

UP THE HOLLER
The newsletter of Division 9
The Coal Division
Mid Central Region, NMRA

January 1, 2010

MEETING NOTICE: The January meeting of Division 9 will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 2:00PM. Socializing, shopping and any needed model judging begins at 1:00PM. We will be meeting at West Virginia Hobby & Crafts in Teays Valley. The contest for January is caboose (cabeese?) and the clinic is to be determined; it will be worth your while. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT LIN YOUNG

I don't know how the year has gone so quickly. We have been busy working on my Grafton & Greenbrier Jackson Subdivision branch expansion. The G&G crew had it ready to operate for our July division meeting and even further along for the Christmas holidays. We plan to get some more done for the Convention weekend in May, more specifically the last staging yard and scenery.

Our meetings continue to be well attended. I know this comment is getting stale because it has been part of every Head of the Holler column for a couple of years. The way I see it; that's a good thing!!!! Our September meeting in Portsmouth, OH at Mark Maynard's continues to be our best attended because of Mark's barbecue hospitality, his great model railroad, our annual flea market and visiting members from other divisions in our region. We traveled to the other end of our division in October and November: Clint Foster's C&O New River Sub in Ronceverte WV and the National Railway Historical Society Pocahontas Chapter show in Bluefield respectively.

You can plan for all the meetings early next (this, ed.) year to be at WV Hobby and Craft in Teays Valley. We will be previewing the clinics our members will present at the May Convention. Our April meeting will be the dress rehearsal of registration, clinic, contest, flea market, tour and display tasks.

The plans for our 2010 Mid Central Region Convention in Charleston May 13-16 are nearly together because of the hard work of Bob Weinheimer, our Asst. Superintendent. We are on a record pace for registrants thus far and we anticipate the convention will be attended by well over 200. I'm sure Bob will tell you how many have registered thus far in his comments. Please step up to the challenge of providing an exciting, informative and outstanding convention by volunteering your services. We want to have a convention that the Mid Central Region will use as their "benchmark" for years to come. Our members continue to surprise us with some outstanding models to judge. I have the sense Gary Burdette will have a Master Model Railroader certificate by convention time. He is

working hard on his seventh certificate, Prototype Model, which will be a Thurmond, WV module. Continue your good work and bring your models for us to judge.

Go to our website for the contest and clinic information. Bob Weinheimer keeps it up to date regularly with anything you need to know about our Division. Keep up the good work and bring a friend to our meeting. Lin

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT BOB WEINHEIMER

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: Achievement Program activity in the Coal Division has slowed a bit but not stopped completely. Gary Burdette, the proud holder of six certificates, is working diligently on a reproduction of Thurmond, WV for his Prototype Model certificate. This certificate will be Gary's seventh and last one needed before becoming a Master Model Railroader. I hope he can finish the project in the next few weeks, have it judged, and be presented with his certificate and plaque at the COALFIELD EXPRESS in May. Let's all cheer him on.

Gary is not alone in activity. Our brand new Up The Holler editor, Dan Mulhearn, is right at the point of having held enough jobs to have earned his Association Volunteer certificate. By the time you receive this newsletter the paperwork should be in the works. Congratulations to Dan!

As a reminder, we attempt to have at least a couple of judges at our meeting site by 1PM, an hour before the meeting starts. This gives you the opportunity to bring structures, cars or locomotives for judging. I do ask that you have all your paperwork, including a judging sheet, with you prior to judging. These forms are available on the NMRA and Coal Division web sites.

If you have any AP questions, please e mail me at rmweinheimer@ntelos.net or call me at 304-343-1428.

COALFIELD EXPRESS: Registration activity took a break over the holidays. I guess folks had other things to worry about instead of the Mid Central Region Convention. We can hope that some received the funds to attend the convention as a gift. At about the time you receive this newsletter you should also receive a printed copy of *The Kingpin* the MCR newsletter. This edition of the newsletter has a multipage description of the convention activities as well as a registration form. I ask that you register sooner rather than later for the convention. As a reminder, if you set foot in the hotel and do anything related to the convention, you are expected to register.

January also brings the need to start detailed scheduling of activities. Gary Burdette will be developing a clinic schedule. We will determine the hours of operation of the various activities. We will then turn to the membership of the Coal Division to help staff the convention. While we are getting help from other divisions, it is our convention and we

are expected to provide the bulk of the staffing. Expect a call or an e mail during January and February enlisting your assistance in making our convention a success.

Finally, if you plan to stay at the convention hotel, I strongly suggest making a reservation sooner rather than later. You do not have to pay in advance. There is another function at the hotel the same weekend and we can get no more rooms than the current number committed by the hotel. If you have any questions regarding the convention, please e mail or phone at the above address/phone number.

UP THE HOLLER: Welcome to the new format for *Up The Holler*. We thank Greg McCartney for the excellent product he has put out. However, family and job duties preclude his continuing as editor. UTH will now be a combination of the monthly meeting notice as well as some of the features of the old UTH; such as the columns from the Super and his assistant. We will also include items of interest to the memberships. The input of all members is solicited in that your comments, articles and other information is more than welcome. The format will be fairly simple to begin with, in line with your editor's limited computer skills. I do hope to develop the newsletter to the point where photos, drawings and diagrams may be included.

MEET THE MEMBERS: This is a feature we began last year; your "model railroad biography" is solicited for inclusion here. We will make a start by introducing myself. I am Dan Mulhearn, 65 years old and born and raised on Long Island, NY. I was a police officer for thirty three years; with four and one half years as a New York City PD officer and the rest with the Suffolk County NY PD. SCPD is the seventh largest municipal police agency in the country and I retired as a Lieutenant supervising five sergeants and thirty five police officers. My post was in the Highway Patrol Bureau and my responsibilities were command of the motorcycle unit, the DUI enforcement unit and the commercial vehicle enforcement unit. I began camping in West Virginia during "train chasing" excursions back in the 80s and determined it was the place for me to retire. In addition to my "train hobby" I serve as a Captain and paramedic in the Pipestem Volunteer Fire Dept. and work part time as a paramedic for Summers County EMS. I hold office in, and teach adult Sunday School at Lerona United Methodist Church as well as being a certified lay speaker for the Southern WV District UMC. I am a past president of the Long Island Model RR Engineers Inc. I am also a past president of the Pocahontas Chapter of the National RR Historical Society; also holding Chapter membership in the Long Island Sunrise Trail, Twin Forks and C P Huntington Chapters. Lastly, I hold memberships in the N&W Historical Society and the C&O Historical Society. I have been married, for 23+ years to the ever patient Nina, a retired school teacher.

I have been a "train buff" since infancy according to my family. I consider myself less a model railroader than a railfan who enjoys being able to railfan in the basement. My proposed model railroad will be based on the N&W Pocahontas subdivision, centered on Bluefield. The era will be 1968 and 2000 (not at the same time) This dual era was arrived at as I want to be able to run my older equipment; yet enjoy the modern big diesels and unit trains, etc. If the dual era idea becomes too much; 1968 will be the only era. Over the years I have "train chased" in all 48 contiguous States and have lots of great pictures

and memories. As I get older however, the basement rail empire is going to become more important; rather than the arduous traveling.
What's your story?

MODEL REVIEW: At last month's meeting, during the pre-meeting social hour, I noticed Chuck had gotten in the long awaited ATLAS model of the ALCO C420 road switcher with the high short hood. Mine is in it's as delivered N&W colors and is consistent with the high quality Atlas has become known for. There is a compromise in the unit's car body though. The high short hood has the steam generator stacks and vents which appeared on the Long Island RR's commuter engines. Then again, the model has the dynamic brake apparatus on the long hood roof which was typical of the N&W units. I will certainly remove the steam generator stack and possibly try and remove the vents on the side of the hood which are not prototypical for N&W units. The locomotive runs beautifully and my plan is to install a QSI sound decoder as they have a "drop in" decoder for Atlas units and you can specify which engine sound and type horn you prefer. Won't be long before another ALCO is ready to "chug" along the old N&W!

Please send in your comments and reviews on your latest "goodies" for inclusion here.

ATTA BOYS: The latest issue of N&W Historical Society's magazine, *The Arrow* has a report on the 2009 society convention. It was noted that Division 9 member David Robinette won first prize in the structure contest with his model of N&W's Coeburn VA depot. Not only that but Nathan Robinette won first prize for his diorama of the junction at Bluestone WV. Nice going gentlemen!

See you at the meeting;

Dan Mulhearn; Editor

Pike ads are below. As your editor gets more acquainted with the software, you can expect them to appear embedded in the newsletter rather than bunched at the end like this.

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



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

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT
DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
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SHAMOKIN DIVISION

DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN
SUMMERSVILLE, WV
DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET
304-872-7262



WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY
THOMAS SUBDIVISION

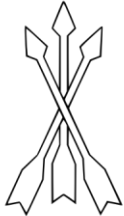
RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT
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Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV