



# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

March 2023

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER  
Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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The January meeting was once again well attended both in-person and virtually. After our normal welcome and introductions, a short business session was conducted which included Division Clerk, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chair reports. Several items discussed during the new business session included moving the Parkersburg "Steel is King Day" meeting to Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> and "Running the Crusty" at Portsmouth on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>. These changes were requested by our hosts to avoid Mother's Day in May and personnel availability in September. It was also decided to not have a formal meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>. Herb Parsons has volunteered to accept the T-TRAK Chair. Herb has been involved with the T-TRAK Coal Division group since the beginning and is very capable of doing a great job, thanks Herb. Jerry Doyle gave us an update regarding information about scheduling round-robin operation sessions at various member's model railroads. It seems this is a very welcome endeavor as many members look forward to learning about operations and those that have operating railroads need people to run their trains. I hope we can have a schedule and locations posted soon.

As our new raffle Chair, Tony Puccini had a wonderful variety of items for the raffle and tickets went fast. Tony is always trying to maintain a nice inventory of items but can always use more. If you have a few things you don't need please help Tony out and donate them for the raffle.

Sam Delauter ended our meeting with an excellent clinic on "Craftsman Kits Rolling Stock". He had an excellent display showing and explaining different types of craftsman kits and construction techniques. Sam also donated to everyone present a craftsman kit they could take home and assemble. Thanks Sam, Great job.

At the February meeting it was decided not to conduct a formal March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at St. Albans because the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association's Model Train and Craft Show is that weekend. Instead we hope as many of the Coal Division members as possible can attend and enjoy this show while supporting the efforts of KVRA. John Harris will be setting up our Division's display at this event. Several members have signed-up to staff the display during the show but if you are at the event and would like to spend a little time helping at the display it would be welcomed and appreciated. The show will be held March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center (200 Civic Center Dr.) and run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your participation and support. I hope to see you at the show!

**DIVISION OFFICERS**

Superintendent  
Robert Osburn  
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent  
Sam Delauter  
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle  
304-638-2826  
clerk@coaldivision.org

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Achievement Program Chairmen  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
304-546-5896  
ap@coaldivision.org

Clinic  
Sam Delauter  
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest  
Dale Osburn  
contest@coaldivision.org

Education  
Vacant

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

Membership  
John Harris  
membership@coaldivision.org

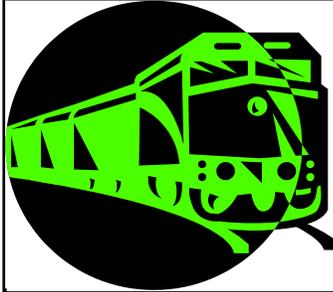
Raffle  
Tony Puccini

T-TRAK  
Sam Delauter  
samdelauter@gmail.com  
304-514-8302

**DIVISION STAFF**

Editor  
Bob Weinheimer MMR®  
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster  
Bob Weinheimer MMR®  
webmaster@coaldivision.org



## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

### Kanawha Valley Railroad Association Show

**Saturday March 11  
10AM to 5PM**

**Sunday March 12  
10AM to 3PM**

**Charleston Coliseum and  
Convention Center  
200 Civic Center Drive**

### Next Event

**Saturday April 8**

**St. Albans Historical Society**

**In Person and Zoom**

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
***THE COAL DIVISION***  
**St. Albans Historical Society**  
**February 11, 2023**  
**Minutes**

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

**Division Clerk Report**

January minutes approved.  
 Treasury Balance is \$8,403.71.  
 Company Store \$5 previously and \$5 today.  
 Raffle \$73.  
 Pike Ads \$10.

**Superintendent Report** Robert didn't have much to report, we had a great selection of models in the contest and for the clinic.

**Assistant Superintendent Report** Sam Delauter commented getting to see trains in Nitro, WV from his new job. He was excited to find an ex-Erie Lackawanna trailer in town.

**Newsletter - Up the Holler**

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of February 27 for the March newsletter. The address for contributions is [editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org). The dates for the March and April need to be set. Bob reminded everyone to set up their NMRA Interchange accounts.

**Achievement Program**

Nothing new to report.

**Library**

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report.

**Clinic**

Today's clinic is *Craftsman Rolling Stock* by Sam Delauter

**Contest**

Today's contest is steam.

**Membership**

John Harris reported that membership has dropped to 40. Name tags are available individually, the cost is now \$22. He also brought sign up sheets for the displays at the March Charleston Railroad Show.

**Raffle**

Tony Puccini had several items for today's raffle.

**T TRAK**

Herb Parsons has agreed to take over the Division T-TRAK activities.

**Education**

No report.

**Old Business**

Jerry Doyle reminded everyone about the Operations Round Robin op session on Saturday February 25 on Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern in Charleston. Contact Bob Weinheimer or Jerry Doyle if you're interested.

**New Business**

Robert Osburn suggested we make staffing the displays at the Charleston Show a priority in March in lieu of a formal meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting date for April will be the Saturday of Easter weekend. It was decided to keep this date after no discussion otherwise. The May meeting date will conflict with the Mid-Central convention. Paul Lapointe suggested we move the date to May 20 (the May meeting will be in Parkersburg for the Steel Is King day). The Mid-Ohio Model Railroad Club will also have an open house that day. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

KVRA Show March 11-12.  
 Division 8 Louisville Show March 18.  
 Rails to Pittsburgh May 4-7.

**Future Meetings:**

March – No Formal Meeting; man the displays at the Charleston Show March 11  
 April 8 – St Albans Historical Society  
 May 20 – Parkersburg, WV Steel Is King Day

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

Over the last month, I have made it to the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association on two separate occasions to run trains. I don't get there much it's usually once a month. I often wait to go to the club after I have made a new purchase or have finished some kits. These recent visits were no different. After much waiting, Rapido finally released their HO EMD E8.

When Rapido announced the E8s, I was very happy to see that they were doing Erie Lackawanna in the first run. For an EL modeler, this was very exciting. This was not so much for the fact that they were doing EL, but because these units are freight units. In the mid 1960s, EL started rebuilding it's fleet of E8s. The rebuilt locos were re-gearred, received rebuilt motors, and had many cosmetic changes. The most noticeable was the lack of port holes

after rebuild. These locos had a very sleek look with no port holes. Unlike other E8s these locos had the grab irons moved from the side to the front of the nose.

This is the first time that these units have been produced in plastic and I was very excited to get these units in hand. Without starting to measure dimensions on these units, it looks like Rapido has done a really good job with them. The only complaint that I have is that I am not a huge fan of the way the grills attach to the body but that is probably an easy fix.

As of this writing, I have had these locos at the club twice. I have run them as a pair and also mixed with my Scale Trains SD45s. Both times they have run really well. They were speed matched really well to each other and almost perfectly to the SD45s.

## CLINICS

### Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The February clinic was on Craftsman Rolling Stock Kits. I gave the clinic and I apologize for all of the technical difficulties. I had prepared a PowerPoint presentation with many pictures some of which were in progress photos. Send me an email and I will send over the file.

We will not be having a meeting in March so there will be no clinic. The next clinic will be at the April meeting when Dale will be giving a clinic on wooden structure kits.

April -	Wood Kits, Dale Osburn
May -	Steel Is King
June -	Mini Clinics Event
July -	Randy Allio
August -	Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller
September -	Crusty Mountain
October -	Mini Clinics Event
November -	Mark Maynard
December -	Square Foot Challenge

## T-TRAK

### Sam Delauter, T-TRAK Chair

By the time that this reaches all of you, I will have contacted everyone in the T-TRAK SIG about the KVRA Show in March. Setup time will be at 9:00 AM the day of the show however the arena will be open for setup the day before. If you are in the area and would like to bring your module on Friday, you will be able to.

At the February meeting, I announced that I will be stepping down as chair of this SIG. I have given a lot of thought to this decision. In recent years I have been doing more and more HO modeling and less in N scale. It

will behoove the group to have someone at the helm that is actively modeling and promoting N scale. It was announced at the February meeting that Herb Parsons will be taking over as the T-TRAK SIG Chair. Herb is a great modeler and will do a great job leading the group and promoting T-TRAK. Lastly, I want to say that I have really enjoyed leading the group and am not leaving the group. It just felt like the right time to pass the leadership along to another member.

## LIBRARY CORNER

### Bill Wadsworth, Librarian

Due to the inactivity of the library's usage (there have been no withdrawals since February 2020) I have decided to change how we use the library in the future. If a member would like information on a particular subject, please contact me by phone (304 768 3266) or an email (bill3266@frontier.com) and I will bring the appropriate info to the next meeting. If this is not fast enough I can

mail it to them within a few days of the request. Any other ideas or suggestions on the library's usage are welcome and encouraged. I know most of our members have been in model railroading for some time and already have a lot of knowledge and experience, but most of us have a weakness in some particular area(s) and can use a little guidance where these clinics can be a lot of help.

**CONTEST**  
**Dale Osburn, Contest Chair**

The February contest was Steam Locomotives.  
Below you will find the outcome from the contest.

First Place  
Randy Allio  
ON30 Porter

Second Place  
Tony Parrish  
GVRR 1966

There will not be a contest for the month of March due to the Coal Division attending the KVRA Train show. The April contest will be Kitbashing/Scratch Built (anything Railroad Related).

2023	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



First Place  
Randy Allio  
ON30 Porter

The model started as an off the shelf Bachman ON30 Porter with sound.

New cab was built out of Evergreen styrene around the salvaged front wall of the model. CVP wireless power along with a contact magnetic charging system.

The model was sprayed Tamiya black and weathered with Pan Pastels.



Second Place  
Tony Parrish  
GVR 1966

Started out as a Bachman C&O K4. Re-detailed for private road usage.  
Three different prototypes were used as a guide to build the GVR 1966.

## PASSENGER MANIFEST

### John Harris, Membership Chair

I for one am looking forward to the upcoming Kanawha Valley Railroad Association Train show at the Charleston Coliseum and Civic Center. This event has always been relatively well attended but with the higher profile venue, I expect the success of last year's event will create even more traffic. I will be there at about 5PM Friday to set up the Coal Division display and can offer some help with set up for the T-TRAK modules. As I am a newbie to this, my help will be limited and perhaps better describe as observation. I am actually just as interested see what themes have been used on some of the local modules so I can avoid duplication when creating my module. I have narrowed the choice down to two. We will see if either has already been done.

As for the Coal Division display, I will be sending out later this week the schedule to all those who signed up as a reminder to the times they have volunteered for. Still I have a spot available for anyone that could help with this endeavor. The last slot on Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00 is still looking for someone to fill the seat. This actually may not be a full 2 hour commitment as traditionally, the vendors begin to slow down after 5:00 on Saturday depending on the attendance. It is not unusual to be out by 5:30. Additionally there are times available to supervise and man the T-TRAK display in the afternoon. No one signed up for the times from 12:00 till 6:00 on Saturday. This may not be an issue since many of you and those for other

clubs will undoubtedly be hanging around anyway. Still anyone willing to stick around will be able to run a train or two.

Both of these activities promise to be an opportunity to discuss NMRA and benefits of membership. With our recent downturn in membership, this outreach offers the perfect chance to discuss the benefits of participation in NMRA on a local level. I continue to gain knowledge from our clinics and the skills gained from participation in the annual Gary Burdette Challenge are well worth the cost of admission. In addition, our members are pretty good guys and easy to get along with. It is not a bad way to spend a Saturday afternoon each month!

I am truly hoping to see a large turnout for the event. Last year, weather played a part in limiting attendance. There was snow. Locally, while snow has not been an issue so far this year, we can not think that the false spring we have recently enjoyed will last. Many of you will perhaps recall in the late 80's we had an 8" snow on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Charleston and the region. I expect we will have one more bout of the white stuff before spring finally arrives. Let's keep our fingers crossed that it does not come that weekend.

Keep modeling and be safe. I hope to see many of you at the show and to see the rest of you at the April meeting.

### MY WORD

**Bob Weinheimer, Editor**

Last month I had lots to say about the train show in Springfield, MA. I didn't mention the NMRA Interchange which had just gone live a few days earlier. All of those reading this who are NMRA members received an email January 23 announcing the Interchange. The note also included directions for getting signed up to use it.

From what I have seen, there are some problems mostly related to failure to carefully follow the directions listed in that email. Please review them carefully then seek help from the moderators if you are having troubles. Again, this is available only to NMRA members.

With all of that said, I have noted that only one other Coal Division member besides me, Patrick Miller, is a member of the Interchange. I urge you all to give it a try, if you find it of little value to you just stop looking at it. There are, however, hundreds of members already using the service. There are numerous channels that host discussions on a wide variety of subjects. There is one just for Coal Division members. There is one just for Mid Central Region members. There are channels for various aspects of the Achievement Program. There are channels for the various Special Interest Groups. There are chan-

nels for members' layouts. There are channels for prototype railroad discussion. You can see a listing and promotion for numerous Region conventions. The list is almost overwhelming!

In addition to written comments, there are also places to host audio and video chats. Indeed, one of the hopes is that Divisions can use this feature instead of Zoom or other paid services to host virtual meetings or the virtual part of a hybrid meeting. This only works, of course, if the Division members all are signed up to use the Interchange.

If you have managed to lose or discard that email, I'll gladly forward it to you upon request.

There was also a clinic presented at the February 25 NMRAX program, search for NMRA on YouTube to find it. It has a very good discussion of how to get onto the service but it begins to drag a bit when showing off all the features and how to use them. I hope we can give you a live look at the Interchange at a future Coal Division meeting, seeing it might get you interested.

I asked Patrick if he could share his initial thoughts about the interchange, see his comments below.

### NMRA INTERCHANGE: A USER'S COMMENTS

**Patrick Miller**

As you may have heard by now, the NMRA launched the Interchange in January. The NMRA Interchange in an informal online venue in which members may exchange ideas, learn, collaborate and share information. The Interchange originated from the desire of the NMRAX team to connect members worldwide instantaneously in an informal way.

The NMRA Interchange uses the Discord platform, which allows Divisions and Regions to meet hybrid or online settings without the added costs of a subscription or fee-based online meeting software. That's right folks, it is free to join!

The Discord platform allows Interchange users to meet using text and voice chat, as well as video conferencing in hangout rooms. Each Region and Division also have their own space where only the local members can see what is posted. Even YOU can have your own chan-

nel under the Interchange to share your model railroading journey.

My first impression of the Interchange using the mobile app was a positive. After downloading the Discord app and following the onboarding procedures, I only have to tap on one icon and I'm immediately in the Interchange. The Discord platform seems to combine a social media flavor similar to Twitter with the traditional message board format. However, the Interchange is restricted to NMRA members, so the politics and negativity of social media have been nonexistent thus far. At first, the mobile app did seem to be visually "busy" with lots of channels to look at, but I learned how to minimize the subgroups so the active channels aren't so visually overwhelming. Discord is also available for use on a PC. I urge the members of the Coal Division to give this new membership benefit a try!

17th Annual

# **MODEL TRAIN AND CRAFT SHOW**

PRESENTED BY: KANAWHA VALLEY RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

## **THE CHARLESTON COLISEUM AND CONVENTION CENTER**

200 Civic Center Dr, Charleston, WV 25301



# **MARCH 11 and 12, 2023**

**Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and**

**Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Vendors, clinics and layouts!

**ADMISSION:** \$5.00; Children 12 and under free!

**VENDOR TABLES - \$30.00; SPACE NO TABLE - \$20.00**

**Information:** Joe Horter: (304) 539-6721 or Richard Boyd: (615) 319-9654;  
also jhorter@gmail.com or kvrailroad@gmail.com

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**SPONSORED BY DIVISION 8 - MID CENTRAL REGION - NMRA**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WEBSITE: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/March2023TrainShowTickets>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE





# **MODEL RAILROAD**

## **SPRING FLEA MARKET & TRADE SHOW**

Sponsored by Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA, Inc.  
[www.cincy-div7.org/events.html](http://www.cincy-div7.org/events.html)

**Saturday, MARCH 11, 2023**  
**10 AM to 3 PM**

**LAKOTA WEST FRESHMAN CAMPUS**  
**5050 TYLERSVILLE ROAD**  
**WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069**

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Table Reservations: [rhord@fuse.net](mailto:rhord@fuse.net)

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***Don't miss this Model Train buy-sell-swap event!***  
***"A model railroad trade show"***

This event will be operated under all local, state and federal health guidelines in effect during the show. Masks are currently optional. If recommended, hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations.



**RAILS TO PITTSBURGH 2023**

## RAILS TO PITTSBURGH 2023 Mid Central NMRA Regional Convention! May 4-7, 2023

**EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A GREAT CONVENTION, AND MORE!**  
Clinics – Tours – Contests – Non-Rail Activities – Layout Tours  
Banquet – White Elephant Tables – Door Prizes – Railfanning

Our convention hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton at Cranberry is conveniently located within easy access to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate-79 just north of Pittsburgh. You can visit the city, see Station Square, ride the Duquesne or Monongahela Inclines, railfan and enjoy the area. You are just 15 minutes from Norfolk Southern Mainline and 20 minutes from CSX Mainline.

Here are some of the POTENTIAL activities available at the RAILS TO PITTSBURGH Convention!

### A Variety of Rail Tours

Steel Industry History  
The Bridges of Pittsburgh  
Port Authority Light Rail Shops  
The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum  
Allegheny Valley Railroad and Yard

### Excellent Clinics

Western Pennsylvania Railroads  
Steel and Other Industries  
Operations: Real and Simulated  
Modern Railroad Practices  
Modeling Structures, Rolling Stock and  
Scenery

### Non-Rail Tours and Clinics

Pittsburgh Glass Factory Tour,  
Card making, Jewelry,

### Local Attractions

Carnegie Science Center – National  
Aviary  
Heinz History Center – Duquesne Incline  
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium  
Phipps Conservatory – The Andy Warhol  
Museum

### Railfanning

NS & CSX Mainline Action  
W & LE & Union Railroad  
Variety of Local Short lines



For more information, check our website frequently for updates: [www.keystonedivision.org](http://www.keystonedivision.org)



**TEXAS EXPRESS**  
**AUGUST 20-26**  
**Dallas/Fort Worth**  
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**SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED - STREAMLINED**



**NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW**

August 25-27

**SPENCER CHRISTIAN**

Banquet Speaker

**GAYLORD RESORT**

4-star Hotel and Water Park

**BNSF HQ TOUR**

Dispatching Center and Intermodal Yard

**CLINICS**

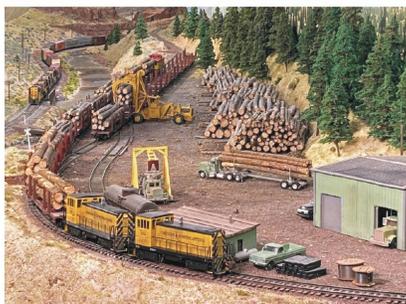
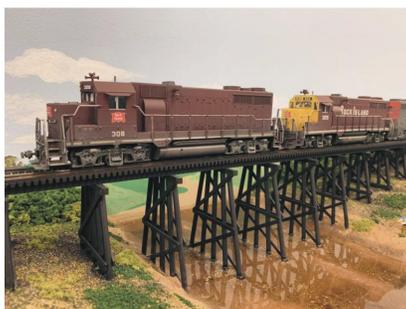
**SIG ACTIVITIES**

**LAYOUT TOURS**

**OPERATION SESSIONS**

**CONTEST AND DISPLAY**

**FREEMO-N OPERATIONS**



**RAIL TOURS**

- Texo Grain Mill
- Private Railcars
- TexRail Back Shop
- Texas State Railroad
- Trinity Rail Car Plant
- BNSF Intermodal Yard
- Six Flags Railroad Shop
- Grapevine Vintage Railroad
- McKinney Ave Trolley Shops
- Trinity Tank Car Cleaning Plant
- BNSF National Operations Center
- Museum of the American Railroad
- BNSF Private Western Art Collection
- T&P, Santa Fe, & Dallas Union Stations
- Fort Worth & Western Railroad Back Shop
- Union Pacific Dallas International Terminal
- Light Rail & Commuter Shops (DART & TRE)

**GENERAL INTEREST**

- George W Bush Library
- Fort Worth Stockyards
- Grapevine Wine Tour
- Sixth Floor Museum
- Fort Worth Modern
- Holocost Museum
- Kimbell Museum
- Globe Life Park
- AT&T Stadium
- Dealey Plaza

**NMRA** *National Convention*  
**2023 TEXAS EXPRESS.COM**



*Midland Atlantic*  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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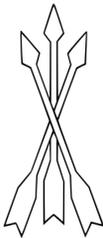
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Mark Maynard, President  
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Jerry Doyle, President  
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**CRESCENT VALLEY**

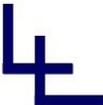


**THREE ARROWS RAILROAD**

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




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 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

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 AandNRR@aol.com



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 Point Pleasant WV



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 Clint Foster Superintendant  
 Ronceverte WV



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](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org) to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

**March 11**

**No meeting, train show**

**April 8**

**In Person and Zoom**

**May 20**

**Steel is King**

**June 10**

**In Person and Zoom**