



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
 MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC
 May 2017



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

We have all heard the old bromides. You have to play the hand you are dealt. If life gives you lemons, make lemonade. There are many more we could come up with. What I am thinking of is how we handle adversity, whether large or small. The particular problem on my mind today is that there is no way to change the distance from Pipestem to St. Albans nor do something about the curves and trucks on the Turnpike. In a Division as large and spread out as ours I am not the only one facing the distance challenge. Think of the folks out toward Portsmouth OH, Parkersburg, and up around the northeast corner of our little empire.

The first thing that pops to mind is carpooling. Traveling with friends turns an onerous trip in to more or less a pleasure. There is always good conversation, a chance to share a meal, do some sightseeing, or visit a hobby shop. It always seemed to shorten the hours to have a friend or friends along. I enjoyed all the years I car pooled with Charlie Venable. Charlie was as up on Bluefield area railroading as any of the professionals at NS. If you wanted to change the subject he knew more about the Old Testament, especially the Prophets, than anyone I ever met. Traveling with Dennis McGeeney is always a hoot and relaxing because he likes to drive. Currently I car pool with Tom and Jeremy who live even further away in Virginia. Their Division is inactive but they have become very active with our Division. There is always a lot of good train talk, prototype and model, to while away the miles. One of the advantages of this small group setting is the opportunity to discuss the Division and how it is going. On the way home we often get into a discussion of the meeting, what went well, and what didn't. How was the clinic received by the attendees? Tom and Jeremy have come up with some good ideas, some of which we have tried and may want to try again. How about visits to members home? After a quick business meeting the clinic could be an op session or a work session on the member's layout. How about visiting some of the nearby club layouts? Or a meeting day at a prototype facility or museum? Some of these activities take a strong hand at planning. Few people know the hours driven and the many phone calls that Dennis McGeeney spent to set up the successful Potomac Eagle and Hocking Valley trips.

So car pool if you come from a distance. No members nearby? Recruit one of two, you will be glad for the friendships that will develop. Got ideas for the group? Sit down with us and present them. Most enjoy the hobby by becoming as active as they are able. The Education Station project was a great love of Gary's. We need some strong individual to keep up the interest in that facet of the hobby. See you at the meeting!

From the Office Down the Hall

Bob Osburn

It is a tradition in my family to gather at my mom and dad's house every major holiday. The gathering includes an excellent meal and then the much-anticipated trip to the basement to view dad's model railroad. The family has grown over the years to include grandchildren, great grandchildren, and now great-great grandchildren.

Dad always had a gleam in his eye as he ran the trains and pointed out details of his layout. My dad passed away several years ago and it was my mom's request that I take over the layout tour duties. No way did she want to disappoint the children with an empty basement.

While fulfilling my mom's wishes, my wife took me to the side and said "Robert you do the same thing your dad did"—he always said "Now don't touch anything". She explained to me that my directions were a very negative statement to make. What are you conveying to them? Is it something foreign or out of their realm to do? How can you really expect them to enjoy the railroad if you

don't include them?

I've thought about this negative statement a lot since then and have tried to stay positive and include them into the operating session. They take turns running the trains (it seems they want to always see how fast a train can run), letting them use the sound system, throw a few switches and just have fun. Yes, I may have to re-rail some equipment, replace some telephone poles, replant some trees, and put some vehicles and structures back in place—but they are left with good memories. Hopefully this approach and exposure to model railroading might carry over to their children—isn't this what it is all about?

If you're guilty of the "Now don't touch anything" syndrome, you may want to rethink what you are doing. Come up with ways younger children leave with a positive experience after viewing your creation. This is an important part of our hobby.

CLINICS

Bob Osburn, Clinic Chair

Dennis McGeeney spent a busy Saturday talking about his experiences and answering many questions from a Locomotive Engineer's perspective at our April meeting. Thanks Dennis for an excellent clinic. *Steel is King* at Parkersburg takes center stage for May so there will be no clinic. Paul Lapointe will give the clinic for June. His presentation will explain, (along with some hands-on practice), his use of LED lighting on his Pittsburgh & Western RR.

Some up-coming clinics being developed are backdrops and bench-work. If you have any input into these clinics, please let me know.

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.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As you can see, this issue of Up The Holler has appeared a week earlier than normal. That is due to the *Steel is King* being a week earlier than normal to avoid Mother's Day weekend.

While on the subject of newsletter deadlines, note that the deadline for the August issue is July 24. Why do I want things so early when the August meeting is the 12th? It's because the normal week for newsletter preparation is the same week as the NMRA National Convention. I plan to be there and want to get this newsletter out before I leave for Orlando.

If you saw the latest issue of the *NMRA Magazine* you may have noticed that I am listed as the Mid Central Region President. It seems they got ahead of things, that change doesn't take place until May 20 at the MCR convention in Louisville. Until then Steve Kaplan still holds the title. He doesn't get out early, he's stuck there until his term ends!

Let me close by saying I hope to see all of you at *Steel is King* on May 6 and at the MCR convention in Louisville two weeks after that.



**Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
*“Steel is King”***

Saturday May 6, 2017

10:00 Layouts Open

12:30 Lunch at Dave Stout’s

2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing

**Contest: Anything Steel (cars, structures,
whatever)**

5:00 Layouts Close

See page 4 for map and directions.

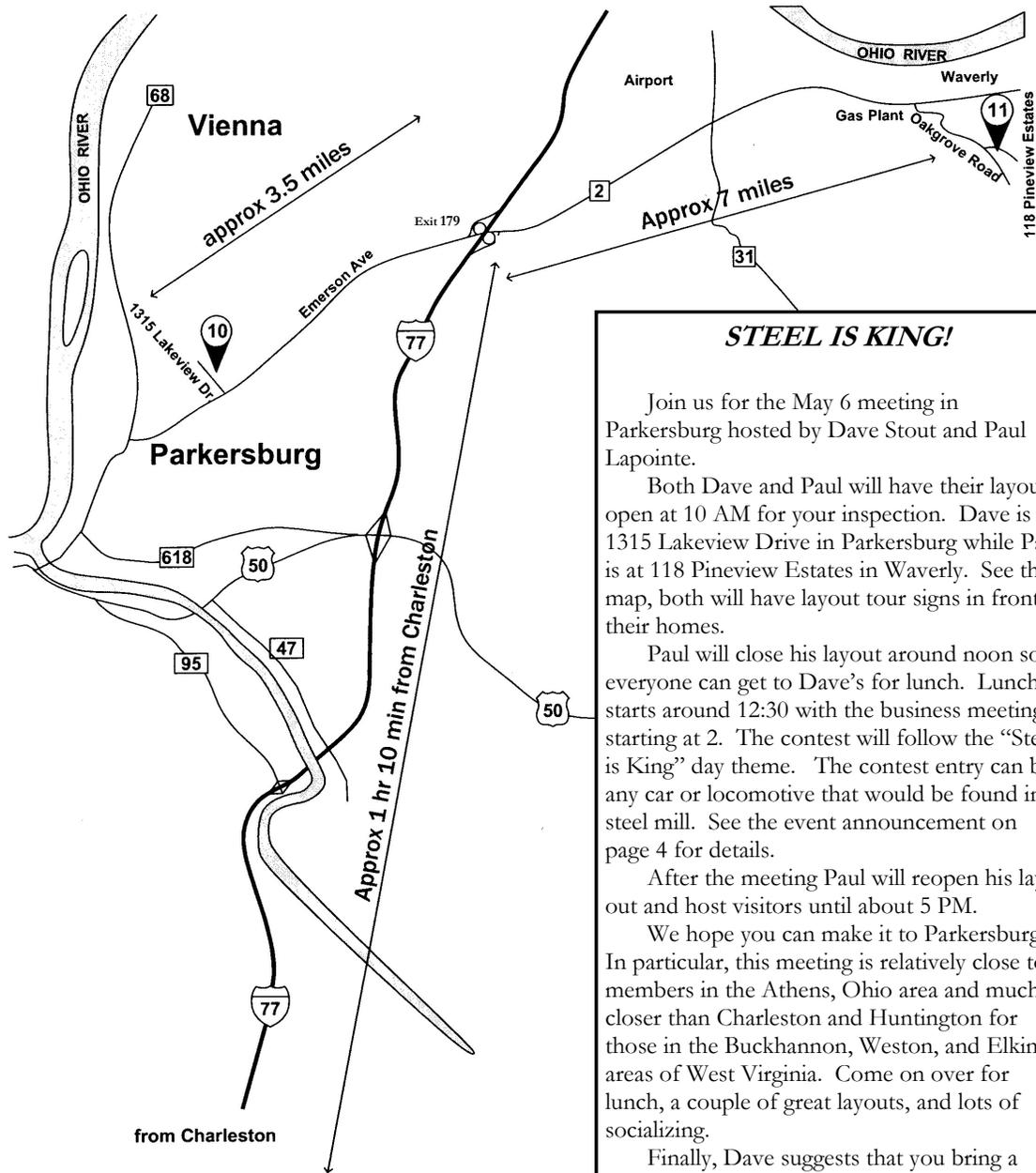
NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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

June	May 29
July	June 26
August	July 24
September	August 28
October	October 2

Parkersburg Area



STEEL IS KING!

Join us for the May 6 meeting in Parkersburg hosted by Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe.

Both Dave and Paul will have their layouts open at 10 AM for your inspection. Dave is at 1315 Lakeview Drive in Parkersburg while Paul is at 118 Pineview Estates in Waverly. See the map, both will have layout tour signs in front of their homes.

Paul will close his layout around noon so everyone can get to Dave's for lunch. Lunch starts around 12:30 with the business meeting starting at 2. The contest will follow the "Steel is King" day theme. The contest entry can be any car or locomotive that would be found in a steel mill. See the event announcement on page 4 for details.

After the meeting Paul will reopen his layout and host visitors until about 5 PM.

We hope you can make it to Parkersburg. In particular, this meeting is relatively close to members in the Athens, Ohio area and much closer than Charleston and Huntington for those in the Buckhannon, Weston, and Elkins areas of West Virginia. Come on over for lunch, a couple of great layouts, and lots of socializing.

Finally, Dave suggests that you bring a lawn chair if you have one, seating for lunch might be tight.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
April 8 2017
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Dan Mulhearn at 2:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,140.17
March minutes were approved.
Pike Ads \$10.
Raffle Revenue \$50 from previous meeting. \$67 today.

Superintendent Report

Dan Mulhearn mentioned the somber feelings of today's meeting with Gary Burdette's loss. He mentioned he might need someone to represent him at the regional board meetings. Jerry Doyle volunteered to represent the Division if needed.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Weinheimer, as the chair of the Division 9 Advisory Committee, nominated Bob Osburn to fill Dan Mulhearn's remaining term of office as Assistant Superintendent. Dan was appointed by the MCR President Steve Kaplan to fill the remainder of Gary Burdette's term. Bob Osburn said that we will all need to step up to fill Gary's shoes. The motion passed unanimously.

Achievement Program

Tom Harris's paperwork is still being processed.

Newsletter Chair

Bob Weinheimer welcomes any materials. The current twelve-page format can be easily expanded to accommodate content.

Clinic Chair

Paul will be doing a clinic on strip lighting. July is still open, the topic of backdrops was mentioned.

Contest Chair

Larry said next month's contest will be Steel is King. June will be non-revenue equipment (except cabooses which is a separate contest).

Membership Chair

John mentioned the current effort to bring younger people into the hobby. He encouraged members to keep this in mind. He didn't see many new member prospects at the Kanawha Valley show.

Raffle

Today's raffle follows the new offer of six tickets for \$5.

Library Report

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Announcements

Bob Weinheimer thanked Jerry Doyle for the story about Gary Burdette in *Up the Holler*.

Future Meetings

May 6 – *Steel is King* Parkersburg, WV
June 9 – St Albans Depot
July 14 – St Albans Depot

Contest – Diesels

Jerry Doyle gave a presentation remembering Gary Burdette.

Dennis McGeeney made a presentation on working on the Reading Company and Conrail and Model Railroad Tips.

Meeting adjourned 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk



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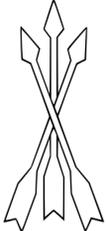
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

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CRESCENT VALLEY



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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
 Clint Foster Superintendant
 Roncovevte WV

Alleghany & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America a few tons at a time



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With Connections to the B&O, C&O, Western Maryland, West Virginia Northern

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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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@coaldivision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

May 6
Steel is King
Parkersburg, WV

June 10
St. Albans Depot

July 8
St. Albans Depot

August 12
St. Albans Depot