



# UP THE HOLLER

The Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region

National Model Railroad Association

[www.coaldivision.org](http://www.coaldivision.org)

April 2010

## DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent-Lin Young  
740-441-5366  
[super@coaldivision.org](mailto:super@coaldivision.org)

Asst Superintendent-Bob Weinheimer  
304-343-1428  
[asstsuper@coaldivision.org](mailto:asstsuper@coaldivision.org)

Clerk-Jerry Doyle  
304-736-7169  
[clerk@coaldivision.org](mailto:clerk@coaldivision.org)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program  
Ed Keith  
740-867 5264  
Bob Weinheimer  
304-343-1428  
[asstsuper@coaldivision.org](mailto:asstsuper@coaldivision.org)

Clinic-Dan Mulhearn  
304-466-9188  
[clinic@coaldivision.org](mailto:clinic@coaldivision.org)

Contest-Dan Mulhearn  
304-466-9188  
[contest@coaldivision.org](mailto:contest@coaldivision.org)

Election-Bill Wadsworth  
304 768 3266  
[nominating@coaldivision.org](mailto:nominating@coaldivision.org)

Membership-John Harris  
[membership@coaldivision.org](mailto:membership@coaldivision.org)

## DIVISION STAFF

Editor-Dan Mulhearn  
304-466-9188  
[editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)

Webmaster-Bob Weinheimer  
[asstsuper@coaldivision.org](mailto:asstsuper@coaldivision.org)

## Comments from the Head of The Holler Lin Young, Superintendent

My wife and I are back from Florida. She came home a week ahead, giving me uninterrupted time to finish building the 100 ton coal hoppers I mentioned last month. I got them assembled, flat finished but not weathered. There are another ten or so still in boxes that I'll put together next time there. My original intention was to keep them in Florida or use on the local club layout, and my thought about shelf railroad in the garage. I am faced with a couple of problems: the club has plenty of equipment and I have not been able to secure the right of way needed in the garage. To make a long story short, I brought them back to the G&G for use in coal service. Hopefully, someday I can take them back to Florida so I can pull them with the clandestine G&G SD70s circa 1990.

I went back for another visit to the Largo Central (7 1/2 " gauge) RR on March 7th. The first Saturday and Sunday of each month they haul passengers as part of their agreement with the city to occupy a significant portion of Central Park. They hauled nearly four thousand that weekend. The Largo Central's mainline is about 500 feet shy of a mile. The track is aluminum, the ties are 2X4s turned on end fastened down with #10 lag screws and the switches, except for the frogs, are scratch built.

The real jewels I saw on this visit were two pairs of GE AC4400CW models, one set in BNSF the other in UP colors. The lead unit in each pair has a two cylinder Kohler air cooled engine that powers a hydraulic pump. There is a hydraulic motor on each truck connected to the three axles with a bicycle chain. The second unit is connected to the first by hydraulic hoses, wire cables, and is counterweighted to about one thousand pounds. The engine is operated by a hand control that can be wireless or tethered. I really liked them but was told you could buy a very nice car for less money.

Our May convention registration continues at a good pace, however, we still don't have many of our own Division 9 members registered. Get out your checkbook and send the registration to Bob Weinheimer. The hotel is already full and we have some banquet tickets remaining. The tours are not full yet, but will sell out soon. Please sign up in any area you want to help.

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### **COMMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER**

Congratulations to Bob Weinheimer and Gary Burdette who will be our Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent. They will take office during the convention. Bob has been our Assistant Superintendent for the last 4 years and was elected Mid Central Region Secretary last spring. Bob, as you know, is the Convention Chairman. He does a fantastic job with any project he undertakes and I know he will be a great Superintendent. Gary, will be our next Master Model Railroader. He is currently working on his last certificate, Prototype Model. Gary, a retired school principal is one of the most talented modelers I know. He can amaze you with the models he has built with just simple items from the house. Again, congratulations to both of them and let's give them our total support as they take our Coal Division forward into the future.

### **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR**

Gary Burdette is still plugging away at his recreation of Thurmond WV. While we are all hoping he will have it ready for judging prior to the Convention, only time will tell. In the meantime, we have received Dan Mulhearn's Association Volunteer Certificate. That will be presented to Dan at the April membership meeting

### **MEETING NOTICE**

The April meeting of Division 9 will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel at Charleston WV, room 227. The date is Saturday, April 10. Please be aware we intend to vet our procedures for the upcoming Convention and need your help to do so. Please be prepared to act as a pre-registrant or walk in registrant. Also, please bring a passenger car for the monthly contest. Bring a car even if it is right out of the box so we can prepare the proper forms for the contest.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report Bob Weinheimer MMR**

Well, once again, this report is all about getting prepared for the Convention. Our next membership meeting will be at the Embassy Suites Hotel in room 227. We plan to run through various procedures for activities including registration, contest, clinics, and perhaps the raffle. We need your help with all of this. If you have signed up to serve in one of these areas at the Convention, please come ready to learn your role. If you can not attend the Convention, please come prepared to act as a "walk in" registrant. We will also ask those who have preregistered to go through a mock claiming of their registration materials. Also, please bring a passenger car for the monthly contest; but also enter it with the appropriate form which can be found at the meeting or at our website, [www.coaldivision.org/MCR\\_CONTEST\\_ENTRY\\_FORM\\_V2.pdf](http://www.coaldivision.org/MCR_CONTEST_ENTRY_FORM_V2.pdf). Form will also be available at the meeting. Note that there is a claim check attached to the bottom of the form. That will be given to you as you enter your model. It must be presented to retrieve your model after the contest. Please humor us, this is the way it will be done at the convention and we want to make sure the procedures work.

The other big issue hanging over the Convention is staffing. I want to thank those of you who signed up during and right after our last meeting. That still leaves a lot of empty slots needing help. Please take a look at the staffing page on the site at [www.coaldivision.org/staffing.html](http://www.coaldivision.org/staffing.html). Any spot that says "OPEN" is a spot that needs a name. I am most anxious to see the spots for the Silent Auction filled. My next priority is the Raffle. Division Three has reiterated their commitment to staff the Contest; so that is my lowest priority. There are still a few spots open on Registration. Please review this page before the upcoming meeting. Also, please take a look at the clinic schedule at [www.coaldivision.org/Clinic\\_schedule\\_20100319.pdf](http://www.coaldivision.org/Clinic_schedule_20100319.pdf) to see which clinics are of interest to you. After doing that, please come prepared to sign up for times to work at the Convention. You can also reach me at [rmweinheimer@ntelos.net](mailto:rmweinheimer@ntelos.net) or 304 343 1428. We really need your help on this. If I don't have the schedule filled by the end of the meeting; I'll start calling folks. Please spare me that hassle.....

As this is being written, March 26, we have 125 primary registrations and 44 family registrations, for a grand total of 129. We have sold 113 banquet tickets, meaning we will be spilling into an adjoining room for the banquet. Tour sales are moving right along. Tours have between 23 and 29 tickets sold. Registrations dropped off sharply after the March 1 price increase. I am told to expect a big increase in registrations after Easter. Financially, we are looking good right now but we will look even better with many more registrations.

## NMRA INFONET

The NMRA Infonet is issued monthly by Gerry Leone, MMR, NMRA Communications Director. Per Gerry's request, this is being included in Up the Holler. The colored text, visible in the on line version, was in the document as received from Gerry.

In this March 2010 edition of the NMRA InfoNet, we'll look at the discussions and news items from the mid-year Board of Directors meeting last February 19-20 in San Diego.

NMRA Vice President Allen Pollock announced that he will resign effective with the conclusion of the Board meeting at the Milwaukee convention. According to NMRA regulations, the Board will select a replacement at that meeting. **Any member interested in being considered for the VP office** for the remaining two-year portion of Allen's term should immediately send his/her qualifications statement to NMRA Secretary Bob Gangwish at [secy@hq.nmra.org](mailto:secy@hq.nmra.org)

- **Donations to the Diamond Club** are already arriving at Headquarters. The Diamond Club's goal is to fund added content to the website, beginning with the digitization of the Kalmbach Memorial Library's 100,000 photos. If funds allow, additional content, such as virtual layout tours, streaming video, loco sound files and more may be added.
- Host groups from three cities in the U.S. and Canada have indicated that they plan to present **bids for the 2014 National Convention** at the annual Board meeting at the Milwaukee Convention. The Board continues to discuss ways to cut costs at the convention.
- Standards and Conformance Department Head Didrik Voss reported that he has been working with the major manufacturers of Large Scale model railroad equipment on **Recommended Practices for Large Scale couplers, as well as Standards for track and wheel.**
- **A new three-year contract** was signed with White River Productions, the company who currently produces and designs *Scale Rails*.
- According to a continuing survey being conducted by Gerry Leone of NMRA members who have chosen not to renew their membership, one of the most frequently cited reasons has been, **"No one from my local Division or Region ever contacted me."** Contacting your new members is vital to you and the NMRA! Please assign someone in your Region or Division to make those phone calls, to let new NMRA members know that they're welcome, and to tell them where they can find your meets and officers.
- A group of volunteers from all across the NMRA is currently putting together a **"Regions and Divisions Handbook,"** which is slated to be completed by the July convention. If you or some of your members would like to have a hand in this book's creation, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/regionsanddivisions/> and join the group.

*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Board member or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in Scale Rails.*



Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV

**CRESCENT VALLEY**



Ed Keith, MMR  
President  
Chesapeake, OH

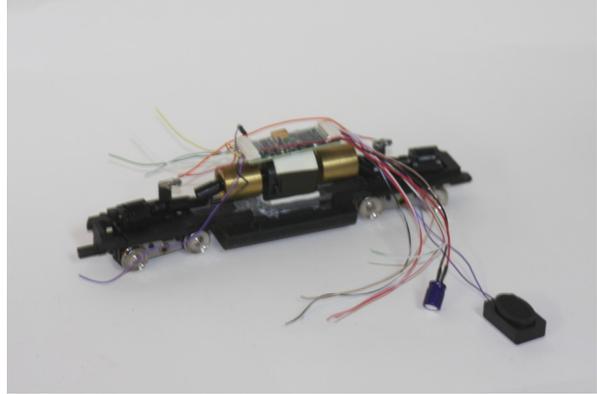


**PENNSYLVANIA  
SOUTHERN**

Bob Weinheimer, President  
398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314  
[www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com](http://www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com)



Lin Young, President  
Debbie Drive  
Gallipolis, OH 45631  
[www.graftonandgreenbrier.com](http://www.graftonandgreenbrier.com)



### Norfolk Southern (Southern) GP50 Dan Mulhearn

The above photos show a NS ex SOU GP50 which is one of the projects I am working on. The initial model is an Athearn GP50 which is being fitted with a Cannon cab and high short hood kit. Additional body parts to be installed are Details West five chime horns; one on each end of the hoods; Hi Tech Southern style rain gutters and various other detail parts. The chassis has been modified with an A Lines remotoring kit including a Mashima can motor. The engine has had a QSI Universal sound/decoder added. The next step involved in finishing this locomotive is to wire up the ditch lights and headlight/rear light assemblies. For me, this is the hard part as the fine wiring and routing the wires is a challenge for my ten thumbs. The GP50 was ordered by Southern for high speed time freight service before the decision was made to concentrate on high horsepower C-C locomotives for all service. GP50s were seen in time freight service, particularly on the former Southern lines until the tide of EMD and GE C-C units relegated them to secondary service. On my 2000 era NS Pocahontas Sub, these engines will appear in work train service and occasionally on mine shifters.

### NMRA Mid-Central Region Division 9 Minutes March 13, 2010

The business meeting of Division 9 was held at WV Hobbies & Crafts.

The meeting was called to order by Asst. Superintendent Bob Weinheimer at 2:00 PM.

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

**Super Report:** Alan Pollock will be resigning as of the national convention in Milwaukee. There is an effort to digitize the Kalmbach Library images and other things. This is funded by the Diamond Fund. Three cities are vying for the 2014 National Convention. Calgary, Cleveland, and another that Bob couldn't remember. The standards and conformance committee is developing large-scale standards. White River Publishing was awarded a three-year contract for Scale Rails. New members receive a note from the MCR, Bob discussed doing something at the Division level.

**Assistant Superintendent:**

Convention Update:

The numbers are tracking well. We have 165 total primary and family registrants. We have enough banquet reg-

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istrations to utilize a second room for the banquet. Bob showed the lanyards from Digitrax and also showed the tickets and badges he developed based on the badge holders. We have an April 1 deadline to produce the program for the convention. Scheduling clinicians has been difficult. Microtrains has sent 16 cars, Rapido 3, we also received NYC books from the NYC Historical Society. Bob distributed a manning schedule for the convention and asked members to sign up for open slots. Next month we will meet at our convention site. We will try to run the contest to simulate the actual event the following month. Next month's contest will be passenger cars and Bob asked members to bring as many as possible. Shirts will be available at the April meeting.

**Webmaster** - Traffic was 2600 for March. After convention materials layout pictures are the most popular.

**Membership Chairman:** John Harris reported on the Collis P. Huntington Chapter NRHS in April and distributed a sign-in sheet for all three days. John mentioned the need for directions to tour layouts. He also gave details on the tour guide that will be supplied for convention attendees.

**Achievement Program:** Dan Mulhern was approved for Association Volunteer. Gary is still working on the Prototype Scene certificate.

**Newsletter:** Dan is still looking for articles such as biographies, reviews, and layout features.

**Nominating committee:** Bill Wadsworth stated we received 28 votes all for Bob and Gary for Supt. And Asst. Supt. A motion was approved to ratify the election.

**Clinic Chair:** Dan will be contacting members for clinics.

Contest: Steam Locomotive.

Clinic: C&O First Generation Diesels by Jerry Doyle.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Announcements:** Dan updated members on Charlie Venables. He is still recuperating from problems with his foot.

The RR Prototype Modelers will meet in Philadelphia in March.

Greenbo March 19, 20, and 21<sup>st</sup>.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT  
DIVISION (HO)  
DAN MULHEARN  
304-466-9155  
dannina1@earthlink.net



CRUSTY  
MOUNTAIN  
AND  
WILOBY  
SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President  
Portsmouth, OH



WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY  
THOMAS SUBDIVISION  
RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT  
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



**The National Model Railroad Association, Inc.'s  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photography Contest**

Win a cab ride in a Union Pacific steam locomotive!

The National Model Railroad Association and the Union Pacific Railroad are pleased to announce a model photography contest to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the NMRA. The NMRA will pick one photograph submitted by an NMRA member in good standing depicting one or more models of UP equipment and/or structures in a realistic scene. The photograph will be judged for prototype fidelity of the modeling and scene as well as for photographic art.

The member submitting the photograph will win a cab ride in one of the mainline steam locomotives operated by the Union Pacific on the first leg of an excursion in May 2010. Airfare (up to \$500.00), two hotel nights, and transportation to and from the excursion will be provided for the winner by the NMRA.

To be eligible, the photograph must be in an envelope postmarked (or originated in transit by a third-party service such as FedEx or UPS) by April 15, 2010, and received no later than April 20, 2010. Only one photograph may be submitted per envelope, but there is no limit on the number of photographs a member may submit. All submitted photographs shall become the property of the NMRA, and the NMRA may use the photograph in any manner it chooses. All members participating in the contest agree to provide to the NMRA the original medium of the photograph (negative, transparency, or digital file) if requested.

Please send all photographs to Robert J. Amsler, Jr., 514 Dover Place, St. Louis MO 63111. Be sure to protect photographs from bending or mishandling in the mail.



**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
**tony765@aol.com**

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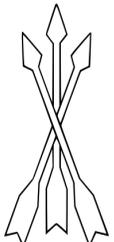
**John Harris, Chief Engineer**  
AandNRR@aol.com



**HINTON DIVISION**  
**Gary Burdette - Superintendent**  
Point Pleasant WV



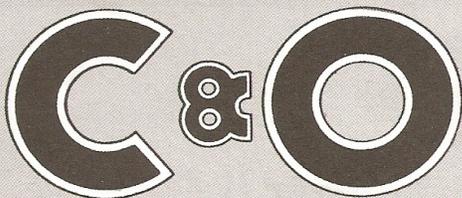
**SHAMOKIN DIVISION**  
DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN  
SUMMERSVILLE, WV  
DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET  
304-872-7262



**THREE ARROWS  
RAILROAD**

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

This event may be of great interest to many members but it does conflict with our last membership meeting before the convention.....



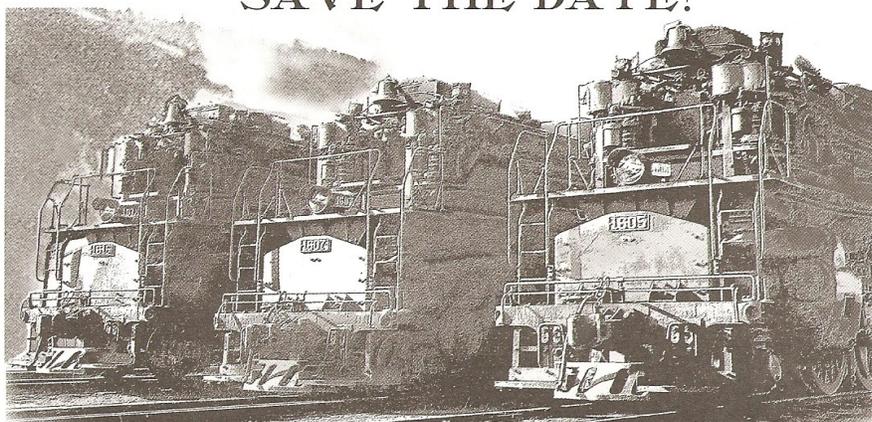
Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society  
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PIPESTEM WV 25979-0069



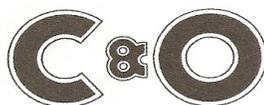
**SAVE THE DATE!**



**SATURDAY MAY 8, 2010**  
A L L E G H A N Y  
**RAILROAD HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL**

AND  
**NATIONAL TRAIN DAY CELEBRATION**

- RAILROAD FOLK SONG CONCERT
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PHONE: 540-862-2210 FAX: 540.863-9159 [WWW.CANDOHERITAGE.ORG](http://WWW.CANDOHERITAGE.ORG) • [WWW.COHS.ORG](http://WWW.COHS.ORG)



Robert Weinheimer MMR  
398 Mount View Dr  
Charleston, WV 25314

### **Upcoming Coal Division Meetings**

**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**

**June 12**

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