



# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

June 2023

## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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We spent another wonderful day at Parkersburg, WV attending the “*Steel is King Day*” for our May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The event was very well attended and included a large group of members from Division 9, several of whom hadn't made the trip to Parkersburg before. From their reactions it was apparent they enjoyed seeing both layouts and appreciated the hospitality our host offered. Both Paul Lapointe and Dave Stout have made noticeable progress on their model railroads during the past year. Paul had a 3D printer in operation for us to view the process of an item being printed and answered many questions about the process and equipment for our group. We always enjoy this outing with the discussions and insight these two gentlemen incorporate into their railroads. A short business meeting occurred at Dave's house following a fantastic lunch provided by Dave's wife Rhonda. As usual, she prepared enough wonderful food to feed an army and I know nobody went home hungry!! Dave was also eager to acknowledge that his wife, friends, and members of the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club really helped make this event special for those attending. We ended our Parkersburg adventure at the Mid-Ohio Valley Railroad Club's wonderful assortment of different scale model layouts. I want to thank both Dave's and Paul's families and the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club for providing a wonderful day for our model railroad groups. It was greatly appreciated!!

Our next meeting will be June 10<sup>th</sup> at the St. Albans Historical Society building. This meeting will be both in-person and virtual. Several Mini-Clinics will be presented covering an assortment of different modelling subjects. The contest will feature Non-Revenue equipment and Tony Puccini will have another great assortment of items for the raffle. We also plan to keep the business session short!

We have already been able to secure the use of the Historical Society facility for our July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup> meetings. We will need to discuss our August “Picnic on the Platform” at the June meeting. The picnic is something we really enjoy and always have very good attendance (it must be Dale's grilling technique). I really appreciate you help making this possible. Remember, the C&O Historical Society and the St. Albans Historical Society buildings are open the first Saturday of each month. If you have a chance, stop by and support their efforts.

**The doors open at 12:30 and the meeting starts at 1:00 Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> ---I hope you can attend!!**

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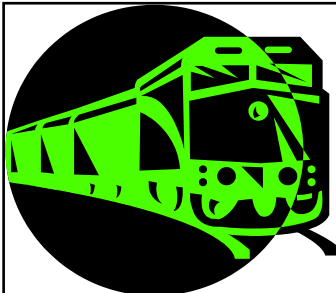
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## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**Saturday June 10 1:00 PM**

### St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Zoom Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88544028297>

Meeting ID: 885 4402 8297

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from the May meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Non Revenue Equipment**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Mini Clinics**

Bill Wadsworth - Scenery

Robert Osburn - Tools

Sam Delauter - Making Mountains

Entry to NMRA Interchange

**Next Event  
Saturday July 8  
St. Albans, WV**

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
***THE COAL DIVISION***  
**Dave Stout's Home**  
**Parkersburg, WV**  
**May 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Robert Osburn at 1:10 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

**Raffle**

No raffle today.

**Division Clerk Report**

March minutes approved.  
 Treasury Balance is \$8,738.71.  
 Company Store \$0.  
 Raffle \$0.  
 Pike Ads \$0.

**Education**

No report.

**Old Business**

Dave Stout asked about the layout photo section of the website. Bob Weinheimer said he will be working on getting the section up and running again.

**Superintendent Report** Robert thanked Dave and Rhonda Stout for hosting the meeting and the great food. He also thanked Paul Lapointe for having his layout open as well. He mentioned how nice it was to catch up with everyone. Robert mentioned that there were books from Ed Keith's collection free to a good home today.

Tony Puccini mentioned the member introductions. Bob Weinheimer said he's happy to do this if someone submits it. Jerry Doyle volunteered to work on this.

John Harris mentioned that the photos for the Division display need updated. He would like to feature members' layouts.

**Assistant Superintendent Report** Sam Delauter said it was nice to catch up with members. Sam also gave an update on T TRAK, Herb Parsons was ill today. He mentioned how easy it is to jump into T TRAK.

**New Business**

None.

**Newsletter - Up the Holler**

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of May 30 for the June newsletter The address for contributions is [edi-tor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org).

**Announcements**

none.

**Achievement Program**

Bob Weinheimer mentioned that Anthony Parrish earned a merit award for his entry in the recent MCR contention.

**Future Meetings:**

June 10 – St Albans Historical Society  
 July 8 – St Albans Historical Society  
 August 12 – Picnic on the Platform.

**Library**

No report

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

**Clinic**

Sam Delauter mentioned some future clinic topics. Next month will be several mini clinics. He asked for volunteers to present. July will be by Randy Alio. Today's clinic is steel mill layouts by Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe.

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

**Contest**

Today's contest is Steel is King.

**Membership**

John Harris reported that we have a new member. membership remains at 40 but we have a new member.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

I am sure that everyone that made it to the May meeting had a great time. For those that did not make it to Steel Is King, I hope you can next year because you missed a good one. As I have said in the past, if you can carpool to this kind of meeting, it can be a really enjoyable experience. For my trip to Parkersburg, I rode with David Oliverio and Matt Kearns. While we had discussed a itinerary for the trip, we decided to just take it easy and not rush. This made for a nice easy drive and gave us plenty of time for conversation. Since we still left early enough to have plenty of time, we were able to stay at both Paul's and Dave's layouts for as long as we wanted. After the layout tours and meeting we were able to visit the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club. While I have been there before, it is always nice to visit again. The members of this club are always very friendly and welcoming.

While at the train club, I had a nice conversation with one of their younger members. He started telling me he does his own painting with an airbrush. As we spoke, I found out that he does much more than just airbrushing. He builds resin kits as well as his own painting, decals and weathering. He showed me some pictures of his stuff. He does a really good job. It was really great seeing someone his age doing this kind of modeling.

Since none of us had to be back at a certain time and we were in Parkersburg, we spent some time with David

doing research for his layout. Right next to the train club is the former B&O yard through which their mainline ran. Many of the old buildings that surrounded this yard are still standing, several were of great interest for modeling. We spent a while at these buildings for David to get photos to use with his layout. Next we spent some time at the B&O bridge that runs through town and crosses the river into Ohio. This bridge is interesting even if you don't model the B&O.

After that we headed back home. Before we ended our day, we did a little test running on David's layout. We test ran a BL2 on his helix. There were two things notable about this. One is the way David routes power to the helix. The helix is built with threaded rod for the may supports. Each level is adjustable up and down by tightening or loosening a pair of nuts. These rods are hooked up to the track power. One rod serves as one electrical pole, a second rod serves as the other electrical pole. The feeder wires are held in place by the adjusting nuts. I thought that was a really great idea as it makes it easy to isolate the helix. Also the lack of a bus wire is just one less thing to have to make and to wire. The other notable thing was that this was the first train run on his layout. While he does not have all of his track laid yet, it was great to see something run on his layout finally.

## CLINICS

### Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The June clinic will host the first of this year's mini clinic events. For those not familiar with the mini clinic events, they give us the opportunity to bring multiple topics that would not merit a full clinic. These events have been popular in the past and these should be no different. See below for the mini clinic schedule and the full schedule of clinics for the rest of the year.

Bill Wadsworth -	Scenery
Robert Osburn -	Tools
Sam Delauter -	Making Mountains
Entry to NMRA Interchange	

July	Randy Allio
August	Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller
September	Crusty Mountain
October	Mini Clinics Event
November	Mark Maynard
December	Square Foot Challenge
January 2024	To Be Announced
February	To Be Announced
March	To Be Announced
April	To Be Announced
May	Steel is King
June	To Be Announced

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

In order to produce Up The Holler about ten days before the monthly membership meeting, editorial work starts the Monday of the week preceding the meeting. That works out to be the dates below by which I need articles for the remainder of 2023.

July: June 26	August: July 31
September: August 28	October: October 2
November: October 30	December: November 27

## T-TRAK Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

There is no T-TRAK news to report, but I have found some interesting things on YouTube. The first is from *The Train Couple* with a video titled "What You Missed at the NMRA MCR Convention Rails to Pittsburgh." They include some on the T-TRAK modules at the convention. I also saw a couple of my friends on the video.

There are two videos on YouTube on the Ohio N Scale Weekend Train show in Marysville, OH. on May 20, 2023. They are by *The Train Couple* and *The Millennial Modeler*. Both show a lot on the T-TRAK modules.

I am a member of the N Scale groups.io. There was a thread this month started by another member who posted that he was having trouble with his N Scale code 60 track from Lionel, which brought up a lot of responses concerning whether Lionel ever sold N scale. Being an N scale modeler since the 1970s, I have never seen Lionel produce anything in N scale but they did sell some locomotives in 1:160 some years ago. The locomotives were

not powered and were mostly for display only. I have attached a photo of the three I have.

This was just a bit of N Scale model railroading history I thought some members may find interesting.



## 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@coalddivision.org](mailto:editor@coalddivision.org)

Mark Suck  
Mid-Oho Valley Model Railroad Club

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club welcomed 117 guests at its annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House in Parkersburg, WV on May 20, including several NMRA Coal Division members. Although the attendance was off 37% from the previous norm, the refurbished MOVVRC facility and layouts looked great and a good time was had by all. MOVVRC's next event is the annual Parkersburg Homecoming Open House on Saturday, August 19.

## FREE MAGAZINES

Friend of the Coal Division Steve Lee tells us he is downsizing their home and preparing to move to a smaller house

He says he is now going to give up his print versions for *Model Railroader* to anyone willing to come and get them. This encompasses pretty much from 2000 thru all of 2021. In addition, there are a number of scale rails from 2009-2012, as well as miscellaneous copies of some model railroad craftsman magazines. Note that the model railroad craftsman are not complete years but where he would acquire a copy now and then.

He also has several Walther's paper catalogs from the past and a few other loose magazines on garden railroad-

ing ,etc. *Model Railroader* years 2002 and 2003 are in MR Binders. Further, he has years 1975, 1976, and 1977 in binders as well – he will give all to whoever wants them.

Steve wants to know of anyone interested or if the Coal Division would like these for its library. He is working on boxing loose items. The boxes are in a provide office but he cannot move them himself He does have a dolly that can be used to move them. There are 7 stairs to navigate to get out of the immediate area then two more on an outside stoop. These are all in a private residence in Point Pleasant, WV.

Anybody interested in acquiring these magazines should contact the editor at [editor@coalddivision.org](mailto:editor@coalddivision.org).

## PASSENGER MANIFEST

### John Harris, Membership Chair

Great trip to Parkersburg to enjoy Paul Lapointe's and Dave Stout's layouts. An added bonus was to visit the Mid Ohio Valley Club and their multiple layouts. We saw so many trains in one day, it was almost like going to convention. Special thanks are also due to Rhonda Stout for the great food and drink. No one could have gone away hungry. Those who could not make the trip missed out on a good day of food, fellowship, and trains even if the weather was not the greatest.

While model trains are obviously the main reason we gather together, it is perhaps the love for the full scale units that triggered the interest. With COVID protocols perhaps behind us, it may be time to look at getting out and doing a visit to the real thing. It has been a while since members of the Coal Division have been able play with the big boys. In the past, we have traveled to Nelsonville, OH to ride on the Hocking Valley, Elkins, WV for a trip on the Tygart Valley Flyer, and Romney to chase birds on the Potomac Eagle. If memory serves there was even a trip to Cass to ride to the top of Bald Knob.

For many of our group, particularly those who have recently joined, these would be a new experience and may be worth repeating. There are, however, a few new opportunities that might be worth considering. As I mentioned a few months ago, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad has restored and put back into service on a regular basis the former C&O 1309 2-6-6-2 Mallet. Painted now in WM colors, it runs from Cumberland, MD to Frostburg, MD over a 4.5 hour trip across the Allegheny Mountains. Costs vary from \$45 per person for coach or open air to \$110 for lounge car or \$135 for dome car service. A link to the train is included here as reference <https://wmsr.com/classes-of-train-ride-service>. As Cumberland is a 3 1/2 hour trip from Charleston so this would be an overnight trip for sure if not a two night trip.

Another option could be back to Cass. While another trip to Bald Knob is a possibility, the State of WV has recently reconstructed the bridge and repaired other right of way damage to the former C&O trackage that was washed out in 1985. The train leaves Cass behind Shay #5 and follows the Greenbrier River to Durbin and returns. Coaches are vintage closed heavy weights with a variety of seating arrangements. The roundtrip fare is \$79 per person and the trip lasts approximately 5 hours. Lunch consisting of cold cuts is included but there are additional out of pocket options while in Durbin. <https://mountainrailwv.com/tour/greenbrierexpress/>. Cass is 3

hours from Charleston so again, this would prove to be an overnight trip.

Still possibilities might include a revisit of one of the trains previously listed. It has been a while for some of these. The Potomac Eagle Scenic train runs out of Romney in the Eastern Panhandle of WV. This 3 hour trip runs through the trough of the south branch of the Potomac River where there is said to be a 90% chance of seeing bald eagles. Several classes of service are available and are defined by seating and dining options available. These range from \$65 per person to \$110 and can be viewed on the attached link. <https://potomaceagle.com/plan/choose-your-trip/>. All day trips are also available is it premium dining service. Perhaps not an option suited to a group but may be something individuals would find interesting.

Others may have some ideas of alternative trips so feel free to throw those options on the table. It has been suggested that even a day trip on Amtrak to the Greenbrier would be a possibility. The Cardinal runs Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday leaving Charleston eastbound at approximately 8:30 arriving in White Sulphur Springs at noon. Return leaves White Sulphur Springs at 5:00 and arrives Charleston at 8:30. We can eat lunch on train or explore the grounds at the Greenbrier and have lunch at Draper's or the Forum or other venue. Cost range from \$65 to \$110 per person round trip depending on dates with senior discounts available for those of us with grey hair.

Regardless, I throw these ideas out there for future discussion and suggest we consider this a way of enhancing the membership experience. It would typically be available to family and friends and could even be a way of introducing others to our group. I am looking to have the discussion to test the waters and determine if there is an interest in doing one of these trips over the summer or fall. Logistics will always be an issue and some may not be interested in doing something with so much travel involved. I want to get it out there to see what YOU think. I have no particular dates in mind and it may not be possible to work out all the details for this year. But, if there is interest, we will see what we can work out.

If you can not ride the real thing, at least keep working on the small versions. I hope to see you in June and continue the discussion.

## CONTEST

### Robert Osburn

The May contest was Anything Steel Related, contest results are below.

First Place  
Dave Stout  
Open Top Hot Metal Car

Dave kit bashed a State Tool & Die Model Co. open top hot metal car. It includes detail parts salvage from medical equipment and featured realistic painting and weathering.

Second Place  
Jerry Doyle  
Gondola with Load

Jerry entered an Athearn 50' gondola. It was painted with NYC Floquil jade green, featured Micro Scale decals, and realistic weathering. New trucks and Kadee couplers were also installed. State Tool & Die Model Co. produced the ingot molds which Jerry painted and weathered.

The June contest will be Non Revenue Equipment

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



Left: Dave's hot metal car

Below: Jerry's gondola



### MY WORD

**Bob Weinheimer, Editor**

As of noon May 30 we still had only two Coal Division members signed up to use the NMRA Interchange. Yet again I'm running Patrick Miller's comments about this member benefit. We hope to show how easy it is to sign up for the Interchange as one of the mini clinics at the June meeting.

I was pleased to see a large number of Coal Division members in attendance at the Mid Central Region convention in Pittsburgh in early May. I know for some it was their first experience at such an event and that they enjoyed the experience. One clinic left me a bit disappointed. NMRA President Gordy Robinson zoomed in from his home in the Orkney Islands. There were few attendees in the room and there was only one interaction from those attendees: the introduction of Susan Werner, MMR® 729. In order to give the event some substance, John Doehring (NMRA board member), Fred Soward (NMRA board member elect) and I started asking questions we knew the answers to so Gordy could respond.

If you find yourself in such a situation, keep in mind that Gordy is a good guy who really enjoys meeting other NMRA members. He will be attending the Mid Eastern Region convention in Altoona, PA in October. If you are there look for him and introduce yourself!

As others have noted, we all had a very nice time in Parkersburg. I enjoyed seeing the progress at Paul Lapointe's layout. It was also interesting to see his 3D printer working on some lattice work that is to be used in

an urban scene on his railroad. Dave Stout has also made considerable progress with his steel mill, it has grown and crept toward the entrance to the room. I must also note Rhonda Stout's incredible culinary efforts that made sure nobody went away hungry. I didn't eat much supper that evening! Thanks to all who played a role in that part of the day.

We also had the chance to visit the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club. You can see their monthly report in the Club News column on page 5. The members there were most welcoming and very happy to explain the various layouts. The N Scale layout featured a large industrial building in a cloud of smoke. It originally represented a prototype of a business in Parkersburg. A while back the prototype building burned causing some serious air quality issues. Now, in keeping with the current condition, the modeler updated the scene with the fire consuming the structure.

Finally, if you are looking for something to do on June 17, consider a trip to Marion, Ohio. The Buckeye Division is there for their monthly meeting. It's an all day event with clinics in the morning and afternoon, something like our mini clinic event but on a larger scale. I imagine there will be plenty of trains to drown out the speakers. Several years ago the Coal Division went to this event and our members outnumbered their members. If you are interested, click [here](#) to learn more.

### 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!





**TEXAS EXPRESS**  
**AUGUST 20-26**  
**Dallas/Fort Worth**  
**GAYLORD RESORT, GRAPEVINE**  
**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

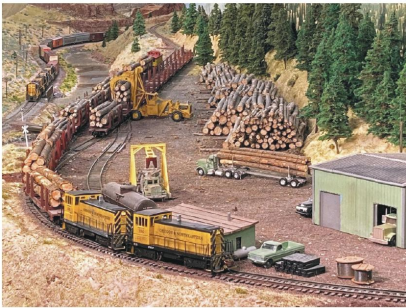
# SIG ACTIVITIES

# 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**  
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NORFOLK AND WESTERN




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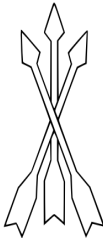
**CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.**

Mark Maynard, President  
 Portsmouth, OH



Jerry Doyle, President  
 Barboursville, WV

**CRESCENT VALLEY**



**THREE ARROWS RAILROAD**

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Ed Keith, MMR  
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John Harris, Chief Engineer  
 AandNRR@aol.com



**HINTON DIVISION**  
 Gary Burdette - Superintendent  
 Point Pleasant WV



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

**June 10**  
**In Person and Zoom**

**July 8**  
**In Person and Zoom**

**August 12**  
**In Person and Zoom**