



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

August 2019

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

My goodness, where to begin this month? There is so much to talk about, this column could run to several pages. Of course the headliner is the NMRA National Convention at Salt Lake City. To begin with, getting there was half the fun. Amtrak, in spite of a few glitches, made for a good trip. My good friend from Division 7, Bruce Knapp, was on the same trains. The Cardinal was running late but got us to Chicago in time for our connection to the California Zephyr. The food on the Cardinal was microwave gunk, but the on board service was good. The CZ rolled out of Chicago on time and we had another good on board crew. The CZ still has a full dining car and the food is not bad. It being the 4th of July as we rolled through the night across Nebraska, Mother Nature put on a spectacular fireworks show for us. Most of the way across Nebraska we were running on slow orders due to the storm and high water still standing from the prior major flooding. Arrival at Salt Lake City was three hours late but at 3:30 AM, as we arrived at the Little America hotel, we were greeted by a lobby and bar filled with barbershop quartets practicing for the sing off competition the next day. The trip home started with the CZ an hour late and we were losing time. It was determined we wouldn't make Chicago in time for the connection to the Cardinal so they put about 30 of us on a Trailways bus at Galesburg, IL and took us to Indianapolis to make our connection to the Cardinal. Seeing America from the train is absolutely the best way to travel. From the endless farms of the Midwest, into the rolling hills of dryland farms and cattle pastures, to the spectacular trip through the Rockies, and finally the moonscape of desert southeast Utah. One thing that struck me was how many smaller to huge industries are still being railroad served.

Now on to the convention. Division 9 was well represented with myself, Bob Weinheimer, John Harris, Kelley and Debbie Massie, and Randy and Janet Allio. We were given a pass which allowed unlimited use of the UTA light rail, heavy rail, and busses for the duration of the convention. A big highlight for me was the Layout Design SIG self guided tour of local layouts. I joined our chaffer, Bob Weinheimer and two other folks (John Munson and Reinhard Mueller) and we chose some of the best layouts to visit. We got to see some wonderful modeling in a small group setting where it was possible to have good conversations with the owners and some of their crews. One of the things I was most interested in is more information on Layout Command Control, LCC, and the convention didn't disappoint. There were several excellent clinics on the topic. Finally, someone has written a book on basic concepts and practical applications for LCC and a copy was purchased. The National Train Show was some distance from the hotel, but a quick, comfortable trip on the light rail system from right outside the hotel to the front door of the show made it a breeze. The train show was not as large as some I've seen but dealers, manufacturers, and display layouts were plentiful. Isn't it amazing how many things one can find at a train show that you didn't know you needed but can't live without? One last note on the convention. Bruce Knapp bid on a few items at the silent auction and was amazed to find he had purchased 20 items! He had to pack most of his clothing and ship it home by UPS in order to make room in his suitcase for all the goodies.

I would like to encourage my fellow Division 9 members to keep up the enthusiasm they have shown; don't forget working on your AP certificates. (that's a note to myself, too) My Property Owners Association needs to have a meeting and it looks like the date that is going to work for the board members is Aug. 10th. As secretary I have to be there and of course this conflicts with our next event day at the depot. It remains to be seen, for now, how this plays out. Until next time.

Cover: Photos by Dale Osburn See Contest column for more details.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bob Osburn, Assistant Superintendent

After missing several of our regular meetings, it was nice to be back at the depot with my model railroad family. First, I would like to thank those who attended the July meeting. Yes, the depot was hot but not unbearable and having a cooler of cold bottled water sure helped. Several topics of old and new business were discussed and should be reflected in the July minutes. We had a good representation of models for the contest, an interesting MADD discussion of C&O boats on the Ohio River, raffle, company store, and after the regular meeting the T-Trak group discussed upcoming shows. The highlight of the meeting came from Tom Harris. His clinic on photos using Helicon Focus was really wonderful. I hope Tom can present this clinic again when more members are present.

Several members at the June and July meetings volunteered to supply items for the August Picnic on the Platform. We are still short on monetary contributions for drinks and ice. We had no one sign up for desserts or baked beans, if you can supply any of these items your help would be greatly appreciated.

July has been a busy month for me. Trying to get a lot of work done on my new workshop in the hot July weather has not been fun! The electrical has been

roughed-in, walls insulated, sheetrock hung, walls and ceiling finished and painted. Flooring is next. I researched several different options for flooring and decided to go with PVC garage floor tiles; time will tell if this was a good choice. The exterior siding has been delivered and next week should see some progress on siding installation. With a little luck and cooler weather, the workshop should be ready for use by the end of August.

We have often mentioned in the newsletter and at the monthly meeting how important it is to mentor prospective model railroaders. My chance has arrived. I have 6 grandsons and the youngest (8 years old) has a real interest in model railroading. He lives in Cincinnati and I don't get to see him very often. When he visits, one of the first things he wants to do is run the trains in the attic. He is going to spend a week with us soon and I have purchased his first kit (a railroad station) for him to build while he is here. He really likes the T-Trak modules I have built and wants to build one someday. To get him started I've decided to use the Square Foot Challenge concept to teach him the basics of model railroading. It's going to be interesting to see how this works out!

I hope to see you at the August Picnic on the Platform!!

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

Many thanks to Tom Harris for his clinic on Helicon Focus and to Bob Osburn for use of his computer and projector. In August Tom will be giving the clinic on painting clouds. We want this to be as hands on as possible so we will be painting the T-TRAK backdrops during the clinic. However, any member who has a backdrop that needs painted, bring it in so we can help you.

August	Painting clouds
September	visit the Crusty Mountain
October	Headend equipment
November	Bluefield Train Show
December	Square Foot Challenge

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST 2019 SCHEDULE

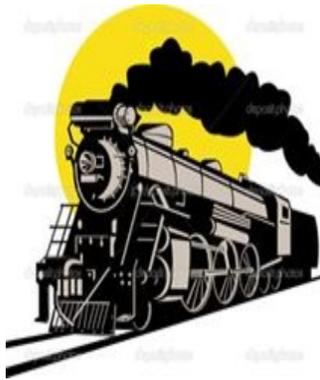
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam
April	Cabooses
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue Except Cabooses
July	Structures
August	Freight Cars
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hoppers)
November	Passenger Cars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

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

September	September 2
October	September 30
November	October 28



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Picnic on the Platform”

Saturday August 10 2019

11:30 - Depot open

Set up and view MADD displays related to freight cars

View contest entries, contest is freight cars

Buy raffle tickets, etc.

Socialize

12:00 - Lunch served

1:00 - Superintendent’s Briefing

1:30 - Raffle, Contest Results

2:00 - Clinic: Tom Harris will lead a hands on backdrop painting session

Post Meeting: T-Trak participants will gather for their monthly updates.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St. Albans, WV Depot
July 13, 2019
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:53pm by Assistant Superintendent Robert Osburn, as the Superintendent was absent.	Old Business – None
Minutes of the May meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.	New Business –
Treasurer's Report – No report as the clerk was absent.	Mark Maynard noted a conflict with the Sept. meeting date, and it was moved and approved to reschedule to Sept. 21.
Superintendent's Report – No report, as the Superintendent was absent.	A contract for our use of the depot has been prepared by the city and was discussed. It was moved and approved to discuss further at the Aug. meeting and to invite the mayor to our picnic. It was also suggested to mark all Div. 9 property (tables, displays, etc.)
Assistant Superintendent's Report – Robert Osburn noted that in addition to the members sign-in sheet, there is a signup sheet for the August picnic.	Announcements
Newsletter Chair – No report.	Morehead Train Show – August 24 & 25 th
Achievement Program Chair – There was a discussion of achievement requirements and record keeping, and it was suggested to have a more detailed presentation on this in the future.	AMRS Huntington Train Show in November
Library Chair – The library is at the meeting and is available to the members.	Next Meetings
Contest Chair – Contests for the following meetings were discussed.	August 10th- St. Albans (picnic on the platform), starts at noon
Clinic Chair – Painting backdrops for T-Trak modules will be done at the Aug. meeting.	September 21 st – Portsmouth, Ohio (Mark Maynards)
Membership Chair – No report	The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm
	Respectfully submitted by Bill Wadsworth, Acting Clerk

MY WORD
Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As Dan Mulhearn noted in his column, the Salt Lake City convention was a winner. Dan enjoyed the trip to and from Salt Lake City via Amtrak and I enjoyed mine by driving.

I left July 1 and made it to Davenport, Iowa. The next day I crossed Iowa and got into Nebraska on I-80. Around Grand Island I left the interstate and found US 30, the old road across the state and the country. While I-80 loosely follows the Union Pacific main line, US 30 runs right along it for hundreds of miles. By the end of Tuesday I had made it to Sidney where I spent two nights.

Wednesday I headed to Denver and the new Caboose

Hobbies. This place isn't quite like the old store but it is still a pretty good place and well worth a visit. I then headed to Greely for a visit to the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. This is a must see place with a huge highly detailed layout depicting the logging railroads of Oregon along with some significant main line traffic. I got a behind the scenes tour and saw a staging yard with trains measured, not by cars or feet, but fractions of a scale mile.

Thursday I continued from Sidney on US 30 but just inside Wyoming it merges with I-80 for some distance. I stopped in Cheyenne but found myself in lots of traffic as the locals were all celebrating Inde-

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CONTEST Dale Osburn

First place at the July contest went to Sam Delauter for his O.H. Wright & Bartlet Building. Second place was a tie between Bob Osburn for his CN Null Shell Distributor module and Tony Puccini for his Ice Platform. Photos of Sam's and Bob's entries are on the front page.

O.H. Wright & Co. Bartlet Building in Z scale by Sam Delauter

The kit was produced by Showcase Miniatures. Although the kit is Z scale, it is the same kit produced in larger scales. It is a wood laser cut kit and was built per the instructions as it is a prototype kit. In Z scale the kit measures 3.2" square, N scale the kit would be 4.4" square and in HO scale it would measure 8" square. The actual structure was 58" square.

C N Null Shell Distributor by Bob Osburn

The Shell office and warehouse was constructed with DPM modules. Railside loading dock doors were cut open to show a lighted detailed interior. The gooseneck building lights were constructed from .005 brass sheet and .032 brass rod. Roof details included air conditioning and restroom plumbing vent for the office area. The tank farm started out as a Walther's Interstate Oil Company. Parts from other kits (Faller, Tomytec, and N.J International) were used to complete the scene. The pipe bridge over the spur started life as 2 gas station billboards. Plastic stock was used for the concrete bases, Plastruct beams were

used for the bridge connecting supports, brass rod was used for the piping. Structures were painted with Model Master spray and weathered with Doc O'Brien's weathering powders.

Ice Platform by Tony Puccini



After the kit was built a book accidentally fell on the structure and the whole kit at that time was completely rebuilt. Tony goes on to say that he believes that the rebuilding of the kit turned out better than the first version. He also states that he had a lot more fun rebuilding the kit.

August contest is Freight Cars. Looking ahead September is Photo, Model or Prototype.

Please email me with any ideas for the upcoming year for new items to be added to the 2020 contest schedule.

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pendence Day. I drove along the line from Laramie to Medicine Bow to Rawlins where it deviated from the interstate. In Rawlins there is a refueling facility right on the main line tracks and adjacent to a public street. Trains just stopped on the main at the fuel pumps, got refueled, then continued. That night I ended up in Rock Springs, Wyoming with a hotel room overlooking the main line.

Friday I continued west but headed first for Ogden and Promontory Summit before arriving in Salt Lake City. I-80 heads down through Echo and Weber Canyons as does the UP main line. I cannot imagine what it must have been like to see the Big Boy go through there. At Promontory Summit the Golden Spike National Park does a wonderful job of explaining the history of the construction of the railroad. A number of the original grades can be seen from self guided tours. There are replicas of the two locomotives that met all those years ago. This place is centrally located in the middle of nowhere and it is hard to imagine how the railroad was originally built without all the resources available today. After visiting the park, it

was time to head to Salt Lake City and check into the hotel.

Saturday was the Board of Directors meeting which I observed. The big news is that dues will go up by \$3 to \$50 January 1, 2020. This increase is based on the Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation. If you want to beat the increase, renew for two years before the end of the year. The other news is that the exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum should open in October. There will be some sort of soft opening for those attending the Narrow Gauge Convention.

The convention was well executed in a wonderful venue. The clinics were outstanding. As Dan noted, we went on the LDSIG self guided layout tour Wednesday, this is the only way to see layouts at these conventions. We visited all the local layouts you have seen in the magazines as well as several others. The owners were all most gracious and patient answering all sorts of questions. Dan mentioned the transit passes we were given, that was a big help. The train show was some miles away but the TRAX system delivered us almost door to

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Continued from previous page door. That was very nice as the temperatures all week were about 100 degrees Fahrenheit but the humidity was much lower than what we experience in West Virginia. Like Dan, I found all sorts of things I didn't know I needed. I spend much of Friday at the show. Saturday I used the transit pass to get to the train station and ride the train to Ogden where I took in a street fair and the big museum. After returning to Salt Lake City I attended the Rocky Mountain Region board of directors meeting. That evening was the closing banquet.

Sunday I started home making it back to Sidney that

night then Columbia, MO Monday evening. I made it home late Tuesday afternoon. Was I glad I drove? Absolutely. Will I drive to the 2021 convention in Santa Clara, CA? Well, it's only 12 more hours past Salt Lake City so I might just do that.

Dan noted the number of Coal Division members present at the convention, there were six of us (Debbie Massie is a family member). I think that made us the MCR Division with the highest percentage of its members in attendance.



This photo shows Ted York's Santa Fe layout as seen on the LDSIG layout tour. In case you are wondering, the guys in the background are Dan Mulhearn, Bob Weinheimer, and Reinhard Mueller. Photo by John Munson

COAL DIVISION T-TRAK SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Sam Delauter

This past month, we had our first meeting of the season. I use the term season because we are preparing for the upcoming season of train shows. Speaking of shows, we have a few that will be here before we know it. We currently have three shows that we plan to attend. Moorehead, KY, Huntington, and St. Albans WV.

The July meeting was also another landmark for our group. July marked one year since we first put our modules together and ran trains on them. Since then, we have had modules at five shows in three different states. We had a great showing at the regional convention in Board-

man OH and Bob Osburn won best of show at the convention.

As I said at the last meeting, I would like to have the members of our group oversee more aspects of the setting up of the layout. Please be thinking of what duties we would like to see spread across our membership.

The August clinic will be painting clouds on backdrops. Make sure to bring in your backdrops for your modules. We will be able to get hands on help painting our clouds.

Scenes from the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, Greeley Colorado
Photos by Bob Weinheimer





CLINICIANS

Hopefully you will consider attending the Alleghany Western Mini Meet September, 14th, in Erie, PA. I would like to extend an invitation to you to present a clinic at this event. We are looking for a variety of topics from prototype modeling, modeling methods and well, you name it. Submitted clinics will be selected based on needs, timeliness, and skill level filling twelve clinic positions. The mini-meet is being held in the Ambassador Center in Erie, PA. The Ambassador will be the site for the 2021 MCR Convention giving participants a chance to get a peak at our future convention center. The meet is an all day Saturday event that will also offer some off-site opportunities Friday and Saturday nights.

Please contact me If you are interested and I will email you with a submission form. More information regarding the Alleghany Western Mini-Meet is being updated on our website. <http://www.div12mcr.org>

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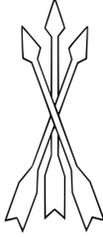
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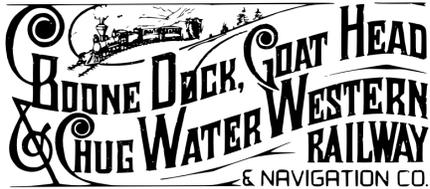
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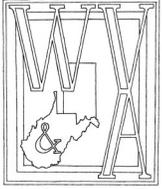


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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August 10
St. Albans Depot

September 21 (note date change)
Portsmouth, OH

October 12
St. Albans Depot