



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

December 2012



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

If you missed the November meeting you missed a good one. The weather was wonderful and we were able to meet outside as we did a couple of years back. The attendees enthusiastically approved a motion to have the Division match the donations of members to the museum project I mention in the last newsletter. You can read the details which include hedging to limit the Division's exposure in the minutes elsewhere in this issue. If the technical issues can be resolved, I hope we can show how to use the NRMA web site to make donations at the December membership meeting.

The other big event in Bluefield was the introduction of our new booth display. Membership Chairman John Harris (an architect by profession) designed and built a nice display using PVC pipe and fabric shower curtains as well as a few other odds and ends. The display includes a large banner across the top with our name, this could be seen from across the room at the train show. Hanging from the top were posters with photos of layouts, some from Coal Division members and others seen at conventions. We had a number of interesting discussions with potential members, it remains to be seen if anybody joins but I would not be surprised if we add three or four new members. There is a photo of the display in this issue

The December meeting will be at the hobby shop, it will be our last meeting at this site. While there will be no clinic, Dan Kennedy will host an open house after the meeting. Dan's layout is well worth a visit. You may recall his award winning steel mill models at the last three conventions, they can all be seen in their native habitats on a layout that has earned an Achievement Program Certificate for the scenery. By the way, Dan has recently earned the Structures certificate as well.

As the year closes, I wish you all the best for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The new year will see us meeting at the C&O Depot in St. Albans, WV, I hope to see more of you there!

MEETING NOTICE

Our next meeting will be December 8 at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley, WV. This will be our last meeting at this location as future meetings will be at the C&O Depot in St. Albans, WV. The highlight of the meeting will be an open house by Dan Kennedy. See the article above for comments about his layout. Maps will be available at the meeting. The contest is Modeler's Choice which is a nice way of saying anything you want to bring can be entered.

We also hope to have a question and answer session about our planned trip to the Hocking Valley next June. Coal Division member and Hocking Valley locomotive engineer Bob Schmoll hopes to be able to join us. Of course, don't forget to do any last minute hobby Christmas shopping. Keep in mind that there is a great craft section to the store, we sometimes forget about that!

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

As Dan and I always say, “Mr. Computer is your friend.” Though tongue-in-cheek, we are trying to trick “him” into doing our bidding. Sometimes the computer has a mind of its own, so does whatever it wants to do. Such is the case with the last paragraph of last month’s column and closing remark. “Electronal” problems deleted things. I’ll include them here, for they do carry over to December’s thoughts.

(After a delicious lunch, we went over to Walt’s to do some of the same: discuss layout design and operations. Walter had some designs and had the bench work up, but hadn’t begun to build the layout. He had just received some track and turnouts, so the talks we had, to help him evaluate where he was and fine-tune the arrangement, laid the groundwork for him to proceed as he had been planning. He was going to have a mainline, yard and engine house, branch with logging switch-back, and separate Civil War scene. We looked at adjusting the height of one section to ease the climb and addressed some of the same topics we had mentioned at Dennis.’ Everything was coming together and the teamwork was a great way to brainstorm. All-in-all, progress was made in short order.

We left for home feeling we had just completed another “big day” in our hobby, as that little outing surely was.)

Since then, there have been three enjoyable trips in which several of our members have participated: the train shows at Bluefield, Parkersburg, and Huntington. There was friendship shared, layouts to view, and items available for purchase, as is typical of these types of outings. Each is the same but different, and that is what makes them

special. There are various vendors, different railroads, new experiences, and an individual personality for every one of the events. Some of the same people attend all three, though others only go to the one nearest them, so you only get to visit with some of the guys once (sometimes, once a year) depending on the situation. Thus, all the activities offer something unique.

Tony and I ate at the “Mountaineer Family Restaurant,” a mom-and-pop establishment, which offers good food and atmosphere. I found a Stewart Track Scale to fit perfectly into the static one I have been working on for Civil Engineer. Several bags of nice trees at \$3.00 per were discovered. I picked up some detail parts. I spoke with Tom Dixon on two occasions about the COHS. I am now the editor of the COHS On-Line Magazine! (Where were you, Dan M., when I needed you to talk me out of this one?) I found some differential-like wheel sets which Dan Kennedy may be able to use to power his coke puller (?). I could add etc., etc., etc. In short, I had more “big days.”

As we come upon our December meeting, we will have the opportunity to experience (not “Steel is King” as we do in Parkersburg) what I’ll call “Prince of Steel.” Dan Kennedy has invited us virtually across the street to see his steel mill operations. If you have enjoyed Paul’s and Dave’s mills “up north,” you will like Dan’s as well. All three guys really capture the look and feel of the industry. It will be fun and another chance to share the hobby. Yes guys, another “big day.” Be there! And, Merry Christmas!

2013 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

The 2013 Mid Central Region convention will be in Dayton, hosted by Division 3, May 15 to 18. This convention starts Wednesday instead of the usual Thursday and will have an emphasis on operations but not at the expense of other interests. Tony Koester will be part of an operations boot camp series of clinics and operating events and will be the banquet speaker.

There will be several operating sessions and in a change from the usual MCR format they will be scattered throughout the duration of the convention. This means that the dihard operators might get to run on more than the usual one layout.

Taking a page from national conventions, there will

be a Building with the Masters session. Several Master Model Railroaders (Gary Burdette among them) will work with the attendees to build a small laser cut wood model of a chapel. This is an extra fare event to cover the cost of the kit.

There will be numerous clinics of all sorts including several from Coal Division members.

There is quite a list of places to visit in the Dayton area including the Museum of the United States Air Force. It’s still a bit early to have all tour information available, look for that in the MCR Kingpin which should be out in January. In the meantime, advance registration is available, see the details at www.mcr2013convention.com.

NMRA InfoNet News

Gerry Leone MMR

John Stevens, the NMRA Secretary, has announced the slate of candidates for the 2013 National elections. Ballots will be in NMRA members' hands early next year. Candidates are:

At Large Worldwide Director: - Stan Ames, Mike Brestel, Larry Smith, MMR, and Leslie Eaton, MMR

Atlantic District Director: - Alain Kap and Kathy Millatt

Western District Director - Larry Alfred, MMR and Jack Hamilton, MMR

In keeping with his policy of not letting anyone volunteer do more than his/her fair share of work, President Charlie Getz has named Jim Lupfer head of the Convention and Trade Show Department, replacing Bob Amsler, who remains as NMRA Counsel.

Speaking of President Getz, an interview with him is featured on the current episode of "The Model Railway Show" podcast. Jim Martin talks with Charlie about his plans for the NMRA. To listen, visit www.themodelrailwayshow.com, or download Episode 44 on iTunes (or any number of other podcast downloaders). All show episodes are archived at the TrainLife website, so even if your members miss it now, they can always listen to it at a later date. In two weeks Charlie will return to the podcast to talk about "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum.

Western Director Jack Hamilton and his committee are working on a new Long Range Plan for the NMRA. Jack is still looking for input from members, and writes, "The October edition of *NMRA Magazine* put out a general call ("NMRA – Where do the tracks lead?") to members for input for NMRA strategic planning. There have been a number of excellent responses to the call but not nearly in the numbers that might be suggested by the normal level of grouching and gripes about the organization. This is your opportunity to make a difference and have some direct say in the direction the NMRA takes into our future. This is your organization and your ideas and input will be treated with equal value and respect. Please read the October article and make your desires known to Western District Director Jack Hamilton at westdir@hq.nmra.org or mail them directly to Jack at 10731 Warren Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383."

Allen Pollock, Museum Committee Chairman, would like to put the word out about fundraising efforts for the California State Railroad Museum's "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" Gallery Project. Allen writes, "You've read the article by President Getz in the November *NMRA Magazine* about the Gallery project. I'm asking for your help. We're close to making it happen, so please discuss the idea of making a donation with your Region or Division Boards. If all participate, we'll be successful in raising the \$250,000 we need by early next year to receive the matching grant. Right now we already have \$160,000 of the needed funding. If you have any questions or need additional info about this unprecedented chance to spread the word about our hobby, contact me directly at 573-619-8532."

From Vice President of Special Projects, Bill Kaufman: "Sometime in February, the NMRA national is going to try to start sending out an electronic Bulletin. It will be filled calendars, Divisional success stories and the like. Sent out every two months, it is not intended to replace *NMRA Magazine*, but to be a collection of teasers with links to info. We hope people will like it. One key to its success is email addresses. We currently have emails for about 75% of our members but more is better and some of what we have are not right. Please remind your Region and Division members for their correct email addresses and forward them to HQ."

Brett Lambert has left the Kalmbach Memorial Library to pursue other career interests. We wish him the best and thank him for his many years of service. In his absence, requests will be handled by the HQ staff.

The Standards and Conformance Committee has been working with Bachmann and Soundtraxx to be sure both companies are in conformance to NMRA standards for DCC decoders. In the past there have been some concerns about each company's wiring harnesses not meeting proper specs.

The Winter Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 8-10. All NMRA members are welcome to attend. Times and location will be announced later.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

I had the pleasure of attending the 2011 NMRA National Convention in Sacramento, CA. last July. As part of the convention we had free access to the California State RR Museum and got to see the area where our NMRA Museum will be housed at that facility. First, be assured the Museum is a first class operation and one of the premier tourist attractions in all of California, if not the Nation. Having our museum there will provide priceless exposure of our hobby. I urge you to get aboard by making a donation toward this cause, remember the Division will match your donation up to a maximum of \$13.

Speaking of conventions; our Mid Central Region convention coming up this spring in the Dayton, OH area will be here before you know it. Time to get registered and get first dibs on the many trips and layout tours which will be available. My wife and I are already registered for the National Convention coming up in July in Atlanta and this is shaping up to be another excellent convention. Last and certainly not least; remember the 2014 National Convention will be held in Cleveland, OH and there will be no MCR convention that year. Make your plans now; these conventions are well worth it!

Do you ever find yourself looking forward to a little cold and stormy weather? I sure am, and my aching back will welcome it. We live on a three acre plot and if fallen leaves were worth money I would be a millionaire! Meanwhile, down the basement the staging yard which will represent St Paul and Norton, VA on the Clinch Valley sub is in and partly wired. The George branch, which will climb

up to a pulpwood lumber loadout and a large coal mine above the staging yard is begun. I need a rainy or snowy day to excuse myself from yard work and cut the supports and sub roadbed for this area. My mind is made up that this is the winter I concentrate on the layout itself instead of building more freight cars and such. I am wiring the layout as it progresses through detectors so that installing signaling will just be a matter of figuring out the software. JMRI Panel Pro is already installed on my lap top and my PR3 interface is in hand. The biggest hurdle to overcome at this point is my own computer illiteracy and inertia. I am told there is a large Panel Pro user group and the plan is to mine it for illumination.

If you remember, a couple of months back, there was talk of giving up modeling the N&W/NS for a private road, the Tidewater and Ohio. The idea still intrigues, but it seems likely the Pocahontas sub will win out, at least at this juncture. Quite a bit of time was spent surveying where the T&O would appear on the map and how it would interchange with the Midland Atlantic, the Pennsylvania Southern, Grafton and Greenbrier et al.

Current projects (I know, I should be doing benchwork, trackwork and wiring!) are a pair of SW1000 switches which will be superdetailed and decorated for the Grafton and Greenbrier. Also got a box full of parts to superdetail an Athearn C-40-9W which will be a Norfolk Southern unit. Waiting in the wings are superdetail kits for my four N&W ALCO C628/630s. OK, I promise, first get going on the benchwork. Talk to you soon.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The goal of the newsletter team is to have this document reach you by email or snail mail at least one week prior to our meetings. We typically do the layout work the Wednesday 10 days before the meeting with distribution Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by the Monday 12 days prior to the meeting. If we don't get it on time we can't print it. Please help us give you the most up to date information possible. Here are the deadlines for the next few issues.

January	December 31
February	January 28
March	February 25
April	April 1
May	April 29
June	May 27
July	July 1
August	July 29
September	September 2

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
The Coal Division
Bluefield, WV
November 10, 2012

The November 2012 business meeting of Division 9 was held on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 at the Bluefield Youth Center on Stadium Drive, Bluefield WV in conjunction with NRHS Pocahontas Chapter's annual train show.

Called to Order; Supt. Bob Weinheimer called the meeting to order at 1:57 PM

Division Clerk Report: In the absence of the Division Clerk there was no report submitted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting; On a motion by Charlie Venable, seconded and passed the minutes of the previous meeting as published in *Up The Holler* were approved.

Superintendent's Report; Bob opened his remarks by discussing the ongoing effort to raise funds for the California State RR Museum NMRA display. It was noted that if each NMRA member donated \$19.00 the needed amount would be raised. There was a brief discussion of the wonderful opportunity having our museum in this premier venue could contribute to our hobby. Bob announced that Division 9 has been invited to be part of SACOMM's Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 1. Dinner will be at the Chilton House in St. Albans at 7PM followed by a railroad slide show at the St. Alban's depot. Matt Crouch needs a head count by Nov. 22 and anyone wishing to attend should notify Bob. Finally, it was made known that Anthony Parrish has created a Facebook page for the Division and members were urged to check it out.

Assistant Superintendent's Report; Gary informed us that embroidery of Coal Division logos on shirts, vests, etc. is available. Anyone interested should see him. Gary discussed several interesting rail and history oriented web sites which are available for research and enjoyment. Lastly, Gary urged members to consider attending the SACOMM Christmas dinner.

Membership Chairman; John reports he has the latest roster sheet from the National NMRA office. He also mentioned the good response to our new Division banner.

Travel; Dennis McGeeney spoke on the preparations being made for the Hocking Valley RR trip scheduled for this coming June. Dennis has traveled to the HV and laid

quite a bit of groundwork to make this another super outing.

Achievement Program; Tony Puccini has been approved for his Chief Dispatcher Award and Dan Kennedy for his Structure Award.

Old Business; none

New Business; On a motion by John Harris, seconded and approved it was decided that Division 9 will match individual member's contributions to the NMRA Museum/ California State RR Museum fund up to a maximum of \$19.00. The full text of the motion is: "That NMRA MCR Division 9 match Division 9 members' donations to the NMRA's planned model railroad exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum. This donation match is one dollar per dollar donated by any individual member to a limit of \$13 per member. The match is to be effective upon receipt by the Clerk of a copy of the written confirmation by the NMRA of the donor's intent or actual payment. In no case should total matching donations exceed \$780. No matching donation is to be made after April 30, 2013."

Announcements; Next meeting will be December 8 at WV Hobbies and Crafts with the clinic being a visit to Dan Kennedy's layout. January's meeting will be on the 12th at the St Albans depot. The clinic will be presented by Matt Crouch on the history of the depot and the C&O in St Albans. The February meeting will be at the depot on the 9th.

Contest; Larry Richards' scratch built non revenue car, picture shown elsewhere, was the November winner.

Clinic; Members were invited to enjoy the train show; and maybe get a little Christmas shopping done.

Adjournment; On a motion by John Harris, seconded and approved; the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted;

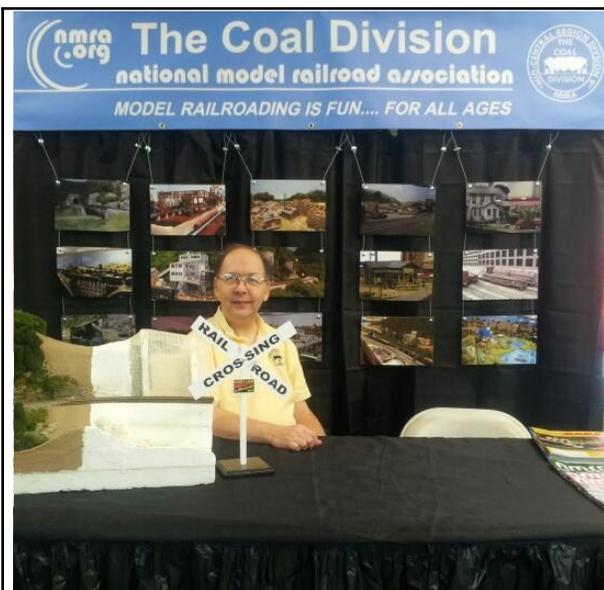
Dan Mulhearn; acting clerk

NS Unveils “Honoring Veterans” Unit

NS Corp. unveiled its specially painted unit to honor the Nation’s veterans in time for the Veteran’s Day holiday this year. The unit is an Altoona rebuild of an SD60 with the Altoona shop designed “admirals cab” featuring a slanted windshield along with state of the art running gear. After all the work on the heritage units it is good to see NS still reaching out to the public and honoring our folks in uniform.

Another fine shot of the Honoring Veterans unit courtesy of the NS Corp. The unit is seen here westbound passing the restored but non functional HUNT Tower at Huntingdon, PA. This two track line is the former four track “Broadway”; the mainline of the mighty Pennsylvania RR. It is still a very busy piece of railroad for current operator, Norfolk Southern

Both Photos NS Corporation



Here we see Bob keeping an eye on things at the new display at the train show in Bluefield. John Harris designed and built the display out of common materials such as PVC pipes and fabric shower curtains. It assembles in less than 30 minutes and comes down much more quickly. It travels in its own wheeled tote. Photo by John Harris.



Larry Richards once again has come up with a wonderful contest winning model, this one is completely scratch built and was the winner of the Non Revenue Equipment contest at the November meeting. Photo by Bob Weinheimer.

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.



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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



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

December 8

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

January 12

**St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV**

February 9

**St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV**

March 9

**St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV**