



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Mid Central Region NMRA
FEBRUARY, 2011



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER Bob Weinheimer MMR; Superintendent

I just heard some good news about the NMRA Data Sheets. Having not seen one, I cannot be too sure but they sound like a collection of practices for the model railroader. They apparently range from electrical to scenery with everything in between. These are not the standards and recommended practices that are widely available but something of a practical extension of them. They are available only on a CD that can be purchased from the National office by members. If all goes well, they will soon be available on the NMRA web site in a new area accessible only to NMRA members.

As it happens, some of these are golden oldies dating back to the 1950s. Clearly, many may be in need of an update. As a first pass, those in leadership positions such as region officers and division superintendents are being asked to look through them to identify those that need revision. In a later phase an effort will be made to identify members with specific skills that will allow them to participate in this revision. This project is just getting started and will be the subject of an article in an upcoming issue of the **NMRA MAGAZINE**. In the meantime, consider what expertise you may be able to share with others as this work proceeds.

The Data Sheets are part of the NMRA's Standards and Conformance efforts. Please keep in mind that this is one of the reasons for the establishment of the NMRA in the first place. In the early days there were no standards. Stuff that worked on my layout may not have worked on the other guy's layout. Over time standards on track, electrical issues, and many other aspects of the hobby were developed. While all of these standards and practices are important, the best recent examples may be those concerning Digital Command Control. The DCC standards have led to the ability of one of my Lenz decoder equipped locomotives to run without any issues on Lin Young's NCE powered Grafton and Greenbrier. I have one Digitrax engine on my once Lenz and now NCE layout. Just imagine the chaos if that were not the case. To me, the DCC standards are worth the cost of my membership in the NMRA. Indeed, it is time for me to renew and my next task is to go the www.nmra.org and do just that!

SPECIAL NOTICE

The zip code for the ballot teller for the Mid Central Election is incorrect as printed in the Kingpin. The correct zip code is 43103. Please make this correction to the teller's address before mailing in your ballot.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary Burdette; Assistant Superintendent

EDUCATION STATION: This is the name I envision for our Division 9 education program which is mandated by the framework of the NMRA. I can see a line drawing of the end (3/4 view) of a depot with the large elongated station sign emblazoned across the top just below the eaves and both the NMRA and Division 9 logos just beneath in a manner similar to the way REA Express emblems are displayed on prototype depots. This has been an initial thought. It is not new; just the beginning of possibilities.

I have mentioned, as your education chair, this project on a couple of occasions at meetings and in this column. Now may be the time to get serious with moving forward in our efforts to address the requirements, develop a plan, and get our group into compliance with regards to our purpose and non-profit status. Plus, this is just a good thing to do to promote our hobby and organization to the public.

Many of you may have noted what other divisions have been doing in the pages of **SCALE RAILS/THE NMRA MAGAZINE**. Some attended various functions as well as hosted their own model railroad show each year. As several of us discussed this second idea, we determined that there are a number of opportunities for the model rail and public to attend events throughout the Division already. Our presence at these venues should be sufficient. Perhaps, we could expand our display, prepare some educational items, add information on our web site, set up at libraries and similar venues and visit schools and civic organizations to present another theme. We have tentatively named the theme "Hobby vs History: Model Railroading—Prototype Practices". A number of you have vast experience in setting up shows and displays. I would like to hear from you. Most recently, we have had a display at Bluefield, WV with our sign, paperwork and John Harris' "Scenery Under Construction" display/clinic.

This attempt to meet the public was very successful. Similarly, the Dunbar show last year went well; and we look forward to participating again this year. We have established a good foundation through our efforts. Now, how may we expand and improve what we do? Any ideas? Any volunteers?

Since we have been exposed to a number of ideas over the past several months; I thought it might be a good idea to summarize as we begin to finalize our thinking process and develop what we want to do. Here are some possibilities:

- 1) Place links to web addresses we have discussed on our web site
- 2) List web sites of interest on a give-away book marker with our logos
- 3) A pamphlet or marker with definitions of railroad terms
- 4) Add a link to the audio of operations on Bob's Pennsylvania Southern
- 5) Expand our display with the many photos, artifacts, plans, etc. which members have available
- 6) An On Line Museum with many of the items listed above.

I am planning to prepare a complete list of all we have discussed to hand out at a later date, along with a sample display. As we think about these ideas and more, remember we can use our own knowledge, photos and other information to develop our own informational pamphlets or handbills emphasizing some particular aspect of our hobby, for instance steel mills, company towns, etc. We can display models, way bills, timetables and other items to catch one's attention and spur interest. We can do hard copy or "cyberspace.". This could be a great deal of fun and the sky is the limit!



Our fearless Assistant Superintendent as he appears some years back promoting the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society and its magazine. As a professional educator, spreading knowledge has been in Gary's blood for decades. We see that even today with the efforts he describes in this month's column.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

Thanks to generous donations of members, The NMRA Online Archives is getting very close to opening for business. Right now it appears that March 1 will be the magic date. With the funds already collected we've been able to scan and post almost 10,000 photos, drawings, and plans, which will be available for download at a discount by NMRA members, and at full price by non-NMRA members. Keep your eyes on **NMRA MAGAZINE** for the big Grand Opening announcement! And keep reminding your members to continue their donations -- the more money we receive, the more photos we'll be able to scan!

The NMRA is planning to help Regions and Divisions promote National Model Railroad Month this November by making available materials that can be downloaded from our website, such as poster and flyer templates, press releases, etc. Watch **NMRA MAGAZINE** and the InfoNet news for more details sometime this summer.

As part of our National Model Railroad Month promotion, we'll be publishing a special story in *NMRA Magazine* about how Regions and Divisions celebrate and promote it themselves. If your Division or Region does something special to promote National Model Railroad Month please write a brief 200-word description of your activities and send it to me at this email address before June 1. We'll try to include as many descriptions as we can in our story, which will probably run in the August issue. If you don't do anything for National Model Railroad Month, maybe that story will give your Division or Region some good ideas... and you'll have some time to get ready to implement them!

Last month I reminded everyone to make sure Division Business Car columnist Jim Zinser was regularly receiving your newsletter. But I neglected to mention the

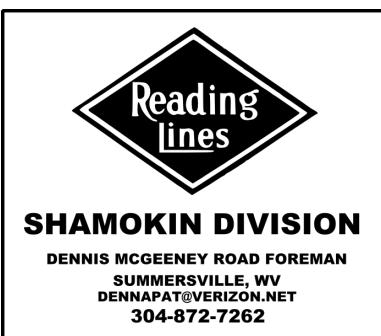
biggest reason Jim's column is so important to you: it's one of the best places to see what other Divisions and Regions are doing to promote themselves, to raise money, and to have fun with model railroading. So take a few moments every-other month to read Jim's column to see if there are any ideas that *your* Division or Region could use!

The winter Board Meeting is being held concurrently with the Budget and Operations meetings this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel (about 5 miles from the airport). The Budget and Operations meetings, which are by invitation only, begin on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 a.m. The Board Meeting runs from 9 to 5 (or later) on Wednesday, February 23, and 9 to 5 (or later) on Thursday, February 24. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.

Just a reminder that we continue to run a "Help Wanted" ad in *NMRA Magazine*. We've already filled several positions, thanks to generous volunteers. But we still need help. Remember, we're a volunteer organization and always in need of able bodies to lend a hand. Here are the positions we're looking for -- if any of your members fit the qualifications below, please pass the their names along to us!

Electronics engineers with experience in setting up control systems needed to take part in discussions and development of NMTRANET. Current bus is designed using CAN. Time commitment: several hours per week.

IT staff volunteer with experience in Content Management Systems. Able to program in PHP and PostgreSQL/MySQL, and good experience in HTML and CSS. IIS and VB experience a plus. Time commitment: ~3 hours per week.



MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2011

Jerry Doyle, Clerk

Welcome and Introductions Meeting was called to order at 2:05 by Supt. Bob Weinheimer.

Special welcome today to Dale Smith, co chair of the Rails of Ages convention. Dale gave a presentation on the 2011 MCR convention.

Division Clerk Report

Minutes approved as in the newsletter.

Treasury no financial statement was available due to the holiday.

Superintendent Report

Congratulations to Dan Kennedy on his article in the NMRA Magazine. In a most unfortunate coincidence, Dean Freytag passed away on Christmas Day, about the time Dan's article was arriving in our mailboxes. Dan attended the funeral. The service was well attended and a nice eulogy was read. There will be a memorial service for Dean January 29 in Ashland, Ohio. This will include a lunch, RSVPs are due January 24, the cost is \$12. Lin Young is coordinating a trip to the service.

Kingpin with full convention details should be out in the next week or so. This will be a hard copy issue with convention registration forms and the officer election ballot. Lin Young, chair of the nominating committee, gave details on the election.

The Kalmbach index is back up and running at trains.com. You must register but do not need to be a subscriber to access the index. Most of the model railroad print magazines are indexed. No electronic publications or historic society publications are included.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary opened his comments with "go do things." He mentioned the online museum, additional activities such as library displays and presentations. He showed the brochure of Thurmond as an example of something we could do to promote the historic aspects of our region. He mentioned some items to possibly sell in the company store.

Webmaster

Web site activity is up for last month with 5700 page visits in December vs. 4500 or so the last several. We had several hundred hits on the Coalfield Express pages. We

don't know just who is visiting but they are archived for anybody to study. Since our convention was a success, others might want to steal our ideas. Beyond that, the layout photos continue to be the most popular.

Achievement Program

We have certificates for Paul Lapointe and Ron Blessing.

A team of judges will be heading over to Dan Kennedy's after the meeting to judge his structures, scenery, rolling stock, and whatever else we can find.

Nominations Chair

Membership Chair

A couple of members have let their membership expire, remember that you cannot participate in events such as our modeling contest if you are not a member! John presented designs for name badges. One was selected and members ordered their badges.

"Up The Holler" Editor Report

Costs seem to be in line for printed version, no bad surprises so far.

Pike Ad payments for 2011 are due, please remit \$10 to Jerry.

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Next Meetings

February 12, West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts

March 12, Lin Young and the Grafton and Greenbrier

April 9, West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts

May 14, Dave Stout

Contest

Cabooses

Clinics

Dale Smith 2011 MCR convention.

Gary Burdette modeling coal mine railroad operations.

A MEMORIAL TO DEAN FREYTAG

Dan Kennedy

It was early Saturday morning and I was meeting Bob Weinheimer at the hobby shop to catch a ride with him to attend Dean Freytag's Memorial Service. It was much earlier than I wanted to get up but this was a special day for my friend and mentor, Dean. The memorial service paused me to think about the years I had known him and I had actually prepared a few words about what he meant to me. For this service, you were also to bring your favorite funny story about Dean to share with everyone.

We picked up Lin Young in Gallipolis, headed up Routes 35 and 23 to Columbus, then hit interstate 71 which takes you right into Ashland, Ohio. While Bob did not know Dean very well, Lin did, so we shared a few laughs about each of our encounters with him over the years. From letters we received, to packages of stuff we ordered from him (and a few we didn't order but got anyway!) to the many phone calls, it was good conversation for next 3 hours until we reached Ashland.

I shared a story about a time I was visiting Dean and we were down in the railroad room and I was just about to pick something up on his railroad and he quickly told me to never pick something up unless I asked first. Some years later I was down in his railroad room taking some measurements off of one of his models while he was upstairs. I made sure not to touch anything while I did this. I then went back upstairs to go over some things with Dean and when I got up there he was taking a nap in his favorite chair. He woke up and I went over the plans I had drawn and he said lets go back downstairs. We went over to the model and Dean asked me if I had taken it apart and I had told him I had not touched it. He said "Why not? You need to take it apart to get better pictures of everything!" Some days you just can't win.

We arrived in Ashland and headed over to Ashland University where the memorial service was going to be held. We got there a little early but several people were already milling around. By 12:00 it was standing room only and they had to add another table for the ones standing up.

Roger Camplan, who was a very good friend and the one who organized this event, addressed the crowd of

about 60 people. He went over some information about Dean's railroad and how it had been sold a couple years ago to himself and 3 other gentleman and that they were the ones that Dean wanted to take care of it after his passing. He went on to explain that a piece of it would eventually be lent to a museum.

After Roger spoke we ate lunch and as we were eating lunch we were to tell those at our table of our different stories about Dean and pick one to tell to the whole group. Lunch was good with sandwiches, soup, potato chips, and brownies. My table liked my story so I was chosen to speak.

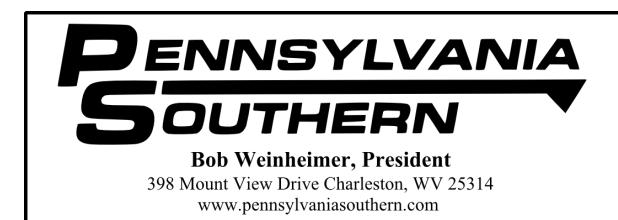
Roger started us off and went over some of Dean's golden rules of modeling which are listed below. For the next hour we heard all kinds of funny stories and encounters some of us had with Dean over the years. Most of them were funny and had the crowd laughing hysterically. After all, Dean was a practical joker himself and he loved to tell jokes. Then it was my turn. I had prepared a couple of stories about Dean and even thought of a new one while I was standing there. I also told the group about all the help Dean had given me over the years and what it had meant to me. He went the extra mile in his generosity towards me and modeling the steel industry. I was so glad that I stood up as it helped me bring some closure to losing a good friend.

At a little after 2:00, everyone who wanted to say something did and the memorial service for Dean had ended. It was a great tribute to a pioneer in modeling the steel industry. I will leave you with some of Deans golden rules:

- When numbering buildings, never use number 1
- Prime everything
- Never build something you can buy
- Never throw anything away, that is why you have a scrap box
- Beef it up with a piece of strip
- If you are going to err, err on the side of being too big



Ed Keith, MMR
President
Chesapeake, OH



Achievement Program Bob Weinheimer MMR

After our January meeting Lin Young, Gary Burdette, Ed Keith, Jerry Doyle, and I descended upon Dan Kennedy's layout to judge structures. After a couple of bumps regarding the NMRA's definition of scratch built, we got on a roll and judged enough models to yield a Master Builder Structures certificate for Dan. We also surveyed Dan's scenery and deemed it worthy of the Scenery certificate.

After I got home, I realized that we goofed on three of the items. It turns out that anything that rolls on rails is a car, or if self propelled and capable of moving a car, motive power. One of the models, an odd shaped locomotive that pushes hot coke cars from the coke ovens to the quench tower, turned out to be a car as it is unpowered. I will have more on this one later. Two other vehicles that run on rails but were never meant to be locomotives are also designated as cars.

This confusion has its good and bad sides. The bad side appeared to be that Dan's Structures certificate would be in jeopardy. That seems unlikely as he has many more structures that we did not judge. The good side is that Dan now has three of the four scratch built cars needed for the Master Builder Cars certificate! I suspect that the car that catches the coke that is pushed from the coke ovens may be the fourth car. Dan is also working on some other highly detailed cars. This means that the Car certificate may be closer than Dan ever thought.

There may even be more good news. Gary is trying to convince Dan to use a slot car power mechanism to power the dummy locomotive. Due to axle spacing some of the commercially available power kits that might at first seem appropriate won't do the job. If Dan follows this course, he will have one of the harder items a modeler can

make: a scratch built locomotive. Could the Motive Power certificate be in his future?

Let's count them up. Scenery, Structures, Cars, and Motive Power make four certificates that are well within Dan's reach. He is well on his way to Author, a contribution of photos to the webmaster will put him about 2/3 of the way there. If he writes some articles about how he built his models this certificate may also be within reach. I need to review the Civil Engineer requirements but I suspect that with some effort Dan can grab that one as well. That makes six of the required seven. Note that they are spread among the various required categories. Now, if we can get him interested in operations, Chief Dispatcher could be the one that puts him over the top and make him an MMR.

A key point I want to make is that what we saw at Dan's is work that he has already done. This is what I have called the low hanging fruit that is easy to pick. I know I had some of that when I started down the road to Master Model Railroader. The time between my first and seventh certificates was 54 weeks. I certainly did not meet all the requirements during that period, much was done in the years before but only certified during that time. Look around your layout and rolling stock. You may find you have all you need for the Electrical Engineer certificate. Lots of members have their scenery certificates; at least one (Ron Blessing) never saw it coming, a couple of MMRs judged his modular layout at the convention. Don't let the required documentation worry you. Look at the division web site for examples of documentation that was accepted at the National level. While we can't help you build the model, we can help you with the documentation if writing is not one of your strengths. Ed Keith and I will gladly answer questions and guide you along, just ask us.



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**CRUSTY
MOUNTAIN
AND
WILOBY
SPRINGS R.R.**

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH

**The Passenger Manifest
Coal Division Membership Information
John Harris**

As I sit here at the computer putting together my thoughts on what might inspire, challenge or even amuse the membership of Division 9, I find myself lost in thoughts of missed opportunity. December and January were certainly filled with plenty of snow days that kept me from most outdoor activities. I found myself staying inside a little more than usual and did not travel quite as much for work as I might have had the weather been a little less cold and snowy. But as I look over at the Alleghany & New River Road, I see plenty of projects just waiting to be finished or at least started. I see kits that have made it out of the box, onto the work table, and into various states of completion. None quite finished. I see areas that need a little more detail, perhaps that would only take an hour or so to finish. Still, with all that time inside and available to make some real progress, nothing to show for it. How did I let such an opportunity slip by without getting something done?

Perhaps there are many of you that have similar feelings. I hope that there are even more that can say that they took the recent bad weather and spent the time ac-

complishing something productive on their layouts. You have made progress toward that next certificate or started something you have been putting off for some time waiting for just the right moment to start. Or maybe you have finally finished the plan you have been working on for years and finally got some bench work or even roadbed and track down.

Realizing that winter is far from over, I hope the rest of us can make the most of the next snow day or two and get something done!

Speaking of done, (well, almost done.) I am pleased to report that name badges have been ordered and could be available by the February meeting. In all, twenty seven members placed an order for one. I took the liberty of ordering a few extra "blanks" in case others decide to obtain one. Anyone interested in one at \$10 should let me know as soon as possible. Include your name as you want it to appear with the city you are located and get the information to me at AandNRR@aol.com

**Hobby Within A Hobby
Larry Richards**

I really enjoyed Gary's article in the November ***UP THE HOLLER*** about a hobby within a hobby. It reminded me of my own hobby. I had just gotten married in June of 1969 when I read a scale model magazine oriented towards cars. The magazine had an article on the 1923 MACK truck kit produced by Jordan Products. The details were amazing so I determined to get one.

On the next block of my street lived John Warner. Some of you guys may remember him from the KVRC. John had a dealers license with Walthers; back then the public could buy directly from them. I ordered the tanker through John and after forty one years I still have most of

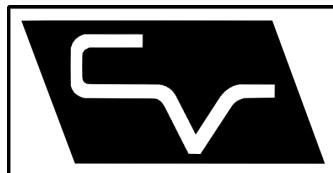
it! The cab and wheels are probably in one of my parts boxes; but the tank now sits on a die cast 53 Ford chassis.

After building a lot of HO vehicles, and I mean a lot! I started building dioramas to put them on. The rest is history, as I find that combining the vehicles and HO structures into scenes is something I find a lot of fun.

Editor's note: Larry began modeling 1/24 scale cars as a kid, as did many of us. How appropriate that he continues modeling, though now in HO scale.

Grafton and Greenbrier

Lin Young, President
Debbie Drive
Gallipolis, OH 45631
www.graftonandgreenbrier.com



Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our February meeting will be at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. In February we meet the 12th, the contest will be Diesel Locomotives. Bob Weinheimer will try out the two mini clinics he will be presenting at the MCR convention. One will be on making ballast, the other describes how he makes recordings of the radio traffic at his operating sessions.

March will see us heading to Lin Young's home in Gallipolis, OH on the 12th. The contest will be Freight Cars and the clinic will be an operating session on Lin's Grafton and Greenbrier layout.

In April we will be back at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts on the 9th. The contest will be Passenger Cars.

We are planning a visit to Parkersburg for the May 14 meeting. Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe are planning what sounds like a great event. Paul's layout will be open before and after the meeting which will take place at Dave's home. Dave plans to feed us so come hungry. Dave is also making an effort to attract other modelers from the Parkersburg area to be our guests. Both Paul and Dave have layouts that are well worth the effort to visit. The contest in May will be Steam Locomotives.

WEBMASTER REPORT Bob Weinheimer MMR

Activity for the past year is shown below. Note that the number of page views is continuing to creep upward.

I plan to work with Gary Burdette to introduce the Education section in the coming weeks. As always, we are looking for photos of your layout for the web site. Keep in mind that about 30 photos give you half the points you need for the Achievement Program Author certificate.

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|--------------|------|
| January 2010 | 8827 |
| February | 6551 |
| March | 7087 |
| April | 7780 |
| May | 9947 |
| June | 4586 |
| July | 4536 |
| August | 5087 |
| September | 4589 |
| October | 5025 |
| November | 5056 |
| December | 5658 |
| January 2011 | 5906 |



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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

Alleghany & New River Road

An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



John Harris, Chief Engineer
AandNRR@aol.com



Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.

Visit www.nmra.org. Then improve your skills. And your hobby.



www.nmra.org
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Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

Silver Level – Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.



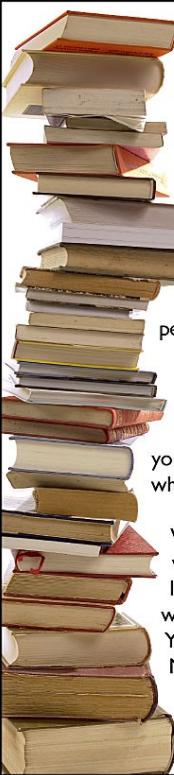
Gold Level – Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Diamond Level – Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades.
Visit www.nmra.org/diamondclub or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



Check out 6,000 train books.



Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything – it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

Visit one of the world's largest train libraries at www.nmra.org. You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.

Check it all out!



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
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HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. All available to NMRA members for the cost of postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing.

Then, get that popcorn ready.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
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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

February 12, 2011
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

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