



# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

April 2025

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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

The March Coal Division meeting was once again held at the St. Albans Historical Society building. The contest at the meeting was “Locomotives Other Than Steam”. While the prior months contest was steam locos, the non-steam contest tends to see as many if not more entries. While these locos can take a lot of work to build, this can seem less daunting to many people. The contest once again had a number of good entries. Some of these may have a good shot to gain a merit evaluation. This may help some of our members move one step closer to their MMR®. With that said, our clinic for March was by Bob Weinheimer with help from our other MMR®s Randy Allio and Don Cipolla. While this is a recurring clinic every few years, it is always good to see Bob present it to bring attention to the Achievement Program. There may be low hanging fruit for a lot of these certificates for many of our members.

This month the clinic will be our “Mini Clinic Event”. Randy has been working to line up a number of good mini clinics for us. These are short clinics, 10-15 minutes long each. We typically have 3-5 clinics scheduled. This is a great opportunity for us to learn quite a bit about several different topics in a short period of time. These have been very popular in the past and I expect this time to be no different.

The 2025 MCR Convention is May 15-18 in Dublin, Ohio. If you have not been to the regional convention before, it is not too late to sign up. For those that are going, please consider taking your T-TRAK module to the convention to add to region layout. This is not only a great chance to show off your modeling to the rest of the region but it is a good opportunity to enter it for evaluation in the contest. If you are not going or cannot be there for setup, please speak to Herb. It may be possible to coordinate transport of your module.

The April Coal Division meeting will be held April 12th at the St. Albans Historical Society Building. Doors open at noon and the meeting starts at 1:00 pm. The contest will be “Kitbashing/scratch built” and clinic will be the “Mini Clinic Event”. I hope to see you all there.

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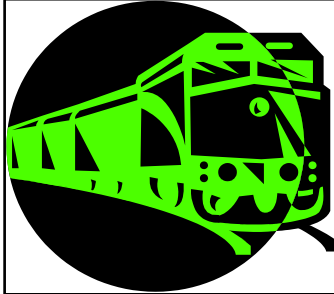
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## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**1:00 PM Saturday April 12**

**St. Albans Historical Society**

**Division Membership Meeting**

Time: Apr 12, 2025 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82008566057>

Meeting ID: 820 0856 6057

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Kitbashed/Scratchbuilt models**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Mini Clinics**

**Next Meeting  
May 10, 2025**

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
***THE COAL DIVISION***  
**On Line Meeting**  
**March 8, 2025**  
**Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Sam Delauter at 1:05 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

**Division Clerk Report**

February minutes approved.  
 Treasury Balance is \$9,413.35.  
 Company Store \$0.  
 Raffle \$80.  
 Pike Ads \$0.

**Superintendent Report**

Sam Delauter thanked everyone for their work at the Charleston train show. He noted the good turnout of members. He thanked Herb Parsons for the planning the T-TRAK display.

**Assistant Superintendent Report**

Bill Stowe had nothing to add.

**Newsletter - Up the Holler**

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of March 31 for the April newsletter. The address for contributions is [cdi-tor@coaldivision.org](mailto:cdi-tor@coaldivision.org).

**Achievement Program**

Bob Weinheimer noted that Bill Grosse has been approved for the Chief Dispatcher Certificate. Bob mentioned that we now get very fast feedback for submissions. He presented Randy Allio with merit awards for Civil Engineering and Scenery. More importantly, he also presented him with a certificate and plaque for Master Model Railroader. There was some discussion about the criteria for various AP certificates.

**Library**

No report.

**Clinic**

Today's clinic is *The NMRA Achievement Program* by Bob Weinheimer. May is open for clinic.

**Contest**

Today's contest is Diesel Locomotives.

**Membership**

John Harris noted that membership is steady at 42.

**Raffle**

Tony had a slightly different raffle for today. There was only one item, an HO steam locomotive and passenger train donated by Bill Grosse.

**T-TRAK**

Herb Parsons mentioned that there will be a large modular display at the Mid-Central Convention in May. There was discussion of the logistics of getting Division 9 modules to the convention. He also mentioned an article in the latest C&O HS E-Journal about building a proportional freight car fleet for a layout.

**Education**

No report.

**Old Business**

Sam Delauter distributed certificates to members who participated in this year's Memorial Modeling Challenge. There was discussion on what the challenge would be for 2025.

**New Business**

Matt Kearns mentioned a technique for 3D prints using automotive filler primer.

Sam Delauter shared an NMRA application from an old Westerfield kit.

**Announcements**

RPM East Meet Youngwood, PA March 21-22.  
 C&O Modeler's Weekend Logan, WV March 28-30, 2025.  
 NMRA Mid-Central Region Buckeye Express Convention May 15-18, 2025.  
 NMRA National Convention the week of July 14.

**Future Meetings:**

April 12 – St Albans, WV  
 May 10 – Steel Is King Waverly, WV

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

**Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent**

I enjoyed Bob's presentation last month on the NMRA Achievement Program, as it helped my ongoing learning on what the program is about and how to participate in it. I have come to the opinion that many of us (myself included) are aspiring MMR®s in the way we approach model railroading. By that I mean we aspire to the Achievement Program levels in the areas that interest us, but choose not to go through all the facets on the program to achieve MMR® status. So I believe knowledge of the program helps us all, even if we are not active participants.

I have continued my exploration of the NMRA website. I have begun to play with the site's search engine to understand how it can help find the information available on the site.

First, and most important, you do need to sign in to get the full value of the search engine. It does work without signing in, but the responses do not reflect what is in the members only part of the site.

The search engine strikes me as an older version. By that I mean it does not seem to incorporate some of the advanced features of today's search engines which allow you to refine searches easily. The NMRA search engine works well, but can provide an overwhelming response of hits. I have yet to try how to refine the search through using italics, etc.

Having said that, with a little patience and exploring, I find it interesting what you can find.

I have searched for information on topics like software systems (JMRI) and DCC systems. A lot of information is available on the NMRA site, but I would suggest the following for your searches. The NMRA site contains a lot of information on how people use the different products on the layouts. However, if you are looking for specific technical information then the you are probably better off to go directly to the provider sites.

I searched for 'yard design', and it led me to Legacy NMRA Data Sheets. While probably not of interest to many of you, it was a little gold mine for me. The Data sheets are short, focused education sheets on many topics related to model railroading, which is of value to me as I strive to continue to ground myself in the basics of model railroading. Prior to joining NMRA I bought several 'How to' books on model railroading. My initial reaction is that the Data Sheets, along with the clinics at our monthly meetings, are far more value (to me) than the books I bought.

More to come as I continue to explore the site.

## T-TRAK

**Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair**

I just got back home from attending the SACOM meeting in Chief Logan State Park. I displayed 5 of my T-TRAK modules that have a C&O theme, and they received favorable comments and a lot of requests for information on T-TRAK. There were models on display in N, HO, and O scales and also fine clinics. Hope next year we can have a running layout for the Modelers weekend.

I talked to Bruce about the Buckeye Express and told him how many modules will be coming from Division 9.



## Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

As I sit down to write this article, I am in the midst of packing for our annual spring trip to Myrtle Beach, so I will not be joining you for our April Coal Division meeting, at least not in person. I hope to join you by Zoom but that will depend on what the wifey has planned for me over the next 3 weeks. As there are limited hobby stores in the area, I don't figure I will be doing much train related activities while there. Sure, I will make it over the mall in North Myrtle to watch the local club run some trains, but other than that, it will mostly time spent on the beach and planning where dinner will be for the evening.

In between getting packed and getting the RV ready for travel, I did have a chance to make it to both nights of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual C&O Modeler's Weekend at Chief Logan Conference Center. I was glad to see that Division 9 was reasonably well represented. Jerry Doyle presented a very informative discussion on EMD 35 series locomotives. While those units are well past my era, I found it fascinating to see how these evolved from previous EMD models. Leave it to an accountant to put it in dollars and cents and make it all about the numbers. Herb Parsons brought several of his T-TRAK modules, all with a C&O theme, for display. Noting that several of us also have similar modules, we may need to look into having an operational presence at next year's event.

Meanwhile, I have continued to enjoy the lack of a work schedule and have continued to make progress in the basement. It is still not ready for any operating ses-

sions or even visitors, but I am checking off a few projects that had been started but never finished. Alleghany is beginning to take shape and Quinnimont is beginning to look like I intended it to look. I even have operational LED gooseneck fixtures on QN cabin and the Quinnimont passenger station. Both now have lighted interiors. I did have to make a trip to the area just to confirm what the bridge over Laurel Creek looked like. I had been there several times but never got below the bridge to see how the abutments and under-structure were actually made. I took a fly rod and tried my luck on Glade Creek on the other side of the New River. I think I will stick to modeling.

As a reminder, it has been quite a while since I have been able to include a "Meet the Modeler" article. I have enjoyed getting to know a few of you a little better and understand what brings you to the hobby. I trust others have enjoyed them too. Please consider putting one together for yourself. Again, if you need help or do not consider yourself an author, don't be intimidated. There are several of us that would be glad to help you thru the process and even take your rough thoughts and do a little editing and "wordsmanship" to fine tune and polish an article. They need not be long. It is not intended to be an autobiography, perhaps just an introduction.

Keep modeling and I hope to see you in person at the May meeting.

## My Word Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Much of what I had to say this month can be seen in the Achievement Program article but there is still more to say.

The NMRA had elections for three of the nine seats on the Board of Directors. The results are in but I need to wait for the public announcement of the winners. I look forward to the new members joining the Board, I am sure they will do a good job.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday morning, July 14. If you are in Novi for the convention, you would be welcome to sit in to observe.

As many of you know, I have a layout with a good operating crew. One of my newest crew members is Bill Stowe. I am in the process of restaging the railroad for

next week's operating session and Bill came down for a day to help me do that. He was very interested in seeing some of the behind the scenes activities necessary to support those operating sessions. I think Bill was impressed and he was certainly a great help. The trains run next on Thursday April 10 and my normal crew will be supplemented by a few fellows from Louisville so we should have a good time.

In case you are wondering about my June clinic titled "What IP", it's about what you might do to help recover from some sort of devastating loss to your railroad, its equipment, or even your home. It's not very long but might grow with lots of discussion.

## CLINICS

### Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

April: Mini Clinics

1. Tony Puccini: 3d Clouds
2. David Oliverio: Road Cracks
3. Randy Allio: More tools of the trade

May: No clinic

June: Bob Weinheimer: "What If"

July: Randy Allio: Using modern Scenery Materials

August: Need a Volunteer

September: No Clinic

October: Mini Clinics: Looking for Presenters

November: David Oliverio: Modeling Techniques

December: Annual Challenge

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### Bob Weinheimer MMR®

#### Photos by John Harris

Our March meeting was a very nice experience as we formally welcomed Randy Allio as our latest Master Model Railroader®. I was able to present him with his latest Merit Awards, Achievement Certificates, and, of course, his MMR® Certificate and Plaque.

I was also able to announce that Bill Grosse had his Chief Dispatcher certificate approved. I have since received it and hope to be able to present it to him at the April meeting. New AP manager Ray Persing has started posting his monthly report on the Achievement Program Facebook page allowing it to be seen a couple of months before it appears in the NMRA Magazine.

Finally, at the March meeting I presented a clinic on the Achievement Program. Don Cipolla MMR® and Randy Allio MMR® both contributed some of their experiences pursuing the goal. Randy also brought his displays used to illustrate his Civil and Electrical Engineer work. These were not part of his layout and that is perfectly acceptable. Don had also done something similar. I appreciated all the questions and other input and hope to present the clinic again in a couple of years. Keep in mind that when one earns the MMR® certificate, you sign something that says you will help others in their modeling efforts. If you have any questions about the Achievement Program, please address them to any of us.



## CONTEST

### Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

The contest category for January was Locomotives Other Than Steam. Four entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1<sup>st</sup> place Tony Parrish – Midland Atlantic GP7 #1158

2<sup>nd</sup> place Tony Parrish – Midland Atlantic B307 #2534 / B307AB #2470

3<sup>rd</sup> place Sam Delauter – Conrail GP38 #7735

The April contest category is: Kitbashing/Scratch Built – Anything Railroad Related.  
The May contest category is: Anything Steel Related.

2025	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotives 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	Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge



Tony Parrish – Midland Atlantic GP7 #1158 (HO scale)



Tony Parrish – Midland Atlantic B307 #2534 / B307AB #2470 (HO scale)

Continued on next page



Sam Delauter – Conrail GP38 #7735 (N scale)

## 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 the Monday of the week preceding the second Saturday of each month.. Items can be sent to [editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)

### Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club By Mark Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club continues to grow, adding three new members since the last newsletter. The roster now stands at 72 members.

The club is looking forward to two special events in May, the first of which is the "Steel Is King" event, hosted by Paul LaPointe, who will be welcoming NMRA Coal Division members to this annual get-together.

MOVRC's second May event is the annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 17, at which the

club will salute members of our military on Armed Forces Day and pay homage to the late Mr. Shive, who was a key member of the club for many years and a United States Air Force veteran. Hours for the open house are 10-4 and a prize drawing will be conducted for a Lionel Pennsylvania Railroad steam passenger set and other railroad items. See [www.movmrc.org](http://www.movmrc.org) for further details.

### Kanawha Valley Railroad Association By Monica Horter

The 19th Annual KVRA Model Train and Craft Show, held on February 15-16, 2025, was a great success! Thank you to all the participants and guests who made this year's event possible. The show featured 24 vendors from West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina, along with six operating model train layouts. KVRA is

now finalizing its event schedule for the year and will be taking its modular HO scale layout to various locations. The club is also open to the public every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. For more information, visit <http://kvrailroad.org>.






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NORFOLK AND WESTERN




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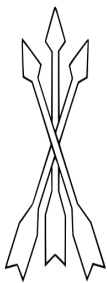
**CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.**

Mark Maynard, President  
 Portsmouth, OH



**CRESCENT VALLEY**

Jerry Doyle, President  
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**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  
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**HINTON DIVISION**

Gary Burdette - Superintendent  
 Point Pleasant WV



**NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION**

Clint Foster Superintendant  
 Ronceverte WV

## **Upcoming Coal Division Events**

**April 12**

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

**May 10**

**Hosted by Paul Lapointe  
Waverly, West Virginia**

**June 14**

**Hosted by Don Cipolla  
Hurricane, West Virginia**

**July 12**

**Hosted by Randy Allio  
Elkview, West Virginia**