



# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

October 2023

## IN THIS ISSUE

Head of the Holler	1
Contact List	2
Meeting Agenda	2
Office Down the Hall	3
Clinics	3
T-TRAK	3
Nominations	3
Passenger Manifest	4
Club News	4
7th Gary Burdette Challenge	5
Contest	6
Picnic on the Platform	8
B&O Railroad Museum	9
Editor's Comments	11
Pike Ads	16
Upcoming Meetings	17

### FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

The September meeting found us at South Portsmouth, Ohio running the “Crusty” at Mark Maynard’s home. This year Division 6 had a conflict with attending and it seems several of Division 9 members also had prior obligations (including myself) so the gathering was smaller than usual. Sam Delauter took charge and made announcements and conducted the contest, but we did not have a formal business session. The smaller attendance gave time for several interesting discussions and Mark had more time to help members run trains and answer questions, but unfortunately Mark had a lot of food leftover. We always enjoy our gathering at Mark’s. Mark and his wife always go out of their way to provide us with an enjoyable time. For our 2024 running of the “Crusty”, we need to be pro-active and inform everyone well ahead of time for this event so Mark won’t have any food left! Thanks Mark, for hosting us. Those attending enjoyed a great visit.

Our October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society building will feature a short business session, raffle, contest, and several Mini-Clinics. The contest will be open loads which is usually a very popular category.

After the mini-clinics we will be discussing and distributing this year’s “Challenge” packets to those who wish to participate. This year we are going to travel back into the late 50’s and early 60’s. During those times, modelers had very limited choices of ready to run rolling stock. As a result, you really had to become a builder to populate your model railroad. Modelers had to turn to manufacturers who offered craftsman or semi-craftsman kits. Two such manufacturers were Central Valley and Ulrich. From Ed Keith’s estate we have obtained 14 Central Valley Old Timer freight car kits and 4 Ulrich kits. The Central Valley kits feature wood construction with metal hardware, couplers, and trucks. Sides and ends are pre-painted and lettered. The Ulrich kits feature all metal construction, ease of assembly, authentic designs, with painted and lettered sides. This “Challenge” project should be very interesting and what Gary intended this event to be—TRY SOMETHING NEW! During the December Christmas luncheon you will be able to display and talk about your “Challenge” project.

There are 18 packets available for this year’s challenge. If you can’t attend the October meeting and would still like to participate, the remaining packets will be available at the November meeting. If you can’t make either meeting or want your packet earlier, let Dale Osburn (304-840-4366) know. Dale will contact you on how you can obtain your packet or will notify you of locations and times for pick-up of the remaining packets much like he did last year. If necessary, some kits may be mailed or delivered in person.

Thanks! I hope to see you at St Albans on October 14<sup>th</sup>, or if you can’t be there, please join us virtually!

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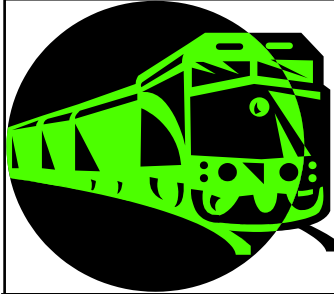
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## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

### Saturday October 14

### St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Zoom Link  
Time: Oct 14, 2023 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89812063104>  
Meeting ID: 898 1206 3104

- Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)
- Treasurers Report
- Superintendents Report
- Assistant Superintendent Report
- Contest: Open Loads
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Raffle (always need new items)
- Mini Clinics

**Next Meeting  
November 11  
In Person and Zoom**

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

The Coal Division once again met at Mark Maynard's for the September meeting. Mark is always a great host and very welcoming to our members. Each year, Mark opens his layout early for operators and provides us with lunch and a location for our meeting. Upon arrival, I found many of our members either operating or admiring Marks' layout. Although we did not have a formal meeting there was ample time for discussion before and during lunch. After lunch, we made a few announcements and tallied the votes for the contest. Many thanks to Mark for hosting us again this year.

It looks like we will be at the St. Albans Historical Society for the next couple of months. For the last number of years, our December meeting has been held at Diehl's Restaurant in Nitro. If we would like to meet there again this year, I can make arrangements with them. Their staff and management have always been very welcoming and accommodating to us. The other thing we have coming up that we should be thinking about is elections of officers. Elections will be held early next year and there look to be a couple of offices that will need filled. I am sure that Bob Weinheimer will be updating us on this very soon.

## CLINICS

### Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

For the September meeting, we did not have a clinic as we were at The Crusty Mountain running trains. I hope that everyone that wanted to had the opportunity to run on Mark' layout.

As the year winds down so do our clinics for the year. The October meeting will see the second of our Mini Clinic Events. This is a great opportunity to learn about several different topics in a short period of time.

Mini clinics include:

Herb Parson - restoring N scale buildings  
 Sam Delauter - Demystifying the Airbrush  
 Dale Osburn - Construction of a Layout: The Beginning Phases  
 Robert Osburn - Memorial Challenge

Upcoming Clinics:

November - Mark Maynard  
 December - Square Foot Challenge  
 January - Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller

## T-TRAK

### Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

To all T-TRAK modelers: we are 2 months away from the AMRS Annual Model Railroad Show in Huntington, WV over the Thanksgiving Weekend. Let's start

to get our modules ready for the show. Let me know if you are coming and the size of your module.

## NOMINATIONS

### Bob Weinheimer, Acting Nominations Chair

Nominations Chair Bill Wadsworth is still recovering so I have stepped forward to take his place as election season is upon us. Both elective offices, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, are in need of candidates as both current office holders are term limited. If you have any interest in either office, please let me know at [edi-tor@coaldivision.org](mailto:edi-tor@coaldivision.org).

The nomination process is to conclude at the January meeting. Ballots should be mailed on or about February 1 and would be due back not more than 30 days later. If there is only one candidate for each position, Mid Central Region Regulations allow election by acclamation removing the cost of ballot mailings.

## 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.

November: October 30  
 December: November 27  
 January: January 1  
 February: January 29  
 March: February 26

## PASSENGER MANIFEST

### John Harris, Membership Chair

I can not believe that the leaves have begun to fall and it is already October. Where did summer go? Days are shorter and darkness comes earlier, and by the end of the month, even that darkness will come even sooner. But, with the change on season comes more opportunity to dig deeper into those model railroad projects that have been on hold while travel and outdoor activities have monopolized my time. Work schedule has lightened up significantly as I wind down to that long awaited retirement. Finally I see larger blocks of time that can be spent on the A&NRR.

I am beginning to use my many years of AutoCAD experience to create some files that can be converted into some programs on a laser cutter. That should allow me to create some custom structures similar to those craftsman kits on the market. I have already created 2D elevations and plans for Thurmond station and engine house, the Hinton station and roundhouse, and a couple of miscellaneous structures that are not presently available on the market. Hopefully this might lead to a future clinic if this pans out as expected.

Next I hope to convert my familiarity with CAD programs to 3D printing. So far this has been more of a challenge. My AutoCAD program, while capable of creating 3D images, does not appear to download STL files or "print" to other files use in any of the printers. The learn-

ing curve for programs like Fusion may not be too difficult for me to pick up on but to date I have not had the time to even try. As many of you have already discovered, this technology will open up endless possibilities.

I continue to reach out for articles for the "Meet the Modeler" articles. No one stepped forward this month with information or volunteered to provide such an article. And while I am disappointed that no one took up the challenge, I too did not step up and provide one. I hope that others will find this an interesting way to let others know more about us, what we are doing and what brought us into the hobby. That said I will take my own advice and get started on my "bio".

Now, I challenge each of you to get out of your comfort zone and do the same. It need not be a long article as we are certainly not looking for your life story, nor details of your first girl-friend. It is more about your relationship to trains and model railroading. Again, I offer my assistance if you are still not sure how to go about this or need help with photos or questions.

I will not be joining you for the October meeting as this is the time my wife and I make our annual pilgrimage to Florida. This takes us into November and may even knock me out of that meeting, we will see. Meanwhile keep modeling and be safe.

## 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 October 30. Items can be sent to [editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club  
Mark Suek

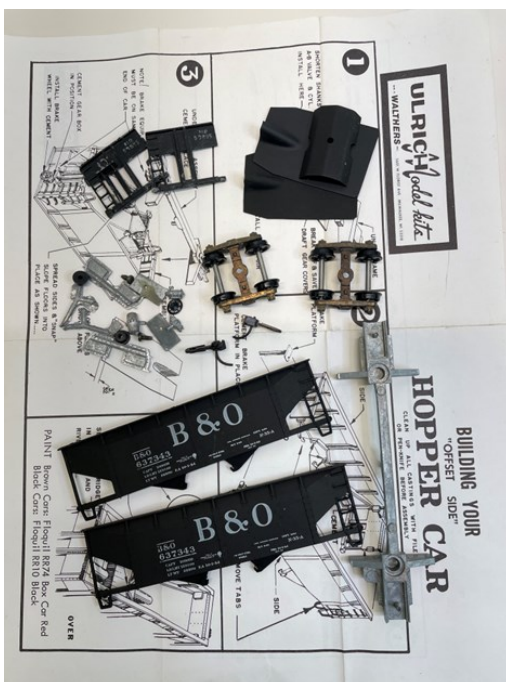
We are busy with preparation for our annual Fall Train Show, set for October 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, at West Virginia University's Parkersburg campus. We've sold all 100 of our vendor tables and stepped-up our advertising and food arrangements to ensure a nice show. The show is easily accessed from Exit 174 of Interstate 77 and campus is one mile east of the interstate on Staunton

Avenue/Route 47. MOVIMRC looks forward to another successful event.

MOVIMRC has returned to the 60-member level after accepting three new probationary members at our last meeting. Other projects underway include new layout skirting of a consistent fabric and color and a map of fire extinguisher and emergency exit locations.

# December 2023 7<sup>th</sup> Annual *Gary Burdette Challenge* Let's build some rolling stock!

From the estate of Ed Keith we have obtained 14 Central Valley Old Timer freight car kits and 4 Ulrich kits. The Central Valley kits feature wood construction with metal hardware, couplers, and trucks. Sides and ends are pre-painted and lettered. The Ulrich kits feature all metal construction, ease of assembly, authentic designs, and painted and lettered sides.



## CONTEST Dale Osburn

The contest for the month of September was Photo: Model or Prototype. Below, you will see the outcome from the meeting.

The month of October contest will be Open Loads. Looking ahead to November, the contest will be Passenger Cars.

At the October meeting, there will be a signup sheet if you are interested in building a kit for the Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge. Robert Osburn will share more information on this topic at the October 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	Seventh Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge

First Place  
Shay at Wonless  
Photo by Herb Parsons





Second Place  
UP at Kenova, WV.  
Photo by Herb Parsons



Third Place  
Central of Georgia  
Photo by Bob Mershimer

# PICNIC ON THE PLATFORM

Photos by Herb Parsons



Bob presents Don with his Electrical Engineer and Civil Engineer AP certificates



## The B&O Railroad Museum

Matt Kearns

Photos by the Author

While visiting my sister in Baltimore I was able to convince her and my wife to check out the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum with me. The museum is located at the old Mount Clare shops in the heart of downtown. From the moment you arrive you're surrounded by railroad history: the parking lot is arranged between stub tracks full of old equipment. I noticed a wagon top box-car and caboose, a wreck crane, and GP40. Inside the museum proper is a small gift shop and an exhibit on the ceremonial "first stone" laid for the nation's first common carrier railroad. There is also an exquisite model train layout of Baltimore, including the Inner Harbor, Camden Yards, and Pimlico racetrack. The only downside to the



Wagon top caboose

layout was that it was in HO scale.

The highlight for most visitors to the B&O Museum has to be the roundhouse. It is a beautiful, bright space



Roundhouse

with impressive displays of railroad history laid out among the stalls. As you work clockwise around the roundhouse you'll pass early "Tom Thumb" type engines with vertical



Three truck Shay

boilers, Civil War era 4-4-0 American locomotives, pretty 4-6-0s, and a three-truck Shay from the hills of West Virginia. There are also examples of the evolution of passenger coaches and the inside of an RPO.

However, the highlight for me was inside the dusty cavern of the North Car Shop. Tucked away on track 4 you'll find one of the most powerful steam locomotives ever built: C&O 2-6-6-6 #1604. It is a hulking beast that defies any attempt to capture its size in a mere photograph. And the cab was open to exploration, so you could actually work the throttle and pretend to tackle the grade over the namesake Alleghenies. The forward visibility out those tiny windows leaves something to be desired. The North Car Shop also has a rusty WM BL2, the short lived C&O "Chessie" L1 (a 4-6-4 under a flashy yellow and stainless jacket), and the first ever streamlined diesel-electric: a 1937 B&O EMD EA which was looking quite sharp with that extra rake on the nose (and a favorite of our own David Oliverio).

Outside the Roundhouse and the North Car Shop were more storage tracks holding yet more rolling stock. Most were lettered for the B&O, C&O, WM, or PM, reflecting many of the mergers over the years. There were exhibits on diner car china and reefer technology, the inside of a caboose and WWII troop sleeper, the C&O's old dynamometer, and yet another model train inside of and down the length of an old passenger coach. It was a fun layout, modeling B&O industries from the hills of Appalachia down to the port of Baltimore, but unfortunately it too was in HO scale. If you

Continued next page

bucks, you could ride a coach down the “first mile” of B&O’s historic track pulled by a GP38 dolled up in a Chessie System paint scheme.

The B&O Museum certainly appeals to anyone with an interest in railroad history. You can learn more at <https://www.borail.org>. And who knows, a day at the Museum, followed by a heap of steamed blue crabs and a few National Bohemian beers, might even get a diehard C&O man to think about switching prototypes!



C&O 1604



The author imagining himself operating C&O 1604

Continued next page



Chessie L1



B&amp;O EA

## MY WORD

### Bob Weinheimer, Editor

We have a larger than usual issue this month. It's train show season so there are ads for train shows. It's not too early to think about next year's Mid Central Region convention and there is an ad for that. In addition, I goofed last month and forgot to include the photos Herb Parsons submitted on the August Picnic on the Platform, they are here this month. Finally, Coal Division Member Matt Kearns sent a nice article with photos describing his visit to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore.

Achievement Program interest is picking up again. Don Cipolla is getting close to his MMR®. Randy Allio has also expressed interest in the program as he has likely met some of the requirements without realizing it. I keep bugging Jerry Doyle who is also closing in on the target.

On page 3 is the story about nominations for Division officer. As Superintendent, you can earn the Association Official certificate after serving three years. As Assistant Superintendent you are eligible for one point per month toward Association Volunteer.

There is also news on the National level. The long disappearance of standard gauges from the market has ended. Gauges for O, HO, and N scales are now available through the NMRA store. S scale gauges are being developed with help from the National Association of S Gaugers.

The board approved a budget to expand its marketing efforts at an earlier meeting. Shortly after the convention

it was announced that Lucy Dormont had been hired as the Social Media Director. This is in addition to the marketing efforts continuing with Christina Zambri.

The NMRA Board will meet in person next at the big train show in Springfield, MA in January. That train show is utterly incredible and I am looking forward to returning for the meeting and the show. If you can make it work, the trip is worthwhile.

That's it for this month.

## 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](http://www.nmra.org). Then improve your skills. And your hobby.



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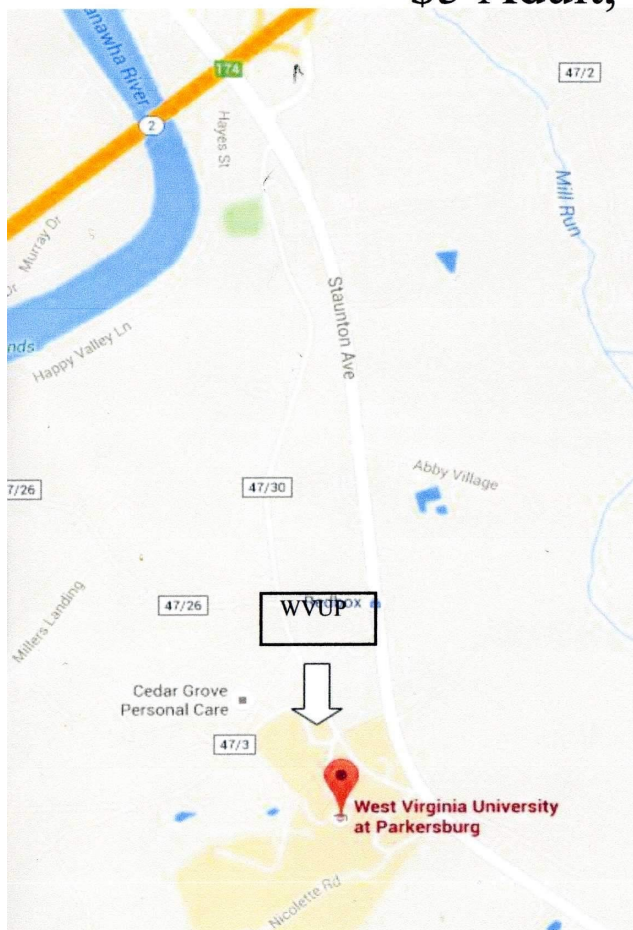
# ***TRAIN SHOW***

C&O 1604

## **28th Annual M.O.V. Model RR Club Train Show**

**Where:** West Virginia University-Parkersburg on WV Rt. 47. 1 mile east of I-77 exit #174 Parkersburg, WV

**When:** Saturday Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> . 2023, 10A.M. to 3P.M. **Cost:**  
\$5 Adult, Under 12-Free



Vendors selling model trains of all scales.

Bucket drawing for door prizes

Food and refreshments available for sale

Free parking and handicapped accessible

For more information or dealer information contact:

Mid-Ohio Valley Model RR Club

Tom Ratkovich

304-588-5417

[railsign@suddenlink.net](mailto:railsign@suddenlink.net)

FOR UPDATES ON SHOW STATUS:

<https://www.facebook.com/MidOhioValleyModelRailroadClub>

# Fifth Annual NMRA Division 6

# Train Show

## Cambridge Ohio

Sunday

**October 22, 2023**

**10 am to 3 pm**



*Easy Access from I-70 and I-77*

**Pritchard Laughlin Center  
7033 Glenn Hwy  
Cambridge OH 43725**



**OPERATING  
MODEL TRAINS**

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- SCENERY**
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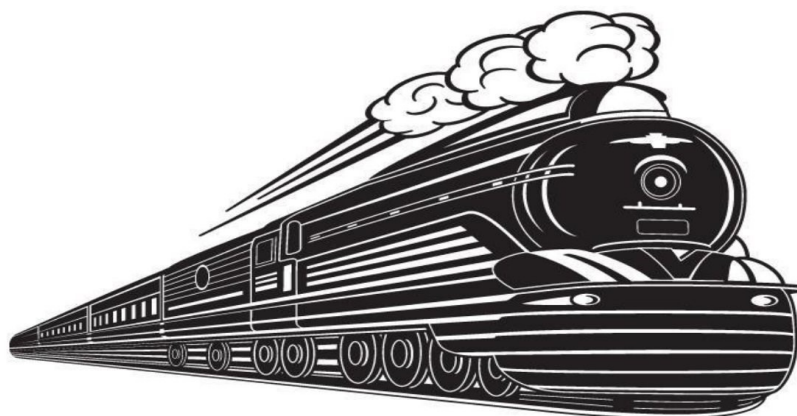
Check out our website for a listing for more information:

<https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/trainshow.html>

**Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - [trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org)**

# TRAIN SHOW & SALE

## OUR 33RD YEAR



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
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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



The Mid-Central  
Regional Convention  
May 16-19 2024  
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00  
through 12/31/2023



[www.northcoastlimited2024.org](http://www.northcoastlimited2024.org)

### *Convention Merchandise*

*The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two  
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's  
apparel*

### *SCHEDULE of EVENTS*

*Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms  
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)  
Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,  
Non-Rail Tours*

*More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.  
Look for updates on the NCL site!*

*Many Restaurants  
are located  
within walking  
distance of the  
Crown Plaza  
Hotel.*



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a registration form  
online!*



[www.northcoastlimited2024.org](http://www.northcoastlimited2024.org)




*Midland Atlantic*  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
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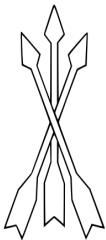
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 Portsmouth, OH



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

**October 14**

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

**November 11**

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

**December 9**

**Diehl's Restaurant**