



# UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9  
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

June 2012



## DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
304 343 1428  
super@coaldivision.org

Asst Superintendent  
Gary Burdette MMR  
304 675 3909  
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle  
304 638-2826  
clerk@coaldivision.org

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen  
Ed Keith MMR  
740 867 5264  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
304 343 1428  
super@coaldivision.org

Clinic  
Dan Mulhearn  
304 466 9188  
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest  
Dan Mulhearn  
contest@coaldivision.org

Education  
Gary Burdette MMR  
304 675 3909  
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Election  
Bill Wadsworth  
304 768 3266  
nominating@coaldivision.org

Membership  
John Harris  
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle  
Paul Lapointe  
raffle@coaldivision.org

## DIVISION STAFF

Editor  
Dan Mulhearn  
304 466 9188  
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
super@coaldivision.org

## HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Let me start by thanking Dave and Rhonda Stout and Paul Lapointe for all the great hospitality at the "Steel Is King" Coal Division meeting of May 12. Both layouts were great to visit. Paul has been making great progress and we got to see the scenery he discussed in his latest clinic. Paul may be getting close to an AP Scenery certificate, we may have to take out the tape measure to determine if he has enough but what he has sure is good. Dave keeps finding ways to update his layout; I particularly like his city scene. Few of us devote much layout area to scenes with little to no track but Dave has done this very effectively. Folks from Division 6 in Columbus and from Division 2 around Weirton, WV joined us for the event. We were very well fed, the weather was perfect, and I am pleased to finally have had the opportunity to attend this event. Let's do it again next year!

Our next meeting will somewhat informal, we will be meeting with Division 6 at their meeting in Marion, OH. Bob Lee, Division 6 Superintendent, and I discussed some logistics and decided that since the number of our members attending was unknown, and since they are not feeding their members, we should fend for ourselves for lunch. That really makes the most sense. Also, unlike in Portsmouth, we will not run our meeting in parallel with theirs. I will note only items that are most important to us; this will likely include presentation of a couple of Achievement Program Certificates. Come prepared to see lots of trains; they will be the highlight of the day. Directions and times are on page 6.

June 23 is, of course, our trip to Romney, WV and the ride on the Potomac Eagle. Dennis McGeeney will need to have a headcount for lunch at the restaurant there so if you are going expect to hear from him in the next few days. I believe there may be a couple of more tickets available, check with Dennis if you need them.

As you can see on page 4, Nathan Robinette has an update on his father, David. David had a bit of a setback after the Parkersburg meeting, please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

## CONGRATULATIONS, Mark Maynard

I must apologize to Mark for not noticing this earlier; but the other day I got a chance to sit down and really peruse my May 2012 issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman*. Mark has an interesting article in that issue entitled, "Drill Marks in Cliffs." Of course, we all know Mark as the genial host of our annual September combination meeting, picnic and operating session at his home in West Portsmouth, Ohio.

Mark's article describes, in detail, how he uses chunks of coal, drilled and split, to create rock molds which display the typical drill marks typical of modern excavation blasting techniques. The article is well written and thorough and is accompanied by four photos taken by Mark which illustrates the process. Two full pages with photos in a national magazine! Way to go Mark. Perhaps we see an AP Authors Certificate coming down the road.

## NEXT MEETING

JUNE 16 MARION, OH WITH DIVISION 6  
SEE PAGE 6 FOR FULL DETAILS

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Gary J. Burdette MMR

It is interesting to note how topics come to light from different directions or factions at the same time without any real connections to one another. Perhaps you have read the article by Bob Hamm MMR in the June 2012 issue of *The NMRA Magazine*, entitled Contest versus AP: How Models are Evaluated. This came in to print on the heels of several Division 9 members discussions about contests relating to both the recent MCR Convention and AP judging of various fellows projects. This spring several members of our Division were involved in both aspects of the hobby. Mr. Hamm's words really help to clarify how models are evaluated. This may serve to help us not only better understand the process but to appreciate what it is the judges do. This can guide us to produce better models with more complete documentation resulting in a more competitive entry.

I am not going to repeat what was written, but I will address Bob's final comment about there being more items for discussion. To better understand judging go to the NMRA web site and study the Contest and AP sections. Each section, along with Bob's article, should enlighten you to the requirements and procedures involved. I think this information will help you build better models and compete more successfully in either arena.

One of the most telling aspects of the entire plan of assessing (the new descriptive term) models is the Judging Points Matrix (Rubric). That chart, or graph like table, is used to assist judges in determining how many points to award a given model. Under the Construction category the points range from zero to forty. The heading on the Construction category is Quality and Workmanship with one axis being Poor to Exceptional and the other axis being Simple to Very Complex. The judge, based on experience, assesses the model and assigns a point value based on a combination of how good the workmanship is

and the level of detail. I once received a 24 out of 40 with the comment, "Very nice, keep up the good work." I considered this an F in the old school house grading system. Upon checking out the chart and the corresponding descriptions the number represented very good workmanship and moderately complex detail. The rating was right on the money. The key aspect of this chart is knowing what might constitute a perfect point score and measuring everything against this benchmark.

Awhile back, many of you may have seen the photos, e-mailed to us, of a large scale model of a P-51 Mustang constructed of metal by a gentleman from Japan. Every nut, bolt, washer, hose, wire, cable, etc was there in perfect order. Would it receive a perfect score if assessed, certainly! I have seen a couple of scratch built live steam locomotives complete with sand cast drivers and machine turned tires which would certainly set the bar. Everything would be compared to this extremely high level of quality.

So, the lesson is to do your best work, with straight walls, square corners, nice paint, no glue globs, etc. Present good prototype documentation. Add as much detail as necessary. Know the rules and what it takes to compete.

The little building of which I spoke above was awarded a perfect score in the Conformity category for I presented photos and scale plans, which I had drawn, to document the prototype. Also, I had carefully described how it was built, thus being awarded enough overall points for a Merit Certificate and third place in the contest. Spend some time thinking about the above statements and improve your modeling effort. I do know how my little shanty could have been even better! Points wise, it will be worth it!

## TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

### THE POTOMAC EAGLE EXCURSION

#### Dennis McGeeny

The Potomac Eagle is about to leave the station. The train departs from the station area about 1.5 miles north of Romney along High Street which is also WV 28. The train leaves at 1pm, don't miss it!

Many of us are gathering for lunch at 11am at Mario's on S. High Street, in the first block south of Main Street which is US 50. There are many parking places and we are told the parking meters can be ignored on Saturdays. We need a head count so expect a call from Dennis in the days approaching the trip.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
**The Coal Division**  
**Parkersburg West Virginia**  
**May 12, 2012**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

The "Steel is King" meeting was held at the home of Dave Stout at Parkersburg, WV. Bob thanked Dave and Paul Lapointe for opening their layouts and hosting the meeting. Members introduced themselves. We had a number of visitors from MCR Division 2

**CLINIC**

Dave Stout's MOV and Paul LaPointe's layout

**DIVISION CLERK REPORT**

Minutes for the April meeting were not available

Treasury balance is currently \$8587.00

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Bob passed around a card from Bev Young thanking the Division for the flowers for former Superintendent Lin Young

Bob also commented on the Pittsburgh MCR Convention and the good showing from Division 9

The Board explored the number of uncontested conventions and currently elections must be held

The topic of a digital projector was discussed and it was decided to remain with the current arrangement

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Gary thanked everyone for cards from his recent hospital stay. He discussed some of our educational efforts with the Education Station. Sample brochures about model railroading and coal country were presented. The costs for printing would run between \$52.00 and \$222.00 dependent on quantity and whether black and white or color. He also discussed selling prints to finance the production of brochures.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

Bob mentioned the excellent contest showing at the Pittsburgh Convention

David Robinette received merit award certificates for a number of structures.

**NEWSLETTER**

No report

**CLINIC CHAIR**

No report

**TRAVELS WITH DENNIS**

Dennis will be ordering the tickets for the Potomac Eagle ride very soon

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETINGS**

June 16, joint meeting with Division 6 at Marion OH

July 14 WV Hobbies and Crafts

August 11 WV Hobbies and Crafts

September 8, Mark Maynard's Portsmouth OH

ALSO June 23 Potomac Eagle train ride

**CONTEST**

Steam engines

**ADJOURNED**

2:13 PM

Respectfully submitted;

Jerry Doyle, MCR Division 9 Clerk



Gary Burdette; C&O 1328 was the contest winner at the May meeting.  
 Photo by Jerry Doyle

## UPDATE ON DAVID ROBINETTE

Nathan Robinette

David Robinette, as of May 28 is back in rehab due to unfortunately breaking his left hip on May 22. He had been recovering from breaking his right hip when this additional accident occurred. On May 25 David had his left hip replaced. It was necessary to put in a longer rod than the one in the right hip due to the extent of the bone disease in the left leg. There was a tumor present which had to be alleviated with a hammer and chisel. He was up in a chair on May 26 and again on the 27th and was then moved from the hospital to the rehab center which is close to the home of Garry Burdette. David is ready to

get back down to business, feels okay, and is struggling somewhat with slight heart failure requiring him to be on oxygen.

David did get some good news; his PSA is down from over 500 to 14.6 indicating the cancer treatments are working. It was a special day for him when Bob Weinheimer and Gary Burdette presented him his two AP Certificates on Memorial Day. He is reading and ready to get back to modeling; but will still be some time before he gets back to working on the Hocking Valley.



David Robinette and Paul Lapointe look over Paul's layout during the Steel is King event May 12. Photo by Nathan Robinette



Bob Weinheimer presents David with his Electrical Engineering and Structures Achievement Program certificates May 28 at the rehab center. Photo by Nathan Robinette

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

The Electrical Engineering and Structures Certificates earned by David Robinette finally arrived in late May. Gary and I presented them to David on Monday, May 28. I really had my head and wits about me, I will gently suggest that Nathan used the photographic guillotine on me. David is already talking about how he plans to earn a few more as soon as he can get back to the layout. He has spent much of his down time writing about railroad topics; if they are suitable modeling aids I hope we can get them published one way or another. That would add to David's other publications and perhaps an Authors Cer-

tificate could come his way.

A while back we submitted the Scenery SOQ for Dan Kennedy. I received the merit certificate in the mail the other day, meaning that his SOQ was approved. Someday soon I hope to have the official Scenery Certificate to present to Dan.

I am still waiting to catch up to Dan Mulhearn and Clint Foster at a meeting so I can present their Author and Scenery Certificates.

## APPLES AND ORANGES

Tony Puccini

My monthly trip to Philadelphia to visit my daughter, and to the suburban town of Malvern to visit my mom and dad just happened to coincide with the **Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge** mini convention on March 23 through 25 of this year.

There is a lot to learn about Train Shows, Conventions, and the like. I was out of town during our Coalfield Express Convention of 2010 so that actually constituted a convention escaped me.

I am used to a Train Show environment where the price is about 5 bucks a person with, usually, a discount for children. Examples are the November 2011 show in Huntington or the recent (March) show in Dunbar WV. There, one meets old friends and shops for used items and railroad memorabilia at tables manned by fellow model railroaders, regional dealers or local hobby shops. As you know, many clubs bring their modular units. A collection of fully landscaped modules with backgrounds exceeding 60 feet is absolutely fascinating to watch. I especially enjoy the small tabletop displays of different scale trains running side by side. Also, there are the small but super detailed layouts to enjoy. This environment is sure to catch and hold the interest of many future model railroaders; especially the children. Lunch is a delicious hot dog and a soft drink. What a wonderful APPLES day.

At the **Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet** I found something totally different. The registration fee was



\$35.00; and since I took a date, the total cost for Carol and me was \$70.00. While we only stayed for a short time; this fee covered Friday, Saturday and Sunday including everything offered. One of the things included was Sunday layout tours and operating sessions. The convention was located at the Desmond Valley Hotel and Conference Center at the western end of the "Main Line" in suburban Philadelphia. This is a most expensive area and the hotel was simply beautiful. I spent some time just looking at the paintings hung on the walls. The hotel contained multiple eating establishments as well as a number of restaurants in walking distance catering to all tastes and price ranges.

There were two display rooms containing a myriad of models from buildings to boxcars. All were constructed to exactly mirror the prototype. Vendors were represented in their own room. All was very friendly and very high end. There were two rooms devoted to clinics. One of these was an amphitheater; very impressive. A total of 45 clinics were offered including "Creative Kit Bashing" by Tony Koester. This was an ORANGES day.

As you can see, these two types of events are quite different but a balanced diet is always better than all of one thing. These Prototype Modelers meets are numerous and spread all over the country, you might just find one that appeals to you like the big one in southern Florida in January.

Your Editor has to apologize as somehow, I lost the second picture which displayed an HO scale replica of Piedmont Tower. The RPM Conventions and events are where you will find the rivet counters of our hobby. Me, I am satisfied with a reasonable facsimile; but there are others who put a great deal of time and effort into kitbashing or scratch building to get it exactly right. That is what is so wonderful about the hobby we enjoy. You can run a TYCO train on a 4X8 loop or you can insist on absolute prototype fidelity. It is all about having fun and cranking the dial to the number that is right for you.

## NEXT MEETING JUNE 16 MARION, OH

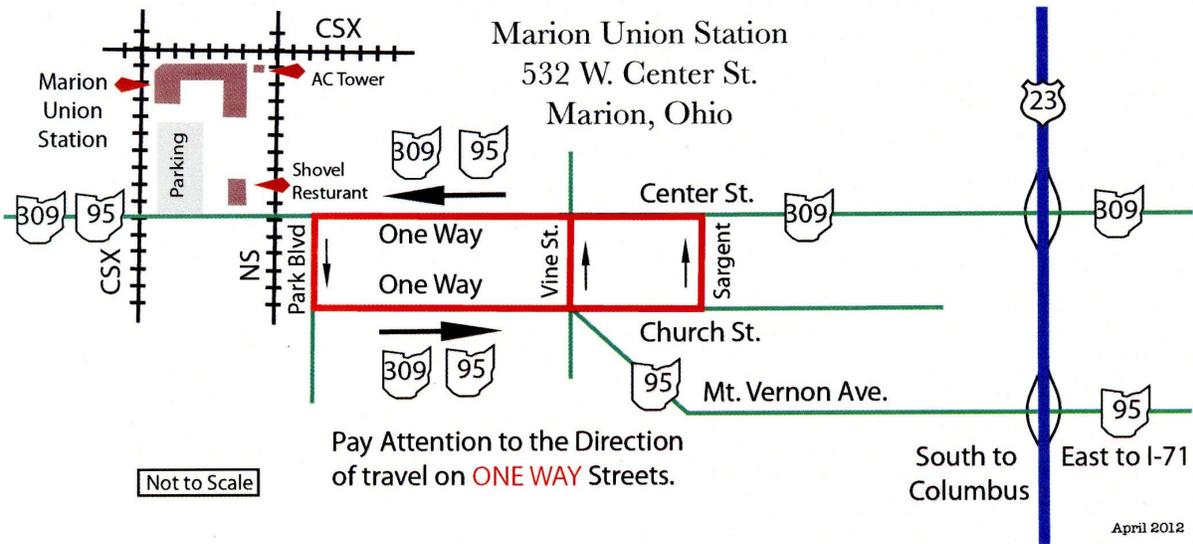
Our next meeting will be June 16 in Marion, Ohio, we will be the guests of the Buckeye Division. They have a big day planned with events starting early. Many Coal Division members live far enough away that an arrival before noon is unlikely but it seems that some might head up the night before and be ready to go when things start at 9. The highlight for Coal Division members will be clinics by two of our own in the afternoon. Jerry Doyle leads off with "Lessons Learned on the Grafton and Greenbrier"; Paul Lapointe follows with "The Appalachian Mountains in 8 Inches of Space". A full schedule can be found on this page.

- 10:15: Clinic: Philosophy, Science Fiction, and Model Railroading
- 11:30: Clinic: Weathering with Women's Makeup
- 12:30: Flea Market and AP Judging
- 1:00: Lunch on your own, Flea Market and AP Judging continue
- 2:15: Clinic: Lessons Learned on the Grafton and Greenbrier
- 3:30: Clinic: The Appalachian Mountains in 8 Inches of Space
- 4:45: Division 6 Business Meeting
- 5:30: Train Watching!!!!

As noted above, Marion is some distance from most of us. It is about an hour north of Columbus and most will find US 23 they way to get there from Columbus. The map below, courtesy of Division 6, shows the exits on US 23 that serve Marion. This is a great train watching spot and will be something you will remember for a long time.

Layouts: Marion Union Station Railroad

9:00: Marion Union Station Open



Now that Up The Holler is a monthly publication, your Pike Ad support is much more important. If you don't already have an ad, please consider buying one. We can help with the art work if necessary.



**CRESCENT VALLEY**

Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV

**Grafton and Greenbrier**

Lin Young, President  
Debbie Drive  
Gallipolis, OH 45631  
www.graftonandgreenbrier.com



**Midland Atlantic**  
Anthony Parrish, CEO  
tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT  
DIVISION (HO)  
DAN MULHEARN  
304-466-9155  
dannina1@earthlink.net



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

Mark Maynard, President  
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR  
President  
Chesapeake, OH

**PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN**

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



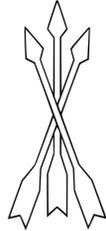
**SHAMOKIN DIVISION**  
DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN  
SUMMERSVILLE, WV  
DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET  
304-872-7262



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



**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY**  
**THOMAS SUBDIVISION**  
RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT  
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



**THREE ARROWS RAILROAD**

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

Allegheny & 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



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR  
398 MOUNT VIEW DR  
CHARLESTON WV  
25314-1041

If you received this news-  
letter via the US Postal  
Service and have an email  
address, please let us  
know so we can save  
printing and postage  
costs. Send a note to  
[editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)  
to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
Holler.

## Upcoming Coal Division Events

**June 16**  
**Marion, OH**

**June 23**  
**Potomac Eagle Trip**

**July 14**  
**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts**  
**Teays Valley, WV**

**August 11**  
**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts**  
**Teays Valley, WV**