



UP THE HOLLER

The Newsletter of Mid Central Region NMRA

DIVISION 9

The Coal Division

June 2010



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

The month of May saw a couple of milestones in the history of the Coal Division. Our first regional convention, the Coalfield Express, was a resounding success. As the convention manager, I want to thank each and every division member for his help in this success. The committee chairs did a great job of organizing their activities. The membership as a group provided nearly all the staffing required to make these activities function. Based on my observations, every member who agreed to work a shift kept his word and did the job. Coal Division members were also well recognized for their efforts at the banquet. Gary Burdette, Anthony Parrish, Larry Richards, and new member Dan Kennedy all received awards for their contest models. Gary's coke car was judged as the Best of Show in the entire model contest. That is a remarkable achievement. Check the convention coverage in this issue for more on Coal Division contest winners and other details on that great weekend.

The other milestone in our history was the change in leadership. In 2004 Lin Young was appointed superintendent by then Mid Central Region President Howard Smith. Lin took on the challenge to get our division going again. In last month's issue we saw a list of the division's accomplishments. These accomplishments are due in large part to the inspirational leadership provided by Lin. Lin was formally elected superintendent in 2006 then reelected in 2008. Our regulations say that the superintendent cannot serve more than two consecutive elected terms so Lin has stepped aside. The MCR's Cincinnati Division presents the Russ Wenderfer Award at the convention banquet each year to the member who does the most at the division level in service to the NMRA. Lin was the recipient of this year's Wenderfer Award for his leadership for the past six years. Lin will be a tough act to follow but I am honored that you have chosen me to follow him as superintendent. Gary Burdette is now the assistant superintendent. I believe Gary and I will work well together to lead us in the future.

So, what comes next? Let's catch our collective breath and study that question over the next few months. I have some ideas about meetings that I will discuss in a future issue of the newsletter and at our meetings. I also welcome your ideas for the future. In the meantime, thank you for all you did to make our convention a success.

From the Office Down The Hall

Assistant Superintendent Gary J. Burdette

Hello. Greetings from Point Pleasant, West Virginia. I'll open my first column with the statement of my philosophy: "I've never met a train I didn't like!" This adaptation of Will Roger's famous line came as a result of a discussion several of us had concerning the merits of one scale over another. While I have a favorite scale and railroad, I am easily led down the trail to other things. At our recent convention Keith Devault had me interested in the M&K, while Jack Brown tempted me with the Western Maryland, and John Roberts put the icing on the cake with his talk of the port facilities of the C&O (my favorite line) at Newport News, Virginia in O scale (a scale I could easily embrace). I could model them all. After several doses of the Kanawha Valley N-Scale Club's layouts I was really in a mental fix. I could model N scale, too! The bottom line for me must be, while I can't model them all, I can certainly enjoy them all. That is the message I send to you. Enjoy our hobby and the friendship of one another.

At this point I would like to thank both Lin Young and Bob Weinheimer for the excellent job they have done as Division 9 Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent respectively. They have worked (along with many of you) to revitalize our group and lay the groundwork for the enjoyment of our hobby and comradeship that I have mentioned above. We have a great group of guys who get along well. I know Bob will address that as he discusses the Coalfield Express and what a success it was from many different aspects. From my point of view it was the result of Lin's and Bob's leadership and the commitment we all made to see that we greeted our guests with the best show possible. Again, we enjoy our hobby and the friendship of one another.

As the newly elected Assistant Superintendent, I hope to continue all the things that have led up to where we are at this point.

My goal is to promote participation in the NMRA and Division 9 through what they called value-added activities at a recent organizational meeting. I did not seek to run for office but was nominated. I know someone has to be the one who helps organize the association so that there is direction. I accepted the nomination and thank you for your votes of confidence. I will work with Bob (We have discussed some things, already) to develop ways of enhancing our meetings and activities. I will lean on you for support, and I will continue some of the things I have been doing such as the monthly Mini-clinics display and an occasional Up the Holler model column to share some of the information and ideas I have gathered in over 40 years of modeling. I will continue to enter the model contest to bring a little friendly competition and teasing of one another to the meetings as part of this activity. I hope we will build upon this natural teamwork we have established because we all enjoy our hobby and the friendship of one another.

So, keep bringing in your photos and other memorabilia as Dennis McGeeney has done on a couple of occasions or showing your models in progress like Greg McCartney and Bob Johnson did when we automatically entered them in the contest and they won. Keep coming up with ideas like Shelby's list of modeler's helpers and continue to donate items for the raffle as many of you have done already . I don't mean to leave anyone out for I know you have all participated in some way for the pleasure and benefit of the group. These were a couple examples that popped into my head as I wanted to make my point: continue to participate by sharing your ideas, your experiences and yourselves. You are a special group of individuals. In Division 9 we have and will continue to enjoy our hobby and the friendship of one another.

Convention Highlights Convention Manager Bob Weinheimer

Well, we did it! The Coalfield Express was quite a hit with the attendees. I believe we put ourselves on the map and have earned quite a bit of respect from the rest of the region. I want to thank all the committee

managers as well as all the individual members of the Coal Division who worked very hard to make this all happen. We have put together a series of photos and sidebars that give just a hint of how things went.

What they are saying....

This is just a selection from the many comments that have arrived in emails from the convention attendees.

Please share my congratulations and thanks, on behalf of the Mid Central Region for **a job well done**. The convention was well done and everyone I talked with had a wonderful time. This will be a bench mark that conventions will be compared to for a long time. It truly shows that the planning was done extremely well and executed flawlessly. Dick Briggs, MCR President

Walker was better than I thought it would be. Thanks to Lin they gave us some TLC. The coal mine was also different. They were friendly and let us see everything.

Banquet was good, speaker was among the best I've heard at a banquet.

You and your crew should be quite proud and have hopefully inspired others to step up and host a future meeting.

Division 9 put on a GREAT convention, as it is my first convention, it will be the measurement I use to judge future conventions. You folks did an outstanding job.

Many thanks for a wonderful convention. We really enjoyed ourselves.

I want to thank you for putting on an excellent convention, opening your layout to strange visitors, and for inviting me to give a clinic.



Mid Central Region Vice President Merlyn Jarman presents Lin Young with the Wenderfer Award. This award is presented by the Cincinnati Division for service at the division level. This year's award was made to Lin Young in recognition of Lin's service to the Coal Division. Beverly Young looks on. Photo by Jerry Doyle.



NMRA President Mike Brestel presents Gary Burdette with the Best of Show plaque for a judged contest model. Dan Mulhearn and Lin Young look on. Photo by Donald Wilke.

Judged Contest Results

Once again, Coal Division members took home over half the judged contest awards. This year it was 13 of 24 not including Gary Burdette's Best of Show award.

Best of Show: Gary Burdette

Diesel Locomotives: First, Second, and Third Places went to Anthony Parrish

Non Revenue Cars: Gary Burdette

Cabooses: First and Second Place to Anthony Parrish

Passenger Cars: Gary Burdette

Traction: Gary Burdette

On Line Structures: Second Place to Larry Richards and Third Place to Gary Burdette

On Line Display: First Place to Dan Kennedy and Third Place to Larry Richards

Off Line Display: Larry Richards

Popular Vote Results

The popular vote results were fairly close to the judged results but there were a few differences.

Favorite Model: Dan Kennedy

Favorite Diesel: First Place to Gary Burdette and Third Place to Anthony Parrish

Favorite Traction: Gary Burdette

Favorite Freight Car: Gary Burdette Note: this was the coke car that won Best of Show in the Judged Contest

Favorite Caboose: First and Second Places to Anthony Parrish

Favorite Non Revenue: Second Place to Gary Burdette

Favorite On Line Structure: Second Place to Larry Richards

Favorite On Display: Second Place to Dan Kennedy

Favorite Off Line Display: Second Place to Larry Richards, Third Place to Ken Day



Dan Kennedy accepts the Favorite Model award from Lin Young and Dan Mulhearn. Photo by Donald Wilke

As much as we wanted to include lots of convention material this month, we feel 12 pages is enough newsletter for now. Look for photos of prize winning models from Coal Division members in following issues of Up The Holler.

Jerry Doyle, Greg McCartney, Dave Stout, and Bill Wadsworth prepare for the arrival of convention attendees at the registration table in the lobby of the Embassy Suites. Photo by Donald Wilke



Left to right, Howard Smith, John Retterer, and Dick Briggs judge one of Bob Weinheimer's cars that was used in the contest judges training program Saturday morning. The car was meant to be an example of a not so great model and the judges fully agreed! Photo by Donald Wilke

In the foreground we see the N Scale layout built by new member Ron Blessing. This module was judged at a merit level for scenery during the convention. Congratulations to Ron!

In the background we see part of the display provided by the Coal Heritage Trail. Photo by Donald Wilke



NMRA Mid-Central Region Division 9 Minutes May 8, 2010

The business meeting of Division 9 was held at WV Hobbies and Crafts in Winfield WV.

running about 60 members. We will be posting more information in the newsletter.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Lin Young at 2:00 PM.

Achievement Program: Bob said that Jim Heilman will be having his layout judged for electrical engineer.

Members introduced themselves.

Newsletter: Bob explained how the newsletter is produced. The next issue will have a listing of deadlines.

Clerk Report: Minutes for the April meeting were read and approved.

Clinic Chair: No report.

Super Report: Lin expressed his pleasure with the members of our division. He said we were the "cream that comes to the top." Our members have consistently won a large share of the awards at conventions and we are putting on a first-class convention. Lin said he was certain this was one of the top divisions in the entire country. The attendance has been consistently high and we don't take a back seat to anyone. The office of superintendent and asst. will be passed to Bob and Gary respectively after the board meeting at our convention.

Contest: Passenger car.

Clinic: Coalfield Express update and final details.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Assistant Superintendent: Webmaster: nothing new but traffic should drop after the convention. Dave Stout expressed how well our website compares to others around the country.

Announcements: Hocking Valley will begin operations Memorial Day.

Future Meetings:

Convention Update:

With the convention only days away, Bob asked we all be mindful that we are the hosts for the convention and to smile and be hospitable. Our convention guests are spending many hundreds of dollars each to attend the convention and it should be as enjoyable as possible for them. We have received over \$20,000 directly in registrations and our guests will spend many thousands more for hotels and meals. His request was simple, always smile. A signup sheet was passed around for final staffing needs.

MCR 2010 Convention

Respectfully submitted, Jerry Doyle, NMRA
MCR Division 9 Clerk.

Membership Chairman: Membership is

NMRA InfoNet News

Welcome to the May NMRA InfoNet News.

Most NMRA business that's happening right now is centering around getting ready for the July convention.

The annual **Board of Directors meeting** will begin at 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 9, at a meeting room yet in the Convention hotel. As always, interested members are encouraged to attend. If you have any ideas or issues you feel should be addressed by the Board, please contact your District Director. Their names are listed on www.nmra.org and in *Scale Rails* magazine.

If you or your members are in either O scale or N scale, take notice of the **special Heritage and Living Legend Car sale** going on right now at NMRA headquarters. In an effort to reduce inventory, all O-scale cars are being sold for just \$10 each, and N-scale cars are going for \$5 each. *Note that these prices are cheaper than the retail price of the trucks on the cars!*

If you or someone from your Region or Division is planning to attend NMRA75 in Milwaukee, don't forget that there will be a special clinic **introducing the new "NMRA Region and Division Handbook,"** given by Bill Kaufman on Tuesday, July 13 and Thursday, July 15 (dates subject to change). This was a book written and assembled at the "grass roots level" by volunteers from many different Regions and Divisions in the NMRA, and contains a wealth of useful ideas and information that can be adapted to just about any Region or Division. Topics include what some Regions and Divisions do to get new members, how they use technology, and how they handle meets, conventions, and contests. A CD copy of this book will be distributed to all Region Presidents sometime after the convention. We'll then be asking the Regions to make copies of the CD for their Divisions.

NMRA membership right now remains very steady. As of April 30, we had 19,309 members, which is a decrease of 131 members from April, 2009, but an increase of 206 from April 2008.

Webmaster Report

Web visits sure took off in advance of the convention. We had about 7500 page views in the two weeks leading up to the convention and about 2400 during the last two weeks of May. It will be interesting to see how visits continue in the coming months.

Month	Total Page Visits
January, 2009	3298
February	2750
March	3220
April	2667
May	3742
June	3012
July	3600
August	4658
September	5027
October	5993
November	4338
December	5121
January, 2010	8827
February	6551
March	7087
April	7780
May	9947



Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY



Ed Keith, MMR
President
Chesapeake, OH

Newsletter Deadlines

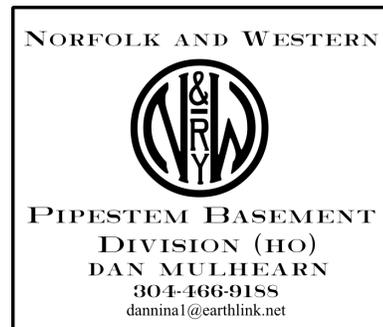
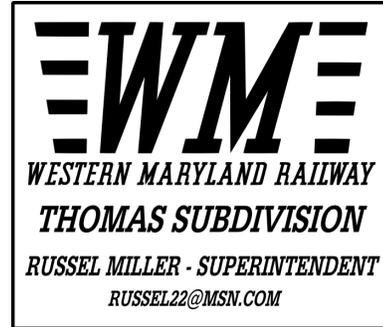
Editor Dan Mulhearn
Assistant Editor Bob Weinheimer

Since *Up The Holler* is our main means of communication with our members, your editor works to have it in your hands or on your computer screen 7 to 10 days prior to the monthly membership meeting. It takes about a week to prepare the newsletter for publication. We edit each article for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and the like. We then lay it out in the publication software but this can take several iterations before the newsletter is in its final form. The whole thing is then converted to a PDF format for electronic distribution while the paper version is photocopied, folded, addressed, stamped, and put in the mailbox.

With this in mind, we have established a set of deadlines for newsletter article submission. These dates are 17 days before the membership meeting:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
July, 2010	June 23
August	July 28
September	August 25
October	September 22
November	October 27
December	November 24

We ask that you help us keep the newsletter on a timely delivery schedule by submitting regular columns as well as other articles by these dates.



Achievement Program Update

Gary J. Burdette

I have invited Guest Columnist Gary Burdette to write this month's AP column - Bob

As a truly enjoyable convention came to a close with the self-guided tours, the business of the association began. While hobby organizations are geared for our pleasure and entertainment, it is the structure and operations which keep things going in a meaningful fashion. Sunday morning saw the gathering of officials from all the divisions at the Superintendent's Breakfast. The purpose was to provide a forum in which to share information on various subjects from what is working and not working in your division to activities and best practices which will be a value-added part of NMRA membership. One important area that can add spice and purpose to membership is participation in the Achievement Program. Thus, the main topic of discussion was "Building a Successful Achievement Program in Your Divisions." In keeping with the fun we have at the conventions, we felt that same feeling should be carried on throughout the year. As our president Mike Brestel said, "The AP used to exclude, but today it includes. We want members to participate and succeed." Don't be afraid to get involved and have some fun.

One roadblock to participation in the Achievement Program may very well be that we don't know where or how to start. Bob Weinheimer has given a couple of clinics on the scope and sequence of the program to lay the groundwork for us. He has said, "Go for the 'low-hanging fruit' first." In other words, see what you may already have done before you are overwhelmed with thinking you are starting from scratch. Bob (our AP Co-Chair), Ed Keith (our AP Co-Chair), and Lin Young have promoted a judging session, both verbally and through Up The Holler, prior to our monthly meetings. Many have had some fine models judged in these sessions. Furthermore, they have looked for

opportunities to seek you out when they have learned of some project on which you have been working. Several certificates have been earned because of these efforts. In my case Lin forced me to dispatch the G&G. I had done everything but dispatch. I had even sat beside Jerry Doyle hours on end as he did. However, I was a little nervous to try my own hand because I didn't want to ruin a session for the others. With Lin's encouragement I completed my hours for dispatcher and qualified for the certificate. We will continue these techniques. We are going to encourage everyone who does not have the Golden Spike Award to begin there. This may be the best way to get your foot in the door and ease in to the program. By simply starting somewhere you will overcome that hurdle.

You are not alone. We all really seem to get along and the desire to help one-another is prevalent in our group. Mark Maynard has installed his turnout switch links on a couple of railroads. Several of us have given of ourselves to work on other's lines. This will continue. Our friend, the late Shelby Young, began a survey indicating which of us would be willing to provide advice to those who requested it and in what areas we felt qualified to do so. Sadly, he passed away before this was completed. Members at the Superintendent's Breakfast thought this was a good idea. We will complete this project, perhaps calling it Shelby's List. Similarly, the Assistant Superintendent from Division 1 indicated he had thought of initiating classes related to different certificates in much the same manner as a Pilot's Club with which he was associated offered courses in navigation, night flying, etc. Our own members, as well as guest speakers from other divisions, could present a series of clinics on a given topic culminating in the completion of a project which might go toward the requirements for completing a certificate. This would really be a member aid program

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which would provide both increased skills for us all as we share with one another, as well as more fun and a greater comradeship amongst our membership. Again, don't be afraid to get involved and have some fun.

The paperwork seems to be daunting in some member's minds. Bob has said, "Don't read too much into things." There is usually not as much paperwork as you may think. Some may even be enjoyable. For example, as you operate on the railroad, keep a record of your duties and times. On the PS and G&G Bob and Lin do that for you as part of the Operations Report. When you build a car, gather prototype photos and plans as an aid to construction and documentation of prototype conformity. MCR Region and National Executive Assistant Manager Frank Koch told us that the requirements for a given certificate are strict but the paperwork can be flexible. At one time a modeler might be rejected for having a description on the wrong line. Now, if the reviewer can determine what you did and how you did it, you are going to be approved if you have met the standards. He said in some areas he is doing away with the Record and Validation form as it is a virtual duplicate of the all-important Statement of Qualifications form. Thus, the Association is trying to make things a little easier so you won't get scared away before you even try.

Finally, the Achievement Program operates differently than a contest. While the total points that may be earned in a contest or through judging are 125, the magic number for a Merit Award is 87 ½ points. A contest may be tougher because the judges are rating and ranking the various models for placement and awards. Achievement Program judging gives you the opportunity to see if your model is a good one showing an average or above level of skill. It's much like a C or better like in our school days. Judges look for opportunities to reward your efforts. You are competing against the scale or standard, not another modeler. Though I have received several Merit Awards for my efforts, I have never come close to the maximum. There are a few who have, but the rest of us are able to be included in the good, solid, average modeler category having completed a certain level of mastery (i.e. Master Builder-Structures). With seven certificates (in the four categories) we may become a Master Model Railroader. Yet, we may not be the museum quality builder. We are designated a good modeler.

This is a goal worth shooting for. I'll discuss my thoughts and philosophies at another time. For now, the goal of the NMRA is to promote the Achievement Program and participation in the organization. So, participate, for you will receive great enjoyment

MEETING NOTICE

The next Division meeting will be on Saturday June 12 at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. Social hour and judging at 1PM Meeting at 2PM. The contest is On Line Structures. The clinic is to be announced.

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

Bob Weinheimer, President

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THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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The Passenger Manifest Membership Chairman John Harris

This begins a new column from your Membership Chairman to share general information to the membership of the division. It is generally envisioned to welcome aboard new members to NMRA Division 9, but we also anticipate providing updates of general interest to all members.

We certainly want to take this opportunity to welcome 9 new members to NMRA and Division 9:

- Daniel Kennedy, Hurricane, WV
- Charles Montague, Ashland, KY
- Ron Blessing, Charleston, WV
- Andy Blessing, Charleston, WV
- J. C. Leake, Elkview, WV
- Nickolas Marakovits, Scott Depot, WV
- Joe Marakovits, Scott Depot, WV
- Michael Shaffer, Charleston, WV
- Paul Tabit, St Albans, WV

As new members, we want to invite you to our monthly meetings which are generally held at West Virginia Hobby and Crafts in Teays Valley on the 2nd Saturday of each month beginning at 2:00 pm. Typical meeting will include a business meeting with reports from our Division Superintendent along with financial reports, new and old business, and reporting on upcoming events. In addition, each monthly meeting includes a model contest which provides an opportunity bring and brag on a specific model type. Meetings generally conclude with a clinic similar to those given at the convention by one of the division members. Our next meeting is June 12 at 2:00 pm where the model contest will be On Line

Structures. Occasionally, meetings will be held and hosted out of town at a members home layout where, in lieu of a clinic, an operating session allows for a hands on learning experience

The Coalfield Express certainly focused a spotlight on the Coal Division. I suspect that one of the side benefits of hosting the convention was the recent upturn in division membership. Another one of the benefits of hosting a regional convention was the relative ease of access for all our members to convention activities. Clinics were well attended and well presented. It was great to see so many Division 9 members participate. I suspect that for many, this was their first convention. Hopefully this will stir interest in attending other regional conventions or perhaps a national convention in the future.

Special thanks to members of the division who shared in the organization, staffing, and generally being there to help ensure that convention guests received a warm welcome to Charleston and favorable impression of Division 9. Based on comments I heard at the convention and during the layout tours of the Alleghany and New River Road, the convention was quite a success and all Division 9 members who participated are to be commended. Double thanks to Convention Chairman Bob Weinheimer for his leadership and organization skills. Certainly we could not have pulled it off without him.



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Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

June 12

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV**

July 10

**Lin Young's Home
Gallipolis, OH**

August 14

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV**

September 11

**Mark Maynard's Home
West Portsmouth, OH**

October 9

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV**