



UP THE HOLLER

The Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region

National Model Railroad Association

www.coaldvision.org

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Comments from the Head of The Holler Lin Young, Superintendent

Wow, isn't it amazing how fast a 28 day month passes and editor Dan is wanting my comments again? My wife and I have spent most of February at our place near Clearwater, FL. Before you send a bunch of hate mail let me say we haven't had many days over 50 deg and the winter here has been unprecedented in that the temperature has averaged 20 deg below normal. We even had about 20 minutes of sleet.

I have been model railroading every chance though. I have built about a dozen Bowser 100 ton Chessie coal hoppers, 3-Concor Western Maryland 100 ton gray hoppers. I had forgotten how hard the Bowser cars are to construct, they have a bunch of small parts that my old eyes can't see. I had to buy a magnifier so I could fit them together.

One of our newest members, Jim Coleman from Lewisburg and I spent an evening with Division 2 member, Bob Prehoda (Huntingdon Northern near Greensburg, PA) at the Sun Coast Model Railroad Club in Pinellas Park. They have a very nice club in a rented light industrial building housing a large HO and a somewhat smaller N scale RR's.

Jim and I operated on the Largo Central RR (7 1/2" gauge) in Largo, FL's Central Park. They host a week long operating session and rally during February. Now, I'll come clean before Jimmy squeals on me. I rear ended a train in the 100'long tunnel and derailed the caboose on it, and threw Jim off the car he was riding. The guy who owned the train I was

Continued on Page 4

Coal Division Elections 2010 Bill Wadsworth, Nominating Committee Chairman

The ballots for the 2010 election of Officers were recently mailed and you should have received yours by the time you read this. There is a mistake in the return date noted on the ballot. According to the Division 9 constitution all ballots must be returned by the March meeting; which this year is March 13, 2010. To accommodate this need, all ballots returned by mail must arrive on or before March 12th. I can also accept hand delivered ballots prior to the start of the March 13th meeting. That still allows more than the 30 days specified; so this should not be a problem. Thank you for your understanding.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Bob Weinheimer; Assistant Superintendent

As it did in January, the Convention kept me busy again in February. Registrations are coming in at a brisk pace as the early registration period ends. As of February 24 we had 101 primary registrants along with 39 family members. This is an unusually high ratio of family members to registrants and is the likely cause for a very high demand on hotel rooms. Indeed, the Embassy Suites sold out the week of Feb. 15th. We are suggesting the Marriot Charleston House, Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn as alternate hotels. We do not plan to negotiate a rate with them as we do not wish to cannibalize the Embassy Suites. This rapid sellout removes a major financial hurdle to the success of the Convention. We will not be paying for any unused hotel rooms, a concern I had until recently.

Banquet ticket sales are also doing very well. Keep in mind that we are charging \$40 for a \$41 meal so we are not making money on this event. We have sold 85 banquet tickets as of February 24th. This is very close to the 90 meals we are obliged to pay for whether they get eaten or not. The good news (for a big event, if not a profitable one) is that we have reserved the adjoining ballroom salon at no cost and can expand into it should we have a need. If you have not yet bought a banquet ticket, please consider doing so. The banquet is far more than just the meal. We have our awards ceremony to recognize the contest winners and to present the MCR Director's and Wenderfer Awards. We will recognize a group of outgoing Superintendents, including our own Lin

Young. Our guest speaker, Tom Dixon, will discuss the state of rail preservation. The program concludes with a presentation by Division 5 who will tell you about the 2011 Convention. If that's not enough reason, we are hoping to see NMRA President Mike Brestel present Coal Division member Gary Burdette with his Master Model Railroader certificate and plaque. Of course, Gary still has a few things to do before that can happen but I'm sure he is up to the challenge!

Raffle items continue to arrive. A recent item from the New York Central Historical Society is a two volume set on the steam locomotives of the NYC lines. I think that would be a nice one to win!

Gary Burdette has put together the clinic schedule. You can see it on the Convention website. If there is room we will try to include it in this issue of the newsletter.

Please make an effort to attend our April 10 meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel. We will be trying out our various work processes. If you are working a function, you will get the chance to see what happens. Even if you cannot help at the Convention, we need folks who will test out the processes. You can be the customer with a problem at registration, for example. You can be the guy who causes problems at the contest. In short, we need everybody who can make it to be there on April 10.

I hope to have a staffing grid on the website before you see this Newsletter. Please check it out and pick times when you can help. Let us know your interests

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

C AND S
HINTON DIVISION
Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV

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

**VOTE EARLY
(BUT NOT OFTEN)
ELECTION BALLOTS DUE
MARCH 12 BY MAIL
MARCH 13 IN PERSON**



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN
Bob Weinheimer, President
398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314
www.pennsylvania southern.com

Page 1 photo is of the mine on the Possum Holler branch of Dan George's now dismantled G&PC. Fortunately your editor was able to acquire these buildings from the buyer of Dan's layout and they will reappear on the George Creek Branch of the Clinch Valley Sub on my abuilding N&W layout.



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV

Grafton and Greenbrier

Lin Young, President

Debbie Drive
Gallipolis, OH 45631
www.graftonandgreenbrier.com

MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY MARCH 13

1 PM SOCIAL HOUR

2 PM BUSINESS MEETING

CLINIC: Jerry Doyle will be sharing his expertise on diesel locomotives

CONTEST: Freight Cars

Webmaster Report Bob Weinheimer

Web site activity has sure seen an upturn in the last couple of months. Here are some recent numbers of website hits:

June 209	3012
July	3600
August	4658
September	5027
October	5993
November	4338
December	5121
January 2010	8827
February, to the 24th	5567

Of course, *The Kingpin* went out in early January. Needless to say, the most visited pages were those about the Convention. Page views dropped a bit in February.

As is often the case, the most popular feature of the website is the layout photo section. Dave Stout sent me some photos of his layout that I have posted on the site. Do you have some good clear photos of your layout that you would like to share? Don't forget that these on line photos can count toward the Achievement Program's Author certificate.

Suggestions for we site content and improvement are always welcome.

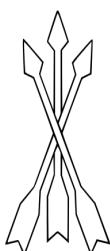
Achievement Program Report Bob Weinheimer

Gary Burdette finally received his certificates for Master Builder Cars and Master Builder Scenery. These were presented to Gary at the February meeting. See the photo on page 7 of Ed Keith MMR making the presentation. Gary is still working hard on his Prototype Model scene. We are hoping it will be ready for judging on or about March 10.

We just received word that Dan Mulhearn's SOQ for Association Volunteer has been approved. Congratulations, Dan!

Last month I urged you to look over your scenery with an eye toward having it judged. This month I will repeat an earlier suggestion to look over the requirements for the Electrical certificate. If you have built a railroad of any size, it is pretty hard to avoid getting this one.

As a reminder, we attempt to have at least a couple of judges at our meeting site by about 1 PM, 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.



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

Tony Puccini, President
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705
puccinibaj@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Jonathan Ramey
Bob Mershimer

Head of the Holler continued from Page 1

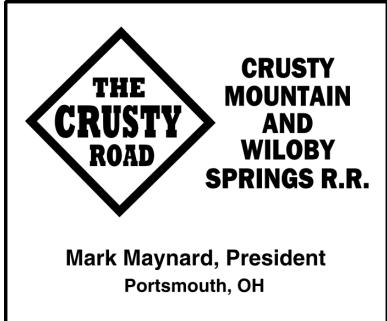
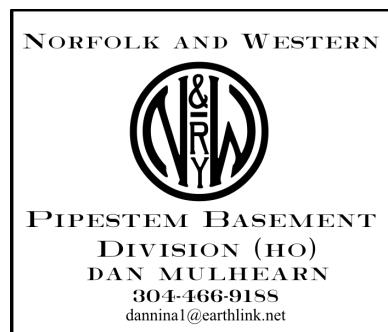
operating did not tell me about the automatic block signal protecting the tunnel. Yes, I ran a red block signal, no I was not texting and believe it or not there was no Rule G violation. Jimmy and I had a blast there, how could we not like seeing and riding behind a live steam Southern Pacific Daylight.

I will be missing the March meeting but will see you in April if not before. I have been told the convention clinics are very good. We will continue to practice our presentations for the next couple months.

The May Convention registration continues at a record pace. The tours are approaching 50% and the operating sessions are already full. The hotel is already booked and we are at near capacity for the Saturday night banquet. We still don't have many of our Division 9 registrations as this is written so to get your check book out and send Bob Weinheimer your registration. Remember we are going to be the "Benchmark" convention for the Mid Central Region.

Go to our web site 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 meetings. I will see you at the April meeting.

Lin



Editor's Notes

This is your news letter. I am looking for your model railroad "biography"; products reviews; news and views or whatever you may wish to contribute. It is hoped that as I work on the learning curve this publication will become a better product; however, your input is needed to make this all member's news letter. Thanks; see you at the meeting.

Dan Mulhearn
Editor

February Scale Rails

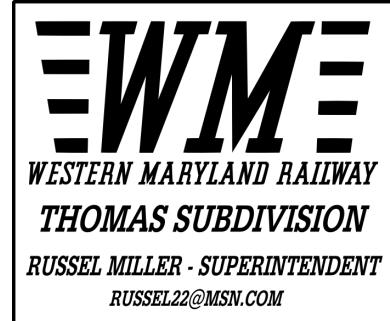
February **Scale Rails** did go out. Members are reminded that the issue contained your ballot for the National NMRA election.

2009 Modeler of the Year

At the February meeting, Gary Burdette was presented with a certificate applauding his accomplishment as Coal Division modeler of the year. See the photo on page 7. This award is based on a tabulation of all Division contest results for the year. Congratulations to Gary; and be aware he likes competition. Bring your contest entries!

Coal Mining

The Winter 2010 edition of the **C&O Historical Society Magazine** has a nice story by Coal Division member Gary Burdette. Gary relates how he went about building a large mine scene for his model railroad. It is a good read and shows how Gary was able to make a really nice looking scene with kits which are readily available along with the usual odds and ends. Gary comes up with. Thanks, Gary, for the plug in the article for the NMRA and the Coal Division



The Coalfield Express

Hosted by Division 9, Mid Central Region, NMRA

**Thursday May 13 to Sunday May 16 2010
Primary Registration Form**

Registrant's Name	Last	First	
NMRA Membership Number	NMRA No.		
Address	Street		
	City	State	Zip
	Telephone	Email	
Immediate Family Name(s)	Spouse	Minor Child	

Item	QTY	COST	TOTAL
Registration		\$70	
Single Day (1 day limit)		\$25	
Family Members, per person		\$20	
NMRA membership (non members)			
6 month trial membership for those who have not		\$9.95	
been members for at least two years			
Normal membership		\$58	
Extra fare items from page 2			
Registration Total			

Make check payable to: Division 9, Mid Central Region, NMRA

Make hotel reservations directly with the Embassy Suites, 300 Court Street, Charleston, WV 25301, 304-347-8700 or at www.embassysuitescharlestonwv.com Room rate is \$139 per night single or double. Rate includes outstanding breakfast buffet and evening cocktail reception. Please reserve your room using group/convention code "NMR". Hotel registration deadline is 4/20/2010

Please mail completed registration forms to

**Coalfield Express Registrar
c/o Bob Weinheimer
398 Mount View Drive
Charleston, WV 25314**

The Coalfield Express

Hosted by Division 9, Mid Central Region, NMRA

**Thursday May 13 to Sunday May 16 2010
Extra Fare Registration Form**

Registrant's Name (only if previously registered)	Last	First
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Item	QTY	COST	TOTAL
Friday AM Walker Machinery/Four Mile Surface Mine Tour		\$30	
Friday PM John Amos Power Plant Tour		\$30	
Friday PM Beckley Tamarack Tour		\$30	
Friday PM Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine Tour		\$45	
Saturday New River Gorge Tour		\$50	
Saturday Evening Banquet		\$40	
Thursday Evening Operating Session - Select One			
	Grafton and Greenbrier	\$0	
	Alleghany and New River	\$0	
	Pennsylvania Southern	\$0	
Total Extra Fare Items (transfer to page 1 unless previously registered)			

Make check payable to: Division 9, Mid Central Region, NMRA

Please mail completed registration forms to

**Coalfield Express Registrar
c/o Bob Weinheimer
398 Mount View Drive
Charleston, WV 25314**



Ed Keith MMR presents Gary Burdette with his Master Builder Cars and Master Builder Scenery certificates at the February 13 meeting. Photo by Jerry Doyle, photo editing by Andy Cummings



Contest Chairman Dan Mulhearn presents Gary Burdette with Modeler of the Year award at the February 13 meeting. Photo by Jerry Doyle, photo editing by Andy Cummings



Robert Weinheimer MMR
398 Mount View Dr
Charleston, WV 25314

Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

March 13
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

April 10
Embassy Suites Hotel
300 Court Street
Charleston, WV

May 8
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

May 13-16
NMRA Mid Central Region Convention
Embassy Suites Hotel
300 Court Street
Charleston, WV