



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

January 2017



DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
super@coaldvision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Dan Mulhearn
304-466-9188
asstsuper@coaldvision.org

Clerk— Jerry Doyle
304-638-2826
clerk@coaldvision.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Ed Keith MMR
740-867-5264
Bob Weinheimer MMR
304-343-1428
ap@coaldvision.org

Clinic
Robert Osburn
clinic@coaldvision.org

Contest
Larry Richards

Education
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
asstsuper@coaldvision.org

Election
Bill Wadsworth
304-768-5266
nominating@coaldvision.org

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldvision.org

Raffle
Tom Harris

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR
editor@coaldvision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR
webmaster@coaldvision.org

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

I'm filling in for Gary this month and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Communication is an important part of our lives that has evolved over the years. It's estimated that humans began communicating with speech nearly 500,000 years ago. Paper as we know it was invented around 100 A.D., the printing press in 1439, the typewriter in the 1860s, modern digital computers in 1959, the Internet in 1983.

Consider how you are reading this column right now. Is it on a printed page? Did it come via an email? Are you reading it on a tablet or a computer screen? Did you find it through the Coal Division web page? The way we access information is constantly evolving. Once upon a time we got most of our information via three or four television channels, a few radio stations, and a printed newspaper. Today we have literally hundreds of television cable channels tailored to our specific tastes and numerous streaming options; radio might be via satellite or Internet, and print might be via Internet sources and not really printed at all. So why is any of this relevant to our hobby? Because today the amount of hobby information available today is simply staggering.

Social media, which today usually means Facebook, is an excellent resource. For many people it is a part of their daily routine. It can be an indispensable way to keep up with new products and modelers far and wide. I have made friends with a number of modelers I'd never have met otherwise. At least two of our division layouts have their own Facebook pages, the Grafton and Greenbrier and the Pennsylvania Southern have pictures and comments and have become a kind of historical document as the years go by. If you haven't checked it out, take a look at Facebook.

YouTube has more video content than you'd be able to watch in a dozen lifetimes. Its content comes mainly from users. A simple search for "model railroad" will yield how-to demonstrations, professionally produced videos such as the monthly *What's Neat* by Ken Patterson, and some footage of the 2016 National Train Show. Division 6 member Matt Goodman has a channel with over 50 videos showing his progress on his N&W layout along with lots of layout tours including our own Mark Maynard's Crusty Mountain & Wiloby Springs.

We can now create and disseminate information about our hobby with amazing ease. Creating content and putting it online is surprisingly simple. In 2017 I'd like to create a Coal Division channel and begin sharing some of the great clinics from our meetings and our members' layouts as a way to share our knowledge with others in the hobby near and far.

Oh yes, I did forget to mention one detail – all of the things mentioned here are completely free!

--Jerry Doyle

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

Good bye 2016, we are starting a new year and looking forward to enjoying our hobby and fellowship.

I have been following a group on Facebook called HO Scale Model Railroading. The surprising thing to me about it is how many of the people posting are either new to the hobby or just getting back in to it after many years. So many of the questions being posted are very basic. The other thing noticed is that some answers given are misinformation. This is particularly true in discussions of DCC. Of course, in many aspects of the hobby there are more than one way to do things. For instance, take benchwork. Some like L girders, some like the basic grid.

Either will work though you will get ardent defenders of their favorite method. I believe this is an opportunity for us more seasoned modelers to reach out and encourage people by providing good information. We also might include in our postings references to the NMRA and all the benefits and information available through our organization. I am sure there are other places on social media where we can disseminate information about the hobby and the NMRA.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our January event. Lets hope CSX entertains with a few trains.

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth

Recently there has been some more interest in our Div. 9 DVD library, which is really great as there is some great modeling information that the members can take advantage of. I'm still looking for any DVDs that the members would like to donate/lend to the library. Any

contributions will enhance the library and make it useful to all. I will strive to bring the DVDs to all the "home" meetings (St. Albans depot), but returns or donations are welcome anytime.

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.

February	January 30
March	February 27
April	March 27
May	April 21





**Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Cabooses”**

Saturday January 14, 2017

12:30 Depot Open

**1:00 Standard Social Time – Mixing/
Viewing**

2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing

2:45 Contest Voting (Cabooses)

3:00 Contest Results

Raffle

3:15 Mini Clinics:

**Bob Osburn: Soldering: Basic
Equipment**

Jerry Doyle: Cabooses

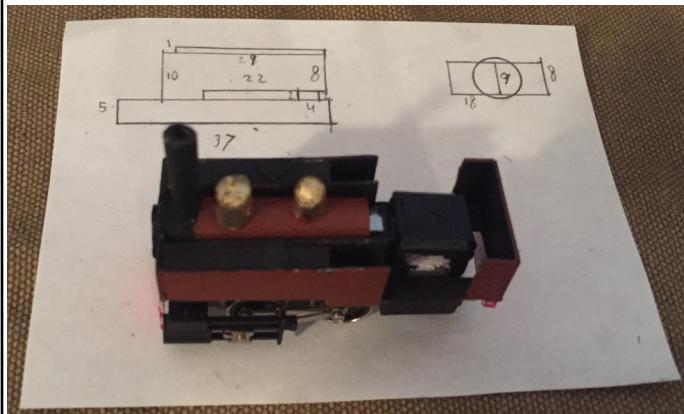
CONTEST
Larry Richards
Photos by Bob Weinheimer

The December contest drew a number of entries but three stood out as the big vote getters. Dale Osburn's Texaco station was the clear winner. There was a tie for second between Herb Parsons and Max Huffman. Herb's entry was a store and Max's was a narrow gauge locomotive. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all the other entrants.

The January contest will be cabooses so bring all of those old style end of train devices.



Dale's First Place entry.



Max's Second Place entry

Herb's Second Place entry



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Santa at the Station

St Albans Historical Society

St Albans, WV

December 10, 2016

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,082.17
 November minutes were approved.
 Pike Ads \$0.
 Raffle Revenue \$0.

Superintendent Report

Gary Burdette said some members had filled out the "railroad yellow pages." He mentioned the availability of name badges. Gary is working on some materials for the achievement program.

Assistant Superintendent Report

No report.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer noted that Tom Harris has been busy working in the achievement program.

Newsletter Chair

Web traffic has been steady with the newsletter being most popular. The Facebook page has over 1,000 likes.

Clinic Chair

Bob Osburn asked the members what they would like to see in future clinics.

Contest Chair

Larry Richards discussed ideas for generating more participation in future contests. Among the ideas mentioned was a new format used in another area non-rail scale modeling club. This month's contest – modeler's choice

Membership Chair

John Harris noted we have three new members. Our latest member is Max Huffman.

Raffle

Tom Harris has volunteered to take over the raffle.

Library Report

The library is available for checkout.

Old Business

None

New Business

Gary Burdette showed a fully-wired HO C&O cantilever signal.

Announcements

Jerry Doyle invited members to The Grafton & Greenbrier Christmas Party December 15.

Fred and Barbara Soward gave a presentation on the 2017 The Pan-American convention in Louisville, KY. The convention webpage

www.2017panamerican.org has registration and convention details.

Future Meetings

January – St Albans Depot
 February – St Albans Depot
 March – St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

Layout Expansion on the Pittsburgh & Western RR Part 8 by Paul Lapointe

Mounting the backdrop:

As a backdrop material I use vinyl flashing originally designed to be used with treated lumber (Photo 1). Very flexible, it can be bent around corners as tight as one inch radius or less. It comes in up to 50 foot rolls that minimize the need for seams. Available widths range from 10 to 24 inches wide. It is approximately .015 inch thick and can be easily cut with scissors or an x-acto knife blade (Photo 2). It comes in white or tan colors with a matte finish side and a glossy side. The tan roll I bought locally at Lowes. It's 14 inches wide and 30 feet long and will be the lower level backdrop. The white roll is 20 inches wide and 50 feet long and I ordered it over the internet. It will serve the upper level.

As mentioned previously at the end of part 7, the backdrop is supported by three strips of wood, one at the top and bottom and one in the middle attached to the center support of the peninsula and also the studs supporting the around-the-wall benchwork (Photo 3)

Like most material that comes in a roll, it has a strong

urge to roll itself back up as you unroll it. The simplest mounting method, which I use wherever there is easy access, is to unroll it, and clamp it along the top edge (Photo 4). Once I have worked out any dips or ripples in the material and read-adjusted the clamps as needed, I staple along the top and bottom edges.

For more difficult situations such as where there is no supporting table surface below the flashing, I use a plastic strip called an undersill used by builders to hold vinyl house siding below a window (photo 5). In typical model railroader fashion, I'm using it upside down from its original purpose. It has a groove that the bottom edge of the flashing can drop into and be supported. It's easy to mount and level prior to the harder task of mounting and straightening the flashing. You can see it holding the upper level flashing in Photo 4. The upper edge is stapled to hold it in place.

Photo 6 shows about 25 feet of the upper and lower level mounted backdrops prior to painting. Next time I plan to have all the backdrops primed and painted a hazy blue sky color.



Photo 1: White and tan rolls of flashing



Photo 2: Vinyl flashing is easy to cut and trim around obstacles



Photo 3: Horizontal strips of wood support the flashing



Photo 4: Lower level temporarily clamped in place

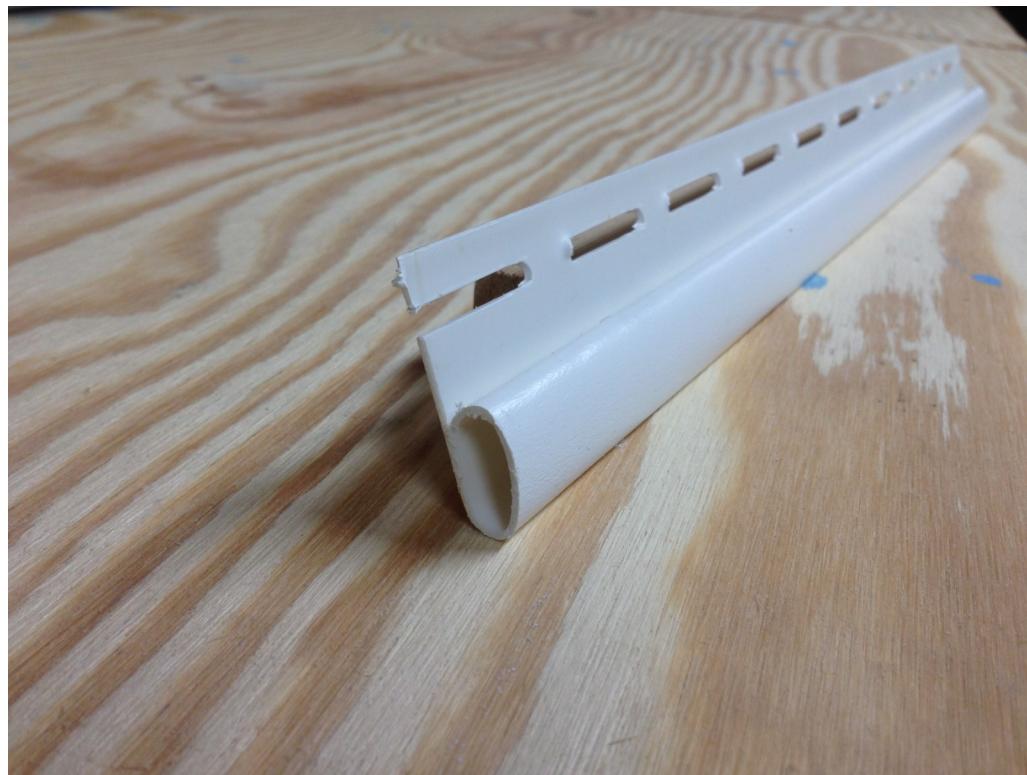


Photo 5: Under sill vinyl trim



Photo 6: Upper and lower flashing mounted and ready for paint

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

Jerry Doyle and I made a quick trip to Wytheville, Virginia to evaluate the scenery on Tom Harris's Lakeside Lines. Needless to say, Tom's efforts passed with flying colors. As Tom lives in the Mid Eastern Region, his Statement of Qualifications must pass through the MER's Achievement Program manager then on to the National level.

Tom is also a prolific author, you may have seen his article in a recent issue of the NMRA Magazine on curve measurement. That article plus others in Model Railroad er are more than enough to earn him the Model Railroad

Author certificate as well. That SOQ, too, will be heading off to the MER and National approval processes. Congratulations to Tom!

Don't forget that if you have a model that you can bring to one of our monthly events we can arrange to evaluate it for Achievement Program purposes should you wish. Not everything is so portable so we can also come to you to evaluate things such as scenery, electrical work, or Prototype Model. All you have to do is tell me and we can arrange a visit such as the one we made to Tom.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

My goodness, it is January already! The latest issue of Model Railroader got off to a bad start, the cover date says January 2016. I think I got it right on this issue of Up The Holler.

As you may have seen in the KingPin, I have stepped down as its editor. Dave Williams of Division 4 will take over and Patrick Miller of the Coal Division will be his assistant. I look forward to reading the KingPin without having to worry about making it all look good.

The paper convention issue was mailed December 29 and those with email should have received the notice of publication of a slightly larger electronic version in mid December. Both versions include a registration for m for the MCR contention in Louisville. We also received a nice overview of the convention from Fred and Barbara Soward of the host Division at the December meeting.

Coal Division members living in Kentucky and Ohio will be participating in the election of the Central District Director early this year. The election will make use of on-line voting for those with internet access in conjunction with paper ballots for those who cannot or choose not to participate in the electronic process. I am curious to hear of your experiences with this process as it may be of interest for future Mid Central Region elections.

Paul Lapointe has part 8 of his layout construction article in this issue. I am really looking forward

to the next Steel is King day to see all the progress he has made on his empire.

With the holidays and other distractions, little has happened on the Pennsylvania Southern. The next phase of track renewal will be the reconstruction of Waynesburg's main line, passing siding, team track, and lead to the industrial area. To make this work the switch at the south end will have to move a bit to the south closer to the tunnel. That will add some length, perhaps as much as a car, to the passing siding, always a good thing.

After Waynesburg the next phase will be Bridgeville. A couple of switch machine issues must be resolved before that can happen so that issue has risen to a high priority. It looks like servos will be the answer for the south end so you can easily imagine that Bob Osburn will be a valuable consultant.

The most recent Walthers sale flyer includes a heavily discounted HO Diesel House, management has approved a purchase requisition with delivery of the kit expect by the middle of January. It will be located in Pittsburgh. There are some other items, including that big power plant kit, that must be addressed before assembly starts on the Diesel House.

What are your modeling plans for this year? Do you plan to start or continue work on a layout? What about building some cars, locomotives, or structures? Consider sharing your efforts with an article in the newsletter.

Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

Silver Level – Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in NMRA Magazine.



Gold Level – Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in NMRA Magazine.

Diamond Level – Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in NMRA Magazine.

Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades.
Visit www.nmra.org/diamondclub or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



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



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Bob Weinheimer, President
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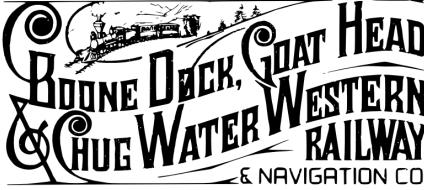
Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com



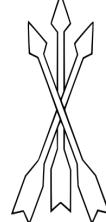
NORFOLK AND WESTERN
PIPESTEM BASEMENT DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
304-466-9188
danmulhearn@gmail.com



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Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD
Tony Puccini, President
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705
puccinibaj@hotmail.com



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



HINTON DIVISION
Gary Burdette - Superintendent
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RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



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Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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

Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and have an email address, please let us know so we can save printing and postage costs. Send a note to editor@coaldvision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

January 14
St. Albans Depot

February 11
St. Albans Depot

March 11
St. Albans Depot

April 8
St. Albans Depot