



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

February 2024

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

IN THIS ISSUE

Head of the Holler	1
Contact List	2
Meeting Agenda	2
Office Down the Hall	3
Clinics	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Contest	5
Passenger Manifest	7
Assistant Super Elect	7
Club News	8
Editor's Comments	8
Newsletter Deadlines	8
Meet the Modeler	9
Pike Ads	13
Upcoming Meetings	14

The first meeting for 2024 is in the books. I hope everyone enjoyed the January meeting. Since Robert Osburn was unable to attend, he asked me to write his article and he will write mine. I look forward to what he has to say in his article. The January meeting was attended both in person and virtually. Something that I plan to work on in the upcoming months is to refine these virtual meetings a bit more. Something that this entails is looking at the gear that it will take to make the virtual end of the meeting run more smoothly. I'll have more on this over the next couple of months.

While I am sure that John Harris will go into more detail, there was talk about the Coal Division visiting the Age of Steam Roundhouse. While we have taken trips in the past, the last trip that we took was when we rode the Tygart Flyer. This was a great trip hosted by the Durban and Greenbriar. I would encourage all members of the Coal Division to take advantage of these group outings as you will learn a lot and have a great time with your fellow Coal Division members.

The other major piece of business was to conclude the elections for 2024. The offices of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent needed to be filled. Since there was only one nomination per office, the candidates were elected by acclamation. Your 2024 officers for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will be: Sam Delauter, Superintendent and Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent. I'd like to thank Robert for his years of service and I look forward to working with Bill as Assistant.

The February meeting will find us back at St. Albans Historical Society. The meeting will be in person and virtual. There will be a small business meeting, clinic, contest, and raffle. Randy Allio will be giving his tools clinic. Randy always gives a great clinic. He is an amazing wealth of knowledge. I hope to see you all there. If you know any current members that do not attend regularly or any past members, reach out to them and invite them to the meeting.

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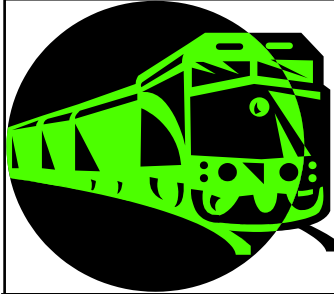
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday February 10

St. Albans Historical Society

Division Membership Meeting

Time: Feb 10, 2024 12:30 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81201518493>

Meeting ID: 812 0151 8493

- Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)
- Treasurers Report
- Superintendents Report
- Assistant Superintendent Report
- Contest: Steam Locomotives
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Raffle (always need new items)
- Clinic: Randy Allio will tell us all about the tools he uses in his modeling.

Next Meeting
March 9

Robert Osburn, Superintendent

It seems like I have “Sat at the Front Table” forever, 7 years to be exact! But my term limits are about over and it’s time for a change. Our new Officers; Sam Delauter (Super) and Bill Stowe (Assistant), will be taking over the reins at the May meeting. I would like to thank these two gentlemen for stepping-up and accepting the nomination for these offices. Sam and Bill will give us a welcome change with new leadership and ideas. I hope everyone gives them the support you have shown to me. Congratulations Sam and Bill!

I have really enjoyed my time serving as an Officer for Division 9. It has given me the opportunity to interact with our members at a greater level and because of that I have gotten to know you better. What a wonderful group of talented modelers Division 9 has! The opportunity to serve as an Official had also given me the ability to interact with members within our Region and on the National

level. This has given me a better understanding of what the NMRA is all about. I often refer to the Coal Division group as my Model Railroad Family and I really appreciate the impact you have had on my life.

There are some other changes we may need to address. Dale Osburn is asking for someone to assume the position of Contest Chair. He has held this Chair for several years and now with his health issues he doesn’t feel he can give it his best. Sam Delauter will also need some relief as Clinic Chairperson; he doesn’t need to wear too many hats! If you would be interested in filling any of these areas, please let us know.

In closing, my wife would like to thank you for the nice Get Well card. See is doing very well with her knee replacement operation, I’m really proud of her.

Hope to see you at the February 10th meeting!

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

Once you have been a member of an organization over a good period of time, you start to learn who you can ask favors of and they will always perform for you. One of those people is Jerry Doyle. We had a last minute change for the January clinic. When this situation comes up, Jerry is my go to guy. The January clinic was an example of this willingness to serve and help the division.

With that said, Jerry gave the January clinic titled “One Year of Operations”. Jerry gave a great clinic that encompassed many things but was about operating sessions on his layout during 2023. This past year was a big milestone for Jerry because 2023 was the first year that he hosted operating sessions almost every week throughout the year.

Looking forward, the February will be by Randy Allio. He will be giving his tools clinic. Randy has many rare and scarce tools among others. This will give us the opportunity to see tools and techniques we won’t see anywhere else.

Don’t forget that we have the first of the Mini Clinic Events coming up in April. There is still time to plan a clinic if you would like to be involved in this event.

February - Tools, Randy Allio

March - Making Your Rolling Stock Operate Better - Mark Maynard

April - Mini Clinic Event

May - Steel Is King

June - NMRA layout Tours, David Oliverio

July - Painting with Pastels, Randy Alleo

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 Central Ohio N-TRAK club will be holding their Scale weekend May 17 - 19 2024 at the Fairgrounds in Marysville, Ohio.

Unfortunately, this is the same weekend as the NMRA MCR Convention in Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

January 13, 2024

St. Albans, WV

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Assistant Superintendent Sam Delauter at 1:00 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

November minutes approved.
Treasury Balance is \$8,915.50. Upcoming expenses \$105 for facility rent.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$41.
Pike Ads \$50.

Superintendent Report

No report.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam thanked everyone for braving the cold to attend today's meeting. He mentioned the great participation in the Modeling Challenge. Sam talked about the new power that recently arrived on the Kanawha River Railroad.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of January 29 for the December newsletter. The address for contributions is editor@coaldivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer mentioned that paperwork will be submitted for Jerry Doyle for Electrical AP. Sam needs to submit paperwork for Association Volunteer.

Bob also noted that in his role as acting nominating secretary we have nominees for Superintendent, Sam Delauter, and Assistant Superintendent, Bill Stowe. The floor was opened for further nominations, there were none. There were motions to close nominations and elect the candidates by acclamation. Both motions carried unanimously.

Library

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report. The NMRA website has a wide assortment of current clinics and information.

Clinic

Today's clinic is *One Year of Operations on the Crescent Valley* by Jerry Doyle. Most of the slots for 2024 have been filled. Next month will be *Tools* by Randy Allio. March will be *Rolling Stock Tune-ups* by Mark Maynard.

Contest

Today's contest is Modeler's Choice.

Membership

John Harris welcomed new members. We have three members with memberships soon to expire. Membership should be around 50 in February.

John reported that the WM Scenic RR has taken their 2-6-6-2 out of service for an undetermined amount of time. Jerry Doyle suggested visiting the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Sugar Creek, Ohio. There were a number of members who expressed interest in going.

Raffle

Tony Puccini told members about today's raffle offerings.

T Track

No report.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Matt Kearns mentioned the openrailway.com website as a resource for researching railroads. He also brought an N&W date nail from Gary, WV. In the ensuing discussion David Oliverio reminded everyone that the poles that often parallel tracks and roads are not telephone poles but are *power poles*.

Jerry Doyle mentioned the Grafton & Greenbrier would be open for operations Thursday February 15 at 7 p.m.

Announcements

Dayton Model RR Show January 21.

Future Meetings:

February 10 – St Albans, WV

March 9 – St Albans, WV

Meeting adjourned at 2:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

January contest results:

1st place	Randy Allio - Oneill's Sierra West kit
2nd place tie	Jerry Doyle - DT&I boxcar
2nd place tie	Sam Delauter - Erie Baggage Car
3rd place	Matt Kearns - Alaska Boxcar
3rd place	Ron Righilio/Tom Harris - Rock Island cab car

The February contest will be Steam Locomotives.

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	Eighth Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge

Randy Allio's O'Neill's Fabrication





Sam Delauter's
Erie baggage car



Jerry Doyle's
DTI boxcar



Ron Rogillio's
Rock Island cab car



Matt Kearns'
Alaska Railroad boxcar

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

Our January meeting reminded me once again of one of the benefits of participation in the NMRA and specifically our Coal Division events: Education. Education is a continual process and remains a one of the main reasons I continue to renew my membership. While I certainly get both technical information and inspiration from the on-line NMRA Magazine, I get just as much out of our division meetings. Most of that has come through our monthly clinics which offer “how to” on various topics from scenery to trackwork, car building to electronics. Operations and track planning are also a part of that.

This was certainly the case with Jerry Doyle’s presentation on his Crescent Valley Railroad. It was great to see the progress made from his last presentation. It is always great to see a vision becoming reality. It was also insightful to hear about his operating scheme and how his model railroad ties into other model railroads. It shows how a bit of forethought and creativity can take a model out of the basement. I believe it was Allen McClelland who coined the term “beyond the basement.” It shows for those planning a layout they can expand their railroad even when space is limited to interact with other railroads, real or imagined. I am sure there were some in attendance that might have come away with possible “tweaks” to their own layouts not in production.

But the education was not limited to the clinics. The contests this month gave plenty of educational opportunities. Sam Delauter’s description of how he converted an N scale Erie baggage car to match the prototype was insightful. Ron Rogillio’s demonstration of adding multiple decoders to allow his Rock Island locomotive and passen-

ger car to work together with proper lighting in both directions was informative. Matt Kearns entered his Alaska Railroad box car with tongue in cheek large cat as an homage to his honeymoon. Jerry Doyle showed his method for painting and weathering to match a prototype reefer. Randy Allio’s presentation of his work on the O scale Sierra West O’Neill’s Fabrication facilities was certainly eye opening. The artistry and attention to detail was inspiring to say the least. Descriptions of how he uses Pan Pastels to color and weather his models is helpful to both experienced and novice modelers alike.

All that said, it is in the sharing that we raise the level of modeling for all who attend our meetings. Aside from an “ataboy” or similar compliment there are no monetary award for doing a clinic and even entering the contest. There are really about the sharing, and as such, the education process. I encourage everyone to participate.

At the January we welcomed new member Russ Miller. He has been involved in the hobby for a good while and I am glad to see him participate in the division. Membership retention and expansion continues to be a concern. Over the months to come, I will be looking at expiration dates on membership and getting out reminders of upcoming due dates. We are continuing to hold in the 40 member range but do not want to loose anyone. I also reach out to those whose membership has lapsed. Unfortunately, cost remains a large factor in choosing not to renew. Nationally, our in house Director, Bob Weinheimer, indicates that the retainage of Rail Pass trial memberships is not a high percentage. Still we try to provide a service that keeps our members connected.

A WORD FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ELECT

Bill Stowe

So next month will mark my first year as a regular attendee at the Coal Division meetings and events. It has been an interesting year to say the least – with the theme being learning all the things I didn’t know about model railroading and railroads. And I’m pretty sure I’ve haven’t reached the end of all the things I don’t know. I do appreciate the willingness of every member to share their knowledge and answer my questions, and especially appreciate Mark Maynard inviting me to operate on the CMWS Railroad.

Given the above, it may surprise some with my agreeing to be nominated – and elected as the assistant superintendent of the Coal Division. The reason is simple. While the group is a very talented group across a wide spectrum of interests – it is a small group. Out of our membership

of around 40 people, by my reckoning we typically have 15 to 20 attending our meetings and events. Given there are 10 to 13 officer positions and committee chairs, I believe one should step in to help where they can. And while NMRA membership allows people to participate as they chose or not to – I personally believe the regular meetings and events provide a key focal point for the Division 9 NMRA members – and for it me it is important to ensure that continues.

My role as Assistant Superintendent will be different from how Sam did the role. I simply do not have the modelling or railfan knowledge that he does – so will look to contribute differently. And am open to suggestions from members on what they would like covered. And I look to support Sam in his new role as needed.

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 February 26. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
By Mark Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club in Parkersburg reports its O Scale Co-Op has torn down the large O scale layout at the club facility in downtown Parkersburg, which had been in operation at the club since 2003. Club president Jonathan Insley, who doubles as the O scale superintendent, has funding and labor lined up to build an even larger (and operationally improved) O scale layout. Work on construction of the new layout has begun and the plan is to be running trains by the annual Christmas Open House in early December. Co -Op

members will run trains on the smaller O scale logging layout (formerly an S scale American Flyer layout) until the new layout is up and running. At that point, the logging layout will be incorporated into the large layout.

MOVMRC's next event is the Louie Creel Memorial Open House on February 24. The event was formerly known as the Cabin Fever Breaker Open House, but has been renamed to honor the late Mr. Creel, who was a life member, former officer and long-time significant contributor at the club.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I have just returned from the big train show in West Springfield, MA. They had record attendance, something like 15,000 on Saturday and it was almost hard to move around! Sunday was about half that number and it was easy to move around. That may sound amazing but with 350,000 square feet of exhibit space, that spread things out. There are many manufacturers, big and small, at the show. There are also many vendors selling everything from junk to high end merchandise. I picked up some of what might border on junk and have already started to make it look better. There are layouts galore, I think there were multiple layouts in every scale. There were even two O scale narrow gauge layouts. You really need both days to see it well. Like last year, Virtual Railfan had cameras at the show. One was pointed at the NMRA booth for the duration of the event. Another panned across one of the large building with a third in another building.

Once again travel to and from Massachusetts was free of winter troubles. The predicted heavy rain for the trip through West Virginia did not materialize, the day was filled with warm temperatures and a bit of drizzle and fog the whole way. The return featured some snow and rain mixed in Massachusetts but was much drier most of the rest of the way home.

I was also there for NMRA Board Meetings, you will hear more about that in the NMRA Magazine. What I will say here is that we approved the bid from the Southeastern Region to host the 2026 convention in Chattanooga, TN. That is very near the NMRA headquarters. This will be a shorter convention making it less expensive.

With the 2025 convention in suburban Detroit, and the 2026 convention in Chattanooga, there is no excuse not to got to at least one! Bids are coming in for future conventions, there may be another close one later in the decade, time will tell.

I missed the clinic Jerry Doyle presented at our January meeting. I really wanted to see it but had to leave to host a virtual meeting of Region Presidents. That was a productive event so all was not lost.

NMRA elections are about to happen. There is one contested Board of Directors seat that we all get to vote on. Please review the statements presented by the candidates before voting, that's the only way to assess the qualifications of two people you don't know.

Finally, in some sad news, we and the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association lost a member, Joe Horter, who passed away suddenly January 17. He will be missed by many.

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 first few months of 2024.

March: February 26
April: April 1
May: April 29
June: May 27
July: July 1

MEET THE MODELER

John Harris

Like so many of us, my first recollection of trains was around the Christmas tree. Later, I remember standing with my dad, squeezing his hand tightly along the main line of the C&O in South Charleston as a steam locomotive, probably a Kanawha 2-8-4 passed by with a freight train. I had several trains in those early years from battery operated to AC electrics to finally an HO set jointly owned with my brother. Interests changed to cars and girls and the trains went in to a drawer in my dad's house.

Fast forward 20 years or so and I am building an architectural model of one of our projects to present to a client. I casually made comment to the girl I was dating that I enjoyed model building and one day perhaps I will get the trains out and build a train layout. That year she bought me a Bachmann steam train set. The next year we were married and she bought me a subscription to "Model Railroader." That issue featured an article on Allen McClellan and his V&O. I loved the trains, realism, the detail, and the scenery. I was hooked.

I immediately started to formulate a plan for what I would create. This included designing a future house where the layout could reside. This would include provision for hidden staging in an adjacent closet and keeping the railroad open to the family



room so as not to isolate me from other family activities. My original concept was to create an "animated diorama" that captured the spirit of West Virginia back in the steam to diesel transition period. It would include coal and passenger service but only to provide motion thru selected scenes to be modeled. I would first design a layout that would allow for continuous operating but quickly realized I needed to be able to operate point to point.

Fortunately, the more I researched the history of the C&O and its operation, the more I became interested in creating something that would do more than just serve as a backdrop to trains. I realized that building the models would be fun but then what would I do with it. The rail road would need to have purpose when complete. The basic concept of the railroad remained the same. I still wanted to incorporate areas along the New River I was familiar with including towns of Thurmond, Sewell, Quinimont, and Hinton. But I needed to expand some areas and made changed the layout to provide more operations. I successfully negotiated expanding trackage rights onto a dining table by wife had to create a more realistic representation of the town of Hinton along with an area to build the Big Bend tunnels and the station at White Sulphur Springs and a suggestion of the Green-



brier Resort. I also expanded the original concept to include a third tier that would allow for operations on the Nicholas, Fayette, and Greenbrier. Thus the basic framework of the Alleghany and New River Road was finalized.

As construction has proceeded, further refinements were made to increase sidings and offer better opportunities to pick up and set off freight. The staging area of Clifton Forge was relocated to provide more access and ease of restaging the layout. Temporary illustration board mock ups of buildings created in AutoCAD need to be replaced with scratch built permanent ones and further refinements are still being made. So much remains to be done. I have not been afraid to tear out sections of track that did not work well in favor of a better layout. So at times it is one step backwards for every step forward.

Work has been slowed but I am now phasing out my 50 year architectural career. I hope to use some of those skills learned in the profession into better scale building techniques. I am currently working on converting 2D CAD drawings into patterns for laser cutting to create craftsman like structures similar to those made by Blair Line and Southern Heritage. Another learning process is to work with programs such as Fusion and TinkerCad for use in 3D printing. The plan is to build a few more structures not currently available commercially including the station and roundhouse at Hinton and the Thurmond engine house. All of this is with thoughts of completing additional requirements for Master Model Railroader in 2024. It promises to be a very busy year!



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
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distance of the
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T-TRAK™

Call for N-Scale T-TRAK Modules!

It's here! The call for N-Scale T-TRAK modules! It is for those N-Scale T-TRAK modelers who will be attending the North Coast Limited convention, hosted by The North Coast Division of the NMRA Mid Central Region. The convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio from May 16-19, 2024.

Let Us Know You're Coming!

<https://forms.gle/RkKrdTWxcZetGDUr6>

Useful Links

NMRA Mid Central Region, North Coast Division

<https://www.div4.org/>

North Coast Limited Convention

<https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

T-TRAK Information

<https://ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home>

T-TRAK Wiki

<http://ttrak.wikidot.com/>

Questions

If you have any questions, please send an email to both Ramhog Shearer ramhog5@aol.com and Frank Trocchia ftrocchi@yahoo.com.



2024 NMRA

NATIONAL CONVENTION



AUGUST 4 - 11

LONG BEACH, CA



WWW.SURFLINER2024.ORG

GET ON BOARD TODAY!






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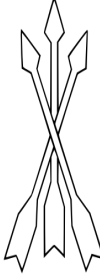
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Jerry Doyle, President
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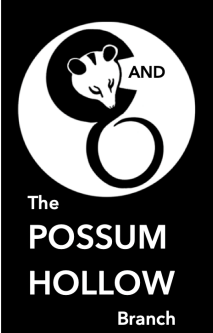
Ed Keith, MMR
 Assistant Superintendent
 Chesapeake, OH



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Thomas K. Harris, President and CEO

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 tharris@va.net www.lakesidelines.com



Under Construction


A small N-scale layout of a fictional Appalachian branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio set in the early 50s or late 70s.

Matt Kearns, Chief Engineer
 South Charleston, WV
 mattkearnswv@gmail.com

Alleghany & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America a few tons at a time



John Harris, Chief Engineer
 AandNRR@aol.com



HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
 Point Pleasant WV



NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV

Upcoming Coal Division Events

February 10

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

March 9

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

April 13

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

May 11

Steel is King

May 16-19

**Mid Central Region Convention
Middleburg, OH**