



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

February 2013



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

It looks like the St. Albans Depot made a big hit with the membership at our January meeting. We had at least one long time member who had not been to a meeting in years appear, I think we will be seeing much more of him and his modeling efforts. Even the raffle seemed like a hit, the number of tickets sold (about 60) was double the usual number. CSX also cooperated. While there were trains before and after the meeting, we were not interrupted during the meeting and clinic. The clinic was also most appropriate as Matt Crouch presented a history of the railroad and the depot in St. Albans. If you are a member who has not come to a meeting for a long time or even ever, consider joining us at our new home. Our next meeting will be Saturday February 9, full details are available elsewhere in this issue.

Reading the InfoNet news in this issue, it appears the NMRA Board of Directors is about to make a selection for the site of the 2017 national convention. One possibility is Orlando, FL, the other is Sydney, Australia. There is a very active NMRA group in Australia and I would not be surprised if they get the nod. The good thing about Sydney is that our summer, the usual convention time, is their winter. My son and I went there 20 years ago and found the climate to be most comfortable, not too hot and not too cold. As it is winter, it is the off season and air fares are lower although a quick check shows that for the dates of this year's convention, the round trip would be \$2158. Well, it was a thought.

Speaking of the NMRA Board, you should have received the *NMRA Magazine* with the election ballot. Note that members of the Coal Division may vote only for the World Wide At Large seat. There are four candidates although only three have statements published. Please review those statements carefully then vote for who you think will be best for the NMRA and its membership.

The Mid Central Region ballot should be out soon but that election is less exciting with only one contested position. Again, read the candidates' statements carefully then make your choice.

Finally, it is getting close to the time make decisions about attending the Mid Central Region convention. Details are in another article but I understand early registration is being extended to the end of February. As has been noted before, region conventions are relative bargains with shorter programs and lower costs than national conventions. If you've never been to one, give it a try!

MEETING NOTICE

The February meeting of the Coal Division will be held on Saturday, February 9 at the St. Albans, WV C&O depot. The depot is located at Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue. Social hour and any needed Achievement Program judging starts at 1PM and the meeting will be at 2PM. The clinic this month will be presented by Gary Burdette MMR on painting C&O diesels. The monthly contest will be Diesel and Electric Locomotives and Traction. Don't forget to give yourself time to stop by the hobby shop. **Note that the Nitro-St. Albans Bridge is closed for a major reconstruction effort.** If you plan to have lunch in Nitro before the meeting, please plan a new way to St. Albans via I-64 or the Dunbar bridge.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Dear General Membership and Education Committee Members,

Wow, the first meeting at the St. Albans C&O Depot, the "Official Clubhouse of Division 9," is history, and it was surely a success. We had a great turnout, and there was a buzz of excitement throughout the entire afternoon. I chose a salutation for this addition for I will be sending this column out to a few of you early (the new committee) by e-mail or letter, but I want everyone to be involved with the process of developing our educational outreach program which we have been discussing for quite a while. Part of our initial meeting, and to kick off the New Year, was dedicated to the establishment of an Education Committee. I feel we were successful, in our endeavors, for this outpouring of support alone!

The "I" part of our program will now become "we," as the information which has been gathered will not just be presented to the membership at think about, but will be studied and enhanced, tweaked, and developed by the committee into a formal program. Eighteen possible topics (the Australian Bob mentions in his column have seventeen.) have been mentioned previously for consideration. They were: Beginner's Guide, History, Standards, Careers, References, Era-Locale, Railfanning, Motive Power, Rolling Stock, Right-of-Way (including layout design, bench work, and electricity), Structures, Scenery, Operations, Communications, Painting, Industry, Scale Plans (articles and how-tos), and On-line Museum. As we talked at one meeting, I thought of "Show-and-Tell," and of merging some main topics and developing some sub-topics. That was presented in a possible plan which I'll send to the committee and have on display, again, at the next meeting. Several of the main topics (which were re-distributed into: Beginner's Guide, Motive Power, Rolling Stock, Structures, Right-of-Way, Operations, Scenery, and Museum) have had those from the original list included as sub-topics and most have Plans, Type of Railroad, History, Era/Locale, and Painting under the main heading as each of these may be addressed individually or as part of every major topic. The committee, then the membership, will decide what we want to do and how we want to do it, as plans develop.

We've kicked around some ideas. With our "new digs," we may set up an educational display made from a stand that is available to us. It is approximately six (6) feet by twelve (12) feet with the capability of presenting plans, photographs, and artifacts for viewing. I saw a similar one on the Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum web site, recently. It may be set up for permanent showing at the depot or moved to a library or other venue for special occasions.

Some examples of different topics have been presented graphically for possible inclusion on our web site. Because our

mandate is that we are a non-profit, educational organization, it has been discussed that we address Hobby vs. History, and Model vs. Prototype as we reach out to the public. Thus, the various topics listed above could easily be represented on a web site and include real trains and models along with the information which would help the members of the Boy Scouts of America study for their Railroading Merit Badge (we have sponsors among our membership) as well as educate the general public.

Many have seen, through the pages of *Up the Holler*, at the train show in Bluefield, or at our last meeting, the beautiful back drop and display stand that our Membership Chair, John Harris, has constructed as the "face" of our group which we present to the public. It will travel to a couple of shows each year and other venues in which we may decide to participate, depending upon the ability of our group to man the booth. John has had his "Scenery Clinic" on review on numerous occasions (both the mock-up and printed paperwork), and has generated much interest. With the inclusion of photographs (and the extra copies of *UTH* and the *NMRA Magazine*), a wonderful presentation representing our group has been prepared.

The Australian group has come up with a scenery clinic for kids (I'll have their instructions on display). They provide a small piece of foam board, some paint, glue, rocks, dirt, and ground foam. With some instructions, the kids "go at it." We may wish to do this same type of thing, weather cars, etc. SACOMM will be having an open-house in April and we could certainly participate adding our own ideas to the mix. Dennis has agreed to dress like a locomotive engineer and give a short description of "My job on the Railroad." Bob mentioned that a long-time member attended his first meeting last month (His New Year's resolution was to get more involved with Division 9.). Since we had considered building a small, portable layout (probably in N-scale) to take to malls, libraries, train shows, Robert, being an avid woodworker, volunteered to build the bench work. So, are these the kind of things we want to do?

I am calling for a meeting of the Education Committee at 1:30 just prior to the Division 9 February gathering at the depot. I'll have several of the documents I've displayed in the past as well as some of the Australian's ideas and some other items to initiate our discussions. All are welcome to join the committee and ideas are certainly wanted. If you are not comfortable with planning and implementing the program, your help setting up chairs and getting the displays ready, etc., prior to a presentation, would be just as valuable a contribution as working the event. Everybody, "All aboard!"

Thanks for your enthusiasm,
Gary Burdette, Education Chair

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
The Coal Division
St Albans, WV C&O Depot
January 12, 2012

Welcome and Introductions

Bob called the meeting to order at 2:05. Members introduced themselves.

Clinic: Matt Crouch and the St Albans depot.

Division Clerk Report

Minutes from the December meeting approved as printed in the newsletter.
 Treasury balance is currently \$8,761.98.

Superintendent Report

Bob thanked Matt and SACOM for hosting the Division's meeting. Bob mentioned the Division's new display at the depot. The matching fund currently has five members participating. Some divisions have pledged generously. The group in Cincinnati pledged \$15,000 recently. Our effort will end in April.

David Robinette has been in the hospital recently.

The region's newsletter "The Kingpin" is currently at the printer. Information for the convention and the upcoming election will be included. Bob Weinheimer is nominated for vice president and Jerry Doyle for Treasurer.

The Facebook link on our web page will be restored soon.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary mentioned the educational efforts of the Division. A number of topics and avenues for delivery were mentioned. Gary showed a hands-on scenery clinic lesson plan. Gary passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers for the Education Committee.

Achievement Program

We are still waiting on several certificates for division members.

Newsletter

Dan is still looking for content for future issues.

Clinic Chair

Clinics are set for next month's meeting but are needed for future meetings.

Membership Chair

No Report

Travels with Dennis

Dennis mentioned his story in *Up the Holler*. June 8 our meeting will be at the Hocking Valley. Several members are also involved in the Hocking Valley. Fare will be \$17 plus about \$4 extra fare for the caboose.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

Hawks Nest C&O Modeling Weekend April 5-7.

Division 9 shirts are available for \$10, you supply the shirt.

The MCR Regional Convention at Dayton will be May.15-18.

Next Meetings

February, March, April St Albans

May Parkersburg

June Nelsonville

Contest – Cabooses

Dan also showed the revised categories for future contests.

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Jerry Doyle, MCR Division 9 Clerk

NMRA InfoNet News

Gerry Leone MMR

Welcome to the last edition of the NMRA InfoNet News under my watch.

The tour of the new, highly restricted Chinese High Speed Rail factory and facilities which Hasea.com, our NMRA counterpart in China, was going to schedule for the NMRA representatives has been temporarily cancelled, with the hopes of rescheduling later in the year.

The Winter Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Sheraton Suites Galleria-Atlanta, on February 8-10. Although the Board meets in a closed caucus the evening of February 8, the general meeting is open to all NMRA members on February 9 and 10. This year's meeting has a jam-packed agenda, including discussions about the *eBulletin*, an electronic newsletter meant to supplement **NMRA Magazine**. Also, because membership dropped from 19,500 to 18,800 in one year, the Board will be discussing ways to attract new members. A task force which has studied the challenges of attracting Generation X, Generation Y, and Millennials will be making a report at the meeting.

The Board is reviewing bids for upcoming conventions. Indianapolis has thrown its hat in the ring for the 2016 convention, and Sydney, Australia, and Orlando, FL, may be vying for the 2017 convention. Nothing has been decided yet on either convention.

The NMRA continues to receive donations for "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum. While we haven't yet hit our goal of \$250,000, we're getting closer every day to hitting the mark which will trigger a matching donation from an anonymous donor. If you, your Division or Region, have

any questions about the exhibit, please contact Howell Day Museum Committee Chairman Allen Pollock at 573-619-8532. You can contribute via the web by visiting www.nmra.org and clicking on the donation link near the top of the homepage.

As I mentioned last month, I've turned in my resignation as Communications Director, as of the Winter Board meeting next month. It's been a fun run and I've enjoyed it. I don't exactly know what the fate of these InfoNet News eblasts will be beyond this issue – that will be up to my successor. So if you or anyone you know would like to apply for the position, please contact President Charlie Getz at charliegetz@yahoo.com.

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**.

I'd like to say a special "thanks" to my friend and volunteer Chuck Diljak for diligently maintaining our Presidents and Supers email database for the past four years. He did a magnificent job in the thankless task of data mining behind the scenes when these eblasts would bounce. Thanks, Chuck!

Once again, thank you to all who've emailed me voicing your thanks and support throughout these past 4+ years and 56 editions of the InfoNet News. I truly appreciate it!

-Gerry Leone, MMR
Almost-former NMRA Communications Director

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 diehard 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.

TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

Dennis McGeeney

Here in the dreary months of winter we sometimes wonder what to do with ourselves. The Coal Division is now meeting at the St. Albans C&O depot and we are at the tip of the iceberg of things we can get done at this fine location! In just a few short months it will be June; the June Coal Division meeting will be held at the Hocking Valley Railroad in Nelsonville, Ohio. We will be meeting in style in a heavyweight passenger car. Following the meeting it is a short walk to a fine diner for lunch and fellowship. Another short walk will take us to the Hocking Valley depot to await departure of our train. The depot is filled with interesting railroad artifacts for your enjoyment. On the day of our trip several cabooses will be added to the regular train for us to enjoy the scenic trip.

Yes, we will be riding in cabooses! We will be able to ride outside on either end platform or you may want to enjoy the view from the cupola. Following the train trip we will be treated to a tour of the Hocking Valley shop. There is also a fully stocked railroad store on site. All members are more than welcome to bring along family or friends on this terrific train trip. Let's make this a fine day in our lives. (Ed. Note; I know Dennis has made at least one trip to Nelsonville as well as numerous phone calls to ensure a special day for us. If you went on the Potomac Eagle trip last summer you know Dennis puts a lot of time and effort into arranging these excursions. Hope to see you there.)



Here are two cabooses from the privately owned fleet at the Hocking Valley. Will we ride on one of these? It's hard to tell because there are many more! Photos of others can be found at http://www.hvsry.org/about_us/cabooses.htm
Photos courtesy of Hocking Valley Scenic Railway.



CONTEST CORNER

In response to suggestions from the membership, the contest schedule has been revised. The current program is below:

January	Non revenue cars including cabooses
February	Diesel and electric locomotives and traction
March	Steam Locomotives
April	Freight cars
May	Passenger cars
June	On line structures
July	Off line structures
August	Dioramas and modules
September	Photographs, two categories, prototype and model
October	Open loads
November	Vehicles built for use on a model railroad or diorama
December	Modeler's choice

Gary Burdette MMR won the popular vote in January for his caboose. We had a tough choice as Larry Richards also submitted a caboose that sure looked good.

Dennis wanted a caboose picture for his article on the upcoming Hocking Valley excursion. What should show up in my in box but a picture of Gary Burdette's home built version of the iconic B&O wagon top caboose! Gary started with an old Marx caboose and contoured the roof by carving and filing. He also filled old windows and cut new openings. Ladders and grabs are commercial parts; the bows over the roof are scratch built. Gary was inspired by an Aubrey Wiley article in an old issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman*. How's that Dennis!



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.

March	February 25
April	April 1
May	April 29
June	May 27
July	July 1
August	July 29
September	September 2
October	September 30
November	October 28

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

Last month I mentioned the passing of my friend and fellow model railroader, Gene Browning. In spite of the heavy snow of Jan. 17th; my wife and I were able to drive to Lexington, VA on the 18th for Gene's funeral. It was a tribute to Gene that the Church was packed, including a good number of the model railroading community of central Virginia. Gene was such a quiet guy that I did not know much about him except that he had worked in some capacity for the N&W at one time. Many hours were spent on Clint Foster's C&O, Bill Cox' Virginia & Blue Ridge Southern and Bob Burke's Sandy Creek & Southern alongside Gene and he never bragged, nor complained about his serious illness. At the funeral Gene's brother told us a lot about Gene. He was born and raised in the Lexington area, graduated from Virginia Military Academy and served in Vietnam. Gene then went to work as a civil engineer for the N&W and obtained advanced degrees in engineering from Washington & Lee University in Lexington. He taught engineering at a community college and became the head of the engineering department as well as the school's resident engineer. From 1992 to 2002 he was the county engineer for Rockbridge County. You meet some amazing people in this hobby and I am glad to have

known Gene Browning. After the funeral his wife, Pat, informed us that she expects some of "the boys" to come over once in a while and exercise the trains.

Well, it was snowing pretty hard in Pipestem so I called Dennis McGeeney and asked him how it was in Summersville. "Just fine, the roads are OK" he said. So, two and one half hours later, after driving on roads that were ice covered when they weren't snow covered and passing through several whiteouts I arrived in Summersville. I guess to a retired truck driver a little snow storm is nothing! At any rate we enjoyed a day doing wiring and track work on Walt Mycoff's layout. The first challenge was to figure where to put the gaps for what turned out to be a large reversing loop. Then we had to locate a short caused by reversed feeder wires. While we were working Walt called to see how we were doing. As the snow flew outside, Walt informed us he was in his bathing suit on an island in the Gulf of Mexico with his wife.. We should have hung up on him! But, when we left the trains were running everywhere on the layout and we were both smiling. Model railroading is fun!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

At long last the certificates for Dan Kennedy and Tony Puccini have arrived; I hope to present them at the February meeting. Dan's is for Structures and Tony's is for Chief Dispatcher.

Keep in mind that we have members qualified to judge models for Achievement Program purposes available before each membership meeting. If you have something that is portable, bring it in. If it's too big to move or is something like Scenery, Electrical, Civil, or Prototype Model, we will gladly come to your home to judge or certify as appropriate.

WEB SITE

Bob Weinheimer MMR

The web site has been giving me some trouble of late. I upgraded to a new version of the software I use but ran into some trouble. I've had to rebuild the site and some things like the banner on the Schedule page don't seem to work. I'll keep pounding on it but in the meantime it is still very useable.

Anthony Parrish is the custodian of our Facebook page, I am sure he would like to get some postings of photos or other model or prototype railroad content. Just search for "Coal Division" or click the link on the web site

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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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV

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

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**

April 13

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