



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

October 2016



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

Our hobby is multi-faceted. There are so many avenues through which we may travel to reach a joyous destination in model railroading that they are too numerous to mention here. I note this fact on the heels of our recent Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting where each of the eleven Divisions shared some of the things they were doing to spice up their events, encourage participation, and reach the public. There were dozens of ideas and activities that varied from hands-on make-and-take projects, modular train set ups, round robin operating sessions, and a whole lot more. As the list became complete, it was obvious that there was something for everyone.

This may be the rub: “something for everyone” does not mean everyone will love everything. As the leadership of Coal Division 9 has worked over the years (and the last few months in particular) to expand our offerings to include a wide variety of experiences from clinics to M.A.D.D. presentations, train show visitations to round-robin meeting venues, web-site to Facebook outreach, and train rides to picnics, we have tried to increase interest through the inclusion of some of the vast areas that make up our hobby. Again, something for everyone. To a great degree, this has been successful. I gathered that those in attendance at the B.O.D. meeting were experimenting with different approaches to reach the members. This has been a goal of the NMRA leadership for quite a while as well as evidenced by the editorials, changes in web site, modernizing the logo, and other improvements. The hope is that everyone will get on board since there is surely something that is of interest and will provide enjoyment and, maybe, fulfillment to the member (or prospective member) in the offerings of our organization.

I listened to a podcast recently where the participants were discussing some of the failings of the NMRA in reaching the younger members and keeping up with the times. A lot of this had to do with the computer and social media. I am not sure exactly what they would like to see and their criticism overshadowed their solutions. At first I was aggravated because I feel we have all been pointed in the right direction in our attempt to spark more and/or new interest in our hobby and the organization. As my friend Jerry Doyle (MCR and Division 9 Treasurer) and I discussed this topic, I could see (and the panel did allude to the fact) that good things were going on but more needed to be done. The hobby is not dying. There are many modelers out there including quite a few of the younger generation. We just need to identify them and bring them into the fold. We may have to unearth them like an archaeologist through the audio, video, and written word of the social media scene with chat rooms, YouTube videos, how-to postings, and more meat available on the NMRA web site to entice non-members. Though the concern is that too much free stuff will negate the need to join, this might be the thing that encourages participation.

I'll have to leave the computer and social media applications to the younger guys for I have seen them in action and the communication aspect is both rapid and real-time. Whatever is going on (rail fanning, modeling, a new product discussion, etc.) is now: the main characteristic of our society. Whatever we are doing we share that immediately with our friends or associates! No more lone wolf, as the isolated modeler was once called. Not if he or she is on line and is connected to those who are like-minded.

From my career as a school counselor I know communication is the key from making contact with my students, meeting their parents, presenting needed

Continued next page

Continued from previous page information, and providing everyone with the access to the things they want and need in a seamless fashion. The Coal Division provides our web site (coal.division.org), Facebook, and *Up the Holler* (newsletter) as some of those avenues through which we can communicate those activities we are offering. The timetable we have included in the publication the last few months has furthered the information process by introducing the title of the event, the topics of interest, contest, and other items designed to inspire and encourage participation. As we develop our "Yellow Pages for Model Railroaders," hopefully the outreach to younger modelers will result through this advice or hints program. Of course there needs to be more done in these areas.

We continue to grow in ideas as different members bring in the show-and-tell (M.A.D.D. - Models, Artifacts, Displays, and Discussions) items, develop new clinics, and add new wrinkles to our events. One such addition has been the evolution of the three-phase "Spray Day at the Station." The initial air brush training went off without a hitch and many learned how to lay down a nice coat of paint. Since the boxcar shells were donated without under frames, Bob Weinheimer had the idea to promote a separate contest/project where the modeler could scratch-build his own floor for judging. Those are due at the October event. Last time decaling was the theme and several practiced some proven techniques as others looked on. We had examples of custom decal sets, Testors decal-making sets, dry transfer sets and letters, and screen printing. The October event will feature weathering which

may be the most enjoyable aspect of the processes. Dale Osburn will present several of his techniques and Larry Richards will be set up with some chinks, stains and washes to highlight the many methods by which models may be made to look more realistic through weathering. Bring the cars you have built in the recent project or just an old car you wish to experiment with. If you don't have one, Bob Osburn will have a few cars donated by Mark Maynard and some buildings which were his dad's available for practice.

This should be a lot of fun as we splash, rub, slop, dust, spray, and otherwise grub up a perfectly clean paint job. Of course, things aren't perfectly clean in the real world. We will learn the how-tos of weathering. Bring anything you have that is weathered already for the M.A.D.D. show-and-tell section of our gathering. Tell what you did to add wear-and-tear to the model and become eligible for a door prize (yes, this is a Bob Osburn "wrinkle" to the event). We will still have the open loads contest, raffle, and under frame judging, along with all the other activities.

I will continue to review the newsletters from the other Divisions, think up things on my own, and depend on the membership to develop more enjoyable and interesting activities. Maybe we can improve our communication process on the Division, Regional, and National levels to share what we are doing, pique interest, reach the young modeler, encourage participation, and, truly, offer "something for everyone."

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

Leaves are starting to turn here in Pipestem as we look back at a wonderful summer that has just flown by. I really enjoyed our Portsmouth gathering with our friends from Region 6. Mark Maynard had a switching puzzle set up for me after the meeting; but due to distance we had to head out early. My apologies to Mark.

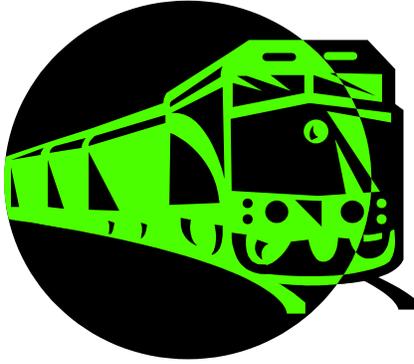
Our friend, Tom Harris, who has been attending our meetings as his division is inactive, has an article in the current issue of *NMRA MAGAZINE*. His article is on measuring curves in degrees rather than radii. If the math make your eyes glaze over; there are some nice pictures of his Lakeside Lines. I noticed in some of the older pictures he used the signal system was not as complete as it is today. I can be sure of that because I am "CJ Tower" and operate every one of those signals.

I enjoyed Bob Osburn's operating gas station, as did everyone who voted in the contest. It is a really neat piece of work!

Last month I went on at length about becoming a railfan and particularly an incident in mid Mississippi.

There was the most feedback ever for one of my columns. So here, a somewhat shorter story about railfanning.

I married my first wife on Sept. 13, 1964; and as was the tradition in our area we planned to honeymoon at Niagra Falls. So you drive off the island, as we called it, and take the N Y State Thruway to Buffalo but not to a railfan. You drive to Altoona, PA and make a right; affording me a chance to visit the iconic Horseshoe Curve. On Sept. 15th we arrived in the Altoona area and the first thing we saw were Baldwin centipedes stored waiting to be scrapped at Hollidaysburg shops. It took some hunting to find the curve but it was awesome. The road is many feet below the track but passing overhead was a west-bound freight. The five GP9s on the head end were in run 8 emitting what David P Morgan always described as the EMD nasal roar. Pushing on the cabin were a pair of ALCO "snappers". The photo I took with my cheap Kodak Brownie shows a train far in the distance; but the memory is priceless.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Fall Photo Special”

St. Albans Depot, St. Albans, WV
October 8, 2016

1:00 - Social time and M.A.D.D. Display (Samples of members’ weathered items: cars, engines, structures, etc. Participation makes you eligible for door prizes.)

2:00 - Superintendent’s Briefing

2:30 - M.A.D.D. descriptions of weathered items and awarding of door prizes

2:45 - Contest: Open Loads, Raffle

3:00 - Clinic: Weathering: A hands on experience. Dale Osburn, Larry Richards, and perhaps others will share techniques for weathering cars, engines, structures, and vehicles. Bring something to weather!

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 start the layout work the Monday 12 days before the meeting. This allows a day of review by the officers and a proofreader before the electronic version is issued, usually on Wednesday. The paper version is mailed Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by that

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 31
December	November 28
January	January 2

Bob Osburn Clinic Chairman

The October Clinic “Weathering Techniques,” will be presented by Dale Osburn. Dale will discuss many of the methods he uses to turn new looking structures, vehicles, and rolling stock into more realistic weathered versions. Larry Richards will also be available to demonstrate techniques and to assist with the hands on session.

Members are urged to participate in the M.A.D.D. session of our meeting by bringing a weathered item from their collection. The participants in the M.A.D.D. program will receive a chance to win 1 of 5 special door prizes tailored for this event.

After the meeting, you will have a chance to experiment with some of the weathering techniques demonstrated. A verity of weathering materials, rolling stock, and structures will be available to practice with.

LIBRARY CORNER Bill Wadsworth

In the past few months some new DVDs have been added to our library, in addition to the NMRA Clinics. We now have some layout tours and some prototype RR DVDs. If any of you have any DVDs to lend or donate to the Division 9 library please bring them to the next meeting so I can add them to our growing collection. If there is enough interest I will make a separate listing of these added DVDs in addition to the one already available for the Clinics. Any suggestions you might have to enhance our library would be appreciated.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

It was a pleasure to present Jerry Doyle with his Association Official certificate. Jerry has served for three years as Mid Central Region Treasurer and will assume the position of Mid Central Region Secretary after the Louisville Convention. Thanks to Matt Goodman of Division 6 for the photo.



CONTEST Dan Mulhearn

The September contest, at the wonderful Portsmouth gathering, was electronic and mechanical gadgets. The winner, with all votes cast, was Bob Osborne’s service station. Not only was the model itself neatly assembled but Bob, using electronics and model airplane servos, made the car lift operate and the elevated sign rotate. Marvelous piece of work.

The October contest is open loads, please bring your entries.

As always the position of Contest Chair is available to anyone wishing to work towards their Volunteer Certificate.



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Riding the Crusty

Mark Maynard's Home
Joint Meeting with MCR Division 6
West Portsmouth, Ohio
September 10, 2016
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:57 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

Membership Chair

No report.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,081.17.
 August minutes were approved.
 Pike Ads \$20.
 Flea Market Revenue \$26.

Raffle

No raffle, the usual September flea market was held instead.

Superintendent Report

Gary Burdette thanked Mark for hosting the meeting. He mentioned we have several new members in the Belpre, Ohio area. He liked the idea of certificates for contests by Division 6.

Library Report

The library is available for checkout.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Assistant Superintendent Report

Dan Mulhearn thanked Mark Maynard for hosting the meeting and he mentioned how much he enjoys the joint meeting and our friends from Division 6.

Announcements

Dan Mulhearn mentioned that Tom Harris' layout will be featured in an upcoming *Scale Rails*.

Achievement Program

The MCR Region Treasurer Jerry Doyle received an AP certificate for Association Official.

Dick Briggs updated everyone on the Columbus Model Railroad Club. The new owners have indicated the club will ultimately be able to remain in their current location pending ironing out of some details.

Newsletter Chair

Interesting input is always welcome. The next issue will be available about October 1. Biggest activity on the webpage is viewing the monthly newsletter.

Mark Maynard thanked everyone for coming, the meeting gives him motivation to work on his layout.

Clinic Chair

Next month's clinic will be weathering and finishing. December clinic will be Railroad Signals by Jerry Doyle.

Future Meetings

October – St Albans Depot
 November – Bluefield Show.
 December – St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned 2:46 p.m.

Contest Chair

This month's contest – civil/electrical/mechanical engineering projects.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

MY WORD
Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Each month as I put this newsletter together it is a bit of a puzzle to get things to fit in a coherent way. Sometimes we have articles from members, there are none this month. Usually we have the NMRA Info Blast but it has not yet arrived. All the small stuff fit very nicely on page four and now I am left with a whole page to fill. Maybe that Info Blast will come tonight and I can get by with less...

Gary Burdette mentioned the Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting, this was held Sunday September 25 in Columbus. Our fall meeting typically involves a buffet lunch at Schmidt's, a great German restaurant. After stuffing ourselves the biggest challenge is to stay awake for the meeting. Note that all MCR members are welcome to attend these meetings, lunch is \$20 and we as individuals, not the Region, pay for the meal.

The meeting seemed sort of like a Coal Division meeting as there were four of us: Gary, Jerry Doyle, Paul Lapointe, and me. I don't think any other Division had so many attendees.

We hear the usual committee reports as well as reports from the various Division Superintendents. Gary described the breadth of topics those reports covered. The written reports will be published in the next issue of the Kingpin so you can read them and see why Gary was so fascinated by their content.

The mention of the Kingpin raises another issue. This is the year we elect Region officers. The Nominating Committee worked diligently but was able to come up with only one candidate for each of the four offices. Just

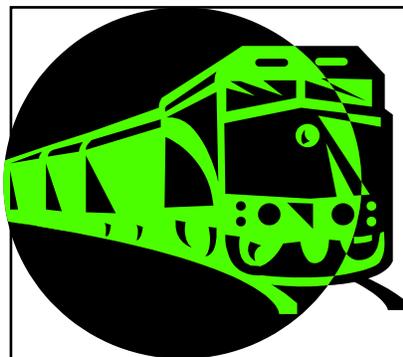
as the Coal Division did in its recent elections, the MCR Board exercised the option to elect the slate by acclamation. This saves the trouble of sending ballots although that's not a real cost as it goes out in the convention issue of the Kingpin which is printed and mailed to all members. It does leave room for other content so there is an up side.

So, who was elected? Bob McKay from Division 11 will be the new Treasurer. Jerry Doyle, the Coal Division Clerk and current MCR Treasurer will be the new Secretary. Mike Hohn MMR was reelected Vice President. And, yes, I was the only soul who was willing to serve as MCR President. Please note that these new officers will not take office until the Annual Meeting which is part of the banquet program at the MCR convention. Until then Steve Kaplan is still very much the MCR President and all presidential duties are still his.

What does that all have to do with the Kingpin? I am the current editor but I don't think it is appropriate to continue as editor once I take office. I will do the upcoming Fall issue and the convention issue but the issue that follows the convention will be the product of the efforts of the new editor, whoever he or she may be. If any readers of this column have a burning desire to become editor, please let me know!

I've mentioned the MCR convention, it will be in Louisville May 18 to 21. It looks like their convention ad will take up some space here. You can read more at div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/2017PanAmerican/





Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

October 2016 - December 2016
St. Albans, Bluefield, & St. Albans

Featuring: "Spray Day at the Depot" Clinics./Challenging Contests/ Running Trains./Friendship./Picnics/Raffles

TIMETABLE

OCTOBER: "Fall Photo Special" - ST. ALBANS Depot - Photo Ops
Contest: Open Load, Clinic: Weathering Frt. Cars, Raffle: 1/\$1.00 or 6/\$5.00
*Judging of special Freight Car Floor scratch-building challenge!

NOVEMBER: "Coal Division in the Coal Fields" - Bluefield Train Show
Contest: Passenger Cars, Clinic: None, Raffle: None - Enjoy the Show

DECEMBER: "Santa at the Station" - ST. ALBANS Depot - X-mas Decor
Contest: Modeler's Choice, Clinic: Fill-a-Foot-of-Foam- w-Scenery, Raffle

Remember:

- * The New River Train - 3rd & 4th weekend in Oct.
- * The Appalachian Model Railroad Club Annual Train Show - Thanksgiving
- * Other summer and fall activities may be seen in the MCR "Kingpin"



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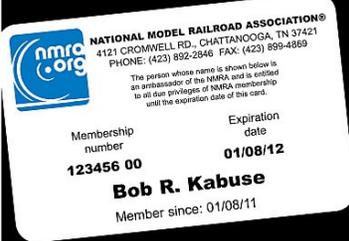
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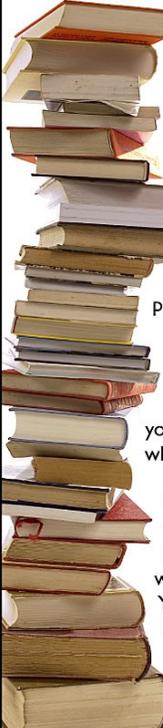
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John Harris, Chief Engineer
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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October 8
St. Albans Depot

November 12
Bluefield, WV

December 10
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