



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

August 2023

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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The August 12th meeting will feature our *Picnic on the Platform*. This is always a special gathering for the Coal Division and usually we have the highest attendance of the year for this event. We will be having our picnic outdoors under the St Albans Historical Society shelter. This is located next to the Depot and Historical Society buildings. The Historical Society building will be open for use in case of foul weather, high heat index, and for restroom use. We **are not** going to conduct our regular business session but we will still be having the **contest, clinic, and raffle**.

We will start cooking around 12:30 and hope everything will be ready to eat around 1:00. The meal will feature hamburgers and hotdogs (with all the trimmings), potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, and dessert. This year we are asking everyone to bring their own drinks but bottled water, cups, and ice will be furnished. We will have tables set-up under the shelter or inside if necessary, and a few chairs will be available if you can't bring one. It would be appreciated if you could arrive a little early and help with setup.

This year we are reaching out thru the newsletter to past members and welcome them to share with us a great time to get together. It would be great to see you again! We have also invited members of SACOM, COHS, and the St. Albans Historical Society to join us for this special outing.

Beside the picnic, the August meeting will have a lot more to offer. The clinic will be a joint effort of several members on "Introduction to the NMRA Interchange". The contest will be anything Electrical/Electronics used on a model railroad. This should be very interesting and feature a variety of entries. Remember if you can't bring your entry to the meeting, just bring some pictures and explain your entry. Tony Puccini will also have a great selection of items for the raffle during the meeting.

Our picnics are always enjoyed by the members and a large turnout is normal. I hope to see you at the August 12th Picnic on the Platform.

DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Robert Osburn
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Sam Delauter
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Clinic
Sam Delauter
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest
Dale Osburn
contest@coaldivision.org

Education
Vacant

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

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

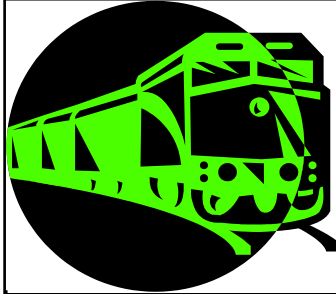
Raffle
Tony Puccini
raffle@coaldivision.org

T-TRAK
Herb Parsons
t-trak@coaldivision.org

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR®
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR®
webmaster@coaldivision.org



Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday August 12 1:00 PM

St. Albans Historical Society

Coal Division Picnic on the Platform

12:30 Cooking starts

1:00 Start eating!

Later Contest, clinic, and raffle

Next Event

**Saturday September 16
West Portsmouth, OH**

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

**July 8, 2023
St. Albans, WV
Minutes**

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

Division Clerk Report

June minutes approved.
Treasury Balance is \$8,753.71.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$40 (June)\$35 (July).
Pike Ads \$0.

We had one expense for the month of \$25 to renew our incorporation with the WV SOS.

Superintendent Report Robert commented on Bill Stowe's comments at last month's meeting. He seconded his comments on our close-knit group. He also mentioned that Dave and Rhonda Stout appreciated the gift card. He also thanked Bill Stowe for bringing donuts from Four Mile Bakery.

Assistant Superintendent Report Sam Delauter talked about boxcars and how they have become rarer these days. He also mentioned how the Kanawha River Railroad arranged their trains in blocks of cars.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of July 31 for the July newsletter. The address for contributions is editor@coaldivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer mentioned that Don Cipolla had judging for AP Electrical and Civil Engineering. Bob presented Anthony Parrish with a merit award from the MCR convention in Pittsburgh.

Library

Bill Wadsworth had the library available today. He also brought a sample of Styrofoam scenery from his home layout.

Clinic

Today's clinic is the *Evolution of an Operating Scheme* by Bob Weinheimer. Next month will be an introduction to the NMRA Interchange. There was some discussion about what the server is and what it is for.

Contest

Today's contest is Structures. Sam talked about his Z Scale building made from a European paper kit.

Membership

No report.

Raffle

Tony Puccini showed members what was available for raffle today.

Education

No report.

Old Business

Robert Osburn distributed a sign-up sheet for supplies for the August picnic. There was some discussion about the logistics for the picnic.

Robert Osburn talked about his experience with AI and Arduinos. The AI wrote the code and wiring diagram to run the Arduino. He also mentioned bringing back the MADD program started by Gary Burdette. There was discussion about different ways to have an engaging discussion about modeling.

New Business

Jerry Doyle suggested some members having their layouts open for visits after our monthly meeting. There was also some discussion about members hosting meetings at their homes.

Bill Stowe discussed the educational function on the Division and the collegial atmosphere we have.

Matt Kearns mentioned a couple of recent articles on historical narration on The Cardinal and Railstream cameras in WV. He also mentioned the GP7 being used to switch Dow plant in South Charleston, WV.

Announcements

none.

Future Meetings:

August 12 – Picnic on the Platform.

September 16 – Mark Maynard's Portsmouth, Ohio

Meeting adjourned at 2:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

By the time you read this, the Picnic On the Platform will almost be upon us. Every year Robert puts a lot of work into making this event a success. I am grateful to him for making this event what it is but we could not have the success at this event that we do without the rest of the Division chipping in to help him out. As we spoke at our meeting, we are doing a few things differently this year. Most notably is that the Division will not provide beverages but will have some water on hand. Since it is usually pretty hot the day of the picnic, make sure to bring

enough water for yourself to stay hydrated. Also if you have a fan available, it probably wouldn't be a bad idea to bring it too.

Our clinic for August will be on the NMRA Interchange. For the clinic, we will be meeting in the historical society. This not only serve the purpose of allowing us to use the technology we need, it will also allow us to get out of the heat. Last year holding the clinic inside at the meeting seemed to be very welcomed by our membership.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

So we had a last minute change to our July clinic. At the last minute I needed a clinician and Bob Weinheimer came through. Bob gave his Evolution of an Operating Scheme clinic. It has been a number of years since we last saw this clinic. Thank you for giving this clinic and showing how varied an operating scheme can be over time.

The August clinic will be an "Intro to the NMRA Interchange". This will include a bit of a discussion of Discord, the application used to access the Interchange. We hope that after the clinic everyone will either be signed up or have the knowledge they need to get signed up.

August - Intro to the NMRA Interchange

September - Crusty Mountain

October - Mini Clinics Event

November - Mark Maynard

December - Square Foot Challenge

January - Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, Chair

On September 16 & 17 the Iron City N-scale Modelers and the Altoona Association of Model Railroaders will sponsor a N-Scale Weekend at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania. During the show they are holding a T-Trak module contest with the funds raised by the contest going to the Pennsylvania SPCA. Contest entry forms and rules can be found on the Altoona N-scale Weekend [web site](#).

There is a new source for T-Trak modules, White Wolf Woodwork has several types of modules made from 1/4" plywood made to T-Trak standard specifications. White Wolf Woodwork also has a module box to safely transport your modules to shows and for storage, presently they only offer a box for double modules. Information for ordering can be found at whitewolfwoodwork.com.

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.

September: August 28

October: October 2

November: October 30

December: November 27

January: January 1

CONTEST Dale Osburn

The contest for the month of July was Structures. We had one entry for the contest which was an Archistories Z Scale REA Transfer Warehouse. Sam Delauter built this outstanding model and told the group about how the kit went together (see attached).

The August contest will be Electronics of a Railroad. Please let me know if there is any special equipment needed for your presentation.

Sam Delauter

Archistories is a German company that produces laser cut Z scale structure kits made of paper. The paper is compressed in to a composite and then dyed. The process makes the kit seem like a wooden laser kit and eliminates the need for painting. The pieces that you will be working with range from about 1/8" thick to paper thin. Many of the parts, most ly ones with brick detail, must be built from multiple parts to build up the thickness a bit. Once the kit is built onto the inner substructure, the building feels very sturdy and is surprisingly heavy. The kit, like other good laser kits, went together well. Although there are many parts, the kit didn't seem any harder than other similar kits. Since this kit is made of paper, you must use caution on the choice of glues to use. I used mostly wood glue but used a little bit of CA in spots.

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



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

Matt Crouch
C&OHS and St. Albans Depot

Mark Suek
Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

Saturday, July 1st was another very good day for the C&OHS and the St Albans Depot. Sales at the gift shop began immediately as the rush to buy up the last of the Blenko Glass water bottles is upon us. Always popular are the C&OHS published books as well as hats and T shirts.

It seems like every time the doors are open, we get a good number of the public stop by to tell interesting stories about a family member working on the railroad or an experience they had interacting with the railroad. One of our many visitors that day was a Mr. Perry. His father was a retired conductor and yardmaster at St. Albans. In fact, he was on the last of the Coal River Local passenger trains. Mr. Perry then pulled a vintage C&O conductors hat from a bag and donated it to the C&OHS and depot. It will certainly take a place of honor in the depot museum and help tell the story of local passenger service for years to come.

The O Gauge Hi-Rail layout is well under construction. Its overall size will be 8' x 16' and will feature St. Albans on one side and South Charleston on the other. Scott Cyrus will be providing motive power and rolling stock from his vast collection. Scott will be bringing out the "big steam" in the form of a Big Boy, Allegheny, or NKP 765. He also has a fantastic roster of both steam, diesels and rolling stock to choose from. Both continuous operation for the public is planned along with short operating sessions to switch the industries.

The depot will be open again on Saturday August 5th at 10:00am. All are welcome!

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is busy preparing for its annual Parkersburg Homecoming Open House on Saturday, August 19. Trains will be running in HO, O, N and G scales and all the layouts will be in operation. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm and admission and parking are free. This event is, typically, MOVVRC's second most attended open house in a given year, coming in just behind the Christmas Open House.

MOVVRC's next event will be the annual Fall Train Show on October 28 at West Virginia University's Parkersburg campus.

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

My Passenger Manifest article for this month will be extremely brief. I have been on the road the last 4 weeks traveling 8400 miles across Canada thru the Canadian Rockies to Vancouver, then back in the states thru Washington and Oregon to Idaho, into Utah, across Wyoming, then finally home in the shortest possible route. Saw lot of beautiful scenery, enjoyed some great food and beverage, kayaked the Snake River and fished the Salmon River in Idaho for steelhead and rainbows.

Chased many trains across both countries and had a chance to tour a Railroad Museum in Revelstroke, BC. Museum focused on Canadian Pacific steam in the mining and golden era of passenger service. Included inside the museum building were a CP 4-6-4 steam engine, a 30's era sleeper, and a dining car of the same era. It also included

lots of photographs from the early days of railroading in the area up thru the early days of diesel.

Saw an impressive railroad ascend up the western slope of the Rockies utilizing twin spiral tunnels, multiple snow sheds and some pretty steep grades. This was all constructed in the early part of the 20th century and appeared to for the most part been abandoned in favor of longer, taller tunnels and more direct routing over the mountain. Still, a great modeling opportunities for sure.

Thanks to Bob Weinheimer for distributing new name tags in my absence last month. Anyone who did not pick theirs up will have an opportunity at the picnic. I look forward to joining everyone there. I plan to bring the beans!

In the meantime, keep modeling.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Well, here we are about 10 days before the next Coal Division event and it's time to get the newsletter together and out to you.

Some of you who receive this newsletter are former member of the NMRA. In the hopes that you may return, we keep sending you the electronic version as the cost of doing so is zero. We hope to see some of you stop by on August 12 to join us for our Picnic on the Platform. I hope you will be pleased by what you see and consider rejoining.

We are planning to show members how to sign up for the NMRA Interchange after we are done eating everything in sight at the picnic. I had to edit a number of items in this issue as they referred to Discord but not the Interchange. So, what's up? Well, Discord is an application that hosts the NMRA Interchange as well as more other types of group gatherings that one can count. Before joining the Interchange, you must obtain a Discord

account. Do this at discord.com. More about the NMRA Interchange can be seen here: www.nmra.org/nmra-interchange. Read the instructions very carefully, particularly the details of the format of your member number. We hope to show you how it works by having a member sign up live in the clinic. If you wish to do this at the meeting, you must be signed up on Discord first.

In other news, the NMRA convention is just about here. The recent hot weather may be what to expect in Texas but they do have lots of air conditioning. There is no need to let the heat turn you away. The convention rate for the hotel expire about the time you get this newsletter but I hope you have already signed up to attend. If you are going, and get there by Saturday morning, you are welcome to drop in to observe the NMRA Board of Directors meeting.

Well, that's the new from here. See you at the picnic!

Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.

Visit www.nmra.org. Then improve your skills. And your hobby.



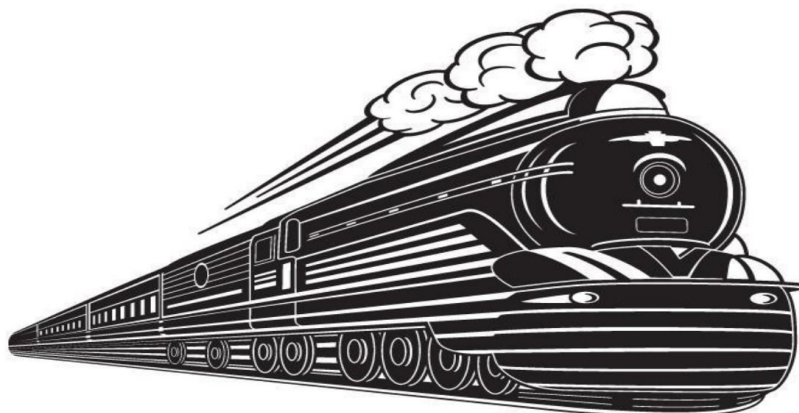
We make it even more fun.

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TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 33RD YEAR



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
HOLY FAMILY PARISH SAFFIN CENTER
3938 POPLAR LEVEL RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40213

- MODEL TRAINS IN ALL SCALES
- OPERATING LAYOUTS AND DISPLAYS
- RETAIL SALES - OVER 100 DEALER TABLES
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- JOIN THE NMRA - NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
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\$6.00 PER PERSON – CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/November2023TrainShowTickets>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE





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
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN




PIPESTEM BASEMENT
 DIVISION (HO)
 DAN MULHEARN
 304-466-9188
 danmulhearn@gmail.com



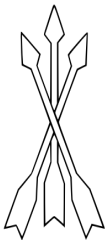
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

Tony Puccini, President
 6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705
 puccinibaj@hotmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

Bob Weinheimer, President
 398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314
 www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com




LAKESIDE LINES RAILROAD
 Thomas K. Harris, President and CEO

274 S. Wye Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382 (276)620-3493
 tharris@va.net www.lakesidelines.com



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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
 Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
398 MOUNT VIEW DR
CHARLESTON WV
25314-1041

Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and have an email address, please let us know so we can save printing and postage costs. Send a note to editor@coaldivision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

August 12

**St. Albans Historical Society
In Person**

September 16

**Portsmouth, OH
In Person**

October 14

**St. Albans Historical Society
In Person and Zoom**