



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

May 2018



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Clint Foster. Clint and his buddy Jack were regular attendees at our events although it was a two hour plus drive for them. Clint was a native West Virginian, but he had his career as a high school bandmaster at Warren, Ohio. After he and Joan retired to Ronceverte, WV, Clint built his C&O New River Subdivision layout. He did a magnificent job creating the track plan and the C&O operations as practiced in the 1950s. The aisle followed the contours of the New River. Gary Burdette used to say how pleasant it was to spend an afternoon wading in the New River while running on the New River Sub. The first time I rode the Cardinal through the New River Sub, I realized Clint had really nailed the essence of the prototype. Aside from the layout and operating sessions which many of us fondly remember, Clint and Joan were a delightful couple. When our Division sponsored the MCR Convention in Charleston, Clint and Joan did an excellent job running our hospitality suite. After Joan passed, Clint reluctantly dismantled his layout and moved back to Warren, OH to be close to family. I spoke to him a couple of weeks before he passed and he still was trying to participate in activities at his local Division although he was having mobility problems. Rest well, Clint. We should be reminded to cherish our family and friends while they are still with us.

I mentioned at our April event meeting how much I am inspired by our Division 9 members; their attendance, their enthusiasm, the wonderful contest entries, and their willingness to serve on the various committees. I see my role as conducting the business meeting thoroughly but as briefly as possible in order to get to the contests, raffle, clinics ,and camaraderie. Just as an example; the square foot challenge just flabbergasted me with the quality of the scenes created centered around a cardboard printed building. You all are an inspiring bunch!

Big doings are coming. May 5, Steel is King day, is almost upon us. I cant wait to see what Dave and Paul have cooked up for us. That includes their layouts and the delicious lunch! Later in the month we have the Regional convention in Cincinnati. This is shaping up to be a great convention with great layout visits, clinics, and attendance by many of our National Officers. I am looking forward both seeing my fellow Division 9 members and old friends from other Divisions. I hope to see you there.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bob Osburn Assistant Superintendent

Recently I have noticed more Division 9 members participating in the monthly contest. Larry Richards has done a great job of motivating us to enter our creations into this event. I also believe the yearly list of categories published in the UTH for the upcoming contest will help us prepare our entries in advance.

While looking over this list, I seem to come up short for many of the entries. This has me thinking of how I can participate on a monthly basis. There is a common link when you compare the categories for the contest with the NMRA Achievement Program. I believe it is possible to "Double Dip" and kill two birds with one stone. Why not combine efforts to complete work on the achievement program and also have entries for the monthly contest? NMRA Achievement categories-Motive Power, Cars, Structures, and Prototype Models could all easily be covered with some work and advance planning while also providing entries for the monthly contest. Yes, it would require some work and planning but I think the results would be worth the effort.

As an example, our contest for March-Locomotives Other than Steam. I have never super-detailed a diesel or steam engine, but have seen many articles in model railroad publications with step-by-step instructions on how to accomplish this endeavor. If you would compare the article to the requirements for motive power you would almost certainly see it could meet the requirements for one of the engines. This plagiarized project (the achievement program does not say it has to be an original idea, only to meet the stated requirements) may not be the scale or road name of your particular railroad theme, but it could produce a model to satisfy the requirements, be a monthly contest entry, and be a learning experience for future projects.

I have heard comments stating "I'm really not that interested or could never complete the requirements to becoming a Master Model Railroader". Just earning a few achievement certificates is still something to be proud of and making the possibility of becoming a Master Model Railroader a reality. I urge you to look at the different achievement programs, their requirements, do some research on how other modelers completed those requirements, and start a project that can produce an AP certificate while also providing a monthly contest entry.

Work continues on my attic railroad. I've started at one end with structures, scenery repair, and detailing. In this area structures include a lumber yard and meat packing facility. Most of the scenery has been completed but some detail parts are still missing. Now I'm concentrating on the next section-classification yard and engine facility. Several structures will populate this area. An icing platform has been built and is ready for final detailing. Work has begun on a Walthers' Modern Coaling Tower. After opening the box what a surprise I had. This kit is very well done with very good detail but I counted 170+ parts, many being very, very, small. Construction is going to be slow and challenging. Many of the small parts include a 2 piece pulley assembly that has to be attached to a very tiny base and then applied to the structure-magnifying glass and tweezers needed here! Next, I always like to paint as many of the detail parts I can before attaching to the structure which is not possible with this kit. I'll have to do some very tedious hand painting after assembly. Oh well, I guess this is why I like N-Scale-It's always a challenge.

UPCOMING CLINICS

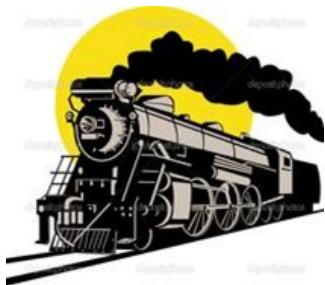
Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

The April clinic was presented by Jerry Doyle. Jerry gave a very interesting clinic on Railroad Operations. I never realized how complicated or involved moving trains over the rails could be. Thanks Jerry, we appreciated the clinic and information you presented.

There will be no clinic for May, as we will be in Parkersburg. The clinic for June will be using computer programs to develop track plans. This clinic, presented

jointly by David Oliverio and Bob Weinheimer will include the use of two different computer programs and should be very interesting and informative.

The theme for our May MADD session will be anything steel related. If you have any books, information, diagrams, or stories regarding this industry, please include for the MADD session.



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

Saturday May 5, 2017

9:30 Layouts Open

12:30 Lunch at Dave Stout’s

2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing

Contest: Anything Steel (cars, structures, whatever)

3:00 (Approximate) head to Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

See page 4 for map and directions.

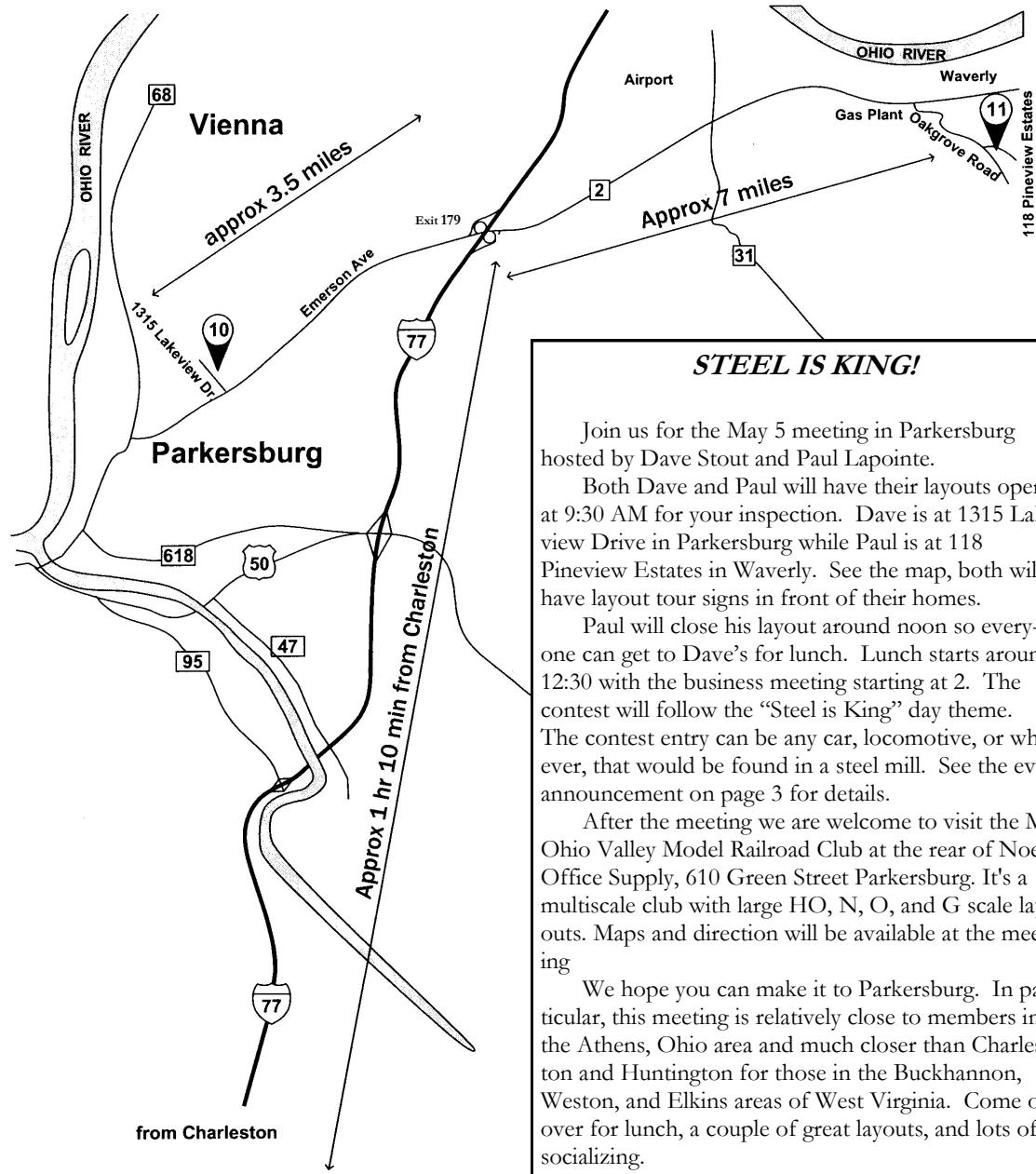
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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 28
July	July 2
August	July 27
September	August 27

Parkersburg Area



STEEL IS KING!

Join us for the May 5 meeting in Parkersburg hosted by Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe.

Both Dave and Paul will have their layouts open at 9:30 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, locomotive, or whatever, that would be found in a steel mill. See the event announcement on page 3 for details.

After the meeting we are welcome to visit the Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club at the rear of Noe Office Supply, 610 Green Street Parkersburg. It's a multiscale club with large HO, N, O, and G scale layouts. Maps and direction will be available at the meeting.

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.

CONTEST

Photos by Bob Weinheimer

The April contest saw several entries. Mark Maynard took first and second place for two of his Crusty Line cabooses. Bob Osburn and Larry Richards tied for third. Bob entered an N scale C&O caboose and Larry entered an HO scale C&O caboose.

The May contest, give the them of Steel is King, will cover any model found in a steel mill. It might be a freight car, an engine, a structure, or something we haven't yet considered. Bring it and show it off.



At left is a Bluford Shop car that Mark decaled and weathered.

At right is an Atlas car that Mark painted and decaled. He also added weight, end flashers, and electrical pickups



At left is Larry's entry. This is an Atlas car that received light weathering on the trucks and a repainted roof. Otherwise Larry reports that it is stock.

At right is Bob's entry, an N scale Atlas model with only light weathering powders applied.



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 THE COAL DIVISION

**St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
April 14, 2018
Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Dan Mulhearn at 1:52 p.m.

Members introduced themselves. There were several guests at the meeting.

Division Clerk Report

March Minutes approved
Treasury Balance is \$8,874.97
Pike Ads \$0
Raffle Revenue \$41
Company Store Revenue \$21.10

Superintendent Report

Dan mentioned the passing of Clint Foster. He will be missed.

Dan thanked everyone for their enthusiasm. He stated the group "recharges his batteries."

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn recognized Larry Richards for his Best of Show award for his diorama in the recent Kanawha Valley Scale Modelers contest. Bob said Larry was an inspiration for other modelers in the Division. Bob gave an update on the T-Track efforts with Sam Delauter. He read part of a recent article by Bruce DeMayer on the versatility of T-Track. He will be attending an N Scale convention in Columbus and will report back on their T-Track activities. He also welcomed member from the Appalachian Model Railroad Society and noted the shared purpose of both the AMRS and the Division.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer thanked several members for their recent contributions in *Up The Holler*. The deadline is April 23 for the next issue.

Achievement Program

Dale Osburn's Golden Spike paperwork has been submitted.

Membership

No Report.

Contest

Today's contest is Cabooses.

The listing of contests for the rest of the year was in the last newsletter.

Clinic

Today's Clinic – Timetable and train order operations by Jerry Doyle
May – Steel is King
June – Possibly track planning software
July – Mark Maynard - Clouds

Librarian

The library is available for check out today. A number of members have checked programs out.

Raffle

Tom mentioned that the mix of raffle items depends that the participation supports the upkeep of the depot.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob Osburn mentioned he'd like to see more members bring their projects, questions, and tips to meetings to expand the MADD program. Larry Richards mentioned potentially coordinating clinics with the contests.

Announcements

The Mid-Central Region convention will be held in Cincinnati May 17-20.

The July meeting will be our annual picnic at the depot.

Steel is King, Parkersburg, WV May 5. Paul LaPointe announced the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club will be open after the meeting.

The depot will be painted May 17.

The Bluefield show may be held in November, stay tuned for details.

Future Meetings:

May 5 – Steel is King Parkersburg, WV

Meeting adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

COAL DIVISION T-TRAK SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Text and photos by Sam Delauter

After the regularly scheduled Coal Division meeting, the T-trak SIG met. The group is making progress at each meeting to have a modular layout. Many members have ordered or have made plans to order modules. We would love to see more members stay for the meeting and become involved in the group. I donated my set of end modules to the group so that they would be available to members at all times. I would like to see these built as a Coal Division group project as they are currently lacking

scenery.

Over the last month, I was able to get track laid on my large 1'x4' modules. I used Unitrack on the connections to other modules per our standards. For the rest of the track on the mainline, I used Peco code 80 and Atlas code 55 for the industrial switching area.

To close out this update, I thought I would take a moment to talk about the track that we are using. If you are planning to build a module using Kato Unitrack, you

probably don't need to worry too much about the different brands and terminology. However if you choose to use multiple brands this may be helpful. First, let's talk about the different rail height or codes of track as they are called. With the exception of Atlas True Track, there are only two codes of rail in n scale. Code 55 and code 80. Atlas and Peco both make a code 55 track however unless you choose to build a yard or industrial area like I did then you will not need any code 55 for your module. Kato Unitrack is a code 80 track. Due to it being code 80, all connections on the main line will also need to be code 80. Originally I had planned to go with Atlas code 80 in the instance that I would need flex track or a switch but found that the ties were a bit too short to match up with the Kato track. After some research I found that Peco code 80 matches up perfectly with the Kato Unitrack when laid on cork roadbed. I have been asked by several members about switches. You can use Unitrack switches but they can be tricky to ballast. My solution is to use Peco switches. The Peco switches that we are using are electrofrog switches. The frog changes polarity when it is switched and will help with operation of small DC locos and also when running DCC locos.



An overall view of the full module. For perspective, the rolling stock are all 40 foot boxcars

**Coal Division T-Trak Special Interest Group
Continued**



A closer view of the bottom of the module as seen on the previous page



A closer view of the top of the module as seen on the previous page

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Once again there was enough contest activity to send the contest schedule to this page. That is certainly a good sign, it's a newsletter layout problem I would like to have.

Last month I said I thought I was coming down with T-Trak fever. It looks like I now have a bad case of it. I have ordered through the group a two foot module. I have bought track. I have even sketched out a proposed track plan that both Sam Delauter and Bob Osburn have approved. Don't worry, the Pennsylvania Southern will not be rebuilt in N scale.

T-Trak is making a big showing at the National Train Show. They have enough modules lined up to have many scale miles of main line, I am very anxious to see it. The National Train Show is the same weekend as our August meeting. Perhaps we should forgo the normal meeting and make a road trip to Kansas City instead. I know I'll be there as I will have been at the convention all week.

This is just about the last chance to register for the MCR convention in Cincinnati.. As I noted last month there will be an unusually large number of NMRA National officials in attendance. There will be a "Meet the NMRA Leadership" session Friday morning and you will have the chance to ask any of these folks questions. One of the more interesting attendees will be Christina Ganzer Zambri, the marketing consultant. Her view, as someone new to model railroading, is always very interesting.

I just had a wonderful weekend hosting out of towners on two days of operations. Friday three fellows from Louisville came over. One had been here before but the other two were first timers. We switched lots of cars and moved lots of trains Friday afternoon and evening. Saturday eight fellows from the Lexington area came over and we picked up where we left off Friday evening. Everyone finally left late Saturday afternoon. It was great fun and I thank Anthony Parrish for his able assistance in keeping folks from not completely undoing the Washington Yard or the Waynesburg Turn. I have received several notes indicating that the crews survived and had a good time.

Building a railroad is one things, seeing a group bring it to life is quite another. That happens at the monthly operating sessions and even more so when a large group from out of town arrives. The layout is new to them but they still seem to find their way around. If any of this sounds interesting, feel free to join us the second Thursday of each month.

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST

2018 SCHEDULE

January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam
April	Cabooses
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue except Cabooses
July	Structures
August	Freight Cars
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hopers)
November	Passenger Cars
December	Second Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Challenges. Details and kick off in October

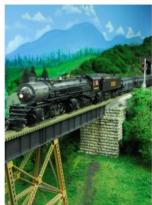


Welcome Back! May 17-20, 2018

*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

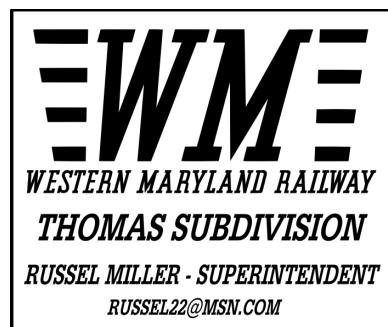
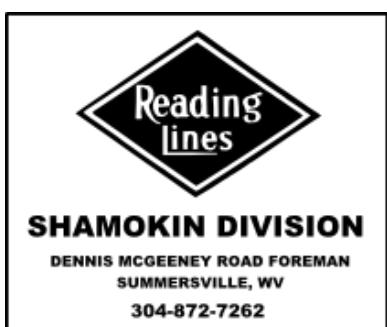
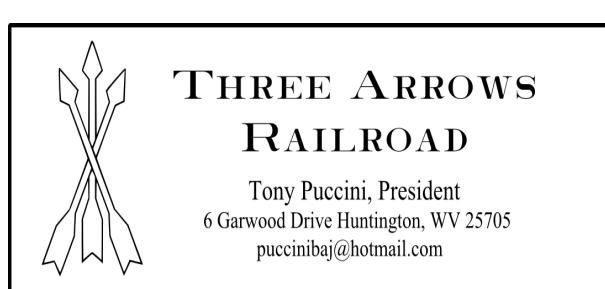
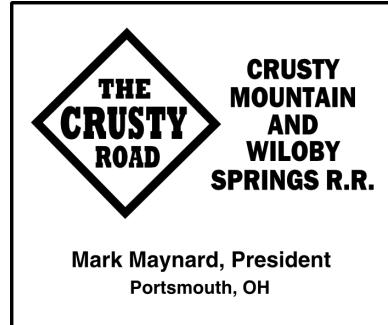


Extra Large White Elephant Sale!
Model, Photo and Crafts Contests
Raffle, Company Store, Hospitality Room
Layouts at Hotel + *EnterTrainment Junction*
Special TCS Booth with Loco Sound Free Installs!



Register Now for Priority on Extra Fares & Ops

See form at our booth or www.cincy-div7.org





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.

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

**June 9
St. Albans Depot**

**July 14
St. Albans Depot**

**August 11
St. Albans Depot**