



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

November 2023

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

Our October 14th meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society building was very well attended both in-person and virtually. The meeting featured a short business session, raffle, contest, and several Mini-Clinics. The Mini-Clinics included Sam Delauter demystifying the airbrush for us, Dale Osburn talked about the beginning phases of constructing a layout, and Herb Parsons did a very interesting presentation on restoring N scale buildings. The Mini-Clinics are becoming a very popular addition to our meetings, and they present a great variety of topics to learn about and discuss. Thanks, Sam, Dale, and Herb for your very well presented and informational clinics!

After the mini-clinics we distributed, I delivered a presentation on this year's "Challenge" packets. This year we are going to travel back into the late 50's and early 60's. 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. We only have 4 Central Valley kits and 1 Ulrich kit left. The remaining kits will be available at the November meeting, so please see Dale Osburn if you want to participate in the 2023 Challenge. Remember, this is not a contest but a challenge. It's going to be really interesting seeing and discussing the projects at the December meeting.

We will again try and keep the November business session short but we need to finalize our plans for a December Luncheon and discuss any Division plans for participating in the upcoming AMRS Train Show, Nov. 24, 25, and 26th in Huntington, WV. We will also allot some time to discuss issues or problems you may be having with the Challenge project. If you need help or extra parts or items, please let us know. To round out the November meeting the contest will be Passenger Cars, Tony Puccini will be conducting the raffle, and Mark Maynard will present the clinic on "Functionality of Switches".

Thanks! I hope to see you at St Albans on November 11th, or if you can't be there, please join us virtually!

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

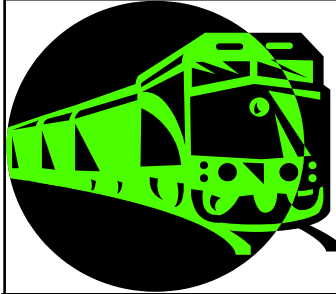
Raffle
Tony Puccini
raffle@coaldivision.org

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 November 11

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84938671511>
Meeting ID: 849 3867 1511
One tap mobile
+13052241968,,84938671511# US

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Passenger Cars**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Mark Maynard presents “The Functionality of Switches”**

**Next Meeting
December 9**

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club held their yearly show in Parkersburg on October 29, 2023. I met with fellow Coal Division member Herb Parsons and headed north. In the past I have not been able to attend the show. I had always heard good things about the show and I was ready to see how the show panned out. They hold their show in the gym at West Virginia University Parkersburg. While it was a small show, I am happy to say that it was a good show. They were able to squeeze quite a few vendors in the space they were given. This often brings up the possibility of things being cramped. Luckily

this was not the case, there were nice wide aisles. The club also had several tables of various items to raffle off.

While there were only three layouts at the show, their club was open all day. We had both been to the club before, my most recent trip was this past May during our Steel Is King event, so we decided to skip the visit this year. After we spoke with a number of friends and made some purchases we decided to head back home. If you have not been to the show before, I would advise attending. Parkersburg is an easy and relatively short drive for most of us and is also a good opportunity to get to know your division members better.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

At the October meeting we saw the last of the Mini Clinics for the year. These always seem to be a popular event with varying topics. Thank you to all that gave a Mini Clinic. The clinic for November will be "All About Switches, Functionality of Switches" by Mark Maynard. Mark will be showing us how to make all those pesky switches function better.

Upcoming Clinics:

November - Mark Maynard (see above)

December - Square Foot Challenge

January - Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller

February - Tools, Randy Allio

March - Making Your Cars Operate Better - Mark Maynard

April - Mini Clinic Event

May - Steel Is King

June - TBA

July - TBA

August - Building a Prototypical Rolling Stock Fleet, Sam Delauter

September - Crusty Mountain

October - Mini Clinic Event

November - TBA

December - Memorial Challenge

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

The AMRS Model Railroad show will be November 24 - 26. We will be setting up our T-TRAK modules for the show. Let me know the number and size of your

modules so that we can plan the layout. I can be contacted at t-trak@coaldivision.org

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:editor@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.

December: November 27

January: January 1

February: January 29

Meeting Minutes
 NMRA MCR Division 9
 The Coal Division
 St. Albans, WV
 October 14, 2023

Superintendent Robert Osburn:

- Nominations for open positions – Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent – will be coming up in the new year
- Recognized Matt Kearns' great article on the B&O train museum in the last newsletter
- Packages for the Gary Burdette challenge are ready for distribution and will be covered in detail during the clinic. Robert talked about while this has traditionally been known as the Gary Burdette challenge we should think about recognizing some of the other past major contributors to the group such as Ed Keith and Lin Young. A suggestion was made to change the name to the Memorial Challenge, Robert asked that this be discussed in new business.
- Robert recognized that it was great to have Bill Wadsworth there in person after his long recovery from his bicycle accident

Assistant Superintendent Sam Delauter:

- Sam talked about completing a project he started several years ago – a focus on N scale couplers, trucks, wheels – a gave a heads up to the group on a forth coming series of car specific articles.

Achievement Program:

- Robert Osburn mentioned that several of the people in our group are close to achieving achievement awards.

Contest Chair Dale Osburn:

- Today's contest is on open loads, several entries for folks to review and vote on.
- Mentioned next month's contest will be on passenger cars.

Clinic Chair: Sam Delauter:

- Clinics booked until end of January.
- Randy volunteered to do a clinic for the February 2024 clinic.
- Sam highlighted we will need to start a list for clinic topics starting in March 2024, and asked members to let him know topics they would like to teach/talk about.
- David Oliverio. asked if a presentation on the numerous layouts he visited in Wisconsin would be considered an appropriate topic for a clinic. After discussion it was agreed that it would be.
- For November meeting, discussed what topic Mark Maynard would be covering. Mark offered two choices – switch machines; or diagnostic techniques to enhance operability. It was decided that November's meeting would be on switch machines, the sec-

ond topic would be added to the list for 2024.

Membership Chair:

- John Harris. was not present.
- A member asked on the status of the Cumberland railfan trip, concerned he had heard the train was not operational. Members said that it was operational. Bill Stowe. mentioned that he believed John had mentioned that the trip may be next spring instead of this fall.

Raffle Chair Tony Puccini:

- Tony encouraged members to inspect the items, open boxes as desired, rather than having him describe what was available.
- He thanked people for their contributions of materials and cash, and recognized material was also from Lin Young's estate.

Old Business:

- No items discussed.

New Business:

1. Name change of Gary Burdette challenge.
 - Motion proposed and seconded to change name of Gary Burdette challenge to simple the 'Memorial Challenge' to recognize other significant contributors like Lin Young and Ed Keith, and also to allow for future recognition. Motion was passed.
 - David O. asked that with the new name we try to make sure that we make sure to mention the names of those we are honoring so we do not lose sight of who they were. All agreed.

2. Huntington train show

- Herb mentioned the show is the weekend after Thanksgiving. He needs to know who will be bringing T-TRAK modules to the show so he can figure out how many tables to book. Sam emphasized based on his prior experience that early communication to Herb is critical for good planning. Herb's contact information is t-trak@coaldivision.org.
- Setup of the T-TRAK modules will be on Friday November 24, from 1 to 5 pm. Herb requested that folks get there at 1pm.
- Someone (who?) will follow up with John Harris. to see if we will be having a booth to represent Div 9, and if so, for John to get a sign up sheet out for volunteers to man the booth.

3. December meeting

- Sam Delauter discussed that in the past we had held the meeting at Diehl's restaurant

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in Nitro, and that we needed to decide if we were going to do that again, and if so, what time.

- All agreed that we will hold the meeting at Diehl's – for lunch and for members to present their Memorial Challenge results.
- A motion was made that members meet at the restaurant at 11:30, and we have lunch at noon. Motion

was seconded, and all voted to pass the motion.

Meeting was then adjourned and the contest, raffle, and clinics were conducted.

Respectfully submitted by
Bill Stowe,
Acting Clerk

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I left myself with little room this month! I want to thank Bill Stowe for doing a great job with the November minutes, it looks like I missed a good meeting. I echo Sam Delauter's comments about the MOVMMR show. I was there earlier in the day and found a few bargains. Note that Sam is also starting a series of articles on upgrading his N Scale car fleet, the first appears in this issue. Don't ignore these articles if you model in another scale, you might see something you can use! I was also pleased to hear that Bill Wadsworth has recovered enough to be at the meeting!

I spent the weekend following the meeting at the Mid Eastern Region in Altoona, PA. It was well attended with many MCR members as well as two gentlemen from Switzerland. There was also another fellow there that we all

know, I was pleasantly surprised to see past Coal Division Superintendent Dan Mulhearn there. He reports he is finding operating opportunities near his new residence. He passes along his greetings and I told him you would all be pleased to hear about him. He wore a series of great shirts, I photographed him wearing a Grafton and Greenbrier shirt on the first day.



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

Kanawha Valley Railroad Association
Joe Horter

We had our module at the Great Coal River Festival in Racine, WV this past month. In November, we will have our module and sales tables at the Huntington Show.

Also, the WVDOH has finally begun repairs to the access to our parking lot at our clubhouse. We experienced a washout to the access this past summer. With these repairs, we will be holding our Annual Holiday Open House this Christmas season. It is in conjunction with the Coonskin Park light display. Open house will be every Friday (6-9), Saturday (3-9) and Sunday (1-6), beginning Black Friday and running to Dec. 23. Please come out and join us his holiday season.

Finally, our Train Show will be May 4-5. This is 2 months later than usual but the Charleston Convention Center has seen a boom in bookings-I guess as the pandemic wanes. Anyway, see our website for information on tables, times, etc. www.kvrailroad.org See you in Huntington!

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
Mark Suek

We enjoyed another successful Fall Train Show with slightly better attendance than last year, a more successful prize drawing and sold-out dealer tables.

MOVMMRC's next event is the annual Christmas Open House, set for December 2 from 10 am to 6 pm at the club facility, located in the rear basement of NOE Office Equipment, 610 Green Street in downtown Parkersburg. The open house is in partnership with Downtown PKB and its Winterfest celebration and will feature special Polar Express tickets for children and a drawing for a Lionel Polar Express train set. What's more, a Polar Express train will be running on one of the O scale operating layouts

CONTEST Dale Osburn

The month of October, we had some really quality models. The contest was Open Loads and each entry was very well put together. Below, please see the results of the contest.

First Place
Herb Parsons
Log flatcar with Log Camp Sheds

Second Place
Sam Delauter
F&C PRR. FM Flatcar with lumber

Third Place
Mark Maynard
The pipe load was cut down from an Atlas Pipe Load kit to fit the flatcar.

At the October meeting, the Central Valley kits were distributed to those wanting to be involved in the Gary Burdette Sixth Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge. If you have an interest in building one of the Central Valley kits and were not at the meeting, please send me a text or call: 304-840-4366. We will make sure you receive one for the Challenge.

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	Sixth Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge



First Place
Herb Parsons
Log flatcar with Log Camp Sheds

- The Log Flatcar was manufactured by Bachman Models.
- The kit was weathered and painted as seen in the pictures below.

The Sheds was a kit from JV Models.



Second Place
Sam Delauter
F&C PRR. FM Flatcar with lumber

- F&C Flatcar kit which was airbrushed with TCP.
 - Load by Owl Mountain.
- The load was made of plastic and then hand painted with acrylic paints.



Third Place
Mark Maynard
Pipe Load

- The model was painted and decaled.
- The pipe was cut down from an Atlas Pipe Load kit to fit the flatcar.

N Scale Body Shop Sam Delauter

When I first came back to the hobby, I sought to build a fleet for my future Pennsylvania Railroad layout. One of the largest problems with the fleet was the lack of availability of H21a and GLa hoppers. While there had been a number of production runs of these hoppers, at the time they were nearly impossible to find. As I started to acquire some of these cars, I found that they had many issues. Not only would the couplers randomly fall out of the coupler boxes, but the axles were too short and would fall out of the trucks. The solution to make these hoppers run well was to body mount the couplers and replace the wheel sets with one with a wider axle. While the newer production runs do not have these issues, if you need a large fleet of these, you may still find quite a bit of the older run.

After reading other accounts of people body mounting in N and other scales, I started the ever growing project of body mounting all of my couplers and adding metal wheel sets to my rolling stock fleet.

So, why am I telling you this? I had slowed on this project as I am not doing much N scale these days. Recently I have started working on this project again. Over the last month, I have body mounted couplers to over 50 pieces of rolling stock. I plan to write a series of articles on how to body mount couplers on various brands and models of rolling stock. I figured that if I was doing the hard work to figure these out then other interested modelers should benefit from my efforts.

So why should we body mount in N scale? To begin with, standardization to Micro Trains couplers will help

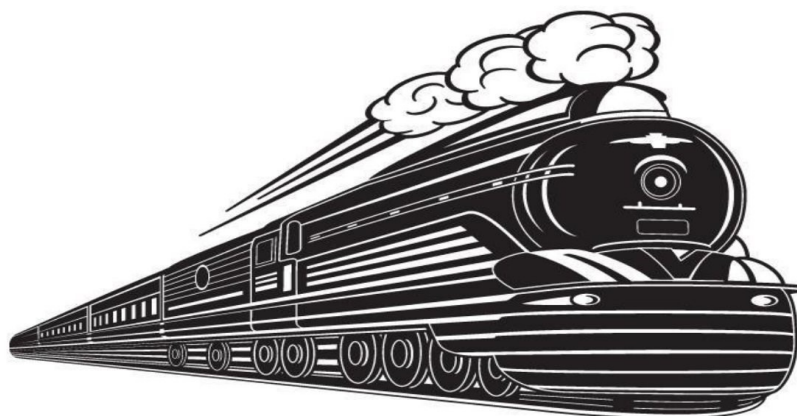
with coupling during operation. Often, but not always, different brands of couplers will connect easily. When we are talking about operations, cuts of cars will back up with fewer derailments with body mount couplers. This won't be a problem when backing a couple of cars but backing long cuts can derail more easily. Each fall I used to run on the N scale layout at the Hinton Rail Museum. With the size of the layout, I was able to run 100 car trains on multiple lines. The vast majority of uncoupling came from cars equipped with Accumate couplers. When this uncoupling occurred, backing the train was often the easiest fix. This wasn't possible with longer cuts.

So, if you're saying that you aren't having operating issues with your fleet, then why should you body mount the couplers? Body mounting couplers allows you to lower the car to a much more realistic height. There is typically space in between the truck mounted coupler box and the frame of the car. Body mounting will require us to lower the car to have the coupler height meet NMRA standards. Body mounting will also allow you to shorten to the distance between rolling stock. While Micro Trains rolling stock has little additional space between cars, other brands have quite a bit of extra space. By body mounting you can sometimes remove a few scale feet of space between cars.

In my next column I will show to assemble Micro Trains 1015 couplers which will be the most common coupler used. That article will have pictures to better illustrate the process.

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
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- HOURLY DOOR PRIZES!
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\$6.00 PER PERSON – CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT
SPONSORED BY DIVISION 8 - MID CENTRAL REGION - NMRA

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

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
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Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN




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



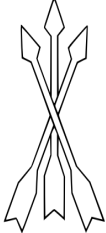
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

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



Ed Keith, MMR
 Assistant Superintendent
 Chesapeake, OH

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John Harris, Chief Engineer
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HINTON DIVISION
 Gary Burdette - Superintendent
 Point Pleasant WV



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.

November 11

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

December 9

Diehl's Restaurant

January 13

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