



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

April 2024

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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We had an excellent in-person and virtual turnout for the March meeting. The meeting featured Mark Maynard giving his car repair clinic. Mark had challenged anyone to bring in those pieces of rolling stock that just won't stay on the track. Several members accepted the challenge. We watched as Mark performed repairs explaining what the problem was and how to fix it. His clinic was very interesting and we learned as he performed his magic. The contest for April will be "Kitbashing/Scratch Built" (anything railroad related). This category has always been a favorite for the Division with lots of entries and interesting stories. There are several mini clinics scheduled for April, all of which should be very interesting. The March meeting included lots of discussion, ideas, and we even enjoyed some delicious donuts provided by Bill Stowe and Bob Mershimer.

Our business session went a little longer than usual but we had a lot of items to discuss. The main item on the list was our participation in the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association Model Train and Craft Show scheduled for the weekend of May 4th and May 5th. We will have our T-TRAK layout, our Division 9 Display, and a book sale at the show. Herb Parsons is in charge of the T-TRAK, John Harris will set up the Display, and I will spear head the book sale. This is a large task for our small group so I am asking everyone to please join in and lend some help. At the April meeting John will have a sign-up sheet of time slots for manning the Display. He also suggests that when manning the Display it is a good time to bring along some project you could be working on. Herb is coordinating the T-TRAK layout and would appreciate some help with setup and operations. This is also an opportunity to add your train for operation on the layout. The book sale will include several books from the library of Ed Keith. The money received from the book sale will be used toward the 2024 Memorial Challenge. KVRA has allotted space at the show for the T-TRAK layout, Display, and book sale to be together in one area. We really need your support and help at this show.

Also discussed were the plans for the 2024 Memorial Challenge. For this year we are trying to offer members a double (13" x 24") T-TRAK module kit. It appears 14 members are interested with 4 of those already having modules they can complete. We hope to include with the module kit track, electrical connections, backdrop, fascia paint, and backdrop paint. The participant is free to landscape and scenic their module as they please. Bids are out to 2 different module manufacturers for a quote on supplying 10 of their kits. We hope to have everything together so we can distribute the modules by the August meeting giving everyone plenty of time to complete their challenge by the December meeting.

Our next meeting will be April 13th at the St. Albans Historical Society Building. Doors open at 12:30 and the meeting starts at 1:00. As usual, we will keep the business session short so we can enjoy the contest, raffle, mini clinics, and being together.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your participation and support. What is always special is the mutual respect and camaraderie shown between our members. What a great group of people to be associated with! I hope to see you April 13th!

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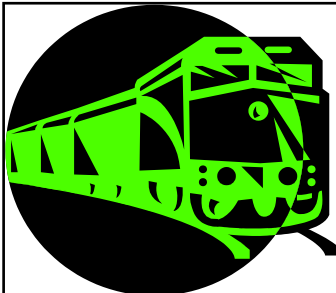
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday April 13

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84853404862>
Meeting ID: 848 5340 4862

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Kitbashing/Scratch Built (Anything Railroad Related)**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: There will be a series of Mini Clinics, see the clinics column for details**

**Next Meeting
May 11**

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

March 9, 2024

St. Albans, WV

Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

February minutes approved.
Treasury Balance is \$8,941.50.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$47.
Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn noted the good turnout for today's meeting. He welcomed Tom Ratkovich to today's meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam mentioned LED layout lighting. He mentioned that train show season is just around the corner.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of April 1 for the next newsletter. The address for contributions is [edi-tor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org).

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer noted that Don Cipolla has submitted paperwork for AP certificates in Rolling Stock and Prototype Scene. This makes numbers six and seven for Don. Seven is the number required for earning an MMR. Bob also noted some other members are close to having seven as well.

Library

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

Clinic

Today's clinic is *Rolling Stock Tune-ups* by Mark Maynard. For April we'll have four mini clinics. Bob Weinheimer and Jerry Doyle will do clinics on car forwarding systems. Tony Puccini will also be doing a clinic. Randy Allio will do a clinic on upgrading trees.

Contest

Today's contest is Diesel Locomotives. Dale Osburn thanked everyone for recent cards. He also handed out certificates from the Memorial Modeling Challenge.

Membership

John Harris mentioned we've gained two new members. He has reached out to them via email. John is looking for Meet the Modeler profiles for UTH.

Raffle

Tony Puccini told members about today's raffle offerings.

T TRAK

Herb Parsons mentioned the upcoming Charleston show on May 3 and 4. They would like us to participate this year. John Harris asked about having a table with the Division 9 display. He will bring a sign-up sheet to the next meeting. Robert Osburn mentioned selling books as a way to fund this year's Memorial Modeling Challenge.

Education

No report.

Old Business

Paul Lapointe mentioned that there won't be a Steel Is King Day in May this year.

New Business

Jerry Doyle mentioned that the Gallipolis Freight Depot Museum is available for the May meeting. The date of the meeting was discussed. May 11 was proposed and approved unanimously.

Robert Osburn brought up the T-TRAK Memorial Modeling Challenge. He showed a module kit from Klondike. Alternate suppliers were discussed. There was discussion about the total number of modules that would be available, already built and planned for the November challenge. We still have some time before a decision must be made. There was discussion about having a module construction clinic in August if the kits are available.

Announcements

Beckley Show April 19-20
MCR convention May 16-19

Future Meetings:

April 13 – St Albans, WV
May 11 – Gallipolis, OH Gallipolis Freight Station

Meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

Photo by the Author

The 25th Annual C&O Modelers Weekend was held on March 22-23, 2024. The Modelers Weekend consists of two days of clinics about modeling and the prototype, displays and railfanning. If any of these interest you, you may want to check it out. I had never been prior to this year and plan to go back next year.

I received a message asking if I could bring an N scale layout to display at the Modelers Weekend. While the request was for a modular layout, there was not enough time to get my modules ready to show. However there was a layout that was much easier to get ready in time. For those who may remember the days before T-TRAK, I used to display a layout based on the Interstate Railroad. The Interstate was a coal hauling railroad in southwestern Virginia. It has a very interesting history and was absorbed into the Southern in 1960.

With the request for a layout and the allotted time to get it ready, it seemed like a great chance to get the layout back out to shows again. The layout had not been to a show since 2018 and had not run since. After a few evenings work to clean the layout and make repairs, it was ready to go to show.

I was unable to make it on Friday due to my work schedule. On Saturday I loaded the layout into my car and

headed to the Modelers Weekend. Much like past shows, the layout was an ease to load in and setup and ran great. While I did not see the number of attendees as I would have at a normal train show, there was a great turnout at the event. It was great time talking with participants and also a great chance to get the layout back out to shows.



CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinic Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to bring you an interesting and inspiring lineup of clinics for the next year. We all owe Sam Delauter a round of thanks for the job that he has done keeping us educated with great clinicians. I have big shoes to fill but I wear a fourteen so I feel up to the task.

Last month we had an excellent clinic by Mark Maynard on "Making Your Rolling Stock Operate Better". Mark showed us how to fix problems we didn't know we had.

This month we will have the first of two Mini Clinic events for this year.

- Making an Apple Farm-Tony Puccini
- Automated Card Systems-Bob Weinheimer
- Non-Automated Card Systems-Jerry Doyle
- Upgrading Woodland Scenics Trees-Randy Allio

May- No Clinic Field Trip
 June-NMRA Layout Tours- David Oliverio
 July-Painting With Pan Pastels-Randy Allio
 August-Building a Prototypical Rolling Stock Fleet-Sam Delauter
 September-Crusty Mountain
 October-Mini Clinic Event II
 November- *Need a Volunteer*
 December-Memorial Challenge

If you would be willing to do one of the October mini Clinics or have something for the November clinic please contact me:

Randy Allio
 304-389-6445
clinic@coaldivision.org

CONTEST

Photos by the Modelers

The March contest was Locomotives Other Than Steam. As a practical matter, that almost always turn out to be diesels and rarely an electric. The March contest was a tie for first between Anthony Parrish and Matt Kearns. Jerry Doyle finished third. Look below for photos and descriptions of the models provided by the modelers.

The April contest is wide open, it is for kitbashed or scratch built models of anything railroad related. This usually attracts a wide range of models,.



Model and photo by Jerry Doyle.

HO Scale Atlas U36C with details and weathering added.



Model and photo by Anthony Parrish

This model started as a decorated Intermountain U18B. I stripped it, replaced the short nose and cab with an Atlas U-boat nose and cab, added additional detail, then repainted and decaled it.

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 Model- ing Challenge



Model and photo by Matt Kearns

This is an old Atlas RS3, made by Kato. I got it as a junker from a train show. My first “under the hood” experience got it cleaned it up and running again. The previous owner tried painting some details but most of it had flaked off the slippery plastic. Tony Parrish suggested decaling the yellow sill stripe and it worked great. I added some additional weathering. In hindsight I realize I forgot the number boards (tiny white N scale numbers are nearly invisible on the decal sheet!) so I still have some more work to do.

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

The KVRA Train Show is coming up on May 4-5, 2024, at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. Sam Delauter, Bob Osburn, Craig Liang, and I will be setting up our modules at the show. If any else wants to bring their modules, let me know so that we can arrange enough table space.

In other N scale news, CMR Products announced by YouTube that they are now producing bridge modules for T-TRAK in double and single versions. They will also have bridge spans that fit the modules.

The Iron City Modelers of Pittsburgh, PA have started planning for the N Scale Weekend at Altoona, PA for September 14-15, 2024.

The April 2024 issue of Model Railroader has an article on the 25th anniversary of Spookshow.net. This is a great source for information about every N scale locomotive produced since the start of N scale and a short history of that engine. They test, evaluate, and rate every locomotive on a scale of A to D. They tell everything that is wrong with a loco and if it worth trying to repair or upgrade. If there is a problem with an engine, they tell how to correct it. I used the data base to check all my engines and found that one locomotive I have, a Con-Cor Berkshire, that would always derail on turnouts, can be fixed by a simple adjustment of the truck spring.

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

As I sit here watching final dominos to fall into place for the Final Four, I lament over the busted bracket that did not survive the first full day of play and was in shambles by the end of the weekend. While basketball was the main thing on the television over the last week or so, it turns out it was not my entire focus. I used the time in front of the television to work on a model I first started over a year ago. I could say that I was allowing plenty of time for the three shades of grey paint to fully dry, I'm pretty sure it only took a day for that to happen.

In spite of C&O Historical Society's extensive research in the correct three shades of "grey" the C&O used back in the last days of steam, I am not convinced the colors on the St. Albans Depot and the structures presently displayed in Clifton Forge are close to what I have seen in the few color photos that exist of the period. Accordingly, I have settled on my own version for these. My choices are Valspar or Rust-oleum grey primer for the main body of the structure, with Krylon matte glacier gray for trim, and Krylon matte deep gray for doors and windows. For me it seems to work as I recognize that for the period I model, most of these structures were not wearing fresh paint.

With that, the Alleghany Station finally took shape. While it sits on a portion of the layout that does not allow the viewer to see more than two sides and is three feet from the edge of the layout, I decided to rather fully detail the structure, add lighting, interior walls, furniture, people, and cargo in the freight section, and weather the structure all around. I am sure that taking Allen McClelland's phi-

losophy of "good enough" would have been sufficient in this case, I wanted to perhaps score a few extra points toward judging if I ever get around to documentation for a structures certificate in the Achievement Program.

Now I need to figure out what project to bring to the May KVMRA Show at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. As previously discussed, I plan to be working on a small project during the show to perhaps demonstrate a "how to" for some of the visitors. I encourage other that are going to be working the show to consider doing the same. I know Randy Allio's demonstration of dead rail was a big hit at last year's show. If there is interest, I would further suggest we could put on a few mini clinics during the show. KVMRA has offered us an additional table for book sales and I am sure arranging another for demonstrations can be made to happen. I suggest further discussion at the April meeting.

Unfortunately, I will not be at that meeting. Plans have been made to visit my 93 year old step father on that Saturday on our way to Myrtle Beach. But, I will be there in spirit and in my absence, Robert Osburn has a sign up sheet for specific blocks of time for volunteers to man the Coal Division Booth for the show on May 4th and 5th. I will be there and will set everything up of Friday evening. This will include the display and information on NMRA membership. We have requested that our tables be set up next to our T-TRAK group so that there can be some overlap in supervision of both. The interaction should prove beneficial to all involved.

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 first few months of 2024.

- May: April 29
- June: May 27
- July: July 1
- August; No issue this month
- September: September 2
- October: September 30
- November: October 28
- December: December 2

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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

Progress continues on the HO scale layout rebuild and construction of the huge new O scale layout at the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club in Parkersburg, WV.

The HO group has conducted three fundraising drawings with the winners landing some nice locomotives. The HO guys are also selling space on layout billboards as

a second fundraiser.

MOVRC's next public event is the annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 18. The theme will be Thomas The Tank and Friends, at which the club will feature an O scale Thomas set as the main drawing prize. MOVRC is also initiating a "selfie station" at its open houses.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

By now I hope that all of you over 65 years of age have received the email announcing the Grouper program. This is available if your Medicare Advantage policy participates. The big news is that this program will reimburse you for your membership dues for the NMRA! It will even return to Life Members the amount of a regular membership. From what I am hearing a number of members have already been approved and are awaiting their checks. If you are reading this and are not already a member of the NMRA, this removes the cost obstacle! Consider joining, you can do so at www.nmra.org

The Mid Central Region convention is just about here. If you have not been to one, this sounds like a good one to try out. There is a long list of clinics and many home layouts to visit.

In the contest column, Matt Kearns notes he still had to add number boards to his locomotive. He has since done so and has sent another photo.



Photo by Matt Kearns

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRA

Bob Weinheimer, MMR®

Photo by

In the March issue I noted that Don Cipolla was in a race with Jerry Doyle to be the next Coal Division Master Model Railroader®. At that point Jerry was one certificate ahead but Don quickly countered with certificates 6 and 7 and is to be congratulated as MMR® 760!

Sam Delauter and Dale Osburn have both met the qualifications for Association Volunteer and their State-

ments of Qualifications have been submitted.

Randy Allio is working on the paperwork for a couple of certificates. The models have been evaluated so I hope to be able to present him with those certificates soon. He also has more to be evaluated for other certificates and is moving right along.

GETTING STARTED WITH ARDUINOS FOR MODEL RAILROADING

Bill Stowe

At the February meeting Robert Osburn demonstrated some of the advanced (to my mind) capability of Arduino and DCC-EX to act as a DCC system – both with handheld controllers and wireless control. I'm at the other end of the spectrum – just starting out to learn about how Arduino functions and how it can be used in model railroading.

The end goal for me is to use Arduino systems for animation in a model railroad system. From an early age animation has fascinated me – peering into a department store window at Christmas time to see the toys and animated displays or watching Walt Disney talk about what his imagineers were doing with animation at the start of the weekly Disney TV show on Sunday in the 1960's. This was followed in later life by several visits to Disney with several back studio tours, and viewing model railroad layouts at train shows.

I'm just starting – but thought I'd share my approach, and my early learnings should others be interested. I'm hoping to share further progress at mini-clinics and/or newsletters.

To get started I've purchased the Arduino starter kit and a couple of Kalmbach books on projects using Arduino with model railroads. I've also purchased some of the components used in the Kalmbach projects that aren't included in the Arduino starter kit. I tend to be a book person – there are some other options – NMRA website, YouTube – for people who like visual information.

So, here is my initial impression of the Arduino starter kit. It is well packaged, and provides a combined Arduino Uno (the basic Arduino computer) and a breadboard for easy use in the manual projects. It also comes with several components to be used with projects in the manual. One thing I like is that it has a good selection of

electrical components that I have wanted to learn about: resistors, diodes, capacitors, phototransistors, piezo, tilt sensor, and the like. Output components are LEDs, servos, a LCD, a DC motor, etc.

The manual is well laid out. I find it provides education on basic electrical circuits, and the functionality of the electrical components, followed by application in a series of projects. There is one downside. While they demonstrate components that can be used in a layout (LEDs, servos, DC motor), the projects do not apply directly to a model railroad. The manual also provides a basic understanding of the Arduino computer language and how to use the library of free software applications.

For those who are not familiar with Arduino, the power of the system for me is that it combines a computer with analog and digital input and output connections, all on one small compact board. It provides a direct connection between the software program and inputs/outputs.

The system prices are, for me, relatively low. The starter kit is around \$90, and an Arduino Uno board is around \$25. However, to implement projects on a model railroad, there are other components required. So I would recommend some research on the total system you require to execute your animation project. So far I've found the components easy to source on-line from companies like Adafruit, Sparkfun, etc. Companies like ELEGOO offer similar kits that are supposed to be compatible with Arduino, but I have not looked at those.

I'd be glad to answer any questions from folks. You can email me at billstowe5@gmail.com, or catch me at the meetings. And as I said, I hope to share results at one of the mini-clinics and in the newsletter. One other resource I did see was a clinic at the regional convention on 'Arduinos in Model Railroading' by Mike Rudder.

BECKLEY TRAIN SHOW

Coal Division member Randy Mabry, a resident of Beckley, has sent a link that leads to the following information:

The Beckley Area Model Train Show will take place on Friday, April 19, through Sunday, April 21. It will be hosted at Retro Reset inside the Crossroads Mall.

The event will feature a host of vendors selling model train items and collectibles. There will also be model layouts.

Admission into the event is \$5 per person with kids 12 and under free, tickets are good for the entire weekend. There will be food available at the show as well.

The times of the show are as follows:

- Friday, April 19: 5 PM-9 PM
- Saturday, April 20: 10 AM-9 PM
- Sunday, April 21: 12 PM-4 PM

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

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

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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

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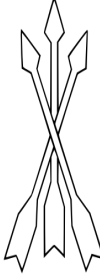
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274 S. Wye Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382 (276)620-3493
 tharris@va.net www.lakesidelines.com



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

April 13

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

May 11

Gallipolis, Ohio

May 16-19

**Mid Central Region Convention
Middleburg, OH**

June 8

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

July 13

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