

NMRA Mid-Central Region Division 9
Minutes
August 9, 2008

The business meeting of Division 9 was held at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Lin Young at 2:00 PM. Members present were Lin Young, Bob Weinheimer, Dwight Sherman, John Harris, David Robinette, Nathan Robinette, Dennis McGeeney, Bill Wadsworth, Mark Maynard, Paul Lapointe, Ed Keith, John Stephens, Greg Foster, Greg McCartney, Dan Mulhearn, and Mark Rooney. Also present were guests Al Michaels and Paul Taylor.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Superintendent's Report

Lin Young noted that member Bob Johnson has written a letter to the editor of the newsletter describing in a very positive way his reaction to joining the NMRA and our division. The letter will be published shortly. Lin also handed out copies of the membership directory. Please send any corrections to Bob Weinheimer.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Bob Weinheimer noted that the article tentatively titled "The Resurrection of a Division" has been submitted to NMRA President Mike Brestel for review. Mike had requested such an article for publication in Scale Rails. Bob suggested that Bob Johnson's letter might make a good sidebar to the proposed article. In his role as webmaster, Bob also noted that we have had about 3,000 hits on the web site each of the last several months. The high was 3,800 in May. Links to the most recent newsletter have appeared in the Atlas forum resulting in nearly 1,000 hits on that issue. That is by far the most popular issue as it contains the article on the Virginian and Ohio final open house.

Achievement Program Report

Bob Weinheimer reported that Jerry Doyle's Association Volunteer certificate has arrived. It will be framed and presented to Jerry at the next meeting. Gary Burdette has submitted his Chief Dispatcher SOQ and Dwight Sherman is about to mail in his SOQ for Electrical Engineer. Several other members are close to submitting SOQs for Chief Dispatcher, Electrical Engineer, and Motive Power. Member Paul Lapointe brought a beautifully kitbashed coal mine for judging. This model scored 102 points, more than enough for a Merit Award.

Newsletter Editor Report

Greg McCartney reported that the next issue of Up The Holler should be out in about two weeks. Bob Johnson's letter will just fill an empty spot so the timing was excellent.

2010 Convention Report

Convention Manager Bob Weinheimer noted that we still need several committee managers. After a brief discussion, Paul Lapointe became the Clinic Manager and Dennis and Donna McGeeney will handle non-Rail clinics and tours. That leaves Hospitality, Raffle, Auction, Company Store, and Modular Layouts without leaders.

We had a good discussion of possible convention names. Bob said that if nobody came up with a better idea, it would be The Coalfield Express. That led to the suggestion of several more names: King Coal (name of a train on the Reading Railroad), Route of the Flea Bag Flyer (potentially offensive to the hotel management), Elk Junction, and Coal Camp Convention. We will make a final decision at the next meeting. Ed Keith has agreed to develop a logo once a name is chosen.

The next subject of discussion was the convention car. At the July meeting we had entertained the notion of a structure instead of a car. At this meeting that was forgotten and we spoke just of cars. Greg McCartney reported that none of the reasonable hopper cars on the market were suitable models of N&W or C&O prototypes. The nearest to prototype model available was a Toledo and Ohio Central boxcar. The group's sentiment was that the Coal Division should surely have a hopper car, not a boxcar. The idea of doing cars for the Pennsylvania Southern and the Grafton and Greenbrier, the private freelance roads of two members, met mixed reviews. That led, however, to the discussion of a freelance line that would contain the names of cities in all three states that form our division. It was also suggested that the convention name, if that of a train, could be worked into a slogan such as "The Route of the.....". That seemed to be the general consensus of the members present. Greg will look into a suitable car that bridges the steam and diesel eras. This subject will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

David Robinette is looking for photographs of the coaling tower in Nelsonville, OH. The tower is to be razed but not before a scale model is built. If you have any such photos, or know of a source of these photos, please contact David directly.

Dan Mulhearn announced that we are just about at the bottom of the barrel for clinics. If you can prepare and present one, please let Dan know.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at Mark Maynard's home in West Portsmouth, OH September 13. Directions will be posted on the web site and included in the meeting announcement. Activities will start at noon and include a flea market, two clinics (one on rock molds, the other on switch machine installation), a business meeting, and the photography contest. Lunch will be served starting at Noon. We have invited members of Division 6 (Columbus), Division 3 (Dayton), Division 7 (Cincinnati), and Division 10 (Lexington) to join us.

The October meeting will be hosted by Clint Foster at his home in Ronceverte, WV. Details will be announced as they become available.

The November meeting will be November 1 to avoid conflict with the Bluefield train show November 8. The location has not been determined. Bob Weinheimer will present a clinic on the Achievement Program.

Contest

The contest was traction. There were two entries, both by Ed Keith. The popular vote was a tie!

Clinic

Lin Young presented a clinic "Lessons Learned on the Grafton and Greenbrier" recounting things that went well and not so well as his layout was under construction.

Respectfully Submitted
Bob Weinheimer, Assistant Superintendent