



**UP THE HOLLER**  
**Newsletter of Division 9**  
**THE COAL DIVISION**  
**MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC**  
**February 2018**



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**FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER**  
**Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent**

It is hard to believe January is almost in the rear view mirror and a new month is upon us. I am sorry to have missed our January Event at the Depot. I was on my way, in a heavy snow storm, climbing Flat Top Mountain on the Turnpike. A semi passed me and the wind from his passing actually moved my vehicle sideways in the lane. That did it, I called Tom Harris who was coming up from Wytheville to meet me at Beckley, and told him I was turning back for home. He concurred with my decision. I understand the event went well, again, sorry I missed it. Here's hoping winter doesn't throw us any foul weather for our February event.

Our Mid Central Region convention is not that far off. Have you considered attending? Details may be found on the Region web site, it is always a good time, with good friends. Anyone making plans for the National Convention in Kansas City? I already have my Amtrak tickets.

This time of year is good train room weather. How about a little article and maybe some pictures for the newsletter, showing your progress? Seeing what others have done always gets my model railroad juices flowing. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our February even. Don't forget contest entries, items for the raffle and the Company Store.

**February Event**  
**Saturday February 10**

**St. Albans Depot**  
**Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue**  
**St. Albans, WV**

**Full schedule of events on page 3**

**Contest: Steam Engines**

**Clinic: Carved Styrofoam Rock Formations by David Oliverio**

## From the Office Down the Hall Bob Osburn Assistant Superintendent

James Wilson recently invited me to attend a Thursday evening session of the Appalachian Model Railroad Society. The focus of my presence was to help get the word out through Division 9 of their upcoming Model Railroad Show (former Greenbo Show) March 17-18 at the KYOVA Mall. The AMRS has taken over this show from the Collins P. Huntington group. The show will feature free admission, model railroads, hobby shops, memorabilia sales, railroad books, and new and used model railroad equipment. The hours of the show are Saturday 10am-8pm and Sunday Noon till 4:30pm. Location will be in two large rooms of the KYOVA Mall, West US-60 Ashland, KY (2.2 miles from I-64 Exit 185).

Carl Miller, President of AMRS gave me the grand tour of their facility they rent from the KYOVA Mall. Here they have their permanent display of impressive railroads spanning N-Scale, HO, and O gauge. I was really surprised to recognize a layout of my dreams on display there. The Society had acquired Ray and Renee Gosser's HO Soo Line Railroad. This layout was featured in many model railroad publications and has traveled to numerous

model railroad shows. For years I had a copy of the track work displayed in my work shop hoping to recreate such a fantastic layout someday. Now I can go there and run trains!!

Be sure and mark your calendar to include this Model Railroad Show, March 17-18. You may find just that railroad item you've been looking for and also see some great layouts.



## Upcoming Clinics Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

January featured Mark Maynard's clinic—Car Repair 101. Along with a wonderful handout, displays, and demonstrations on car repair, he also displayed and explained some rolling stock he has modified for track cleaning. Thanks Mark for braving the snow and ice to present a wonderful clinic.

David Oliverio will present the Clinic for February—Carved Styrofoam Rock Formations. He will demonstrate how he creates realistic looking rock formations from Styrofoam and give members a chance for some hands-on experience.

We have a tentative clinic on using computer pro-

grams to develop track plans scheduled for June. I need your help with clinics for March and April. It had been discussed that members are interested in clinics on applying track ballast, applying ground cover, and decoder installation. Your knowledge and expertise in these areas, presented as a clinic would be greatly appreciated.

Remember, the Company Store will be open for the February meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring and add to the collection.

Since the Contest for February is Steam, the theme for MADD will be anything relating to steam (models, artifacts, displays, or discussions).

## 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

March	February 26
April	April 2
May	April 23
June	May 28



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

***Saturday February 10, 2018***

- 1:00 - Depot open  
Buy raffle tickets, etc.  
Socialize  
Contest: Steam Locomotives
- 2:00 - Superintendent’s Briefing
- 2:30 - MADD Discussion of any subject
- 2:45 - Raffle results, contest results
- 3:00 - Clinic: David Oliverio “Carved Styrofoam  
Rock Formations”

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

**St Albans Depot  
St Albans, WV  
January 13 2018  
Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bob Osburn at 2:10 p.m.

### **Division Clerk Report**

December Minutes approved  
Treasury Balance is \$8,843.97  
Pike Ads \$0  
Raffle Revenue \$0  
Company Store Revenue \$0

### **Superintendent Report**

Dan Mulhearn was absent due to inclement weather.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Bob Osburn welcomed everyone and thanked them for showing up despite the bad weather. He thanked Mark Maynard especially for driving from Portsmouth. Bob was very impressed with the participation in the Square Foot Challenge. He plans on doing it again this year at about the same time. Several participants said it was the first time they had tried something like that and perhaps we should consider more hands-on clinics and basic modeling topics.

Bob Weinheimer mentioned a hands-on clinic about installing DCC decoders and other command control topics.

### **Newsletter - Up the Holler**

Bob Weinheimer mentioned a few potential articles for upcoming issues.

### **Achievement Program**

No Report.

### **Membership**

No Report.

### **Contest**

Today's contest - modeler's choice.  
February - Steam Motive Power  
March - Diesel and Other Motive Power

Larry Richards told the group there were still kits available from last year's Square Foot Challenge.

### **Clinic**

Today's clinic Mark Maynard - reliable rolling stock.  
David Olivero -- scenery in February  
Jerry Doyle -- layouts in March  
David Olivero and Bob Weinheimer will possibly do computerized layout design in April.

### **Librarian**

The library is available for check out today.

### **Old Business**

**Nominating Committee** – Thus far the incumbents have expressed a willingness to serve again. Nominations were accepted from the floor – there were none. Bob Weinheimer moved that nominations be closed and the candidates be elected by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

The Appalachian Model Railroad Society will be taking over operations for the Greenbo Train Show. It will be held at the Cedar Knoll Mall in Kentucky. Bob Osburn will be attending their next meeting to get details. They have offered to let us have a display at the show.

There will not be a Dunbar Train Show this year.

The Kanawha Valley Railroaders will be having a show February 17 & 18.

Bob Weinheimer reminded members to register for the Mid-Central Region convention in the Cincinnati area in May.

### **Announcements**

None

### **Future Meetings:**

January 13 – St Albans Depot  
February 10 – St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## CONTEST

### Photo by Bob Weinheimer

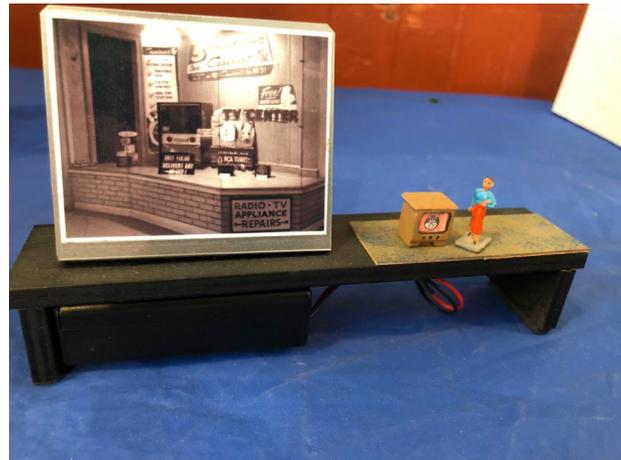
January's contest was Modeler's Choice and as the name suggests anything might appear. Dale Osburn took first place with his Bingo Cigar Company display. Bob Osburn and Herb Parsons tied for second. Bob's entry was an N Scale TV set that was part of a radio and TV repair business. Herb's entry was an N scale saw mill.

February's contest will be steam locomotives. The March contest will be all other types of locomotives such as diesel, electric, or whatever else you might wish to share.



Dale's Bingo Cigar Company

Bob's Radio and TV Repair



Herb's Saw Mill

## Running the Second CV96 on the Jackson Subdivision Jerry Doyle

Traffic was still fairly light on the Crescent Valley after the 1983 holiday season. The crew caller said we were called on the second CV96 which ran from Ripley, WV to Slatyfork, WV as a connection between the Crescent Valley and the Grafton and Greenbrier. We'd have preferred to catch the first CV96 as it was usually overhead traffic whereas the second 96 typically had work enroute. Upon reporting at Ripley we inspected our power, two large General Electric units. Our leader was the Crescent Valley 6600, a U30C with over 15 years of service, and the 6704 a U36C. The 6704 was a bit newer but had also seen many years of hard service and both units had long ago lost their showroom shine.

Having only two units put us over tonnage which meant we'd be getting helpers. Our conductor was going over our orders; work at Jackson and Gassaway and no meets on our way east. He also mentioned several new slow orders today. Deferred maintenance was taking a toll on the CV Jackson Subdivision. Minor derailments had become all too common on the 2% climb to Jackson. After a few expletives about CV management between the conductor hit the ground as we began to pull through the yard. The Ripley helper set was an SD9 and C425. Once the helpers tied on we got underway as Extra 6600 East. We were making a steady 20 mph and the helper engineer Patrick Miller radioed that everything looked good. The climb was uneventful; nearly all trains had begun taking helpers to help as much with train handling as with tonnage.



CV96 arrives in Jackson, WV

The staccato exhaust of two big U Boats was deafening as we climbed the curving grade towards Jackson. Soon enough, we were crossing under the Spencer Beltline Bridge and entering Jackson. The ready track hosted a few switchers usually kept busy with traffic for Spencer, WV. We had six setouts for Jackson and, as usual, they weren't blocked. The brakeman utters some expletives about the yard crew at Ripley as he hits the ground. Our setoffs include two carloads of beer and one of produce. Setting handbrakes on all cars is standard procedure in Jackson since the yard is on a nearly 1% grade. Our conductor informs us there are no pickups and we put the train back



The lineup at Ripley Yard



Our leader, a General Electric U30C, built in May 1968



The Ripley Helper tying onto CV96



Making set outs at Jackson

together. Since our tonnage was now reduced we did not need helpers to continue our trek upgrade. The tower operator at Spencer Junction gives us a wave as we pass



Passing Spencer Junction

by, the locomotives at full throttle. Leaving Jackson we hit the curving 3% grade of Brandeberry Hill. It's not unheard of for the yard job in Jackson to give eastbound



Above and below: Tackling Brandeberry Hill



trains a boost to Fellure but not for us today, we continued grinding upgrade at a steady 15 mph. The seemingly unrelenting climb stiffened once again as we passed through the mining town of Fellure. The two U Boats began to shake as though they would come apart as the

train passes by Outcrop, where the grade again stiffens again to a bit over 3%. The wheel slip light flashes briefly before the units regain their footing.



Passing through Fellure



Wheel Slip at Outcrop



Passing Linwood Siding

As we passed by the short siding at Linwood our units came out of full throttle for the first time since hitting the grade at Fellure. Approaching the Gassaway yard limit at Baker, the yardmaster informed us we would be waiting for the crew of the Northern Bulldog to finish putting their train together and departing for Beverly. As we rat-



At the yard board at Baker



Crossing the G&G Gilmer Subdivision at Gassaway

tled across the diamonds for the G&G Gilmer Subdivision we slowed in front of the Gassaway yard office housed in the old combination depot and tower and threw down the bills for the cars we would be setting off. The clerk gave us a wave since we saved him a ride in the notorious Gassaway Jitney to pick them up later. We had a total of 13 setouts for Gassaway including 3 loads of pulpwood for Beverly; seven for Couch including one load of beer, two of lettuce, and one of LPG for Stroger Oil; and



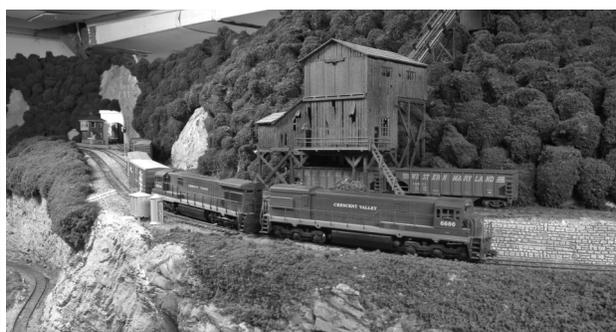
Set outs at Gassaway

three for the Monongalia Southern including two gondolas of pipe. We make our setouts in the East Yard at Gassaway which typically holds cars destined for the Northern Bulldog, the G&G train that serves Couch and Beverly from Gassaway.

We contacted the G&G dispatcher in Grafton and told him we were ready to head south over the G&G to Slatyfork, WV. Although we were short on time and Amtrak was in the picture he gave us an order down the hill. We rolled past the ragtag collection of power at the Gassaway shop which was a vestige of better days. On one of the tracks sat the big hook and wreck train which stood ready for another all-too-frequent call to duty. The operator handed up our orders and we were now Extra 6600 South (the G&G is a north-south railroad while the CV is east-west). Our short train rattled past PF Cabin and through the interlocking at Pipe Falls. We called the clear order board at the south leg of the wye and were soon in dynamic braking.



Passing through Pipe Falls



In full dynamics at Pipe Falls

Approaching the interlocking at JD Cabin we were called by the Slatyfork Yardmaster. He told us to wait until Amtrak cleared the yard lead crossover. We didn't have to wait long, the remarkably clean Amtrak F40PH, its strobe lights flashing, led train number 35 as it sailed around the curve towards us. A quick toot of the horn and in a flash it was gone. With only minutes to spare we entered Slatyfork yard. We tied up our train on number one main without any consultation with the yardmaster. The conductor ut-



Waiting at JD Cabin

tered some expletives and something about karma and he smiled as we loaded into the crew van for the trip to the bunkhouse.



Waiting at JD Cabin



Meeting Amtrak #35 at JD Cabin

## NMRA Elections

The time for NMRA elections is at hand. Any day now you should receive, either by email or snail mail, instructions for voting. Those with emails on file with National will have the option to vote electronically. If you would rather vote by paper you may. Members without email addresses on file can only vote by paper ballot.

All members, excluding family and RailPass members,

are eligible to vote for President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Special Projects, and At Large North American Director. Those members residing in West Virginia can also vote for Eastern District Director. Be sure to read the statements submitted by the candidates so you can make an enlightened selection.

**MY WORD**  
**Bob Weinheimer, Editor**

It was good to see about ten of us at the January event. The weather let up for those of us toward the middle of the Division but as Dan Mulhearn noted it was worse than expected to the south. Let's hope travel is easier for the February gathering.

This issue has a nice article by Jerry Doyle describing a trip on the late Lin Young's Grafton and Greenbrier. To keep the space in the printed edition reasonable the photos are not very large but you can zoom in when looking at the electronic edition.

That brings me to another point. If you are reading the electronic version you may notice that this issue is about 14 pages. The print version is only 12, about the limit for one ounce of first class postage. What got left

out of the print edition? I chose to omit the two page ad for the Mid Central Region convention. All of us should have recently received the convention issue of the Kingpin with all you need for answering questions and registering for the convention.

The Pennsylvania Southern has not been mentioned much lately, largely due to space limitations. I do have a short update this time. The main line from the north switch and Houston through and including the main line switch and Canonsburg has been replaced. The crew still needs to work on laying the track up to the south end of Munson Viaduct. That should be in place for the March operating session. Please note that there will be no February session.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show

(Former Greenbo Show)

### KYOVA Mall

10699 US-60  
 Ashland, KY 41101  
 (2.2 miles from I-64 Exit 185)

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND**

**March 17 and 18, 2018**



**Saturday.....10am – 8pm**

**Sunday ..... Noon till 4:30pm**

**Model Railroads – Hobby Shops  
 Memorabilia Sales – Railroad Books  
 New and Used Model Train Equipment**

**Free Admission**

Sponsored by the Appalachian Model Railroad Society  
 P.O. Box 764 Ceredo, West Virginia 25507  
 Phone: (304) 429-1432 or (304) 360-9857



## **Welcome Back!** **May 17-20, 2018**

*Our first convention since  
the 2005 NMRA National*



### ***We've prepared tons of fun for everyone!***



#### ***Abundant Premier Layouts!***

Special Thurs Afternoon Early-Bird Layout  
Open Houses - *Bob Lawson* and *Larry Bonhaus!*  
Layout Tours & Operating Sessions All 4 Days!  
Special *EnterTrainment Junction* Events!



#### ***Awesome Commercial Bus Tours!***

Fantastic Rail Industry Prototype Tours  
Fabulous General Interest Tours  
4 'Great Model Railroad' Mini-bus Tours (12 layouts)!



#### ***Numerous Rail and Non-Rail Clinics***

Special Guests *Gerry Leone*, *Lou Sassi* and  
*Hal Miller*, Editor of *Model Railroader!*  
Non-Rail Luncheon and Saturday Banquet



#### ***Plentiful Additional In-Hotel Attractions***

Extra Large White Elephant Sale!  
Model, Photo and Crafts Contests  
Raffle, Company Store, Hospitality Room  
Layouts at Hotel + *EnterTrainment Junction*  
Special *TCS Booth* with *Loco Sound Free Installs!*



### ***Register Now for Priority on Extra Fares & Ops***

See form at our booth or [www.cincy-div7.org](http://www.cincy-div7.org)

## Abundant Layout Events

67 layouts, 30 published, 10 in GMR, 5 at EJ  
 Bob Lawson and Larry Bonhaus on Thurs Aft  
 Great Model RR Tours + Hotel, EJ Layouts,  
 Operating Sessions, Layout Open Houses



## Fantastic Rail Industry Tours

- Matandy Steel
- Cincinnati Barge & Rail Terminal
- Excel Logistics Tropicana
- Enerfab Brighton Tru-Edge
- Deluxe Cincinnati Railfanning



## Fabulous Non-Rail Activities

- Findlay Market & Conservatory Tour
- Am. Sign Museum & Spring Grove Tour
- Luncheon with Cookie Decorating Chef
- Genealogy & Greeting Card Clinics
- Meet & Greet w/ Wine Tasting
- Water Aerobics Class

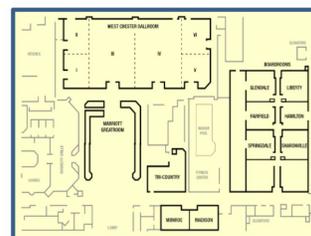


## Wonderful Newly Remodeled Hotel

Cincinnati Marriott North (513) 874-7335  
 I-75 & Union Center Blvd, West Chester, Ohio  
 \$109 King Bed, \$119 Two Double Beds, Pre-Tax  
 Use code: "National Model Railroad Assoc."

## Great Guest Speakers

Gerry Leone, Allen McClelland,  
 Lou Sassi, Hal Miller, Steve King,  
 Rick Tipton, Charlie Getz ...



## Low Cost Registration Fees

Only \$75 Rail, \$25 Family (Spouse/Teen), Kids under 13 Free w/ Reg. Adult  
 Register Now for Extra Fares & Ops Priorities - See form or [www.cincy-div7.org](http://www.cincy-div7.org)



**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



**PIPESTEM BASEMENT**  
 DIVISION (HO)  
**DAN MULHEARN**  
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 danmulhearn@gmail.com



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

**Mark Maynard, President**  
 Portsmouth, OH



**CRESCENT VALLEY**

Jerry Doyle, President  
 Barboursville, WV

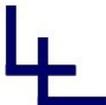


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**HINTON DIVISION**  
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**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY**  
**THOMAS SUBDIVISION**  
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 RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



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

**Western West Virginian**



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

**Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent**



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

## Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this news-  
letter 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](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)  
to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
Holler.

**February 10**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**March 10**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**April 14**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**May 5**  
**Steel is King**  
**Parkersburg, WV**