



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

OCTOBER 2010



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR; Superintendent

As usual, we had a great turnout and a very pleasant afternoon at our September meeting. Mark Maynard was a wonderful host and was even prepared for the rain which was predicted but thankfully never appeared. About thirty Coal Division members made the trip to Portsmouth and we were joined by Dick Briggs, Howard Smith and Bob Lee from Columbus. Dick presented a very good clinic on backdrops. He even used me as one of his props. I can assure you that dabbing on that paint was as easy as it seemed. Only after stepping back was I able to see how nice it looked! That experience has me rethinking some of my backdrops.

Following the meeting Jerry Doyle and I headed up to Wilmington, OH and Jim Rollwage's Denver Pacific layout. A couple of years ago Jim has presented a clinic to our Division on how he planned the layout. Jim also presented a clinic at the **Coalfield Express** about passenger operations. Shortly after our arrival, Stuart Thayer came in from Colorado Springs. Following a great supper at a local restaurant, we started running trains. All went fairly well but Jerry taught Jim a thing or two about how to deal with a plan that hits a glitch: run an extra. The next afternoon we all headed south to Covington, KY for a meeting of the Cincinnati Division. I presented a clinic titled "Operations on the Pennsylvania Southern" to a crowd of about seventy. The only thing thrown at me were some good questions so I view the event as a success. Recall that I tried to present this clinic two years ago but as the meeting started the remnants of a hurricane blew through causing massive power failures and the inability to make the presentation. This year the weather was bright, sunny and calm.

As part of our October meeting we had planned to visit Dan Kennedy's layout but it turns out that Dan cannot be there to host us. We have rescheduled that event for our December meeting. That left us with the need for a clinician on short notice but it also gives us the opportunity to do something quite different. Those of you who receive this newsletter in hard copy are surely noticing the use of color; something we have not done before. We plan to discuss how this became possible and to explore the finances and logistics of the **Up The Holler** Newsletter. We will also discuss the Division's overall financial position and how this will all affect our efforts to attain an IRS 501c3 status. Don't worry, there is no lurking problem, this is just an opportunity to go into as much depth as the membership deserves on this issue.

MEETING NOTICE

The October Meeting of NMRA-MCR Division 9 will be held on Saturday, October 9 at West Virginia Hobbies & Crafts at Teays Valley. Social hour is a 1:00PM with the meeting to follow at 2:00PM. Remember to bring items needing Achievement Program judging. The clinic following the meeting will be a discussion on this Newsletter and Division finances as noted by Bob above. The October contest subject will be open loads. Let's see a lot of entries!

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary Burdette; Assistant Superintendent

You don't have to be a member of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) to derive benefits from the organization. The NMRA has provided definition, focus and direction for everyone in our hobby for seventy-five years. In the early 1900s, a model train manufacturer stated that his trains were "standard gauge." He was merely using an advertising ploy to indicate that his line was the best, most accurate available. At that time there was no real set of standards in the industry. Thankfully, there were the founders of the NMRA, and others who joined in, with the vision to work towards a level of excellence between all manufacturers which helped ensure that each item was reliable and compatible. The results of this dedication we enjoy today (I still have my NMRA Standards Book from the early 1970s). The scale rule, the track gauge and the coupler height gauge are the hallmarks of this precision and basic components of our tool kits. We have all benefited from past and present leaders who worked to improve our hobby. Maybe, just maybe, we should join (our keep our membership current) as a supporting gesture toward this work from which we all benefit.

A modern resource is available for all who avail themselves of the nmra.org web site. There is so much information available including organizational scope, contest rules, the A. C. Kalmbach Library, the Achievement Program, a wealth of how-to information and much more. There is so much to inspire us to join the NMRA and even more data and information which may help us become better modelers. A quick look at the "Beginners Section" can get us started.

At first glance, the title "Beginners Section" may mask the fact that this section is full of hints that might be of interest to modelers of various skill levels. Even old hands can get a refresher course and double check standard procedures. Trackwork, rolling stock, motive power, struc-

tures and all areas of model railroading are addressed through descriptions, drawings and photos. These discussions can give us a starting point if we are new to the hobby; or validate the path and procedures we are taking. This is more than just a primer for model railroading. It lays out the basics of modeling as well as points us towards the Gold Spike Award and the Achievement Program through the areas that are addressed and the information given. As one reads, builds and improves he/she is heading towards a more advanced level of competency; becoming capable of tackling more difficult and complex tasks. Perhaps one will be inspired, through these efforts, to enter contests, begin an Achievement Program project and more fully enjoy our hobby.

Beginners and "old heads" alike, check over the web site and see what you might learn. The newer modelers may be encouraged to complete some project and the more experienced might pick up a trick or two. The non member may see something which encourages him to join us in the NMRA. The veteran can guide and encourage the novice. All should profit from the many aspects of this fantastic resource; the NMRA web site.

I wrote this piece a few weeks ago as I was attempting to continue my thoughts about participating in our hobby. Membership Chairman John Harris had suggested we "get active" and spurred me to spend some time on the NMRA web site as part of the Division Education Committee. The idea was to see if what was on the web site was usable and "Wow!" There is a lot there. As if by fate, the October 2010 issue of the **NMRA Magazine** addressed this very topic and has published a two page list of all the areas I have been mentioning. So, without further comment, I will send you all off to your computers for a little homework.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 13 will see back us in Bluefield, WV at the train show sponsored by the Pocahontas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Our contest will be non revenue equipment. Right now we do not have a clinician identified but there is that big train show out there to keep your attention.

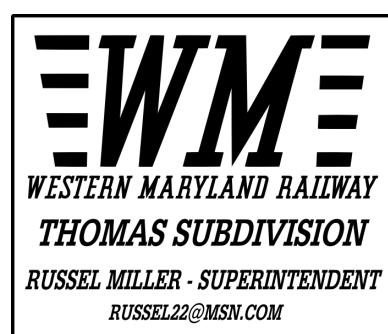
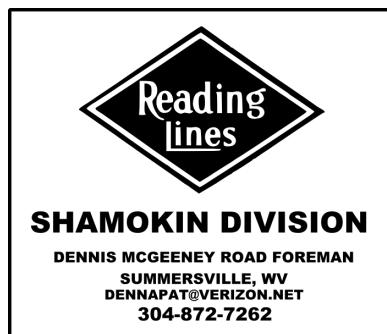
December 11 will find us back at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. The contest will be Modeler's Choice so bring along anything that just does not fit any other month. We are looking for a clinician so don't be shy. Finally, this will give you the opportunity to do any last minute hobby shopping.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

I was advised of one omission on the Achievement Program grid printed here last month. I offer my apologies to Dave for that error. If you see any other mistakes, please have updated it to reflect Dave Stout's Golden Spike Award. I offer my apologies to Dave for that error. If you see any other mistakes, please let me know so I can correct the grid.

Member	Golden Spike Award	Master Builder - Motive Power	Master Builder - Cars	Master Builder - Structures	Master Builder - Scenery	Master Builder - Prototype	Model Railroad Engineer - Civil	Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical	Chief Dispatcher	Association Official	Association Volunteer	Model Railroad Author	Master Model Railroader
Ron Blessing													
Gary Burdette	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X	
Jerry Doyle	X			X				X			X	X	
Dan Gross											X		
Ed Keith, MMR		X	X	X		X		X		X	X		201
Paul Lapointe								X					
Kelley Massie	X											X	
Mark Maynard	X												
Greg McCartney								X			X		
Russ Miller								X					
Dan Mulhearn								X			X		
David and Nathan Robinettte	X												
Dwight Sherman					X			X					
Dave Stout	X												
Charlie Venable	X												
Bob Weinheimer	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		402
Lin Young	X			X			X	X		X	X		



NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

It's been a pretty light month as far as NMRA business is concerned.

- Hundreds of orders have come in for the **NMRA's 75th Anniversary Car**, which is featured in an ad in *NMRA Magazine*. The cars are 50-foot plug door HO scale boxcars by Accurail, and feature the new "wheel on rail" NMRA logo on one side, and the classic "wheel and coupler" on the other. We're producing a limited run of these cars, so if you or your members would like one, have them call Headquarters at 423-892-2846. The price is \$21 plus \$3 shipping.
- There are still several **75th Anniversary Painting prints** available for sale. The painting and its artist, Larry Fisher, will be featured in an upcoming story in *NMRA Magazine*. The prints measure 30"x20" and are signed and numbered. The price is \$150 plus shipping and handling. As with the Anniversary Cars, the Anniversary Painting can be ordered by calling Headquarters.
- The **Diamond Club project continues to make progress**. The massive server which will house the scanned files has been tested, delivered and installed at Headquarters. As reported last month, the scanning of Kalmbach Memorial Library materials has begun, and the beta website is under development. All in all, the project remains on schedule and the first of the materials should be available to NMRA members during the First Quarter of next year.
- **NMRA Membership remains constant**, with approximately 19,700 members as of the end of August, 2010. This is about 1100 more members than at the end of August, 2005.

WEBMASTER REPORT Bob Weinheimer MMR

The new NMRA logo appeals to me, if not to everybody, and I have kept my eye open for just how to use it effectively on the Division web site. Shortly after the logo's introduction, the Michiana Division up in northwestern Indiana and southwestern Michigan developed a logo using the "model railroading in the digital age" slogan as their own logo. I like that and asked Greg McCartney to see what he could do with their banner to make one for us. Greg did well and you can now see it at our web site, coaldivision.org. I put it on the top level pages in the site hierarchy on September 23rd. If you have not already done so, take a look at Greg's handiwork.

As you can see below, web site page views continue to stay at a fairly high level. As you

would expect, we leveled off after the Convention but the numbers for June through August are about fifty percent above those a year or so before the convention. September is still not complete but with 3489 "hits" through the 22nd we are on track to maintain this trend.

January 2010	8827
February	6551
March	7087
April	7780
May	9947
June	4586
July	4536
August	5087



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CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 Dan Mulhearn; acting Clerk

The September 2010 meeting of NMRA MCR Division 9 was held on September 11, 2010 at the home of Mark Maynard in West Portsmouth, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Division Superintendent Bob Weinheimer.

As is our practice, the meeting began with members and guests introducing themselves. After the introductions the meeting was suspended at 2:05PM to allow our clinician to make his presentation.

CLINIC: Dick Briggs MMR, current president of the MCR, presented a clinic on scenery and back drop painting and materials. He spoke about enhancing the "sense of place" on our models by studying photos and geological information on the area we are modeling. He also presented some tips on scenery materials which might work well and save a few bucks.

At 2:45PM the meeting was resumed

Superintendent's Report: Bob thanked Mark Maynard for his hospitality. Bob then spoke on the "Diamond Project" currently underway. It was explained that access to photos and plans on line will be at a discount for NMRA members.

Asst. Superintendent's Report: Gary thanked all for their expressions on the passing of his mother. Gary then spoke about being more active in the hobby by looking towards the Gold Spike Award, the Achievement Program and developing and presenting clinics. Gary also spoke of our Education Program efforts and how we may spike interest in model and prototype modeling through lesson plans, displays, on line programs and reaching out to cultural web sites. He emphasized that all are encouraged to share their knowledge.

Webmaster's Report: There were about 5100 hits in August and folks are still looking at the Convention material.

Achievement Program: Ron Blessing and Dave Stout have been approved for their scenery certifi-

cates and Paul Lapointe has been approved for his electrical certificate.

Membership Report: John Harris reports there has been some lag in recording renewals at National and to advise him if this befalls one of us. He also noted that volunteers are needed to staff our table at the Pocahontas Chapter Bluefield Train Show in November.

Up The Holler: Members and Officers submitting material for the newsletter are asked to have their contribution to the Editor at least two weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business: There was a discussion of the Division making a contribution to the "Diamond Project." This will be discussed further at future meetings.

Announcements: Lin Young, our immediate past Division Superintendent, announced his candidacy for Central District Director on the NMRA Board of Directors. Lin asked for the support of Division members residing in Ohio and Kentucky. Members living in West Virginia are in a separate district.

There was discussion of the magazine article search engine formerly operated by Kalmbach Publishing. It was announced that there is a possibility of this being taken over and updated by others.

Treasurer's Report: It was announced that we are in the best financial shape we have ever been in and our only recurring expense is the UTH Newsletter.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held October 9 at the WV Hobby & Crafts location at Teays Valley.

Contest: The contest was photographs. Dan Mulhearn took 1,2 and 3 with prototype color prints scanned from his own slides.



BRAZOS & PECOS RAILROAD

Dan Mulhearn

On Saturday, September 25th, four Coal Division members headed east to Natural Bridge, VA for the first operating session on Gene Browning's Brazos and Pecos. Members attending were your editor, Charlie Venable, Clint Foster and Jack Ewart. We were joined by a large contingent of model railroaders from the Central Virginia area and beyond; including one fellow from Nashville, TN.

Gene, his father and a friend have been working on the B&P for twenty years and it fills a very large basement. Gene, a retired civil engineer for N&W, handlaid all the many feet of track. I was especially impressed with his scratch built turnout operating rigs which are made from coat hangers, wire loops and small dpdt switches. The B&P is essentially a coal hauling railroad such as we see in Appalachia; but moved to the west Texas/New Mexico area.

For a first try, the session went well. Prior to the session information on train movement procedures, the geography of the layout, and other

information relevant to the railroad was disseminated on line. With a little study of this information and a walk around tour of the layout before being served a good lunch; things went rather smoothly. I found myself as yardmaster at the big yard at Pecos TX. Aside from a couple of questions about which train cars with certain destinations should go on; I found the operation to be pretty intuitive. One unexpected complication was that Gene's motive power roster is all light and medium sized steam. As a result all trains leaving Pecos westbound had to be shoved up the grade to Divide, NM by the Pecos yard engine (me). Cool beans! There were several other problem grades which showed up and the operators quickly adapted by cutting off their train and giving the train ahead of them a shove. Then when they hit the grade the train behind would do likewise. All in all it was a wonderful day. On the way home we had a black bear run across I-64 ahead of us and I would like to know what the couple on the motorcycle behind us thought of that! I have to quote Clint Foster who summed it all up as follows, "It was an epic day!"



Call for Clinicians 2011!

We would love to have you present *your* clinic in our MCR 2011 Convention!
Mainline—45 minutes, or Shortline (15 minutes—ideas, bring-and-brag, etc).

--Prototypes, histories, modeling techniques, scenery, scratch-building, kit-building, locos, rolling stock, signals, industries, operations, DCC, etc--

Check out our website:

www.NMRA Mid-Central Region Convention 2011.org, or directly:

www.RailsofAges.org click on the Events/Clinics page for information and to offer *your* clinic!

Coal Division note: Here's a chance to share your modeling interests and accomplishments. I've signed up to present one mainline and two shortline clinics, I'm sure more of our members have something to share with the rest of the region. Bob.

MODEL RAILROADING PODCASTS

Bob Weinheimer

Okay, some of you may be asking what in the world a podcast is. Just think of it as a talk radio show with such a narrow focus that it would have little interest except to a very narrow slice of the population. I suspect the term podcast comes from its ability to be loaded onto then listened to on an iPod, a portable device that is the 21st century version of the once revolutionary Sony Walkman of the 1980s. While podcasts exists for any subject imaginable, there are four that cater to the model railroading hobby.

The first is the Model Railcast Show hosted by Ryan Andersen from Cincinnati. Some of you may recall that Ryan came to our Portsmouth meeting in 2008 and gave a brief introduction to his podcast. Ryan is a newcomer to the hobby but has managed to round up an interesting group of modelers who appear regularly. This podcast comes out weekly and runs about two hours. Ryan is not at all afraid to ask the questions that his listener might have, he does not assume everybody knows everything. You can learn more about this show at www.modelrailcast.com.

Another podcast is the Scotty Mason Show. This is a monthly program that typically runs about three hours. Scott has three regular co-hosts who degenerate into lots of inside banter that can be hard to appreciate if you don't know the guys. They do have some regular features including a monthly visit with Mike Rose, a prominent modeler in the Boston area. This podcast also serves as something of an advertising forum for its participants. You can hear this podcast at www.scottymason.com, look at the extreme lower left corner of his home page for the link.

The third podcast is from Model Railroad Hobbyist, the online magazine. Shortly after each issue comes out, there are a few half hour or so podcasts that are available. The hosts are Ryan Andersen and Paul Gillette. Paul is much smoother than Ryan but together they work quite well. There is no real good link to this podcast, go to www.model-railroad-hobbyist.com and look at the Magazine pull down menu. You will be taken to the iTunes site.

The final podcast came to my attention just as we were assembling this issue of the newsletter. Model Rail Radio is hosted by Tom Barbalet. He has tried something different: a live call in type show that airs on the internet every other Saturday evening. The show is recorded then distributed as a podcast. I have heard only one episode of this show but it was enough to get me to subscribe.

That leads to a brief discussion of how to listen to these podcasts. If you have an iPod or other MP3 player, you probably already know about downloading from the web sites or subscribing through iTunes. If that last sentence left you shaking your head, you can just sit in front of your computer, click the appropriate icon, and sit there and listen. If you are still with me, these are all available at iTunes. Search by the podcast name and they will pop up. I find all of these podcasts to be an enjoyable way to pass the time while taking my daily walk. Also, many of the newest automobiles have the ability to connect to an MP3 player so you can listen on your car radio as you drive. I really think you will find these podcasts to be an interesting addition to your model railroading education process.

Grafton and **Greenbrier**

Lin Young, President

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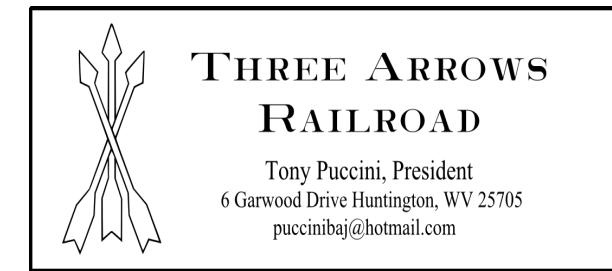


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If you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and have an email address, please let us know so we can save printing and postage costs. Send a note to editor@coaldvision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

October 9
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

November 13
Pocahontas Chapter NRHS Train Show
Bluefield, WV

December 11
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

January 8, 2011
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV