



# UP THE HOLLER

## Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION Mid Central Region NMRA

October 2013



### DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
304 343 1428  
[super@coaldvision.org](mailto:super@coaldvision.org)

Asst Superintendent  
Gary Burdette MMR  
304 675 3909  
[asstsuper@coaldvision.org](mailto:asstsuper@coaldvision.org)

Clerk— Jerry Doyle  
304 638-2826  
[clerk@coaldvision.org](mailto:clerk@coaldvision.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen  
Ed Keith MMR  
740 867 5264  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
304 343 1428  
[super@coaldvision.org](mailto:super@coaldvision.org)

Clinic  
Dan Mulhearn  
304 466 9188  
[clinic@coaldvision.org](mailto:clinic@coaldvision.org)

Contest  
Dan Mulhearn  
[contest@coaldvision.org](mailto:contest@coaldvision.org)

Education  
Gary Burdette MMR  
304 675 3909  
[asstsuper@coaldvision.org](mailto:asstsuper@coaldvision.org)

Election  
Bill Wadsworth  
304 768 3266  
[nominating@coaldvision.org](mailto:nominating@coaldvision.org)

Membership  
John Harris  
[membership@coaldvision.org](mailto:membership@coaldvision.org)

Raffle  
Paul Lapointe  
[raffle@coaldvision.org](mailto:raffle@coaldvision.org)

### DIVISION STAFF

Editor  
Dan Mulhearn  
304 466 9188  
[editor@coaldvision.org](mailto:editor@coaldvision.org)

Webmaster  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
[super@coaldvision.org](mailto:super@coaldvision.org)

### HEAD OF THE HOLLER Bob Weinheimer MMR

September was certainly a month of highs and lows for the Coal Division. On the down side we lost long time member David Robinette. David passed away September 11 after a long struggle. Several readers have commented favorably on the articles we have published in recent months, these were all written by David during his illness. Check out Gary Burdette's column on the next page for a tribute to David.

On the up side we had one of the best Portsmouth meetings in recent memory. The weather was great and our host Mark Maynard fed us very well, I know I didn't have much of a supper that evening. Mark has made some important but not very visible improvements with the automation of his staging yard turnouts. We were also joined by a large number of Buckeye Division members and our joint membership meeting went smoothly. If you missed this event, make sure to join us next year.

In a few short months it will be time once again to elect Division officers. For us that means Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, the Clerk is appointed by the Superintendent. Both Gary and I are term limited and cannot run again for our respective offices. Term limits can be a good thing as they introduce new people to the leadership positions. Bill Wadsworth, chair of our Nominating Committee, will soon be making calls looking for candidates for both offices. I know many of you will say you are not interested but do you know what the officers really do and how much time that takes?

The Superintendent is responsible for chairing the membership meetings. This involves putting together a meeting agenda each month but that is little more than making a date change on the previous month's agenda and a few minor updates. He or she also needs to compile a list of items to discuss in the Superintendent's report, these are typically news from the Division, Region, or National levels. The Superintendent is also a member of the Mid Central Region Board of Directors and is expected to attend or designate a proxy to attend two meetings each year, one is usually during the Regional Convention in the spring. The Superintendent also has to write this column each month (about 400 words, not much) and a report for the Board, that is typically a page or so twice per year.

**HEAD OF THE HOLLER** Continued on page 3

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Coal Division meeting will be Saturday October 12 at the St. Albans Depot, Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue, St. Albans, WV. The clinic will be presented by Bob Osburn, Bob will tell us about animation projects for our layouts. He will be bringing a number of items to demonstrate, this should be a good one! The contest will be Open Loads, show us what your freight cars carry to earn their keep. The meeting starts at 2 PM with a social hour at 1 PM.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

**Gary J. Burdette MMR**

A few months ago I wrote about something I called a "Master of Model Railroading." This is not to be confused with our Master Model Railroader certification, which is part of the NMRA Achievement Program – though one could be both.

My term refers to the level of joy, enthusiasm, and the amount of energy one puts into all of his or her activities related to the hobby of model railroading. While most of us do enjoy our favorite pass-time, some give 110%. They are deeply involved in modeling and other rail-related adventures. Perhaps, they are most committed to helping people. It might be in advising, helping with shows or other events, or working on a buddy's pike. They usually go "the extra mile" in promoting the hobby and friendship.

When I wrote this, I had one person especially in mind: David Robinette. I don't know how many model railroads he has worked on, but it has to be in the dozens. I know of three or four in just the last few years. He has, also, built his own with son Nathan. Add numerous structures built to exact N&W standards and several prototype scenes. When he became ill, we had just begun to put items together in preparation for applying for that AP certificate. He did receive certificates for Electrical Engineer and Master Builder: Structures. We were looking at Scenery and Author Certificates, as well. (As Bob mentioned, he wrote several stories while recovering in rehab.) He was so close on those three, that in my mind, he achieved them.

But, his real contribution to the hobby was in promoting it. He and Nathan have been volunteers for the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway for several years. As Dave Stout noted, "He always told you interesting things about the railroad." He showed you things, too. For several years, David, Nathan, and others operated a week-long train show every summer at the Meigs County Public Library. There were several train layouts operating and a number of glass cases that David had prepared to display numerous model and prototype items.

When he wasn't hosting a show, he was participating in them. I recently found an old Super Signal from Division

6 back in the days when some of us were in that Division. Many compliments went to David and Dave Stout for hosting the division meet at Parkersburg and for David's talk and display on rail styles. The shows put on by the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club were not the only ones frequented by David. Because not all of the above were NMRA sponsored events, he did not have enough hours for Association Volunteer, but he did have many, many hours in promoting the hobby. Here is another certificate we were working on (#6).

I really related to David because of the techniques he used in modeling: anything was fair game as a building material. Guitar strings made great fence-making material. He would mix-and-match all types of kits to build rolling stock and motive power. He used a plaster patching material on the Hocking Valley G-scale coal dock that is on display at the HVSRy depot (see the May, 2013 issue of the **C&O Historical Electronic Magazine** at cohhs.org). He used wood to build the old HV wood -side gondola in G to accompany the coal dock. He had a good start on Master Builder: Rolling Stock (#7).

Alas, David did not get all of the certificates on which he was working. He got the low-hanging fruit that our "Super" talks about, and he, Nathan, and I started making calculations on others. The idea is that we were adding a new phase to David's hobby that he had not really considered before. He was content, over the years, to just go about enjoying model railroading. And, he did. Over the last several months, he had a goal to work toward and that helped keep the hobby alive. In June, he took the Hocking Valley trip with his friends from Division 9. When we visited, we continued to "talk trains" and enjoy one another's company.

On September 11, 2011, the hobby and Division 9 lost a very kind and talented gentleman. He did his best in all he did... from his work, to his family, to his hobby. I learned a great deal from him. He was, indeed, a Master of Model Railroading (and somewhat close to being an MMR).

Good-bye, my friend. Rest in Peace.

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There are some phone calls to handle, many are questions from members. Does this sound too bad? I know I spend much more time on other duties like working with Dan on this newsletter, keeping up the web site, handling Achievement Program issues, and working on the Region level.

The Assistant Superintendent is like most vice presidents, he or she sort of waits around for the Superintendent to be unavailable and fills in much like I did whenever Lin was unavailable. Gary serves as Education Committee Chair but that is an added duty, not really part of the office. Similarly, much of the time I was Assistant Superintendent I was also chairing the 2010 convention. Again, that was really separate from the office.

Did you notice that nowhere in these descriptions was the quality of your modeling efforts mentioned? It quite irrelevant that both officers are MMRs; that just sort of happened. This is not a modeling responsibility, it's more of a management responsibility. Keep in mind that neither current NMRA President Charlie Getz nor his predecessor, Mike Brestel, are MMRs yet they have served in that office quite admirably.

The Division needs your help. If you want to run, get in contact with Bill, his phone and email can be found on page 1. If nobody steps forward to run for these offices the Division may very well be inactivated. I don't think any of us want that to happen, do you?

## **RAFFLE REPORT**

### **Paul Lapointe**

A good time was had by all at the September meeting at Mark Maynard's house in Portsmouth. Good food and lots of it, pleasant company and a beautiful day! As we were away from our home base, there was no raffle.

In October we will be back at the C&O Depot in St. Albans. Bob Weinheimer will be the raffle master as I am out of town that week. The raffle will be held with the usual mix of items and we hope you'll be generous both in buying tickets and donating items.

## **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.

November	October 28
December	December 2
January	December 30
February	January 27
March	February 24
April	March 31
May	April 28

## **Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club**

The Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club would like to invite you to our 18th Annual Train Show and Sale. It will be on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10AM-3PM at WV University-Parkersburg at Parkersburg, WV. WVU-P is 1 mile east of I-77 exit#174 on Rt 47. There will be vendors

selling model railroad items, operating layouts, a bucket drawing and refreshments available. Admission is \$4. Under 12-Free. Vendor tables are \$12. For information call: 304 588-5417 or e-mail: [railsign@suddenlink.net](mailto:railsign@suddenlink.net).

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9  
THE COAL DIVISION**

**Mark Maynard's House West Portsmouth, OH  
September 14, 2013  
Joint Meeting with Division 6**

Meeting Called to order at 2:00

Bob thanked Mark Maynard for hosting the meeting today.

Members from the divisions introduced themselves.

**Superintendent Report**

Bob sadly reported that David Robinette had passed away Wednesday Sept 11.

Clinics are being sought for the national convention in Cleveland. Several Division 9 members have already agreed to present.

The MCR board will be meeting October 6 in Columbus, Ohio.

**Division Clerk Report**

Treasury balance is currently \$8,783.09

The proceeds from the swap meet were \$22.

One check was written to Mark Maynard for \$45, two will be written shortly for postage to Bob Weinheimer for \$45 and Jerry Doyle for \$212 for the grill.

**Assistant Superintendent Report**

Gary showed a Super's Signal from November 1997 when many members from Division 9 were members of Division 6. Gary mentioned the possibility of having member's clinics available for use as part of an archive for other divisions.

**Membership Chair**

Chair was absent but Bob reported we have one new member, Dale Osborn.

**Achievement Program**

No items to report.

**Newsletter Chair**

Dan always welcomes comments, questions, and

submissions. Bob also mentioned he is the new editor of the MCR newsletter The Kingpin.

**Raffle**

No raffle for this or the previous meeting. Bob will handle the raffle for the October meeting.

**Clinic Chair**

Clinics are lined up for the next two months.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Announcements**

Division 2 will host layout tours in the Wheeling area tomorrow.

Dan Mulhern asked we keep Charley Venable and Clint Foster and his wife in their thoughts.

Ed Keith mentioned there will be a show in Chapmanville, WV September 21 and 22.

**Next Meetings**

October 12	St Albans Depot
November 9	Bluefield, WV
December 14	St Albans Depot

**Adjourn Business Meeting**

Adjourned 2:40

**Post Meeting Activities:**

**Contest – Photos**

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## NMRA INFONET

### Tom Draper

Message from Pete Magoun, MMR current NMRA Central District Director:

#### Recruiting Tools

Pete Magoun, MMR

As I travel around the NMRA I hear a common theme rumbling at Division and Region levels: "How do we attract more members to the NMRA?" Sure, there are variations on this theme, like "What's 'National' doing to attract new members," or "What tools do we have to attract new members," but the underlying theme doesn't change. We need new members if the organization is to survive. That job is for each of us.

This discussion came up awhile back at a Region convention, where I had been asked to comment after the banquet. The term used was "After-Banquet Speaker," which is generally not a good idea around me, because I can talk about the benefits of the NMRA for a long time. This is a great hobby, and the NMRA makes it even better. But I digress....

The festivities included a slideshow of host Division activities, including modular shows in shopping areas, open houses, road trips and so on. That slideshow triggered a major change in my intended remarks, for I realized that it could be the basis for a completely different presentation. So let's have a look at the discussion. It's Tool Time!

There are really only three tools you need to conduct a successful membership growth campaign. They're inexpensive, and all of us have them. We simply need to use them!

The first is our eyes. We need to make eye contact with a potential member. We can smile with our eyes (try it – it works!), and our eyes tell the new prospect a great deal about who we are and where we're going. When we're happy, enjoying ourselves and proud of our organization, this shows in our eyes. [So does the Grumpy Old Man part, so be careful!]

The second is our mouth. We can smile with our mouths, and we can say a lot about the educational opportunities, fun, fellowship and so on we're enjoying within our little corner of the NMRA. We can answer questions, provide invitations, and make folks feel welcome.

The third is our hands. Use them for handshakes. Invite people in with a handshake. Make folks feel welcome. It's not difficult, and it makes a world of difference to a prospective member.

At some point in our NMRA experience, someone smiled, extended a hand to us, made us feel welcome, and invited us to join the fun. It wasn't difficult, and it opened the door to us. Be that someone! Go for it!

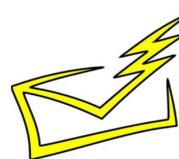
*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) on in the NMRA Magazine.*

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA  
Director – Support Services

Are you a Coal Division member who received this newsletter by email but did not receive the NMRA eBulletin September 2? If so that likely means the NMRA Headquarters has a different email from the one you supplied us for Up The Holler. The blurb below is copied from that eBulletin, follow its instructions to up-date your email with the NMRA Headquarters.

#### Email address changes



Each time the eBulletin is mailed out, Page Martin, our Marketing Director, receives requests from dozens of members asking for an email address change. Page can't do much about that - that job is done by our fine staff at Headquarters. **If you have a change of email address, please visit**

<http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> and update your information. It will go straight to our HQ staff, who'll make sure it gets updated before the next **NMRA eBulletin** gets sent.

## MY WORD

### Dan Mulhearn, Editor

The notice about the NS Pier 6 Anniversary car got me to thinking about the coal industry and how it relates to our modeling operations. I will not comment on the merits or politics of what is going on but there is no doubt coal is under fire from a combination of low price natural gas and increasing regulation of coal burning power plants. There is currently a bill circulating in Congress which forbids export of American coal to China. That would probably be the death knell for Appalachian coal.

Here is where our modeling comes in. On the Pennsylvania Southern, the G&G, my Norfolk Southern, and hundreds if not thousands of other model railroads the coal will roll on for as long as we enjoy running it.. And, it is all environmentally neutral! Although my modeling seeks to reflect the real world of railroading; that world will conform to my idea of what the world should be like. As a matter of fact, my version of the Norfolk Southern will have an Amtrak Superliner consist on the Powhatan Arrow running between Norfolk, VA and Kansas City, MO. Hey, could have happened and it will happen in HO scale.

My own preference is to try to keep it reasonable; but if you want to pull double stacks behind big steam, it's your railroad! Each modeler has his or her own particular "givens and druthers" and are entitled to them. Want to run cabooses into the current era on your mainline hotshots? Help yourself. We can form and shape reality to

suit the operations we want to have; so keep running that coal to your power plant or your seaport. I am sure a turndown in the steel industry is not going to effect the tonnage on Dave Stout's or Paul LaPointe's layouts. Isn't that great?

I was in Connecticut this week to visit an old camping and railfanning buddy. We just happened to find ourselves at the depot in Madison, CT while our wives were doing some shopping. We saw a triple headed Boston-Washington passenger train! Metro-North RR was having electrical troubles between New Haven and New Rochelle so diesels were being used. The train we saw had two GE P42s along with an electric AEM7 with its pantographs down. And fly, you can get an idea of how fast he was moving by the fact he was accelerating out of a speed restricted curve. In the employee timetable that curve is restricted to 90 mph! A very different type of railroading from what we see down this way. (Much of the Northeast Corridor is 125 MPH territory and they do it! - Bob)

Lastly, I believe we all enjoyed our September meeting at Mark Maynard's in Portsmouth. He has made a great deal of electrical progress, particularly in the detection and control of the staging area. I thank him for his always gracious hospitality. One of these years I am going to book a motel so I can stay for the operations at Mark's after the meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the train show in Bluefield in November.



Next month's reminisces by the late David Robinette will refer to his growing along the N&W Clinch Valley line in the 1930's and 40's. The MY WORD column above discusses the vagaries of modeling coal railroading in a changing world. Meanwhile, NS in 2013 is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Pier 6 in Norfolk with a specially painted former ConRail hopper car. During the celebration a Chinese collier was loaded with 166,840 tons of coal. NS has invested over 43 million dollars in its coal pier facilities in recent years.

Photo: **TRAINS** Magazine/Jim Wrinn

#### Norfolk Southern Exhibit Car to appear at Roanoke

The NS exhibit car, featuring models of all 21 heritage locomotives as well as the Veteran's unit; along with other exhibits and computer games will be on display at the

Virginia Museum of Transportation at Roanoke, VA from November 8 to 29. Information courtesy of **TRAINS** magazine.

**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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Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV



**Bob Weinheimer, President**  
398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314  
[www.pennsylvaniasonthern.com](http://www.pennsylvaniasonthern.com)



**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
[tony765@aol.com](mailto:tony765@aol.com)

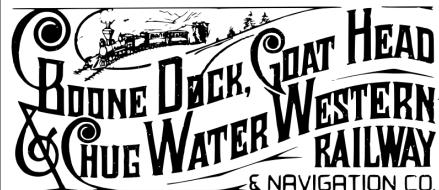


**NORFOLK AND WESTERN**  
**PIPESTEM BASEMENT**  
**DIVISION (HO)**  
**DAN MULHEARN**  
304-466-9188  
[danmulhearn@gmail.com](mailto:danmulhearn@gmail.com)

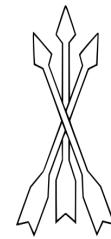


**CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.**

**Mark Maynard, President**  
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR  
Assistant Superintendent  
Chesapeake, OH



**THREE ARROWS**  
**RAILROAD**

Tony Puccini, President  
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705  
[puccinibaj@hotmail.com](mailto:puccinibaj@hotmail.com)



**SHAMOKIN DIVISION**  
DENNIS McGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN  
SUMMERSVILLE, WV  
304-872-7262



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



**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY**  
**THOMAS SUBDIVISION**  
RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT  
[RUSSEL22@MSN.COM](mailto:RUSSEL22@MSN.COM)



**NEW RIVER GORGE**  
**SUBDIVISION**  
Clint Foster Superintendent  
Roncerville 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



**John Harris, Chief Engineer**  
[AandNRR@aol.com](mailto:AandNRR@aol.com)



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

## **Upcoming Coal Division Events**

**October 12**

**St. Albans Depot**

**Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue**

**St. Albans, WV**

**November 9**

**Bluefield, WV**

**December 14**

**St. Albans Depot**

**Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue**

**St. Albans, WV**

**January 11**

**St. Albans Depot**

**Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue**

**St. Albans, WV**

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