



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

July 2023

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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Greetings Coal Division members!

We're excited to bring you the latest news and updates from group. The June 10th meeting was a resounding success, with a strong attendance both in person and virtually. We covered several important topics during the short business session, with valuable input from all Chairs present. The discussions centered on education and membership, fostering collaborative atmosphere for sharing ideas and suggestions.

"Picnic on the Platform" Preparation

Get ready for a wonderful summer gathering! We began preparations for the upcoming "Picnic on the Platform" event, scheduled for August 12th. We're grateful to the members who generously volunteered to supply various items for the picnic. A sign-up sheet for picnic items will be reviewed at the July meeting. To simplify and reduce cost, we kindly request that members bring their own drinks this year. Rest assured, we'll provide ice and cups to ensure everyone's needs are met.

Date Change: Outing to Portsmouth, OH

Please note that the date for our much-anticipated trip to Portsmouth, OH to "Run the Crusty" at Mark Maynard's layout has been changed to September 16th. Save the new date and get ready for an unforgettable day of railroading and camaraderie.

Contest Results and July Meeting

Congratulations to Mark Maynard for securing first place in the contest category for Non-Revenue railroad equipment. Well done, Mark! For the July meeting, we've selected "Structures" as the contest category. Start preparing your entries and let's see the incredible structures you've created.

Raffle Extravaganza

We extend our thanks to Tony Puccini for curating a fantastic assortment of items for the Raffle. As always, the tickets went fast, and the raffle added an extra layer of excitement to the meeting. Your contributions make these events even more enjoyable for everyone.

Mini-Clinics and Guest Speaker

Our mini-clinics continue to be a hit among members, providing valuable knowledge and insights. During the June meeting, Bill Stowe delivered a captivating talk on "What's it Like Being a New Member" to the NMRA and the Coal Division. We appreciate Bill for sharing his experiences and providing us with food for thought. Thank you, Bill!

July Meeting Details

Mark your calendars for the July 10th meeting, which will take place at the St. Albans Historical building. We're excited to offer both in-person and virtual attendance options to accommodate everyone's preferences. The doors will open at 12:30, and the meeting will commence promptly at 1:00. We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, we encourage your active participation and welcome any suggestions or contributions for future meetings and events. Let's continue to build a vibrant and supportive community of model railroad enthusiasts.

Note: Part of our discussions during the June meeting touched on the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and how it will change how we do things. As promised, I created this report using AI.

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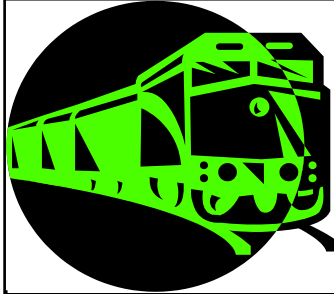
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday July 8 1:00 PM

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Zoom Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86503041950>

Meeting ID: 865 0304 1950

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from the May meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Structures**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Randy Allio tells us he plans on discussing tools that he uses that most of the guys have not used or maybe even seen: MT Albert tru-sander and tru-cutter, resistance soldering, using a Cricut to make parts etc.**

**Next Event
Saturday August 12
St. Albans, WV**

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

**June 10, 2023
St. Albans, WV
Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm.

the year.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – No report as clerk was absent.

Membership Chair – Our number of members is 42. The price of name tags has gone up and multiple orders are encouraged to save money. Has looked into group trips available, suggesting Western Maryland, Cass RR, and the Greenbriar RR.

Superintendent's Report – Briefly discussed the use of AI in model railroading

Old Business – None

Assistant Superintendent Report – Encouraged use of carpools to meetings and layouts. It was moved and approved to have the September meeting in Portsmouth on the 16th, instead of the 9th.

New Business – There are some new T-TRAK modules available. Robert noted our August picnic needs to be set up on what to bring. After some discussion it was recommended the members bring their own drinks as there are too many left over if the Division supplies them. Water will be provided however.

Achievement Program Chair -

Anthony Parrish earned a merit award for his model at the Mid Central Region convention.

Announcements – There will be a train show at Morehead, KY on August 12th.

Library Chair – A more detailed listing of the Division 9 DVD collection was requested by the members and it should be ready by the next meeting.

Next Meeting – July 8th at the St. Albans Historical Society Bldg.

Contest Chair – Dale would to see more details on how the contest models are built to help educate the members.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.

Clinic Chair – Have clinics lined up through the end of

Respectfully submitted by Bill Wadsworth, Acting Clerk

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The June meeting saw the first of the Mini Clinic Events. We saw clinics on several different topics. We saw clinics on making scenery, Magnorail, and impressions of a new modeler. While these clinics are very different, the goal of the event is to learn a bunch of about several topics in a short time. Thank you to those who participated in the mini clinic events.

The July clinic will be by Randy Allio. Randy will talk about the tools he uses to make his models.

July - Randy Allio, tools, see meeting agenda

August - Introduction to Discord

September - Crusty Mountain

October - Mini Clinics Event

November - Mark Maynard

December - Square Foot Challenge

January - Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller

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 the be the dates below by which I need articles for the remainder of 2023.

August: July 31

September: August 28

October: October 2

November: October 30

December: November 27

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

When I checked my email a couple of days ago, the newsletter deadline was sitting in my inbox. Often I don't know what to write about and spend a lot of time trying to think of something interesting to say. If even one person takes something of use from it then I have done my job. It's even better when multiple people find the article useful. I will say that I went to school for music not writing. If we did not have such a great team reviewing and editing the newsletter it would not be of the quality that the newsletter is.

This month was one of those that I was not sure what to write. Since I haven't been doing much modeling lately, I didn't have anything new to write about on that front. With that out of the equation, there is a statement that I am going to make that may seem weird to many modelers. Not every line or branch will see boxcars in service.

Let that sink in for a minute. It seems an odd thought to me that not every line in America will necessarily see any boxcars in service. As I have been watching the Kanawha River Railroad (KNWA) almost everyday of the week, it occurred to me that I can't remember the last time that I saw a boxcar. This realization really threw me for a loop. I, like many other modelers, probably just assume that every line will have at least one customer online that will receive boxcars. In the case of the KNWA this is not the case. What we do see is a few gondolas of

varying types, a lot of 2 bay covered hoppers, various tank cars, and a lot of open hoppers. This isn't to say that there are no boxcars. There are but they are on through trains and those are not common, at least not during the work day.

When you look at the industries that the KNWA services it isn't all that surprising that you won't see any boxcars. The bigger customers that the KNWA serves are the mines and the chemical plants. Some of the smaller ones are the potash loading facility, Lehigh Sand, Appalachian Railcar Services, and RJ Recycling. While there may be other customers online, I am only familiar with those in the Kanawha Valley. If there are more I would love to hear about them.

So how does this translate to our modeling? Something we should keep in mind is that we don't have to have an industry for every type of freight car. Not having every type of freight car being delivered would add extra interest if done well. On my N scale Interstate RR layout, the only switching is for coal hoppers. There is a small yard that often is home to several cars that are not hoppers. I also run a couple of boxcars in a manifest train. While they have no customers on my layout, it adds a little variety and really sells the theme of the layout, a railroad where Coal is King.

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, Chair

I ordered modules from Stuart Denniston and Klawndyke.com to check how well they are assembled and appearance. I ordered a inside curve corner module from Stuart Denniston that arrived completely assembled, that is the reason his cost more than others. It was well made and looked great. For the photo I used track I had on hand, I have to order more track to finish the module.

I ordered 2 modules from Klawndyke's, 1 double and the bridge module. I had to assemble these, and they went together easy using wood glue and masking tape to hold it while the glue set. Where the modules I purchased from Osborn Models needed a 4 page instruction sheet, Klawndyke's had only a 1-page sheet with instructions and illustrations.

Compared to other modules I've purchased, I would recommend these especially the Stuart Denniston if you don't like building kits.

Bridge Module





Stuart Dennison
Corner Module



Klawndyke
Bridge Module

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

In the last issue of the newsletter, I mentioned the possibility of the Division taking a rail fan trip to one of the area scenic train excursions. The over-whelming choice was the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad out of Cumberland. The former C&O 1309 2-6-6-2 Mallet is apparently presently not running the trip but is expected back in service latter this year. Meanwhile, I will be looking into details and schedules to see what the options are for a group trip might be. This will include cost for each type of service from coach to dome car service. Transportation to and from will be up to individual but I am sure carpooling will be an option out of Charleston. Likewise accommodations will be up to each individual but I should be able to provide a list of options. More to follow.

At the Parkersburg meeting, a suggestion was made provide an opportunity to “get to know the modeler.” Some time ago there were a series of articles in the newsletter that did just that. Each article was written by the member and included a history and description of the layout, photos of their layout or models, and history of what brought them to the hobby and projection of where they might be headed. I personally enjoyed the process as it gave me an opportunity to access what I was doing and focus on what things were important to my railroad. That was perhaps 15 years ago. Perhaps it is time for a reprint or even better, a reassessment or rewrite. I encourage each of you to consider doing such an article as a way of getting to know you and what are your passions for the hobby.

This need not be a daunting task. It should be fun. It should simply tell us more about you as a modeler, what you enjoy about the hobby, what are your current projects or status of your layout. Even if you do not have a layout, you might have dioramas or individual models that tell a story. I am sure each of you have read articles in Model Railroader, NMRA Magazine, or Model Railroad Crafts-

man that do the same. These can be used as a guide or at least give you a direction as to what topics might be included. In short, it is really about getting to know who you are and what you are doing in the hobby. If you do not have a layout, that is fine. You still have something that draws into membership in NMRA.

Photos can be an important part of this but need not be a stumbling block. Photos may be overall of a layout or better still, close ups showing details. They may be photos of individual models or projects. It is however important that they be taken under good lighting. Flash photographs generally do not create this effect. Supplemental lighting may be required.

That said, I realize that not everyone is confident in their writing skills or even comfortable talking about themselves. As such, I am willing to assist. This could be in the form of an interview that helps draw out and articulate what you are doing and why are you doing it. Or, might just be assisting in getting your thoughts down in writing and editing what you have put together. I also offer my camera and photography skills to help capture the best views of your layout or individual models.

This will of course not happen overnight. I will take a several months to get this organized and get a schedule worked out for publication. I would request that everyone give consideration to joining into this endeavor. We will talk more about this at upcoming meetings. Unfortunately I will not be at our July meeting as wife and I will be traveling and can not even join by internet, but I wanted to get you thinking about this well in advance. Please feel free to reach out and let me know of your interest in participating. A quick email to me at AandNRR@aol.com or membership@coalddivision.org will give me and idea of who might be interested. Details will follow on this as we move forward.

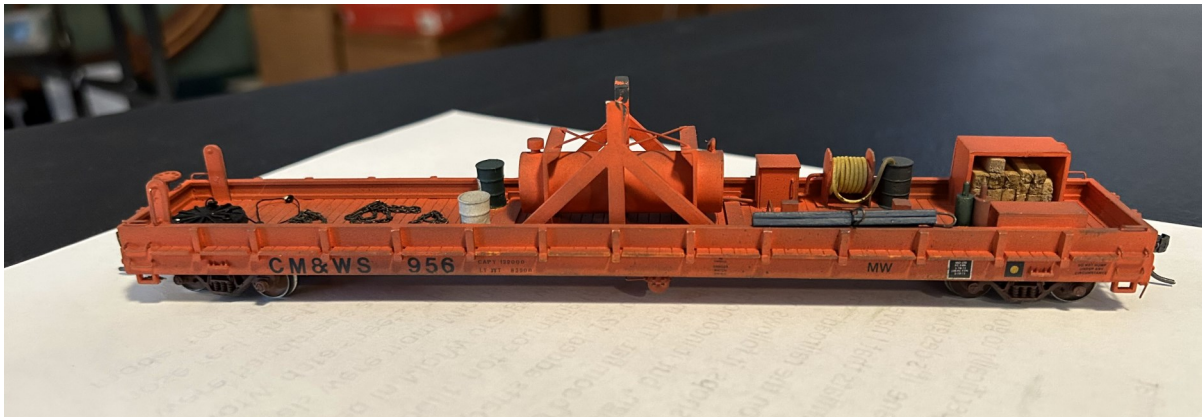
Meanwhile keep modeling.

CONTEST Dale Osburn

After reviewing the June contest photos, I just want to compliment Mark Maynard and Robert Osburn on some excellent models. The photo of Mark's entry as well as the description of the model are below on this page. The photo and description of Robert's model is on the next page.

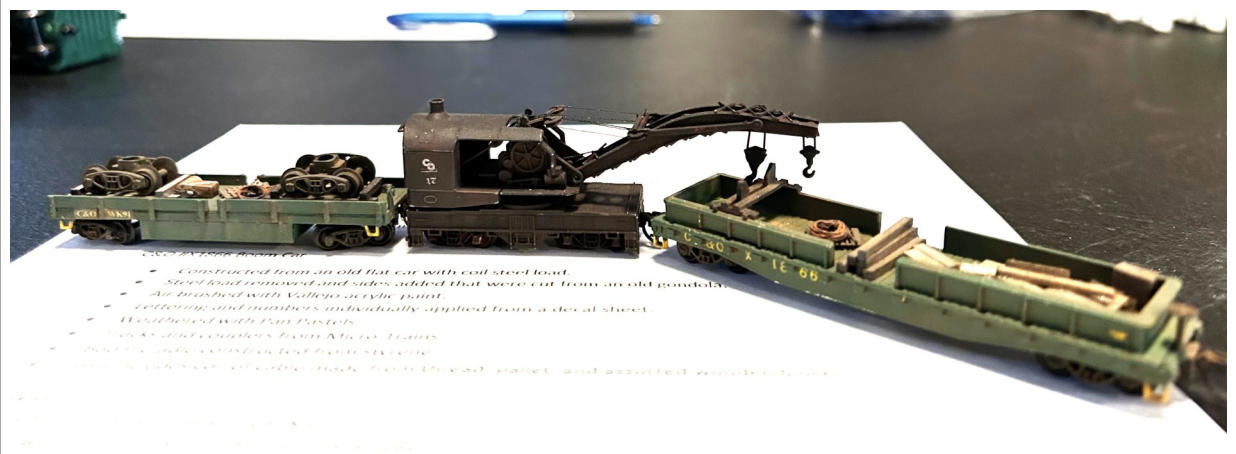
The July contest will be Structures. Looking ahead to August the contest will be Electronics of a Railroad. We will be bringing the contest for August up for discussion during the July meeting.

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



Mark's CM&WS boomflat

This model was made specifically to go with a Walthers American crane. Its design is a composite of all the many boomflats that I have seen in my thirty year career on the railroad. Since it was built by the CM&WS shops, it follows no commercially produced design but it incorporates features found on any good boomflat. The model is an MDC flat with 133 parts added, 122 of them being scratchbuilt, not counting trucks and couplers. It is painted in maintenance of way orange with light weathering. Decals were from Microscale lettering sheets and maintenance of way data sheets. The hooks on the lifting chains were hand made as were the fuel pump box and hose reel, the fuel tank, and the spreader bar. The model took approximately 60 hours to complete.



Robert's 120 Ton Industrial Brownhoist Wrecking Crane

This 120 ton capacity wrecking crane, C&O #17, was built in 1929 by the Industrial Works, Bay City, Michigan as company number 3817. Representing one of the most popular crane types, they were used in large numbers by almost all American railroads as well as in export. Many are still in use today.

- Tichy Train Group kit
- Air brushed with Floquil Railroad Colors (engine black)
- Weathered with Doc O'Brien's weathering powders
- Kadee Arch Bar trucks with couplers
- C&O decals left over from other projects

C&O #X1866 Boom Car

- Constructed from an old flat car with steel coil load
- Steel load removed and sides added that were cut from an old gondola
- Air brushed with Vallejo acrylic paint
- Lettering and numbers individually applied from a decal sheet
- Weathered with Pan Pastels
- Trucks and couplers from Micro-Trains
- Boom cradle constructed from styrene
- Load includes coil of cables made from thread, pallet, and assorted wooden blocks

C&O #WR 91

- Tichy Train Group boom car kit
- Changed into truck car (did not install cabin)
- Used second kit to salvage parts for side boards
- Air brushed with Vallejo acrylic paint
- Lettering and numbers printed on paper then applied to car
- Weathered with Pan Pastels
- Load of trucks from scrap caboose
- Truck supports constructed from basswood
- Assorted load from scrap box

Both of these cars were inspired from photographs appearing in *Chesapeake and Ohio Color Guide to Freight and Passenger Equipment* by David Hickox

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 Monday July 31. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Joe Horter
Kanawha Valley Railroad Association

Mark Suck
Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

It's summertime and things are quiet with the KVRA. Time for some layout maintenance and begin preliminary preparations for next year's train show. Date is not yet confirmed but it should be the 2nd weekend in March.

Due to vacations scheduled and an unscheduled surgery, we were not able to attend the Johnson City Show. However, with better planning we should have our module there next year.

We have 4 new members since the spring so membership is staying steady. We are still open every Sunday from 1 to 4 so please come visit when you're in the area.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club (Parkersburg, WV) has bestowed "Life Membership" status upon former long-time president and O scale superintendent Bill Ammann of Marietta, OH, former long-time treasurer Mike Hupp of Vienna, WV and club "founding father" Dave Stout of Parkersburg, WV. "Life Members" are exempt from paying dues and the membership upgrade is awarded to persons who've made significant contributions to MOVIMRC for a number of years. The club also bestowed posthumous "Life Memberships" upon the late Bill Miller and the late Tom Soddors, both of whom were key members in the earlier days of the organization.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Let me start by thanking Sam Delauter for the kind words about the editorial process. I do strive to put out a publication that is coherent and that follows some guidelines. You may have noticed (or not) that there are two spaces after every sentence. Most material in paragraph form has its first line indented. There is a way to do that without typing in five empty spaces. With indented paragraphs there is no space between paragraphs. The list of such details goes on.

When Robert Osburn indicated he might try Artificial Intelligence to write his article I was wondering what I might get. It turns out it was pretty good! He also sent an article that was described quite vaguely, I've included that here as well. I applied the usual Up The Holler style to it but it is still quite creative and wordy. By being a bit more specific about content, Robert got something well worth reading!

I want to thank John Harris for offering his services, both as a photographer and editor, for those "Meet the Modeler" articles we would like to revive.

We have news this month from KVRA and MOVIMRC, see the Club News column right above this

one. Of particular note is that the MOVIMRC has bestowed a life membership to Coal Division member Dave Stout for his role as a founder of and for his service to the club. Congratulations to Dave!

Moving on to news at the National level, there is a concern about properly branding the NMRA and its Regions and Divisions. Gordy points out that McDonald restaurants look the same everywhere. On the other hand, some NMRA Divisions, including some in our Region, don't even mention NMRA in their logos although our logo does. Improving branding will be a long term process. It is recognized that Region and Division logos may be dear to us. We hope to offer an interim solution at the convention in Texas. This would include the NMRA logo, space for the Region name, and space for a Division name. I believe it will be offered as some sort of template where we can type in our specific information while preserving fonts and other styling. When this becomes available, I hope Coal Division members will be open to some sort of change.

ChatGPT Writes a Newsletter

Robert Osburn

This is what ChatGPT created when I typed in a prompt without any additional information or bullets added. This is the prompt I typed in, Chat GPT created the rest.

Create a newsletter for a club of model railroad enthusiasts that includes information from these bullets

Model Railroaders' Club Newsletter
Issue: June 2023

President's Message

Dear fellow model railroaders,

We're thrilled to present the latest edition of our club newsletter, packed with exciting updates and valuable insights for all model railroad enthusiasts. As the summer season unfolds, we continue to embark on new adventures and celebrate the joys of this beloved hobby. In this issue, you'll find a plethora of information ranging from upcoming events and member highlights to helpful tips and featured layouts. So grab a cup of your favorite beverage, sit back, and immerse yourself in the world of model trains!

Best regards,

[President's Name]

Upcoming Events

Annual Model Railroad Exhibition: Save the date for our highly anticipated annual model railroad exhibition, taking place on July 15th. This event promises to be a visual feast for everyone interested in model railroading, featuring stunning layouts, intricate details, and captivating train operations. Make sure to invite your family and friends to join in on the fun!

Guest Speaker Series:

We're excited to announce a special guest speaker for our upcoming meeting on July 22nd. Mr. Robert Thompson, a renowned model railroad builder and author, will share his expertise on creating realistic scenery and incorporating weathering techniques into your layouts. Don't miss this valuable opportunity to learn from one of the best in the field.

Club Outing:

It's time for a summer adventure! On August 5th, we'll be embarking on a club outing to the charming Redwood Valley Railway. Nestled amidst breathtaking redwood forests, this 15-inch gauge railroad offers enchanting train rides and a chance to connect with nature. Join us for a day filled with camaraderie, scenic beauty, and, of course, trains!

Member Spotlight

In this edition, we shine the spotlight on one of our esteemed club members, Mrs. Margaret Davis. Margaret's passion for model railroading and her exceptional contributions to the club make her an invaluable asset. Dive into the exclusive interview where she shares her experiences, tips, and favorite moments in the hobby. Margaret's story is sure to inspire and resonate with enthusiasts of all levels.

Layout Showcase: Railroad Wonders

Prepare to be amazed as we explore the captivating world of "Railroad Wonders," an extraordinary layout crafted by our talented member, Mr. John Reynolds. Through a series of stunning photographs, John takes us on a journey showcasing his HO scale masterpiece, complete with breathtaking scenery, meticulously detailed structures, and awe-inspiring train operations. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired by the artistry and craftsmanship of John's work.

Tips and Techniques

Discover new techniques and enhance your model railroad skills with our expert tips and techniques section:

Creating Realistic Water Effects: Learn how to bring water features to life on your layout, from tranquil lakes to babbling brooks. We'll guide you through the process of creating realistic water effects that add an extra layer of authenticity to your scenes.

Mastering Weathering Techniques: Weathering is an art that can transform your models from factory fresh to realistic representations of their real-life counterparts. Explore different weathering techniques and unleash your creativity in adding wear and tear, rust, and grime to your rolling stock and structures.

Building Scratch-Built Structures: Delve into the world of scratch-building structures for your layout. From designing blueprints to selecting materials and mastering construction techniques, we'll provide you with the knowledge and inspiration to create unique and personalized buildings.

Product Spotlight: Must-Have Accessories

Stay up-to-date with the latest product releases and must-have accessories in the model railroad industry. Discover new locomotives, rolling stock, scenery materials, and electronic items.



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




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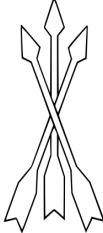
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY



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John Harris, Chief Engineer
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 Gary Burdette - Superintendent
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 Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV



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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.

July 8
In Person and Zoom

August 12
In Person

September 16
Portsmouth, OH