



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

April 2013



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Our meeting program this year has been truly blessed by good weather. The winter has been unusually cold but our February and March meetings were on unseasonably warm sunny days good for standing around outside the depot watching trains. Let's hope spring has really sprung by the time of our April 13 meeting. The program for the April meeting is not the usual sort of clinic. Dennis McGeeney will recount his life as a locomotive engineer in the 1970s, starting with the Reading then moving on to the early days of Conrail. This presentation will be something of a test, if it works well it may turn into a program that can be part of our educational effort.

At the March meeting I shared with you the news of the passing of John Roberts. We learned of his death literally hours after sending out the last issue of this newsletter. At the request of the members at the March meeting, the notice written by Mike Brestel appears on page 9 of this issue.

Our May meeting will have us back in Parkersburg for the third annual "Steel is King" day. Paul Lapointe and Dave Stout will have their layouts open. Lunch will be at Dave's home, be sure to bring your appetite. Maps and addresses will appear in the May issue of Up The Holler.

Dennis is also ready to accept reservations and payment for the June 8 trip on the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway in Nelsonville, OH. I am certainly looking forward to the ride in the caboose. Many of us think of that as a rough ride due to the slack action at the end of a long freight train but with a short train of a few passenger cars I suspect the ride will be fairly comfortable. The members present at the March meeting agreed to dispense with the membership meeting that day, we felt it would not fit well with the other events and that we could survive without a June meeting.

Finally, the July meeting will be a cookout at the depot. We'll start cooking around noon then have the meeting at the usual time of 2:00. If I appear a bit antsy to get out of there that day it will be because I will be heading to Atlanta to the NMRA national convention right after the meeting. It's a long drive.....

MEETING NOTICE

The April meeting of the Coal Division will be held on Saturday, April 13 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 feature Dennis McGeeney recounting life as a locomotive engineer in the 1970s. The monthly contest will be freight cars. 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

I'm still excited (from last time). There has been a sort of "buzz" around the depot the last few meetings. I think it has been the sound of enthusiasm and joy being shared by everyone about our time at the station and the direction in which we are moving. We are heading in the right direction, and that is exciting.

The education committee (via Tony Puccini, our reporter) has informed you on several different topics which have been under discussion and are coming together through the work on the display layout, Darrell Thurmond's donation of an N-scale layout, David Robinette's stories of growing up on the railroad, and Bob Weinheimer having gotten both the "Education Station" outline and a couple of sample items (Home Page, Beginner's Guide, and Scenery) onto the coaldivision.org/education web site. I've shown you some paper versions (along with some other examples) in the past, but seeing things on the web makes the ideas more meaningful, more tangible. Check it out. We can change what is there, modify, and add to: please feel free to contribute!

Dennis McGeeney is working on a presentation titled "The Locomotive Engineer". Robert Osburn has prepared an outline of the proposed N-Scale demonstration layout which will show various stages of construction and levels of completion. I have produced a sample Switching Qualification Certificate for a "Shifting" Contest on the O Gauge pike, and maybe a switching module, later, as well. The areas are "Engineer" (real good), "Conductor" (pretty good), and "Brakeman" (good start, keep practicing). Matt Crouch and Scott Cyrus have had

switching challenges on the line before, and will have a set of rules and procedures for us soon. Paul Lapointe has continued to improve the raffle, and it has become a lot of fun and a very good moneymaker. Thanks to Paul for his work and everyone who has contributed. I am, also, working on a couple of C&O EMPLOYEE BULLETIN BOARDS to go into the Charleston station and the St. Albans depot that will show a reproduction of a historic artifact and be a useful tool for communication (we will use them both) in the process. There are other ideas floating around and will be discussed as we get a handle on them. Any ideas about activities, the web page, projects, and anything else are welcome.

Our new NMRA/Division 9, Coal Division Backdrop will be on display at the Colis P. Huntington Train Show in Dunbar this weekend (as this is written) and is our "face to the public." John Harris did a nice job of designing and constructing it, and all of our activities may center around it and what it represents.

Clinics, the model contest, our general meeting, and the upcoming train ride all seem to be a little more personal, a little more meaningful with the air of railroading all around us.

As we sit in a place where the history of trains has been and continues to be made, we are contributing to that time line through our efforts to promote our hobby. The sky is the limit. Yes, that is exciting!

All aboard.

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.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
The Coal Division
St Albans, WV C&O Depot
February 9, 2012 (Corrected)

Introductions and Welcome

Wil Davis and Gordon Carlson from Division 3 were at the meeting to tell us about the MCR convention.

Division Clerk Report

Minutes from the December meeting approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasury balance is currently \$8,872.98.

Superintendent Report

The topic of the business meeting being moved to the end of the meeting was discussed.

Division 2 (Pittsburgh) Jamboree, a one-day mini-convention, in late April will feature NMRA President Charlie Getz as guest speaker.

NMRA BOD meeting this weekend, hope to have something to report in next newsletter

NMRA communications director has resigned without providing a reason. There is some question about the future of the InfoNet article each month in the newsletter.

It may be replaced by some sort of electronic newsletter that supplements the NMRA Magazine. More information after this weekend's BOD meeting.

KVRC train show this weekend at Coonskin Park in Charleston.

David Robinette has been in and out of hospital.

SACOM Hawks Nest meeting April 5 and 6.

There are plans to have a cookout at noon before our meeting in July.

Tony Puccini asked whether *Scale Rails* would be available electronically. Bob responded that it would likely be available at some point but also continue to be printed as well. We will be staffing a table at the Dunbar, WV show the same weekend as the Hawks Nest meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary discussed the meeting of the Education Committee immediately prior to the business meeting. A small N Scale display layout will be the first project for the committee. Several other possible activities were discussed as part of the educational outreach for the Division.

Membership Chair

John mentioned Scott Cyrus has joined the NMRA. Also Bob mentioned the issue of two members not being able to have the same email address.

Achievement Program

Certificate for Chief Dispatcher was presented to Tony Puccini. Dan Kennedy has been awarded the certificate for Structures. Larry Richards received the Modeler of the Year Award for our monthly Division contests.

Newsletter Chair

We are always in need of materials.

Clinic Chair

We need clinics for future meetings.

Travels with Dennis

Dennis presented information about our June meeting at the Hocking Valley. We will be meeting in a heavyweight passenger car. The option of riding in cabooses is available. The cost will be \$17 or \$21 for the caboose.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

See Gary for Division 9 shirts for \$10.

Next Meetings

March	St. Albans Depot
April 13	St. Albans Depot
May 11	Parkersburg, WV - Steel is King
June 8	Nelsonville, OH - Train Ride
July 13	St. Albans Depot - Noon Cookout

Break

Contest – Diesel or Electric Locomotives, Traction

Convention Presentation – Wil Davis and Pat Taylor presented information about the upcoming MCR convention

Clinic – Gary Burdette *Painting C&O Diesels.*

Raffle \$87.00

Respectfully Submitted

Jerry Doyle, MCR Division 9 Clerk

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

Division Clerk Report

Minutes from the February meeting not approved as printed in the newsletter pending the addition of the inclusion of an item regarding the monthly raffle. The corrected minutes will be printed in the April issue of the newsletter.

Treasury balance is currently \$8,959.98.

Superintendent Report

Bob mentioned the recent eBulletin and the possibility of its expansion and the future of the printed *Scale Rails*.

Bob mentioned the passing of John Roberts.

The Gallery Project is at the \$250,000 mark.

The national elections for the World Wide at Large Director are currently being held.

Mid Central Region elections are also currently underway.

Paying SACOM for heating costs was mentioned.

At the June meeting we will be meeting at the Hocking Valley. Tony Puccinni made a motion we dispense with the business and membership meeting for this even. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary mentioned David Robinette and his recollections.

The cost of having shirts embroidered has increased.

We have an outline of the education component of our website under development.

Education and Outreach Report

Tony Puccinni read the minutes and outlined the purposes and goals for the committee.

The first project taken up by the committee is an N Scale display layout.

An additional \$140 will be needed to complete the layout.

The completion date for the layout was discussed and the November meeting and Bluefield Train Show were set as a goal.

Gary told the group he was working on authentic signage for the Charleston Depot. He also mentioned a switching contest layout and how the public would be involved.

Membership Chair

A staffing sheet for the Dunbar Show was distributed.

Achievement Program

Newsletter Chair

We are always in need of materials.

Clinic Chair

We need clinics for future meetings.

Travels with Dennis

Dennis expressed his enthusiasm for the group. He presented information about our June meeting at the Hocking Valley in Nelsonville, Ohio. We will be meeting in a heavyweight passenger car. The option of riding in cabooses is available. The cost will be \$17 or \$21 for the caboose. There was a suggestion we invite the guide for the group's shop tour to have lunch with the group. Dennis suggested members chip in \$1 extra to cover the cost of our tour guide's meal.

Old Business

None

New Business

Tony Puccinni made a motion to give Matt Crouch \$140 for display layout. The motion was seconded. Paul Lapointe suggested Matt provide a "wish list" for items needed for the layout. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Greenbo Show March 16

RPM meet Greensburg PA March 23

Hawks Nest April 5

April 20 Whistles by the Depot program at the St Albans Depot.

April 27 Mini Jamboree Pittsburgh

Next Meetings

April 13 St. Albans Depot

May 11 Parkersburg, WV - Steel is King

June 8 Nelsonville, OH - Train Ride
(no membership meeting)

July 13 St. Albans Depot - Noon

Cookout

August 10

September

Meeting Adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Break

Raffle \$67.00

Shirts \$3

Contest – Steam Locomotives won by Larry Richards.

Clinic – Bob Weinheimer *Documenting Your Trains for Insurance Purposes*

Respectfully Submitted

Jerry Doyle, MCR Division 9 Clerk

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

February 9, 2013 Minutes

Reported by Tony Puccini

This is our first meeting. We meet 30 minutes prior to the Division 9 NMRA monthly meeting. This committee is open to everyone and all opinions, ideas, and suggestions are most welcome. Just show up here at 13:30 before each meeting.

Our mission is to tie in Division 9's efforts with the NMRA requirement # 501C3 which is to educate the public on prototype and model railroading using models, pictures, activities, clinics, and all other forms of education.

The following were present at our February meeting:

---Gary Burdette Our Committee Chairman
 ---Matt Crouch
 ---Denise McGeeney
 ---Bob Osburn
 ---Jerry Doyle
 ---Tony Puccini

We listed 16 projects that we could accomplish over time. The project that stood out as the logical first accomplishment was to construct a portable N scale display layout for train shows and other outreach activities. Matt Crouch was designated as this project's leader.

Gary Burdette, our Assistant Superintendent, was designated Committee Chairman. In that capacity we decided to enable Gary to delegate jobs and responsibilities.

Tony Puccini was designated as recorder.

Subsequent to this meeting, Matt purchased all the wood and hardware needed for bench work for \$ 50.00 along with the articles pictured on the screen from Sherri Willey (Chuck Willey's wife) for \$ 40.00. She gave Matt a wonderful deal. Consequently, we now have all our bench work, a power pack, switches, some locomotives, freight cars, and a myriad of other items. After the completion of this layout; all surplus items will be given to Paul Lapointe for our division raffle.

Matt Crouch has traded some of the extras for things that we still need to complete this layout.

After this presentation, the committee would like the membership to vote to cut a check to Matt Crouch to cover the expenses already purchased which is \$ 90.00 and also cut Matt a check for a further \$ 50.00 for other layout items for a total of \$ 140.00.

In other news Dennis McGeeney is going to develop a character to explain the duties, responsibilities, and Stories from a locomotive engineer's viewpoint. Dennis spent years as a locomotive engineer on the Reading Railroad.

The minutes of each Education and Outreach Committee will be passed to the Division 9 membership in our monthly magazine *Up the Holler*.

CONTEST CORNER

The March contest featured steam locomotives with entries by Larry Richards and Gary Burdette. Larry's entry won, its photo is included in this column. Both Gary and Larry would like to see a higher level of activity in the contest and they challenge other members to bring something. Think of it as less of a competition and more of what other divisions call a "Bring and Brag" event. What would it take to get an increase in entries? How about a free raffle ticket to each member who enters an item (with membership approval, of course).

With all of that in mind, how about bringing a freight

car to the April meeting? Most of us have done something to a stock model if nothing more than paint and letter it. Perhaps you've done some kitbashing, bring something to show your efforts. While Gary and Larry are certainly very good modelers, they are not the only ones in the Coal Division!



Photo by Jerry Doyle

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE
March 9, 2013 Minutes
Reported by Tony Puccini

The following were present at our March meeting:

Gary Burdette Our Committee Chairman

Matt Crouch

Denise McGeeney

Bob Osburn

Jerry Doyle

John Stephens

P Darrell Thurmond

Russel Miller

Tony Puccini

Matt Crouch finished all the Bench work on our Portable N scale layout. We were in receipt of some gifts for this layout consisting of a water tower, spikes with spike hammer and a few other items.

Gary Burdette passed out a copy of our Site Map Education Station. He then reviewed each item which included Beginner's Guide, Standards, Careers, References, Era-Locale, Rail Fanning, Motive power, Rolling Stock, Right of Way (including design of layout, bench work and electricity), Structures, Scenery, Operations, Communications, Painting, Industry, Scale Plans (including Articles and How-tos), and On-line Museum.

To break one of the above items down, say "Rolling Stock" we get Boxcars, Hoppers, Covered Hoppers, Flat cars, Tank Cars, Refrigerator cars, Stock cars, Passenger Cars, Maintenance of Way, etc.

To further break one of the above items down, say "Boxcars" We get into the following topics: Prototype, history, pictures articles, models etc. So there is a lot of hard but interesting and fun work to be done to complete

this comprehensive outline.

Bob Osburn had such a good idea that the committee decided that it would be our number two project. This is to create a display (layout) where one end (left) shows the bench work, wiring, road bed, scenery, structures, rolling stock et al at the beginning in it's most primitive state. As we look from left to right we see the scenery, road bed, structures etc. being built. On the right side of the display we see a completed project with the scenery, structures, road bed, et al all complete and detailed. The best scale for this is HO and it helps all to see beginning and end stages of a Complete layout. This can be a wonderful learning tool to describe how many things are accomplished. Bob Osburn will be the lead on this our second project.

Darrell Thurmond has donated a 4 foot by 8 foot N scale layout to Division 9. At our next Division 9 meeting Darrell will load up that layout on a truck and drive it to the St. Albans Station where members of the Education and Outreach Committee will offload it and put it in the storage room.

During the regular Division 9 meeting the following was adjudicated:

- A) The portable N scale display layout will be up and running for our Bluefield meeting in November..
- B) Matt Crouch will develop a list of N scale items needed so that donations can be made.
- C) The Division voted to cut Matt Crouch a check for \$ 140.00. Matt will keep receipts for the \$ 50.00 not yet obligated.

RAFFLE REPORT
Paul Lapointe

The raffle in March brought in \$67. This was the second highest amount after February's all-time high of \$87!

Raffles are a great way to contribute to the division while providing a way to pass on useful items you no longer want or need. And it's a great way to win some unique items you always wanted but didn't know it!

You can donate models, kits, books, video tapes, DVDs, collectables, scratch building supplies, scenery stuff, just about anything train related. Bring your items

to any meeting and give it to myself, or if I'm not there, to any officer, and it will be part of a future raffle.

Raffles are held whenever we are at the Division's home base, the C&O Depot in St. Albans.

A preview of April's raffle includes an HO 4-6-2 locomotive lettered for Coal River Southern. This was an entry in March's contest and is very nicely done. There's a matching caboose, too! Some N scale items, collectables, and HO antique vehicles. Take a chance; it's only a dollar!

TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

Dennis McGeeny

Fellow members, here we are in April and getting closer to our June 8th trip on the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway. I believe it will be a memorable day! We will gather at the Rocky Gear Outlet Store at Nelsonville, OH for a fine lunch. We will have tables and servers reserved for us. The restaurant is less than one hundred feet from the HV depot. A volunteer from the Hocking Valley will join us for lunch and then lead a grand tour of the HV shops. All of the HV locomotives and cars are rebuilt and refurbished at these shops. We will also see a wreck train, a collection of cabooses and a steam locomotive which is under restoration. At the depot itself there are numerous items of interest on display. There is also a gift shop offering HV and other railroad artifacts; which we will have time to explore before our 2:30PM departure on the train. We will be riding in authentic cabooses added to the normal passenger cars of the train. You will be able to ride in

the cupola, for a fine view or even on the open end platforms. The ride will be about twenty two miles and will give us a great view of the old Hocking Valley which was an important segment of the C&Os' route to Columbus and Toledo. At Robins Crossing the train will pause for one half hour to allow a visit to an 1840s logging village. Riders may bring their own snacks and non alcoholic beverages along in the cabooses. Bring your friends and family! All are welcome for a wonderful day of railroading. Prices are \$15.00 for those 60 and over, \$17.00 for adults, \$12.00 for children between 3 and 12 plus an additional \$4.00 for the caboose. We would also like to collect an extra dollar from each for a meal and tip for the volunteer giving us the shop tour. Last year, at Romney, WV we had a wonderful time at the Potomac Eagle trip. Let's make this year even more memorable.

ALL ABOARD

Dennis McGeeny

Top of the day to all members of the Coal Division. My name is Dennis McGeeny from Summersville, WV. Following my service in the U.S. Army I became a locomotive engineer for the Reading RR. In 1976 six financially troubled railroads were combined into Conrail where my career continued. I would like to pass on to you my experiences working on the railroad. It seems education regarding the history and operations of prototype railroads is a topic of interest to everyone. I would like to write about situations in which I was involved every day while working as a locomotive engineer. There are many things

and duties performed by an engineer which are not known by the average person. I am hoping to pass on to you information regarding all aspects of working on the railroad. This information could be used by modelers to enhance your own operations on your layout. The possibilities are unlimited as to what we can learn and apply to our model railroad operations. This information can also be passed on to other modelers so their operations can be more prototypical. I really hope to be able to further our knowledge of prototype operations by way of my experience.



These pictures should bring back memories for Dennis! He did work out of the Allentown Yard where these shots were taken at the Bethlehem engine terminal. The yard, at the time, served the Reading, Central of New Jersey, Lehigh & Hudson River and the CNJ operated remains of the old Lehigh & New England. Photos taken on a gray March day in 1971 by Dan Mulhearn

NMRA InfoNet News

Tom Draper

NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit Donation - The WISE Division in Wisconsin recently voted to donate \$5,000 to the NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit with an immediate payment of \$2,500 and a second payment of the same amount later in the year or early next year.

Atlanta 2013 Convention Update

All tours are selling briskly, so be sure to register now to avoid disappointment. Most of the prototype and general interest tours are limited to 50 people due to venue limitations.

- A team of PTE convention reps visited the American Maglev Technologies test track on Feb 22 and were treated to a most informative and entertaining tour. This tour is offered on Tuesday, July 16 (P352) and again on Wednesday, July 17 (P457). If you're interested in the future of transportation, don't miss this tour.
- The tour to the CSX Training Center (P355) has been expanded to include a visit to the Georgia Northeastern RR, where you'll get an overview of their operations from GNRR president, see some of their locos, and visit their dispatch center and yards.
- The convention hotel, the Waverly Renaissance, is 40% booked at this time, so don't hesitate in reserving your room at this great venue.
- The clinic schedule has been posted to the website as well as updates to some of the other events. Visit the website at www.NMRA2013.org.
- A very active and entertaining general interest/non-rail program is available, so bring the family, sample some southern hospitality, and see all that Atlanta has to offer.

The NMRA Board of Directors has appointed Mike Yurcic the new At Large North American Director, a position vacated by Miles Hale, MMR. Mike resides in Sherman, Ill., and is a Director of North America Railroad Products for a large hydraulics company. He was recently elected Vice President of the Midwest Region, and prior to that was District 5 Trainmaster for the Illinois Valley Division. Mike also served

as Chairman of the "Railsplitter 2012" Midwest Region Convention Committee.

The Board has also confirmed the appointment of Gerry Leone, MMR, Vice President-Special Projects. Gerry served as NMRA Communications Director for five years, and, prior to that, was Deputy Chair of the NMRA's Member Services Department. He also served on the boards and edited the newsletters of the Thousand Lakes Region and Twin Cities Division. Gerry received the NMRA President's Award in 2010, and the Meritorious Service award in 2012. Gerry replaces Bill Kaufman, who resigned in mid-February.

If any of your members did not receive the first issue of the NMRA eBulletin, which was mailed out on March 5, it means either their SPAM filter is preventing it from getting through, or their email address on file with NMRA Headquarters isn't current. Please have them visit <http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> to update email information. Also let them know that it may take a little bit of time for the update to take effect, since this is currently being done manually by HQ staff. The next issue of the NMRA eBulletin is scheduled to be mailed out in early May.

Jim Zinser has announced a new email address for his Division Business Car Column. The new email address is divbizcar@outlook.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 on in the NMRA Magazine.

If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact me at tedraider@aol.com with the corrected information

Regards,

Tom Draper
Director – Support Services



Here are two more 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.



John E. Roberts, HLM, MMR, 1947-2013



John Roberts passed away peacefully in Williamsburg, Virginia on Friday evening, March 1, 2013. He was 65 years old.

John was NMRA President, 2004-2006, Vice President, 2000-2004, Eastern District Director, 2009-2013, Howell Day Museum Committee Chair, 2006-2012, MCR President and Trustee, 1989-1993, and over the years held a number of other elected and volunteer offices at every level of the NMRA. A native of the Chicago area, John also lived and worked in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh before settling in Williamsburg. A graduate of Southern Illinois University in Civil Engineering, John worked most of his career in the field of safety management and loss prevention for Fortune 500 corporations including Federated Department Stores (Macy's), Rockwell International, Ralph's Supermarkets, and

Dick's Sporting Goods. Since 1988, he was a loss prevention specialist for AON Risk Services.

In addition to his many achievements in the NMRA, John was a well-known model railroad author and photographer, with articles and photos appearing in *Railroad Model Craftsman*, *Model Railroader*, *Railroad & Railfan*, *Scale Rails/NMRA Magazine*, *Railroads Illustrated/CTC Board*, *Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Magazine*, and other publications. He was the builder of several highly regarded layouts in HO and O scale, all of them featuring both the C&O and his shortline, the Blue Ridge & Southern. His last published work was a track plan featured in the 2013 issue of *Model Railroad Planning*.

John had contracted Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a rare brain condition that causes a rapid decrease of mental function and movement, and inevitably leads to death. John first showed symptoms of the disease in early 2012.

The visitation will be held at 1 pm on Friday, March 8, at the Peninsula Funeral Home in Newport News, Virginia, with the funeral beginning at 2 pm. Interment will be nearby.

John is survived by his wife, Suzie, his children, John (Collette) and Whitney, and two granddaughters.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be sent to the Diamond Club, National Model Railroad Association, Inc., 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421. Cards and letters may be sent to the family at 104 Heritage Pointe, Williamsburg, VA, 23188.

Mike Brestel
Photo by Kevin EuDaly

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.

May	April 29
June	May 27
July	July 1
August	July 29
September	September 2
October	September 30
November	October 28
December	December 2

MY WORD
Dan Mulhearn, Editor

What a busy month! Got to run at four op sessions and enjoyed every one of them greatly. The last Saturday in February found several of us Coal Division members at Clint Foster's for a good day on the New River Sub. On March 4 I journeyed to Amherst, VA to work as Monroe, VA yardmaster on Bill Cox' Virginia & Blue Ridge Southern. That is a pretty intense job and I managed to mess it up some due to confusion with switch lists conflicting with the old car cards as Bill is phasing in *Ship-It* software to route his freight. March 14 was the monthly session on the Pennsylvania Southern at Bob's house and I got to dispatch. Finally, on March 16 I once again knuckled down to the east yard job at Bedford, VA on Tom Harris' Lakeside Lines in Wytheville, VA. In between all that had several continuing training sessions for my paramedic job, including one given by CSX on response to railroad emergencies. Nina and I also got to spend a very relaxing three days without radio or TV at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, NC.

I just got in an Athearn Genesis GP38-2 decorated for Southern and it is a beauty. It has the correct horns,

the unique SOU style sun visors on the cab sides and the control stand properly oriented for long hood forward operation. There is nothing in the line of detail that needs to be added. The sound system is by Soundtraxx Tsunami and is superb. They really captured the non turbo EMD 645 sound and included the correct sound for the Nathan P3 horn. If you don't like it though you can change a CV and choose from five additional horn sounds. After adjusting the motor control CVs the unit just barely creeps along at throttle position 1. In my case I will have to do a little work as the plan is to overpaint the SOU scheme in to the Norfolk Southern scheme and add ditch lights. Athearn will offer the GP38-2 in NS colors but it will have the "horsehead" scheme which is too new for my era. All in all Athearn has done a bang up job on a real work horse of modern era railroading. The unit is available in SP, MP and CN (with the Canadian safety cab). In addition to the SOU unit with the high short hood. Other road names will be released in the future. If the GP38-2 fits your era you just can't go wrong with this locomotive.

An Evening of Railroad Photography

Saturday, April 20th, 2013

6pm - 10pm

St. Albans C&O Depot

Corner of 4th Avenue & 4th Street

St. Albans, WV

Join us for an evening of digital railroad photography slideshows and multimedia presentations put together by some of the region's most well known railroad photographers and historians. Presentations will vary on subject with emphasis on unique aspects of railroading in our Mountain State and surrounding Tri-State region. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM with our first presentation beginning at 7:00 PM. Complimentary beverages will be served.

**For any questions, comments or
for directions contact:**

Chase Gunnoe

304-553-9409

Chase55671@hotmail.com

Click [here](#) to see the full program

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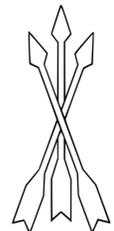
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

April 13

St. Albans Depot

Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue

St. Albans, WV

May 11

“Steel is King”

Parkersburg, WV

June 8

Special Outing at the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway

Nelsonville, OH

July 13

St. Albans Depot

Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue

St. Albans, WV