one hundred pieces were used creating the trim work on the gable ends of the structure.





Chemical Company by Larry Richards

- Scratch-built building.
- Board by board construction.
- Homemade stain was used for the structure.
- All signage was made by the modeler.

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

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

I continue to be impressed with the modeling efforts of Coal Division members! The quality of the contest models for the July meeting has improved dramatically. The level of detail and the variety of materials used is showcasing the skills being developed by our members. It is also good to see submissions from, not only the usual participants, but also several who do not often submit projects for the contest. The quantity of submissions has also increased. This may be due to an increase in interest in modeling in general, but I suspect it may be a positive result of the pandemic and out self-isolation.

My membership report at the July meeting was a bit encouraging. Membership is back up to 45. I am optimistic that the efforts discussed at the meeting to participate in the Huntington show in November might help in recruitment to NMRA. Certainly expanding outreach with T-TRAK modules may encourage some non-members to become members. I am sure there will be further discussion over the next few meeting on how best to reach these potential new members. The more we engage the public, the more opportunities to demonstrate the benefits of NMRA membership.

Speaking of the Huntington show, the Division 9 background display will present and helps creates an identity for the Coal Division. I believe it is time to refresh some of our photos. With all the recent modeling efforts, we should have some new photos to represent current members and their modeling skills. It is always a great conversation generator and that equates to engagement.

That said, I am looking for photographs. They need to be digital and in the range of 3MB or more. They could be of a module or diorama or scene from your home layout. If possible, image should be full frame with no clutter in the background. Format must be horizontal as final print will be 8x10. If needed, I can crop. Submit as many as you want but do so via separate emails (my email address is AandNRR@aol.com) or if you prefer they can be submitted on a thumb drive given to me at the next few meetings. If you are not sure of your photography abilities, let me know and we can figure something out. I am excited to see what you have to offer.

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

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

The past month or so has been very interesting. The virtual NMRA convention was deemed a success. I presented three clinics. All three were recorded in May then played back in July. I was present to answer some chat questions then attended a post clinic session to answer questions. In a real convention it is often necessary to vacate the clinic room before all the discussion is done, that was not the case here. If you missed it you really missed something.

As I write this Monday, I have just returned from a three week trip around the country. For me, the highlight was visiting the Magic of Scale Model Railroading exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. It too the NMRA and CSRM quite a while to get this moving and the pandemic didn't help. However, if you are ever in the area, I strongly suggest you stop in to see it. The entire museum is a masterpiece so figure on spending several hours there.

It looks like we may be in for another rough few months with COVID but I certainly hope it is in the rear view mirror by next spring. The paragraph below was in last month's column and I've repeated it here as I hope we are getting out and about for good by then.

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!

Finally, I had one last act as the recently retired Mid Central Region President: presenting Jerry Doyle with a certificate thanking him for serving as MCR Secretary for the past four years. Jerry is now the MCR Vice President, the only MCR office he hasn't yet held is MCR President. Maybe in another four years...



Photo by John Harris



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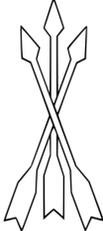
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV



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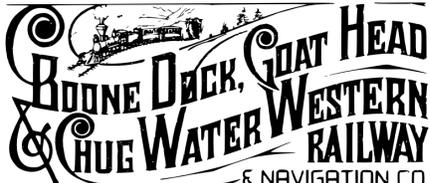
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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
 Clint Foster Superintendent
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Alleghany & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's

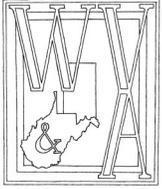


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West Virginia & Atlantic Railroad



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 LEADING THE WAY



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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.

August 14
Picnic on the Platform

September 11
Portsmouth, OH

October 9
St. Albans Historical Society and Zoom

November 13
St. Albans Historical Society and Zoom