



UP THE HOLLER

The Newsletter of Mid Central Region NMRA



DIVISION 9

The Coal Division

May 2010

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MEETING NOTICE

The next Division meeting will be on Saturday 5/8/10 at WV Hobby & Crafts. Social hour and judging at 1PM Meeting at 2PM.

Notes From The Head Of The Holler

Superintendent Lin Young

It is with mixed emotion I write this, my final report as your Superintendent. "What a Ride" we have had over the last four years. It seems like yesterday that the Mid Central Region President, Howard Smith called to ask about resurrecting our Division 9. What a revitalization you have done!!!!!!! Below I'm going attempt to summarize some of your accomplishments:

- We began meeting bimonthly at WV Hobby and Crafts in Teays Valley
- Monthly meetings were begun within a few months because bimonthlies weren't enough for you. Unquestionably that was the best decision you have made.
- Adopted Division 2 (Pittsburgh) bylaws.
- Monthly Modeling Contest (The best part is the entrant tells how it was built). You have shown some outstanding contest level models in every category. Your talent wows me.
- The Achievement Program has highest level of activity of any Division in the Mid Central Region and possibly all NMRA. Just look in *Scale Rails* and you will see a Division 9 member who is receiving an Achievement Award certificate listed nearly every month. We have one new Master Model Railroader, another member who is very close on his seventh certificate and several with five of the seven certificates required.
- Monthly clinics with outstanding presentations
- Guest meetings with Divisions 3, 6, 7 and others in Portsmouth
- Claimed 14 of 27 Model Awards at the 2009 Mid Central Region Convention
- Host the 2010 Mid Central Region Convention

These are very ambitious accomplishments have been completed in such a short time. Thank you for the opportunity to be your Superintendent.

We will finalize the Convention preparation at the meeting next week. Our practice session at the Convention Hotel during the April meeting went very well even with a small glitch in the registration process. The Banquet reservations are now over 130, making it the largest in recent years. The tours are not yet full, so get a ticket while they last. Gary Burdette, the Clinic Manager has world class sessions planned, don't miss them. You will want to buy a Raffle Ticket, since we have some very nice models donated by manufacturers and hobby shops.

See you for the May 8 membership meeting at WV Hobby and Craft.

Again, thank you for the honor and privilege to be your Superintendent.

Lin

From the Office Down The Hall Assistant Superintendent **Bob Weinheimer**

Well, the COALFIELD EXPRESS is about to arrive. As this goes to press April 27 we have 138 primary registrations, with a total of 188 when family members are included. The big surprise is that we have sold 131 banquet tickets. Each tour has sold about thirty tickets. At this time it appears the Convention will be profitable although the size of that profit will not be known until after the event.

Our April meeting was at the Embassy Suites; the site of the convention. Those in attendance got the chance to see the hotel and learn their way around. We conducted our contest following the model sign in and sign out rules that will be used during the convention. We held a raffle that raised the \$65.00 cost of the meeting room. We thank Dennis McGeeney for donating some unneeded items for that event. Finally, we did a mock registration. We did find a minor computer bug that has since been squashed.

Staffing is coming along well although we still have a few slots to fill. I will be contacting members and friends to complete the staffing process. The raffle is up to 80 items including a large donation from Athearn. Athearn sent a locomotive and six cars, all with road names from this part of the Country. It looks like somebody put a bit of effort into the selection of the items. We thank Athearn and all the other donors for their generosity.

We still have one big thing to do; stuff the registration envelope packages. By the time you read this we should have everything from the Charleston Visitor and Convention Bureau. The Convention timetable should be completed. I have set May 1 as the target date for

stuffing the envelopes. On May 3 Lin and I will meet with the hotel staff to review all Convention details.

I noted above the banquet ticket sale number. That number is well above the number of tickets sold to banquets in recent years. It is quite a bit more than we expected; so the hotel has agreed to fold back the wall between ballroom sections. This will give us more space at no cost beyond the cost of the meals. That means we have no practical limit on the number of banquet tickets we can sell. Our contract does say we must give a final meal count to the hotel on May 7. This means the payment for any banquet ticket must be received by May 6. That does not mean postmarked, it means delivered. Please note that this is before our next membership meeting. As a practical matter we will probably over order a bit; but there is no guarantee of banquet ticket availability after May 6.

On a sad note, former MCR President Jerry Ashley will not be able to attend the convention. Both Jerry and his wife Beth are facing serious health issues making it impossible to join us. Recall that it was Jerry, upon his election as MCR President, who challenged us to host the 2010 convention. We owe Jerry a lot and wish him and Beth the best. We will certainly miss them at the convention.

In closing; I would like to note that this is my last Assistant Superintendent column. It has been an honor to fill that role for the last four years. Next month I guess I get to write from "The Head Of The Holler" as the new superintendent. Thank you for putting your faith in me. I hope I can meet your expectations.



CRESCENT VALLEY

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Grafton and Greenbrier

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Ed Keith, MMR
President
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Achievement Program

I think we have all been focused on the convention and not doing too much modeling. I do know Gary Burdette is still plugging away at Prototype Modeler and Master Model Railroader. While we may still wish to announce him as our newest MMR; we are past the date that would allow the presentation of a certificate and plaque. I guess we will have the pleasure of doing

that at one of our upcoming Division meetings. On another note; I had the pleasure of presenting Dan Mulhearn with his Association Volunteer certificate at the April meeting. That makes two for Dan with five to go.

Bob



NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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Allegheny & 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



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HAWKS NEST 2010

Submitted by Gary Burdette

Hawks Nest 2010 marked the continuation of a spring get-together for C&O railfans which continues to draw enthusiasts from all over. As always; it was well attended and featured numerous interesting speakers.

C&O Historical Society founder (and our keynote speaker for the COALFIELD EXPRESS banquet) Tom Dixon discussed C&O Railway Post Office cars. Dick Argo followed this up by describing how to build a virtual duplicate in HO scale. Our own Jerry Doyle discussed the impact of the EMD GP7 on the complete dieselization of the C&O. Karen Parker looked at kit-bashing C&O hoppers with reference to the signature car. F or myself and many others that would be a two bay offset side car with dreadnought ends. Although the C&O did have others which might be considered. Don Eastman MMR showed some beautiful scratch built C&O structures in O scale. Don gave tips and pointers which could help anyone improve his or her modeling efforts. F rank Bongiovanni gave an informative clinic on the New York Central in West Virginia with a look at connections to the C&O. The keynote speaker for both evenings was Larry Daily. Friday Larry discussed modeling wide vision cabooses. On Saturday Larry explored ideas on modeling a part of the C&O. As a psychologist, Larry delved into ways to trick the vision into seeing more than is actually there; and how not to spoil a scene with too much detail. This was a novel and interesting twist to modeling.

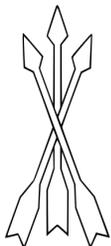
Of course, Chuck Willey had a mini hobby shop set up in the lounge of the fourth floor for our shopping

pleasure. Just as Division 9 and West Virginia Hobby and Crafts are partners; so too is SACOM. Along with the Kanawha Valley N scalers and the C&O Historical Society there were a number of things to do in addition to the clinics and renewing old friendships.

Finally, many spent free time railfanning. Most stopped at the Thurmond and/or Prince and Quinnimont locations as well as probably a branch or two. Many guys followed the CSX coal drag down Loup Creek to Thurmond assisted by the big R J Corman tunnel motors". One of the engineers commented over the radio that he wished he had time to have a hobby referring to us train chasers.

Whether an NMRA sponsored event, club show, or just a couple of friends on an outing.....model railroad-ing and railfanning is fun. This was ever so true again this year at Hawks Nest 2010.

Editors Note: Division member Clint Foster was out railfanning as part of this year's Hawks Nest activities. They got to Rainelle, WV and to their amazement; along WV 20 was a set of concrete letters spelling out NF&G for the NYC and C&O controlled Nicholas, Fayette and Greenbrier RR. The letters must have come from a razed NF&G shop building. It should be noted that CSX still runs heavy coal trains down the NF&G from Rainelle to the old C&O main at Meadow Creek WV. These train traverse the steep and curvy Claypool loops.



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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SHAMOKIN DIVISION

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NMRA Mid-Central Region Division 9 Minutes April 10, 2010

The business meeting of Division 9 was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston, WV.

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

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

Dan Mulhern was presented with his Association Volunteer Achievement Certificate.

Super Report: Lin congratulated Bob and Gary on their election. Lin mentioned the mailing to fund the digitizing of the Kalmbach Library. He urged members who could afford it to give to this effort to preserve materials for future generations. Bill Wadsworth asked if Div 9 had considered donating to this effort. We will discuss this at the June meeting once the dust has settled from the convention.

Assistant Superintendent:

Convention Update:

Bob received shirts and they were available for purchase at the meeting. Bob pleaded for members to fill in remaining slots for manpower at the convention. Registrations were at 130 regular and 44 family members. We are expecting the lull in registrations to end with a last-minute registration push. The registration desk was simulated for members who had pre-registered. We have sold over 100 banquet tickets. We need to have our final count for the banquet with attendees pre-paid. Raffle – a raffle was used to fund the room-cost for the meeting. Dennis McGeeny donated several models for this. The program is being printed gratis for our convention. The final deadline is now April 26. John Harris is putting together the layout tour packet. The contest awards are completed. Bob explained how the contest is being run for today's meeting. The tours are about half sold meaning we have broken even for this part of the convention.

Lin thanked Bob for all his efforts to make this convention happen.

A number of members discussed reaching out to new members and the level of attendance at the convention.

Membership Chairman: John Harris was manning the Div 9 table at the Collis P. Huntington Chapter NRHS show in Dunbar.

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.

Clinic Chair: Dan will be contacting members for clinics.

Contest: Passenger car.

Clinic: Convention orientation at the convention hotel.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Announcements: Dan updated members on Charlie Venables. He underwent a second surgery and lost one toe but is recovering well.

Future Meetings:

May 8 WV Hobbies & Crafts

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Doyle

NMRA MCR Division 9 Clerk.

NMRA InfoNet News

- Renowned railroad artist Larry Fisher has been commissioned to create [a very special painting for the NMRA's 75th Anniversary](#). This official commemorative painting, now completed, depicts the Milwaukee railroad station as it appeared at the time of the NMRA's founding in 1935. The original painting will be displayed at the convention in Milwaukee, and special limited edition art prints will be available for purchase at the National Train Show. A detailed report on how the painting was researched and developed will appear in the August issue of *Scale Rails*. For a sneak peek at the painting, please see the photo below. *Note that the "X" watermark which appears in the JPG will not appear on the final prints or painting.*
 - Most members received the [special Diamond Club mailing](#) from the NMRA this past week. Please urge your members to consider this worthy cause, which will help bring the contents of our Kalmbach Memorial Library to the internet and keep the NMRA viable in this new century. To date, there has been one Diamond Level (\$7500) contribution, almost 10 Gold Level (\$750) contributions, and close to 200 Silver Level (\$75) contributions. This fund raiser will continue throughout the year.
 - The NMRA 75 convention committee reports that it's received registrations from [attendees who'll be coming from 11 countries](#) outside of the United States, including Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland.
 - Speaking of the convention, I've attached a [special NMRA 75 flyer](#), prepared by the folks in Milwaukee, which you can use to promote the convention at your upcoming meetings. The flyer has details about both the convention and the National Train Show.
- Once again, please alert your members that 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 its meeting, and that person will assume office at the time Allen's resignation takes effect. [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



Web Report

Space limitations caused this column to be dropped from the last issue of UTH. As you can see, web visits peaked in January but have eased back since. It looks like things picked up again in March and April. It should be no surprise that the Convention pages have been responsible for nearly all web activity since the first of the year. It was gratifying to see links to the site from just about division in the region as well as the NMRA and MCR pages. We thank our fellow members for their efforts to promote us and the hobby.

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	6238 thru 26th

Empty Spots

Do you like seeing empty spots like the big one below? Your editor does not either. Please consider doing what Gary Burdette did: tell us about what's going on. His report on the Hawks Nest weekend is a welcome item in this issue of Up The Holler.

Send stories, photos, and the like to editor Dan Mulhearn at editor@coaldivision.org

Please

Fill

Me



HINTON DIVISION
Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV



CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.
Mark Maynard, President
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WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY
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Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

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**

July 10

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