



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

May 2023

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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It's time once again to leave our home base and travel to Parkersburg, WV. On Saturday, May 20th, Paul Lapointe and Dave Stout will open their homes for us to see the progress they have made on their model railroad layouts, have an opportunity to run trains, a short meeting, and enjoy another fantastic lunch. We are also invited to the May 20th Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club's *Harold Shive Memorial Open House* in Parkersburg. The MOV MRC has an excellent variety of different model railroads in an assortment of scales. We were able to visit their facility several years ago and were amazed by the quality of their layouts. Our Parkersburg outing is a great adventure that we always look forward to. Please take advantage of carpooling and the opportunities it affords for sharing great stories while traveling with fellow members.

The April 8th meeting again had a very good attendance. One of the highlights of the meeting centered on the Amish bakery donuts that Bill Stowe provided for the group. The donuts were delicious and one comment I heard was, "They were as big as lawnmower tires!" Thanks Bill, your kindness was appreciated.

During the meeting several ideas were discussed on how to include clinics at the shows we participate in and how to encourage members to get involved in T-TRAK. It's great to have these discussions and see everyone contribute with their ideas. We now just need to follow-up on these great ideas! Moving on, we held a short business session, conducted our contest, and participated in a raffle offering a large variety of model railroad items. Our meeting concluded with an excellent clinic "*Building Laser Cut Structure Kits*", presented by Dale Osburn. Thanks Dale, great job.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your participation and support. I hope to see you May 20th at the Parkersburg outing. Paul's and Dave's families work hard to host our group and your presence will be greatly appreciated.

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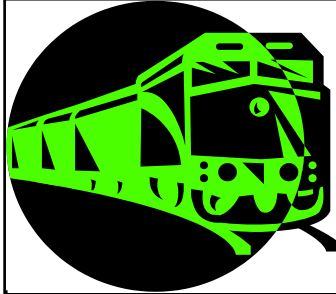
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday May 20

Steel is King

See Page 3 for map and more

Business Meeting Starts 1PM

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from the April meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Anything Steel Related**

Next Event

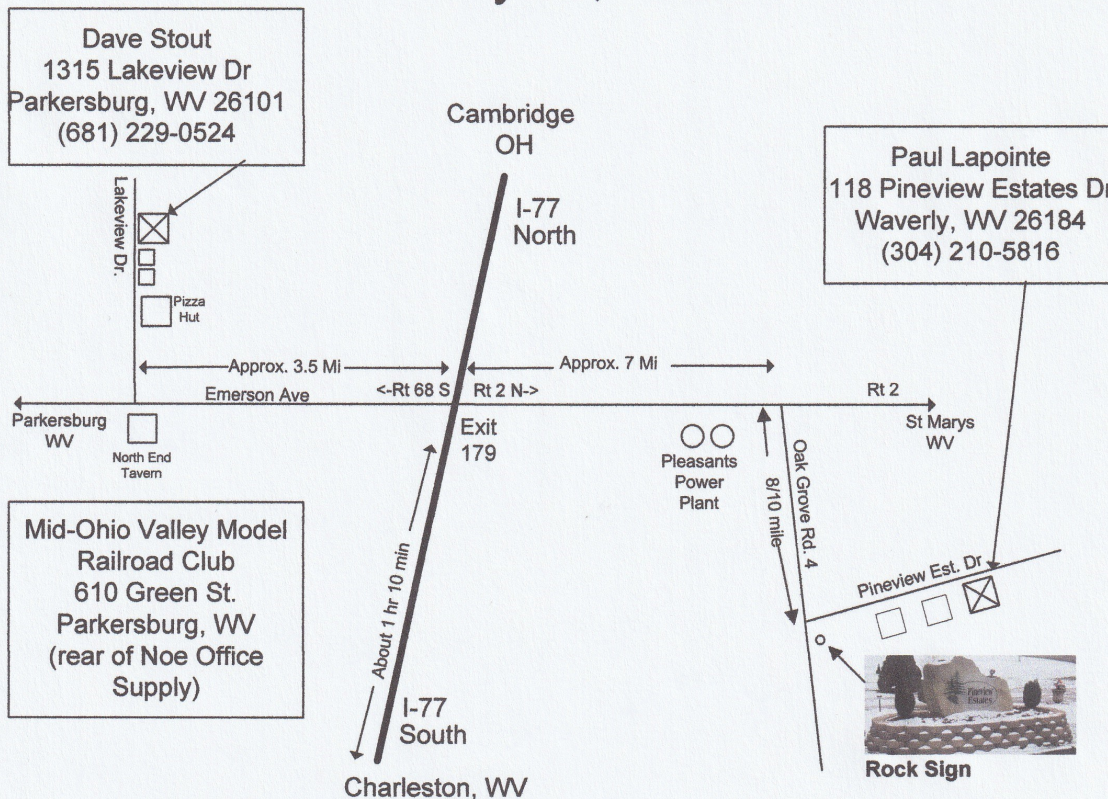
Saturday June 10

St. Albans Historical Society

St. Albans, WV

Steel Is King Day

May 20, 2023



STEEL IS KING DAY is back!

There's plenty of steel mill action in Parkersburg on May 20th, 2023 on Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe's layouts and as a bonus the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club has an open house from 10am to 4pm. The club features 6 extensive scenic layouts in HO, N, O, and G gauges.

Both Dave and Paul will have their steel mill layouts open at 9:00 AM for your inspection. Dave is at 1315 Lakeview Drive in Parkersburg. Paul is at 118 Pineview Estates Dr. in Waverly. Both will have NMRA layout tour signs leading to their houses. The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is at the rear of Noe Office Supply, 610 Green Street, Parkersburg.

Paul will close his layout around noon as everyone will gather at Dave's house for lunch followed by the NMRA Division 9 business meeting at 1 PM, closing at 3 pm. The contest will be any steel related model of any kind.

As an extra attraction, this year there is a public open house at the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club at the rear of Noe Office Supply, 610 Green Street, Parkersburg. It's a multi-scale club with large HO, N, O, and G scale layouts.

Dave and Paul look forward to seeing you on the 20th!

Paul's layout from 9am-noon (304) 210-5816.

Dave's layout 9am-3pm (681) 229-0524.

MOVRRRC Layout 10am-4pm

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

It's funny how things work out sometimes. For a long time I have not had much motivation to work on my T-TRAK modules. Recently I have found the motivation so I have been making good use of it. I have been putting off finishing my modules for quite a while but with the recent motivation I have been doing quite a bit of work on them. One of my goals with the modules is to make all of mine look like one large scene. I have been doing some major reconstruction of landforms on several of the modules to make the landform wrap around the end on the end cap. We will not have another show until the fall so this is the perfect time to do this. While under construc-

tion the modules would not be ready for a show. The plan is to have this all completed by fall.

With the intent to make all of these into a scene, one module in particular got completely stripped down except the track and one structure. I believe this is the third time that I have stripped this module and started over. I am much happier about the direction the scenery will take on the module. This is a good time to note that it is ok to start over and try something new or go a different direction with your modeling. Besides, sometimes our interests change over time. The main goal of all of this to have fun and achieve some level of happiness.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

At the April meeting we saw a great clinic by Dale Osburn on craftsman structure kits. We not only learned about the kits themselves but about the preparation and tools needed to build these kits. We will not have a clinic at the May meeting. There will be two layout tours and the MOV Model Railroad Club will be open.

In June we will have the first of the Mini Clinic Events for 2023. I still have a couple of open slots. These are small clinics, 10-15 minutes each. Each event will feature four to five clinics on different topics.

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	

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 is 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!

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St. Albans Historical Society
April 8, 2023
Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

February minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$8,686.71.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$52.
 Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn thanked everyone who helped at the Charleston Train Show. We had a good showing of membership at the various displays. He mentioned there was a meeting among all the organizations that were participating. One outcome of the meeting is the new club news section in *Up The Holler*. There was some discussion about the various clubs and when they were open for visitation. There was discussion about how many new members that show participation yields. John Harris pointed out that the promotion and education about the hobby is really the main purpose of our participation. Robert also reported on the narrow gauge show at Salem, Ohio. He commented on the C&OHS operation of the St Albans depot. It is open on the first Saturday of each month.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter commented on the participation in T TRAK at the Charleston show. There were participants from as far away as Tennessee and from several different groups. The next show should be the Huntington Model Railroad Show in November.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of May 1 for the May newsletter. The address for contributions is [edi-
tor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org). Fred Soward has been elected to the NMRA Board of Directors for Coal Division members in Ohio and Kentucky. There will be an effort to unify the NMRA branding and a use of the current logo.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer mentioned that Jerry Doyle is close to

completing his work for the AP Electrical certificate.

Library

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report. There was some discussion about the NMRAX online clinics.

Clinic

Today's clinic is *Craftsman Structures* by Dale Osburn

Contest

Today's contest is Kitbashing.

Membership

John Harris reported that membership remains at 40. There was discussion about different ways we have participated in past railroad shows.

Raffle

Tony Puccini had several items for today's raffle.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Rails to Pittsburgh May 4-7.

Future Meetings:

May 20 – Parkersburg, WV Steel Is King Day

June 10 – St Albans Historical Society

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

My postmortem on the KVRA Train show at the Charleston Coliseum and Civic Center last month generated considerable discussion. I was very pleased to see so much interest on adding a new twist to the Coal Division booth for future shows. While I have on occasion done some work at the table on a kit or two, there seems to be a lot of interest in expanding those efforts. I think the possibilities are quite numerous.

At the show there was lots of interest in Randy's dead rail locomotives. Likewise we get plenty of questions on "How can I do that?" By adding another table, we can expand our presence and perhaps do some "how to" demonstrations or even a micro clinic. I can imagine setting up a work session demonstrating the building a small structure craftsman kit. Another possibility would be to assemble a shake the box freight car or even take it up a level to super detailing the car. How cool would it be to assemble the trestle kit from our Gary Burdette Challenge from a few years back? Weathering is another somewhat benign activity that might be of interest. Using chalks or Pan Pastels as an alternative to paints would avoid fumes and messy clean up.

Electronics opens up a whole other range of possibilities. Adding a decoder to a locomotive or better yet adding sound would surely be of interest to a significant part of audience. Animation is always a popular add to even the most basic model railroad. A demonstration of some of Robert's servos would be a great way to create interest, even for the most inexperienced modeler. Everyone wants to see something more than just trains running around in circles.

While some of these may be more ambitious than

others, they need not be elaborate start to finish projects. People are coming and going all through the shows and the important thing is to have someone doing something model related. If there is enough interest and the sponsor of the show is agreeable, I could see this expanding to specific small clinics that could be announced over the PA system if present. A timetable could be posted at the entrance and as part of our booth with specific time slots for each clinic. Space limitations could be an issue but if addressed early enough in the shows planning, it could be worked out.

I expect over the next several months, we can engage in more discussions and expand on these thoughts. There are a lot of possibilities on how this can work and I am anxious to hear your thoughts on what can be done and how we can pull this off. Be thinking about possible projects or activities that can improve how we interact with the public at these events. We have some time till the next show but there is a lot of details to work out.

All that said, it will take a few more volunteers than we have had in recent years. While someone will still need to be manning the booth and answering questions about membership, NMRA, and our monthly meetings. It will take several of you to do the demonstrations or put on the clinics. Judging from the comments at our last meeting, there seems to be interest and enthusiasm for adding this type of activity. I think it will create more public interest and certainly will provide educational opportunity to the public. It also might just help us recruit a new member or two.

Keep modeling. I hope to see you at the May meeting in Parkersburg.

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth, Librarian

At the last meeting it was asked what all is in our DVD library. The list on the next page is a summary of the "original" library which lists all the NMRA clinics we have. Since then I've received many videos from the members, including Gary Burdette's collection of Model Railroader magazine's Dream-Plan-Build series. Rather than list individual subjects, which would take a lot of space, the videos can be put in one of three categories: techniques (how to), model RR layouts, and Prototype RRs.

In the how to category there are numerous topics on just about anything you might want: building benchwork, laying track, cars, engines, structures, modeling water, etc. You name it and there is probably a video on it. In the second and third categories are many videos of home layouts and just about any prototype RR you might be interested in.

If there is enough interest I can bring the library to our June meeting, and maybe have a mini-clinic at one of our future meetings.

ID	Title/Subject	ID	Title/Subject	ID	Title/Subject
SJ1	Detailing Passenger Cars	810	Handlaying Track on Foam Board	841	Lumber Industries
200	Model Railroading: Family Hobby	811	Hints, Tips, & Cheap Tools	842	Modeling Saw Mills
202	Model Railroading Unlimited	812	JMRI and Decoder Pro	843	Using Household Materials - Part 1
510	Computer and Railroad Together	813	It Figures	844	Using Household Materials - Part 2
601	Build Your Own Turnouts	814	Kadee Couplers: A Treatise	845	Resin Freight Cars
602	Forgotten Details	815	Large Layouts, Small Rooms	846	Helix Design Considerations
603	Modeling a Historic Site	816	Model RR Photography	847	Digital Photography
604	Modeling Tips and Tricks	817	Design Preservation Models	848	Design and Build a Helix
606	Prototype Track Layout Design	818	Planning: Prototype vs. Freelance	849	Modeling Agriculture
608	Styrofoam Scenery	819	Populating Your Layout	850	Improving Styrene Kits
609	Freight Car Loads	820	Quick Interiors	851	DCC Specialties Products
702	NMRA Achievement Program	821	Red Brick Factories & Brown Boxcars	852	Let's Make a Scene
709	Modeling With Common Materials	822	Resin Casting	853	Consider Z Scale
710	Painting Backdrops with a Dirty Brush	823	RTV Molds & Resin Casting	854	Buildings: Realistic Window, Interiors
711	Prototype Bridge Building	824	Scenic Detailing	855	Prototype Research Methods
712	Styrene Construction and Casting	825	Setting the Scene	856	CadRail Basics
713	Right of Way Details	826	Steam Locos for Dummies	857	Scratchbuilding Styrene Cars
714	Realistic Operations	827	Streets, Roads & Highways	858	Digital Imaging - Backdrops
715	History of Boxcar	828	Diorama Building	859	Seven Simple Structures
716	Easy Decals	829	Spine Roadbed	860	Turnout Construction
801	Laser Kit Assembly	830	Practice of Density Molding	861	Grade Crossing Scene
802	Backdrop Painting - Forests	831	Scratchbuilding & Kit-bashing	862	Modeling the Prototype
803	Basic Model RR Photography	832	Tools, Tools, Tools	863	Multi-deck Design & Construction
804	Building an Advanced Car Kit	833	Trestle Building	864	Is Model Railroading a Mental Disorder?
805	Contest Judging	834	Working With Foil	865	CadRail Applications
806	Unique Lineside Structures	835	Airbrush Equipment - Part 1	866	75 Years of Development
807	DCC and Advanced Operations	836	Be a Contest Winner	867	Operations Overview
808	DCC Decoders, Lighting, Sound & Ops.	839	Resin Kits - Tips	868	Railroading Merit Badge
809	Foreground Scenery Techniques	840	Using the NMRA Standards Gauge		

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The April contest was Kitbashing / Scratch building. Below is the outcome from the contest.

First Place
Randy Allio
Fish Car

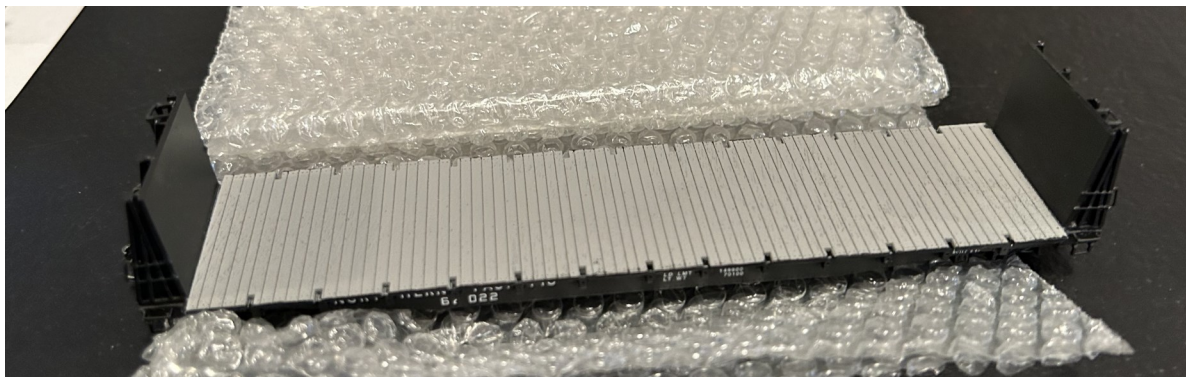
Second Place
Sam Delanter
NP Bulkhead

Lastly, the Coal division will be on the road in the month of May to Parkersburg. The contest will be anything steel related.

Inspired by watching the local evening news and seeing a segment on the DNR stocking trout using a high rail truck to reach otherwise inaccessible streams. Step back in time and this may be how it was done around 1950. The car started life as a Bachman On30 Combine. Randy cut the body down to make room for the open section with the crane and barrels of fish. Tamiya green spray paint and Pan Pastels were used for coloring along with some Hunterline stain. The roof is covered with silkspan adhered with Model Master Tie Brown. Other details of the construction can be found in an article in 2020 On30 Annual.

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





The model was kitbashed from a Proto flatcar which included a wood deck. All bulkheads were scratch built

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 Friday June 26. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Mark Suck
Mid-Oho Valley Model Railroad Club

The second phase of the project to refurbish the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad club facility was completed during the last week of April. Thanks to the efforts of club members Roy Highman, Ed Baranoski, Tom Ratkovich, Steve Vicars and Dave Bee, the layout room and meeting room floors were both cleaned and repainted. Phase One (a large scale clean-up) was accomplished earlier this year.

MOVMRC is excited to show off its facility (610 Green Street in downtown Parkersburg, WV) to guests at the annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 20 and, further, looks forward to welcoming our friends from the NMRA Coal Division to both the open house and layout tours and meetings at the homes of club members Paul LaPointe and Dave Stout. Open house hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and model trains will be operating on layouts in HO, O, N and G scales.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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

June: May 29	July: June 26
August: July 31	September: August 28
October: October 2	November: October 30

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MY WORD
Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I see that we still have only two Coal Division members signed up for the NMRA Interchange. I'm running Patrick's piece yet again. I have also suggested to Sam Delauter that we do a live sign up clinic as one of the mini clinics for June. It's not hard and there is lots of interesting content.

From what I hear a fair number of Coal Division members will be heading north to Pittsburgh and the Mid Central Region convention that starts Thursday May 4. Between COVID and the Indy Junction convention, we have not met in our own Region since 2019, four long years ago. If you can't make it this year, consider next year in Cleveland.

Things are taking shape for the Texas Express convention in Grapevine, Texas in late August. It appears that there is a full clinic schedule. There are lots of tours, both layout and industrial. Yes, it gets hot in Texas in August but they do have air conditioning. I've spent time in Houston which is even worse than the Dallas Fort Worth area. Don't let the heat stop you from heading there this summer.

May 20 is once again Steel is King day for us, I do hope you can make the trip to Parkersburg to visit Paul and Dave, enjoy lunch at Dave's, the visit the MOVRRC layout at their open house. It all comes together nicely this year.

On the layout front, I have just made a major improvement in the illumination of the Thayer Sand and Gravel area. There was no way to mount track lighting there so it has always had a dark cloud over it. In the meantime, David Oliverio used some potent LED strip lighting for his up and coming layout. That inspired me and David and I installed some of that on the ceiling which is really the bottom of an HVAC duct. The difference is incredible, see the photos to the right. This has nagged me for years and now it's no longer a problem



Before



After



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



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Dallas/Fort Worth
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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

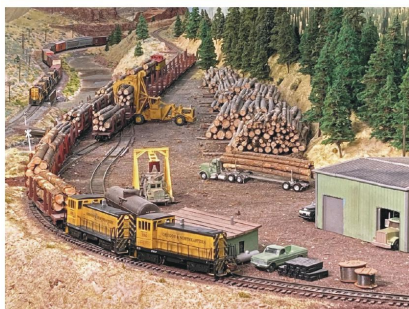
SIG ACTIVITIES

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
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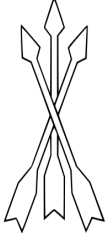
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CRESCENT VALLEY



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 Gary Burdette - Superintendent
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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
 Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
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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.

May 20
Steel is King

June 10
In Person and Zoom

July 8
In Person and Zoom