



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

April 2023

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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At the February meeting it was decided not to conduct a formal March 11th meeting at St. Albans because the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association's Model Train and Craft Show was that weekend. Instead we hoped as many of the Coal Division members as possible could attend and enjoy the show while supporting the efforts of KVRA and the Coal Division. John Harris set up our Division's display at this event and Herb Parsons and Sam Delauter assembled the T-TRAK layout. Several members had signed up to staff the display and run trains on the T-TRAK layout during the show and everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated.

On Saturday afternoon during the show, KVRA hosted a joint meeting including all interested parties and model railroad clubs. KVRA is leading an effort to improve communications between these different groups. Our newsletter may become the first step in conveying information throughout these groups and clubs. This is really a big step in the right direction.

The weekend after the KVRA Show I found myself in Salem, Ohio, at a Narrow Gauge Convention. I was really impressed with the quality of the models and friendliness of the modelers attending. Narrow Gauge is something I have always been interested in but know little about. I spent many hours asking questions and looking at exceptional Narrow Gauge layouts, structures, rolling stock, and motive power. This is a very serious group of modelers that are experts in the history, operation, and accuracy of their modeling efforts. If you ever get the chance to attend a Narrow Gauge Convention, be sure to attend.

Our next meeting will be April 8th at the St. Albans Historical Society Building. Doors open at 12:30, and the meeting starts at 1:00. As usual, we will keep the business session short so we can enjoy the contest, raffle, clinic, and being together.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your participation and support. I hope to see you April 8th!

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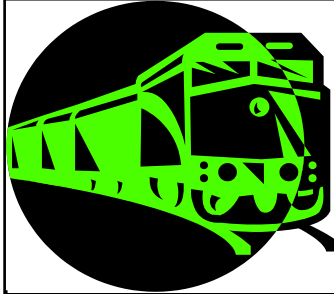
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday April 8 1:00 PM

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81783331529>

Meeting ID: 817 8333 1529

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from the February meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Kitbashed or scratch built models of anything railroad related**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Dale Osburn will discuss wood kits**

**Next Event
Saturday May 20
Steel is King
Parkersburg, WV**

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

The KVRA train show was March 11-12. Since this is the normal date of our March meeting, we did not have a meeting. In the place of the meeting, our members were able to spend the time at the train show. Although we did not have a meeting, the Coal Division did have a good turnout at the show. The Coal Division had the T-TRAK layout at the show again this year. Sam, Herb, and Robert brought modules to contribute to the layout. At the show, we were joined by our good friend and fellow NMRA

member Craig Laing. We also had another addition. Mark Totten, President of the Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society joined us and contributed his modules. Our layout had a total of 17 modules. For those that have considered building a T-TRAK module or coming out to run trains with us, I would encourage you to join in the fun. The modules all looked great and we all had a great time running trains.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

There was no meeting in March due to the KVRA train show and thus no clinic. Dale Osburn will be giving the clinic at the April meeting on wood craftsman kits. Dale does an excellent job building these kits and we should be able to learn a lot from him.

The program for the rest of the year includes two Mini Clinic events. It's never too early to offer to do one of these short clinics.

April - Wood Kits,	Dale Osborn
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

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

First, I received an email from Bruce DeMaeyer this week. Mr. DeMaeyer is updating his data base of known modules to include any new nodules built by members of the MCR. He would like the module type (single, double, OS corner, IS corner) length, wiring, track drop, skyboard, and name/scene style. Sam Delauter and I are working from his records on the modules in our Division. If you have other info about your modules email me at hparsons3@frontier.com and I will forward the info to Bruce.

Second, if you are going to attend the "Rails to Pittsburgh 2023" and will be taking a module, the organizers

will need that information by April 15, 2023.

While on Facebook I found that there is a T-TRAK page for modelers. There are a lot of great looking modules being posted. I found 2 posts of new sources for modules if you need to order some. The first is Stuart Denniston at dennind@gmail.com. He has singles and will built special orders. The other is Klawn Dyke, I have no contact or ordering information at this time, but hope to get that soon.

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

Since there was no meeting in March there was no contest. The contest for April 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

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Regular Coal Division member contributors due dates are listed below. I need Club News items by the last Saturday of the month preceding publication.

May: May 1

June: May 29

July: June 26

August: July 31

September: August 28

October: October 2

TINY POINTS TO PONDER

Tony Puccini

The purpose of this article is to make your railroad come alive. The following numbered paragraphs will assist you in doing just that. I model in N scale so all references are relevant to that size.

1. Introduce mountain goats to your hills and valleys. First, round up a dog or two and carefully remove all their fleas. Place the fleas in a mason jar and spray paint them white. Now sprinkle the white fleas on the mountainous part of your layout. Every now and then a white flea will jump from one area to another. They will look just like mountain goats. Same relative size also.
2. It is time to add deer to your wooded areas. One way is to gather some garden variety ants and put them in a jar. Spray paint them a light brown. Their antennae look just like antlers. Now place them in your wooded areas and

they look just like deer.

3. I have a cliff overlooking water on my layout. I placed a shallow fish bowl under the cliff and flush with the ground. Then I placed a few little guppy fish in the bowl. Now I put up a little sign that says "Whale Watching Point" and added a few N scale people with binoculars.
4. I captured a praying mantis and placed pieces of died reddish brown cotton balls all over it's body. Now I had a perfect Bigfoot. When I added him to my forest, he kept chasing all the deer (ants) so I had to return him to normal and place him back in my garden.

This coming year I am going to shift gears and manufacture a steel mill using a 1953 Ford hubcap. Stay tuned and keep thinking outside the box.

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

I believe the KVRA Train show at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center was very much a success. From what I understand, there were approximately 1300 men, women and children in attendance. There were even a few service dogs that took in the show. There were several operating layouts in O, HO and N and plenty of vendors. Congratulations to KVRA for continuing to host this event and their efforts to improve each year.

We had several stop by and visit our display. There were plenty of questions about how we do things and where can they get that. I always enjoy discussing the Gary Burdette Challenge modules. The educational aspects of our Coal Division meetings are always worth discussing. Randy Allio brought examples of dead rail locomotive that always sparks interest. As usual, there was only a handful of serious inquiries into membership into NMRA, however there were several invites to stop by our next meeting to check us out. Each received a printed copy of the newsletter. Several Pail Pass applications were distributed and at least one is a real solid prospect to join. Thanks to Randy, Bob Osburn, Mark Maynard, and Bill Stowe for volunteering to man the display. I find it a good way to encourage potential future modelers even if it does not result in new recruits.

I always get questions about the photos on the backdrop of the display. For the most part, they come from members of the Coal Division. They are either part of a member's home layout or a diorama they have constructed. There are however, a few that are photos I have taken at regional or national conventions that show the degree of diversity within the model railroading. It is always about promoting the hobby. Still, I strive to include as many photos from our Division. Anyone that has a good quality photo of their layout or a diorama that would print to 8x10 without distortion and have relatively sharp focus, can email a jpeg or pdf to me for future inclusion. The preferred orientation is landscape. I like to keep the display fresh and highlight the Coal Division.

As for the T-TRAK modules, there was always a crowd anytime I was able to look over there. I am sure Sam Delauter, Herb Parsons, and Bob Osburn will have something to say about that in their articles. It is nice that they included Craig Laing from TN and Mark Totten for C&O Historical Society in their display. I enjoyed talking to both. I appreciated their insights into possibilities for a module I will be working on.

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

CLUB NEWS

Clubs within the boundaries of the Coal Division are welcome to submit items of interest for inclusion here. The next editorial deadline for this column is Saturday April 29. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Jesse Smith
St. Albans Chesapeake & Ohio Modelers

Our 'St. Albans Chesapeake & Ohio Modelers' (SACOM) continues construction and progress on our club layout, modeling the old C&O and Chessie System all the way from Nuttallburg Mine in the New River Gorge, 80-miles west to Hurricane, WV. We meet informally every Friday evening to run trains, and also one Saturday each month for an actual operating session, rotating between different decades on the C&O. Some scenery is finished, much work is being done, there's still track to be laid, but we're at the point now where members can share good times together, run prototype trains through finished scenery, and talk trash.

Mark Suek
Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club has a new slate of officers and board of directors in place and has established a number of new business partnerships in the Parkersburg area. The club's next public event is the annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 20

from 10-4 at the club facility in the rear basement of NOE Office Equipment, 610 Green Street in downtown Parkersburg. Contact club secretary Mark Suek (304-428-6143 or marksuek@yahoo.com) for details or further information on the club.

Joe Horter
Kanawha Valley Railroad Assoc. (KVRA)

The KVRA just finished their annual Model Train and Craft Show on March 11 and 12. This year the weather behaved and we had a good show with wonderful vendors and guests. Thanks to all of you who attended.

During the train show, KVRA hosted what we hope will be regular meetings of West Virginia and border model railroad clubs. This was the brain child of Carl Miller and Mark Suek to improve communications and mutual interests between the clubs.

Next up for the KVRA will be the Big Train Show at ETSU in Johnson City, TN. We will be displaying our module at this show on June 3-4. In the meantime, our club is open to the public every Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm. Please come out and visit. You can see us online www.kvrailroad.org.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

If it looks like the newsletter is a little thin this time that is because it is. With no meeting in March, there is not a page with the minutes. With no contest, the photos and other commentary are missing. In addition, I figured those who Zoom in now know how to do that so I've dropped the whole page of instructions and have just put the link in the meeting notice on page 2.

There is, however, something new in this issue. As reported by Superintendent Robert Osburn, the various clubs in the area covered by the Coal Division met at the recent train show. In an effort to help them, and perhaps even the Coal Division, we have a new column called Club News that provides input of coming events and other news from the clubs. Note that the Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club will be having an open house the same day we are in Parkersburg for Steel is King. Make sure to visit!

On another note, I'm disappointed to see that nobody other than Patrick Miller and I from the Coal Divi-

sion have joined the NMRA Interchange. I'm rerunning Patrick's column from last month. I plan to work with Sam Delauter to include some live signup opportunities at our June meeting. The process may seem laborious but that is necessary to insure that the joiners are NMRA members. If you carefully follow the directions, it's not too bad.

To sign up for the Interchange, go to <https://www.nmra.org/nmra-interchange> to log in as a member. This is on the members only part of the site. If you are not registered to use the members only part yet, you can register with your email address on file in the NMRA membership system.

There are about 600 members on the Interchange so far with more joining every day. As Patrick notes, there seems to be an overwhelming amount of content but that can be handled to let you focus on areas of interest. Please give it a try!

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!



RAILS TO PITTSBURGH 2023

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

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Banquet – White Elephant Tables – Door Prizes – Railfanning

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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



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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

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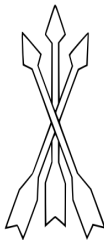
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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.

April 8
In Person and Zoom

May 20
Steel is King

June 10
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In Person and Zoom