



# UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9  
THE COAL DIVISION  
Mid Central Region NMRA

April, 2011



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## HEAD OF THE HOLLER

**Bob Weinheimer MMR**

Our March meeting at Lin Young's home in Gallipolis was very well attended in spite of the high and mighty Ohio River trying to interfere. I am sure we all thank Lin and Bev for hosting us. Unfortunately, a few folks ran into high water and were unable to make it to the meeting. We hope to see all of you at the April meeting at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. Let's hope rain and high water do not interfere with us again.

At the March meeting I recapped the notes taken by Tony Koester at the NMRA Board of Directors meeting in late February. Among the items we discussed was the new requirement that merchandise sold by divisions and regions be compliant with all relevant NMRA standards. What was not immediately clear to us was whether this applied to items sold at flea markets such as our September meeting or to items in our raffles. I wrote to Didrik Voss, the manager of the Standards and Conformance Department. Didrik's response confirmed that this new policy applies only to new items and does not apply to old or used items.

We are in need of clinicians for future meetings. Gary Burdette has stepped up with a new clinic that he developed for the recent Hawks Nest meeting but beyond that I am not aware of any other scheduled clinics. It may be time for me to trot out the clinic on the Achievement Program, I haven't done that one in at least two years so its time may be soon. In the meantime, look at your models, layouts, and the like, surely you have something you can share with us. The members of the division are always eager to learn something new and are not a hostile audience. Another source of clinicians may be members of other divisions, I ask all Coal Division members going to the region convention this month to keep an eye out for any outstanding clinics that we might wish to bring to one of our meetings. Last but not least, is there a subject that you wish to learn more about? If so, mention it to me, Gary Burdette, or Dan Mulhearn. If there is enough interest, perhaps we can find a way to present a clinic on that subject.

## MEETING NOTICE

The April meeting of Division 9 MCR will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at West Virginia Hobbies & Crafts at Teays Valley. Social hour begins at 1PM with the formal business meeting starting at 2PM. The contest this month will be passenger cars. Please bring an entry and tell us about your work. The meeting will be followed by a clinic from Gary Burdette on C&O locomotive coaling structures. We look forward to everyone's participation.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Gary Burdette MMR, Assistant Superintendent

Wow, what a weekend! I am referring to the twelfth annual Saint Albans Chesapeake & Ohio Modelers spring outing held at Hawks Nest, WV. I have written about the activities of the last couple of events and have been anxiously awaiting this year's get together. However, I was planning on writing on another subject in this month's column. That is until now; wow, what a weekend!

Every year has been something special with the gathering of friends and acquaintances in this unique and beautiful C&O setting. My association with the SACOM guys, the C&O Historical Society members, and our buddies from Division 9 makes for a really nice time where we may enjoy models, the prototype and the company of those who share a similar interest. This is in keeping with the recent "railfan" trips several of us have taken, attending train shows and being involved in the MCR Conventions. By participating, you invite more opportunities to expand your hobby pleasure into your life; which most often can't even be predicted.

The drive over to the Lodge is always filled with scenery, history and trains. Entering the Lodge, the first thing we noticed was Ron Blessing's beautiful N scale layouts. This set the tone, along with the items displayed downstairs, for the modeling portion of the convention. The C&O Historical Society was in attendance with books, photos, models, plans and videos available. Chuck Wiley had a mini West Virginia Hobby & Crafts set up on the top floor. The registration table was placed by the glassed in corner where we could observe the models on display and the clinicians readying themselves in the bottom level conference. The mood was set!

The Friday evening clinics were especially interesting and diverse this time around. Frank Goad spoke of his trips taken during his youth on the "George Washington" between Charleston and Washington DC. Complete with photos of motive power, cars, scenery and operations; he really painted a picture of the line back "in the day." This was brought to life to me by observing current day passengers on "The Cardinal" on Sunday. Karen Parker, historian and assistant model editor for the C&OHS, went into detail on how to build C&O hopper cars. Cleveland area NMRA member Frank Bongiovanni presented a clinic called "Scratch Building 98 for those not ready for 101." It was a fun clinic. Rounding out the evening, Bob Hundman, former publisher of *MAINLINE MODELER*, spoke on his rolling stock super detailing techniques. Bob is a wealth of ideas and a master at execution. At the same time he encourages us that we can get the same results.

Saturday brought so many activities that one had to pick and choose. Our friend, and division 9 member,

Clint Foster opened up his New River Subdivision layout for attendees. Twenty attendees were welcomed to Clint's Ronceverte home to tour the layout. Matt Crouch of SACOM arranged for a tour of MD Cabin and the Hinton area with retired C&O Prince, WV station agent Marvin Plumley. About seventeen attendees were treated to a real taste of history from one who lived it. A similar trip is being planned for this fall. As is our unofficial custom, several Coal Division members along with Chris Gunnoe who has photographed cover shots for Amtrak timetables, piled into a couple of cars and headed for Thurmond and Loup Creek. While there we were joined by convention chairman Jim Butler and Paul Tabbit. It was on this excursion where several unpredictable events transpired to really add to my fun.

First we ran into Jim Eudaly and his family. I call Jim "Mr. C&O Diesel" for he almost single handedly photographed the early diesel era on the C&O. Without him the record would be thin. Jim is also the owner of "The Hinton Division", a large 35 by 60 foot O scale model railroad in Kansas City. As a long time member of the C&OHS as well as an MMR, Jim sets the tone for those of us interested in the C&O. Next we ran into new MMR Ron Lane. You may remember his recent bio in *NMRA MAGAZINE*, where he noted that it took him 50 years to earn his certificates. We had an interesting chat about his research on Sewell and Manns Creek. Finally, in blue and yellow livery reminiscent of our original C&O, came an eastbounder roaring through Thurmond, The Dodge City of the East, with our own James, JD Moore at the throttle. What a treat to complete the railfan trip

Later on our group stopped for pizza and birthday cake in honor of Russ Miller who was totally surprised. I didn't get to see Larry Richards as we were out when he came by the Lodge. I know he and his brother were celebrating birthdays as well. So, happy birthday to you all!

The evening clinics and raffle rounded out the fun. I spoke of modeling C&O coal docks, covering a number of ideas and techniques, both mine and those of others. Jim Eudaly spoke about lighting in relation to color and what we really see or imagine. As a retired optometrist Jim has insight into vision, color and perception. Jesse Smith told us about the little known "Kanawha Central", a three mile long short line which lasted for six decades! Bob Hundman spoke on modeling the details found in the real world; another winner!

MMRs, noted speakers, a famous publisher, great displays, fantastic stories, breathtaking scenery, interesting operations and the company of good friends. Wow, what a weekend!

## THE PASSENGER MANIFEST

### Coal Division Membership Information

John Harris, Membership Manager

Most of us now have our new Coal Division name tags. I will be at the April meeting and available to pass out the few remaining. If you did not get in on the first set, don't feel you are left out. I will make another order at a later date as the need arises.

The Dunbar Train Show hosted by the Colis P. Huntington Historical Society presented us with another excellent opportunity to promote NMRA and the Coal Division. We provided those in attendance with quite a bit of information and gave out several applications. We will have to wait and see if our efforts produce any fruit or new members. Thanks to those who were able to spend some time working the table and represent the division. Volunteers included Gary Burdette, John Stephens, Bill Wadsworth, Bob Weinheimer, and myself. Keep in mind, that such activities can be include as Association Volunteer for those interested in NMRA certificates and such things.

The C&O Modelers Weekend was well attended by Division 9 members. Gary Burdette reports on this educational opportunity in his Assistant Superintendents Report. As a fan of the C&O and member of the C&O His-

torical Society, I find this event one that appeals to me on many levels. The insights into the history of the prototype I happen to model and the way others have captured the spirit of this railroad are obvious. Membership in both organizations seems only natural as I believe both are extremely complimentary. I guess the bottom line is, the reason I belong to each organization is pretty much the same. I want to find out as much as I can about the prototype and understand the best possible way to model it. I suspect that could describe why many of you are members in NMRA also.

With that in mind, I am somewhat curious to hear all the reasons our members are in fact members. By understanding this on a division level, it is possible for us to better serve the needs each member. Take a few moments to think about why you joined NMRA. Jot them down or let me know what reasons you have for being a member. Feel free to email your thoughts to me either thru the link on our web site or to my personal account at [AandNRR@aol.com](mailto:AandNRR@aol.com). Not only will it allow us to consider ways to improve member benefits on a local level, it may give us some insights on how we might reach out to recruit more into the fold.



Coal Division member James Moore greets the guys in Thurmond from an eastbound train Saturday March 26. See Gary Burdette's column for more details. Photo by Gary Burdette.

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

**Notice of 2012 elections.** The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at [http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra\\_organization.html](http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html) for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, [davoss@pvmtengr.com](mailto:davoss@pvmtengr.com), no later than June 15, 2011.

The **Summer Board meeting** will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Thursday, June 30, 2011. The meeting is usually held at the Convention hotel, but the exact start time and room number will be announced when available. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.

The NMRA is looking to identify and recognize any **model railroad clubs that were formed in 1935 or earlier** that are still in existence. We would like the name of the club and when it was founded. A picture from the early years would be appreciated. Send the information to Dave Thornton - NMRA Vice President of Administration, Email [DThorn5552@aol.com](mailto:DThorn5552@aol.com) or mail to 2027 Jeffrey Drive, Troy, MI 48085-3816.

The Board unanimously agreed that in the future **all merchandise sold by the NMRA**, including by Regions and Divisions, must conform to any applicable NMRA standards. Questions about certifying whether products conform to standards should be directed to Standards and Conformance Department Manager Didrik Voss at [davoss@pvmtengr.com](mailto:davoss@pvmtengr.com). In addition, Bob Amsler, the NMRA's legal counsel, says that the following language must be included in your merchandise contracts with your vendors:

All merchandise shall conform to all applicable NMRA Standards and this term is a substantial and material term of the contract requiring strict conformance. The manufacturer may either submit the product to the NMRA for conformance testing or the manufacturer may certify conformance by utilizing the procedures for self-certification pursuant to the process guidelines promulgated by the Conformance and Inspection Department of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Any merchandise not conforming to the applicable standards will be non-conforming and rejected.

The model can be sent to the Standards & Conformance Dept. for certification testing. The final paint scheme of the model is not necessary. NMRA has also established a Self-Certification program in which the manufacturer may complete the appropriate paperwork, signed by a legal representative of the company, and send to the Standards & Conformance Department for issuance of an NMRA Conformance Warrant number. The paperwork will be provided upon request. The NMRA reserves the right to check the model upon delivery to ensure the model, in fact, does pass all applicable Standards. If you have any questions, direct them to Vice President Bill Kaufman at [whk58@pacbell.net](mailto:whk58@pacbell.net).

Here are some highlights of the Winter Board meeting, held in Las Vegas last month. For full details, see an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine, or look in the "What's New" area of the homepage at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) right now.

- **Jenny Hendricks was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer.** She's a true gift to the NMRA -- congratulations, Jenny!
  - The Board authorized revising NMRA by-laws to make the **election of two vice presidents a permanent change.**
- Although the **Diamond Club** met its initial goal of \$75,000, we're still looking for additional donations so that more of our collection can be scanned and posted. The Online Archives site is up and running, and accessible via the link on the [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) homepage.
- The Board is investigating the feasibility of **occasional National conventions that are markedly different** from those currently scheduled.
  - In an effort to **maintain contact with all NMRA members**, the Board is investigating various means of sending regular communications to the 4,000 NMRA members who don't subscribe to *NMRA Magazine*.
  - The Board adopted one of two versions of **NMRA-NET standards** which were presented. It also approved two new tables to Standard S-7 to accommodate clearances for model railroads set in the modern era.
  - Important announcements of the **scale model railroading exhibit** in the Gallery area of the California State Railroad Museum will be coming shortly. Those attending the National Convention in Sacramento will have a chance to see the Gallery exhibit area and proposal drawings.

Lastly, my apologies to **John Lowrance and Fred Book**, for screwing up their titles in the last InfoNet News. John is actually the Manager of the Education Department, and Fred is Assistant Manager.

### ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

Well, after the excitement of last month's announcement of Gary Burdette being named MMR 457, I find it hard to follow that with anything quite so newsworthy.

At the March meeting there was a question raised about who keeps track of the progress of an individual's efforts in the Achievement Program. I think I surprised a few of you when I said it was your responsibility to keep track of your own efforts. I have no way of knowing of anything you might have done in the distant past. For example, I was oblivious to the fact that Mark Maynard had two articles published in national magazines. On the other hand, I have at least some idea of where members stand with respect to Association Volunteer. Indeed, I thought I knew where Gary stood but had missed a few items that he had and when we added them up we realized he had met the requirements. For those who operate on Lin's Grafton and Greenbrier or my Pennsylvania Southern there are good dispatcher records of who did what when. These are stored in a database that can generate the time sheet required for the Chief Dispatcher certificate.

When it comes to certificates such as structures, cars, or motive power, it is up to you to maintain a file of all the documentation of merit awards. This would include judging sheets from contests or individual judging session. You will be in a little better shape with keeping track of certificates that you have earned. We do try to add those to the sheet on the division web site. If space permits, we'll get in an upcoming newsletter. Please review it for accuracy; I will gladly make any changes that you can document. Finally, in a real pinch, the national AP management should have good records of which certificates you have earned. In the meantime, however, do plan to maintain good records of your progress.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

We are planning a visit to Parkersburg for the May 14 meeting. Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe are planning what sounds like a great event. Paul's layout will be open before and after the meeting which will take place at Dave's home. Dave plans to feed us so come hungry. Dave is also making an effort to attract other modelers from the Parkersburg area to be our guests. Both Paul and Dave have layouts that are well worth the effort to visit. The contest in May will be Steam Locomotives.

Look for details on times as well as a map in the May issue of Up The Holler.

### COAL DIVISION in NMRA MAGAZINE

The "Division Business Car" column in the April issue of *NMRA MAGAZINE* refers readers to our web site to check out a couple of articles which appeared in *UP THE HOLLER*. Folks are directed to an article on model railroad oriented podcasts by Bob Weinheimer and to your editor's article on using DCC to realistically portray prototype headlight operation practices (Rule 17).

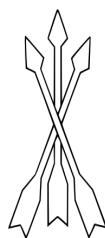
In addition, the Coal Division's contribution to the Diamond Project is acknowledged in NMRA President Mike Brestel's column in the April issue. The donation had been received too late to be included in the donor list in the March issue.

### WEBMASTER REPORT Bob Weinheimer MMR

Activity for the past year is shown below. Note that the number of page views is continuing to creep upward. The number for March 2011 is through the 30<sup>th</sup>. The Internet Service Supplier we use has changed the way they present results and they are not as up to date as in the past.

There may be an uptick in web site visits due to the mention in *NMRA MAGAZINE* of our newsletter as noted elsewhere in this issue. If that happens I'll mention it next month.

March 2010	7087
April	7780
May	9947
June	4586
July	4536
August	5087
September	4589
October	5025
November	5056
December	5658
January 2011	5906
February	5533
March	4849



### THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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

## NMRA DIVISION 9, MCR Meeting minutes, March 12, 2011

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was held at the home of Lin and Bev Young in Gallipolis, OH. Bob Weinheimer opened the meeting at 2:02PM by thanking Lin and Bev for their hospitality. Following the opening members and guests present introduced themselves.

**DIVISION CLERK REPORT:** As Jerry was not present there was no minutes of the February meeting nor a treasury report. The February minutes will appear in the UTH newsletter.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Bob congratulated assistant super Gary Burdette on his attaining MMR status. Bob spoke on the NMRA Diamond club and noted that the NMRA image collection is starting to appear on line at nmra.org. Contributions are approaching 100K and another approximately 300K is needed to make the entire NMRA collection available on line. Bob further mentioned that at least four members of Division 9 had contributed to this continuing effort. Bob also mentioned that he was preparing a list of anticipated events which our Division will participate in. The purpose of this is to notify our national insurance program of events for which a claim might be presented. It was noted that the long awaited "members only" section of the NMRA web site had not appeared as of March 12. There were a number of items discussed at the February NMRA Board meeting which Bob passed on to us. The Board decided that all merchandise sold by Regions or Divisions must meet all NMRA standards. This obviously refers to model railroad equipment and not items such as our shirts, name badges, etc. The temporary practice of two NMRA vice presidents put in place in July, 2010 was made permanent. National is working on plans for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Achievement Program. Regular communications between members and National is being studied. An alternative is needed for those who do not subscribe to the magazine. Better than expected dues and non dues income along with several significant bequests and lower than expected expenses has put National's finances in good shape. Standards for modern clearances for such equipment as "double stacks" is being explored. National is looking for innovative ideas for future conventions. This might include such ideas at holding the convention on a cruise ship with events on board and at the ports of call.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Gary discussed his continuing efforts, along with other members, to develop educational and display materials related to model and prototype railroading and related subjects. Gary presented a handout with several ideas along these lines.

**WEBMASTER:** Visits continue to grow a bit at a time.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:** Again, congratulations to Gary. All members were urged to look over their activities as they may be much closer to a certificate than they realize

**NOMINATIONS:** No report

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** John Harris reports that name badges are available and many are already distributed. John mentioned the need for volunteers to man our table at the Dunbar Show in April.

**UTH EDITOR:** Submissions still needed; otherwise going well

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Dennis McGeeney has gone back to pushing an 18 wheeler and sends his regards. Charlie Venable's wife Brenda is having serious health issues and also has been put out of work by the closing of Flower's Bakery in Bluefield

**NEXT MEETINGS:** April at Teays Valley and May in Parkersburg WV with layout visits

**CONTEST:** Freight cars

**CLINIC:** Operations on Lin's G&G

Respectfully submitted;  
Dan Mulhearn, acting Div Clerk

**PENNSYLVANIA  
SOUTHERN**

**Bob Weinheimer, President**

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

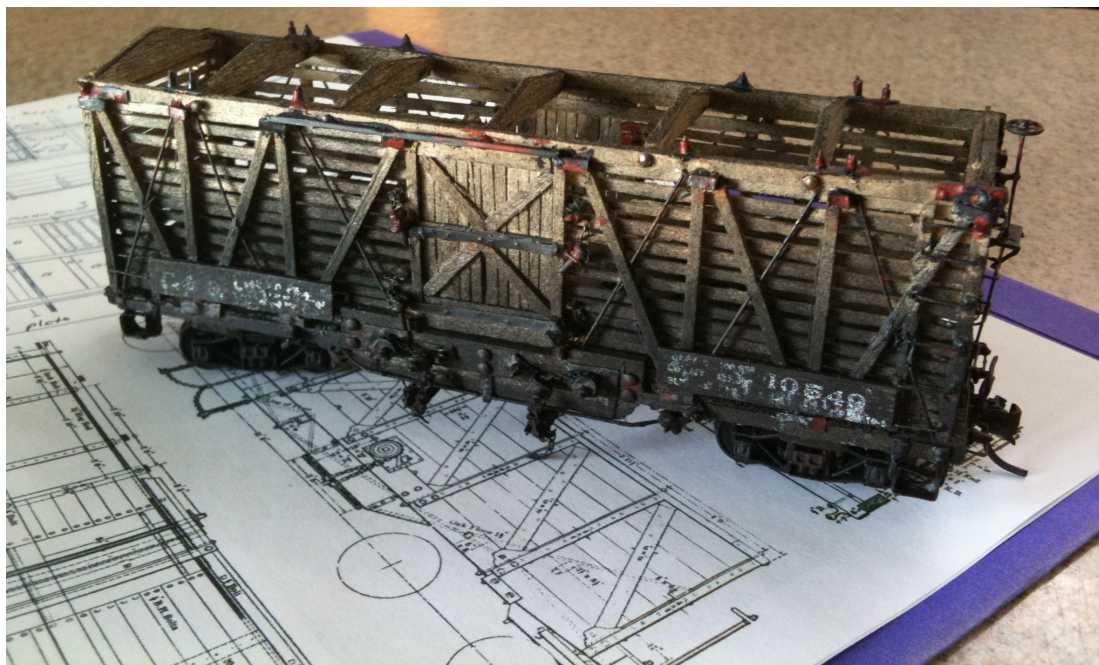
**Grafton and Greenbrier**

**Lin Young, President**

Debbie Drive  
Gallipolis, OH 45631  
www.graftonandgreenbrier.com

## CONTEST RESULTS

The category for March was freight cars. Gary Burdette MMR took first place with his coke car.



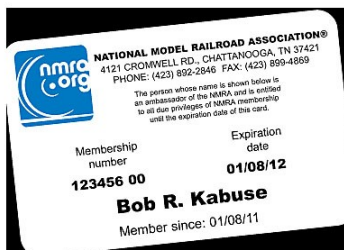
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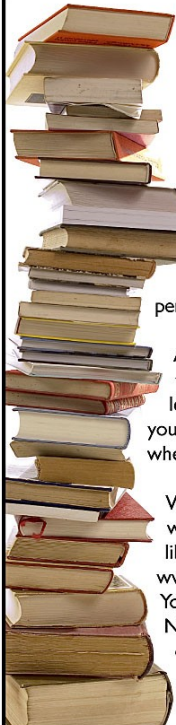
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As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything – it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

Visit one of the world's largest train libraries at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.

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**CRUSTY  
MOUNTAIN  
AND  
WILOBY  
SPRINGS R.R.**

**Mark Maynard, President**  
Portsmouth, OH



**Editor's note: At least four Coal Division members have made Silver Level contributions to the Diamond Club. Why not become the next contributor?**

## Thousands of negatives still need



**your positive support.**

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

**Silver Level** – Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.




**Gold Level** – Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.

**Diamond Level** – Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in *NMRA Magazine*.

**Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades.**  
Visit [www.nmra.org/diamondclub](http://www.nmra.org/diamondclub) or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.





Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV

**CRESCENT VALLEY**



Ed Keith, MMR  
President  
Chesapeake, OH

Alleghany & New River Road  
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a few tons at a time



**John Harris, Chief Engineer**  
AandNRR@aol.com



**HINTON DIVISION**  
**Gary Burdette** - Superintendent  
Point Pleasant WV



**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY**  
**THOMAS SUBDIVISION**  
**RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT**  
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to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
Holler.

## Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

April 9, 2011

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV

May 14, 2011

Dave Stout's Home  
Parkersburg, WV

June 11, 2011

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV